

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, October 16, 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
- PATRICK SCANLON, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

14 Dispense with the reading of the
15 minutes.

16 MS. REED: 3-A. TAX ASSESSOR'S
17 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATES
18 HELD SEPTEMBER 23 AND 24, 2014.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
22 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD OCTOBER 16,
23 2014.

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

1 MS. REED: 3-C. AUDIT STATUS REPORT
2 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED ON OCTOBER
3 9, 2014.

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

6 Any Clerk's notes?

7 MS. REED: No, Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Any announcements from
9 council?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. The
11 popular event "Bonfire at the Furnaces" will
12 be held this Saturday, October 18, from 6 to
13 8 p.m. at the Scranton Iron Furnaces, 159
14 Cedar Avenue. Tickets are \$15 in advance
15 and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be
16 purchased in advance online at
17 www.Scrantonbonfire.com or at the Anthracite
18 Heritage Museum. The event will include
19 many activities for all ages. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Let the record also
21 show that Attorney Minora was unable to
22 attend tonight, but in his stead Attorney
23 Pat Scanlon is representing Attorney Minora.

24 Also, I should have announced last
25 week that the schedule for the showing of

1 the council meetings on ECTV, since we are
2 not able to do it live, they are being shown
3 at the following times: Friday at 2:30,
4 Saturday at noon, Sundays at 8 p.m. and
5 while we are at Lackawanna College they will
6 be shown on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.,
7 and what we are going to ask and we should
8 have asked if ECTV will scroll this on
9 Thursday evenings at 6:30ish just so people
10 that would turn to see the broadcast would
11 be able to at least see the schedule for the
12 rebroadcast of it.

13 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
14 PARTICIPATION.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Gerard Hetman.

16 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
17 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's
18 Community Relations Department. Good to see
19 you as always. This evening I'd like to go
20 over a few specifics regarding the proposed
21 2015 Lackawanna County general fund budget,
22 which in accordance with the Lackawanna
23 County Home Rule Charter, was presented by
24 the commissioners to the public yesterday
25 Wednesday, October 15.

1 To begin, the 2015 budget which
2 tolls approximately \$104 million includes no
3 tax increase in county real estate taxes for
4 the 2015 fiscal year, so the county millage
5 rate will stay the same at 57.42 mills for
6 2015 and Lackawanna County residents of
7 Scranton and all 40 municipalities in the
8 county will not see an increase in their
9 county property taxes for 2015.

10 To go over some of the other
11 specifics on the sheets in front of you Ms.
12 Reed provided, first, in terms of economic
13 development the 2015 budget will continue to
14 fund some of the commissioners' key economic
15 development incentives including our SBA
16 loan fee waiver program, our construction
17 permit fee waiver program, and our wireless
18 initiative.

19 Second in the area of quality of
20 life, the budget will continue to also fund
21 the community reinvest program, the county
22 park system and all related activities, and
23 also our arts and culture programming and
24 grant opportunities. All those program will
25 be continued to be funded at the same level

1 as they are currently.

2 Third, in terms of future savings.
3 By completing the last three county audits
4 on time and building a fund balance over the
5 past three budget cycles the county
6 continues to move in a favorable direction
7 in the eyes of credit rating agencies. In
8 an important as the county seeks to restore
9 its investment grade credit rating "A" for,
10 of course, general good financial practices
11 as always, and also specifically to
12 eliminate the surveillance fee that is now
13 imposed on county government as a condition
14 of past borrowing. That surveillance fee
15 presently tolls approximately \$1 million and
16 while there are provisions in the 2015
17 budget to pay that this year, eliminate that
18 surveillance fee through the restoration of
19 investment grade credit rating is a key
20 priority of the Lackawanna County
21 commissioners. In addition, the Lackawanna
22 County pension fund continues to be funded
23 at approximately 80 percent, and energy
24 saving upgrades at the Lackawanna County
25 Prison will ensure future savings in future

1 budget cycles in the area of prison
2 operations.

3 And lastly, one of the hallmarks of
4 any county government in Pennsylvania is the
5 area of human services. Lackawanna County
6 was selected by the Pennsylvania Department
7 of Human Services to participate in a pilot
8 block grant program which will allow the
9 county commissioners and the Department of
10 Human Services in Lackawanna County to best
11 direct funding to the areas that it's most
12 utilized, best utilized and most needed by
13 Lackawanna County residents. We hope to
14 see, again, improvements, continuous
15 improvements in the delivery of the funding
16 and the execution of the services in the
17 area of human services.

18 The second sheet in front of you
19 gives you some of the specifics regarding
20 the hard numbers on the financials with this
21 year's budget cycle. I won't go over the
22 sheet, but it gives you a number of facts
23 and figures that go into various aspects of
24 the budget, and what I'd like to note that
25 all of these documents presented tonight,

1 both the ones in front of you as well as the
2 entire 2015 budget are available in PDF
3 format on the Lackawanna County website,
4 just visit LackawannaCounty.org and anyone
5 can download, again, the two sheets you have
6 here that give you this information as well
7 as the entire budget in PDF format.

8 And with that in mind we all invite
9 all county rest departments to attend one of
10 the four required budget hearings that the
11 Lackawanna County Commissioners will host to
12 gather input, thoughts and opinions from
13 county residents on the 2015 budget process.
14 Their dates and times are as follows: The
15 first one, Wednesday October 22, 11 a.m. at
16 the commissioner's conference in the
17 Lackawanna County administration building,
18 200 Adams Avenue, in Scranton. The second
19 is Monday, October 27, 3 p.m. at the
20 Jefferson Township Municipal Building, 487
21 Cortez Road in Jefferson Township. The
22 third is Wednesday, October 29, 6:30 p.m. at
23 the Jermyrn Borough Building, 440 Jefferson
24 Avenue in Jermyrn, and lastly Wednesday,
25 October 29, 8 p.m. at the Dickson City

1 Borough building, 901 Enterprise Street in
2 Dickson City. That is their new location we
3 should note. So again, everyone is welcome
4 to come and give their input on it. If any
5 council members have questions on the budget
6 process I'll be happy to take them, and if
7 it's one that I can't answer we will have
8 our revenue and finance staff get you an
9 appropriate answer as soon as we can. Are
10 there any questions from council this
11 evening?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Just one on this, has
13 ECTV been provided a schedule of the public
14 meetings?

15 MR. HETMAN: I can't say for
16 certain, Mr. McGoff, I do they also film our
17 commissioners' meeting. In the past two
18 years that I have been here they have filmed
19 and televised all of our budget hearings so
20 we will check with them as soon as we can to
21 make sure they have them, but it has been
22 standard practice for us to do that.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

24 MR. HETMAN: Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Ms. Franus.

1 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
2 With that parking meter with that loan to
3 the bank, how much of the parking meter
4 revenue, what percentage, would be paid to
5 towards that load?

6 MR. MCGOFF: There is no loan
7 agreement as of yet.

8 MS. FANUCCI: You have no idea what
9 kind of percentage?

10 MR. MCGOFF: There is no loan
11 agreement yet so we don't know. What we are
12 voting on is to give approval for them to
13 negotiate that loan.

14 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Rogan, you were on
15 council with Jack Loscombe, Mr. McGoff,
16 Janet Evans and Boyd Hughes, solicitor, did
17 you not -- what did you think when Landmark
18 Bank got this loan without council approval?

19 MR. ROGAN: I don't think the loan
20 should have ever been made.

21 MS. FRANUS: So why do you think it
22 should be paid back?

23 MR. ROGAN: Well, this vote
24 specifically I'm going to vote "yes" for
25 because it only gives the authority it look

1 into it. It will come back to council with
2 a final vote and that's something --

3 MS. FRANUS: That's next week, isn't
4 it?

5 MR. ROGAN: No, this would be -- we
6 were talking about this earlier, what this
7 would do would give the authority -- it
8 would give the city the authority to
9 negotiate the loan.

10 MS. FRANUS: So why would you even
11 consider that when you don't believe this
12 loan should be paid back since it never came
13 in front of council? Why wouldn't you say
14 no right off the bat?

15 MR. ROGAN: Well, I think it's
16 something we need to take a look at.

17 MS. FRANUS: Why?

18 MR. ROGAN: Because part of -- one
19 of the problems the city is having is with
20 the banking community.

21 MS. FRANUS: No, no. They will get
22 loans. They don't need this loan to be paid
23 to get other loans. There is enough credit
24 in there to get -- don't use that for an
25 excuse. That's just an excuse.

1 MR. ROGAN: No, and I agree this
2 loan was never backed by the city.

3 MS. FRANUS: But it also -- you are
4 using this, and I have heard Wayne Evans
5 tell me as well, that the reason they are
6 doing this, one of the reasons, is so the
7 bank will have more credibility with the
8 city they'll get loans easier. That's a lot
9 of crap.

10 I was going over some minutes from
11 this time period before and after thorough
12 investigation and research Attorney Hughes,
13 Boyd Hughes, stated clearly and adamantly
14 that Landmark Bank would never win the case
15 in Court and would have to eat the cost
16 because the city never guaranteed the loan.
17 Mr. Bulzoni who recommended the bank and the
18 officers of the Parking Authority
19 circumvented city council and the required
20 legislation.

21 Now, if that doesn't -- that money,
22 that 2.9 million that Landmark Bank gave
23 that loan that the city -- council didn't
24 approve, that money can go to lower our
25 taxes. This is totally unethical, I don't

1 know if it's illegal, but I'll certainly
2 find out. I mean, how a city council member
3 knows that this didn't come before the city
4 council for a vote and you are still going
5 to consider paying them back, when you don't
6 have to pay them one penny, Boyd Hughes is a
7 very intelligent man and everything he said
8 I believe completely, and all of you up
9 there are saying, "That's not true."

10 It certainly is true and for you to
11 pay this loan back when you don't have to
12 and especially when the people were getting
13 taxed right out of their home and you are
14 going to add more taxes because you are
15 paying this loan that could have went to
16 lower their taxes, and not just that, you
17 are going to vote -- you are given the
18 administration raises. I mean, I don't
19 understand it. When General Motors went
20 under the people that worked there took a
21 pay cut to keep them afloat. You just don't
22 see anything. I don't understand you
23 people.

24 All I could say is I'll be back and
25 people will see what you are doing, Pat.

1 Mr. McGoff, well, we expect that from you
2 because we know what you are doing. As far
3 as the other ones, every one should be
4 ashamed of themselves to put more taxes on
5 the people by granting this loan. This is
6 nothing you could say that will justify
7 paying this loan when legally you don't have
8 to pay this loan back and that money, that
9 almost \$3 million, could go to lower our
10 taxes, but you don't care. You just want to
11 take care of your friends at the bank.

12 Mr. Bulzoni is the one that got that
13 deal. I'm very surprised that the Scranton
14 Times doesn't have big editorials on how
15 this loan came about without council
16 approval. Why aren't there editorials in
17 the paper about that? And what ever
18 happened to Dave Bulzoni that he left
19 Landmark Bank? Why aren't their editorials
20 asking those questions? Why did he get let
21 go from Landmark Bank? I'm pretty sure it
22 was because of that loan because they know
23 it wasn't guaranteed by the city, so you are
24 going to vote to possibly pay that back when
25 you don't have to. And that's \$3 million

1 that taxpayers don't have to pay more in
2 taxes, but you don't care. You don't care
3 about the people at all. I just hope come
4 election day every one of you put their
5 names down and never vote for them again
6 because none of you, if any one of you,
7 every one of you that votes for this you
8 should be ashamed of yourself and you do not
9 represent the people. You should hang your
10 head.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
13 Scranton. I'm going to say the same thing I
14 have been saying every week. You still
15 don't have a city audit for 2013 and the
16 deadline of November 15 for the 2015 budget
17 is coming within a month. I don't
18 understand how we could have realistic
19 numbers in a 2015 budget without benefit of
20 an audit.

21 And with regards to that, I have
22 been going on a regular basis trying to
23 catch Mr. Washo at the Scranton Parking
24 Authority, one of the 23 items that are
25 still outstanding to complete the city's

1 2013 audit is they audited financial
2 statements of the Scranton Parking Authority
3 for 2013. Now, I'm not as up to speed as
4 Fay is with regards to this loan, but I will
5 say that before we start looking at
6 approving the issuance of a note for \$4
7 million for the Scranton Parking Authority,
8 even if it's going to be repaid by meter
9 revenue we need those 2013 audited financial
10 statements to see what went on at the
11 Scranton Parking Authority and how they are
12 balancing their books.

13 You know, if I went into a bank for
14 a loan I'm sure that I would have to give a
15 certain amount of financial information to
16 the bank so they would understand my
17 financial status, so why would we want to
18 approve the issuance of a \$4 million note
19 for the Scranton Parking Authority when we
20 don't what their books look like, you know?

21 I mean, I keep trying to catch
22 Mr. Washo, his audited financial statements
23 for last year were due to Rossi & Company on
24 April 15, six months ago. Now, I don't know
25 how he is going to rationalize not having it

1 done, doesn't know how to do it, doesn't
2 have the personnel to do it, if he has an
3 excuse he should have raised a red flag and
4 said, "I needed help," but why would you
5 approve the issuance of a \$4 million note
6 when you don't know the status of their
7 books? That does not make sense and you
8 have a fiduciary responsibility to the
9 taxpayers and that's a legitimate question
10 you should be asking the administration who
11 should be asking Mr. Washo.

12 Second topic, what's going on with
13 Goodwill? Have they done anything in the
14 building?

15 MR. ROGAN: Not in the building. I
16 know they were moving closer to towards
17 finalization of closing on having the
18 building. I should have good news on that
19 outlook in the next week or two.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okey-dokey. Now,
21 watch what you say.

22 MR. ROGAN: I did speak to --

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because I get the
24 feeling that, you know, I'm going to see the
25 second coming of the Christ before I'm going

1 to see this project finished.

2 MR. ROGAN: I did speak to
3 representatives from Goodwill two weeks ago
4 and they were very optimistic.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: I thought that they
6 got the approval that everything was hinging
7 on and it was full speed ahead, right?

8 MR. ROGAN: They received the
9 approval from the HUD vouchers.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Yes, and what are
11 they waiting for now?

12 MR. ROGAN: I believe the closing.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okey-dokey, and who
14 is in charge of that? What's the hold up
15 there?

16 MR. ROGAN: I'm not sure. They
17 didn't get into the details, but they did
18 say we should hear something here shortly.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Let's hope they
20 don't ever come back with hat in hand
21 because I don't think they deserve another
22 penny. In fact, they should repay the city
23 with interest. Thank you.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes

1 to address council?

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
3 Scranton City Council and everybody else.
4 Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton. My question
5 is what's the cost of the four pack masters
6 that the city is going to be purchasing and
7 where is the money coming from? Does
8 anybody have the answer to that?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I don't have last
10 week's backup. I'm not sure what the cost
11 was, it was at a very low interest and I
12 believe the money was coming from -- to pay
13 back the loan that we would take was from
14 excess liquid fuels, what the increase in
15 liquid fuels would be.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. If possible,
17 can someone possibly research that a little
18 bit further and get numbers, specific
19 numbers for the citizens of the city?

20 Also, the parking revenue, do I
21 understand correctly that we still don't
22 have like a game plan for this loan and how
23 we are going to repay it? Did I understand
24 that correctly?

25 MR. MCGOFF: There is no loan. All

1 we are doing is setting the parameters in
2 which the loan can be negotiated.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: I understand that,
4 but sooner or later the loan is going to be
5 negotiated and there is going to be a loan;
6 correct? Is that what this is all about?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, that's the purpose
8 but there is no loan agreement at this time.

9 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yes, on October 16,
10 but what's going on November 16 if we go
11 ahead and get a loan, is there a game plan
12 in effect for how we are going to pay that
13 back? Are we going to use 100 percent of
14 the parking revenues?

15 MR. MCGOFF: That's part of the
16 negotiation of the loan involves.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right now, okay.
18 But the way things go in Scranton --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Jackowitz, I can't
20 tell you what's going to happen November 16.
21 If I could, I'd be a millionaire.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: I understand that,
23 but what I'm saying is normally you have
24 long-term and when you are making a plan you
25 have ideas of how you are going to pay it

1 back. Now, someone has to know how we are
2 going to pay this loan back. I would hope
3 that somebody does.

4 MR. MCGOFF: We are setting the
5 parameters, the meter revenue. What percent
6 of it, we don't know. That is what needs to
7 be negotiated.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: When will the
9 citizens find out?

10 MR. MCGOFF: When the loan is
11 negotiated.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, when it's
13 negotiated and it's approved and all of a
14 sudden the citizens find out that they are
15 deep -- and reaching in their pockets real
16 deep and they don't really have the money to
17 repay it, just like that's why we have been
18 distressed for 22 years.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Jackowitz, we can't
20 give you an answer to something that doesn't
21 exist.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Then why are we
23 voting on it? You know, I mean, seriously.

24 MR. MCGOFF: We are not voting on a
25 loan.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: I understand that.
2 You are voting on the opportunity to have --
3 to propose a loan next month or two months
4 from now. That's basically what you are
5 voting on now, so eventually a loan is going
6 to be made, we all know that. Everyone in
7 the city knows that.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Hopefully. Hopefully,
9 yes.

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: And my question is
11 once that loan is made how are we going to
12 repay it? We are going to repay with
13 parking revenue, okay?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Exactly.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: What the citizens
16 need to know what percentage of the parking
17 revenue is going to be used to repay that
18 loan. I think that's a very legitimate
19 question because there is thousands and
20 thousands of citizens asking that question.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Well, ask it when the
22 actual loan negotiations are complete?

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, then it will
24 be too late.

25 MR. MCGOFF: No, it's not too late.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yes, it is.

2 MR. MCGOFF: That's when we vote on
3 it.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, but we never
5 get answers anyway.

6 MR. MCGOFF: You just don't accept
7 them.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: I spoke with Mayor
9 Courtright, Mayor Courtright told me the
10 reason why he didn't attend that meeting on
11 that Tuesday because he was advised by his
12 attorneys not to attend it so that question
13 was answered and resolved.

14 You know, it was nice to hear that
15 the county is getting itself on back on
16 their feet again. It seems like they are
17 getting their audits done on time, there is
18 no tax increases, they are paying their
19 bills on time, so on and so forth, and it
20 will be really nice when we can get to that
21 point with the City of Scranton because 22
22 years has been a long time, going on 23
23 years, on January 10 it will be 23 years.

24 Also, several citizens have
25 approached me and they wanted me to ask you

1 all a question, but I'm not going to do
2 that, but basically what that question was,
3 and if anybody wants to answer it during
4 motions it would be appreciated, could any
5 of you live on \$12,500 a year and pay your
6 bills and pay your expenses because there is
7 a lot of citizens, retired citizens, senior
8 citizens who are older than I am who are
9 living on \$12,500 a year or less and they
10 have to absorb these tax increases that seem
11 to be every year we get one. So that was
12 the question that I was asked by several
13 senior citizens whether or not city council
14 could live on their \$12,500 a year salary.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
17 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, South
18 Side. Last week I pulled a slight boner, I
19 said no loans and what I really meant was
20 that no unauthorized loans, they all have to
21 come before council and if they do not and
22 someone is bold enough to take that loan
23 then they should have to be dismissed from
24 their duties and sent along because as I
25 remember it, that parking garage on

1 Washington Avenue we fixed the facade, well,
2 everybody should remember what happened last
3 winter, large chunks of concrete potentially
4 falling on cars, so once again we put the
5 cart before the horse. We have a nice
6 facade and no functionality. I feel that
7 the \$4 million has to be repaid strictly
8 because the banks have a lot of the power
9 over us.

10 There is a really interesting
11 commercial on television that a kid says,
12 "Whose that, daddy?"

13 And he says, "Oh, that's our
14 investment broker."

15 And he says, "Oh, why is he not
16 happy, he invests money for us."

17 And he says, "Why isn't he happy,
18 does he have to repay you?"

19 And he says, "No."

20 And the kid says, "Why not?"

21 And then he says, "Well, it doesn't
22 work that way."

23 And he says, "Well, why not?"

24 So the bottom line is we lost \$26
25 million in investments and the banks walked

1 away from that, but don't you dare owe them
2 any money. Don't you dare.

3 And on 7-G I have to question the
4 timing of this. I've said it before, they
5 seem to have a really poor mechanic plan
6 down there, repair facility, things don't
7 get fixed, the local detective was
8 complaining that it took 15 weeks or
9 something like that or 12 weeks and they
10 still hadn't had a motor mount put on his
11 car, which is a state inspection item, by
12 the way, and when I worked in at Lincoln
13 garage that job paid 1.3 hours, so you know,
14 if we are going to hand them bright and
15 shiny new trucks and have them look like
16 they have been through Iraq 15 times maybe
17 we don't need it.

18 I also have to be critical of the
19 Parking Authority. Once again, they are the
20 ones that are mentioned in the audit the
21 most and there is no excuse for these people
22 not having their act together. Even if they
23 have to use a fudge factor or something or
24 say, "Gee, I just don't know what happened
25 to this money," and put the cards on the

1 table. It's time, it's six months, I have
2 to agree with Joan. Six months is too long
3 and it's gone on year after year after year
4 and the authorities are once again nothing
5 more than another taxing body. We have
6 municipal, we have the school district, we
7 have the county, we have the state, we have
8 the federal government, and nobody --
9 everyone just seems to pass the buck back
10 and forth onto the next guy and it's really
11 shameful.

12 I hate to keep harping on Act 76,
13 but I just seen a anti Tom Wolf ad blaming
14 him for the taxes that will increase on Act
15 76 and it's like, you know, just for the
16 insult I don't think I'm going to vote for
17 the other guy over that. It's an insult
18 upon my intelligence to tell me that. Just
19 lay the cards on the table and take
20 responsibility for your actions.

21 And once again on this budget, how
22 do you figure out a budget without knowing
23 what went on last year? It's really the
24 audit has to come in and it has to be on
25 time. It's way past due. Thank you and

1 have a good night.

2 And one final thing, we will never,
3 ever straighten Scranton out is my
4 prediction until we take the state to court
5 and make them replace the money for all of
6 the tax exempts. What they want to do is
7 fine, but don't tell me I have to do it all
8 the time. Thank you and have a good night.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

11 Council Marie Schumacher.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: First, just on
14 principle, not because of the dollar amount,
15 but I believe that 6-A and B need to be
16 modified to establish either a time limit, a
17 deed registration and a tax payment. Last
18 year I reported on a number of properties
19 that I had been tracking and over the period
20 of five years the lost revenue to the city
21 because none of those things had occurred
22 was well over \$40,000. There is no reason
23 for that to happen and it's possible that
24 it's only been added to it, but that should
25 not be open ended. Developers get these and

1 then they let them sit for years and then
2 they go in and file and the city losses the
3 money and they come out like bandits.

4 Now, to the real issue tonight,
5 which is that authority to go ahead with
6 that \$4 million loan. I'd like a show of
7 hands of those of you who went back and read
8 the -- actually read the lawsuit that
9 Landmark filed which is available on the
10 Times website?

11 MR. MCGOFF: I did not.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Anybody?

13 MR. EVANS: No.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would recommend
15 that highly so you really know what has been
16 going on. It is somewhat suspicious that
17 the Courtright administration selected a
18 former employee of the Landmark Bank whose
19 name is on many of the lawsuit exhibits for
20 their business administrator and are now --
21 the administration is now seeking to make
22 that former employer 100 percent well at the
23 expense of the taxpayers of the city.

24 Property owners are being threatened
25 with double digit tax increases for the

1 fourth I believe consecutive year. The
2 taxpayers' pockets do have bottoms, you
3 know. The mayor has gone on record
4 regarding shared sacrifices to save the
5 city. Why then you are hell bent on plans
6 to take more from the taxpayers and seeking
7 give backs from employees while making a 100
8 percent payment of a loan the city doesn't
9 even owe. It's the Parking Authority's
10 debt, let them work it out. Putting a debt
11 we do not owe ahead of all true debt holders
12 is immoral. The lawsuit should proceed to
13 settle this matter and Landmark should be
14 paid from the sale or the lease of the
15 Scranton Parking Authority assets, the
16 parking garages and not from the revenue of
17 the city-owned parking meters. Any shortage
18 in operating revenue where the parking meter
19 belongs would have to be born by the
20 property owners. This transfer of city
21 revenue to an Authority is not proper or
22 moral. This is yet another reason why the
23 city must immediately, as in now, bring in
24 an impartial mediator to sit down with all
25 of the debt holders to negotiate how much

1 they will contribute to reducing the
2 structural deficit if, in fact, the mayor is
3 serious about shared sacrifice.

4 You do realize that if this goes
5 through you are putting this one bank ahead
6 of everybody else, your employees, and your
7 taxpayers. It's just plain not right. And
8 I would like to read an excerpt from the 6th
9 September 2012 Scranton City Council
10 meeting. It is Mr. Hughes, Solicitor Hughes
11 speaking, who I believe is a well respected
12 municipal attorney.

13 "A letter was sent today by Attorney
14 Gownley on behalf of Landmark Bank saying
15 that they have a security interest in the
16 contract and they are going to file a
17 lawsuit. They want a meeting with Attorney
18 Kelly and myself. I reviewed the letter, I
19 think the allegations are groundless on the
20 basis that, first of all, when Landmark Bank
21 lent the Parking Authority money back in
22 September of 2011 council knew nothing about
23 the loan. The only way that we were
24 informed of the loan was by reading it in
25 the newspaper and what was pledged as

1 collateral were the funds of the contract,
2 not the contract itself.

3 I believe for that loan to be made
4 if they had done their due diligence they
5 would have seen in this contract it could be
6 terminated by either party in 30 days. That
7 is long ago as the contract remained in
8 effect the bank did have the security
9 interest in those funds. It does not have
10 security interest in the contract itself,
11 which is what they are trying to imply, that
12 by making that the loan and not coming to
13 council and seeking or even telling council
14 what they were going to do why they were
15 making the loan and seeing an assurance --"
16 may I finish the last paragraph? Thank
17 you -- "for council to amend the contract to
18 state that as long as the loan was
19 outstanding but would not terminate it was
20 never done. This was done behind closed
21 doors. It was a cloak and dagger strictly
22 between back room dealing between Landmark
23 Bank and the Scranton Parking Authority to
24 make that loan and they have no security
25 interest in the contract itself. I

1 summarily dismissed the letter as being
2 unfounded. There is no basis for them to
3 file a lawsuit. Council is fully within its
4 right to terminate the agreement and to me
5 it is certainly folly to continue to let the
6 Parking Authority continue to collect 10
7 percent of all of the revenue from the
8 Scranton parking meters, including any
9 increase revenue that would come about
10 because of the parking meter enhancement
11 program when it was awarded by the city when
12 the city needs this money to pay the
13 obligations of the Scranton Parking
14 Authority."

15 It should go to court. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
18 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
19 you're looking for money for Lackawanna
20 Station restoration, I believe we gave them
21 money before when they were going to make
22 that into a restaurant, how many times do we
23 keep going to the well to keep feeding these
24 projects that never get done?

25 Now, Leonard's, Leonard's was a KOZ

1 we took it on the chin and gave them ten
2 years -- I think about, maybe not the full
3 ten years, but close to the ten years, tax
4 abatement, they didn't have to pay taxes
5 which we paid for them. Now, you are
6 looking for another grant to put back into
7 this project. KOZ's don't work. They just
8 don't work because they wrote the law lousy.
9 There is no question about it.

10 I don't want to get into a big
11 debate on the Parking Authority, but the
12 Parking Authority is a defunct organization.
13 You plan to bring them back to life with a
14 loan. That's your doing. They are dead.
15 The garages are being held by a receivership
16 from the bondholders. They are the only
17 ones that can lease it or sell it. The
18 Parking Authority is negative. We were told
19 this many, many times and you were, too.
20 You all know anybody that came to meetings
21 or sat on that board knew it. They are
22 defunct. Why are we bringing them back to
23 life? There is no reason for that. What
24 they need another lawyer is that what you
25 want to do, hire another lawyer? Give

1 another guy a job or you have money poured
2 into that place so they can use it. Forget
3 it.

4 The city is in trouble like you
5 pointed out. It's as plain as the nose on
6 all of our faces. The city is in trouble.
7 You got to look for how to cut. I remember
8 a few years ago we went to New York and
9 bought pack masters secondhand, I don't know
10 how that worked out, but we did try to
11 alleviate the costs of the pack masters.
12 Those of you -- I don't know if any of you
13 were on council -- well, I don't know if any
14 of you, Mr. McGoff or Mr. Rogan were on
15 council at that time, but that was done.
16 They tried to hold the costs down.
17 Mr. Doherty tried to hold some costs down,
18 but a lot of the other costs he just shook
19 his head and forgot about and they piled in
20 on us.

21 If you remember when the council --
22 your last time you were on council when you
23 took office how many thousands of dollars,
24 no, millions of dollars were we in debt and
25 that in turn caused all of the escalation of

1 the taxes. You are not doing what you were
2 elected to do, there is no question about
3 it. I mean, we paid some of you almost
4 \$100,000 to sit on council. Some of you
5 only \$50,000. That's how much we made you
6 while you were sitting up there and what
7 have we gotten for our money? Nothing. Hot
8 air? It's time for you to really buckle
9 down and do what you were elected to do and
10 forget about all of these other projects, we
11 got to have posterity, there is no question
12 about it.

13 You must have some kind of -- when
14 you coming into your budget it has to be
15 very austere. You got to have it. Other
16 than that, we are going down the tubs. The
17 people are really disgusted. Every time you
18 go somewhere they tell you. They must be
19 telling you, too. Not only me, I don't know
20 why they tell me so much I can't really do
21 much but speak a little, that's about it,
22 but they should be calling you up and really
23 keep on the line with you people, and tell
24 you we can't afford more taxes. If we can
25 buy pack masters from New York that are

1 salvageable and will work for so much years
2 then that's the way to go.

3 Some of the other things, it just --
4 you are just piling on debt and when it
5 comes time for you to go before that judge
6 to ask for the commuter tax he is going to
7 see that you created most of these problems.
8 You piled on the debt to make them look good
9 when you come before that judge for the
10 commuter tax and he is going to see right
11 through it and we are going to be stuck with
12 this debt. I'm not going into get too much
13 more. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

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

16 MOTIONS.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
19 Mr. McGoff. First of all, I'd like to
20 apologize for my absence last week, I did
21 have make a visit to see my daughter in
22 Indiana so I do apologize for missing that,
23 so I didn't get an opportunity to thank
24 Lackawanna College for allowing us to be
25 here while our elevator is being fixed, I do

1 really appreciate that and it is a great
2 setting to hold our meetings.

3 In regards to some of the issues
4 that have been spoken about tonight, our
5 goal as a council when we came in in January
6 was to help restore the financial house of
7 the city. This debt that's overhanging our
8 head is a blemish on our regard with the
9 financial community, and although we may not
10 legally have to repay this loan it is making
11 it difficult for us to go out into the
12 financial markets and these are the type of
13 things that we have been working on getting
14 corrected and we are starting to see some
15 results on that. We are having more
16 acceptance in the financial community and
17 that's what our goal has to be, and I know
18 it's painful and we may not have to pay this
19 money, but I think it's an obligation that
20 as a city we do have to repay and take steps
21 to do that. That's all I have tonight,
22 Mr. McGoff. Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'll be pretty
25 brief tonight, I've had the pleasure all

1 week of serving on jury duty so I've been a
2 little bit behind on some of my city council
3 duties. Just two issues I wanted to
4 address, the first is the Parking Authority
5 debt issue, and as I mentioned earlier I
6 will be voting "yes" on this issue to allow
7 the negotiations and agreement. At that
8 point it's something that council has to
9 take a long hard look at. I agree with what
10 some of the speakers have mentioned that
11 that loan should have never been issued or
12 if the previous mayor wanted that loan it
13 should have come before city council as
14 every other loan in the Parking Authority
15 has taken out has. That is something that
16 is very troublesome for me.

17 At the same time, I could see the
18 other side of the coin. What Mr. Wechsler
19 just mentioned and what others have
20 regarding the banking community and the
21 other negative consequences if the city
22 choses not to pay this loan, but this
23 legislation is not to approve a loan. It is
24 simply to allow negotiations to take place
25 and at that point city council will have

1 another vote once the loan is -- if there is
2 a loan that's agreed upon that would come to
3 city council for another vote and at that
4 point in time we will get to cast an up or
5 down vote.

6 Finally, regarding some paving
7 issues, I know Councilman Gaughan is going
8 to address regarding a larger paving project
9 that the city is looking at for next year,
10 regarding this year's paving through OECD I
11 do know that curb cuts, handicapped curb
12 cuts and milling has we begun so you will be
13 seeing that in a lot of the low to moderate
14 income areas where we are allowed to use the
15 CDBG funding for paving. Again, areas
16 outside of the low to moderate income those
17 federal dollars cannot be used. So that is
18 all I have for tonight. Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Thank you. First of
21 all, to give an update on the cell towers
22 zoning ordinance revisions. Don King, the
23 city planner, has returned from a conference
24 on the subject. Ironically while he was
25 there he met up with the attorney from the

1 Cowen Law Group, who happens to be the
2 attorney representing the city in
3 negotiations with Comcast, and he and his
4 law firm are also experts in municipal law
5 as it relates to cell towers and wireless
6 networks so Don is investigating to see if
7 they can give us some assistance on this
8 issue and if under their existing contract
9 if that's possible so a little bit more on
10 that subject later.

11 On the SPA ordinance, again, the
12 payment of the outstanding loans to Landmark
13 and M & T is part of the larger plan for the
14 Scranton Parking Authority and for the
15 solvency of the City of Scranton, but
16 besides that paying those loans just makes
17 sound financial sense. In the broader
18 picture, municipal government cannot exist
19 or survive without the support of the
20 financial community or our local banks.

21 An example of that was a meeting
22 that I attended on Tuesday morning with
23 Council President McGoff to discuss the 2015
24 tax anticipation note or TAN. Four banks
25 were represented at the table and an

1 additional two or three are expected to
2 participate. Does anyone think for a minute
3 that as many as seven banks would be willing
4 to be participate on the TAN if the city
5 allowed the default on the loans to those
6 two local banks?

7 Also, I fully expect when the terms
8 of that loan are negotiated that this
9 council will be voting on what those final
10 terms would be and its impact on the revenue
11 received through parking meter
12 concessions -- or collections.

13 Next week I'll be reviewing and
14 taking a more comprehensive look again at
15 pension reform. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.

18 Mr. Rogan had just mentioned the 2014 fall
19 paving program and the status of that and
20 this past week I have received a few calls
21 from people and some of these areas where
22 the streets are getting paved and they felt
23 that it would be helpful if I read through
24 the streets that are going to be paved so
25 I'll take a minute to do that.

1 In West Scranton Curtis Lane between
2 Mt. Vernon Avenue to Potomac Street. Sharon
3 Court, the 1400 block. The 1400 and 1500
4 block of Thomas Place. Parkers Court, the
5 1300 and 1400 block. The 13, 14 and 1500
6 block of Minella Court. 900 block of North
7 Garfield Avenue. 800 and 900 block of North
8 Rebecca Avenue, and the 800 block of North
9 Sumner Avenue, and that's in West Scranton.

10 In North Scranton we have Pawnee
11 Avenue between Market and Oak Street.
12 Stuart Court between Saltry Place to Pawnee
13 Avenue and the 1600 block of Church Streets.

14 In the Pinebrook section we have
15 Fordham Court, the 1400 block of Muncy
16 Avenue, the 700 block of Marion Street, the
17 100 block of Larch Street, including the
18 intersection through Capouse Avenue. 900
19 block of Penn Avenue, 1100 and 1200 blocks
20 of Penn Avenue, the 900 and 1000 blocks of
21 Roach Court, that's the Pinebrook section.

22 And finally, the Weston Field
23 section, Bartle Street between Albright and
24 Baring, Cussus Avenue between Lawall and
25 Bartle Street. Lawall Street between

1 Albright and Baring Street. Ward Street
2 between Albright and Baring. Foster Street
3 between Albright and Baring. Baring Avenue
4 between Lawal and Bartle. Grove Street
5 between Albright and Seventh Avenue and
6 Cottage Avenue between Foster past Grove to
7 the end of the levy.

8 So hopefully that helps the
9 residents out in those sections and the
10 paving will be completed hopefully by
11 October 31.

12 And finally, just a quick follow-up
13 from my comments last week concerning the
14 Act 47 reform legislation, the legislation
15 passed both the House yesterday and the
16 Senate this morning and is now on its way to
17 the governor for approval. There were
18 recent amendments to the bill that will
19 effect Scranton's options moving forward,
20 specifically with the 2015 budget.

21 As I mentioned last week, there are
22 equal treatment provisions in the bill.
23 This means that Scranton cannot levy an
24 earned income tax solely on commuters. The
25 EIT tax would have to be levied at least

1 equally on residents. Prior to this
2 legislation, the city would have been able
3 to petition the Court through Act 47 to levy
4 commuter tax on non-residents as we tried to
5 do unsuccessfully in 2012. This bill,
6 however, does not allow that. You must levy
7 it on both residents and non-residents and
8 the same applies for the Act 205 pension
9 tax.

10 If the administration decides to
11 petition the Court for an Act 47 EIT
12 increase on both residents and
13 non-residents, we would not be allowed to
14 increase the LST tax, and that is an
15 amendment that just was put in I believe
16 last night or a few days ago. If the city
17 decides to enact the Act 205 EIT increase on
18 both residents and non-residents in order to
19 help fund the pensions, the city would only
20 be allowed to increase the LST tax to \$104 a
21 year, not 156. The LST increase would be
22 subject to Court approval each year and that
23 was an amendment that was put in recently.

24 If the city decides to forego an
25 increase in the EIT by either Act 47 or Act

1 205 then they may increase the LST tax to
2 \$156 a year, and again, that increase will
3 be subject to Court approval every year.

4 And as I mentioned last week, a part
5 of the bill that affects Scranton is it
6 allows for the business privilege and
7 mercantile tax to be abolished in favor of a
8 payroll preparation tax, so just an update
9 on that. And that is all I have for this
10 week. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: I did misspeak on the
12 payments for the packmaster. Mr. Gaughan
13 had some information that -- let me just go
14 through it so I don't misspeak again. The
15 lease of the pack masters would be at 3
16 percent. The payments would be at \$145,000
17 annually until 2016. The payments, the
18 repayments of the loan would come from the
19 energy management lease and when that --
20 when that matures, which is in 2016, then we
21 will have -- our, excuse me, when that
22 matures then we will have a single payment
23 rather than a double payment, but it was the
24 thought to lease these because of the very
25 low interest rate that was being offered

1 through MAC trucks that it is well within --
2 within our ability to pay and also very much
3 needed for the DPW to actually perform the
4 services that we need. Thank you on that.

5 Where I misspoke, we are also
6 pursuing and received notice that a loan
7 application that we did put in for through
8 the Pennsylvania Transportation
9 Infrastructure Bank or PIB loan, it's being
10 recommended that that loan be granted to the
11 city. That is at, again, a very reasonable
12 rate, ten years at 1.6 percent is the
13 recommendation. The amount of the loan
14 would be two point -- a little over \$2.2
15 million and it would be dedicated to road
16 resurface throughout the city. I believe
17 it's anywhere from 12 to 15 miles of road
18 within the city and it is that loan that
19 would be repaid through the liquid fuels
20 account. I just mixed up the two of them
21 earlier.

22 And then lastly, as far as the
23 Parking Authority debt, I spoke on that
24 before and we have -- it should be noted
25 that that was in court and that it was

1 recommended to both sides that this be
2 settled out-of-court. That recommendation
3 came from the judge. It was thought by the
4 attorneys representing the city that we
5 potentially could have lost that court case,
6 and the potential cost, additional cost,
7 would have increased that dramatically --
8 the amount that we would pay dramatically
9 and it was felt that the best way to pursue
10 this was through negotiations and that's
11 what we are doing. And that's all. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 AN ORDINANCE SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY
15 MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS CORNER OF PARK AND
16 TERRACE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
17 16806-010-031 TO THOMAS J. KANE AND MARY M.
18 KANE, 95 LINWOOD AVENUE, SCRANTON,
19 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE CONSIDERATION
20 OF \$1,000.00.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
2 those in favor 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-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
10 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE
11 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
12 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON
13 BEHALF OF AKSHAR LACKAWANNA STATION
14 HOSPITALITY TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
15 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH
16 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE
17 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE
18 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF
19 \$2,500,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS
20 "LACKAWANNA STATION RESTORATION SCRANTON
21 PROJECT" LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.
22 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
23 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
24 ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE
25 AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT

1 CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE
2 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND
3 UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
4 \$2,500,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
5 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? It
12 should be noted on these that this is not
13 the city that is asking for a grant, we are
14 merely approving the ability of someone else
15 to apply for these grants through that
16 gaming -- the local share account grant. It
17 should also be noted that for any of these
18 that are approved that the city receives
19 what was it, 5 percent?

20 MR. WECHSLER: 5 percent.

21 MR. MCGOFF: The dollar amount goes
22 to the city for any of these grants that are
23 approved, so it is in the best interest of
24 the city to look into these and to work with
25 the individuals or the corporations that are

1 applying for these grants.

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

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

10 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
11 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE
12 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
13 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON
14 BEHALF OF SCRANTON-LTI, LP, 335 ADAMS
15 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503 TO THE
16 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH
17 THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A
18 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE
19 PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN
20 THE AMOUNT OF \$615,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO
21 BE KNOWN AS "LEONARD THEATER ADAMS AVENUE
22 PROJECT" LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
24 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
25 ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE

1 AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT
2 CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE
3 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND
4 UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
5 \$615,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
6 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
13 those in favor of introduction signify by
14 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 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
22 RESOLUTION - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 174,
23 2009 ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S REPRESENTATIVES TO
25 THE TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE ("TCC")

1 PURSUANT TO ACT 32 OF 2008" BY REPLACING THE
2 CURRENT DELEGATES WHO ARE NO LONGER
3 EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON WITH
4 CURRENT EMPLOYEES IN THE BUSINESS
5 ADMINISTRATION OFFICE.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
21 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
22 51, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE SALE OF TAX
23 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
24 540 NORTH REBECCA AVENUE, SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO. 14510-020-003 TO

1 ARNOLD DOMMES, JR., NORTH REBECCA AVENUE,
2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE
3 CONSIDERATION OF \$650.00.

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

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
16 eyes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
18 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 52, 2014 - AN
19 ORDINANCE SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY
20 MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS 532 PRESCOTT AVENUE,
21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
22 15710-020-007 TO JAMES SMITH AND DENISE
23 SMITH, 528 PRESCOTT AVENUE, SCRANTON,
24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, FOR THE CONSIDERATION
25 OF \$1,500.00.

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

3 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
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: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
15 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 53, 2014 - AN
16 ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A NOTE
17 BY THE PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF
18 SCRANTON IN A MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL
19 AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000.00 TO FINANCE THE 2014
20 PROJECT (AS DEFINED HEREIN); AUTHORIZING THE
21 PLEDGE OF THE CITY'S ON-STREET METER
22 REVENUES AS SECURITY FOR AND THE SOURCE OF
23 PAYMENT OF THE PARKING AUTHORITY'S 2014
24 NOTE; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE
25 PLEDGE DOCUMENTS (AS DEFINED HEREIN);

1 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OFFICIALS OF THE
2 CITY TO TAKE OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION;
3 PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS
4 ORDINANCE AND THE SEVERABILITY OF CERTAIN
5 PROVISIONS; AND REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT
6 ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES.

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

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
19 eyes have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-
22 FOR ADOPTION FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 50,
23 2014 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL
24 CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229613 ENTITLED "LIQUID
25 FUELS" FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF

1 THOSE FUNDS RECEIVED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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

5 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-A.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

22 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
23 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION
24 RESOLUTION NO. 87, 2014 - ACCEPTING A
25 DONATION OF ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY

1 (\$1,250.00) DOLLARS PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF
2 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM GEISINGER
3 BLOOD CENTER.

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

7 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
9 passage of Item 7-B.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?
12 Certainly we would like to thank the
13 Geisinger Blood Center for their generous
14 donation to the Scranton Fire Department.

15 Roll call, please?

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
3 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION
4 RESOLUTION NO. 88, 2014 - RATIFYING AND
5 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
6 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
7 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF THE SCRANTON CULTURAL
8 CENTER AT MASONIC TEMPLE TO THE COMMONWEALTH
9 OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE
10 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL
11 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE
12 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE
13 AMOUNT OF \$1,017,975.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO
14 BE KNOWN AS "SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER AT
15 MASONIC TEMPLE BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECT"
16 LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.
17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
18 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
19 ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE
20 AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT
21 CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE
22 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND
23 UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
24 \$1,017,975.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
25 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

1 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chair for the
3 Committee on Finance.

4 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
6 passage of Item 7-C.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION
23 RESOLUTION NO. 89, 2014 - RATIFYING AND
24 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
25 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF LACKAWANNA COLLEGE TO
2 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING
3 THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY
4 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO
5 THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT
6 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 FOR THE
7 PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "EXPANSION OF
8 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
9 PROJECTS AT LACKAWANNA COLLEGE" LOCATED IN
10 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA. AUTHORIZING THE
11 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
12 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT,
13 IF SUCCESSFUL AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
14 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND
15 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
16 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT
17 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 AWARDED BY
18 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH
19 PROJECT.

20 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
21 recommendation of the Chair for the
22 Committee on Finance?

23 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
24 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7-D.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: I abstain.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

15 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
16 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
17 RESOLUTION NO. 90, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
19 TO ACCEPT THE GIFT OF A 2003 FREIGHTLINER
20 PACKMASTER VIN# 1FVABXCX53HL79913 FROM THE
21 SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

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

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
6 call, please?

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION
20 RESOLUTION NO. 91, 2014 - APPOINTING ROBERT
21 GATTENS, 528 ORCHARD STREET, SCRANTON,
22 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS AN ALTERNATE NO. 2
23 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ZONING APPEALS
24 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. GATTENS IS
25 FILLING THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF JOSEPH

1 GILHOOLEY WHO RESIGNED ON JULY 25, 2014.
2 MR. GATTENS' TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 1,
3 2015.

4 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
5 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
6 passage of Item 7-F.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
20 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted and
21 congratulate Mr. Gattens on his appointment.

22 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
23 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
24 RESOLUTION NO. 92, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE
25 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS

1 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT
2 OBLIGATION CONTRACT BETWEEN KANSAS STATE
3 BANK OF MANHATTAN (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE
5 PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) 2015 MACK GU813 REFUSE
6 PACKERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

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

10 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-G.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just on the
16 question, I'm voting "yes" for this. In my
17 conversations with our DPW Director Dennis
18 Gallagher, this equipment is sorely needed.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

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MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the
6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true
7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my
8 ability.
9
10
11

12 _____
13 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
14 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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