

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, June 12, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN LOSCOMBE

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

16 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY'S  
17 REGULAR

18 MEETING HELD MAY 5, 2014.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS REPORT  
22 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED JUNE 5,  
23 2014.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
2 REPORT FOR THE HEARING DATES HELD MAY 21 AND  
3 JUNE 18, 2014.

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

6 Are there any Clerk's notes?

7 MR. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Any council  
9 members have announcements?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I just have two.  
11 Flag Day is this Saturday, I hope nobody  
12 showed up last Saturday when I mentioned it  
13 because nobody would have been there, so  
14 that was my mistake, I apologize. Flag Day  
15 is this Saturday, June 14, at courthouse  
16 square from 1 to 2 p.m. The event is open to  
17 the public. The event will honor the United  
18 States flag and the founding of the United  
19 States Army.

20 Also, the Divine Mercy Parish picnic  
21 in Minooka will held next Thursday, Friday  
22 and Saturday, June 19, 20 and 21, please get  
23 out and support this event. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Two  
25 announcement as far as council is concerned,

1 first, the meeting scheduled for July 3 will  
2 be I'll say cancelled, and council will meet  
3 July 2. July 3 is the evening of the  
4 Philharmonic and the fireworks downtown and  
5 council felt it would be a good evening to  
6 allow the public and council members to  
7 partake in those festivities and so we will  
8 meet on Wednesday, July 2, not Thursday,  
9 July 3.

10 Also, council has voted to take an  
11 August recess. That we will not be meet  
12 during the month of August unless there is a  
13 need for a special meeting, which will call  
14 if that occurs.

15 And also, this Sunday is Father's  
16 Day and we wish all fathers out there,  
17 fathers of all counties to have a Happy  
18 Father's Day. And that's all.

19 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
20 PARTICIPATION.

21 MR. MCGOFF: First speaker is Chief  
22 Pat DeSarno.

23 MR. DESARNO: Thank you. Good  
24 evening, everyone. One of the few times I  
25 come up here with a smile on my face, but

1           it's a new ball game here in the city, which  
2           is a good thing. I came by tonight to  
3           inform all of you and citizens of Scranton  
4           both here and at home about a major, major,  
5           I think what is a good faith, goodwill and a  
6           partnership that has just transpired here in  
7           the city. Through the very cooperative  
8           efforts of first and foremost Mayor  
9           Courtright and Mr. Brooks Turko or Regional  
10          Hospital of Scranton along with Elaine  
11          Walker, an RN up there and director of  
12          diagnostic services, their CFO, Mr. Bob  
13          Sikes, Arial Delphi and Juan Wi, all of  
14          Regional Hospital and myself and several  
15          members of the Scranton Fire Department, our  
16          membership will be receiving free of charge,  
17          free of charge this partnership was worked  
18          out a way -- very, very, very long overdue  
19          and very necessary hepatitis B screening,  
20          and what's going to happen there is it's  
21          going to be on an individual needs basis.  
22          Any of our members who are un-inoculated,  
23          and I'll get to that in a second, are going  
24          to receive the full series of injections and  
25          everyone else will be will be typed, which

1 means their blood will be tested for the  
2 antibodies, and anyone from whatever those  
3 results dictate they will either get a  
4 booster or a whole new full series if  
5 needed, so that is a great thing.

6 And this is all positive stuff.  
7 When I took this position I came in with a  
8 glass half full kind of an attitude, but in  
9 the context of this, history dictates  
10 context so with that said, since -- in March  
11 of 2005 through March of 2008 12 members  
12 were added to the Scranton Fire Department,  
13 and sadly none of those guys are offered  
14 Hepatitis B inoculations, and in 2008 Al  
15 Lucas obtained a rank of deputy chief and he  
16 made every effort he could to get the  
17 previous administration to get these men  
18 these shots. It fell on uncaring ears,  
19 nobody cared, it was left to languish.

20 Now, in five short months of this  
21 new administration this is happening now  
22 free of charge to the city. I can't  
23 describe it. You can dictate for yourself  
24 what that means.

25 Something I have learned in these

1            few months and that is that most times if  
2            you go out with a sincere hand, you extend  
3            it, and you ask for help there are so many  
4            good individuals in this city and in good  
5            businesses people in this city that are  
6            willing and ready to lend a hand, and some  
7            have, indeed, done just that, and that  
8            brings me to another thing that should be  
9            coming across your desk next meeting, we  
10           just received an incredible donation from,  
11           and I'd like to thank Mr. Louis Santiko of  
12           Management Enterprises and Amos Towers for a  
13           very dangerous donation that is going to  
14           equip all of our apparatus, all nine of our  
15           frontline apparatus with fully stocked too  
16           boxes. So again, I'd like to thank them  
17           very much so, and that's their actually  
18           their second donation. The first one was  
19           used to get our fist installment of our  
20           opticon system, which are those light  
21           changing devices that help us respond,  
22           change the lights to avoid accidents and so  
23           on and so forth, and earlier this year  
24           Pennsylvania American Water came across and,  
25           as you know, with a big donation to help us



1 get the other installment of these devices.

2 So in closing, again, thanks for all  
3 you're doing up there. I want to thank the  
4 mayor, Mr. Dansko, Regional Hospital, and I  
5 know I speak for everyone when -- all  
6 members of the Scranton Fire Department when  
7 I say that this latest thing is very much --  
8 and the families, because that's who is  
9 going -- that's who they are going to be  
10 protecting out there when I say I appreciate  
11 what has been done, so everybody have a good  
12 night and enjoy the weekend and thank you  
13 very much.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Chief.  
15 Thanks for the good work and the chief has  
16 kept me apprised on some issues, but like he  
17 said, until we get some letters and that we  
18 don't really announce them here, I'm glad he  
19 was here to bring that to our attention.

20 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to  
21 add I believe that -- firmly believe that  
22 the health and welfare of all of employees  
23 in the City of Scranton is an important  
24 component to the public safety of the city  
25 and also to the financial stability of the

1 city. It will go a long way to help.

2 Next speaker Joan Hodowanitz.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening,  
4 Council. Joan Hodowanitz, city resident.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: I went through the  
7 background papers in the office prior to  
8 council meeting and I noted another status  
9 from Rossi on the city audit dated June 5  
10 and there are still 26 open items and it's  
11 something you need to, you know, keep your  
12 finger on that pulse because if memory  
13 serves the administration and the mayor must  
14 present to you with a proposed budget in  
15 five months and three days on November 15  
16 and you will be surprised how fast that time  
17 is going to go, but it didn't seem to be  
18 much progress from the prior status report,  
19 so just bring that your attention.

20 Could you give me the status of the  
21 Goodwill project?

22 MR. ROGAN: We talked about it a  
23 little bit in our caucus today. I did speak  
24 to Ms. Aebli last week regarding this status  
25 and we still heard the same answer that it's

1 a matter of vouchers through HUD. What I  
2 did mention in the caucus, and I will  
3 mention in motions tonight is that we are  
4 going to send a letter and call Mr. Langan  
5 directly to find out what the status of the  
6 project is, whether those vouchers have been  
7 approved, denied or pending approval.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: What happens if the  
9 vouchers are denied?

10 MR. ROGAN: Well, that would be up  
11 to Goodwill. Unfortunately, council doesn't  
12 have much say in the matter on what  
13 direction they choose to take, but if they  
14 were denied he would have to seek, you know,  
15 other means on the properties.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: All right, I'll be  
17 watching that, and I'm glad you followed  
18 through on that, that shows great  
19 initiative.

20 And another point of initiative, in  
21 this morning's paper, the city pockets  
22 \$434,00 in tax sales. That's kind of bitter  
23 sweet. You don't want to see anybody lose  
24 their home because of delinquent taxes. On  
25 the other hand, delinquent taxes have to be

1 collected so I commend the city for their  
2 efforts in this third annual tax sale and  
3 this has brought some money into the city's  
4 coffers.

5 And finally, I know I come up again  
6 and again and a lot of what I say sound  
7 negative, but I recently retired for the  
8 second time in November I'm finding myself  
9 with some time on my hands and I'm able to  
10 participate in a lot of the downtown city  
11 events, and Saturday I took the Lackawanna  
12 County Historical Society walking tour of  
13 downtown buildings, and they have a series  
14 of three that run throughout the summer  
15 every Saturday morning. These things are  
16 excellent, they are free, and anybody that's  
17 got free time and a curious mind and wants  
18 to spend an hour learning about the city's  
19 history, you know, you should do this.  
20 There will be one this Saturday at 11 a.m.  
21 and you can go from the walking tour to the  
22 Flag Day ceremony, and they are all  
23 downtown.

24 It's amazing the number of things  
25 there are to do in downtown Scranton and in

1 the Scranton area if anybody just has the  
2 time and the desire to participate they are  
3 pretty good, so I just recommend that to  
4 anybody. And if you want to learn about the  
5 walking tours just call the Lackawanna  
6 County Historical Society between 10 and 5  
7 p.m. tomorrow and they will book you a slot.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Carl  
10 Kupchunas.

11 MR. KUPCHUNAS: Good evening. My  
12 name is Carl Kupchunas. I'm a life-long  
13 resident of lower Greenridge. One of the  
14 reasons I'm here this evening is to invite  
15 everyone here and everyone watching to our  
16 annual block party, the Mary Mother of God  
17 Parish of Holy Rosary Church in North  
18 Scranton will hold our annual block party  
19 next weekend June 19, 20 and 21st at our  
20 parish center, which is on West Market  
21 Street near Cole Muffler. The block party  
22 will be from 6 and 11 p.m. on Thursday and  
23 Friday, and between 5 and 11 p.m. on  
24 Saturday.

25 The block party will include the

1 following live entertainment: On Thursday,  
2 Damian the magician will start the evening  
3 between 7 and 8, followed by the Poets who  
4 will play until 11 p.m. Pat McGuilt will be  
5 playing acoustic music in our bar area. On  
6 Friday, a local drum band will start the  
7 evening between 6 and 7 p.m. followed by one  
8 of the very best bands in our area Picture  
9 Perfect who will be play until 11 p.m. On  
10 Saturday, Jim Cerminaro will be featured  
11 between 5 and 6:30. Later, country music  
12 with the Gene Zano band will be on stage  
13 between 7 and 11 p.m. Featured  
14 entertainment should be enjoyable for  
15 everyone.

16 We have a wide variety of games for  
17 adults and children. Adults will enjoy our  
18 annual raffle, the Big 6 wheel, as well as  
19 several other games. For the children we  
20 have a plush animals along with Kids corner  
21 which will be include face painting, sand  
22 art and many more games. We can't forget  
23 about our annual diaper derby which we run  
24 Friday, June 20, at 7 p.m. All children up  
25 to three years of age are warmly invited to

1 run for the roses. Ribbons and prizes will  
2 be awarded at the medal stand.

3 Other features of our block party  
4 are the silent auction, dining around,  
5 baskets galore, book nook, an ice cream  
6 truck, bingo and many more.

7 Also, we have some of the best food  
8 around. In addition to the usual burgers,  
9 hotdogs, fries, pizza, potato pancakes and  
10 usual block party food, a stand from our  
11 neighbors and friends at Shilo Baptist  
12 Church will feature the best chicken and  
13 ribs that you ever had. If you miss our  
14 block party you will miss the best food and  
15 entertainment of the summer season. As you  
16 can see, our block party has something for  
17 everyone. We hope to see you there next  
18 weekend rain or shine and sincerely thank  
19 everyone who comes. Anyone who wishes to  
20 volunteer at our block party please call the  
21 parish office at 342-4881.

22 In other matters, I have some safety  
23 concerns about a new business that moved  
24 into the 1500 block of Albright Avenue a few  
25 months ago. This business is Crossfit

1           Scranton. It's the practice of this gym  
2           that several times a week, usually during  
3           the early evening rush hours, they have  
4           members of the gym run down the middle of  
5           the 1500 and 1400 block of Albright Avenue  
6           carrying kettle ball weights. There has  
7           been times when traffic has been backed up  
8           in both directions. Last week it took me  
9           almost ten minutes to get out of my driveway  
10          because of the gym members running down the  
11          middle of the street.

12                     Another practice which they have is  
13          their members exercise on people's  
14          sidewalks. About a month ago there were  
15          five -- four or five members of this gym  
16          lifting weights on my sidewalk. This is a  
17          liability issue. I can't understand why  
18          they do not have their members run and  
19          exercise in the former Geldon Company  
20          property, which is right next to their gym.  
21          Having them run them down the street is an  
22          accident waiting to happen. There are three  
23          other gyms within a one block radius of my  
24          house and they are all great neighbors. I  
25          hope Crossfit Scranton realizes the safety



1 concerns that they are causing and the  
2 nuisance that their members are creating for  
3 the people that live in the 1400 and 1500  
4 block of Albright Avenue. Luckily, they  
5 only do this a couple of times a week not  
6 every day.

7 Finally, I have concerns about  
8 several blighted properties in our  
9 neighborhood. A few years ago our neighbors  
10 had a meeting with Jody Cordaro with  
11 renovations he had planned to take place for  
12 the Scranton Lacework Corporation building,  
13 which would have made the abandoned property  
14 an asset to the community. As of now  
15 nothing has happened. There are more  
16 windows being broke out every week by  
17 teenagers throwing rocks at the building.  
18 Almost every night you could hear windows  
19 being smashed from my house.

20 Also, there was a fire there a  
21 couple of months ago and homeless people  
22 were trying to get in the building during  
23 the cold winter months. There is another  
24 "For Sale" sign on this building. Please  
25 let me know in motions if you know the

1 status of the Scranton Lace Corporation  
2 building renovation or is it a dead issue  
3 currently?

4 Also, in the 1400 block of Mylert  
5 Avenue the Sparacino building at the corner  
6 of Marion and Mylert is falling down and  
7 several walls are partially missing and they  
8 have no roof on the building. Two doors  
9 down from that building the former land site  
10 steal fabricators building is in equally bad  
11 shape. Also, this building has no roof and  
12 several walls are missing or falling down.  
13 Please let me know if they are either  
14 planning to demolish or repair either of  
15 these two buildings before somebody gets  
16 hurt either walking by them or driving by in  
17 the streets before the buildings fall down.  
18 God forbid somebody gets injured. Thank you  
19 for your time and I hope everybody has a  
20 great summer.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Kupchunas.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Kupchunas, is it?

24 MR. KUPCHUNAS: Kupchunas, yes.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Would you be able to

1 provide that in writing to council? I was  
2 trying to write everything down.

3 MR. KUPCHUNAS: You want this?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: That would be great if  
5 you could leave it with Jamie.

6 MR. KUPCHUNAS: They probably --  
7 Jody Cordaro had artist's renderings and  
8 there was going to be a museum in there,  
9 there was going to be health club in there,  
10 there was going to be a restaurant, artist  
11 department. It was, like, fantastic. He  
12 showed these pictures and now, I mean, I  
13 don't know if you drive by there on Albright  
14 Avenue every night you hear people smashing  
15 the windows. I mean, it's terrible. I  
16 mean, our property values are going down  
17 instead of going up.

18 MR. ROGAN: I do know as of a month  
19 ago there was work going in that building.  
20 That's actually how the fire started from  
21 the work going on in the building. There  
22 were currently working on mitigating lead  
23 and asbestos the inside of the building, so  
24 that was the update and I think the fire was  
25 about two months ago and that's actually how

1 the fire started from the torch where they  
2 were gutting the property so that they are  
3 working on the inside and it's such a large  
4 building and there is so much hazardous  
5 material in there that's really what's  
6 consuming their time now.

7 MR. KUPCHUNAS: And in the winter  
8 there is homeless people trying to get in  
9 there.

10 MR. MCGOFF: We will try to find out  
11 what the status of the project is.

12 MR. KUPCHUNAS: Because Mr. Cordaro  
13 he painted a rosy picture. I mean, our  
14 property values would have went up  
15 considerably, not they are actually going  
16 down.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Kupchunas. Is there anyone else who  
19 wishes to address council?

20 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
21 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: Taxes and fees paid.  
24 I appreciate if the welchers would do the  
25 same, especially if you do have the money.

1 I mean, I understand. The only thing I  
2 support as far as back taxes and back trash  
3 fees for indigent people are just put a lien  
4 against their property and collect it some  
5 day, but I don't know how soon it has to be  
6 put on it or how far back you go, so it  
7 would be prudent to put a lien on the  
8 property even if you don't act on it.

9 Once again, I'd like to mention  
10 speeders, people showing up at an  
11 intersection after you have looked, and I  
12 can't tell how fast they are going, but I do  
13 suspect it exceeds the speed limit  
14 considerably and, by the way, the last one I  
15 encountered we sat at a double stoplight.  
16 Oh, we got really far, you know, speeding to  
17 a stoplight. I mean, that's very  
18 intelligent behavior.

19 And last week we made a mention of  
20 vacant lots and I have a small problem in  
21 that area. Years back I bought a vacant lot  
22 adjacent to my house and at that time the  
23 taxes were kind of high, \$333 for a 40 by  
24 170, not developable by Scranton Code and  
25 now we are up to \$551 so before we go into

1           vacant lots, we have to get something going  
2           with the county. I plan to file for an  
3           appeal, but they seem to think that it  
4           wasn't worth it the person that handed me  
5           it, so it is considerable in the fact that  
6           it's not a developable property. I need 12  
7           feet easement on both sides. At best I  
8           could fit a house trailer in there long ways  
9           and that's illegal as per the Scranton Code,  
10          so, I mean, it just gets to be a drain and  
11          that's why I suspect a lot of these lots are  
12          just hanging around year after year after  
13          year.

14                        I agree with Joe Wechsler on State  
15          Act 47, he brought that up last week. Once  
16          again, our state legislature is just giving  
17          themselves absolution for many of the  
18          problems that they and our state  
19          constitution caused. We don't get  
20          compensation for tax exempt properties no  
21          matter what they are, and we have 33 percent  
22          at this time and it's wrong. It's  
23          definitely wrong and probably nothing good  
24          will come of that law. It's just makes it  
25          sounds like they made it all the tougher on

1 the poor people that have to put up with it  
2 in the city.

3 Call your Chamber of Commerce, tell  
4 them to stop creating a business property  
5 bubble, please. Be polite, but it's  
6 definitely when you have an excess of  
7 business properties there is going to be  
8 losers and one of the losers is our mall  
9 downtown.

10 And once again, if anybody can find  
11 out if the power lines at Nay Aug PPL owned  
12 or if they are compensating for the property  
13 they take up. Maybe I could get to a  
14 meeting with the Park Authority and get it  
15 out of them, I'm not sure.

16 And, once again, I'd like to warn  
17 with the Sewer Authority, once it gets in  
18 corporate hands they are going to want tons,  
19 tons of money and that's money that could be  
20 going to bail the city out. It will be  
21 going into rich corporations instead.

22 And last week I spoke on some  
23 veteran's affairs, I'm not a veteran, I'm  
24 not like this senator in Connecticut that  
25 came with all kinds of the war stories and

1           in reality he had a plush job in the Army,  
2           but I never -- I was available for the  
3           draft, but I never volunteered and I wasn't  
4           drafted, but Senator Sanders and Senator  
5           McCane got together and hopefully we will  
6           see some kind of break up in the log jamb  
7           with the veterans that they were underfunded  
8           and there is -- they encourage people to be  
9           dishonest and state that vets were being  
10          taken care of and they weren't.

11                        And once again, if you're in an  
12          union, non-union, Democrat, Republican, call  
13          your Congressman, call your senators, call  
14          the president and tell them to can the trade  
15          packs and if they start stating about the  
16          jobs that it will create ask them how many  
17          job you are going to lose over it and  
18          subtract that from the jobs you create, you  
19          will come up with a negative number,  
20          obviously, and if they insist on their sales  
21          pitch, well, use some stronger language.  
22          Thank you and have a good night.

23                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24                       MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,  
25          Scranton City Council, Jamie, court



1 stenographer, Lori, and Amil. I'd like to  
2 start off tonight with a question that was  
3 asked a few months ago, maybe even longer,  
4 by a resident and basically I'm going to  
5 rephrase it a little bit, the question is  
6 how will the city go about getting the  
7 recyclables picked up in the courts and  
8 alleys. I'm being told by some concerned  
9 residents who live in the courts and alleys  
10 that are recycles are still not being picked  
11 up so can someone please address this during  
12 motions tonight if they know the answer or  
13 get the answer for us next week if that's at  
14 all possible? And this question has been  
15 out there for quite some time now.

16 Now, the lace building, I was under  
17 the impression that when we had the fire  
18 there that they had security there. Do they  
19 have security there or don't they have  
20 security there? If they have security there  
21 why isn't the security picking up on these  
22 people and kids or whoever they may be who  
23 are breaking the windows? I think that's a  
24 legitimate question that needs to be  
25 answered.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: That was my question.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: And it needs to be  
3 asked and answered by the developer, the  
4 people who are in charge. It's not the  
5 city's responsibility, it's the developer  
6 who is in charge of that. Does he or does  
7 he not have security there? If he has  
8 security then they need to start doing their  
9 job and find out who is breaking these  
10 windows and if this is really happening  
11 there, okay? That's what hopefully they are  
12 being paid for it.

13 Now, another topic, as far as tax  
14 revenue, last week I believe Mr. Wechsler  
15 said we had a 55 percent increase in tax  
16 revenue corrected from last year, property  
17 tax? Well, you know, we had a 56 percent  
18 tax increase, so that might be part of the  
19 reason we had a 55 tax increase.

20 MR. WECHSLER: It's all the reason.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: Exactly. But I  
22 just, you know, okay. Now, lesson -- you  
23 know, you have -- school teachers have  
24 lesson plans, coaches have game plans,  
25 people who are buying houses have housing

1 plans for their new house, they are  
2 financial plans, why can't the City of  
3 Scranton come up with a viable recovery plan  
4 for the City of Scranton? It's been 22  
5 years and five months now, over 8,000 days.  
6 I would think that's long enough a time for  
7 someone to have come up with a viable  
8 recovery plan to get this city back on its  
9 feet. Myself and a lot of other citizens  
10 are really tired of hearing that we are  
11 doing this, we are doing this, we are doing  
12 this, but we never see anything happen,  
13 okay? It's been 22 years now for God's  
14 sake, that's a long time, okay? We need to  
15 get on this. I don't how hard people are  
16 working on it, and I'm sure you are working  
17 on it, but maybe we need to work a little  
18 harder on it because we need to get this  
19 city back on its feet. We are losing  
20 people, we are losing business, we are  
21 losing population, we are the laughing stock  
22 -- almost the laughing stock of the State of  
23 Pennsylvania. We have been on national  
24 news, we have been on world news, we have  
25 been on everything. When is it going to

1 stop? When is someone going to actually sit  
2 down and explain to the citizens of Scranton  
3 what is really going on and what the  
4 alternatives are and if it's ever going to  
5 be resolved or its not going to be resolved?

6 Okay, I personally believe, and my  
7 personal belief only, the city is not going  
8 to get the money. They are not -- nobody is  
9 going to loan this city money. I might be  
10 wrong and if I'm wrong I'll come right here  
11 and say I was wrong, but that's my personal  
12 belief because it's been too long. We need  
13 to know what's going on.

14 Okay, the mayor stated that this is  
15 a difficult situation. I think everyone in  
16 this city realizes that this is a difficult  
17 situation. It's been a difficult situation  
18 for 22 years, but again, I'm must remind  
19 people the mayor did get a \$25,000 a year  
20 pay raise, okay? He went from \$50,000 to  
21 \$75,000 so difficult decisions should be  
22 being made, okay? And again, I reemphasize,  
23 me need -- the residents of the City of  
24 Scranton want to know what's going on.

25 Basically my solution to all of

1           this, if you want to just relax, forget  
2           everything, come on out to the Dante Club  
3           1916 Prospect Avenue, have a couple of adult  
4           beverages, play some pool, play the juke  
5           box, have something to eat because we are  
6           having food now in the kitchen starting  
7           every night, just come out, relax and forget  
8           the problems of Scranton and just enjoy  
9           yourself and have a good day. Thank you.  
10          See you at the Dante Club.

11                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

12                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
13          Council. I'd like to tonight go over a few  
14          requests for some bench marks since we do  
15          not have a yearend forecast yet other than  
16          the budget which we know isn't worth a match  
17          to burn it up. So the garbage fees, could  
18          we get or do you know, Mr. Wechsler, since  
19          you have been in touch with the Treasurer's  
20          Office on the number that were mailed, the  
21          number that have paid either in total or  
22          partially as of the 31st of May, and how  
23          that compares with the number that were --  
24          of last year?

25                   MR. WECHSLER: What I have our

1           dollar amounts. The report that's generated  
2           from Northeast does not issue a report as to  
3           how many paid partially or complete.

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: They go to the  
5           Treasurer's Office, no?

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Well, the Treasurer  
7           gets the information from the collection  
8           service as well. The system does not allow  
9           them to -- the Treasurer's Office does not  
10          allow them -- the report that they have does  
11          not allow them to separate who paid in total  
12          or who paid in full.

13                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I don't care.  
14          I just want to know compared at the same  
15          period of time that they were due either the  
16          first payment or a full payment.

17                   MR. WECHSLER: I'm going to do that  
18          tonight.

19                   MS. SCHUMACHER: 2013 to 2014, and I  
20          would also like to know what the amount was  
21          for the landfill last year, if you would  
22          recall the 2013 there was nothing paid, it  
23          was abated and it could be spread over the  
24          following three years, so I would like to  
25          know how much the actual was that is being

1 -- that will be in this year's -- well, I'm  
2 sure we put something in for this year's  
3 budget, I don't remember what it was, but  
4 for the following two years after this year  
5 as well.

6 And then the same for the parking  
7 meter revenue from January through May for  
8 last year and this year. We had been  
9 getting fairly regular reports about the  
10 parking meter revenue and I don't believe we  
11 have had any.

12 And then also the mercantile tax, a  
13 comparison of the number businesses that  
14 have paid the tax this year compared to last  
15 year. Have we gained business or we have  
16 lost business?

17 And then, Mr. Rogan, the OECD loan  
18 status, and I know it's in court, but I  
19 would think that Ms. Aebli is keeping a  
20 pretty close watch on what's happening with  
21 the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue Park.

22 MR. ROGAN: We have had discussions  
23 about it. I will see, you know, I will talk  
24 to her again this week to provide some  
25 information.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Maybe you could do  
2 that next week, and then will we have prior  
3 to your leaving on recess a year-end  
4 forecast of what our expenses are and  
5 revenue?

6 MR. WECHSLER: That I can't say at  
7 this time.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And I would  
9 like to know, too, I mean, I don't know if  
10 this falls under Mr. Loscombe who in the  
11 past has been meeting with PennDOT, but  
12 could we get a timeline for the Harrison  
13 Avenue bridge and could we find out if since  
14 one of the worker rounds is up through  
15 Bunker Hill if anything is going to be done  
16 with that road, I believe it's called Sand,  
17 at least part of the way up into 307? If we  
18 could find out if anything is going to be  
19 done with that. And again, what the  
20 timeline is.

21 And then just a comment, I listened  
22 to WILK a couple of times a day and it seems  
23 every time that I listen they are  
24 advertising for the Philharmonic and the  
25 fireworks display, which is wonderful, I



1 plan to partake myself, but I got to tell  
2 you it really galls me when I hear that  
3 Steamtown Mall is a sponsor, which I assume  
4 means they are paying money into this, and  
5 they can't pay even a dollar on their loan  
6 and they leave that to the taxpayers. I  
7 just think that's unconscionable, and that  
8 is all for tonight. Thank you.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Schumacher, you  
10 asked about the Harrison Avenue bridge  
11 project, I have here the project is  
12 scheduled for July 3, 2014, let date, which  
13 means that when it will go out to bid, and  
14 construction will be completed in 2016.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: The bids have not  
16 gone out are you telling me?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: No. As far as I know  
18 that's why I have here from Mr. Pocius, our  
19 city engineer.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: I thought they were  
21 supposed to start construction this year?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: No. It says the  
23 project is scheduled for July 3, 2014, let  
24 date, and the construction will be completed  
25 in 2016.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, there  
2 must be -- there must be -- those people  
3 must be bidding to a schedule of events.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Right.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know they are  
6 going to keep the one open, but when they  
7 start doing things, and for us who use the  
8 intersection a whole lot it would be nice to  
9 see what they bid to, so if you could get  
10 that from Mr. Pocius, too, that will be  
11 helpful.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, if you could put  
13 that in writing, too, and give it or e-mail  
14 or it or however you want to do that.

15 MS. REED: Mr. McGoff, if I may,  
16 just a reminder the Rules of Council do  
17 state that all requests for council need to  
18 be made in writing.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, please.

20 MS. REED: Thank you.

21 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug  
22 Miller, Scranton. A few issues here this  
23 evening. I'd just like to rebut on some of  
24 the statements that were made earlier  
25 tonight, particularly talking about the

1 delinquent taxes and, you know, certainly  
2 any time we have the ability to collect  
3 delinquent taxes it's obviously not a  
4 harmful thing because we have some revenue  
5 coming into the city, but at the same time  
6 it just also highlights a negative effect on  
7 the city and that is that we are dealing  
8 with a lot of residents through the  
9 community who can't pay what they don't  
10 have, and so talking about delinquent taxes  
11 a nice thing, there is no doubt about that,  
12 but when you are dealing with a community of  
13 the majority of residents who have an  
14 inability to fulfill their obligations it's  
15 very difficult to collect that tax revenue  
16 and I think we can all agree through the  
17 course of time the residents have suffered  
18 an awful lot, and I think moving forward, as  
19 I have said repetitively from this podium  
20 for years, we need to become more creative  
21 in the way we generate revenue in this city.

22 Now, I'd like to discuss a little  
23 bit on this PFM Financial Services, and as  
24 you are well aware, I don't consistently  
25 attend these meetings as I have in the past

1 weekly, but I do pay attention as I stated  
2 before, so I may be a few weeks behind in my  
3 discussion on this issue, but it's come to  
4 my attention that we may have jumped the gun  
5 when we entered into this deal and I think  
6 we inadvertently or intentionally violated  
7 the Administrative Code when we went ahead  
8 and entered into this contract. As we all  
9 -- I'm hoping we are well aware of what the  
10 Administrative Code is and I'm going to  
11 refer to Section 6-13 which clearly states,  
12 and I'm not going to read it verbatim, but  
13 basically to summarize it, no money shall be  
14 paid out of the city treasury except upon  
15 appropriation previously made by the  
16 council. So, in other words, the bottom  
17 line is real simple here to basically  
18 simplify it, this council should have never  
19 entertained any contract with this PFM  
20 Financial Service because nothing was put in  
21 the drafted and the 2014 operating budget,  
22 therefore, we violated the Administrative  
23 Code by entering into a contract with PFM  
24 and I understand this council was given it's  
25 blessing by Mr. Bulzoni. That in itself

1 speaks for itself right there. This is the  
2 same Bulzoni character who gave Landmark  
3 Bank his blessing on an SPA loan that was  
4 never approved by council.

5 And, you know, I'd appreciate a  
6 little respect. You know, I come to the  
7 podium and I don't need grown men shaking  
8 their head at me, you know, and I just think  
9 that, you know, I don't understand where our  
10 mindset is from time to time where we just  
11 feel we can blame and violate laws. We seem  
12 to have no respect for law in this city and  
13 at the end of the day we wonder why we were  
14 in the situation we are in.

15 But this is clearly a violation,  
16 this clearly should never happened where due  
17 to this negligence it seems we're locked  
18 into this deal until 2018, there is no cap.  
19 No tough questions were answered -- or asked  
20 or answered I should say. You know, it  
21 seems like yet again we have a mayor who  
22 just continues to play this magical flute  
23 and we all just keep waltzing around in our  
24 delusional dream world here, not asking any  
25 questions, just going with the flow.

1                   And again, I'm going to remind the  
2 residents of this city what has changed in  
3 this administration and the previous  
4 administration? Absolutely nothing. And  
5 yeah, it's nice -- and I hate to be  
6 repetitive, but I am so tired of hearing how  
7 well we all work together. Oh, the  
8 communication is so much better. That's  
9 wonderful. That's great. Didn't we know  
10 that that was what we were elected to do,  
11 work together? Okay, that's nice, so we  
12 have that out of the way. We have heard  
13 that millions of times. Okay, so now that  
14 we know that, well, now when do we roll our  
15 sleeves up and come up with some creative  
16 solutions instead of bringing in these  
17 transplants from New Jersey who recommend  
18 tax increases, now talking about pension  
19 tax, you got to be kidding me here.

20                   And then the other day we read in  
21 the paper we are talking about looting the  
22 Workers' Comp Fund to obtain \$5 million for  
23 the Supreme Court award. I stated last week  
24 we need to face the reality that the money  
25 is not coming and the sooner we wake up and

1 realize that the sooner we are going to be  
2 much better off. We frighten the banking  
3 community by our failed decisions in the  
4 past and we continue to frighten them and, I  
5 mean, we just keeping looting one account  
6 after another. When is it going to stop?

7 Another issue is the CDBG money.  
8 You know, due to our negligence on the whole  
9 Boscov fiasco we were told that we may now  
10 have to forfeit some CDBG money, can someone  
11 answer me tonight? Is that correct? Are we  
12 now required to forfeit some of that money?  
13 Is there anybody up there who can answer  
14 that for me tonight?

15 MR. ROGAN: We voted two weeks ago  
16 to make a change to the allocations from  
17 money that was removed, taken away from HUD  
18 because of the failure of the payment from  
19 Mr. Boscov and other mistakes in the past 20  
20 years.

21 MR. MILLER: Well, I guess my next  
22 question would be then is that going to  
23 jeopardize the funding that was allocated  
24 for street repairs and other repairs to the  
25 neighborhoods?

1 MR. ROGAN: Not street repair, no.

2 MR. MILLER: Which repairs.

3 MR. ROGAN: We had -- I believe  
4 Attorney Hickey went through the  
5 presentation. It will be coming back up,  
6 but there was a 30-day comment period where  
7 was tabled. It will be coming back, it  
8 needs two more votes to become law, and I  
9 believe it was a week ago so another three  
10 weeks it should be back on the agenda.

11 MR. MILLER: Well, it's just ashamed  
12 that we are even in this situation, just  
13 again, the negligence and mismanagement has  
14 even put us in the point where we even have  
15 to have this discussion. There is no SAFER  
16 grant coming so now we are going to be  
17 talking about, you know, reducing the staff  
18 of the fire department, probably the  
19 potential of, you know, brownouts and  
20 closing fire stations. So again, nothing  
21 good happening. And again, no reason for  
22 optimism, so, you know, it's just more  
23 discouraging news.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

25 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.



1 Lee Morgan. I usually don't say that, I  
2 don't know why. You know, some people ask  
3 what's really going on and, you know, to be  
4 honest with you, you know, people talk about  
5 the debt whether it's 500 million,  
6 three-quarters of a billion, it's really not  
7 even relevant because the city needs  
8 billions of dollars to recover. We have  
9 torn so many structures down, our  
10 infrastructure is so torn up, I mean, and  
11 the average person walking up and down the  
12 street they know that. I'm just thoroughly  
13 amazed by conversations I have heard in the  
14 last couple of months about people saying  
15 they are just getting out of here, they are  
16 just leaving. They don't even care anymore,  
17 they are just going to leave. Now, my other  
18 question is where with they through all of  
19 the decades while these meetings were taking  
20 place and where is everybody today?

21 I mean, that should send a very  
22 strong message to this council, and not only  
23 this council but elected governments across  
24 this Commonwealth and across this country  
25 because you have lost the support of the

1 citizens. They have absolutely no faith in  
2 their elected government. That's a pretty  
3 scary statement to make. I mean, you can  
4 tell that by the voter turnout. There needs  
5 to be some real hard choices made during  
6 this council chamber. I mean, we can  
7 discuss whatever issues you want to discuss,  
8 but we you just got done, one of the  
9 councilman, I thought it was you, Mr. Rogan,  
10 talking about the vouchers for the project  
11 at North Scranton. Everybody wants to  
12 develop a project, but they have their hands  
13 out. They are not coming here like the  
14 founders of this city who built this city  
15 with their own money. They all want to use  
16 the state treasury, the city's money, grant  
17 money, federal money, and then the city  
18 itself wants to use that money, also. So  
19 where is the private investment in our  
20 community at?

21 The armory is going to probably go  
22 for less than \$100,000. You know, if  
23 anything was going to be done with grant  
24 money, just thinking off the top of my head,  
25 don't we still have the remnants of the

1 Civil War museum in the basement of this  
2 building, is it still there?

3 MR. MCGOFF: It's not remnants, it's  
4 still there.

5 MR. MORGAN: Okay, well, why don't  
6 we come up with some grant money and buy  
7 that armory building and donate it to them?

8 MR. MCGOFF: Because they want to be  
9 there.

10 MR. MORGAN: Well, maybe they might  
11 want to be somewhere else, and since the  
12 armory is a very old building I think it  
13 would fit the whole plan. The armory is  
14 probably a hundred years old. It's a very  
15 beautiful and very strong building. It  
16 would be a beautiful place for a museum near  
17 the center of the city, center of our city.

18 But, you know, I mean, it's time to  
19 be really realistic. You didn't create all  
20 of these debts, previous councils did and  
21 previous mayors and previous administrations  
22 because what we have done is we have taken  
23 grant money, we built unviable projects and  
24 didn't care about the results. That's been  
25 seen time and time again in my last 20 years

1 in this council chamber where we have lost  
2 money on the city's alleged investments and  
3 projects and where they have turned upside  
4 down.

5 But, you know, if people were  
6 investing in their own projects they would  
7 be a lot more careful about what they were  
8 doing and, you know, when we talk about tax  
9 increases and holding people's feet to the  
10 fire and you look at the average wage of  
11 \$21,000, any tax increases aren't workable.  
12 They are just not workable because your  
13 residents don't have the income to pay them.  
14 So it's really time to tell the Commonwealth  
15 of Pennsylvania to come up with a plan and  
16 do something. They should have been over 20  
17 years ago. I did attend that meeting at St.  
18 Mary's Center when we went into this  
19 distressed status. There were no real  
20 answers there either. There haven't been  
21 any real answers for a long time, and to be  
22 honest with everybody in the community you  
23 keep electing people who have no idea what  
24 they are getting elected to and have no  
25 vision got a future and you can't find one

1           because in order to have a future you have  
2           to know where you want to take somebody and  
3           getting elected and sitting in a seat and  
4           not having a vision, you might as well go to  
5           a movie.

6                         So, you know, I'm not being critical  
7           of council, but, you know, where is our  
8           country and where is our community headed?  
9           And like I said, we are billions of dollars  
10          down from solvency because we have so many  
11          projects that we have to accomplish to  
12          actually turn this city around. Just paying  
13          our debts and our obligations that's nothing  
14          compared to the amount of money we would  
15          have to invest in our infrastructure to  
16          start really having a very successful  
17          progressive community. Thank you.

18                        MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone  
19          else?

20                        MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
21          MOTIONS.

22                        MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

23                        MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
24          Mr. McGoff. As was brought up in public  
25          comment, I do have some information

1            regarding garbage tax collections from 2013  
2            compared to 2014, this would be for the  
3            first week of June of each year. In 2013,  
4            the city collected \$2,355,594 through that  
5            date. For the year they collected \$3.3  
6            million so that represented through June  
7            about 70 percent of the total that was  
8            collected in 2013.

9            In 2014, we have received  
10           approximately \$3.6 million through the first  
11           week of June, and that's against what we had  
12           budgeted was a \$5.8 million amount for the  
13           garbage tax so right now the collections  
14           represent about 63 percent of what the total  
15           would be anticipated for our budget this  
16           year.

17           Once again, I did question Mr. Beck  
18           about how many of these taxes have been --  
19           or fees had been paid partially or in full  
20           and right now the reporting system that they  
21           utilize does not identify that and I asked  
22           him to do that for next year so we can get a  
23           feel for this if the people are paying the  
24           full amount or partial amount.

25           If you take a look at how much the

1 garbage tax was raised in comparison to the  
2 fee for last year and if you use the same  
3 math, I would say we are about \$400,000  
4 behind in collecting the tax if we were at  
5 the same spot last year, but we did  
6 increased the amount of time that people  
7 have to pay so I'm not sure if it's a fair  
8 comparison. The amount of money that's  
9 coming in is on track and hopefully as the  
10 summer goes on we will make up with the  
11 difference there.

12 In terms of the Treasurer's sale,  
13 you have to remember that this money has  
14 nothing to do with this year. This is the  
15 money that was owed the city from past  
16 years, and actually there was 665 properties  
17 that were up for sale and 456 of those  
18 properties paid the amount that they owed,  
19 so that was money that the city was owed and  
20 it was collected. 126 properties went  
21 through the sale, but the owner has a right  
22 to come up with the money on those  
23 properties by paying the 10 percent penalty,  
24 so in the end really only two properties  
25 actually exchanged hands during this sale.

1                   This is another one of these things  
2                   that as an ongoing process that this list  
3                   has been whittled down and whittled down to  
4                   a manageable amount, but we are bringing  
5                   this money in every year, eventually it  
6                   should be zero. That's what we are hoping  
7                   for.

8                   In terms of some of the other  
9                   questions that were asked tonight, I have  
10                  been working with Mr. Bulzoni going over  
11                  some revenues and expenditures. The  
12                  information that he has provided me is  
13                  through the end of May. I am just getting  
14                  into those and taking a look at how the  
15                  collections are.

16                  This is part of the budget process  
17                  that we will be getting into as the summer  
18                  rolls along so we can get an idea on the  
19                  projections real numbers against non-real  
20                  numbers.

21                  And once again, I know I'm not  
22                  supposed to say this to the speakers, but  
23                  Mr. Bulzoni has provided me every bit of  
24                  information I have asked for. He is very  
25                  open, he's doing a fine job as the business



1 administrator and to me working together  
2 with information it can't be underrated even  
3 though it is. We heard tonight from Mr.  
4 DeSarno, Chief DeSarno, there are positive  
5 things going on here and we just have to get  
6 that through.

7 In regard to an issue that was  
8 brought up last week about East Mountain  
9 Road, Mr. Gaughan and I were up there in  
10 March and we had the same concerns that  
11 Councilman Rogan spoke about last week, the  
12 split in the middle can only be repaired  
13 with special equipment that the city does  
14 not have. Back in March we talked to  
15 Mr. Gallagher, who is working with the Sewer  
16 Authority, they have the machine that can  
17 fix that problem when an opportunity arises  
18 so hopefully, you know, the focus of that  
19 will get that road fixed. And that's all I  
20 have tonight, Mr. McGoff.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. A few  
23 comments on a couple of items that came up  
24 tonight. As Mr. McGoff mentioned, council  
25 will be recessing for the month of August.

1           As in the past four years, this is something  
2           that I have opposed. I do thank Councilman  
3           McGoff for taking a straw poll of the  
4           council this year to at least -- we all had  
5           a say. It wasn't a unilateral decision as  
6           in past years, but I'm of the firm belief  
7           that city council should meet every week  
8           when possible. There are far too many  
9           pressing issues in this city for council to  
10          not meet for four weeks. I believe we  
11          should be here, there is legislation that  
12          needs to be passed, and historically the  
13          meeting when council comes back from recess  
14          the agenda has been this thick (indicating)  
15          because items have built up, and especially  
16          with the new administration I'm sure there  
17          are a lot of the items that will be coming  
18          down the line for the agenda, so I wish that  
19          we would meet. I understand that, once  
20          again, the votes didn't go my way, but it's  
21          something that I think we should do, and I  
22          would support a recess from the city if the  
23          city had a balanced budget and things were  
24          all well, but that's not the shape we are in  
25          so I will continue to oppose taking a recess

1 in the month of August.

2 A few items that were brought up on  
3 the North Scranton Junior High School, I did  
4 speak to Ms. Aebli regarding that project  
5 this week and I also brought it up in  
6 caucus, city council will be sending a  
7 letter and placing a phone call to  
8 Mr. Langan from Goodwill to find out what  
9 the status of the project is, and also what  
10 the status of the vouchers are since that  
11 seems to be the big question, whether it was  
12 they were approved or whether they were  
13 denied or whatever, we are still waiting for  
14 an answer, so we can have a little more  
15 clarity on that project because that's one  
16 we would all have to see moving.

17 Next, could we please reach out to,  
18 and I'll send you an e-mail, Mrs. Reed,  
19 regarding this one, Mr. Dobrzyn brought this  
20 up a couple of times and I was thinking  
21 about it a little bit more, the power lanes  
22 at Nay Aug whether or not we received  
23 compensation from PPL or whether we had in  
24 the past, it may have been a one-time deal  
25 where 40 years ago the city received

1 compensation or we didn't, but if their  
2 lines are going through the park we  
3 certainly should receive some compensation  
4 for that.

5 Next, I would like to thank Chief  
6 Pat DeSarno for coming here today to give us  
7 an update on some of the things him and  
8 Mayor Courtright have been working on. It's  
9 always good when our guys that are working  
10 in the fire department can receive a  
11 valuable service such as these vaccinations  
12 for free he definitely deserves a job well  
13 done. He has been doing a stellar job as  
14 chief, he really cares about his men, and  
15 all of the guys at the fire department have  
16 been doing a great job.

17 And on that note, I have honor of  
18 playing charity softball over the weekend  
19 with the Scranton Fire Department against  
20 the Police Department, the real winner of  
21 the game was the children, my performance  
22 wasn't the best at the plate, but we had --  
23 everyone had a good time and job well done  
24 for the organizers from the fire department  
25 and from the police department that made



1 the tax sale and just to alleviate a lot of,  
2 you know, angst only two properties were  
3 actually sold, the majority of the income  
4 came from people who paid what they owed or  
5 made arrangements and put something down and  
6 made payment arrangements and stuff like  
7 that, so it is a big benefit and hopefully  
8 in a few years we will get that down to  
9 zero.

10 And the last thing, and maybe  
11 Mr. McGoff will explain this after, but it  
12 was alluded to by one of our speakers here  
13 that the administration is looking to raid  
14 the Workers' Comp Fund to pay this award.  
15 That is not the case at all. The Workers'  
16 Comp fund not one dollar will come out of  
17 the Worker's Comp Fund. They had a meeting  
18 in Harrisburg and then basically they are  
19 looking to reduce the amount of percentage  
20 that has to be in there just to  
21 collateralize that upper part for the bank.  
22 It's, you know -- it's an involved  
23 situation, but it does not involve taking  
24 one dollar out of the Workers' Comp Fund.  
25 Nothing will be touched, it's just a

1 reduction of percentage that has to be  
2 approved by the Department of Labor and  
3 Industry, and I don't know, you know, if  
4 Mr. McGoff is going to explain that a little  
5 bit more or if we are waiting until we get  
6 some more details on that, but I just want  
7 to clear that because its sounded like they  
8 are just going in and taking money out of  
9 the Workers' Comp Fund and that is not the  
10 case at all nor will it be the case and I  
11 don't think any of us up here would allow  
12 them to do that. So that's all I have to  
13 say on that. Thank you.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Good  
15 evening. Council had received a complaint  
16 from a gentleman in North Scranton about a  
17 streetlight that was out in front of his  
18 house this past week. He had reported it on  
19 the city's website numerous times, but there  
20 was no response. Mrs. Reed had inquired  
21 with the DPW and they had responded that  
22 they, too, had also received numerous calls  
23 that streetlights were out throughout the  
24 city. Joyce Electrical who handles  
25 streetlight maintenance is behind schedule

1 but will be out to take care of these issues  
2 so we thank them for that.

3 And just a reminder, if there is a  
4 street light out in your neighborhood and  
5 you are able to get the pole number, which  
6 is the 11 yellow digits on the pole, you can  
7 report it on the city's website under the  
8 DPW link or you can go directly to  
9 NEPALights.com and report that.

10 I have an update on the Rockwell  
11 Avenue bridge project. Bids were opened on  
12 May 22, there was a Pennsylvania state  
13 requirement of 30 days for the post bidding  
14 period. The bid is scheduled to be awarded  
15 on the week of June 23. Kreiger  
16 Construction was the apparent low bidder at  
17 \$1,323,241.

18 A gentleman from West Scranton  
19 contacted me and was very concerned about  
20 speeding on West Elm Street and he feels  
21 sense that it would make sense to make that  
22 street a one-way down near Cloverfield from  
23 Fifth Avenue to Meridan Avenue. I'm going  
24 to get together with Mrs. Reed and contact  
25 DPW and Police Chief Carl Graziano to see if



1 he can provide some opinion on this matter.  
2 It's very important to this gentleman and  
3 the residents of West Elm Street so we'll  
4 see if we can try to take care of that. And  
5 that is all I have for this week. Thank  
6 you.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Can I just add  
8 something, Mr. McGoff, I'm sorry?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Gaughan reminded  
11 me, I do have several streetlights, a list  
12 of several streetlights, also. I had put in  
13 for one quite awhile ago and it hasn't been  
14 taken care of so I will provide you with the  
15 streetlights, and perhaps we can send a  
16 letter to Joyce to expedite the situation.  
17 I don't know, we never had that problem  
18 before.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: They had said in that  
20 correspondence that they were behind  
21 schedule but they were going to be out I  
22 think this week and they were going to start  
23 to get on top of things, so for whatever  
24 reason.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have also spoken to

1 the gentleman from West Elm Street about the  
2 same situation, I met with the police chief  
3 regarding "Do Not Enter" signs on the bottom  
4 of the street. He tries to send police  
5 officers over there whenever he can. He is  
6 aware of this. This is an ongoing situation  
7 for several years. We are trying to help  
8 the residents there but, you know, without  
9 having an officer to sit there full-time  
10 it's tough, and they are trying -- they are  
11 trying to get their between the hours that  
12 this gentleman suggested so, you know, we  
13 are working with him and the neighbors  
14 trying to get that situation, but Chief  
15 Graziano and I discussed that at length  
16 about that and he was familiar with it, too.  
17 So, you know, anything helps, just a little  
18 push, but just so the neighbors know we are  
19 not forgetting them there.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

21 MR. ROGAN: On the streetlights, I  
22 think we have all had a number of those  
23 requests and when Joyce first received the  
24 city contract they were days. We would get  
25 a request, we would send it in a day or two

1 later it would be fixed and it seems over  
2 time it has progressively gotten slower.  
3 Hopefully, you know, I'm sure we -- just we  
4 have up here between five of us there is  
5 quite of bit of work that needs to be done  
6 but hopefully that will speed up and that  
7 contract may be coming up shortly.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: I think it was just  
9 renewed.

10 MR. ROGAN: Was it just renewed?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I think it was, yes,  
12 because I think I put in the one light prior  
13 to the renewal and they were waiting to see  
14 the renewal or something, but now, you know,  
15 that's been awhile, so --

16 MR. ROGAN: Well, hopefully they can  
17 address because especially in the summer  
18 with the kids are out playing in the  
19 neighborhoods.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly. There's a  
21 lot of dark streets now.

22 MR. ROGAN: Right.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Two very quick items.  
24 First, a thank you to Mr. Lockwood from the  
25 Times for the excellent article on the tax

1 sale. What was reported by the newspaper by  
2 Mr. Lockwood was very accurate and I think  
3 very informative to the people of Scranton.

4 Secondly, as Councilman Loscombe  
5 mentioned, what Councilman Loscombe said  
6 about the meeting in Harrisburg with the  
7 Borough of Labor and Industry was correct.  
8 We are simply waiting for a response from  
9 Labor and Industry as to a proposal that was  
10 made by the City of Scranton and when we  
11 receive that response then there will be  
12 more information regarding the proposal.  
13 And that's it, 5-B.

14 MS. REED: 5-B. ACCEPTING THE  
15 RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL  
16 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB") AND  
17 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS  
18 FOR BARTUSH SIGNS, 302 NORTH WASHINGTON  
19 STREET, ORWIGSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17961  
20 TO FABRICATE AND INSTALL ONE SINGLE SIDED  
21 INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED SIGN; SIGN CABINET  
22 WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF WELDED ALUMINUM ON A  
23 SUB-FRAME WITH ROUTED GRAPHICS; GRAPHICS  
24 WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF PLEXI-GLASS MATERIAL;  
25 INTERNAL ILLUMINATION WILL BE GENERATED BY

1 HIGH OUTPUT FLUORESCENT TUBES; SIGN  
2 CONSTRUCTION WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 2'X 12'  
3 AND WILL BE MOUNTED OVER THE ENTRANCE OF THE  
4 UNIT AT 532 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
5 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
22 TO EXECUTE RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR CONSTRUCTION  
23 AGREEMENTS WITH PROPERTY OWNERS LOCATED  
24 SURROUNDING THE WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE  
25 BRIDGE INCLUDING AMERCO REAL ESTATE CO.,

1 OLDE GOOD THINGS, INC., SCRANTON  
2 REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND ERWIN T. KOST,  
3 FOR THE PURPOSES TO CONDUCT ENGINEERING,  
4 SURVEYING AND INSPECTION ACTIVITIES FOR  
5 VISUAL INSPECTION AND TO CONDUCT TESTING OF  
6 THE CONDITION OF THE CONCRETE ON THE  
7 WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE BRIDGE.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS  
23 AT THIS TIME.

24 SEVENTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS AT THIS  
25 TIME.

1 MR. MCGOFF: If there is no other  
2 business?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Just, I should have  
4 mentioned this during motions, concerning  
5 the August recess just to make note, if  
6 there was something pertinent regarding  
7 legislation council would be able to still  
8 call a special meeting just for the record.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
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