

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, July 10, 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

JOHN LOSCOMBE

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. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with  
14 the reading of the minutes.

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

16 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTHS ENDING  
17 FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 31, APRIL 30, AND MAY 31,  
18 2014.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
20 If not, received and filed. Any Clerk's  
21 notes?

22 MS. REED: No, Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Any  
24 announcements from council members?

25 MR. ROGAN: I have one. On July 25

1 and 26 at the Dante Club in South Scranton  
2 there will a musical comedy show hosted by  
3 the Miller Sisters. It's 6:30 p.m., it will  
4 be a roast beef dinner and at 8 p.m. the  
5 show starts. Dinner and a show is \$15 and  
6 the show only is \$10. You must be 18 or  
7 older. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I would  
9 to announce that next Thursday evening at  
10 6:00 p.m. council will be having an  
11 executive session with members of the  
12 administration to discuss an item of  
13 litigation. This executive session because  
14 it deals with litigation is not open to the  
15 public. We will have our normal caucus  
16 afterwards and the meeting at 6:30.

17 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
18 PARTICIPATION.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening,  
21 Council. Joan Hodowanitz, city resident.

22 ALL COUNCIL: Good evening.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: I want to thank the  
24 IT Department for posting Mr. Amaro's  
25 documents on the website last Thursday.

1           It's very prompt. One document is obviously  
2           the slides that were shown here last  
3           Wednesday. The second document, which is 67  
4           pages long, is the slides some additional  
5           slides and information, a narrative which  
6           supports the report that he presented last  
7           Wednesday, but I'd like to draw to your  
8           attention that this document that got posted  
9           to the website not all of the pages got  
10          filled in. There apparently is a problem  
11          with whatever software was used or at least  
12          six pages which are incomplete when they are  
13          viewed and when they are printed. I checked  
14          the clerk's copy in your office and the same  
15          pages are missing data, so it wasn't my  
16          problem, it's obvious when it got posted to  
17          the website there were some issues, and I  
18          would just ask if you could have the IT  
19          Department check on this so that we could  
20          get a complete document. That would be much  
21          appreciated.

22                        Also, can you tell me if anybody is  
23                        chosen a day for this proposed town hall  
24                        meeting that was discussed last Wednesday  
25                        that the public can ask questions about the

1            recommendations? Has anyone thought about a  
2            date? Remember we were talking about that  
3            last Wednesday?

4            MR. MCGOFF: I'm not aware o  
5            anything that is taking place.

6            MR. WECHSLER: What we discussed in  
7            caucus was perhaps having a public comments  
8            caucus before the end of July.

9            MS. HODOWANITZ: Before the end of  
10           the July.

11           MR. WECHSLER: What we want to do,  
12           council want to be very proactive and move  
13           the comment period along towards this plan  
14           and we would like to do something before the  
15           end of July and that would be for council to  
16           gain information.

17           MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Thank you  
18           very much.

19           MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

20           MR. MCGOFF: Just a comment, I  
21           was -- I didn't realize that we are talking  
22           about -- there is potential -- there is  
23           potential litigation coming next week that  
24           would be part of the implementation of the  
25           plan or the recommendations that Mr. Amoroso

1 was made. If, in fact, those did come  
2 before council, in particular the  
3 recommendation for the Act 205, the increase  
4 in the Act 205 tax then we would have a  
5 public -- we would try and have a public  
6 comment on that since it does involve more  
7 than just city residents. Ozzie Quinn.

8 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Hill  
9 Neighborhood Association and Taxpayers  
10 Association. I want to preface by saying  
11 this has no reflection whatsoever on the  
12 LIPS staff up there. There is three  
13 inspectors and one health inspector, they  
14 are doing a good job, but they have to look  
15 at more than 30,000 housing units in the  
16 City of Scranton and it's very difficult how  
17 they are going to do it.

18 Now, I have written many letters in  
19 and we discussed it here about different  
20 ordinances in the City of Scranton and one  
21 was in regards to that couch, and I know  
22 that the couches on the porches and the  
23 upholstered furniture on the porches and it  
24 still exists, you know, and it was a  
25 terrible thing last week in Philadelphia,

1 I'm not comparing it to Scranton, but those  
2 four children died and all of those houses  
3 are lost because of a couch on the porch.  
4 That was the cause of the problem and the  
5 fire.

6 Now, when I was here for the public  
7 hearing and I spoke in favor of the parking,  
8 but the problem is, and I hear it every day,  
9 there is no enforcement. It's deception.  
10 There is no enforcement of the ordinances.  
11 There is the parking -- there is no  
12 enforcement and going around, people are  
13 saying I have a permit but nobody is -- they  
14 park in my spots, I still got furniture all  
15 over on the porches up there, and people you  
16 collect \$50 on the ordinance for the rental  
17 registration per apartment, but you don't do  
18 anything about the maintaining of the  
19 apartment. You are supposed to have a  
20 property manager within 20 miles or  
21 something that's supposed to take care of  
22 the properties. You know, I'd like to have  
23 a percentage of, say 20 percent of the money  
24 that City of Scranton is losing on fines  
25 because they are not enforcing the





1 passed tonight, I don't know, I feel sorry  
2 for them because probably maybe in the first  
3 week or two maybe there will be people up  
4 there watching, but I think it's just going  
5 to go fall down just like these other  
6 ordinances. So I hope you can do some  
7 improvising and doing something, but please  
8 enforce the ordinances in the City of  
9 Scranton. Thank you very much.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Rosie Davitt, I have  
12 some pictures, can I bring them to you? And  
13 this is for you. Would you just state your  
14 name for the record, please?

15 MS. DAVITT: Rosie Davitt, Rockwell  
16 Avenue in North Scranton. I'm here to  
17 address the right of entry agreement that I  
18 made with Dennis Gallagher on the 21st of  
19 May in order to demolish the arson home that  
20 was at 2147 Rockwell Avenue.

21 First, I'd have to say that the  
22 people that actually tore the house down did  
23 a remarkable job insuring that there was no  
24 damage to 2149 and 2145. They did a  
25 remarkable job. The young man was

1           fantastic.

2                       What happened was that I gave  
3           agreement that they could come behind my  
4           house and go across, because if they had  
5           done it in front they probably would have  
6           knocked down the walls in front and there  
7           was also the electrical wires that they  
8           would have to have dealt with, so it would  
9           have been dangerous, so I gave that  
10          agreement. The agreement was said that they  
11          would put the house -- the yard as closely  
12          back to the way it was before.

13                     As you can see, there are pictures  
14          there. First they put an asphalt mix down  
15          so the trucks could go past, and that was  
16          agreed on, but they were also supposed to  
17          remove that before they put anything else in  
18          there. They did not. When I spoke with  
19          Dennis Gallagher on the 24th of June, he had  
20          -- I had left a message with his secretary  
21          on the 16th of June and he was on vacation  
22          and I gave her the details of what my  
23          concerns were, and he called me on the 24th  
24          and said that he been out there on the 23rd.  
25          And he said, "Rosie, the grass is growing

1 great."

2 Yes, the grass is growing great over  
3 part of it, but as you can see from some of  
4 the pictures, first of all, the asphalt mix  
5 has not been taken out, which means that the  
6 grass is going to grow to a certain extent  
7 and then it's going to die because it can't  
8 go through that asphalt mix. When I  
9 addressed that with him his comment to me  
10 was that, "We put four inches of top soil  
11 over a paved parking lot and put grass seed  
12 down and it's growing beautifully."

13 Well, that's fine and dandy, but  
14 they didn't put four inches of top soil on  
15 top of our land, and they didn't take the  
16 asphalt mix out, which was agreed upon.  
17 They also -- the surfaces are not even.  
18 They are definitely not even. If you look  
19 at page two, four and nine, actually two,  
20 three, four, five, six and nine you will see  
21 pictures of how uneven it is. There is  
22 holes in it that -- that I have had two  
23 knees replaced, I've had to get replaced  
24 already. If I were to fall on one of those  
25 I could be very much in trouble.

1                   The top soil was supposed to be  
2 brought in. I don't know what kind of top  
3 soil you guys use, but this is not top soil.  
4 When I saw top soil before it didn't have  
5 glass in it, didn't have bottles in it,  
6 didn't have old tooth brushes in it either,  
7 which you will see in that bucket. This is  
8 not top soil that they put on top of my  
9 land. They did not even it, level it out.

10                   I cannot mow it. I tried tonight  
11 before I came here, and if you look at page  
12 12 you will see that my daughter took  
13 pictures of it before I tried to mow it and  
14 as I tried to mow it, and you will -- there  
15 is divots in it where my lawnmower wouldn't  
16 even go over it because there is so many  
17 uneven parts.

18                   We have children up in that area  
19 that go across my land all the time and they  
20 have permission to do that. We are a very  
21 good neighborhood. Everybody looks after  
22 everybody else. The kids run over my land  
23 all the time. There is glass that we are  
24 finding after every single rainfall, we have  
25 more glass that comes up, and I'm sorry but

1 after this goes away I'm going to be  
2 responsible for that.

3 On the agreement, if you look at  
4 page three it says -- I mean, paragraph  
5 three it says, "The city shall restore the  
6 property to its condition as nearly as  
7 possible prior to any disturbance that the  
8 city is responsible for during the exercise  
9 of its rights herein."

10 It's not that way. Don't get me  
11 wrong, I'm thrilled that the property is  
12 gone, the house gone. Dennis came out and  
13 he took care of it and I appreciate that,  
14 but me trying to get ahold of him has not  
15 done any good. The last discussion I had  
16 with him was on June 24 and he said he would  
17 try to get a bobcat out there. It's not  
18 there. It hasn't been there and he has not  
19 answered my phone calls since then. I  
20 appreciate any help you can give me. Thank  
21 you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Davitt, we will  
23 attempt to contact DPW and if you have a  
24 contract with the city they should fulfill  
25 the terms of that contract.

1 MS. DAVITT: Thank you, I'll take my  
2 basket, if you don't mind. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: David Lewis.

4 MR. LEWIS: Before I begin, I have  
5 some handouts for the council. Could I  
6 approach?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Please again just state  
8 your name for the record.

9 MR. LEWIS: My name is David Lewis,  
10 Scranton resident and also the president and  
11 general manager of LA Lewis Moving and  
12 Storage 2401 Luzerne Street in Scranton.

13 The last two years, of course, as  
14 you know, we have a project at Keyser Valley  
15 that the Keyser Avenue project going into it  
16 we knew was going to be a three-year  
17 project, we are in the second year of the  
18 project. I knew the day would come that  
19 they would start at our intersection, which  
20 is Dalton Street and Keyser Avenue, and that  
21 was approximately four weeks ago, but  
22 unfortunately this project has created a  
23 real sad situation pertaining to my business  
24 and all of the businesses that are located  
25 on Luzerne Street.





1 turn.

2 You are taking commercial vehicles  
3 and you are creating a situation now where  
4 you are putting commercial traffic in  
5 residential areas that doesn't belong. This  
6 Keyser Avenue project was supposed to be an  
7 improvement to this area and this certainly  
8 has not been an improvement to me. For 30  
9 years we have been able to make a right off  
10 of Keyser Avenue coming into our terminal,  
11 we have made been able to make a left on  
12 Keyser Avenue going back out to Taylor. You  
13 know, once again this is an inconvenience to  
14 every business that I service, I service a  
15 lot of businesses that are in the Stauffer  
16 Industrial Park, Kane Trucking, Anthracite  
17 Recycling all visit my facility. I have a  
18 public scale so, you know, we get on an  
19 average, including my own trucks, but just  
20 in my facility alone we get, you know, 24 to  
21 30 pieces of equipment daily coming into our  
22 facility.

23 Does the city have -- number one, is  
24 the city aware that they have done this?  
25 Not only have they taken the privilege of

1 making a left-hand turn on Dalton Street on  
2 Keyser Avenue, they narrowed this  
3 intersection where it's going to be a chore  
4 to make a right-hand turn on the Keyser  
5 Avenue because of where they have put the  
6 light poles and what have you. There is no  
7 longer going to be a turn lane, which there  
8 has been a turn lane on Dalton Street going  
9 to Keyser Avenue for years, and that was in  
10 conjunction with the Washburn Street  
11 project.

12 I'd like to know what the city can  
13 do for me because I have -- I have told  
14 PennDOT that I'm going to continue this  
15 fight if I have to, and it's sorry that  
16 myself as a, you know, local business that  
17 we have to go to Harrisburg to fight this  
18 and stop this project, but if we have to  
19 that's what I'm going to do.

20 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Lewis, I would just  
21 -- a couple of things that I'd like to  
22 mention. First, the city council is aware  
23 of it. We were actually just talking  
24 previous to the meeting, we are trying to  
25 schedule a meeting with PennDOT regarding

1           this project and all of the problems that  
2           have come up specifically for Westsider such  
3           as ourselves. I travel this area on a daily  
4           basis and not only is it an inconvenience  
5           currently for drivers as it exists, but this  
6           detour route it goes right through a  
7           residential neighborhood, where there are  
8           safety concerns.

9                     MR. LEWIS: Right.

10                    MR. ROGAN: There is speeding in the  
11           neighborhoods where you never had it. There  
12           is truck traffic in neighborhoods where we  
13           never had it, and hopefully when PennDOT  
14           comes in they are going to address these  
15           issues and we need to go back to the project  
16           has to wrap up.

17                    MR. LEWIS: This can't be a  
18           hopefully. I have had the privilege, my  
19           employees have had the privilege for the  
20           last 30 years of turning right off of Keyser  
21           Avenue and making a left onto Keyser Avenue.  
22           Once again, we utilize the Turnpike, which  
23           eliminates truck traffic on Luzerne Street  
24           and then the city streets period that access  
25           our facility. So, you know, something has

1 to be done, you know, not only am I'm  
2 losing, the citizens of Scranton are losing.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Lewis, if I can  
4 just add to that, as my colleague has  
5 stated, we have discussed this issue  
6 previously and I told them that I would try  
7 and get a meeting together with PennDOT. I  
8 made arrangements, the Keyser Valley  
9 president will allow us to use Keyser Valley  
10 Community Center. I have been in touch with  
11 Representative Flynn's office in Scranton  
12 trying to get together some dates to have a  
13 public meeting so the business people can  
14 address their concerns, so the utilities and  
15 the contractors and PennDOT can explain to  
16 the public and the businesses what the  
17 timeline is for this project, what the  
18 changes are going to be. I don't like that  
19 change at all, I agree with you. I go back  
20 that way all the time myself, and as a  
21 matter of fact, I was going to complain  
22 today usually when they are working in that  
23 section they have a flagger at Jackson  
24 Street and Keyser Avenue.

25 MR. LEWIS: Today there was none.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Today there was none  
2 and it causes chaos because everybody -- you  
3 sit at that light long enough as it is, when  
4 they backup on Keyser Avenue there is no way  
5 you might sit there for half an hour and  
6 something has to be addressed, I agree with  
7 you a 1,000 percent. It's going to be an  
8 improvement down the road, but we shouldn't  
9 have to put up with all of these  
10 inconveniences, and again, accessibility to  
11 businesses that were -- that was there  
12 before should continue there.

13 MR. LEWIS: Like I said, this is  
14 supposed to be an improvement project and,  
15 unfortunately, they are not improving the  
16 corner of Dalton and Keyser Avenue. They  
17 are taking -- they have taken away and took  
18 away the turn lane, and also my privilege of  
19 accessing our property turning right and  
20 turning left on Keyser Avenue.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: We'll be sure and  
22 notify the businesses and the residents  
23 publically.

24 MR. LEWIS: Soon?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: This meeting should

1                   be very soon, yes.

2                   MR. LEWIS:    Okay.

3                   MR. MCGOFF:   Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

4                   MR. LEWIS:    Thank you.

5                   MR. MCGOFF:   Fay Franus.

6                   MS. FRANUS:   Fay Franus, Scranton.

7                   I have quite a few things I want to address.  
8                   A couple of weeks ago when you had this vote  
9                   on Pango, the parking meter, Mr. Rogan,  
10                  Mr. Loscombe --and you weren't here, but you  
11                  said that had you been here would you have  
12                  voted with him?

13                  MR. ROGAN:    Yes, I had voted with  
14                  Mr. Loscombe when we previously had tabled  
15                  it and I would have voted "no" on the  
16                  contract.

17                  MS. FRANUS:   Thank you, also. Thank  
18                  you, Mr. Loscombe, because this Pango group  
19                  is doing things that they are going to  
20                  charge people \$1.99 every month if they text  
21                  message them and ask them if they want to  
22                  park another hour, whereas, this other group  
23                  that Jack -- Mr. Loscombe wanted they don't  
24                  do that so that's just one item, I mean,  
25                  there is so many. There is something, like

1 I said when I was here before, there is an  
2 agenda here that you people have. You all  
3 know, but you never -- those are your little  
4 secrets.

5 Jack, Mr. McGoff said something to  
6 you and I said, "And I believe in Sana  
7 Claus," and I forget what it was, but what  
8 you said was wrong, and I feel bad for you,  
9 you were a gentleman and you apologized. You  
10 had no reason to apologize, you were 100  
11 percent correct when you said that, 100  
12 percent.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I was out of line.

14 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I was a little out of  
16 line. I shouldn't have made that --

17 MS. FRANUS: No, you weren't. Trust  
18 me you weren't. I was saying the same thing  
19 you were saying because you were right.

20 Another thing I want to ask about  
21 this zoning, Mr. Rogan, maybe you could help  
22 me out on this and if you take any time up I  
23 want you to extend this, please, about the  
24 Villa Maria on Luzerne -- Washburn Street,  
25 rather. They built an extension, it didn't

1           come in front of zoning, they are supposed  
2           to have enough parking to accommodate that  
3           extension, so I understand there is an  
4           agreement between LL Lewis and Villa Maria  
5           to use part of their parking lot? Where is  
6           this agreement? Is this agreement in the  
7           paper? Is it written? Is it law?

8                   MR. ROGAN: I was approached on this  
9                   issue as well in the past and our office has  
10                  been involved. We have inquired with  
11                  Licensing and Inspections to see how that --

12                   MS. FRANUS: A little louder, Pat.

13                   MR. ROGAN: We inquired with  
14                  Licensing and Inspection to see how that was  
15                  able to move forward without passing through  
16                  the zoning board.

17                   MS. FRANUS: What was the answer?

18                   MR. ROGAN: It didn't pass at the  
19                  zoning board.

20                   MS. FRANUS: It didn't go in front  
21                  of the zoning board. They didn't come in  
22                  front of the zoning board. How is that  
23                  possible to build an extension without  
24                  coming into front of the zoning board?

25                   MR. ROGAN: Right.



1 MS. FRANUS: But see what I mean  
2 about the city administration, they do what  
3 they want? And Mr. Minora sits there and  
4 says things are legal when they are not  
5 legal, and Mr. McGoff says -- he laughs.  
6 Wow, what a group. Other than you,  
7 Mr. Loscombe, we have one heck of a corrupt  
8 council up here. Such a shame.

9 Jack, on the bottom of your street  
10 with all of those rocks on Parallel Drive  
11 who is responsible for cleaning that, the  
12 man that put them alongside that curb or the  
13 city?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's a good  
15 question and it's a cross between that's --  
16 you know, part of that is a county road,  
17 too -- or Newton Ransom takes care of part  
18 of that, PennDOT takes care of part, the  
19 city has from Parallel in --

20 MS. FRANUS: Yes, but he puts those  
21 stones there.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, do you know  
23 where they came from, which property?

24 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: If you can tell us

1 which property later because I'm not sure.

2 MS. FRANUS: The second property --  
3 the second property from Parallel Drive in  
4 from --

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the left side or  
6 across the street?

7 MS. FRANUS: On the right-hand side  
8 going in, the second house coming in.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll look at that  
10 again.

11 MS. FRANUS: I forget his name, but  
12 he did that to stop water runoff from going  
13 into his property.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: I know it was quite a  
15 storm, we do have to get it cleaned up  
16 because it is slippery.

17 MS. FRANUS: I can't even drive my  
18 car up there, my other car it gets hit with  
19 rocks.

20 But anyway, Mr. Rogan, would you  
21 please find out where that paper is that  
22 says there is an agreement for the parking  
23 and I want to know why the city inspectors  
24 allowed that to take place without a zoning  
25 hearing. I don't know. I don't know what

1 to say here. I'm just thoroughly disgusted  
2 about this parking meter thing and there is  
3 nothing we can do. And, Jack, I want to  
4 thank you for all your help with that. You  
5 are the only one up there, Pat in that  
6 respect for that vote, we appreciate it.

7 We spoke about the ordinances  
8 before, people not -- city people not doing  
9 the ordinances following up, 1995 I had an  
10 ordinance passed to stop trucks in my  
11 neighborhood, it's a cave area. Today I had  
12 a person from the mine company at my house  
13 because my backyard is going in a little, so  
14 that's being checked now. Every time a  
15 truck goes up my house shakes. My garage  
16 caved in before, the house behind my garage  
17 is gone, caved in it's gone, but yet not one  
18 truck is stopped. They are just not  
19 stopped. I don't know understand why they  
20 can't follow-up. Cops are parked down at  
21 the ball field all the time, trucks go right  
22 by. I asked one, "Are you stopping the  
23 trucks."

24 He said, "What trucks?"

25 They didn't know the sign was

1 two-teeth from their car. So I don't know  
2 what we do about getting ordinances passed  
3 in this city.

4 And one more thing about  
5 Mr. Amoroso, his contract is up, we don't  
6 need his help and I hope the city doesn't  
7 find one penny to pay him any further.  
8 Billy Courtright is not doing his job. He  
9 is hiring all of these other people. Why  
10 isn't Bill Courtright doing something? He  
11 has yet to approach the nonprofits. He has  
12 done something so far as the mayor. He's  
13 hiring other people to do the work he is  
14 supposed to. The stuff that Mr. Amoroso  
15 didn't do let Bill Courtright do. Why does  
16 he have to look to others for work that he  
17 supposed to be doing himself.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Franus.

19 MS. FRANUS: One more thing, the  
20 community center, I understand that Karen  
21 Foster from the West Side Neighborhood Group  
22 got a \$250,000 grant for a community center  
23 where LA Lewis was supposed to with our tax  
24 dollars, I find it amazing that Karen Foster  
25 got this. Connect the dots. That money

1           could have went much further and much better  
2           use.   What about the potholes?

3                   MR. MCGOFF:   Thank you, Mrs. Franus.

4                   MS. FRANUS:   I just want to say one  
5           more thing about what you say.

6                   MR. MCGOFF:   Mrs. Franus, your time  
7           is --

8                   MS. FRANUS:   I understand that.   But  
9           people spoke -- before me spoke five, six,  
10          seven minutes after their time, but you  
11          don't -- you just call people out when you  
12          chose to because you don't want to hear what  
13          they have to say and you do it for one you  
14          have to do it for all when you are not --

15                   MR. MCGOFF:   Mrs. Franus, thank you.

16                   MS. FRANUS:   Mr. McGoff, you're  
17          welcome.

18                   MR. MCGOFF:   Doug Miller.

19                   MR. MILLER:   Good evening, Council.  
20          Doug Miller, Scranton.   Before I get into  
21          the main agenda here I just wanted to take a  
22          few moments just to thank everyone in the  
23          community that did support the spaghetti  
24          dinner that we held on June 29 over the  
25          Villa Maria.   I'd like to thank a lot of the

1 people that came out on the Sunday, you  
2 know, it was a nice day so I'm sure a lot of  
3 people had other things going in their lives  
4 but for that amount of people to take the  
5 time to appear, you know, it's much  
6 appreciated. We were able to raise \$500  
7 benefit the free swim. Mr. Gaughan did show  
8 up. You know, a few other elected  
9 officials, the commissioners, former mayor  
10 Connors so I do appreciate the support in  
11 the community and it's nice to see that, you  
12 know, on one instance we may have political  
13 difference, but there are times when we can  
14 put those differences aside and come  
15 together as a community and support a good  
16 cause.

17 But most of all, I really want to  
18 commend Ozzie Quinn and the Hill  
19 Neighborhood group because without their  
20 initiative none of this would be taking  
21 place. Due to their hard work and their  
22 effort nearly 200 kids across the city will  
23 swim for free this entire summer, and I  
24 think that has a lot to be said about  
25 Ozzie's leadership of stepping in and taking

1 over the Hill Neighborhood group and  
2 restoring some of the positive things that,  
3 you know, once took place on the hill, and I  
4 think Ozzie and the group deserves a round  
5 of applause tonight.

6 Now, moving along, I just wanted to  
7 comment on the plan brought forward by  
8 Mr. Amoroso, and as you can all recall, I  
9 certainly was never in favor of Mr. Amoroso  
10 coming forward to make recommendations to  
11 the city. I still believe that we elected a  
12 mayor and we elected a new council to come  
13 in and solve these problems for us. You  
14 know, everybody claims to have all of these  
15 grand masterful ideas that we'd get to hear,  
16 but we had to bring in a transplant from New  
17 Jersey to basically show how to put two and  
18 two together. I don't know if we've still  
19 figured that out, but, you know, it's all  
20 laid out in what he wants to call the plan.

21 In my eyes, I see it more as suicide  
22 mission. There is not one thing in here  
23 that in my eyes turns the city around and,  
24 you know, with all due respect to  
25 Mr. Amoroso, I would like to refer to him as

1 Henry the Liquidator because that's all he  
2 recommends is liquidating one asset after  
3 another. Now we want to sell the Sewer  
4 Authority off, we want to sell parking  
5 garages that are allegedly worth \$22  
6 million. We have yet to see how we have  
7 even come to that determination that they  
8 are worth \$22 million. In fact, a lot of us  
9 are still waiting to determine how much  
10 those garages even cost to build.

11 But how anybody could justify how  
12 it's common sense to sell parking garages  
13 and still owe \$30 million on them I'd like  
14 Mr. Amoroso or anyone who supports this  
15 fantasy to tell now how that's realistic or  
16 how that's even common sense. What's  
17 sensible about that? We are going to sell  
18 an asset off and still be \$30 million in the  
19 hole. What's the justification? There is  
20 it none. It's ridiculous. There is no  
21 common sense involved.

22 The Sewer Authority we now want to  
23 sell. We want to go back to the days of  
24 American Anglican and see the rates  
25 skyrocket. Again, there is no common sense.



1           The purpose of having an asset to utilize it  
2           to make money, but we have an inability to  
3           be creative and not want to use our assets  
4           and make money with them. We sold the golf  
5           course and squandered that money. Past  
6           councils like Mr. McGoff and others who  
7           squandered that money and we wonder why we  
8           won't open swimming pools this summer,  
9           because we squandered \$4 million that that  
10          money was perpetually put in trust and to be  
11          used for parks and recreation. It shouldn't  
12          have been touched, but it was illegally due  
13          to the stupidity and the incompetent that we  
14          have had in our government, and we try to  
15          justify it time and time again.

16                 We want to talk about county  
17          reassessment in this fantasy. Well, if we  
18          read the paper yesterday we saw that that's  
19          going to cost \$8 1/2 million and the county  
20          doesn't want anything to do with that. So  
21          right off the bat this plan is flawed. You  
22          know, it's nice to put things on paper, but  
23          what's on paper and what reality is are two  
24          different things and, unfortunately, we have  
25          had a difficult time grasping the concept of

1 reality, and until we grasp that concept of  
2 reality we are just going to continue to go  
3 down this repetitive path and just continue  
4 to kick the can down the road.

5 There is no creativity in our  
6 government. Everything is the same. We  
7 want to raise taxes and now we want to pass  
8 it off to others. You know, it's nice to  
9 talk about raising taxes and it's nice to  
10 have on paper, you know, that we are going  
11 to realize tax revenue, but it's come to the  
12 point now where people can't give what they  
13 don't have. And the residents of this city  
14 have been overtaxed for decade after decade  
15 that they don't have anything left to give  
16 because their government has let them down  
17 and until we restore some common sense in  
18 our government.

19 As I said, nothing is going to  
20 change and future of this city won't be  
21 bright and, you know, it's come to the point  
22 now where maybe it's time to look at the  
23 possibility of discussing a bankruptcy  
24 petition. That's the first time I have ever  
25 said that because in the past I have never

1           been comfortable with that, but it's come to  
2           the point where unless we get our acts  
3           together and start solving our own issues it  
4           might be time to go that route. But over  
5           the next few weeks I'm going to, you know,  
6           brain storm some different ideas. As you  
7           all know with me, when I am critical and  
8           objective of something I always come back  
9           with an alternative as I have done in the  
10          past and I intend to spend some time and  
11          brainstorm some ideas and get discussion  
12          going, and maybe we need to have a town hall  
13          meeting and bring the residents to go.

14                 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

15                 MR. MILLER: Because this is a team  
16                 effort and we need to solve our problems and  
17                 we don't need to keep bringing people from  
18                 out of town. Let's solve our own problems.  
19                 We caused them, we need to fix them. Thank  
20                 you.

21                 MR. MCGOFF: Cindy Morgan.

22                 MS. MORGAN: Good evening. I'm  
23                 Cindy Morgan and I am a building owner and  
24                 business owner up in the Prescott area of  
25                 Scranton and I was just concerned, it's the

1 first that I was -- I heard about this that  
2 they are trying to pass an ordinance for  
3 permit parking and I just don't understand  
4 how that's going to work. There are a lot  
5 of businesses, it's finally a nice growing  
6 area. At one time it was so deserted and,  
7 you know, now it's nice businesses and I  
8 just feel like in our business area when  
9 everybody is working it's very hard to park  
10 right in front of your business. I mean,  
11 there is a restaurant, there is a bar, I  
12 have a hair salon, there is a yoga studio,  
13 so sometimes you can't park in front of your  
14 place and you have to find alternatives to  
15 park. It's a public street, and I'm just  
16 concerned if this becomes just permit  
17 parking that we are going to lose  
18 businesses. I have tenants, so, I mean, if  
19 you have your tenants parking in front of  
20 your places and then, you know, other people  
21 come for the business, you know, sometimes  
22 there isn't enough parking.

23 And I have a couple of the pictures,  
24 I didn't have time to run them off, but just  
25 to show you on the way down here I took --

1 the street isn't that busy all the time. I  
2 have -- I don't know if I -- could I  
3 approach and show a couple of the pictures  
4 or I don't know if that's allowed or not?

5 MR. MCGOFF: If you wish.

6 MS. MORGAN: I mean, there are  
7 people are complaining, but there is -- I  
8 mean, you can just scroll through, there is  
9 four pictures.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I hit the  
11 button.

12 MS. MORGAN: There is only four  
13 pictures, just to show that it's not, you  
14 know, it's not that busy to make this a  
15 permit parking only, you know, only street.  
16 I just think that it's going to be a major  
17 problem, you know, if that happens and I  
18 would just hate to see, you know, businesses  
19 leaving the area or us losing business  
20 because of, you know, something like that.  
21 That's just my concern, so thank you.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Is there  
24 anyone else who wishes to address council?

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.

1           Permission to pass up a paper. Pass it on,  
2           please. I'm going to have to talk pretty  
3           fast. This one is on the sewer plant PUC.  
4           "Dear Editor, Scranton should not sell or  
5           lease the sewer system to American Water or  
6           any other private company."

7                         There is a few things here about  
8           Mayor Courtright, which may or may not be  
9           true so I'm not going to even read that.  
10          "This new direction should not involve  
11          auctioning off the city's sewer to the  
12          highest bidder. Privatizing the utility  
13          would be a terrible deal for households and  
14          local businesses. Any money that the city  
15          receives in exchange for control of the  
16          system would be an expensive loan that  
17          residents will have to repay through  
18          increased sewer bills. Scranton should have  
19          already learned it's lesson. In 1999, the  
20          City of Dunmore and Scranton leased the  
21          sewer to American Water Exchange for \$8  
22          million for short-term budgetary relief.  
23          Just five years into the 20-year contract  
24          after the company hiked its fees several  
25          times and contested the scope of maintenance

1           responsibilities," which by the way, we were  
2           fined \$2 million for and the next time may  
3           involve a prison sentence for somebody --"  
4           so, unfortunately, in order to do so the  
5           city of Dunmore had to pay back \$6.6 million  
6           in upfront fee." There must have been  
7           Scranton/Dunmore I missed.

8                     "The city and narrowly avoided  
9           bankruptcy at the time by selling its storm  
10          water system to the Sewer Authority. It  
11          goes on, "In Coatsville, for example, the  
12          sewer rates quadrupled 400 percent."

13                    Now, I have a bill at home for about  
14          \$62 for two months, so, you know, due to the  
15          math. That's probably what, 300 or 400  
16          dollars a year maybe, and if it increases  
17          four-fold it's going to be \$1,200 a year,  
18          that's way more than you get out of me for  
19          both of my properties in this town as far as  
20          taxes are concerned, and there is another  
21          one and while their policy boosts sprawl,  
22          I'll address that next week, but I think  
23          it's self-explanatory which we should do  
24          everything we can and not.

25                    Now, the parking garages I don't

1 know, it's -- they have been a waste since  
2 the day they were built. They gave away all  
3 kinds of free space and handed them out to  
4 snake oil salesmen like the Hilton which, by  
5 the way, is in town three times. They were  
6 on Washington Avenue, they were over at the  
7 train station. They took all of the  
8 subsidies, sold the place after two years,  
9 moved in again 15 years later, and I got  
10 better things to do than to hand some  
11 spoiled brat that makes "X" rated movies  
12 free money.

13 Now, as far as the Chamber is  
14 concerned, as far as I'm concerned with the  
15 Chamber of Commerce, all they are is tax  
16 abatement and outsource for their friends.  
17 They have no value to me whatsoever. I wish  
18 we had a Scranton Chamber of Commerce and  
19 not a Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

20 7-C, what about tax replacement for  
21 this? Now, we have two taxpaying businesses  
22 going to move out of town. Well, one is  
23 moving out of town, one is probably getting  
24 a free lunch across the street, and maybe  
25 some day we will have train service, too.



1 Whose idea was that? Cordaro and Munchak.  
2 Now, Mr. Munchak I kind of feel sorry for.  
3 He was a kind of big old nice guy that  
4 didn't have it in him to tell the other guy  
5 not to do what he did, but he let them boss  
6 him around and as far as the other guy is  
7 concerned I hope that he is carried out of  
8 the federal prison in a gurney some day.

9 Now, the prison, one more bites the  
10 dust. They are looking to take another  
11 property, the Lackawanna County  
12 (unintelligible) and turn it into a parking  
13 lot, so that's another tax and, you know,  
14 which leads me to under the constitution of  
15 Pennsylvania we can only do -- we cannot  
16 charge these people. We can beg, we can  
17 ask, we can whine and complain, but we  
18 cannot get these taxes replaced. Federal  
19 Court, take the Pennsylvania constitution to  
20 Court, 33 and growing percent of the city is  
21 tax exempt and it's not sustainable.

22 Pensions, I wonder if we put this  
23 money from the sewage plant, I'm not trying  
24 to make a jerk out of or pick on anybody,  
25 but they lost \$26 million back in 2007

1           between two public safety unions, I wonder  
2           if we still have the same people in charge?  
3           There is an ad on television the roach  
4           highway, the effected investors are going --

5                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

6                   MR. DOBRZYN: -- back and forth to  
7           two houses. As far as what I heard last  
8           week Frank Joyce said it all months ago.

9                   THE COURT: Thank you.

10                  MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you. Have a  
11           good night. Don't forget to bawk, bawk.

12                  MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, City  
13           of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I missed  
14           the presentation, but I did read it in the  
15           newspaper, and of all of the things that  
16           were recommended that Mr. Courtright said he  
17           wholeheartedly endorsed was higher taxes and  
18           tweaking of the mercantile and business  
19           privilege tax, which we know was in there.  
20           I mentioned that, the very same -- if it  
21           came out of the Chamber that's what they are  
22           going to try to do, reduce the business  
23           privilege and mercantile tax because it's  
24           detrimental. It probably is, but people  
25           that pay that wage tax is also detrimental

1 and you are not going to do anything with  
2 that.

3 I told you before, there is very  
4 little things you can do except raise our  
5 taxes, and that's what you are going to do.  
6 No matter what these other grandioso plans  
7 are. First of all, take the parking  
8 garages. We cannot sell the parking garage  
9 without the bondholders approval. That  
10 means that the Parking Authority would have  
11 to buy half the bonds to get the garages  
12 back into their control so they can sell  
13 them. That means they would have to borrow  
14 about 22 or 25 million to do that, and you  
15 know and I know it's not going to happen.

16 And same thing with the Sewer  
17 Authority. Dunmore already says they are  
18 not on board with and most of the members  
19 that are on there are not on board with it,  
20 so we are going to have wait until their  
21 time expires until we put people on there  
22 that's going to say, yes, we want to do  
23 this, but that's down the road, too.

24 There is nothing in this plan that  
25 actually can help the city out at present

1           except the wage tax, increasing the wage tax  
2           or that plan they had from is it Blake, I  
3           guess it is, our senator, Senator Blake  
4           wants to increase the emergency service tax.  
5           Notice I'm using the word emergency service  
6           tax because that's what it was supposed to  
7           be. Now it's going to be three times more  
8           than it was originally.

9                         That's one of the reasons why I  
10           talked against Harrisburg up there with  
11           their 76 going to do something with the  
12           school tax. You and I know that's a farce.  
13           It's going to be the same thing like the  
14           emergency service tax. It's just going to  
15           keep rolling over and rolling over and  
16           rolling over. It's not fixed and the only  
17           way you can do anything is say you can't  
18           raise without a statewide referendum raising  
19           taxes on that or changing the form and  
20           taking to way from the politicians for that  
21           to work and they are not going to do that.

22                         So this is where we are going to  
23           stand. You are going sit there and you are  
24           going to take the brunt or raising taxes  
25           again, and I'm sorry that's what you are

1 going to have to do. And as far as the  
2 union goes, the password for the union is  
3 forward, not backward. The unions are not  
4 going to give back what they have fought so  
5 hard to win, I can tell you that now. You  
6 are not going to be able to sell it to the  
7 rank and file because you couldn't do it in  
8 our union or you can't do it any union. The  
9 unions want to go forward not backward.

10 So these are the problems you got.  
11 How you are going to handle them, I don't  
12 know, but you are getting \$12,500 a year to  
13 figure it out, and if that's all you can  
14 figure out is to raise taxes then we're  
15 definitely overpaying you. You got to come  
16 up with solutions. I don't care how you do  
17 them, go out and do them. That's the only  
18 way. Otherwise, you are going to get blamed  
19 for everything that's going on in the  
20 administration.

21 I mean the administration started  
22 off raising salaries of their employees,  
23 giving Mr. Pocius a contract when Peters was  
24 lower, people don't forget that. They are  
25 not going to forget that that was political.

1           That's all it was. Peters is very  
2           competent. When he was mayor he was very  
3           competent. He was is good mayor. He was a  
4           darn good mayor. But, unfortunately, yeah,  
5           we had gotten away from these people with  
6           principals and to people that really don't  
7           really care because whatever -- to raise  
8           somebody's standard of living higher, you  
9           got to lower somebody's, and that's what you  
10          are doing. Every time you raise taxes you  
11          lower somebody's standard of living whether  
12          you think it or not that's what is going  
13          being down. A lot of people are on fixed  
14          incomes in this city, and when you raise  
15          taxes one way or another that takes away  
16          from the buying power. Maybe even takes  
17          away from getting medicine, I don't know.  
18          How much they are going to, you know, stand  
19          by to keep their house, unfortunately,  
20          people when they get old wants to die in  
21          their home. Thank you.

22                   MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
23                   council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky and I have  
24                   attended most of your caucuses, however, in  
25                   recent weeks you have had several important

1 caucus back there in the room that should  
2 have been held out here in council chambers.  
3 One was the Audubon School. People deserved  
4 to hear what the plan plans were for the  
5 Audubon School.

6 The next one was Verizon. That was  
7 very important. They came and made a pitch  
8 on where they wanted to put their towers and  
9 the people have a right to know what part of  
10 the parks and what parks they are going to  
11 be in. That should not have been kept from  
12 the people.

13 The other one was Mobile One. They  
14 could have put a bid in for the parking  
15 meters, the charge on the parking meters.  
16 For some reason it was kept from the public  
17 more or less. You had already made up your  
18 minds that Pango was going to be the one to  
19 get the job.

20 It seems as though city council in  
21 the last six months has become more  
22 secretive. I think it's time you opened up  
23 things, start answering questions and not  
24 wait until motions. This council was  
25 elected to do the work of the people not

1           hide, but to answer the questions. I hope  
2           you will return to that.

3                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

4                   MS. LEWIS: Hello, my name is  
5           Patricia Lewis, I'm married to David Lewis  
6           who spoke a little earlier, and I just  
7           wanted to add to his comments that I wanted  
8           to clarify that the changes he talked about  
9           in regard to the truck traffic on Luzerne  
10          Street and on Keyser Avenue those are  
11          permanent changes. That's not just while  
12          the road is under construction, that's  
13          permanent changes that would divert the  
14          truck traffic through residential  
15          neighborhoods permanently. Thank you.

16                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I hadn't understood  
17          that, I figured it was temporary first, but  
18          as he explained it a little bit more I want  
19          to look into that, too, because they are  
20          going by a baseball field, a football field  
21          there now and a lot of youth players and  
22          stuff like that to say, you know, going  
23          through the residential neighborhoods, but  
24          definitely that is something to look at.

25                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,



1 Council. Marie Schumacher.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: First, I'd like to  
4 give a big shout out to Tony Santoli. As we  
5 all witnessed, a lot of downed trees in this  
6 city from the storm the other evening and I  
7 shutter to think how many more there would  
8 have been without the hundreds of trees that  
9 Mr. Santoli has examined and marked for  
10 either take down or trimming and he has  
11 taken very many down and without that this  
12 city would have been a disaster the other  
13 night, so a big shout out to Tony.

14 The Amoroso report, of course, had  
15 lot of issues and there will continue to be  
16 issues which I will hold for the town hall  
17 and I would like to know who is in charge of  
18 setting up the town hall that was discussed  
19 last week? Okay.

20 MR. MCGOFF: There is no procedure,  
21 set procedure for doing it so asking who is  
22 in charge of doing it, whoever initiates it  
23 would be in charge.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I'll have to  
25 go back and read the minutes, but I thought

1 council took that on last week, so I'll go  
2 back and come back next week on that, but  
3 the thing that I do think is important  
4 awhile back several months ago I provided a  
5 copy of an article that was written this  
6 past January by the first receiver of the  
7 City of Harrisburg and it was entitled, "A  
8 Critical First and Last Steps in Municipal  
9 Workout." It spoke to Vallejo, California,  
10 Harrisburg and Detroit, Michigan. I'd just  
11 like to read the first one, and I have a  
12 copy for each of you so that you can read  
13 through it and consider it, but I will read  
14 the first paragraph.

15 It says, "The first critical step in  
16 a municipal workout, whether inside or  
17 outside of the bankruptcy, is to get all of  
18 parties, the debtor and the creditors to  
19 accept that they will all have to incur  
20 significant losses as a result of the  
21 workout process. Secured creditors will do  
22 better than unsecured creditors, but taking  
23 that into account the losses need to be fair  
24 and proportionate and the municipality needs  
25 to come out the other end of the process

1           able to operate successfully into the  
2           future."

3                       As I say, after the meeting I will  
4           give you each a copy, but I hope you don't  
5           piecemeal this thing. I think that's the  
6           worse thing you can do is encourage a lot of  
7           holdouts. What we need is a giant  
8           negotiation, everybody, and get it all done,  
9           everything voted on in one night, and if we  
10          can come out some money ahead the better for  
11          our future, but definitely do not piecemeal  
12          it.

13                      Then, Mr. Rogan, do you have the  
14          answers to my OECD loan questions or --

15                      MR. ROGAN: To some of them, I spoke  
16          to Linda and Attorney Hickey this week  
17          regarding two main issues that you brought  
18          up, one being the loans in general, and one  
19          being Alexander's specifically. On  
20          Alexander's specifically, those provisions  
21          if they are not brought up by the deadline  
22          they will sunset, but there are negotiations  
23          ongoing for a longer term, a longer term  
24          deal.

25                      Regarding the loan portfolio in

1           general, I did speak to Linda and Gene,  
2           Attorney Hickey, and we went over -- we are  
3           currently in -- the administration and  
4           myself are currently in the process of  
5           changing the way that we go after the  
6           delinquent loans. Hopefully, I'm hopeful  
7           that by the beginning of -- after the August  
8           recess that we will be able to go into a  
9           little more detail on what the plan is, but  
10          it won't be the way that business was done  
11          where if somebody doesn't pay they just let  
12          it go, and that was the problem.

13                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, we were told  
14          that they were in litigation, as a matter of  
15          fact, there was like 1.6 million so, you  
16          know, we all sort of sucked in our breath a  
17          couple of the weeks ago when we learned  
18          about the cutbacks for this year -- or the  
19          coming year and the monies that can be  
20          provided because of old issues, and I think  
21          it's way too far. We should hear about  
22          those things at least quarterly, and I hope  
23          to hear on an individual basis by the end of  
24          July not wait until September because  
25          September we are going to start hopefully

1 acting and you have some issues to act on  
2 with respect to whether or not we are going  
3 to get a workout or whether or not we are  
4 going to go to bankruptcy, so I would hope  
5 that would occur.

6 Moving on, there was a request for a  
7 proposals for a street lighting project,  
8 Phase II. Oh, I'm sorry, I messed up  
9 because there is one on the agenda tonight  
10 in Seventh Order, and last chance to talk on  
11 that, I guess that's -- this will be it for  
12 the night, but if you would tell me when it  
13 says -- this is on 7-B, it says, "To execute  
14 and enter into an automated red light  
15 enforcement program," is this a red light  
16 camera that you are introducing into the  
17 city?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: No, this is a  
19 modification to the signal head at the  
20 intersection of South Washington Avenue and  
21 Elm Street. It has -- it's not anything to  
22 do with the red light.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Really?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: That's the name of the  
25 grant.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I'll bring  
2 the rest back next week. Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: You're welcome.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Is there anyone else  
5 who wishes to address council?

6 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

7 ALL OF COUNCIL: Good evening.

8 MR. MORGAN: Lee Morgan. You know,  
9 I just wanted to make some really brief  
10 comments I guess about Mr. Amaroso's plan.  
11 I find it very troubling that we brought  
12 someone here, as others speakers have also  
13 stated, that told us stuff we already knew.  
14 And as far as turning this city around, I  
15 think that maybe council and the mayor  
16 should go back to the council and the  
17 mayoral races that I was in and look at what  
18 I said because it's not very complex. I may  
19 have never won an election, but I never  
20 spent any money either. I spent over 20  
21 years coming to these council meetings and I  
22 have some real ideas and I think if people  
23 looked at them and you could accept somebody  
24 else's ideas instead of the politically  
25 connected people that maneuver behind the

1 scenes, I think we can save what's left of  
2 this city, but if we keep going down the  
3 same broken road that we have perceived our  
4 answers lie we are going to be in bring  
5 trouble here. The end is within reach here.  
6 Very closely within reach because after the  
7 Sewer Authority is gone, if it ever happens,  
8 and the parking garages are gone, there is  
9 nothing more but hellacious tax increases  
10 been mountains of debt. And that's how  
11 simple it gets. It doesn't get much simpler  
12 than that.

13 And in regard to the city employees,  
14 I find it very troubling that they have  
15 picked the councils and the mayors in the  
16 city for close to 80 years and they have  
17 never once protected their own pensions.  
18 It's a very troubling thing, but the  
19 residents in this city have paid the tax to  
20 pay those pensions, but it was diverted. We  
21 need to ask where did all of the state and  
22 federal revenue that came into the city to  
23 turn it around go to? We haven't even  
24 figured out I think what happened to the  
25 bars at the Nay Aug Zoo.

1 I mean, this city has been so  
2 thoroughly looted over decades and now we  
3 are going back to the same people asking  
4 them for money and when we look at the  
5 census numbers for this city we went to near  
6 140,000 down to 70, which tells you that  
7 people have left and, of course, a lot of  
8 people have passed away but their children  
9 aren't staying here and we kept worrying  
10 about utter silliness.

11 We have the North Scranton project  
12 that's stalled for how long, a decade or  
13 more? We are worried about the Scranton  
14 Lace building and the whole city is just  
15 falling apart. People walk through this  
16 city, even people who come back here after  
17 30 years can't believe how this city looks.  
18 I think any plan has to be liquid, it has to  
19 be able to move and maneuver. I think it  
20 has to be not firmly placed like Mr. Amoroso  
21 and make this council and this mayor  
22 believe. This plan has to change according  
23 to what's happening on the ground here.

24 And the employees of the city, I  
25 just can't see how a city can employ anyone



1           without a population base and the people  
2           here have come up and talked about, you  
3           know, the age of the average Scrantonian,  
4           it's getting older. The baby boomers of the  
5           generation I am part of are getting older,  
6           but I would like to see the baby boomers  
7           solve our problems so we don't kick this can  
8           down the road, because like I said here once  
9           before, Mr. Rogan, Mr. Gaughan, whatever is  
10          left of this city that's what you are going  
11          to get and that's all you are going to get,  
12          and maybe a mountain of debt because really  
13          there aren't very smart decisions being made  
14          here, and the people making the decisions  
15          for the city behind the scenes they are not  
16          worried about us, they are worried about  
17          them and that's the problem.

18                        So I think it's time for this mayor  
19                        and this city and this council to take a  
20                        good hard look at what's going on, start  
21                        opening that budget up for the next budget.  
22                        Don't rely on the administration's plans or  
23                        numbers, I think that the budget needs to be  
24                        split up amongst all five council members  
25                        because one person cannot do it, and that's

1 not a shot at any council person, it's just  
2 this problem is so big and it's never been  
3 solved.

4 You know, I went to St. Mary's  
5 Center when we went into this distressed  
6 status, nothing has happened, except it's  
7 gotten worse and there is only one question  
8 here that needs to be solved or answered is  
9 there going to be a Scranton after this is  
10 all said and done?

11 Flint, Michigan, is getting ready to  
12 file a bankruptcy. I don't know, you know,  
13 when you look at the city's employees saying  
14 that this plan is better and anything they  
15 have seen before, well, if they call this a  
16 plan I don't know. Think it's like going to  
17 the funeral, you know, going to the grave  
18 site because really honestly and truthfully  
19 has this city gotten any better in 20 plus  
20 years? Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

24 MR. ELLMAN: I wasn't going to come  
25 tonight and bother you people, but a fellow

1           phoned me about 5:00 and tried to sell me a  
2           house across from me and we started talking  
3           about the city. This is what you people  
4           think is a good report. Shame on you. This  
5           is absolute disgust. I don't think, maybe  
6           Jack, I know Jack has, I don't think the  
7           four of you have ever talked to somebody  
8           that lives in a project that lost their  
9           house, not because of a fire. I have talked  
10          to some people right across the street in  
11          that building that had a home paid for and  
12          couldn't afford it no more with everything.

13                        Here you are giving Mr. Amoroso hero  
14          status for a report that a grammar school  
15          kid could have advocated raising taxes. You  
16          are not doing nothing about the cause of all  
17          of this chaos for crying out loud and that's  
18          these phony nonprofits that goes on and on  
19          and they keep buying property. I tell you  
20          what, somebody get on your computer since  
21          Lackawanna College took the little area over  
22          there, see how many buildings they got, it's  
23          not that many to see how much money every  
24          year went off the tax rolls then you can  
25          multiply that probably 100 years from the

1 University been taking property and 150, 60  
2 pieces of property they have you are talking  
3 about ten of millions of dollars. Why isn't  
4 something done about the Pure Charity Act?  
5 If Mr. Amoroso had any thought about this  
6 city he would be over there rewriting that  
7 Act that these phony colleges are hiding  
8 behind, but no, he doesn't even mention the  
9 phony colleges.

10 And he doesn't mention all of the  
11 waste this goes on. This week the paper  
12 said the jail is buying property up around  
13 them for parking. Why can't they have the  
14 employees permit parking on the street?  
15 They give it to the University students.  
16 They are allowed to park all over the place  
17 where a car that's inspected and insured and  
18 licenses can't use a parking space over  
19 there because it's some snotty kid that  
20 lives in a house with 75 people.

21 It's not right what goes on in this  
22 city. Why should somebody have their house  
23 and lose a house because of all of the waste  
24 around here so people can park to visit  
25 someone in jail, and I have been in the jail

1 and I have visited people in the jail, I'm  
2 not making fun of no one. You can walk,  
3 people have been walking to that jail for  
4 100 years. It's just a continual, constant,  
5 never ceasing waste that goes on an  
6 everybody sees it. Every place you look you  
7 can see it.

8 Last year I complained they had a  
9 crew cut down some trees by my house and a  
10 couple of weeks later there was another crew  
11 there trimming, cutting trees just to have  
12 something to do. I talked to them. I  
13 walked my dog down there. That's what -- it  
14 just -- you people just don't think of us  
15 that put you in those seats. You have just  
16 forgotten about us. What are we going to  
17 do? You are going to go on and let this man  
18 do like he did? He is not no hero of  
19 Newark, I guarantee you. All he did was  
20 sell everything that wasn't nailed down and  
21 blow out a town and on his way out of town  
22 he messed up the hospitals.

23 You can't sell the Sewer Authority.  
24 What if you sell it? Tell me what's going  
25 to happen if you sell the Sewer Authority?

1           They are going to raise rates where we  
2           wouldn't be able to afford to use the water.  
3           It would be a private business. They are  
4           not going to let -- look at the gas  
5           company. We are supposed to be the biggest  
6           producer in the world, they raised our gas 6  
7           percent so far this year. You think the  
8           Sewer Authority won't be up? It will be  
9           outrageous when it goes on.

10                    It's time somebody that's put you  
11           into those seats to replace one of them.  
12           You are not doing a good job. You are not  
13           just doing the job for the people of this  
14           city. You ought to stand down there in  
15           front of Price Rite and talk to the people  
16           from that neighborhood and see what goes on  
17           in this city. I told them six, eight years  
18           ago it's time for a curfew because we are  
19           having problems with gangs. Nothing was  
20           done. You people just don't do nothing to  
21           help us.

22                    I tell you, if I could sell my  
23           house, like I said, I could walk off and get  
24           my equity and leave town and be better off.  
25           I love this town. I got friends all over

1           this country that -- business associates  
2           that I have met business wise where I could  
3           go and spend some happy days. I stay here  
4           by choice and I'd sure like to see somebody  
5           do something for the city for a change  
6           besides sit there and just take your money  
7           and listen to these people every week.

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

9                     MR ELLMAN: And I'm very happy they  
10           go some new, fresh faces out there. Thank  
11           you.

12                    MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

13                    MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

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

15                    MOTIONS.

16                    MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler.

17                    MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
18           Mr. McGoff. The first thing I'd like to do  
19           tonight, and I'm sure the rest of my  
20           colleagues would do the same, would be to  
21           thank the fire and the police and the DPW of  
22           our city for their response to the storm the  
23           other night. The city was hit pretty hard  
24           and I think our guys and girls did a great  
25           job and they do care about the city and they

1 are working to make it better.

2 In terms of the town meeting that  
3 was discussed the past week, I suggested the  
4 town meeting last week and Mr. Rogan agreed  
5 with me and we are looking for comments on  
6 this plan, but in my opinion it's up to the  
7 administration to take the lead on this town  
8 meeting. In order for this plan to work, we  
9 need information from the people that are  
10 going to put in place and right now as the  
11 council we are not the people that are going  
12 to put this plan in place. We heard the  
13 presentation last week just like you did and  
14 we are always looking for information. So I  
15 think as we move forward through the summer  
16 I believe that the administration has to do  
17 more to make us familiar with what's going  
18 on.

19 We also were in receipt of some  
20 concerns about Mary Lane up on East  
21 Mountain. Back in March, Mr. Gaughan and I  
22 we took a tour of the mountain, took a look  
23 at several different streets.  
24 Unfortunately, Mary Lane is not on a paving  
25 list for this year, but we are working



1           towards getting it on for future paving and  
2           if any money does become available we are  
3           aware of the conditions on that street. And  
4           that's all I have tonight, Mr. McGoff.

5                     MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Rogan?

6                     MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a few brief  
7           comments. Mr. Wechsler is correct, everyone  
8           in the city did a great job with the storm  
9           our police, our fire and DPW, and I would,  
10          like to second what one of our speakers said  
11          that Mr. Santoli did a great job, I actually  
12          had a request that was sent in and luckily  
13          it was taken care of. It was a very large  
14          dead tree and lucky it was taken care of  
15          right before the storm, you know, over the  
16          weekend and on Monday it was topped, it was  
17          a tree up on East Mountain and it was a very  
18          large tree. I can't even imagine what would  
19          have happened if that tree was still there  
20          when the storm came through on Tuesday so a  
21          great job by all of those items.

22                     Regarding the report that was  
23          presented last week, I think there obviously  
24          are a lot of items on there, some I support,  
25          some I don't support, and I think the public

1 out there feels the same way, and I agree we  
2 need to hear input from the public on what  
3 items they would like to see move forward,  
4 what items they would like to see not move  
5 forward, but I think that process starts by  
6 voting, by putting them on the agenda for an  
7 up or down vote.

8 As we know, council takes three  
9 votes on any major pieces of legislation.  
10 Once those items are put on the agenda it  
11 gives the members of the public a chance to  
12 come and comment three times at council and  
13 when we talked earlier in our caucus about  
14 having a special public comment period prior  
15 to a council meeting, specifically, on these  
16 items. Kind of like we had today regarding  
17 the parking in the Hill Section, this would  
18 be the same type of venue just specific to  
19 items in this plan.

20 And I did ask my colleagues, and  
21 they all agreed, that if city council does  
22 consider pursuing the commuter tax that we  
23 must have input from those who live outside  
24 of the city who normally by rule aren't  
25 allowed to speak at city council meetings,

1 so that is something that I'm glad we all  
2 agreed to allow on those from outside the  
3 city to come and address council on that  
4 issue as well because it will effect a  
5 number of people.

6 That being said, having this plan  
7 just being presented to us last week, I  
8 would once again like to speak my opposition  
9 to the city council recessing throughout the  
10 month of the August. There is so many items  
11 in this plan that need to be acted on.  
12 Whether they are voted up or they have voted  
13 down, those items should all be -- as many  
14 as we can should be addressed before the  
15 budget is created.

16 Two years ago one of the biggest  
17 problems the city had with the budget was  
18 there were items that were put in there that  
19 were put in the budget that weren't  
20 addressed previously and the budget was  
21 passed, those items weren't realized and  
22 then the city was left with a giant  
23 shortfall. That's why I believe by  
24 beginning to address them now and having  
25 votes and listening to discussion form the

1 residents that will make the city much  
2 better prepared come budget time.

3 So I would hope that we could  
4 possibly consider coming in for the month of  
5 August to address these items in the report  
6 one by one and that's something that I think  
7 we should all consider. I would certainly  
8 support it, and that's all I have for  
9 tonight. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

11 Mr. Loscombe?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you. It's  
13 my turn to provide some handouts here.

14 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.  
15 To all our speakers, viewers, supporters, my  
16 colleagues and critics, I humbly announce  
17 this will be my last meeting as a sitting  
18 city councilman. Effective with the  
19 conclusion of this meeting, I will be  
20 resigning from my position as a Scranton  
21 City Councilman. This decision has not been  
22 easy, but at the urging of family and close  
23 friends, I have come to the realization that  
24 it is now time to step down. It has been no  
25 secret that I have faced with financial

1           difficulties since the seizing of my pension  
2           almost immediately after my appointment to  
3           city council in January of 2010. I was  
4           unaware of the ordinance which was written  
5           when I was ten years old until a few days  
6           after I was sworn in. At that time, I had a  
7           decision to make, do I immediately resign,  
8           as was hoped by those who dug up this  
9           archaic ordinance, or do I continue to serve  
10          as I believe that I could weather the storm  
11          as this issue made it's way through the  
12          legal system.

13                        I chose the later. Unfortunately,  
14          the economy didn't cooperate and I found  
15          myself struggling to make ends meet to the  
16          point of nearly losing my home.  
17          Fortunately, for those in mortgage distress,  
18          there are local problems that provide  
19          assistance to those who seriously want to  
20          save their homes. I want to personally  
21          thank the representatives of the United  
22          Neighborhood Centers, more specifically,  
23          Terrilynn D'Agostino, my Attorney Ray  
24          Ferrario, and especially Judge Terry Nealon  
25          for providing a Court option encouraging the

1 banks to work with individuals in mortgage  
2 distress on a plan for payment agreements  
3 and mortgage modifications in an effort to  
4 keep families in their homes, and I urge  
5 anyone out there the same position to seek  
6 this help because it's invaluable and a lot  
7 of our OECD money goes into these plans.  
8 They don't provide you with any financing,  
9 but they provide you with, you know, their  
10 expertise.

11 As a result of this program, I'm  
12 happy to report that the bank has approved  
13 my mortgage modification as a result of a  
14 successful trial period. As the city  
15 struggles to implement the financial  
16 recovery plan, so too have I been working on  
17 a recovery plan to get my personal finances  
18 in the order. A big part of my plan is  
19 commitment to my bank that I must work to  
20 bring my income up to my pre-city council  
21 days. In order to accomplish my plan, it is  
22 incumbent on me at this time to seek  
23 reinstatement of the pension that I earned  
24 as a firefighter.

25 This past year especially has had

1           it's personal up and downs for me as I have  
2           buried some close friends and my kid sister  
3           and campaign manager, Kathy Martin. My  
4           mother and my wife have both undergone  
5           serious surgeries, and I have also been  
6           blessed this year with the arrival of a new  
7           granddaughter Gracilyn in March, and will be  
8           further placed with twin grandchildren,  
9           Mason and Sophia, in early September  
10          bringing me up to seven lovely  
11          grandchildren.

12                    I have loved every minute of serving  
13           you as both an appointed and an elected city  
14           councilmen and I have been very honored to  
15           do so. So as I leave this dais for the  
16           final time when I ask for a motion to  
17           adjourn at the conclusion of this meeting, I  
18           am sure that I leave you in capable hands  
19           and have the utmost confidence that my  
20           colleagues will find a suitable replacement.  
21           May God bless you all, and may we all work  
22           together to bring Scranton back to the  
23           friendly and prosperous city it once was.  
24           Thank you very much. That's all, I'm sorry.

25                    MR. GAUGHAN: Well, that was a

1 shock. Well, first, I'd like to thank you,  
2 Councilman Loscombe, for your service on  
3 council. Sad to see you go and I hope  
4 everything works out with you and your  
5 family and I wish you a lot of luck.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: First a reminder that  
8 the street sweeper is scheduled to be in the  
9 Greenridge area next week Deacon Street to  
10 Finn Street, including all streets and  
11 avenues.

12 An update on the proposed cell phone  
13 towers in the parks that having gone back  
14 and forth the last few weeks. I was  
15 commented on a letter dated January 9 from  
16 Mayor Courtright to Mike Oster, who is the  
17 site acquisition specialist for Network  
18 Building and Consulting who is trying to  
19 seek variances for construction of Verizon  
20 cell phone at Weston Field and Cayuga Park.  
21 The letter gives Mr. Oster to seek zoning  
22 variances for the cellphone towers. Should  
23 Mr. Oster receive the variances from the  
24 zoning board, the mayor will then determine  
25 if he will submit proposed lease agreements



1 to city council for their review and  
2 approval.

3 I failed to mention this at the  
4 beginning of the meeting, but there is a  
5 great event going on tonight at courthouse  
6 square that I wanted to mention, the  
7 Drive-in downtown movie series sponsored by  
8 Scranton Tomorrow. It is a free family  
9 oriented event. Tonight's movie Frozen 2,  
10 the sing along version will be shown at  
11 dusk. There are also many kids activities  
12 before the movie. The July 24 movie will be  
13 Despicable Me 2. For more information  
14 please contact Leslie Collins of Scranton  
15 Tomorrow at 570-963-1570.

16 Just a comment on the town hall  
17 meeting, I am not opposed to having a town  
18 hall meeting, but I would recommend that  
19 council invite the mayor because I believe  
20 he should be here and he should run it. The  
21 ball is now in the mayor's court. He is the  
22 executive, we have a strong mayor form of  
23 government, he agreed to all of the  
24 recommendations in Henry Amoroso's plan so  
25 he should be here.

1                   So if city council is going to run  
2                   this, I don't know how you guys are going to  
3                   do this, but I would recommend that whenever  
4                   you are going to have it to send  
5                   correspondence down to the mayor's office  
6                   requesting that he be here for that. And  
7                   that is all I have.

8                   MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, I apologize  
9                   for jumping out of turn, but I just wanted  
10                  to also thank Councilman Loscombe for his  
11                  service to the city. One of the first votes  
12                  that I made when I was elected to council  
13                  was to appoint Mr. Loscombe, and it's been a  
14                  pleasure working with you. I know you  
15                  really care for your city and that really  
16                  shows in the financial hit that you took  
17                  over the last few years up here fighting the  
18                  fight with us for what's right for the city,  
19                  and I know from myself you will be deeply  
20                  missed on council and that the expertise  
21                  that you brought to this board, specifically  
22                  with public safety issues in the fire  
23                  department will be missed, and I will be  
24                  calling you many times even after you are  
25                  gone for advice on those issues.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. I hope to  
2 hear from all of you.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thanks, Jack.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I would  
5 like -- this came as quite a shock to us  
6 tonight --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I apologize for the  
8 last minute because it was a last minute  
9 decision, there has been a lot of --

10 MR. WECHSLER: I can appreciate all  
11 the thought that you went through, I know  
12 Jack a long time before I set with him here  
13 on council, we worked together on many  
14 different projects and I've always enjoyed  
15 his company, and also his perspective on  
16 what he brings to the table, and I am also  
17 going to miss you, and I wish it could be  
18 different, but good luck in your future  
19 endeavors.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of comments.  
22 First of all, a couple of things that came  
23 up, I do take issue with people describing  
24 our council as being secretive and closed to  
25 the public. I have been here for a numbers

1 of years and I believe that this council has  
2 been as open and as transparent as any  
3 council, as any previous council.

4 As far as the specific things that  
5 were brought up, yes, we did have a caucus  
6 with Audubon, we also had a public hearing  
7 held here in council chambers dealing with  
8 the Audubon's project.

9 As far as the Verizon people coming  
10 in, there is no legislation yet before us.  
11 Believe me, that if there is legislation for  
12 the creation of the cell towers throughout  
13 the city or any of the parks, whatever it  
14 may, certainly there will be ample  
15 opportunity to provided for the public to  
16 weigh on the specific proposal.

17 Yes, the Mobile Now we did not have  
18 any public caucus on that other than the one  
19 in council chambers, but that was enacted,  
20 I'll say after the fact presentation, and  
21 one we did not schedule, so when there is  
22 something of importance to council we do  
23 have and we have had a caucus in council  
24 chambers. We are not trying to be secretive  
25 at all. We are trying to be as open and

1 transparent as possible.

2 As far as the presentation last week  
3 by Mr. Amoroso, I agree with other members  
4 of council this is something that is  
5 extremely important to the city. It's not  
6 something that should be addressed simply by  
7 council. It's something that should be  
8 addressed by the administration, by council,  
9 by the public, by everyone that's a  
10 stakeholder in these recommendations, in the  
11 well-being of the city.

12 I would hope that as we move forward  
13 that the administration and the council  
14 takes a very active role in these  
15 recommendations and hopefully we can work  
16 together as we have for the past six months  
17 to bring to fruition some of these  
18 recommendations that were made by  
19 Mr. Amoroso, but not without leadership  
20 that's needed and not without the  
21 information that is needed to move forward.

22 And just one kind of odd -- one of  
23 the speakers mentioned the baby boomers,  
24 when I taught high school and history I  
25 constantly we talked about demographics and

1           how various demographics feed into what  
2 happens, and one of the things that has been  
3 pointed out by many people is that the baby  
4 boom generation while it has been a benefit  
5 to American society at this point in time it  
6 may be the greatest detriment to American  
7 society. We, me being one of them, we are  
8 using up a lot of resources of this country,  
9 and I used to tell the kids in high school  
10 somewhat facetiously that probably the best  
11 thing the baby boomers can do to help the  
12 country is go to their eternal reward, but  
13 in dealing with these issues the baby boomer  
14 generation does have a great effect on  
15 things like pensions, social security, and  
16 all and it's not just something that  
17 is exclusive to Scranton or the Scranton  
18 area. This is a nationwide problem.

19                       As lastly, this was a surprise.

20           Mr. Loscombe, I know over the past couple of  
21 the years we have disagreed on a number of  
22 the issues, but I have always said that I  
23 feel that disagreement breeds change. If  
24 there is constant agreement on everything  
25 you never change and I have valued the

1 opinions that Mr. Loscombe has brought to  
2 this council and I think that we have to  
3 developed a mutual respect for one another  
4 and a working relationship that I thought  
5 was allowing us as a council make progress  
6 towards a better city, and I think that  
7 Mr. Loscombe's contributions to this council  
8 and to this city will be sorely missed.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you,  
10 Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: And that's all.

12 MR. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
13 RESOLUTION -ACCEPTING A DONATION OF TEN  
14 THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS FROM ALLIED  
15 SERVICES PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
16 TO PROVIDE FREE SWIMMING FOR ECONOMICALLY  
17 DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS AT THE NAY AUG  
18 PARK SWIM COMPLEX.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I would just like

1 to thank Allied Services for this donation.  
2 Free swimming at Nay Aug is something that I  
3 have always supported, and this donation is  
4 once step towards that. It will help the  
5 kids in that area as have the Hill  
6 Neighborhood Association and many other  
7 groups, and the Taxpayers' Association prior  
8 to that held fundraisers, so a big thank you  
9 to Allied Services and to our administration  
10 for pursuing the donation.

11 All those in favor of introduction  
12 signify by saying aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
20 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS J.  
21 GALELLA, JR., 112 PELLAR AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
22 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY  
23 PLANNING COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 3, 2014.  
24 MR. GALELLA'S TERM WILL BE FOR FOUR (4)  
25 YEARS AND WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 3, 2018.



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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I know  
8 Mr. Galella personally, I think he will be a  
9 good asset to this commission.

10 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

11 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to say,  
12 Mr. Galella has submitted his resume and  
13 Mr. Galella has also served in a number of  
14 capacities in city government and local  
15 government in the past and will be a welcome  
16 addition to the city planning commission.

17 All those in favor signify by saying  
18 aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
24 ayes have it and so moved.

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

1 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
2 34, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING  
3 PERMIT PARKING ONLY IN THE 900 BLOCK OF  
4 PRESCOTT AVENUE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE  
5 STREET 901 TO 949 AND 902 TO 956 WHICH  
6 INCLUDES ALL THE RESIDENCES, WITH THE  
7 EXCEPTION OF APARTMENTS LOCATED ABOVE  
8 COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

14 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? I  
15 would say that at the public hearing we  
16 heard commentary from residents on Prescott  
17 Avenue and during the public participation  
18 we have heard another person speak to that.  
19 I recognize that parking in any area is  
20 difficult, especially where there are  
21 commercial enterprises, but at least from my  
22 opinion this is a somewhat unique situation,  
23 given the number of commercial enterprises  
24 and also the school and other factors and I  
25 believe that the permit parking is the right

1 thing to do for this area.

2 All those in favor signify by saying  
3 aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 35, 2014 - AN  
12 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
13 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229610 ENTITLED  
14 "GERRITY PARK" FOR THE RECEIPT AND  
15 DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER  
16 GRANT APPLICATION.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
20 pass reading by title.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
6 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR  
7 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 33, 2014  
8 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
9 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
10 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH  
11 WEST SCRANTON LITTLE LEAGUE FOR VARIOUS  
12 LITTLE LEAGUE, T-BALL, FARM LEAGUE, TEENER  
13 LEAGUE, MISS-E LEAGUE, BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL  
14 FOR USE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION  
15 WITH APPROVED LITTLE LEAGUE, TBALL, FARM  
16 LEAGUE, TEENER LEAGUE, MISS-E LEAGUE,  
17 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES FOR A  
18 THREE-YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING APRIL 15, 2014  
19 AND ENDING APRIL 14, 2017.

20 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
21 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
22 passage of Item 7-A.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

12 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
13 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
14 - RESOLUTION NO. 64, 2014 - AUTHORIZING  
15 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
16 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN  
17 AUTOMATED RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM  
18 PROJECT AGREEMENT (ARLE) REIMBURSEMENT  
19 AGREEMENT NO. 04R128 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH  
20 OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
21 TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE ADDITION OF A  
22 LEFT TURN SIGNAL HEAD AT WASHINGTON  
23 AVENUE/ELM STREET, CITY OF SCRANTON,  
24 LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chair for the  
2 Committee on Public Works?

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
8 call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
21 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
22 -RESOLUTION NO. 65, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE  
23 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
24 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT  
25 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF

1 TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT") APPLICATION FOR  
2 TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL  
3 PERMIT NO. 40110 FOR THE MODIFICATIONS OF  
4 THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION  
5 LACKAWANNA AVENUE AND STEAMTOWN MALL  
6 DRIVEWAY/MIFFLIN AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN SCRANTON  
7 AS PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTY OF  
8 LACKAWANNA TRANSIT SYSTEM INTERMODAL  
9 FACILITY.

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

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

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
6 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
7 RESOLUTION NO. 66, 2014 - ACCEPTING A  
8 DONATION OF THREE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED  
9 (\$3,600.00) DOLLARS FROM AMOS TOWERS  
10 MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISES, INC. PRESENTED TO  
11 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR  
12 THE PURCHASE OF TOOL BOXES INCLUDING  
13 MISCELLANEOUS HAND TOOLS FOR 9 OF THE CITY'S  
14 APPARATUS.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
16 recommendation of the Chair for the  
17 Committee on Finance?

18 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
19 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-D.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question,  
24 I would like to thank the management of Amos  
25 Towers for once again making a considerable



1 donation of equipment to the fire  
2 department.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
14 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. Mr.  
15 Loscombe?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: No further business,  
17 motion to adjourn.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER