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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, July 23, 2015

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
(Not present)

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: I will say I forget to
4 mention all those who have passed away in
5 our community this past week.

6 Roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Here. I will say that
15 Mr. Rogan did let us know that he would not
16 be available for our meeting this week. We
17 are not quite sure where the honeymoon is
18 taking place, but I wish him the best. Some
19 motions to make at this time?

20 MR. EVANS: I have one. There will
21 be a craft fair at Connors Park at 515
22 Orchard Street in South Scranton Saturday,
23 August 1, between 1 and 3. Refreshments,
24 and basket raffles and at least 30 vendors
25 and the Dante Club will be collecting for

1 the homeless Veteran's Center. Please drop
2 off your books for the veterans memorial
3 entrance. For information will call Carol
4 at 885-7186. Spaces are filling fast. All
5 monies raised will benefit Connors Park
6 improvements.

7 I make a motion to appoint
8 Councilman Wechsler as temporary chair for
9 the Committee on Community Development.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

18 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to table
19 7-A and 7-B.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

21 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I was just going
23 to say we did receive some of the
24 information we were looking for, although,
25 we received it today so we are going to need

1 to take another week to look at it. I
2 believe Councilman Evans may have, and
3 Councilmen Wechsler may have additional
4 amendments to this legislation so we will
5 need another week to look at it and possibly
6 vote on it next week.

7 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to just
8 remind people that once we table this
9 Council by Rule cannot discuss it so that if
10 you were to ask one of the council members a
11 question about it we really can't discuss
12 this since it's tabled. Certainly people at
13 the podium can comment on it, again, just
14 realize that it is tabled and we will not
15 comment on it even during motions.

16 All those in favor signify by saying
17 aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 I will mention that the portable
24 on-demand storage containers legislation is
25 currently tabled. It will be taken off the

1 table next week, amendments may be made to
2 it, and if it does pass next week then --
3 or, excuse me, once the amendments are made
4 we need to table it again since it is under
5 a zoning ordinance we would then need to
6 table it again and would not be able to vote
7 on it again until September when we would
8 have to schedule a public hearing on that
9 legislation. And, I'll go through it again,
10 that legislation is currently tabled, we'll
11 take off the table and make amendments to it
12 next week, then we have to table it again
13 for the 30-day period and then it would come
14 back off the table after that 30-day period
15 and at that point in time we would have to
16 have a public hearing and then a final vote
17 on the legislation.

18 Dispense with the reading of the
19 minutes.

20 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
21 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING
22 JUNE 30, 2015.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE CITY

1 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD JULY 22,
2 2015.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed.

5 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
6 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JUNE
7 24, 2015.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
9 If not, received and filed.

10 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
11 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD AUGUST 5,
12 2015.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
14 If not, received and filed.

15 MS. REED: 3-E. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
16 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
17 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION REPORTS REVIEWED JULY
18 8 AND JULY 10, 2015.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
20 If not, received and filed.

21 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
22 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
23 MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2015.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
25 If not, received and filed.

1 MS. REED: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE
2 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD
3 JULY 22, 2015.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
5 If not, received and filed.

6 MS. REED: 3-H. MINUTES OF THE
7 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD
8 JUNE 24, 2015.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
10 If not, received and filed.

11 MS. REED: 3-I. MINUTES OF THE
12 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION
13 MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2015.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
15 If not, received and filed. Any Clerk's
16 notes?

17 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anything
20 from council? Any announcements council
21 would like to make at this time?

22 MR. WECHSLER: I have one,
23 Mr. McGoff. On Sunday, August 2, the 109th
24 German Day celebration will be held at
25 Waldorf Park. It will be a celebration of

1 German food and drink. Admission is \$in
2 advance and \$8.00 at the door and music will
3 be by Fritz's polka band. Thank you.

4 Anyone else?

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

7 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
9 Scranton resident and taxpayer. We are
10 rapidly approaching the August recess so
11 with that in mind I haven't seen any input
12 yet from Rainey & Rainey or SP & Company.
13 Hopefully if not by next week certainly the
14 first week of the September can we expect
15 some kind of status on how the 2014 audit is
16 progressing?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I will ask.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Thank you. Because
19 we are rapidly approaching the budget
20 process for 2016 and I wouldn't be surprised
21 if they are already working on it. I saw
22 also that the June controller's report,
23 which you all have, is also on the city's
24 website. In looking forward towards that
25 operating budget for next year, I decided to

1 sit down and create an Excel spreadsheet and
2 see if I could track by department and
3 non-department the status of expenditures
4 and then look also at revenues. I was
5 surprised that my numbers didn't match what
6 was published and I found out why. That's
7 because the Controller's Office receives a
8 number of adjustments from the BA's Office
9 continually and those have to be massaged
10 into the report at a later date so
11 apparently what the Controller's Office does
12 is it will adjust the total for revenues and
13 expenditures, but it's not able to go back
14 and republish the prior month's report so
15 that the Department figures are going to be
16 off. So if anybody is using this and, you
17 know, wants to see, well, how much did the
18 city council spend in the first six months
19 of the year they may not get a current
20 figure, even though the total expenditures
21 for all of the administration may be close
22 to correct, individual departments will not.
23 Hopefully there will be a way to fix that in
24 the future, perhaps a running total showing
25 cumulative adjustments by department, but

1 right now those numbers can be a little off.

2 But it's good to see that it's on
3 the website and I concur with I believe it
4 was you, Mr. Gaughan, that said last week
5 that we under utilize the City's website. I
6 think you have all mentioned this at one
7 point or another. I would like to see a lot
8 more information relative to the City's
9 financial status regularly put on the
10 website and I think the administration needs
11 to understand that perhaps a document like
12 this is addressed to the mayor and to city
13 council but it's information that the
14 taxpayers has not only a right to see, but a
15 need to see, and I think that's why God
16 invented the internet that we me measly
17 citizens could see this kind of information
18 and that's what representative governance is
19 all about. You know, you represent us, but
20 we have a need to make informed judgments
21 ourselves.

22 And last, but not least, it's been
23 about a month does anybody know who bought
24 the mall?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Wayne?

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: How can we find
2 out? I think tomorrow it's supposed to be
3 final, shouldn't it, 30 days or a month?

4 MR. EVANS: We are going to find out
5 very, very soon.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: How can we find
7 out, is there a certain database or is there
8 a certain official that we can flag or --

9 MR. EVANS: Well, one it's finalized
10 they have to record the deed.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: But isn't it
12 supposed to be finalized in 30 days and
13 wasn't the bid made on June 24?

14 MR. EVANS: So we are right there,
15 aren't we?

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: So, you know, there
17 are 31 days, yeah, 30 days is tomorrow.

18 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: So shouldn't
20 somebody fire up a rocket, you know, have a
21 press conference? I hope there is no truth
22 to the rumor that a local non-profit has
23 scarfed up that mall.

24 MR. EVANS: Not to my knowledge.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good.

1 MR. MCGOFF: There is all kind of
2 rumors.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: There was a rumor that
4 Mr. Evans bought it. We can put that to
5 rest.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: I hope we also
7 don't end up tomorrow that the 30 day passes
8 and nobody is saying anything. If it falls
9 through we go back to square one? Oh, joy.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, Gerard
12 Hetman. You were walking up already and I
13 forget to announce it.

14 MR. HETMAN: No problem. Good
15 evening, ladies and gentlemen, Gerard Hetman
16 from Lackawanna County Community Relations
17 Department. To begin this evening, on
18 behalf of the Lackawanna County
19 Commissioners and other county officials and
20 staff I wish to express our condolences on
21 the recent passing of Scranton Police
22 Department Patrolman John Wilding. I never
23 had the pleasure of meeting Officer Wilding
24 while he was on the job in the capacity of a
25 police officer. I can only say I rubbed

1 elbows with a few times when we were both
2 out on the town in the city, many times when
3 he was in the company of his sister, who is
4 a friend of mine, but even without knowing
5 him well, Officer Wilding's passion for his
6 job and for making our city a better place
7 to live every day and night was apparent in
8 the hours following his injury and the hours
9 and days following his passing.

10 And I can say from a little bit of
11 personal experience, that as one of the
12 folks that monitors the County's Facebook
13 and Twitter and social media sites that,
14 again, the hours and days following his
15 injury, and especially after his passing,
16 were able to share many message on social
17 media from law enforcement agencies across
18 North America, from near and far, even north
19 of the border, many police departments and
20 other law enforcement operations gave
21 tribute to Officer Wilding and offered
22 support to him and his family and to the
23 Scranton Police Department and to our city
24 and were able to share many of those
25 messages on Twitter and so other mediums and

1 we believe one of many contributes to his
2 service to our community.

3 And also while he lived his life and
4 did his job to his fullest right up until
5 his final moments with us. His passion for
6 service and for living his life to the
7 fullest that I will always remember him by
8 and I know our city and our region will
9 always pay tribute to him for it. So,
10 again, my thoughts and thoughts of my family
11 and everyone in the county government,
12 certainly with the city, even though it's
13 been a week since the services, will always
14 remember Officer Wilding and I even though I
15 didn't have a chance to meet him on the job
16 I know his service was exemplary and I
17 certainly mourn his passing as many of
18 friends and colleagues. So our thoughts and
19 prayers continue to be with him and his
20 family and the Scranton Police family for
21 now and into the future.

22 Some of our summer events, this
23 coming Monday, July 28, will be the final
24 installment of our four part Art in the Park
25 series. Each the four county parks. This

1 one takes place again Monday, July 28, at
2 McDade Park from 10 a.m. to noon. It's a
3 late morning and early afternoon free art
4 activities for children and accompanying
5 adults. We will have live music and
6 refreshments and this tends to be the
7 biggest of our four art departments events
8 and we would love to see a great turnout as
9 we always do each other.

10 We also have two of our fit and fun
11 day events, which will also take place at
12 the four county parks left on the summer
13 2015 schedule. The first one is Saturday,
14 July 25, at Aylesworth Park and then
15 Saturday August 8 at Merli Sarnowski Park.
16 Again, these are free fitness activities,
17 actually demonstrations with yoga, zumba,
18 tai chi. We also have the Wright Center
19 doing some information on healthy living,
20 wellness, nutrition, tobacco cessation and
21 other health related topics. That takes
22 places from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each of those
23 days.

24 Also, registration is now open for
25 the 2015 Lackawanna County Three-on-Three

1 basketball tournament. Perspective teams
2 can register by visiting
3 www.LackawannaCounty.org, the link is posted
4 at the top of the page. The event takes
5 place Friday and Saturday evening, August 7
6 and 8, in the 100 and 200 blocks of Wyoming
7 Valley. The tournament should conclude on
8 Saturday evening, barring inclement weather.
9 Sunday is our backup date for rain if we
10 have to postpone any game.

11 Also, lastly, if any residents in
12 the County wish to have their property
13 surveyed for potential gypsy moth spraying
14 ahead of the 2016 gypsy moth season have
15 until Friday, August 7, to submit a request
16 to have their property surveyed by Mike
17 Chisdok from the Lackawanna County's
18 Department of Parks and Recreation. They
19 can make an appointment by calling
20 570-963-6850. Again, it has to be done
21 before Friday August 7. Again, by calling
22 570 963-6850. That's all I have for
23 council. Any questions?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you very much for
25 your comments concerning Officer Wilding.

1 MR. HETMAN: No problem.

2 MR. MCGOFF: And one other thing,
3 I'm going to be out of town for the
4 Three-on-Three tournament.

5 MR. HETMAN: We'll miss you, Mr.
6 McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: I can't participate
8 this year.

9 MR. HETMAN: I know you were tearing
10 up the nets out there a few years ago. But
11 Officer Wilding, as I said, I never met him
12 on the job but I have known his sister for
13 many years from the media work that I have
14 done and any time someone passes away on the
15 job in the public safety, especially here in
16 the city, as a life-long resident I have
17 seen the good work our public safety
18 departments do each and every day so thank
19 you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you very much.
21 Doug Miller.

22 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
23 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd just like to
24 begin by reading a letter that I had in the
25 newspaper yesterday, a letter to the editor,

1 I'd like to just have it on the record my
2 statements in regard to the legislation
3 wanting to change the procedures of the
4 bidding process in the city.

5 "I'm appalled by city council's
6 recent consideration of an amendment to the
7 City's current bidding procedures. In March
8 2010, council lead by Janet Evans passed
9 legislation lowering the competitive bidding
10 threshold from \$20,000 to \$10,000. The
11 intention was to boost the competitiveness
12 and transparency in order to get the best
13 deal for the taxpayers. For many years the
14 common practice was for contracts to be
15 awarded to political cronies and those
16 associated with the good ole' boy club.

17 Councilman Pat Rogan was a strong
18 supporter of the new policy. He went so far
19 as to say he was not only pro-taxpayer, he
20 is pro-business as well. Now things seem to
21 have changed. Mr. Rogan and his council
22 colleagues have indicated that they will
23 consider raising the bidding threshold from
24 \$10,000 to \$19,400. He believes it will cut
25 advertising costs and increase transparency

1 by advertising on-line. The city has paid
2 for advertising for decades. Mr. Rogan is
3 trying to take the taxpayers for fools. I
4 won't fall for his games. If council amends
5 the 2010 ordinance it is simply endorsing no
6 bid contracts, removing transparency, and
7 continuing the City's long tradition of
8 pay-to-play politics. I get a kick out of
9 how Mr. Rogan has changed his tune on many
10 issues. He is now showing his true colors.
11 I suppose he finds the changes
12 pro-taxpayer."

13 And that was a letter that I had
14 submitted to the Scranton Times that was
15 published in the Wednesday, July 22,
16 edition. You know, just again to continue
17 on my thoughts of this particular proposed
18 amendment, I would like to take us back to
19 March 16, 2010, when this issue was -- when
20 this amendment was up for adoption in
21 Seventh Order back then and, you know, I
22 have always said the beauty part of these
23 meetings is having the stenographer here
24 because when we have these printed they're
25 in black and white and minutes don't lie, it

1 speaks the truth, and when someone goes back
2 on what they initially did or what their
3 thoughts were on an issue we can always go
4 back to the record, and I'd like to go back
5 to that. I took time to pull up the minutes
6 from the Tuesday, March 16, 2010, Scranton
7 City Council meeting, and in Seventh Order
8 this amendment on the bidding process was up
9 for adoption. There were only three council
10 members present that evening, Mr. Joyce,
11 Mr. Loscombe and Mr. Rogan. Mrs. Evans and
12 Mr. Rogan -- I'm sorry, Mrs. Evans and
13 Mr. McGoff were absent at that evening, and
14 I would just like to quote a statement made
15 by Mr. Rogan on the record, this was when it
16 was on the question.

17 "I would just like to reiterate my
18 support once again. I believe that this
19 will make government more open, it will be,
20 as I have said before, both pro-taxpayer and
21 pro-small business and I urge the mayor to
22 sign this into law."

23 That was Mr. Rogan's statement on
24 the record and that's what I cited in my
25 letter yesterday and also came from the

1 Scranton Times article published March 3,
2 2010, when this was introduced initially in
3 Fifth Order. So it's all in black and white
4 where Mr. Rogan stood on the issue.

5 In fact, Mr. McGoff is also on the
6 record for stating his support of that
7 amendment at the time. Although, he was not
8 there for the final vote, there are minutes
9 indicating his support at the time. A lot
10 of back and forth went on as far as the cost
11 of advertising, and that's been the practice
12 in the city for years, decades, we have
13 spent money on advertising whether it was
14 thousands of dollars, whatever it was, but
15 the bottom line is what it comes down to is
16 the positive aspects of the whole thing
17 including, most importantly, the
18 transparency far outweighs the cost of the
19 advertising. That's not the issue, but,
20 unfortunately, our political officials want
21 to jamb that down our throat as a way to
22 just play us for fools. This is far beyond
23 that. This is about transparency, this is
24 about pay-to-play politics that's basically
25 had a stranglehold over this city for many,

1 many years and has lead to us where we are
2 today, and that's where this council simply
3 wanted to take us back to. Not interested
4 in the idea of advertising on-line. You can
5 advertise on-line all you want, that has
6 nothing to do with the fact that by doing
7 what you are going to do is going to just go
8 back to the smoke and mirrors.

9 You know, the previous council took
10 the action to restore the transparency and
11 the accountability and this is just simply
12 taking it away and, you know, I just find it
13 completely insulting and appalling to do
14 that to the residents. I think you need to
15 take a good hard look at this, and it just
16 amazes me how people just change their tune
17 on so many issues. You know, five years ago
18 one thing was said, and here we are in the
19 present day and I just really find it
20 amusing how people change their tone on
21 things and I think it goes to show that we
22 have people who are inconsiderate, they are
23 in it for themselves, they are not in it for
24 the residents of this community and it's
25 just more of the same pay-to-play politics

1 in this community that's taken us where we
2 are and we have no leadership in this city
3 and you are just going to take us down --

4 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Miller, your time
5 is up.

6 MR. MILLER: I'm aware of that.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MR. MILLER: You're welcome.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus. Before you
11 start the time I just wanted to ask a
12 question, did you buy the mall?

13 MR. BOLUS: I'm sorry?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Did you buy the mall?

15 MR. BOLUS: I have no comment.

16 MR. MCGOFF: We will find out
17 tomorrow.

18 MR. BOLUS: I've learned that from
19 Attorney Minora and other people by saying
20 no comment. Bob Bolus, Scranton. Just one
21 thing I'm going to start off with here, I
22 have been very impressed with the people of
23 the community and the outpouring of support
24 for the family of Officer Wilding and
25 Corporal Dickson. You know, it's just you

1 can't be prouder of our people for what they
2 are gone out and done and the respect they
3 have given to our officers for a job that
4 they are really never given real credit for
5 and I'd really like to applaud them and
6 thank them for what they have done. It
7 shows who we are in Scranton and it's proud
8 to say sometimes you are from Scranton.

9 Starting off here, I hate to keep
10 getting into this because I'm kind of sick
11 of it after awhile but, you know, we sat
12 here and we changed how we did business in
13 the city and on 7-A and B this is wrong.
14 You can't change it, you can't go ahead and
15 make it easier for checks and balances not
16 to be accountable, that's why it's put in
17 here. The harder it is, the better we can
18 control it. Mr. Wechsler may like to sit by
19 a computer and dilly-dally, and other people
20 may want to do something stuff on-line, a
21 lot of us don't have time. Don't ever ask
22 me send you an e-mail or sit by a computer
23 for you because I'm too busy, and many of us
24 are. We read it in the paper or wherever we
25 are, what we are doing, that's what we take

1 our time to do, and I think just because we
2 are saying, oh, it's better to put it on the
3 computer and mitigate costs, look what
4 happened at Mid-Valley, computers and
5 everything up there what happened to checks
6 and balance there? It's a fool's move to
7 make that change backwards in the city when
8 it took us years and years and years to get
9 rid of smoke and mirrors and the backdoor
10 deals. The professional fees that went out
11 without bidding and everything else. Don't
12 go backwards, Mr. Wechsler, move forward.
13 While technology is out there and it has its
14 place, it doesn't have its place in what we
15 need to do in this city. Look at the past
16 and learn from it. So I would ask that you
17 don't waste time on that. Let's move back
18 what's positive and protects the assets of
19 the people of this city.

20 What went on here is a lot of
21 nonsense over containers. Let's week we
22 heard from Hartman, Dunleavy, they are
23 cronies of Mr. Wechsler. I was part of this
24 board at one time and I had to walk away
25 because I didn't like the politics but to

1 come in and say, oh, he moved in the
2 neighborhood and this happened and that
3 happened, well, he moved into my
4 neighborhood, I didn't move into his. I was
5 there for many years way before him. My
6 containers were already there so it wasn't
7 no secret, it has been there before. I have
8 tried to do many, many things for that area,
9 but to know avail because of the politics.

10 I allow to people to walk around the
11 lake, East Mountain Lake, I own the other
12 half of that whole shore, but because of the
13 controversy that has come thanks to
14 Wechsler, Hartman and Dunleavy I am now
15 forced to fence it off because I am not
16 going to allow the public liability of
17 somebody getting hurt there so, Joe, you can
18 thank yourselves for what you have
19 accomplished. You have done a hell of a job
20 and it's hard for me to do it because for 20
21 some years I have let everybody walk there,
22 but you want to go after me, let's take it
23 on.

24 When you were on the Planning
25 Commission in 1993 when the legislation was

1 put on about a tractor and trailer and a
2 trailer of a tractor you guys did this. I
3 didn't make it happen, I just complied with
4 it and now you want to try and change it and
5 get the city into a substantial legal battle
6 that's going to be not just for me but for
7 many other people that have these. I can
8 see parking on the street is an issue,
9 absolutely. I'm one of the most safety
10 minded people in the industry. In fact, I
11 just received a certificate of appreciation
12 from the Florida Highway Patrol for
13 diverting a one-way driver on Interstate 75
14 that was headed out to kill herself. So,
15 yeah, I know what risks are, I have been in
16 towing recovery for over 50 years and there
17 is a place for everything.

18 I'm over 250 feet off the highway,
19 okay, and I'm paying personal attention to
20 it. What happened here is wrong and I'm
21 putting it on the record today because we
22 are going to have hearings on this and we
23 are going to argue and it's going to go on
24 and on and on and it's not going to get over
25 with any time soon, but if we sit here and

1 we stop and take a look at why we are
2 heading in the wrong direction and why we
3 are fighting here I'm going to ask you,
4 Mr. McGoff, I ask you guys, each and every
5 of you, take a pen and send a letter to a
6 legislator, a stupid little ballpoint and
7 ask them to consider a gaming license for
8 the City of Scranton. You know what,
9 gentlemen, not one did it here and not one
10 of our executive people out there did it and
11 that's a shame because you want to save
12 Scranton get on the right bandwagon. Be
13 what we are, be who we are, be proud of
14 where we're going because the only thing
15 that will save this city is a casino. You
16 are not going to put retail space here, it's
17 not coming. Travel around the country.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

19 MR. BOLUS: One final thing I want
20 to say. Wayne, you and I have been, as I
21 told you, friends. You said you wouldn't
22 run, people voted you to vote, you agreed to
23 do it, but the bottom line is in your own
24 words right here in the paper you are
25 running. You are running for a council

1 seat. I want you to live up to your word as
2 a gentleman and don't accept that position.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

4 MR. BOLUS: Because you are running
5 and you represent the city and, remember, we
6 all grew up in the same role, a man's word
7 is his bond and if his word is no good don't
8 believe what anybody else will tell you.
9 Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

11 MR. BOLUS: We just have to get rid
12 of the double standards, that's it.

13 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
14 Lee Morgan. You know, I was thinking about
15 here the threshold and bids and all of the
16 other things that are really transpiring
17 here driven by council in some instances and
18 the administration and others, you know,
19 maybe Mrs. Gatelli had it right when she
20 wanted to post a policeman at all of these
21 meetings and have metal detectors put in
22 because I think that she realized that city
23 government wasn't moving in the best
24 interest of the residents then and it still
25 isn't. Nobody wants to save this city, I

1 mean, not elected wise and the voters they
2 don't want to do it either because, like I
3 said previously, the super voters have just
4 abdicated their role in my opinion because
5 they have come out continually over decades
6 when everybody else stopped voting, and the
7 city has just kept going down and down and
8 down and, you know, you can think anything
9 you want about where the city is going, but,
10 you know, look at the community development
11 money we are going to spend allegedly over
12 at Novembrino's pool, we are going to put a
13 splash park in and an amphitheater. It's
14 the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard
15 in my life and I think the greatest thing
16 that could happen is, not that it will,
17 because politicians in Harrisburg or
18 Washington they don't want to investigate
19 anything. I think the feds should have been
20 here the minute the city sold the South Side
21 Sports Complex, which was blatantly illegal
22 and the legislature knew it couldn't be sold
23 either, and then you take a look at the
24 running of the city, you know, look it, it
25 just makes no sense, it just shows no

1 respect for the people who live here. They
2 can't afford their property tax, we don't
3 have a council that can figure out how to
4 turn the city around when all it really
5 takes is a total reorganization of city
6 government and then only employ the people
7 the city can afford to pay. It's real
8 simple here.

9 I mean the city's population has
10 been declining for an extremely long period
11 of time. We keep pumping the same money,
12 every dime we have into the downtown. Look
13 at all of the vacancies there. It's just
14 ridiculous. Businesses just fleeing the
15 city and, look it, I live over in an
16 allegedly stable part of South Side and
17 people are moving in and out, I mean, being
18 a landlord in this city has to be a
19 nightmare because how did you collect rent
20 off of people who can't earn a living wage.

21 Nationally one in six people live in
22 poverty. Scranton is even higher than that.
23 We have elected officials who sit here in
24 council and we have a mayor and you mean to
25 tell me that over these decades we couldn't

1 elect a city government that understood that
2 we have to fund our pensions and spend the
3 community development money wisely and we
4 are still throwing it away?

5 Just like the blatant disregard we
6 showed for Nay Aug Park when we tore the
7 bathhouse down and built something that was
8 just so tiny it was remarkable and all of
9 the money that was thrown away in this city,
10 and now you look and you see where, you
11 know, property values, I think Mr. Evans
12 should present how much homes are actually
13 selling for in this city and how long homes
14 are on the market and that some homes don't
15 ever sell. Some people are trying to
16 auction their homes to get out of here and
17 other people they are just walking out and
18 shutting the door, they know they will never
19 be able to do anything with the property.
20 Maybe they pay the tax, maybe they just
21 abandoned it, just makes no sense.

22 I know somebody that bought a house
23 right across the street for himself. He put
24 a home equity loan against his house, bought
25 the house across the street because it was

1 all remodeled and fixed and he bought it so
2 cheap and he let the bank take the house
3 across the street and he said why would I
4 want to invest in a home that has no value
5 and I can take all my neighbor's money by
6 buying his house off of him for nothing and
7 moving across the street? That just goes to
8 show you how pathetic this city government
9 is it.

10 I would like to see council up and
11 get the condemnation book and bring it down
12 at a public meeting and open it and let's
13 discuss were homes were condemned in the
14 city and then you should bring your
15 attorney, Mr. Minora, in to the conversation
16 and ask how council wrote laws that had to
17 do with property in the city and how, you
18 know, how this whole mess has gone on and
19 then talk about the bidding process of
20 tearing houses down and how that works and
21 where that money is coming from and talk
22 about a whole host of other issues that have
23 never been talked about in this council
24 chamber in all of my time that I have come
25 here because, like I asked you before, if

1 only two people vote in this city do the
2 councilmen at large have to represent all of
3 the residents or just the very narrow view
4 of what's taking place. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
6 to address council?

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
8 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
9 when I was reading some of this legislation
10 I had to think is Mayor Doherty still in
11 office? Because this is the same type of
12 legislation he sent down to council many.
13 Many times. We are going to loan some --
14 not really loan, lend \$150,000 for a man who
15 can hire people to open a bar and they don't
16 even have to be Scranton residents. They
17 could be anybody, is that what we are going
18 to do with \$150,000 from our own program,
19 but I guess we are. This is the same
20 legislation we used to get from Mayor
21 Doherty for Whistle's, was it Molly
22 Brannigan's, and some other places that are
23 no longer here. It's the same thing. Five
24 people \$150,000 and they don't even have to
25 be residents of Scranton, he can hire

1 anybody. Do you think that's a good
2 investment of that money? Some does because
3 I don't really know why something like this
4 even came about. I assume somebody is in
5 the know, like a few things in Scranton you
6 got to know somebody to get something. That
7 project I don't know, we don't need another
8 bar.

9 Let's go with the lots between the
10 Taurus Club and Stirna's. Them lots are
11 paved. They are parking for the people from
12 the Taurus Club and from Stirna's. Stirna's
13 wants to buy them. I don't know why, yet
14 Mrs. Gavin there is the owner of Stirna's.
15 The Taurus Club tried to buy it they said
16 and were told the money was done with
17 federal money and they couldn't be sold, but
18 apparently they can be sold because you are
19 selling them and for a ridiculous price.

20 Mr. Evans, that's prime real estate
21 in the business district of North Scranton,
22 true it's a little run down, but do you
23 believe them lots are worth so little? And
24 I don't even know if they are taxable or
25 not? I don't if they were ever registered

1 for somebody to buy them on the tax sales.
2 I wish you would check into it before you
3 okay stuff like this.

4 Now, as far as down the line fine,
5 then let Stirna's have it, but the Taurus
6 were using that for their affairs and that's
7 going to effect their business.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Sbaraglia, it's in
9 this legislation that this is going to be
10 kept a public parking lot and it was
11 reported in the paper as such, also.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: I didn't read it in
13 the paper and sorry I didn't. Why would she
14 buy parking lot is she is going to keep it
15 as a parking lot?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: All I know is that --

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Is she going to
18 restrict the parking from the Taurus Club?

19 MR. EVANS: No, my understanding is
20 that the Taurus Club has been meeting with
21 representatives of Stirna's and they are
22 having a conversation about the parking and
23 the parking, as Mr. Gaughan said, will
24 remain public parking.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, that's all I'm

1 interested in because the people from the
2 Taurus Club told me that they tried to buy
3 that property before and were told that it
4 was done with federal money and couldn't be
5 sold.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: All I know is that
7 this from the legislation that we have in
8 front of us all of the proper procedures
9 were followed and both pieces of property
10 were purchased June 4, I think, 2012, at a
11 tax sale so --

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: They weren't sold.
13 There was a building there and it was ripped
14 down. There was a building that and the
15 building was ripped down. There should have
16 been a lien against the property for the
17 teardown of that building.

18 MR. EVANS: Yeah, but once it goes
19 to tax sale all those liens are washed away.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't remember
21 this going up on a tax sale. I know the
22 building was ripped down and paved by the
23 city. The city ripped it down and usually
24 they put it lien against it. Now, you are
25 telling me that lots went up for the tax

1 sale and the Taurus Club just let it go by?
2 I don't believe so. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

4 MS. GAUGHAN: Good evening,
5 gentlemen. My name is Mary Gaughan and I'm
6 a new resident of the city. I'm here to say
7 something positive. I bought this shirt at
8 the police department for \$15 to honor the
9 fallen Officer Wilding. I understand that
10 there is a basket raffle at a place called
11 "Headquarters" on South Main Avenue across
12 from Gerrity's on tomorrow evening from 6 to
13 8 it's a basket raffle to benefit the widow
14 and her children. My uncle, Robert Gaughan,
15 died in service. He left five children. I
16 have some idea what Mrs. Wilding must be
17 feeling.

18 And, also, I want to tell Mr. Evans
19 that I looked at a property in the Hill
20 Section that is his property and it's a
21 condominium and it's beautiful and there is
22 nothing not nice about it upon on Clay
23 Avenue, and I think that Mr. Bolus was
24 correct when he said that he was proud of
25 the city residents and the way that they

1 feel about their officer, but he should also
2 know that the people of the county and the
3 state should also show pride with the state
4 trooper who was murdered and I think that we
5 need more positive things in this city.

6 I talked to the people in the
7 Hilton, they are going to have a casual day
8 and the Hilton is going to buy these shirts
9 for all of their employees and have a day
10 where they will wear them with pride. Thank
11 you very much.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.
14 Gaughan.

15 MR. EVANS: I would say, I should
16 remind the public that the shirts can be
17 purchased at headquarters. Most of the time
18 staffed by the officer wives, I went down
19 over the weekend, so I'm not sure if they
20 are there on regular hours, but we if we
21 find out we need to announce that as well.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
23 Starting from Seventh Order, I guess, and
24 working backwards, on 7-F tonight what
25 tonnage agreement would it take the pay the

1 costs of this?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm sorry, I didn't
3 hear?

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: What tonnage
5 improvement would it take to recover the
6 cost of this addition?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Of the recycling?

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Recycling, yeah.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm not sure, that's
10 not detailed in the agreement, but it's
11 \$5,000, I can try and find out.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: And why the county
13 isn't doing this since we are part of the
14 county system I would also be interested in.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: The county isn't doing
16 it, this woman used to work for the county.
17 She is doing this independently. She
18 just -- she used to be their recycling
19 coordinator/consultant. The county has
20 nothing do with this.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that's my
22 point. Why wasn't she doing it while she
23 was the consultant for the county and why
24 are we now paying her separately when they
25 are the overarching component? Every penny

1 counts around this place.

2 The next then is going down to 6-A,
3 the capital budget, does it include the
4 replacement of the South Side Sports Complex
5 that we were promised or is that still
6 missing?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't recall seeing
8 that in there. I don't think -- I don't
9 believe it was included.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: What a surprise.
11 6-C and D, does that price cover the cost of
12 the demolition that we did?

13 MR. EVANS: What demolition?

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Of the properties
15 on West Market Street?

16 MR. EVANS: Oh, okay.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm not sure how much
18 the demolition cost, we could look into
19 that, too, but I don't have that
20 information.

21 MR. EVANS: I would doubt it. Most
22 time in tax sales or even through the
23 Pittsburgh plan all liens are waived so if
24 there is a demolition lien there it's gone.
25 So I'm sure that cost is not covered in the

1 demolition cost.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I think Andy
3 had a good question whether it was really --
4 whether it was on that list, but we'll --

5 MR. EVANS: Well, we can find out.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: We'll see, yeah.
7 Okay, on 5-C, I have been after Mr. Rogan to
8 give us the status of how much money we lost
9 on the loans that were made pretty much
10 throughout the first decade of this century,
11 he has been apparently reluctant to do it
12 because we haven't seen it so I will pledge
13 tonight to do my best to have that available
14 for you all in September because, again, as
15 I have said from this podium, I think we
16 need to know what went wrong with those
17 loans before we start giving out new loans
18 and I worry about the competitiveness when
19 we give one business \$150,000 and what --
20 and give, it says loan grant. How much much
21 of it is loan and how much of it is grant
22 and at what point is it converted?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: It's converted -- they
24 have to create five full-time jobs within 12
25 months from the signing of the agreement.

1 If they create the five full-time jobs
2 within the 12 months after that time has
3 passed then it turns in a grant.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Then I'm
5 opposed to it. I think it's not fair to the
6 other -- to the competition downtown that
7 you give somebody -- because that's what
8 it's going to turn into, it's easy to create
9 five jobs when you have a restaurant you can
10 hire five waitresses and waiters and you
11 fulfilled your commitment and I am
12 definitely against that.

13 And what -- well, there is no sense
14 talking about the guarantee or what the
15 collateral is because it's obvious this is
16 not a loan at all it is a grant of \$150,000,
17 and again, I am opposed.

18 Mr. Evans, you're brainstorming
19 plans, are they not going to happen?

20 MR. EVANS: No, they are. They are.
21 Council has to meet to discuss the
22 assignments. We are going to establish
23 different councilman for different
24 committees and once we do that then we will
25 move ahead with the plans.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, did I
2 misunderstand I thought you wanted to do
3 that during the recess?

4 MR. EVANS: It's possible.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Have a meeting, so
6 next week we should expect something?

7 MR. EVANS: I would say next week we
8 should at least have the --

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because that's the
10 final meeting; right?

11 MR. EVANS: Right. We should have
12 the committee assignments established by
13 next week.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I to assume
15 then I guess that the -- that we are not
16 going to have anything on the rental
17 registration ordinance rewrite until at
18 least September since you all will be gone
19 and it takes three readings?

20 MR. EVANS: I imagine it's going --
21 I mean, it's in the Solicitor's Office as
22 part of the lawsuit so we are sort of stuck
23 right now until they come to some conclusion
24 with the lawsuit.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Unbelievable. And

1 then what -- there is a fee on the storage
2 container proposal for the -- I believe it
3 was a \$50 fee for up to 30 days for having a
4 storage container on your property, what is
5 the city going to do to cover their portion
6 since a fee is by definition to cover the
7 cost incurred.

8 MR. EVANS: That's one of the
9 questions we asked for in the backup so we
10 are waiting for that information.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
14 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxes paid, fees
15 paid. Once again, call your Congressman
16 1-202-224-3121 an ask for whoever represents
17 you, Senators and Congressmen alike, and
18 White House 1-202-456-1111. Yesterday while
19 watching the news in Malaysia there was 25
20 to 30 graves or bodies found in cages out in
21 the Malaysian jungle and currently Malaysia
22 is lobbying to be raised up on the list from
23 no to watch list. How do poor Jersey and
24 Scranton compete with that? They were sex
25 slaves, but, shame. It's shameful. It's

1 disgusting. We have abandoned our whole
2 American ethic.

3 Now, getting back to city business,
4 on the mercantile tax, okay, every Friday in
5 upper South Side on the east side of Crown
6 Avenue and some on East Mountain our
7 recycling was swiped up for snow removal
8 downtown and that has to be dealt with. It
9 can't be -- I had approximately 12 cubic
10 feet of newspapers and papers sitting in my
11 kitchen. If I put them on the porch, I am
12 in violation of the city code. If I put
13 them in the trash, I'm also in violation of
14 the city code. If I put them down on the
15 sidewalk, the cans and bottles got knocked
16 all over and I had to dig them out of slush
17 and snow and whatever that was on the
18 streets, so before people ask for tax
19 breaks, and also we have a snow on the
20 bridge issue, that is very important. We
21 need some type of device to remove that on a
22 timely basis, like a Bobcat, those little
23 bucket loaders.

24 And on 6-A, I think it's 6-A, no,
25 no, it's the one on ECTV, I'm not sure.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: 6-B.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: We have to remember
3 our ECTV and that contract, they are
4 currently teetering and it's just
5 unthinkable that they would disappear. I
6 know people come in and here and get a
7 little carried away, but therein again it's
8 very important to those who are interested
9 in what goes on in the city and the ones
10 that wish to be respectful that don't
11 reserve to be cut out because of that. And
12 please call your senators and lobby on these
13 issues.

14 Also, something popped into my mind
15 last week or last time I was here the
16 city -- the banks got a half a percent in
17 the bailout, what did the cities get? And a
18 lot of the reason we are in the condition we
19 are in is because of property tax and tax
20 exemptions and the likes. It's ashame. Why
21 can't the federal government loan cities
22 like Scranton money, and we are not going
23 anywhere, I mean, what are we going to do
24 hook a trailer to the town and tow us to
25 South America? I mean, come on.

1 You know, the streets like Moosic
2 Street that aren't actually part of
3 Scranton's enforcement, could we possibly
4 get a state assemblyman over to look at that
5 and maybe will something will happen in
6 Harrisburg because that's also taxpayers
7 money being wasted.

8 And on 5-D it's time we change our
9 ways. These loans and grants and trying to
10 job create it's not your job to create jobs,
11 and it's -- if you took that money and gave
12 it to five or six different people it would
13 be just the same as if, you know, it's just
14 terrible that the people get these loans and
15 they don't pay them up and it winds up we
16 wind up holding the bag so I'm totally
17 against any type of the loan to more bars
18 and whatever. It didn't work the last time
19 and it certainly won't work now the economy
20 is way worse. Thank you and have a good
21 night.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone
23 else?

24 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
25 MOTIONS.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
3 Mr. McGoff. I had the privilege of
4 attending the funeral for Officer John
5 Wilding. It was a very moving experience.
6 The funeral captured the support from the
7 community and the law enforcement was
8 overwhelming. Mayor Courtright and Chief
9 Graziano and Corporal McDonald truly
10 expressed the feelings of the City and we
11 will not forget Officer Wilding's sacrifice,
12 and I do agree that it was a very moving
13 tribute from the city and the state and the
14 county. It was heartwarming.

15 This week I was contacted by several
16 residents with concerns about some potholes
17 that need repair. Also, some streetlights
18 that are out that we'll be forwarding to
19 Mr. Reed to have corrected.

20 I did take the time this week to
21 call Mrs. Gavin about the purchase of the
22 property next to Stirna's restaurant. She
23 informed me of some information on that
24 project. I guess back in the day those lots
25 were all very narrow on Market Street so

1 actually the Taurus Club owns the lot right
2 off their building so they have parking that
3 is theirs already.

4 Mrs. Gavin told me that she plans to
5 use the property closest to her building for
6 perhaps using it for storage of her dumpster
7 or perhaps in the future to do some kitchen
8 renovations once acquired. She did assure
9 me that the parking in that lot will remain
10 open to the public. So as far as I'm
11 concerned, it's an opportunity for those
12 properties to get back on the tax rolls and
13 it still maintains the community spirit that
14 exists in north Scranton. It's a very tight
15 knit community. That's what she expressed
16 to me that these lots will still be used for
17 public parking in North Scranton. And
18 that's all I have tonight, Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
20 Mr. Wechsler.

21 Mr. Evans?

22 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I may have
23 repeated this mantra several times recently,
24 we can no longer tax our way of distress, we
25 have to grow our way out of distress. This

1 is already happening in dramatic ways in
2 cities throughout the northeast. We are
3 seeing the success stories of Allentown
4 because of the NIZ or Neighborhood
5 Improvement Zone, they are experiencing a
6 renaissance with an investment of \$1.3
7 billion in their downtown and riverfront
8 area because of this state program. The
9 cities of Bethlehem and Lancaster with the
10 KRIZ designation from the state continues to
11 grow as well.

12 Outside of state, New York, Governor
13 Cuomo has committed \$1 billion of tax breaks
14 and grants as well as a comprehensive plan
15 to fuel a similar renaissance in Buffalo.
16 Under that plan, he called out for a study
17 from the Brooklyn Institution, the state is
18 trying to seal all their contracts with
19 marketing sales in several areas including
20 advanced manufacturing, health and life
21 sciences and tourism. Out of this process,
22 came opportunity to renewable energy. For
23 example, there is a green energy complex on
24 Lake Erie where there is a new solar rate
25 that is drawing a wind farm already

1 completed in 2012.

2 Additionally, there is the impending
3 arrival of a solar city, the country's
4 leading roof top solar installer. They plan
5 on building a solar panel factory in
6 Buffalo. Yes, Buffalo. And one up and
7 running it will provide 1,500 jobs on site
8 to support 1,500 more jobs among Erie
9 suppliers.

10 So while we can constantly find
11 ourselves distracted by our financial
12 troubles, I would never diminish the
13 importance of getting our finances in order
14 because that is so critical to our survival,
15 but we can't let that be our only focus. We
16 need to have conversations and dialogue on
17 growth, on jobs, on small business, on our
18 quality of life. We need to talk about what
19 is our vision and what we want Scranton to
20 be.

21 When was the last time you saw a new
22 home constructed in Scranton? When was the
23 last time you saw a commercial building that
24 wasn't a government building or medical
25 building or education building constructed

1 in the city? We need to fix what is wrong,
2 emphasize what is right and start working
3 together and grow this city. Believe it or
4 not, we can be of next great success story,
5 but I know we can't do it alone we need
6 partners and visionaries at the state
7 government level, the county level, the city
8 level, and the school district level, and we
9 need partners and visionaries in the
10 business community, the arts community, the
11 new immigrant community, and the larger
12 community known as Scrantonians.

13 Somebody criticized our plans to
14 reach out to the community for ideas, that
15 is there opinion and they are entitled to
16 it, but for me I can't wait to hear from the
17 many talented and intelligent individuals
18 that love Scranton and want to share their
19 ideas with us. No matter how small or grand
20 the idea may be, there is one more idea then
21 we had today, and as I have been reminded by
22 a new friend of mine who sends me ideas
23 almost every day, maybe the next big idea is
24 just connecting the small ideas. That's all
25 I have. Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
2 Mr. Gaughan?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. To
4 piggyback on what Mr. Evans said we did have
5 a caucus with Bob Durkin from the Chamber of
6 Commerce and he had some interesting things
7 to say about a few grant opportunities and
8 different things that they are focusing on
9 in the central business district. One of
10 the things that I brought up and that I have
11 been thinking about over the past few weeks
12 that I think is very, very important is the
13 fact that we need to attract blue collar
14 jobs or factory-type jobs, 17, 18, 19, 20
15 dollar an hour jobs with good health
16 insurance for people in this city. Not
17 everybody went to college, not everybody has
18 a degree, not everybody can afford to go to
19 school, and those that have had jobs that
20 are in their 40's or their 50's a lot of
21 people that I know are now unemployed they
22 don't have enough money to go back to
23 school. So I did bring this up to
24 Mr. Durkin and he did say that there are
25 different things on the horizon that the

1 city will be very happy about in the next
2 year or two so I think that needs to be a
3 particular focus. I know that we have the
4 health care industry, education and
5 government, but if you not involved in those
6 three sectors where are you going?

7 You know, I know a few a people in
8 my own neighborhood who are in their 20's
9 who decided that they didn't want to go to
10 college, where are they going? You know, so
11 that needs to be a focus, I believe, to make
12 Scranton vibrant again.

13 Mrs. Reed, did we ever receive a
14 response from Mayor Courtright regarding the
15 June 30 letter council posed to him asking
16 for his opinion on appointing the Tax Claim
17 Bureau as the collector of delinquent taxes?

18 MS. REED: No.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, we haven't
20 received anything yet. If not, can we
21 resend that and ask for an answer some time
22 before next week's meeting. I think that's
23 important to get the mayor's opinion on that
24 whether or not we want to move forward.

25 I would like to congratulate the

1 Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and
2 everyone involved in the opening this Monday
3 of the Nay Aug Avenue natural play area.
4 This park will be the first of its kind in
5 the state and was constructed with materials
6 that were found in nature. It is designed
7 to help children foster an appreciation for
8 nature and the environment.

9 This morning I attended a meeting on
10 the Rockwell Avenue bridge so I have update
11 on that. Officials from PennDOT and our
12 city engineer were present. PennDOT is
13 waiting for DEP to sign off on the
14 environmental review which may take a few
15 more weeks, once that happens construction
16 will be ready to begin. PennDOT officials
17 are thinking that construction will begin by
18 mid-September. Residents should expect to
19 see preparatory work begin, taking the
20 pedestrian bridge, things of that nature.
21 Work will have to cease as the it did last
22 year during October to December 31 because
23 of the trout restriction, and they expect
24 the project to be complete late next year.

25 I received a few questions from

1 residents over the past few months about the
2 procedure for filing a refuse vacancy. We
3 received a procedure this week and I'm going
4 to ask that they be put on the city's
5 website for anyone who would like to view
6 it. In short, you need to prove to the city
7 that your property is vacant and it needs to
8 be done annually in order for you not to
9 receive a garbage bill.

10 I believe Mr. Rogan requested a few
11 weeks ago that a letter be sent to the
12 Scranton Housing Authority about their
13 recycling program. We did receive a letter
14 from Mr. Peliccaci, the executive director
15 and he said that he would be interested in
16 discussing the recycling program with the
17 city DPW. Currently the Scranton Housing
18 Authority has a private hauler so that will
19 be something that I'll be getting in contact
20 with Peliccaci and Mr. Gallagher and see if
21 we can set a meeting up.

22 I asked for an update on the city
23 paving project. It looks right now like the
24 paving will begin mid to late August instead
25 of building the whole \$2.3 million paving

1 project as a whole, they are going to bid
2 different sections of the city and it looks
3 like North Scranton and Central City are
4 scheduled to begin first. And that is all I
5 have this week. Thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. A couple of
7 things. First of all, council did meet in a
8 brief executive session prior to caucus this
9 evening. The purpose of that is that
10 executive session was a personnel issue and,
11 as I said, it was for five minutes, but we
12 do need to announce that it was held.

13 Unless a motion is made and carried
14 to not meet in August, council will recess
15 -- according to the Home Rule council will
16 recess for the month of the August, so
17 unless a motion is made next week to conduct
18 meetings during August and it is approved to
19 not meet in August we will have a recess
20 during the month of August.

21 Just a couple of more brief
22 comments. We had sent a letter to the
23 Auditor General's Office concerning some
24 comments that were made concerning the audit
25 or their investigation of the pensions and

1 all, and I would like to say that the
2 Auditor General did respond to our letter
3 and just one very brief statement that was
4 in the letter, and I quote, "City Clerk Lori
5 Reed and her staff went out of their way to
6 accommodate my team so that the report could
7 be issued and the answers regarding the
8 retirement incentives could be provided to
9 the people of Scranton."

10 So I did want to mention that and
11 sort of applaud our city clerk and her staff
12 for the work that they do outside of what
13 takes place during the meeting, so thank you
14 very much.

15 MS. REED: You are welcome.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Just one -- Mr. Gaughan
17 did mention the caucus that was held prior
18 to the meeting with Bob Durkin and he did
19 ask that question concerning jobs that were
20 not college degree-type jobs, one thing that
21 I would like to see done as we move ahead in
22 some of this planning that was suggested we
23 need to identify what those jobs are going
24 to be, what types of the jobs they are, and
25 then work with the local schools, both high

1 schools, college, technical schools to train
2 for those jobs. I think right now what we
3 have is a disconnect between the jobs that
4 are available and the skills that people
5 have and we need to change that. We need to
6 get that connection so that we can divide
7 jobs and sustaining jobs for, you know,
8 people of Scranton.

9 And the last thing that came up, the
10 Comcast contract, which is a strange issue,
11 a couple of years ago we sort of had two
12 contracts and nobody knew which one was
13 operational and now we have received
14 legislation to approve a new contract and
15 council is somewhat at a loss for what we
16 can do as far as that contract is concerned.
17 Is it a yes or no? You know, either we
18 approve it or we vote it down or are there
19 possibilities -- or is there the possibility
20 that we can amend and propose changes to
21 this contract that we feel would be
22 legitimate? And I think in the past that
23 was the way the contract was, that it gave
24 council an opportunity to review it and to
25 make those changes.

1 For example, and I was just talking
2 to -- or kind of going back and forth with
3 Councilman Evans -- or Councilman Gaughan,
4 one of the things I would like to see in
5 that contract is a subsidy for a public
6 service provider. At this point in time we
7 have ECTV, there should be in this Comcast
8 contract a subsidy for ECTV to continue its
9 operations. I don't what that amount is,
10 certainly it's something that could be
11 discussed, but we need to -- we need to put
12 that into the contract so that we are
13 assured that through the length of that
14 contract we have a provider for public
15 service TV. It's something that's needed.
16 And if a certain amount is put in the
17 contract, you know, that the Comcast would
18 pay perhaps we then look for other amounts
19 that could be also let's say the city and
20 the county and the school district,
21 whatever, again, to make sure that that
22 entity exists through the length of the
23 contract. So while we are voting on it, I
24 think we are voting a little bit in the
25 dark. I think it's something that we do

1 need to at some point in time pass. It is a
2 great revenue source for the city, but I
3 think it's something that also needs some
4 discussion.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Some things you are
6 saying jogged what I wanted to say earlier
7 about the Chamber of Commerce and all of
8 that. I agree with you completely about
9 identifying those jobs, I think we need to
10 strengthen our health care industry,
11 education, but since I have been on council
12 one of the big things that I have heard from
13 people is that they are struggling, not just
14 in the city, not just in the state, but in
15 the whole country and it's going to play out
16 in this next presidential race, but, you
17 know, I think we need manufacturing jobs.

18 And the other day I watched a very
19 heartwarming video about a gentleman who,
20 you know, was looking for work, couldn't
21 find work, finally got a job and he said at
22 the end of the video, you know, I wasn't --
23 I'm not rich, but I'm happy. You know, as
24 long as these people can provide for their
25 families. I think in the end that's all

1 people want, not only in Scranton and the
2 state but in the country and I think that's
3 what the Chamber should strive for and the
4 city should strive for.

5 And before I end my comments, I
6 forgot, Mrs. Reed, and I just received this
7 on my way here, 439 Fourth Avenue, there is
8 a lot that's overgrown and some issues at
9 this property that the neighbors are
10 complaining about. Thank you.

11 MR. EVANS: If I may, one final
12 comment, because we are all jogging each
13 other's memory, I agree with that 100
14 percent and I also want to emphasize that
15 most of the job growth in this country is
16 done through small business and that's where
17 our focus should be, including
18 manufacturing, but small business is where
19 we have to concentrate. We are always
20 looking for that home run, but we need a lot
21 of singles and need to hit a lot of doubles
22 to make this happen.

23 And when you said struck me, too, I
24 always remember a comment that Governor
25 Ridge made once way back when he was

1 governor, all jobs have honor. I think we
2 always have to remember that. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, let me
4 just chime in, I kind of forgot one tonight
5 because Mr. Rogan isn't here. I work in the
6 manufacturing industry. That's what I do
7 and there are jobs out there but,
8 unfortunately, the competitive nature of the
9 business is very competitive, it's very
10 tough. Where I work we win and lose jobs by
11 pennies. It's difficult to create \$17 and
12 \$18 an hour jobs right off the bat. Many of
13 the jobs right now are coming from temporary
14 agencies and those jobs go out there and
15 they are available. As Councilmen Evans
16 just said, if you need to work there is work
17 out there. It may be not \$17 an hour, it
18 may be \$10 or \$12 an hour.

19 Unfortunately, within the city
20 limits now all of the -- many of the new
21 industrial plants are located outside of the
22 city. A lot of our buildings are very old
23 and not conducive to forklifts and heavy
24 storage and things like that so it's going
25 to be very difficult to get those types of

1 jobs within the city limits. It's a bit
2 disappointing that we have a lot of land
3 available, especially over in Keyser Valley
4 over where the old warehouse used to be.
5 That's a primary area for development of
6 these types of jobs. As we see in the area
7 right now many of the jobs are going to be
8 warehouse type jobs and it's surprising to
9 hear that one of the reasons why these
10 warehouse jobs are coming here is because
11 the Panama Canal is going to be open and
12 ships are going to be able to travel to the
13 east coast instead of the west coast. But,
14 unfortunately, once again, technology has
15 kind of proceeded the regular working man
16 where many of these warehouses are going to
17 be automated. They are going to be run by
18 robots and unless you can fix robots there
19 may not be that many jobs in the area so I
20 agree, I was very happy to hear from
21 Mr. Durkin tonight on his ideas and his
22 plans and hopefully they are focused on the
23 City of Scranton because right now all those
24 type of manufacturing jobs or a lot them are
25 up in Jessup, but there is work available in

1 manufacturing industry, but, unfortunately,
2 it's not in Scranton. I drive to
3 Mountaintop every day for my job. The
4 Crestwood Industrial Park has many
5 facilities open down there. Our industrial
6 park in Dunmore has kind of been abandoned,
7 I don't know why that is, they were built at
8 the same time, but we do have -- we do have
9 to focus on finding jobs for people and
10 every job -- the more jobs there are the
11 more competitiveness there is for higher
12 wages so we have to start somewhere and I am
13 happy to hear that Mr. Durkin and the
14 Chamber does have some plans for that.

15 MR. MCGOFF: All right? Anybody
16 else's memory jogged with that?

17 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
18 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
19 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY
20 FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION AND IF
21 SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACCEPT THE
22 FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY 15
23 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT
24 ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL SOLICITATION IN THE
25 AMOUNT OF \$19,390.00.

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

4 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
15 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
16 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
17 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT
18 AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM THE
19 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMERCIAL
20 INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT
21 NO. 150.36 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
22 \$150,000.00 TO BAR PAZZO, INC. TO ASSIST AN
23 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff, on
6 the question, I just want to mention that
7 even though there is a grant coming from
8 this, this is a private company making a
9 substantial investment in the City of
10 Scranton. You know, I understand they have
11 never been here, but they have another
12 facility in the area that's quite successful
13 and if there is anything we can do to move
14 some of that to downtown Scranton I support
15 it 100 percent.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I would agree, and I
17 would just say that this loan to grant is
18 coming from a newer program that OECD has
19 instituted, the commercial industrial
20 revolving loan program, and the one thing I
21 heard tonight that I don't agree with is
22 that the city is just picking someone
23 randomly and saying, "Here is \$150,000."

24 That's not the way it works. There
25 is a whole program and procedures that are

1 in place so it's not as if, you know, we are
2 just picking people out of thin air, and
3 there are going to be five full-time jobs
4 that are created, but they are looking more
5 than five. This is just as it relates to
6 the \$150,000, so thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. A family that --
8 Bar Pazzo is if you have ever been to
9 Agalino's in West Pittston or Pazzo in -- I
10 forget what route it is down towards --

11 MR. EVANS: 315.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Down toward Mohegan.

13 MR. WECHSLER: 315.

14 MR. MCGOFF: That's the same family.
15 They are successful, they are successful
16 business persons with a legitimate, you
17 know, history of success in the
18 restaurant/bar business. Now, with that
19 said, I understand the trepidation that many
20 people have for this type of loan. We have
21 seen it in the past, we have seen it fail in
22 the past, all we have to do is look into the
23 late Molly Brannigan's and know that there
24 is some fear that this is just going to be
25 money thrown away.

1 I agree with one of the speakers
2 that we should be able to look at the
3 history of our loan program and see what the
4 city is doing to recoup any of the losses
5 from those loans. Mrs. Schumacher has
6 continually asked for that and I think it's
7 time that we see that. I think it's time
8 also if we are starting a new program where
9 we are giving out \$150,000 grants, which
10 eventually it will be, then I think it's
11 time that we hear from the director of OECD
12 that comes here and explains what's going on
13 with this new program and also answers
14 questions concerning the history of loans
15 given to these types of businesses and what
16 they will do in the future should someone
17 default on these loans or these types of
18 loans I think it's just something that we
19 need to hear before we move forward with,
20 you know, final passage of this legislation.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Maybe it would be a
22 good idea if we set up a caucus with Ms.
23 Aebli, who is the executive director, to
24 explain this new program. I agree with you
25 100 percent before we move forward with

1 anything.

2 MR. EVANS: At that point, too, we
3 can also get a commitment on when she can
4 give us information about past grants.

5 MR. MCGOFF: With that said, all
6 those in favor of introduction signify by
7 saying aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
14 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
16 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO BAR PAZZO,
17 INC. TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR RESTAURANT AT
18 131-133 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
19 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

23 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1 those in favor of introduction signify by
2 saying aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
7 eyes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
9 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
10 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
11 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO THE 16TH
12 WARD, LLC TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR RESTAURANT
13 AT 306 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

20 I'm assuming that outdoor restaurant
21 are becoming popular, with the legislation,
22 and I'm happy to see that. The kind of the
23 opens up the downtown area.

24 MR. EVANS: I couldn't agree more.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Makes it more of a, you

1 know, vibrant type of downtown community.

2 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else on the
4 question? All those in favor of
5 introduction signify by saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
13 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
14 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO JJ MCNALLY'S
15 TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR RESTAURANT AT 501
16 LINDEN STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
23 those in favor of introduction signify by
24 saying aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
6 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
7 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
8 ENTER INTO A SEWER AND WATER LINE MARKETING
9 LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND UTILITY SERVICE
11 PARTNERS PRIVATE LABEL, INC. D/B/A SERVICE
12 LINE WARRANTIES OF AMERICA ("SLWA").

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
2 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
3 110, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND
4 ACCEPTING THE UPDATED CITY OF SCRANTON
5 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2016 THE
6 THIRD-YEAR REVISION AND EXTENSION OF THE
7 2013 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move
11 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

13 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
15 I just heard a few comments this past week
16 from different people and I have had a few
17 questions about this and I think it would be
18 a good idea to clarify that as it noted in
19 the capital budget while this document
20 describes funding opportunities for
21 different highlighted projects, sources of
22 funding at this time are for the most part
23 either preliminary or unconfirmed.

24 MR. MCGOFF: And I think that that
25 has been the way in which the capital budget

1 has been approached in the past. These are
2 things that we would like to see done, these
3 are things that at the present time may not
4 be able to be budgeted because of the
5 overall cost and, yes, many -- a lot of it
6 is preliminary, but I do applaud, and I did
7 I think last year, the efforts of the
8 Business Administrator's Office to at least
9 provide some idea of where that funding may
10 come. In the past that was not always the
11 case, a capital budget was something that
12 may have been a little bit more sketchy than
13 maybe you're looking at now, but I think
14 it's a good effort and I think it at least
15 prepares the city for things that could be
16 done should we find the adequate funding and
17 things that we need to do in the future
18 again should we find adequate funding.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, just one
20 comment on that, although it seems like it's
21 a document that just kind of sits there, it
22 really is an active, breathing document
23 because so many grant applications can only
24 be prepared if it's listed in the capital
25 budget program.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Correct.

2 MR. WECHSLER: So the fact that a
3 program is in there gives it some
4 credibility with grantors so it's more than
5 just a wish list, it's a wish list with a
6 little bit of bark.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I have received a
8 couple of questions this past week about the
9 Parker Street levy that's included in the
10 capital budget so I have asked Mr. Bulzoni a
11 couple of questions and he has given me
12 information, I haven't had time to review it
13 yet, but just so people are aware.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those
15 in favor signify by saying aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
22 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 111, 2015 - AN
23 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
25 ENTER INTO A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

1 BETWEEN THE CITY AND COMCAST OF
2 COLORADO/PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA, LLC.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move
6 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

8 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff. I'm
10 sorry. Last week I mentioned it, and I'll
11 mention it again this week, one of the
12 things that I would like to see in this
13 contract is a facility within the City of
14 Scranton for people to do more than just pay
15 their bills. I would like a local place
16 where people can go to return their
17 defective hardware, pick up new hardware and
18 I think that should be within the limits of
19 the City of Scranton.

20 MR. EVANS: Okay. I'm going to
21 follow up on that, particularly what some of
22 the comments President McGoff said. I did
23 talk to the Pennsylvania Municipal League
24 today and they felt that it is within our
25 right to make amendments or changes to this

1 ordinance so maybe Attorney Minora can
2 confirm that, but it sounds like that we can
3 do that.

4 Secondly, on the EG funding, there
5 is funding for the peg channel in the
6 contract to the tune of two \$100,000
7 payments increments for a total of \$200,000,
8 the question is that's up to the city to
9 decide that so I guess I would like to find
10 out from the administration are there plans
11 to use that specifically for ECTV, and I
12 think that's where the money should go. I
13 think that would certainly give them an
14 opportunity to grow, to be sustainable on
15 their own, but that's something that we have
16 to be asking for next week. Are there plans
17 for that money specifically directly to
18 ECTV.

19 I absolutely agree with Councilman
20 Wechsler, I'm hoping to -- I wrote some
21 brief amendments down and that was one of
22 them and I know we brought it up before and
23 I know Councilman Rogan brought up the
24 senior discount scenario and I think those
25 two things are critical. You know, it's

1 very easy to do. The language in the
2 contract reads: "A Comcast service Center
3 shall conveniently be located and shall be
4 open during normal business hours." To
5 change that to, "A Comcast service center
6 shall be conveniently located within the
7 City of Scranton and shall be open during
8 normal business hours."

9 And as far as the senior discount, I
10 don't see why we couldn't put that language
11 in there that says, "Residents over the age
12 of 65 will qualify for a 10 percent discount
13 off of basic cable service as well as a 10
14 percent discount on additional cable TV
15 services."

16 So maybe I can fine tune the
17 language with Attorney Minora or Councilman
18 Wechsler on the one issue and Councilman
19 Rogan on the other. The other question I
20 had is, is a 12-year contract more
21 appropriate than a ten-year contract. Most
22 of the contracts I have seen have been a
23 10-year contract.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Solicitor Minora, do
25 you know if we were to make these amendments

1 would it then have to go back to Comcast and
2 be --

3 MR. MINORA: Yeah, it would have to
4 go back to Comcast and Comcast could reject
5 them.

6 MR. EVANS: They would?

7 MR. MINORA: It would be
8 establishing a negotiation, yes.

9 MR. EVANS: Well, what if we reject
10 the rejection? Because, I mean, what we are
11 asking them to do is these are beyond --
12 I'll tell you, I think the contract was
13 actually very well written, very well done,
14 very comprehensive, but I think these are a
15 couple of things that are important. We
16 have a large senior population. I think
17 Councilmen Wechsler makes the point all the
18 time that they need to have a place to go
19 physically because that's how they roll, for
20 lack of a better word, and I think we need
21 to have a -- I think we need a discount for
22 the seniors.

23 MR. MINORA: Another way you might
24 consider would be to table this and ask the
25 administration to go back to Comcast and

1 renegotiate it according to the issues that
2 you have raised and that sort of shortcuts
3 the back and forth ordinances and, you know,
4 new legislation, that might be a way to do
5 it. It might be something to do.

6 MR. EVANS: Well, do you feel that
7 by us amending it could be basically -- that
8 would be more appropriate?

9 MR. MINORA: So we are only in Sixth
10 Order, you know, could be tabled and/or
11 moved onto Seventh Order and tabled until
12 the administration has an opportunity. I'm
13 just suggesting, I'm not trying to shortcut
14 anything.

15 MR. EVANS: Well, we don't have to
16 do it tonight.

17 MR. MINORA: No, we don't have to do
18 it tonight.

19 MR. EVANS: I mean, we have worked
20 on a contract for quite a long time now, I
21 don't think it's urgent, but I want to see
22 something that would finally solidify ECTV's
23 situation, which has been sort of hanging
24 out there for quite a long time and
25 unfairly. I know the county has given ECTV

1 money on a regular basis, I think annually
2 the city has not contributed.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I think that the
4 problem lies in the fact that this was given
5 to us without adequate preparation. If they
6 have been -- the administration had been
7 negotiating this contract I think it would
8 have been wise to engage council in this
9 negotiation in some way and that way we
10 could have introduced some of these ideas
11 and determined you know, whether they would
12 were feasible or not feasible. Right now,
13 as I said, we have been given this and we
14 have been asked to vote on it without any
15 real introduction to the contract and to the
16 terms of the contract so I agree with our
17 solicitor that it may be in our best
18 interest to -- we could move this forward
19 this evening and prior to Seventh Order
20 table it or in Seventh Order table it and
21 find out if, you know, Comcast is amenable
22 to some of the suggestions. If not, can we
23 go back to square one and renegotiate.

24 MR. EVANS: I really don't think we
25 are asking for the moon, we are asking for

1 some very simple things to enhance and
2 protect some of our senior citizens, and we
3 have a large population of seniors, and this
4 was done by the Cohen Law Firm. They are
5 the ones that negotiated for the city, they
6 do cable contracts throughout the country,
7 this is the standard operating procedure for
8 them so I think it's not -- you know, I
9 thought maybe they could have contacted us
10 well, maybe had a hearing to get some --
11 hear some of our concerns is not asking too
12 much.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Because if it's one
14 thing that I hear from senior citizens is
15 that they're -- and I think Mr. Rogan
16 mentioned this, is that their cable bill is
17 sometimes higher than, you know, all of
18 their other bills. It's just gotten to the
19 point where I think we do need to sit down
20 and --

21 MR. EVANS: It hasn't been a secret,
22 I know Councilmen Wechsler mentioned the
23 service center probably a year ago probably,
24 you know, we talked about that, so that's
25 something that's no secret as far as how we

1 feel about that.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. All those in
3 favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
10 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 112, 2015 - AN
11 ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY
12 MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 114 WEST MARKET
13 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
14 13412-080-006 TO JAMES GAVIN AND CATHERINE
15 GAVIN, 2301 HOLLISTER AVENUE, SCRANTON,
16 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE CONSIDERATION
17 OF \$1,500.00.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Chairman, I move
21 that Item 6-C pass reading by title.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 113, 2015 - AN
7 ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY
8 MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 116 WEST MARKET
9 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
10 13412-080-003 TO JAMES GAVIN AND CATHERINE
11 GAVIN, 2301 HOLLISTER AVENUE, SCRANTON,
12 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE CONSIDERATION
13 OF \$2,300.00.

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: I move that Item 6-D
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A,
2 PREVIOUSLY TABLED.

3 7-B. PREVIOUSLY TABLED.

4 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
5 COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
6 RESOLUTION NO. 160, 2015 - ADOPTING THE
7 LACKAWANNA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
8 2015 UPDATE FOR THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA AS
9 THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON.

11 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
12 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
13 passage of Item 7-C.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
17 In 2010 Scranton adopted a Bi-County Hazard
18 Mitigation Plan for Lackawanna and Luzerne
19 Counties. An update is required in the plan
20 per federal requirements, Lackawanna County
21 through the Planning Commission and the
22 Emergency Management Team obtained grant
23 funding, selected a consultant team and
24 prepared the required update to fulfill
25 these federal requirements. Council needs

1 to approve this as a prerequisite to
2 receiving post-disaster hazard mitigation
3 grant program funds. And if anyone would
4 like to view this plan it is on Lackawanna
5 County website under economic development
6 and regional planning.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Gaughan.
8 Roll call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
19 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
20 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 161, 2015 -
21 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
22 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED AND
23 RESTATED COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH GOODWILL
24 INDUSTRIES OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA,
25 INC. BY ADDING 1539 NORTH MAIN LP AS A PARTY

1 TO THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: As temporary
6 Chairperson for the Committee on Community
7 Development, I recommend final passage of
8 Item 7-D.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
23 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 162, 2015 -
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
25 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

1 ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT AGREEMENT AND
2 MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY
3 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, PROJECT NO.
4 150.35 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,000.00
5 TO SCRANTON AUTO SERVICE, INC. TO ASSIST AN
6 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

7 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chair for the
9 Committee on Community Development?

10 MR. WECHSLER: As temporary
11 Chairperson for the Committee on Community
12 Development, I recommend final passage of
13 Item 7-E.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
16 used to do business with the Scranton Auto
17 Service, I took my car there on a regular
18 basis, I took my father's car there. I know
19 it's a really worthy business. I hope that
20 they have a great success in their new
21 environment.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: And they're right next
23 to Dunmore Candy Kitchen so if you ever go
24 up there you can stop by.

25 MR. EVANS: Plus it's staying in the

1 city, that's a good thing.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
12 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted and
13 wish them great luck.

14 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
15 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
16 ADOPTION- RESOLUTION NO. 163, 2015 -
17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
18 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
19 CONTRACT WITH JOYCE HATALA ASSOCIATES TO
20 ASSIST THE CITY OF SCRANTON WITH OUR
21 RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHTEEN
22 (18) MONTHS FOR THE TOTAL SUM OF \$5,000.00.

23 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chair for the
25 Committee on Public Works?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-F.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question
7 just very briefly. The intent of this
8 contract is to seek assistance to improve
9 the City of Scranton commercial recycling
10 program. Program improvements will result
11 in greater tonnage reported to the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and an
13 increase in our Section 904 performance
14 grant.

15 The program deficiencies were
16 discussed during an August 6, 2014, meeting
17 with DEP regional recycling coordinator, and
18 the amount of the contract, which is \$5,000,
19 is included in the 2015 budget, and within
20 the proposal after over 25 years there is
21 still many commercial establishments in the
22 city who are not recycling and/or reporting
23 recyclable tonnage collected as required by
24 law. Because of this, the City is losing
25 significant funding from the Pennsylvania

1 DEP through performance grants.

2 Although, yard waste and leaves
3 cannot be counted for performance grant
4 funding, they account for a significant
5 amount of the landfill waste, nearly 20
6 percent, and can save significant money if
7 taken for composting or chip and mulch.

8 So, I think this contract for \$5,000
9 is a steal. I think it's great for the
10 city. There are a different steps that Mrs.
11 Hatala, who originally worked for the
12 County's Recycling program, different steps
13 to increase recycling and reporting. She
14 has been working closely with the city, DPW
15 and for \$5,000 I think this is a great
16 thing. That's all I have.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
3 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
4 RESOLUTION NO. 164, 2015 - ACCEPTING A
5 DONATION OF FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)
6 DOLLARS FROM GEISINGER HEALTH SYSTEM
7 PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO COVER
8 THE COST OF FIREWORKS AT NAY AUG PARK.

9 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chair for the
11 Committee on Finance?

12 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-G.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

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Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted and I would like to thank Geisinger Health System for their donation.

If there is no further business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: This 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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER