

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, November 13, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2 moment of reflection 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. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. We do have a
14 Proclamation this evening. I would ask that
15 Council members move to the front of the
16 dais at this time.

17 WHEREAS, in 2014, an estimated
18 46,420 people will be diagnosed with
19 pancreatic cancer in the United States and
20 39,530 will die from the disease.
21 Approximately 1,990 of those deaths will
22 occur in Pennsylvania in 2014; and

23 WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is on the
24 of deadliest cancers, is currently the
25 fourth leading of cancer death in the United

1 States and is projected to become the second
2 by 2020; and

3 WHEREAS, pancreatic cancer is the
4 only major cancer with a five-year relative
5 survival rate in the single digits at just
6 six percent; and

7 WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic
8 cancer present themselves, it is generally
9 late stage, and 73 percent of pancreatic
10 cancer patients die within the first year of
11 their diagnosis while 94 percent of
12 pancreatic cancer patients die within the
13 first five years; and

14 WHEREAS, the Recalcitrant Cancer
15 Research Act was signed into law in 2013,
16 which calls on the National Cancer Institute
17 to develop a scientific framework, or
18 strategic plans, for pancreatic cancer and
19 other deadly cancers, which will help
20 provide the strategic direction and guidance
21 needed to make true progress against these
22 diseases; and

23 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer
24 Action Network is the national organization
25 serving the pancreatic cancer community in

1 Scranton and nationwide through a
2 comprehensive approach that includes public
3 policy, research funding, patient services,
4 and public awareness and education related
5 to developing effective treatments and a
6 cure for pancreatic cancer; and

7 WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer
8 Action Network and its affiliates support
9 those patients currently battling pancreatic
10 cancer, as well as to those who have lost
11 their lives to this disease, and are
12 committed to nothing less than a cure; and

13 WHEREAS, the good health and
14 well-being of the residents of Scranton are
15 enhanced as a direct result of increased
16 awareness about pancreatic cancer and
17 research into early detection, causes, and
18 effective treatments.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
20 on Thursday, November 13, 2014, Scranton
21 City Council wishes to designate the month
22 of November 2014 as "PANCREATIC CANCER
23 AWARENESS MONTH" in Scranton.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
25 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the

1 Minutes of this Council.

2 We would like to present this to
3 Mr. Connors and all of the members of the
4 Pancreatic Cancer Network, Action Network.

5 MR. CONNORS: Thank you,
6 Mr. President.

7 MR. MCGOFF: At this time
8 Mrs. Connors would like to address council
9 and the public via ECTV.

10 MRS. CONNORS: I will be brief. I
11 just want to thank all of the councilmen for
12 this proclamation and for bringing awareness
13 to pancreatic cancer as Mr. McGoff said at
14 the beginning, that former city clerk Jay
15 Saunders passed away actually two years ago
16 yesterday. Gerry Grabowski passed away
17 about eight years ago and my sister-in-law,
18 and former Mayor Jim Connors' sister, Tina
19 Connors, passed way in January of 1994, so
20 we are still continuing this battle.

21 In fact, today November 13, was
22 Purple for a Purpose day and I appreciate
23 that you are all wearing purple ties and/or
24 a purple shirt and it's also World
25 Pancreatic Cancer Day. I just want to read

1 something very briefly. You know, we face a
2 formidable enemy, one that takes 84 of its
3 victims within five years. We have lost our
4 best and our brightest, our family, our
5 friends, but we will never lose our resolve.
6 We know what we must do, wage hope. We are
7 the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. We
8 are fighting a terrible disease. We will
9 champion the promise of a brighter tomorrow
10 and this is it our heartfelt battle cry,
11 wage hope.

12 And another thing we are doing in
13 order to raise awareness for Pancreatic
14 Cancer will be the fifth pizza by Pappas
15 fundraiser next week, it's next Tuesday and
16 Wednesday, November 18 and 19. Bill and Tom
17 Shekosky, the owners of Pappas Pizza donate
18 50 percent of their pizza sales over those
19 two days to the Pancreatic Cancer Action
20 Network and over the last four years he has
21 donated over \$25,000 to our cause. So,
22 again, I thank you very much for bringing
23 awareness to this disease. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: And again, on behalf of
25 the council we would like to thank the

1 Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Network for the
2 great work that they do in addressing this
3 significant problem.

4 MR. CONNORS: Thank you,
5 Mr. President.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Dispense with the
7 reading of the minutes, please.

8 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. SAPA
9 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RECOMMENDATION FROM CITY
10 PLANNING COMMISSION RECEIVED OCTOBER 28,
11 2014.

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

14 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
15 OF ZONING APPEALS HELD NOVEMBER 12, 2014.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
17 If not, received and filed.

18 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S
19 RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD
20 OCTOBER 16 AND 22, 2014.

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

23 MS. REED: 3-D. SINGLE TAX OFFICE
24 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED REPORT COMPARISON
25 2014 2013.

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

3 MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S
4 REPORT FOR HEARING DATES TO BE HELD DECEMBER
5 3 AND 4, 2014.

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

8 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
9 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON
10 OCTOBER 22, 2014.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
12 If not, received and filed. Are there any
13 announcements from council?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I have one.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. The week
17 of November 17 there will be no paper pick
18 up to allow for the leaves to be picked up
19 throughout the city from the DPW. People
20 are encouraged to bag their leaves and the
21 DPW will be around to pick those bags up.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Also, in kind of the
24 same vein for the evening, this Sunday at
25 9:00 is the Coaches vs. Cancer breakfast.

1 If anyone would like to attend tickets can
2 be purchased at the door. Breakfast starts
3 at 9 a.m. and the funds go to the Coaches
4 vs. Cancer program. Many of the funds used
5 directly in the Scranton area for various
6 cancer related purposes and if you do decide
7 to go to the dinner it is -- or the
8 breakfast, it is at Scranton Prep High
9 School 9:00 on this coming Sunday and I know
10 they had at least one distinguished speaker,
11 moi.

12 Also, just for kind of general
13 knowledge sake, the next couple of weeks
14 with council become extremely busy, and I
15 would just like to at least make people
16 aware of what will be taking place in the
17 coming meetings.

18 First of all, on November 20 at 5:00
19 there will be a hearing on SAPA. SAPA will
20 be reintroduced. There will be a public
21 hearing at 5:00 and there will be a motion
22 that evening to bring SAPA legislation back
23 in Seventh Order for a final vote.

24 Also, at the November 20 meeting at
25 5:30 that will be a public hearing on the

1 budget. We must hold that public hearing by
2 December 1 and so with Thanksgiving being
3 the Thursday the public hearing on the
4 budget will be held next week at 5:30.

5 Also, next week, a busy week, there
6 will be during our caucus time we will hold
7 a caucus here in council chambers. There
8 will be representatives from of the OECD to
9 explain the legislation, the loan
10 legislation, that is on tonight's agenda
11 dealing with the thing it's Steamtown Mall
12 Partners, so that will be the immediately
13 following the budget hearing, the public
14 hearing on the budget. If it extends into
15 the meeting time we will start the meeting
16 late.

17 There will be no meeting on the 27th
18 because of Thanksgiving. On December 4 --
19 no -- okay. December 11, the Audubon
20 legislation dealing with Audubon, which will
21 be tabled tonight, will be brought back from
22 the table, and then on the 18th of December,
23 which will be our last meeting of the year,
24 there will be a public hearing at 5:30 on
25 the zoning change for Audubon and that will

1 be brought back in Seventh Order on that
2 evening for a final vote.

3 So a number of things taking place
4 over the course of the next few weeks. If
5 you have any questions about any of that or
6 what's taking place please feel free to
7 contact the Clerk's Office for that
8 information, and thank you.

9 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
10 PARTICIPATION.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening. Joan
13 Hodowanitz. The last couple of days I have
14 been attending the public hearings on Colt's
15 proposed reduction in services and I went to
16 the one that was held last night at 5 p.m.
17 The session was hosted by I believe he
18 pronounces his name Mr. Fium, who is the
19 executive director of the Colt's, and he
20 opened his remarks to the public by saying
21 that Colt's had been over funded and
22 therefore had to repay \$6 million. I don't
23 know what over funded means. I think it's a
24 little Orwellian newspeak, but something is
25 not right over at Colt's. Maybe it's right

1 now, it wasn't right in the past, but
2 something is wrong. I don't think
3 PennDOT -- go ahead.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I was going to say, I
5 know the over funding is based on the senior
6 citizens numbers --

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Oh, I understand
8 that but the term over funded I don't think
9 you will be find that in any dictionary I
10 ever read. Let's face it, something is
11 wrong over there and if we have to do
12 something as drastic as eliminate all
13 Saturday service we need to get to the
14 bottom of this. I think something not legal
15 was done and so we are -- we have been put
16 in this position.

17 I wrote you all a letter in which I
18 have asked you to consider getting together
19 with other local representatives about what
20 might be done to change the plan that they
21 are looking at right now, because if Colt's
22 go ahead and cuts all Saturday service and
23 adjusts a lot of the weekday routes and
24 times a lot of the people are going to be
25 hurt.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Ma'am --

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: This is a quality
3 of life issue. I know it's not on your
4 agenda and it's not going to come up under
5 legislation, but as representatives of the
6 people of Scranton you should care that
7 people are going to lose jobs, people are
8 going to find it hard to get around. I am
9 one of those people that rides the bus six
10 days a week. Yes, sir?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Just to interject, I
12 know Representative Flynn has organized a
13 meeting with various other elected officials
14 to which Scranton City Council has been
15 invited.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: I hope you have the
17 opportunity to attend and see what might be
18 done because we need better mass
19 transportation not cutbacks in mass
20 transportation. Remember, if people lose
21 jobs you are going to lose tax revenue and
22 you are just going to have pick up the bill
23 for people who can't support themselves.
24 This is what we call in the Army a bohica
25 moment. You know the term bohica? No?

1 Bend over, here it comes again. That's a
2 bohica moment, but enough about Colt's. I
3 will be watching how that goes in the next
4 few weeks.

5 I noticed that on Halloween, most
6 appropriately, Governor Corbett signed the
7 changes to Act 47 which means the clock is
8 ticking for the City of Scranton, whether
9 it's five years, eight years, whatever the
10 number ends up being we are not going to be
11 distressed forever, so I hope that is kept
12 in mind as we look at the budget. There is
13 not much I can say about the budget tonight
14 because I haven't had a chance to review the
15 actual document. I just saw Mr. Lockwood's
16 summary in this morning's paper. It was
17 nice getting up, going to the door and
18 taking in the paper and seeing that my real
19 estate taxes are going up 19 percent. That
20 was fun.

21 And also looking that there are
22 going to be some additions to the staff, and
23 those have to be looked at closely.
24 Apparently you want to offset that with
25 reduction in other areas or fund them with

1 grants. That's all fine and well. I just
2 hope that whatever staff we have the people
3 have the right skills set. I don't want to
4 get up here every week again next year and
5 ask you what's the status of the city budget
6 for 2013 and '14 and '15 and so on and so
7 on, okay? I would love to see the job
8 descriptions for everybody that's a city
9 employee, especially those in the Business
10 Administrator's Office. Are they required
11 to know governmental accounting. I don't
12 know, I'd love to see those job
13 descriptions. I don't know if those are
14 online or if those are accessible to the
15 public or maybe you can get them with a
16 Right-to-Know request, but we had a
17 shortfall this year in terms of preparing a
18 budget, we didn't have people that had those
19 skills. We need to that corrected for next
20 year or all we are going to do is shoot
21 ourselves in the foot.

22 So I will be back next week,
23 hopefully we will be able to get the
24 document on after you introduce tonight and
25 look at it closely. Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

3 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

4 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

6 MR. BOLUS: It's a little
7 disturbing, I took a look at your budget
8 and, you know, I have taken a hard look
9 where Scranton is and where Scranton is
10 going and I see Scranton going in a reverse.
11 The last couple of days I have attended the
12 Colt's bus hearings and listened to the
13 people who rely on our mass transportation.
14 I want to ask, has anybody from council
15 attended any of these meetings at all?
16 Okay. I think it was your responsibility to
17 be there because this is about the city,
18 it's about our citizens. To hear these
19 people talk about how are they going to get
20 around and what happened that caused this.
21 The same thing that's happened in this city,
22 fiscal mismanagement and cronyism. I asked
23 the question over there, over \$6 million on
24 ghost ridership was done, yet if somebody
25 walked in over at the mall and walked into

1 another store and took a shirt off a coat
2 hanger and put it in their purse they would
3 be charged with a shoplifting and probably
4 looking at two years in jail, yet there has
5 been no prosecution or attempt to prosecute
6 the theft of \$6 1/2 dollars for whatever
7 reason. Still stolen money that has to be
8 paid back because if it wasn't stolen we
9 wouldn't have to pay it back. It would be a
10 gift.

11 Then I ask where is the Attorney
12 General? Where is the District Attorney?
13 Where is Scranton City Council pushing that
14 prosecution take place, that the people
15 responsible for helping demise this city
16 even further and kill Saturday business
17 because the buses aren't going to run on
18 Saturday? That's an impact here on the
19 city. And this is a responsibility of all
20 of our elected officials to stand up and be
21 counted, and it was disturbing, let me tell
22 you, to listen to these people.

23 I took my time and a lot of other
24 people took their time, but I saw very few
25 county or state representatives there.

1 These people are walking away, so I think we
2 should stand up be and counted. Mr. McGoff,
3 it was kind of funny, as I stood and saw how
4 empty it was and you had made the statement
5 in the past, I'm not here being
6 argumentative, okay, I make things happen.
7 That's the difference between me and a lot
8 of other people.

9 We want to bring a casino here and
10 you called it a Herculean task. The only
11 Herculean task we ask of you people is to
12 participate in making it happen because it's
13 a revitalization of downtown Scranton. I'm
14 not concerned about Wilkes-Barre, I'm not
15 concerned about the Poconos, what they do or
16 can't do, but we have a ghost town mall in
17 the City of Scranton that could bring life
18 here. You are building an intermodal
19 terminal. What are you going to put in
20 there, empty spaces? Because there is
21 nothing to come here for, and yet we have a
22 budget that you want the people in this city
23 to keep paying and paying and paying.

24 I bought the Holy Cross Church to
25 save history in this city. Right now I have

1 a \$46,000 tax bill on me because it was
2 assessed for 500,000 because I wouldn't sell
3 the Holy Cross hall back to the Diocese that
4 a district judge in this city had made a
5 deal to buy it for \$2 but never filed his
6 deed because he was waiting for the city to
7 tear the church down and make it a parking
8 lot. That's what's wrong in Scranton. It
9 stinks. It's like the landfill out there.
10 It stinks.

11 I came in here and I supplied this
12 council, keep it in mind, remember that, a
13 lab report showing what was going into that
14 landfill, yet I didn't hear a single comment
15 from anybody on this council yet you just
16 heard about pancreatic cancer and other
17 issues. Those carcinogens that I showed you
18 are cancer causing issues, yet nobody stood
19 here and stood up and went to the Dunmore
20 council and defended our health and welfare
21 in this city, and there is a meeting
22 tonight, is anybody going to it to the
23 defend the city? Are you going to defend
24 maybe putting in the leachate line in the
25 budget that they paid us as a host community

1 to put more money in our pockets? Are you
2 going to amend the budget to put in a fee
3 across everybody in the city that includes
4 the nonprofits to bring the additional
5 millions of dollars in here? And those are
6 just for openers.

7 Windmills on the mountain, lower
8 electricity for our people in the city. How
9 about looking into some of the land we own
10 and putting gas wells in? You can't just
11 sit here and be in the blind and just write
12 and ask everybody to pay the City of
13 Scranton debt that was created from council
14 after council and the administration in the
15 past. You guys can't bury your head in the
16 sand anymore, you've got to run the city
17 like a business and unless you are running
18 it like a business you are going to be
19 bankrupt and you are taking it out on the
20 people in the city. Just remember what's
21 going on with Colt's and everything else and
22 then stand up and be accountable. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Bolus
25 Doug Miller.

1 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug
2 Miller, Scranton. You know, without having
3 had a chance to review the budget document
4 it's entirety because it has yet to be made
5 available to the public, I did take some
6 time earlier today to just briefly peruse
7 some of the summaries that have been put
8 forth to the public, and again, without
9 really having had to get into a whole lot of
10 detail with the budget it's quite apparent
11 that it's nothing more than another pathetic
12 document to come forward that just continues
13 to place burden after burden on the
14 residents of this city. You know, we have
15 had one failed plan after another come
16 forward. We listened to Amoroso, we
17 listened to Bulzoni, you know, and all of
18 these other individuals that came forward
19 stating facts that we are already well aware
20 of or at least I hope we were.

21 We talked about the need to cut the
22 budget by 30 percent and that didn't happen.
23 What we have here is a 19 percent tax
24 increase. We want to now triple the LST
25 from \$52 to \$156. We want to now add more

1 positions by funding them with grant money
2 and that's a real pet peeve of mine. You
3 know, we look at these budgets and year
4 after year, I mean, how much longer are we
5 going to continue to function our city on
6 grant money? I mean, don't you think that's
7 kind of embarrassing that we have to fund
8 our city on grant money? What happens when
9 that grant money runs out because that does
10 happen and then what do we do? I mean, when
11 you look around we really are a laughing
12 stock and it truly is embarrassing and
13 frustrating to come forward year after year
14 and deal with these positions because we
15 just continue to kick the same can down the
16 road. You know, we listen to people on this
17 council, we have council members talk about
18 how their opinion can be wrong but never be
19 false. We have Mr. McGoff who thinks his
20 expertise is more relevant than a judge. To
21 think that we even had the audacity to go
22 back and appeal the commuter tax is just
23 absolutely absurd. There is no common sense
24 behind it because you knew one thing you
25 were putting a punishment on people that

1 weren't responsible for our mismanagement,
2 but why did we negligent a commuter tax
3 again because you knew that you would have
4 to put it on the residents of this city and
5 you knew darn well you weren't going to do
6 that, but you don't have a problem putting a
7 19 percent tax increase on them.

8 Why don't you for one day, maybe
9 this weekend, gentlemen, you should go
10 through the city, okay, and knock on doors
11 and talk to the seniors who struggle on a
12 daily basis. Go talk to the single mothers,
13 the fathers, all of the people out there
14 working two or three jobs just to make ends
15 meet and look them in the face and justify a
16 19 percent tax increase, and you all think
17 it's a joke with your smirk but you buried
18 them last year with a 57 percent tax
19 increase and now you are going to bury them
20 again with more taxes because you people are
21 incompetent. There is not one independent
22 person seated on this council other than who
23 showed at times Mr. Gaughan who has been
24 willing to stand forward and challenge
25 various things that have gone on in this

1 chamber.

2 But other than that we have a
3 council majority that is just going to
4 continue to carry the water for this
5 administration and that's not going to
6 change because you haven't shown one sign of
7 independence and it's really frustrating.
8 It really, really is sad. It's a sad state
9 of affairs. Forget this budget, forget the
10 nonsense because if you not willing to make
11 drastic changes and drastic cuts then the
12 only thing you can should be doing is going
13 down to Lackawanna County Court with a
14 bankruptcy petition and get it over with
15 because you have had a chance to make real
16 significant changes here and you have failed
17 to do it.

18 Putting it on the same people and
19 going to the same people year after year
20 with your little handout bag and asking them
21 to give something they don't have is a waste
22 of time and you should have figured that out
23 by now, at least some of you, because for
24 some of you this isn't your first stint here
25 and for those that are here, the newcomers,

1 you live here and you understand stand the
2 challenges this city faces and it's unfair
3 to punish those who had nothing to do with
4 the incompetence.

5 Unfortunately, there are voters out
6 there that made decisions based on things
7 that weren't really relative to facts. We
8 let politics and political affiliations and
9 yard signs a whole lot of other silliness
10 influence elections. Reality doesn't take
11 place in the city government. We have
12 mental midgets on the Scranton Times
13 comments who want to tell us how to do
14 things and they have all the answers, let
15 them come down here and make their comments.

16 You know, I listen to a lot of the
17 speakers that come forward every week and I
18 have a lot of respect for a lot of them
19 because they will dedicated people who come
20 down here every week, a lot of them unfairly
21 get picked on by a lot of these geniuses out
22 there that have all of the answers, well,
23 come on down. Come on down to council. I
24 have been coming here for 12 years.
25 Mr. Morgan has been coming down here for 20

1 plus. Mr. Sbaraglia, Mr. Bolus has been
2 going down. You know, when we had a chance
3 to put somebody independent in that seat,
4 and this isn't anything personal, Mr. Evans,
5 but of all of the candidates that came
6 forward in this latest vacancy appointment
7 there was only one candidate that stood out
8 that was independent and who has been coming
9 to this podium for decades who is probably
10 more in tune with the way the government
11 functions than most of the people seated up
12 of this council to be quite honest and
13 that's Mr. Morgan. And when you had a
14 chance to put somebody independent up there
15 you chose to be political as usual, and
16 that's when we have to ask ourselves are we
17 basing our decisions on fact and what's
18 right to bring independence in this city or
19 we going to yet again do the political thing
20 and I think we know the answer to that
21 question.

22 I think the best thing to do in the
23 next election is maybe as Mr. Morgan did for
24 Mr. Sbaraglia when he went and got him
25 signatures to put his name on the --

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

2 MR. MILLER: Maybe I'll got next
3 time and I'll get signatures and we'll put
4 Mr. Morgan's name on the ballot and bring
5 independence to this city because --

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

7 MR. MILLER: -- that's the only way
8 we are going to turn this city around. You
9 are welcome, Mr. McGoff, and I would really
10 appreciate when I come forward that I don't
11 need council members laughing and
12 snickering, let's be professional here. We
13 have serious issues --

14 MR. MCGOFF: We are.

15 MR. MILLER: -- and I don't think
16 they are laughable.

17 MR. MCGOFF: We are. Well, you are
18 the one that abuses the time.

19 MR. MILLER: No, I'm here to come
20 forward, it's my right of speech.

21 MR. MCGOFF: You are abusing it even
22 more.

23 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

25 MR. ELLMAN: I am merry to see you

1 gentlemen I guess. I use gentlemen as a
2 courtesy. Please forgive me tonight, my
3 back is killing me because of this weather I
4 think. I mean, it really -- I'm also
5 stopped up, my back hurts and I know it's
6 not old age so I can blame it on the
7 weather.

8 You know, I find our absentee mayor
9 and four of council, because I think
10 Mr. Gaughan is more in touch with his
11 constituents truly just a disappointment to
12 say the least. There is just nothing
13 positive coming out of these meetings for
14 me. It's the same old fall back of the
15 taxpayers because they are defenseless.
16 Like I keep telling you, you just are in a
17 different circle than most of the people
18 like a third of the city is and today's
19 paper it just killed some people. It's just
20 terrible news for a lot of people. You
21 know, as far as I'm concerned we elected you
22 five people and the mayor, but we got
23 Mr. Amoroso running the city and telling us
24 what to do. He is dictating everything.
25 His name is in the paper more than anybody

1 else's. I didn't vote for him. I don't
2 know anyone that voted for him. To me he is
3 just a waste of time and money and I don't
4 know who is paying it but to -- I hope it's
5 not any of our tax money for him because he
6 hasn't brought one minute positive thing to
7 this city, not one. If he has, I'd like to
8 know what it is.

9 You know, the last meeting I
10 mentioned King's College is paying the city
11 of Wilkes Barre taxes for ten years. Why
12 couldn't Amoroso try to do something with
13 these vermin that run these colleges that
14 have been stealing our property blind. Four
15 million dollars at Lackawanna, he hasn't
16 done nothing about that. The tax raises are
17 going to come near between now and the end
18 of the year, what else is going to be stolen
19 from the taxpayers?

20 I asked Mr. Hinton, and I told you
21 at the last meeting a simple question, I
22 asked what the tax -- what the building
23 permit cost for the new University building,
24 he refused to divulge any information to me.
25 You know, I don't have a computer and I

1 don't know how to get all of that stuff, but
2 like I said, I used to phone Mr. Seitzinger
3 and he would tell me everything. What is so
4 secretive that they won't divulge this
5 information to me?

6 I don't know the legalities, but why
7 couldn't someone talk to Mr. Blake and the
8 commissioners about giving us a relief on
9 the county taxes even temporarily? We are
10 not going to get -- we are just not going no
11 where except raises taxes. It's costing
12 people's homes, it's costing all of this
13 abandonment. The neighborhoods are in
14 decline. I keep complaining about the
15 neighborhood, there was couches on the
16 street for a couple of weeks and finally one
17 of them got picked up. There is cars on all
18 of the sidewalks because there is no curbs
19 because HUD gives the money to developers
20 instead of the city, it just keeps going on
21 and on and on and like that.

22 Then when you pay for three or four
23 inches of payment you get like one. As soon
24 as Main Avenue was paved it was falling
25 apart. They put in those cuts, in less than

1 a year the cuts were just deplorable. They
2 froze and everything else because they had
3 too much chalk in it see they dry fast.

4 I don't see why somebody can't talk
5 to the school board and see about a
6 surcharge on the people that got children in
7 school instead of raising our taxes over and
8 over and over again. You know, there are
9 people that haven't had children in school
10 10, 20, 50 years. I have talked to people
11 that 50 years they haven't had a kid in
12 school and they have to pay taxes.

13 What good are you guys doing? You
14 are not helping us? You are not doing
15 nothing for the city for people like me and
16 a lot of others out there. You know, it's
17 just going downhill, and let me say one
18 thing else before I go, I am just like
19 everybody else out here I can't stand having
20 to pay the police and the firemen these
21 millions of dollars, but we are blessed with
22 a hell of a good police department and fire
23 department. I was watching them on TV today
24 fighting a fire and as much as I hate to say
25 it I think they are worth every penny that

1 we have to give them, I really do, and I
2 don't have no tickets or nothing I want
3 taken care of I really mean that. I thank
4 you for letting me come up here again.
5 Sometimes I want to quit coming, but who
6 would keep you on your toes, you know?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Especially you. Did I
9 give you a headache again?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Not yet.

11 MR. ELLMAN: I've got some aspirin
12 in the car. Thank you for allowing me to
13 talk, Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, my pleasure.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
17 to address council?

18 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
19 Lee Morgan. You know, listening to
20 Mr. Ellman and some of the other speakers,
21 you know, I don't know how many people read
22 history or have really any grasp or
23 understanding of it, but even Rome fell
24 under the weight of its own corruption and,
25 you know, we can sit here and we can laugh

1 and we can pretend that things don't matter
2 and that we can keep making laws and keep
3 pushing people to the limit, but I don't
4 think we should ever forget how this country
5 was born and we ran the British out of this
6 country and now we have the state police
7 charging Mr. Frein with, I don't know,
8 trying to start a revolution, but you know
9 something, I hear a lot of people in general
10 saying how disgusted they are with their
11 country and their government and then I see
12 the people the city has elected to lead us
13 and some of them smirk and smile as if the
14 administration of the government is a joke,
15 and it most certainly is not.

16 And, you know, we look to our
17 elected leaders to find solutions to
18 problems, but not to create them and that's
19 what's occurred here and in many places
20 across our country. It's just a terrible
21 place we have come to. It really is. And,
22 you know, we have blamed so many people for
23 our problems, especially in Scranton. You
24 know, we have blamed Sister Adrian Barrett
25 for bringing the poor people here. You

1 know, we have blamed landlords for the
2 decline in the city, but we have never
3 really had a council or a mayor willing to
4 admit that they've misadministrated. The
5 city, that they have caused all of these
6 problems.

7 We don't have a city government
8 willing to push this government into
9 bankruptcy. We are to going to keep going
10 to the poor and pretending that the poor can
11 keep giving when they can't. I don't know,
12 I think it's beyond the point of being able
13 to give anymore, we have got the mall almost
14 collapsed. You know what I'd like to see
15 happen? I'd like to see city council, to do
16 a petition to the county commissioners, all
17 right, asking them not to allow Colt's to
18 cut its route or to eliminate Saturday
19 service. I'd like to see a proactive
20 council who understands that things have to
21 change and sometimes in government one
22 branch of the government has to stand up
23 against another instead of saying we are not
24 going to cross into their circle, because I
25 really believe the government believe, the

1 school district believes that at some time
2 you're their server and then, well, the
3 council isn't going to say against the
4 school board and the school board isn't
5 going to say anything against the council
6 and the county commissioners aren't going to
7 say anything about either party either so
8 where are we at here?

9 We just keeping going, it's like
10 having a magic flute, we just keep following
11 that flute right down the road right off a
12 clip. And, you know, the pathetic thing is
13 the residents in this city allow this to
14 happen. They have been staunch Democrats.
15 They have done such a great job of really
16 making sure that competent people were
17 elected, and I'm not saying the people here
18 aren't competent, but you know what, the
19 council can override the mayor's budget,
20 they can do that. That's why, Mr. Wechsler,
21 when you were Finance Chair I thought it was
22 important for you to share your
23 responsibilities with the other four
24 remaining council members because to be
25 honest with you I knew this day was going to

1 come and I knew no change was going to come.

2 I am thankful for one thing, and
3 I'll be very honest, I think SAPA is the way
4 back for this city, but you have to ask
5 yourself one question do the people we've
6 elected know how to make SAPA work for the
7 residents of this city? That's the real
8 question. Because you know something, you
9 can take a pot of gold and hand it to
10 somebody but it doesn't necessarily mean
11 they know what to do with it. We have got
12 real problems that need real solutions.
13 Pretty suits aren't going to help us, double
14 speak isn't going to help, ignoring problems
15 isn't going to help us.

16 You know, and the sad part is that
17 every time our rights are extinguished by a
18 government body it goes to the high courts,
19 Supreme Court, any Court, and they find out
20 that yes/no your rights were suppressed.
21 Why should you have to wait to go to a Court
22 for them to tell you your rights were
23 suppressed? And it's happened over and over
24 and over again, and my question is are we
25 really a free people lead by a government by

1 the people and for them? Are you for us the
2 people or are you our enemy? Are you a
3 thief that comes into our house and steals
4 off of us, and when we call the police they
5 ignore the call. We have to ask ourselves
6 has any of the taxation and any of the
7 legislation that this council in general
8 government has handed us lately done
9 anything? Don't forget, America when I was
10 a child had a lot of jobs, politicians moved
11 them out of the country? We have created
12 our own problems politically and now the
13 political class doesn't want to answer.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
16 to address council?

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, David
18 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, taxes paid,
19 fees paid, and now I noticed on our budget
20 schedule we have an EMT tax going up once
21 again and hopefully that will be progressive
22 because if you are making \$15,000 a year
23 it's 1 percent of your paycheck. 1 percent.
24 So if you are making minimum wage you are at
25 what, 4.4 percent for city taxes? And I'd

1 like to thank our state officials, once
2 again, they put the Court question into
3 play. Do we ever, ever, ever have the right
4 to assume that money is going to be
5 collectible? It's ashame and it really is
6 not you guys, it's them. Not you people,
7 they put a question in there on everything.

8 And I'd like to point out once again
9 being redundant sue to replace tax exempt
10 monies to nullify the PA constitution on tax
11 exempts. If we have to go to Federal Court
12 there is 25 to 30 small cities in our same
13 predicament and it just seems that the
14 counties love to locate tax exempts in the
15 cities and then when the trouble starts,
16 well, every year it's 20, 30 percent more in
17 taxes leveled on your property. That's
18 where a landlord has good use and you just
19 get out other than being stuck with it. I
20 can't even withhold my taxes if I disagreed
21 with that because I wouldn't be paying on my
22 mortgage, of course, so even if I wanted to
23 play John the rebel I couldn't.

24 And I'd also like to point out
25 earlier this week the county has given

1 another tax loan forgiveness to the Chamber
2 of Commerce once again to move businesses
3 out of the Scranton. We have had two major
4 businesses and these businesses that are
5 being located in Olyphant and Moosic require
6 cars to get to, I'd like to point out that a
7 recent ad in the paper a Honda Accord 60,000
8 miles \$16,000. How in the heck do you pay
9 for that? That's a whole year's wages for
10 somebody making minimum wage and more
11 because they are going to have social
12 security taxes and everything else deducted.

13 And we really, really need in this
14 next year, I want to see it, we have to
15 start collecting delinquent fees on trash
16 and other city fees. It's wrong, you don't
17 have to go in, you could put a lien against
18 somebody's property, you don't have to go in
19 and collect the money if they don't have it,
20 but when somebody owns multiple properties
21 and they are not paying these fees it's a
22 considerable burden on people. I don't know
23 how somebody could have the nerve to sign up
24 for a post on city council and owe a couple
25 of thousand dollars in back trash fees.

1 Shame on them. I be ashamed to do that if I
2 was them.

3 And I see the Mall at Steamtown on
4 5-K, well, Mr. Boscov just donated 150 to a
5 failed gubernatorial campaign. Fortunately
6 the money didn't do any good, but that's
7 about 8 percent of that loan which is
8 probably a subordinate loan and we are stuck
9 holding the bag once again, so do what you
10 have to do to keep the mall open, but it's
11 time that we start to tighten the vice.

12 And on a final comment, the golden
13 parrot goes to all of those people that
14 didn't get off their ditty box last Tuesday
15 and vote, and especially in any form or
16 manor, I don't know how they expect
17 democracy to survive like that, but that's
18 the way it is. Don't bother approaching me
19 at the shopping center if you didn't vote
20 and talk about all of the troubles in the
21 worlds. Thank you and have a good night.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
23 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.
24 In January I addressed you and said I expect
25 nothing out of you but higher taxes and you

1 come through. You want to give us higher
2 taxes, but what else did you do? Give the
3 bank a Christmas present. You gave the
4 University on their parking a pass. You
5 gave the amusement tax cut down and these
6 are the things you did. You did nothing to
7 relieve the problems of the city. There is
8 no relief from the problems of the city.

9 Now, I read in the paper that you
10 were thinking of some way after pushing
11 everybody's tax up knowing that they can't
12 pay to take their homes quicker under a
13 different plan, is this your reason for
14 raising taxes so high that there are people
15 can't afford to pay the taxes on them so you
16 can really get in there real fast? And you
17 mentioned that and that's not right. That's
18 not right. People should have as much time
19 as the law allows to pay off their taxes
20 before you step in. You don't have to
21 accelerate it. We are already in trouble as
22 we are.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: What are you speaking
24 about, Land Bank?

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's right. In

1 the paper you didn't give the full details
2 of it, unfortunately, but you did mention
3 it, you want to accelerate it?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Right.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: The way you get
6 loans.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I understand, could I
8 interject for a second?

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Go ahead.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: I think you are under
11 the assumption that people would get kicked
12 out of their homes and not be allowed to pay
13 their taxes that's not it all. It's vacant
14 and abandoned property. It would speed up
15 the process so that the city could go in and
16 not have to deal with clearing the title and
17 going through a sheriff's sale, it makes
18 that process a lot easier. No one gets
19 booted out of their home. That's the
20 farthest thing from the truth.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: You know what, you
22 have good intentions but for some reason it
23 doesn't work quiet that way now.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Just --

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: When people can't

1 pay their taxes they are going to be
2 assessed and being forced out. Don't say it
3 doesn't happen.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree with you, but
5 the thing that I spoke about two weeks ago
6 has worked across the country and myself and
7 Mr. Evans are exploring the possibility of
8 it so it's not a done deal.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I hope not. I
10 don't have any intentions of buying some of
11 these properties up either because that's
12 the problem, too, not that you get into the
13 real estate business.

14 MS. EVANS: It's a public entity
15 that would be buying the property. Again,
16 these are abandoned, delinquent properties
17 that have been abandoned for years. The
18 last thing anybody wants to see is anybody
19 taken from their house for their taxes or
20 foreclosure or any reason.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: And if this did go
22 through you would have a public meeting just
23 as we are sitting up here that would be open
24 to the public, there would be minutes and
25 all of that so this is --

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't know, it
2 sounds a little dangerous to try to
3 accelerate anything with the people property
4 because I saw ladies come here before and
5 said they had paid their taxes, but in the
6 mean time they had the property sold because
7 it didn't clear through. I watched a lot of
8 that stuff. I have been coming here a
9 probably almost as old as you are.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Right. I understand
11 your concern and if we do, you know, move
12 forward with this I would be more than
13 willing to sit down with you and go through
14 the whole process if it gets to that point.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Definitely. When
16 that comes out before you I will read this
17 in detail and look at all aspects of it
18 because you have to.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Right.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Now, you are
21 thinking of bringing up SAPA again, which I
22 consider sap. The Abingtons are making a
23 sap out of us and that's what it is. They
24 want their air up their clean and they want
25 to dump everything down into us. That's the

1 whole thing of SAPA. It's not appropriate
2 that we should be even thinking about. We
3 should think about somehow combining with
4 Dickson City, Taylor, Minooka and things
5 like that. Them are the people that we have
6 to really associate. Like I told before, I
7 could step one foot in Scranton and one foot
8 in them locales with no problem. How far
9 would I have to stretch my feet to get up to
10 the Abingtons? This is the things you got
11 to look at. We have to work with the people
12 in the valley and you made no effort at all
13 to get out there to do that for the valley.
14 That's where our heart is, that's where our
15 people are, that's where the people you have
16 to work with. The people of the Abingtons
17 didn't want to associate with us, that's why
18 they are up there. They didn't want to have
19 us. In fact, that's the whole idea they
20 want to have clear up air up there. They
21 don't care what happens to us down here and
22 we have enough problems. Well, I'm not
23 going to get into. Thank you.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie
25 Schumacher.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: First, because it's
3 relative to the budget I'd like to ask our
4 Finance Chair are the line items pure? We
5 have a lot of or several accounts, for
6 instance, in 2013 the landfill fees were not
7 paid with the understanding they would be
8 paid over the next three years, so is the
9 money that's in the landfill now how much of
10 that is the one-third of the three-year
11 payment?

12 MR. EVANS: I'll find out for you.
13 We've had some discussions but I haven't had
14 a chance to go through the budget, yes.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: The same with real
16 estate, we have got -- we had several
17 unfunded debts, like about \$15 million worth
18 that we are directed by the Courts to spread
19 over ten years and come out of the property
20 taxes, is the property tax item all of the
21 property taxes or is that less the money
22 that was put into other account and what is
23 that account?

24 MR. EVANS: I'll find out.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: And two weeks ago,

1 as long as we are on this, you promised you
2 would get me the -- you would provide next
3 week and you didn't meet last week the
4 number of the percent of the people who did
5 not pay their trash fee?

6 MR. EVANS: I know that -- you want
7 to answer that?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Those numbers aren't
9 finalized yet because they are still
10 determine the vacant property, people are
11 appealing their bills saying that they
12 didn't rent them, so those numbers aren't
13 finalized yet.

14 MR. EVANS: And I just talked to
15 Treasurer Wayne Beck and he stated the same
16 thing, the problem is that now people are
17 coming in appealing the fact that their
18 properties were vacant and they were sent a
19 bill.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: But of the bills
21 that were sent out what percentage have
22 paid? My calculation was roughly the same
23 as other years, 75 percent.

24 MS. EVANS: Yeah, we'll find out for
25 you.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: And so 25 percent
2 aren't paid.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Again, that's
4 something we have refine -- -

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: My time.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Well, you asked me
7 the question.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: You can do it in
9 Fifth Order if you have more comments.
10 Mr. Gaughan, you said that the DPW will be
11 picking up bags of leaves, what happened to
12 our having vacuum truck? I mean, I know a
13 lot of people who have put their leaves out
14 into the -- practically in the street in
15 some instances, are they not using the
16 vacuum truck this year?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm not exactly 100
18 percent sure but I will definitely find out
19 about that.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, that would be
21 of interest --

22 MR. GAUGHAN: The notice said they
23 were picking up -- it said bags but I'll
24 double check.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: The snow removal

1 policy, is there a further breakdown, like,
2 sections of the city or is just on your
3 trash day?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Are you referring to
5 what they put on the city website?

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, I'm referring
7 to the leaf pick up, is that going to be on
8 the day -- you said there is not going to a
9 trash collection?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: There will be no paper
11 pick up next week.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Paper pick up.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: So in lieu of that
14 they are picking up the leaves.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: So whatever day
16 your --

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Paper is; right.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Is the day they
19 would be there, okay. Thank you.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: You're welcome.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then are we
22 going to have a new snow removal policy?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, there is -- I
24 was working on one and have given ideas to
25 the mayor and DPW Director Gallagher. They

1 did put something on the website, although
2 it's not exactly what I had envisioned, but,
3 you know, I plan on meeting with them again
4 and trying to refine what they had put on
5 the website because it's in my opinion
6 should be a little bit more information and
7 should be done differently.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, it
9 would be nice to clue the public in on
10 what's going on.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Right, and I
12 definitely will.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: And, Mr. Rogan,
14 awhile back you were going to go and find
15 out what happened to that Kabbalah building
16 that we put an at least over a million
17 dollar slate roof on and nothing has
18 happened to it that was promised, what did
19 you find out about that?

20 MR. ROGAN: I did actually have some
21 documents on the grants on that. I don't
22 have them with me, but I will try to bring
23 them.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: You can tell me the
25 gist of it, I don't need to see the

1 documents.

2 MR. ROGAN: I don't remember offhand
3 and -- excuse me, I will bring them for next
4 week though.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and then I
6 would like to talk also on the Keystone
7 Landfill. Is the city going to get involved
8 in our behalf? Next week I will bring you
9 the pictures of what the mountain is that
10 separates us from the trash fill and see how
11 much higher that mountain of garbage is
12 going to be, and the answer I got, I think I
13 told you before when I went to the meeting
14 down at the state building and asked about
15 the owner because we get terrible owners
16 when the wind blows the correct he said,
17 "Well, yeah, you are going to get odors,
18 it's a pile of garbage."

19 And I think, you know, you should be
20 protecting our interests. I think our city
21 engineer should be involved. He did not
22 attend the -- he did not attend that hearing
23 where they were invite -- everybody was
24 invited. I mean, are we going to have any
25 involvement or are we just going to be cut

1 off same as -- and I'll just close with this
2 if I may, too, I called on the -- because I
3 couldn't make any of the direct meetings for
4 the Colt's buses, but I called to see what
5 they were doing with the East Mountain bus
6 and they didn't even have a firm route that
7 they could tell me but the only thing they
8 said was it looks as though they are going
9 to be just going up and down Moosic Street,
10 so there's not even going to be an East
11 Mountain bus anymore, and I know several
12 little old ladies that live there that are
13 well over 90 that are still independent
14 because of those buses for their food and
15 for getting in and out and it's going to be
16 very bad if that happens. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
18 to address council?

19 MS. GALLAGHER: Good evening.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Good evening.

21 MS. GALLAGHER: If I'm repeating
22 anything that someone else said it's because
23 I really didn't hear everything too clearly,
24 so I hope you will be a little bit patient
25 with me. When I looked at the paper this

1 morning my peaceful day was ended.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Would you -- I don't
3 mean to interrupt, would you just give your
4 name?

5 MS. GALLAGHER: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm
6 Rose Mary Gallagher and I'm a taxpayer in
7 Scranton 57 nears. I'm not 57, I'm 84, but
8 anyway. Wayne, you don't have to faint.
9 But anyway, I really am so struck by the
10 lack of equality in this city. I'm sure
11 other cities suffer from the same thing, but
12 through the years I have found out there are
13 two problems really, one is attitude, and
14 the other is the fact that taxpayers are in
15 a position of being an inverted pyramid.
16 There are a few of us and we are supporting
17 everybody else and, you know, that really
18 has to come to an end. It's not going be an
19 abrupt end, but I think we have to work our
20 way to that point. The other day I read in
21 the paper that there are almost 500, Wayne,
22 can check me out on that, properties for
23 sale in this city, and for the size of the
24 city that is an inordinate amount of people
25 who want to sell their properties. But, you

1 know, it's gotten to the point where that's
2 really what they have to do and we are
3 forced into it and we don't like it and I'm
4 asking you to take whatever steps necessary
5 to prevent that from happening.

6 As far as the attitude is concerned
7 once again, oh, well, the property owners
8 can support this. I can remember going to a
9 school board meeting a couple of years ago
10 and the superintendent said, "Oh, well,
11 we'll simply raise taxes."

12 And I said, "Of course, of course
13 that's what you want to do because it's the
14 easiest thing to do."

15 We are like sitting ducks. You
16 know, we can't run, we can't do anything
17 about it except sell our properties which we
18 certainly don't want to do and go ahead and
19 raise taxes, but how many people are going
20 to be able to afford to pay those taxes and
21 why should they? Why should the class of
22 runs the city be a little more equalized.
23 You know for yourself, I don't have to tell
24 you, that the government, the seat of
25 government is here, county, city, federal,

1 judicial and so on. I doubt that they pay
2 taxes. They should be approached if it's
3 legal and ask them to pay something at least
4 just like we do with the University, we ask
5 them to pay something in lieu of taxes, and
6 there are other nonprofits that can pay a
7 little bit and if they can't well then they
8 are free to move out of city, they don't
9 have to stay here. They are performing a
10 wonderful service, let me tell you that, and
11 I'm sure it's easier for people from the
12 outskirts to come into the city than vice
13 versa, but maybe they can make a suggestion
14 about how they can share some of the
15 expenses of the city.

16 I noticed, too, that -- so we have
17 change our attitude. I know Chris Kelly
18 that everybody just loves has said on any
19 number of occasions, "And that's how it is."
20 In other words, we are so accustomed to be
21 taken advantage of that we just say, "Uh,
22 okay," something or other, we are going to
23 have to come forth with this money, but it's
24 getting to the point really I think we have
25 about 20 percent, Wayne can help me out

1 there, too, at least 20 percent of the
2 population is elderly and isn't that, that's
3 pretty close? If not --

4 MS. EVANS: I don't know if it's
5 quite that high. We rank right up there
6 with the highest in the country.

7 MS. GALLAGHER: Yeah. So why do we
8 have to do all of this? We paid our way and
9 of course we still enjoy the services of our
10 emergency people, and I can't say enough
11 about our fire department or our police
12 department, I have had experiences with both
13 of them and they have been very, very
14 positive, so they are worth what they get,
15 but there again I understand that the mayor
16 is very close to the unions, I don't know if
17 that's factual, but anyway, they have been
18 given a tremendous amount of money which
19 they didn't earn they got it because of
20 interest and I think they can be approached
21 and said, you know, we appreciate what you
22 are doing, we really do, but do you have to
23 make 80 or 90 thousand dollars when the
24 average wage here is the city is probably
25 45? I think somehow or other they can be

1 convinced that they are going to be really,
2 oh, what do I say, really involved with the
3 city, which they are. I mean, that's where
4 their living comes from, but they can give
5 some of it back or at least not expect
6 raises in the future. And that's another
7 thing, too, why do we expect to give people
8 raises every year? I mean, you know, it
9 just shouldn't be. They can't take it for
10 granted and I think we can borrow some ideas
11 from the business community.

12 That leads me to talk about the five
13 people who are going to be hired. I don't
14 know how we can do that in clear conscience
15 because I don't know what it is now, but
16 when I was in the field and I was a
17 development officer so I was raising money
18 for everybody, 80 percent of different
19 organizations pay 80 percent of the payroll
20 -- of the budget, I'm sorry, goes into
21 payroll. Whether it's still the same now I
22 don't know, but I don't know if we need
23 that. You know, in the commercial world if
24 somebody is fired or quits or something else
25 instead of hiring somebody to replace them

1 they spread the work to other people and we
2 might want to consider that.

3 So I hope I have offered some ideas,
4 but I do want you to know that I'm very
5 involved with the city, I love the city, I
6 congratulate you for accepting the
7 responsibilities you have because they are
8 very heavy and so I do appreciate all of
9 that. Thank you for this time.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.

11 MR. MCGOFF: It was good to see you
12 back in our chambers. Thank you.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: She didn't hear you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I said it's good to see
15 you back in our chambers.

16 MS. GALLAGHER: Oh, thank you. I
17 have been ill for about three years so I'm
18 sort of out of it, but I'm back into it.

19 MS. BOZAK: Good evening, city
20 council. My name is Elaine Bozak, I'm a
21 Scranton taxpayer. I'm here tonight to
22 discuss the SAPA plan. I'm really concerned
23 about the SAPA plan because I have done a
24 lot of research on planning associations
25 over the past four years which lead me to a

1 topic that is very well-known, it's called
2 UN Agenda 21. The United States attended
3 the Earth Summit in Rio de Janiero in 1992.
4 That's where all of these planning sessions
5 came together. They brought these ideas
6 back to the United States and on June 10,
7 1992, curiously Scranton is declared a
8 distressed city. President Clinton one year
9 later signs an executive order for the
10 Presidents Council on Sustainable
11 Development. Sustainable development came
12 out of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janiero.
13 In 2000 Governor Tom Ridge signed the Smart
14 Growth Law which is Act 67 and 68, which you
15 well know is directly tied to the SAPA plan.

16 I'm concerned because what I have
17 researched has brought me to a website
18 entitled "Democrats Against UN Agenda 21."
19 They are traveling across this country, they
20 are based in California, they have been
21 fighting sustainable development and land
22 planning for the past ten years. They have
23 a website, they have speakers that will
24 actually come out and inform the public
25 about their planning commissions and, you

1 know, we have the -- we are under the
2 assumption that we have a choice with SAPA,
3 but do we? It is already a law, it's Smart
4 Growth. Tom Ridge signed it into law in
5 2000 so where is the choice?

6 Now, this has created many problems
7 across this country with properties, cities
8 going bankrupt salivate over these plans
9 because it seems like it's going to be a
10 salvation for them and it actually turns out
11 to be a nightmare. More and more people are
12 losing their properties. It's funny
13 Mr. Sbaraglia mentioned about Falls area,
14 they were the first one, by the way, to get
15 into the SAPA plan. He talked about them
16 wanting to keep their air pure. Well,
17 basically that's the truth because the Earth
18 Summit focuses on environmentalism.
19 Actually, it's radical environmentalism.
20 They want to see all of the suburban areas
21 brought into major urban areas, multiple
22 housing units. Take for example our project
23 on the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue.
24 That's a perfect example. This is one
25 example that you will hear the Democrats

1 against UN Agenda 121 talk about. You have
2 the cityscape, narrower lanes for driving,
3 you have empty store fronts with multiple
4 apartments on top, which usually the store
5 fronts are empty, so I want people to start
6 doing some research before we actually take
7 a vote on that. If you are not aware of the
8 connection I would suggest that maybe take a
9 look at it, and I thank you for your time.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone else
12 who wishes to address council?

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

14 MOTIONS.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
17 Mr. McGoff. I'm not going to get into much
18 specifics on the budget because we just
19 received it yesterday just like everyone
20 else, just a few comments on it. I would
21 like to thank Business Administrator Dave
22 Bulzoni and the administration for giving us
23 a workable document that we can use for
24 analysis and evaluating where we are going
25 to go with this, but I also think it's a

1 useful tool that the average citizen can
2 also work with him.

3 I would also -- my first glance is
4 that the projections and the revenue and
5 expenses seem to be fairly accurate based
6 upon the most current information that we
7 have, and I think that any budget that's
8 what is the basis of a good budget. I
9 anticipate next year's budget, as we talk
10 about all of the time our audit is not
11 complete, I do anticipate next year that the
12 audit will be done on time and a better tool
13 for making our next budget.

14 One thing that did come to mind as I
15 looked at this is the tax increase is
16 significant, I felt that it was something
17 actually that should have been done last
18 year. We are kind of making up for lost
19 time. As we look at this, and the part of
20 that problem has been is in the past budgets
21 were not based on accurate information, and
22 we also went several years without any tax
23 increase, and to me looking back at it that
24 is something that can't happen. There is
25 always increases in expenses, and we also

1 increased our salaries, we increased a lot
2 of things without tax increases and now it's
3 time for that to be paid.

4 I'm also thinking that since the
5 budget is not finalized yet, and know it's
6 not a popular idea, I also think that we
7 should take a look back at the commuter tax.
8 The commuter tax for the reason being is
9 that as we heard tonight senior citizens are
10 going to be adversely effected by this
11 property tax increase. The commuter tax is
12 spread over all of the workers and it's
13 spread over all of the salaries and I think
14 we owe it as an obligation, it is an option
15 provided to us by the state, I think it is
16 something that we should look at again.

17 In regards to the additional
18 employees that are being added to the
19 budget, for the most part those employees
20 are being added to address a lot of the
21 concerns that we hear at council. In order
22 for us to operate efficiently, to enforce
23 our ordinances I do believe that we need
24 some more help and some more professional
25 management to assist us in running the city.

1 And as I said, as we get into looking at the
2 budget more I will have more comments next
3 week.

4 I would also like to touch on the
5 HUD loan. Once again, this is another
6 problem, financial problem in this city that
7 we are obligated to pay, and I would like to
8 thank Senator Casey for his assistance in
9 helping us get that spread out over a longer
10 period of time and I'm sure Mr. Rogan is
11 going to speak about it a little bit more,
12 and also leaves the possibility open that
13 the Mall Associates will eventually help us
14 pay off that debt.

15 In regards to the question about the
16 garbage fee and percentage of the people
17 that are paying it, I have been talking with
18 Wayne Beck and Dave Bulzoni most of the year
19 about getting a more efficient reporting
20 system for collection of the garbage tax,
21 and they have been working on it also very
22 hard. The problem being is that the
23 percentages are hard to calculate because
24 there is only a number of the amount of
25 bills mailed out, and the payments are not

1 kept track of in an efficient manner because
2 you don't know if the whole bill is paid,
3 half the bill was paid or if none of the
4 bill was paid. Then we also have the
5 problem that all of the bills are mailed out
6 to everyone and every year they have to
7 demonstrate, the landlords, they have to
8 demonstrate by use of their electric bills
9 if the property was rented or not, and they
10 have almost until the end of September to
11 get that information in, so once again we
12 are at the end of the year and we don't have
13 an efficient picture of where we were in
14 mailing of the bills and/or efficiency in
15 collecting them, but it is something that I
16 have been working with the administration on
17 and with the agency handling this and I'm
18 hopeful next year we will have a better
19 reporting system. Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I will
22 be fairly brief tonight as well. First
23 regarding the budget, obviously we just
24 received this document very recently so
25 council will be reviewing it before making

1 more in-depth statements, but just a couple
2 of observations after a quick glance at the
3 document. One thing, and this is going to
4 echo what Councilman Wechsler said, one of
5 the things the city cannot afford to repeat
6 is what happened two years ago when the city
7 accounts went dry and we couldn't afford to
8 pay our police officers and firefighters
9 minimum wage, and by looking through I can
10 tell that Business Administrator Bulzoni put
11 a lot of work into it as far as getting the
12 projections to be realistic and that's
13 something that the last item of the years
14 and, remember, I voted against the budget
15 two years ago because of the reason that,
16 you know, the things that were put in the
17 budget were completely off the wall and they
18 never materialized. So it needs to be
19 realistic, that the numbers that are put in
20 this budget will be obtained.

21 I think the issue actually a few
22 years ago was the commuter tax. The
23 commuter tax was put in prior to receiving
24 any approvals and on that issue, I do agree
25 with Councilman Wechsler that that's

1 something that the city should continue to
2 push for because it will reduce the tax
3 burden on the senior citizens and the
4 working people in the City of Scranton.

5 Also, the same goes for the increase
6 in the LST tax. I do support that because
7 instead of putting the burden on property
8 owners this tax will be paid by workers,
9 city residents and non-city residents, which
10 is important to get money from those who do
11 commute to our city, but I'm sure we will
12 have all more to say about the budget in
13 coming weeks.

14 Next, regarding the item on the
15 agenda for the HUD loan with the Steamtown
16 Mall Associates, I did speak to Linda Aebli
17 and OECD Solicitor Gene Hickey today
18 regarding that and to sum it up basically
19 instead of paying the money that's owed to
20 HUD in one lump sum like we had to do
21 earlier in the year and we had to go through
22 and cut programming money for different
23 programs, this will be spread out over a
24 longer period of time so we can still
25 continue to fund any of those programs in

1 the community and some of the more popular
2 ones that we see the results of every day
3 are neighborhood police patrols in our
4 neighborhoods, paving in low to moderate
5 income areas, and the demolition of
6 hazardous structures in low to moderate
7 income areas, so we would hate to see a year
8 without any of those activities, so by
9 spreading it out over a longer period of
10 time it does give us some leeway to continue
11 with many of those programs.

12 Finally regarding SAPA, SAPA will be
13 for, as Mr. McGoff mentioned, for a final
14 vote on next week's meeting. I voted
15 against the SAPA plan about two years ago or
16 three years ago, I will be voting against it
17 again this time. I have not been convinced
18 that this plan is in the best interest of
19 the residents of Scranton. As mentioned by
20 some speakers at the council meeting tonight
21 and in previous meetings, all of the
22 pressure to adopt this legislation has come
23 from outside of the city from groups, as
24 Mr. Sbaraglia mentioned, in the Abingtons.
25 I just don't see how it would be a help to

1 the city. I think we have our own planning
2 and the city should look to the city, look
3 out for the city first. The Abingtons have
4 a lot of say in this SAPA plan. What they
5 want for the region isn't necessarily what
6 the people of Scranton need. I am sure we
7 will be commenting much more on that issue
8 next week when that comes up for a final
9 vote. That is all I have for tonight.
10 Though. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

12 MR. EVANS: Thank you. On the
13 budget, I just received a hard copy this
14 evening and, quite frankly, I don't know
15 much other than what I read in the paper
16 today, but my first comment is early in the
17 stage I signed onto a plan that called for a
18 18 percent tax increase in year one, not a
19 19 percent tax increase, while we are very
20 close it is something that I still want to
21 look at any reduction, no matter how small
22 is extremely important to our property
23 owners.

24 Additionally, I felt a large
25 omission is a lack of one-third reduction in

1 the mercantile tax as called for in the
2 Amoroso plan. The reduction and ultimate
3 elimination of the mercantile tax must
4 happen to foster economic development in
5 this city. We can no longer simply tax our
6 way out of this situation. We must send a
7 message to the business community that we
8 are listening and that we are hoping for
9 business. Of course, this can be remedied
10 by imposing a payroll tax as allowed for in
11 the revised Act 47 legislation recently
12 passed by the state. Its implementation,
13 which would be revenue neutral in year one,
14 would eliminate both the mercantile tax and
15 the business privilege tax with a broader,
16 fairer tax that is proven to increase
17 revenue in other cities that have adopted it
18 without increasing the tax itself. I would
19 be asking the administration to commit to
20 the payroll tax and implementation within
21 the first quarter of 2015.

22 I will continue to beat the drum for
23 following, all of which are a part of the
24 plan: Pension reform. It must happen soon.
25 Inaction on this issue will lead the city

1 into receivership and ultimately into
2 bankruptcy.

3 Reassessment. The state needs to
4 make changes to the laws related to
5 reassessment that were allow for creative
6 approaches like rolling assessments tied to
7 the property value increases once a current
8 reassessment is done. However, the fact of
9 the matter is that Scranton property owners
10 are getting crushed because there has not
11 been a reassessment in over 40 years in
12 Lackawanna County. Our assessments are
13 totally out of line with the real estate
14 values with the rest of the county.
15 Continued inaction by the county should lead
16 to action by the city.

17 On PILOTS and taxes and properties,
18 I believe there are far too many properties
19 that should be taxable that are not. I
20 believe that many of these properties would
21 not past the HUB test that determines the
22 status and should be returned to the tax
23 rolls. I also believe that Lackawanna
24 County should request a parcel by parcel
25 review of every tax exempt property in the

1 county by sending a letter to the property
2 owners asking the owners to substantiate
3 their exempt status for each parcel that
4 they own.

5 These are just the types of
6 initiatives that ave to be taken to bring
7 positive changes on behalf of our property
8 owners. With that said, I am sure my
9 colleagues and I will have some great
10 discussions on the budget in the coming
11 weeks and I would like to compliment the
12 mayor and BA Bulzoni and his staff for
13 presenting what appears to be a very
14 realistic budget with few, if any, pie in
15 the sky numbers, so thank you again for
16 that.

17 I'm going to take a little bit of a
18 detour from the normal comments to discuss
19 the Keystone Landfill expansion. I want to
20 make is it clear that my comments are my
21 personal opinions, and I'm not speaking in
22 any way for my fellow councilmen on this
23 issue. I would also like to say that I have
24 a deep respect for all of the DeNaple's
25 brothers and what the DeNaples' family have

1 done for our community over the years.
2 While I certainly wish this was just a
3 Dunmore issue or just a Throop issue, it is
4 not. It is so much bigger than that.

5 As a fiscal conservative, I could
6 applaud the deal that Dunmore Borough has
7 negotiated. As a councilman and as a
8 Scrantonian, I surely understand the
9 financial stress that is it put on our local
10 governments. However, as a human being, as
11 a father and a grandfather I still have
12 tremendous concerns for what this could mean
13 to all of us over our lifetimes. What will
14 be the long-term health impact? What will
15 be the impact on our environment? What will
16 be the impact on our real estate values?
17 And what will be the impact on the overall
18 economy of all of the northeast over the
19 life of this contract?

20 The concerns expressed by numerous
21 citizens and Dunmore officials seem to have
22 been swept aside in this new agreement. A
23 good deal has compromise beyond enhanced
24 financial benefits to the host community.
25 This deal still calls for a 50-year

1 expansion. It still allows for 7,250 tons
2 of trash to be deposited daily with a large
3 amount still coming from New Jersey and New
4 York and it will be still lead to a 470-foot
5 mountain of trash. A good deal? Sadly we
6 may have to wait 50 years to find out.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I'd like
10 to read a letter that council received from
11 PennDOT regarding Dalton Street in Keyser
12 Avenue. If you remember back to August we
13 had residents from the Keyser Valley in over
14 some problems in this area and businesses
15 that were having problems with traffic on
16 that street. The letter was sent by Tom
17 Picarella, assistant traffic engineer and
18 signals at PennDOT. The letter reads -- it
19 was addressed to our City Clerk, Lori Reed.

20 "Dear Mrs. Reed, this is a follow-up
21 to our September 9, 2014, response letter to
22 your concerns about trucks turning onto
23 Dalton Street from Keyser Avenue in the City
24 of Scranton, Lackawanna County. Our
25 engineering consultant has completed their

1 evaluation of what modifications or
2 improvements could be made to Dalton Street
3 to try to accommodate larger vehicles and
4 what the additional costs would be.

5 Based on the findings, the
6 Department has decided to proceed with
7 modifications to the intersection to
8 accommodate the larger WB62 vehicles. This
9 will require modifying the signal equipment,
10 the curbing, and additional roadway widening
11 which we plan on completing some time this
12 spring.

13 If you should have any questions or
14 additional concerns, please do not hesitate
15 to contact me."

16 Mr. Lewis, who has a business in the
17 Keyser Valley, was concerned so hopefully
18 this takes care of that concern and we thank
19 PennDOT for support and their help.

20 Secondly, I would like to just give
21 an update on the Fall 2014 paving project in
22 the City of Scranton. Right now all work is
23 expected to be completed by Saturday
24 November 22, as detailed by the contract,
25 weather permitting. The only part of the

1 city they have left to pave is the Weston
2 Field area.

3 I received a complaint about a
4 dangerous parking situation in the 1100
5 block of Morrell Street on the intersection
6 of North Washington Avenue and Morrell,
7 which is right my Marywood University. I
8 contacted Chief Graziano who sent a highway
9 corporal to assess the situation. He issued
10 a recommendation to install two "No Parking
11 Here to Corner" signs near the intersection
12 with North Washington Avenue and Morrell
13 Street. A request was sent to DPW to
14 install these signs and I'd like to thank
15 Chief Graziano and our DPW Director for
16 their help on that matter.

17 And the rest of my comments I will
18 reserve until Fifth Order. Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just very
20 briefly, as other council members have
21 mentioned we have not had really adequate to
22 time to review the budget and the proposals,
23 I will say that we have, council and myself
24 in particular, we have been kept informed as
25 to the process and have been involved in

1 process of formulating this budget to some
2 extent. Many of the ideas have been
3 discussed as to how to proceed with the
4 budget, certainly not everything that
5 council has asked for or looked at has been
6 included in the budget, and over the course
7 of the next couple of weeks we will continue
8 to formalize the budget so that there is an
9 adequate and respectable working document
10 moving into 2015.

11 As for the particulars, there are a
12 lot of things that have been proposed as far
13 as the budget is concerned. It seems, and I
14 have said before, that many of these
15 proposals or all of these proposals as
16 effect someone, whether it's a senior
17 citizen, whether it's a commuter or whether
18 it's, you know, a working person, someone is
19 effected by these proposals.

20 We talk about, you know, in the
21 budget proposal the tripling of the LST,
22 well, that's fine, but tripling the LST has
23 a greater effect on someone making less
24 money than it does on somebody making
25 \$100,000. The EIT, or if you want I'll call

1 it a commuter tax, is that more equitable
2 where you taking a percentage? So that, you
3 know, the person making more money is paying
4 more? How do you -- you know, where do you
5 decide? So all of these are things that
6 come into play.

7 Mr. Evans mentioned the payroll tax,
8 the payroll tax has been looked at. One of
9 the things that we thought was that the
10 payroll tax would address nonprofits. We
11 find out that possibly that's not true, that
12 they may be exempt from paying a payroll tax
13 were it initiated, so is it worthwhile to
14 pursue that if it's not targeting people
15 that it should?

16 So, again, we will continue to look
17 at many of these items in the budget and
18 hopefully arrive at something that is
19 manageable for all of the residents of the
20 City of Scranton.

21 Two other things that were been
22 brought up, the SAPA legislation, yes, we
23 will be voting on that. Again, we will have
24 a public hearing on that, a presentation
25 from the people that are part of the SAPA

1 and at that time we will, you know, decide
2 whether council feels and whether the city
3 feels that this is a worthwhile opportunity.

4 As far as the landfill is concerned,
5 the city has been involved and, you know,
6 the discussions that have gone on because it
7 does effect the City of Scranton. I taught
8 history for 35 years and if history teaches
9 us anything about sacrificing our
10 environment for the almighty dollar they
11 don't have it look further than, you know,
12 Lackawanna valley and what the coal industry
13 did to this area. Yes, it produced a lot of
14 money, but it also cost a great deal to the
15 environment and to the health and safety of
16 the residents of Lackawanna valley. Is the
17 landfill -- you know, is there a need to put
18 refuse somewhere? Yes. And again, we come
19 to a balance that at what point do we say no
20 and what point do we say no to the health
21 and safety of the city or the residents of
22 Lackawanna valley is more important than the
23 economic value that this landfill may bring.
24 We are concerned and we will continue to be
25 concerned, and again, be involved in this

1 discussion. And that's all I have. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
5 55, 2013, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
6 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2014" BY TRANSFERRING
7 \$41,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
8 01.401.16090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
9 EXPENDITURES-UNENCUMBERED EXPENSES PRIOR
10 YEAR OBLIGATIONS) TO THE ACCOUNTS LISTED
11 BELOW TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO SUPPLEMENT THE
12 SALT ACCOUNT, MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO THOMSON
13 REUTERS (WEST LAW) AND FUNDING FOR
14 MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES FOR ALL
15 DEPARTMENTS THROUGH THE PERIOD ENDING
16 DECEMBER 31, 2014.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

24 I did have a question about what Thomas
25 Rudders West Law and we contacted the Law

1 Department, I wasn't sure what it was and
2 I'll just explain what it is for a second
3 for anybody else who was confused. The Law
4 Department has a \$5,000 budgeted line item
5 for dues and subscriptions. The subscribe
6 to West Law, which is an online service for
7 legal research to look up cases and they
8 also provide the Law Department with books
9 and booklets with updated federal and state
10 laws. An average monthly charge for this
11 service is \$506, however, many times they
12 exceed that and the \$5,000 total budget has
13 never covered all of their costs for the
14 year, so I just wanted to explain that
15 because the legislation didn't really go
16 into detail. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you very much.
18 All those in favor of introduction signify
19 by saying aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 AN ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE
3 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE
4 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
5 JANUARY, 2015 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
6 2015 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY
7 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2015.

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. WECHSLER: Second.

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
15 I, too, would also like to thank our
16 business administrator and all of the
17 employees in that office and the mayor and
18 the whole administration for putting
19 together budget. It obviously is not an
20 easy thing to do and it takes a lot of work.

21 Like my colleagues had mentioned
22 earlier, we had just received this document
23 and I have had a chance to go through it
24 somewhat, but not to the full extent to
25 comment on it as much as I would like at

1 this point. However, after looking through
2 it the one thing that I do find extremely
3 alarming and disappointing is that there are
4 no union concessions and no savings from the
5 police and the fire unions. I was hoping
6 that the savings from these concessions that
7 are included in Mr. Amoroso's plan that the
8 mayor had adopted would be reflected in this
9 year's budget. Mr. Amoroso made it clear,
10 and Mr. Courtright concurred, that there was
11 a major urgency to get this done, and it's
12 been a year now and we know this is an
13 issue, and as the Gallaghers said --
14 Mrs. Gallagher had mentioned there's a 21
15 percent -- or 19 percent property tax
16 increase and it's going to hurt the elderly
17 people, all of the people in this city. We
18 knew it was coming, it's not a surprise, and
19 when I look at this budget I see that
20 positions are being added, salaries in some
21 instances are being raised, some of them are
22 covered by grants and we'll look at that
23 further, but I don't see concessions from
24 the unions and I feel that going forward
25 that's important. The time is now for that

1 and I think we dropped the ball on that.

2 I was hoping, as I said, it would be
3 reflected in this year's budget. I know
4 they are discussions, you know, I'm not sure
5 how long those are going to take, but this
6 is the critical point in the city's history
7 with the way our finances are and I think
8 that we should look for as much savings as
9 we possibly can. And I will make further
10 comments after I have a better chance to
11 look at the document next week. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: One final thing, the
13 budget is on for introduction tonight. It's
14 I don't want to say a formality, but in
15 order for us to make any changes it is
16 council's responsibility to introduce the
17 budget and then we can work within the
18 framework of what has been presented to us
19 to arrive at a final document.

20 All those in favor of introduction
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
5 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229614 ENTITLED
6 "PAFRS" PA FIRE RECOVERY SERVICE FOR THE
7 ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO SCRANTON FIRE
8 DEPARTMENT AND PAYMENTS FROM PAFRS
9 (INSURANCE) IN ORDER TO MAKE NECESSARY
10 EXPENDITURES FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT
11 AND APPARATUS AND MAINTENANCE OF BOTH.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF
3 THE EXISTING "NO PARKING" SIGNS LOCATED AT
4 THE INTERSECTION OF HARRISON AVENUE (SR
5 0611) AND EAST GIBSON STREET, WE MAINTAIN
6 THE "ALL WAY" STOP SIGNS AND INSTALL NEW
7 R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGNS.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. WECHSLER: 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. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
24 NO. 11, 2014, AS AMENDED AN ORDINANCE
25 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 74, 1993, AS

1 AMENDED, ENTITLED "CITY OF SCRANTON ZONING
2 ORDINANCE OF 1993", BY CHANGING THE ZONING
3 MAP DESIGNATION OF THE JOHN J. AUDUBON
4 SCHOOL FROM R-1A (MEDIUM LOW DENSITY
5 RESIDENTIAL) TO INS-G (GENERAL
6 INSTITUTIONAL) IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AREA
7 IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON AS SAID ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED AFTER
9 AN INSUFFICIENT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HAD
10 BEEN POSTED.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

16 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I'd
17 just like to explain as the title says, we
18 are repealing this ordinance simply because
19 there was a procedural error when it was
20 done previously and at the request of people
21 involved we are repealing this ordinance and
22 starting the process anew. As you will see
23 in the next item that it is really -- we are
24 redoing the same legislation now with the
25 proper posting.

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
11 74, 1993, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "CITY OF
12 SCRANTON ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1993", BY
13 CHANGING THE ZONING MAP DESIGNATION OF THE
14 JOHN J. AUDUBON SCHOOL FROM R-1A (MEDIUM LOW
15 DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) TO INS-G (GENERAL
16 INSTITUTIONAL) IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AREA
17 IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE CITY OF
18 SCRANTON.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
25 those in favor of introduction signify by

1 saying aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to table
9 Item 5-G for the 30-day public comment
10 notice requirement.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
13 those in favor of tabling Item 5-G signify
14 by saying aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MR. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
22 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A DONATION OF ONE
23 THOUSAND NINETY DOLLARS AND 51/100 CENTS
24 (\$1,090.51) PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF
25 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM KILDARE'S

1 SCRANTON, INC.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 5-I. INTRODUCTION - A
17 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A DONATION OF SIX (6)
18 TON OF 2B GREY GRAVEL WORTH ONE HUNDRED
19 FORTY-FOUR (\$144.00) DOLLARS PRESENTED TO
20 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM
21 CONCRETE STEP UNITS, INC.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
3 have no idea what 2B grade gravel is, but
4 certainly would like to thank Concrete Steps
5 for their donation to the city.

6 All those in favor of introduction
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
16 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER
17 INTO AN AMENDED COOPERATION AND LOAN
18 AGREEMENT WITH UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY
19 DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ("UNCDC") AS WELL AS
20 A MORTGAGE, PROMISSORY NOTE, FINANCE
21 AGREEMENT AND ANY AND ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS
22 NECESSARY TO LOAN UNCDC AN ADDITIONAL
23 \$10,000.00 TO FURTHER THE NEW CONSTRUCTION
24 OF A RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT
25 IN THE 500 BLOCK OF CEDAR AVENUE.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. WECHSLER: 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. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER
18 INTO A PROMISSORY NOTE AND TO EXECUTE ANY
19 AND ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO
20 REFINANCE A SECTION 108 LOAN WITH THE UNITED
21 STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
22 DEVELOPMENT ("HUD") IN THE AMOUNT OF
23 \$1,865,000.00 IN ORDER TO REFINANCE A LOAN
24 TO STEAMTOWN MALL PARTNERS, L.P. THAT
25 MATURED IN JULY 2014 AND WHICH WAS

1 GUARANTEED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MS. MCGOFF: Opposed? No. The ayes
15 have it and so moved.

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

17 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
18 56, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE
19 COUNCIL NO. 188, 1994, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
20 "ESTABLISHING THE RATE TO BE CHARGED FOR THE
21 USE OF SWIMMING POOLS, RECREATION CENTERS,
22 BASEBALL FIELDS, AND THE SHOWMOBILE BY
23 PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN FEES" BY
24 INCREASING THE FEE FOR USE OF THE
25 SHOWMOBILE.

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

3 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
4 pass reading by title.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: 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: SEVENTH ORDER. NO
15 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

16 MR. MCGOFF: If there is no further
17 business, I'll entertain a motion to
18 adjourn.

19 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

20 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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER