

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, October 20, 2016

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:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: 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. Wechsler.

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

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

16 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION
17 COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
19 comments? If not, received and filed.

20 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
21 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
22 HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

1 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
2 HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
6 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
7 SEPTEMBER 14, 2016.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE
11 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING
12 HELD OCTOBER 12, 2016.

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

15 MS. REED: 3-F. TAX ASSESSOR'S
16 RESULTS REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES HELD
17 SEPTEMBER 28 AND OCTOBER 5, 2016.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
19 comments? If not, received and filed.

20 MS. REED: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
21 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING HELD OCTOBER 12,
22 2016.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-H. MINUTES OF THE

1 council members have any announcements at
2 this time?

3 MR. PERRY: I have one. Lackawanna
4 County Juvenile Probation is collecting and
5 putting together care packages to deliver to
6 our troops overseas. They are collecting
7 the following items: Food items, such as
8 trail mix, energy bars, lots of beef jerky.
9 Personal items such as razors, toothbrushes,
10 toothpaste, foot powder, gloves, socks,
11 playing cards, travel side board games, word
12 finds, crossword puzzles, that type of
13 thing.

14 They are also taking monetary
15 donations to help offset the cost of
16 shipping to overseas. Anybody -- they are
17 putting boxes in a lot of the local stores,
18 neighborhoods, there are some stuff at the
19 county. I know that if anybody wants any
20 information on this they can contact Mari
21 Walsh at 570-963-6886, extension 4803.
22 That's all I have.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

24 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
25 PARTICIPATION.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Giovanni Piccolino.

2 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening,
3 Council. Giovanni Piccolino, one of the
4 owners of Buona's. I'm coming tonight in
5 reference to Bogart Court behind us. With
6 all of these like new, like, shops behind us
7 they have kind of being closing off the back
8 alley, you know, a lot the last few weeks
9 and it's virtually impossible for me to get
10 in the back door of my own pizza shop
11 because the other end is a "Do Not Enter" so
12 I'm having a hard time the last few weeks of
13 just getting in the shop. Sorry, I just got
14 here, ran up, so I don't know if there is --
15 you know, what to do. I either go down to
16 the "Do Not Enter" sign or, you know, not
17 get in my own shop that I have been getting
18 in forever.

19 Also, like in front of Buona's we
20 have like a 15-minute parking only business.
21 I don't know what the -- like, how I could
22 go about getting, like, parking for Buona's
23 only, you know, because like there is few
24 spots around town that have that, you know.
25 If there is an expense associated with it

1 that's fine, you know, but that's about it.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I think we could
3 probably get in touch with Chief Graziano
4 and find out what the requirements for that
5 are and then if you want to leave your
6 contact information we can get that for you.

7 MR. PICCOLINO: Thanks.

8 MR. ROGAN: On the first issue, and
9 I think the most logical thing would be --
10 and I was there for the ribbon cutting as
11 Councilman Evans was last week, there are a
12 number of the shops that opened up in that
13 Court which is great. I think the most
14 logical thing would be if you were allowed
15 to go into the entrance closest to your
16 pizza shop; right? Would that be the
17 easiest for you?

18 MR. PICCOLINO: Yeah, if we could
19 just get in that way that's fine, but a lot
20 of time I'll go to make a left off Cedar and
21 they have a little chalkboard that says "No
22 drivethrough." You know, and they have
23 little tables. I'm all for that stuff, you
24 know, as long as it doesn't effect me. In
25 all honesty, it doesn't go that far beyond

1 me anyways if there were to just --

2 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, that would seem to
3 make the most sense if that can be done and
4 I will say when we were down there on Friday
5 the entire alley smelled amazing because of
6 your pizza shop.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Piccolino, is
8 there a specific time that you need access
9 to your back or is it just on and off all
10 day long.

11 MR. PICCOLINO: I'll be honest with
12 you, it's on and off all day because we
13 deliver and we get deliveries, you know,
14 which actually it's made it a little bit
15 difficult because we have bigger food trucks
16 that have to come so they are double parking
17 in front of the pizza shop. It's actually
18 going to be a problem because they were
19 coming there at lunch and not like 6:00 in
20 the morning, you know, so they can park and
21 there is no problem at all. Like I sad, I'm
22 all for that stuff, but you know, if could
23 just move that "Do Not Enter" sign past that
24 decrepit building on the side of us, you
25 know. And even that building, are you guys

1 aware is that getting demolished by the
2 city? Like, right next to us there is signs
3 on us that say, you know, they have been
4 trying to contact him. I've actually been
5 in contact with him, also, trying to
6 purchase the building, but for some reason
7 he will say, "I'd like to meet in person,"
8 but he will contact me on Facebook, but it's
9 a big time eyesore.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah.

11 MR. PICCOLINO: That's nothing in
12 general really. If anything with the
13 parking in front of the shop and it says 15
14 minutes only and I believe it was Courtright
15 when he came here he got that for us, but
16 when I tell you could park in front of the
17 pizza shop for a month and not get a ticket
18 you could park right there and you are not
19 going to get a ticket, and it seems like the
20 only people that are getting tickets it's
21 like they don't care. There are certain
22 vehicles, there might be four or five spots
23 in front of the pizza shop, one sets off and
24 then there is two like 30-minute parking and
25 there is two meters there is like three or

1 four cars that will take up those spots
2 constantly all day long, and don't get me
3 wrong there are sometimes where there is
4 like two or three parking tickets on them
5 but it seems like the same people will come
6 and just park there and collect ticket after
7 ticket, you know, do they boot in this city?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Not yet. Not yet.

9 MR. PICCOLINO: You know what, I
10 think they should because I don't know if
11 these people don't care about getting
12 tickets or what, but I'm telling you, man,
13 they are certain vehicles I see them every
14 day but they just will park there all day
15 long. Maybe the city should boot people.

16 MR. WECHSLER: If you could just
17 give your contact information to Jamie and
18 we'll see what we do.

19 MR. PICCOLINO: Good deal. And I
20 might as well since I'm probably not going
21 to be here, I am doing a Thanksgiving dinner
22 again at Buona's. Please don't call the
23 shop. If anybody wants to contact me
24 570-468-6782 and if you live in the city and
25 you want to be on Thanksgiving for just

1 contact me.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thanks, Giovanni.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

4 MS. HODOWANITZ: Can you pass these
5 out?

6 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
8 resident and taxpayer. I listened very
9 carefully despite the bad acoustics to
10 Mr. Rinaldi's presentation during last
11 week's caucus and I do agree that something
12 needs to be done with the Lace Works,
13 however, I'm just the kind of person that
14 assumes that if I come to the city asking
15 for some kind of tax break I'm a citizen in
16 good standing, that is, if I have property
17 in the City of Scranton I will have paid my
18 taxes and fees. Yet, something has come to
19 my attention.

20 You all remember the 500 block of
21 Lackawanna Avenue, of course, and you
22 remember that many of those properties were
23 developed except, of course, Buona Pizza.
24 Well, I have here a deed dated November 5,
25 2008, the Redevelopment Authority was the

1 grantor and Rinaldi 500 Lackawanna
2 Development Company was the grantee for a
3 property at 500 Lackawanna Avenue. That's
4 that empty lot that sits on the corner of
5 Lackawanna and South Washington. Now, he
6 got this property for the consideration of
7 the sum of \$1, which is a very popular price
8 in this city, and there are a couple of
9 conditions on this eight-year-old deed.

10 One, the grantee, that's
11 Mr. Rinaldi's company, shall develop the
12 premises (The Redevelopment Project)
13 pursuant to the terms of the development
14 agreement between the grantor, the Scranton
15 Redevelopment Authority and the grantee
16 which development agreement was approved by
17 City Council of City of Scranton on March 4,
18 2004, pursuant to Resolution No. 19 of 2004,
19 and a second condition, the grantee shall
20 commence and complete the redevelopment
21 project within a reasonable time after the
22 date of this deed, which is November 5,
23 2008. If the grantee shall fail to commence
24 and complete the redevelopment project
25 within a reasonable time after the date of

1 this deed, the grantor, which is the
2 Redevelopment Authority, shall have the
3 right to reentry, and the grantee's title to
4 said premises shall be deemed forfeited and
5 title shall revert and be revested in the
6 grantor.

7 Now, I attended yesterday's
8 Redevelopment Authority meeting and I made a
9 Right-to-Know request and give him a copy of
10 the same documentation that you have and I
11 asked them what are they doing about this
12 provision in this deed, because you can see
13 just for the Year 2014 on that property they
14 owe \$5,517.67 on the municipal taxes. It
15 was in the Treasurer's Office downstairs and
16 they say, "Oh, by the way, we can't give you
17 the figure for 2015 yet."

18 And then I went to the county, and I
19 can only get the figure for 2015 from the
20 county and that was \$4,931.26. Just those
21 two figures alone on this one property
22 \$10,448.93. Now, while I understand that we
23 need to do something with the Lace Works,
24 would you not expect someone to come before
25 you and asking for a letter a LERTA tax

1 break would have paid their taxes? I pay my
2 taxes, you pay your taxes, I think that
3 should be conditioned of any kind of loan
4 grant or tax break. I'd like to know what
5 is the status of that property, that's why I
6 made a Right-to-Know request with the
7 Redevelopment Authority and I will share the
8 results with you when I get them.

9 Who would put a line on that
10 property? When does a linen get put into
11 effect? How many years do we have to wait?

12 MR. EVANS: Two.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Two. I guess we
14 near the two-year point, aren't we?

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: 2014, 2015.

17 MR. EVANS: Yeah, it will happen
18 this year.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: And I hope so, and
20 with this little part property if you can
21 get that to a responsible owner who would
22 pay taxes on it, maybe throw it into the
23 land bank, just a few suggestions, but I
24 would like to hear your comments on this
25 information during Fifth motion after you

1 heard Mr. Rinaldi's very brilliant
2 presentation last week.

3 And the audit is 143 days late.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Fay Franus.

5 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

6 I want to express my gratitude in that of my
7 neighbors to the Scranton Police Department,
8 Chief Graziano and the marshals, the US
9 marshals for the shooting on the Railroad
10 Avenue last week. The policemen were
11 exceptional. They were polite, they were
12 kind, they took the time to talk to
13 everyone, took the time to talk to all of
14 the neighbors. If anybody had a question
15 they were there for them, they were
16 extremely generous with their everything,
17 their decorum, and very professional and I'd
18 like to thank them and all of the neighbors
19 because top notch.

20 I was looking into the paper and I
21 see Jermyrn had the garbage fee of \$165 a
22 year per household. It's a private
23 contractor, it was -- it was County Waste,
24 but they going to endorse this Waste
25 Management, but it's going to be the same

1 price per year. Now, Mr. Evans, you
2 mentioned that you would like to have a
3 senior citizen discount, are you going to
4 consider that this year, Council?

5 MR. WECHSLER: The discount would be
6 if you paid it all at once.

7 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

8 MR. WECHSLER: The discount will be
9 if you pay it all in full.

10 MS. FRANUS: No, no, that's not a
11 senior citizen discount, that's a 10 percent
12 discount. That's not a senior citizen
13 discount.

14 MR. WECHSLER: I'm talking about the
15 garbage fee.

16 MS. FRANUS: I am, too. I'm talking
17 about a senior citizen discount for the
18 garbage fee. You are going to give people
19 that pay the full amount by May \$30 off. I'm
20 not talking about that. There was talk of a
21 senior citizen discount. In Clarks Summit,
22 they pay \$94 four times a year and senior
23 citizens only pay \$50 and that's Clarks
24 Summit so there is no reason Scranton can't
25 do that.

1 MR. EVANS: There is still value in
2 that conversation.

3 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

4 MR. WECHSLER: Excuse me, one
5 second. (Mr. Wechsler bangs gavel as
6 audience members were talking loudly.)

7 MR. EVANS: I agree. There is
8 definitely -- we want to pursue that
9 conversation some more as the budget comes
10 up so I want to talk about that again.

11 MS. FRANUS: About the senior
12 citizens discount?

13 MR. EVANS: Of course, yeah.

14 MS. FRANUS: Okay. Now, another
15 thing, Mr. Evans, I asked you this quite
16 awhile ago and you gave me some information
17 via e-mail, but I just wondered, I would
18 like you to follow up on this for me, if you
19 would, please, and possibly by next week get
20 this information for me because it's been
21 like --

22 MR. EVANS: What information is
23 that?

24 MS. FRANUS: It's about the transfer
25 of funds, Mr. Bulzoni transferred funds.

1 MR. EVANS: I thought we answered
2 that question.

3 MS. FRANUS: No, you didn't. Here's
4 what happened, I wrote it down so I could
5 get it correct. I know you sent me stuff,
6 but here's what you did. I have been asking
7 where the funds came from. You sent me
8 papers that showed they came from the
9 operating funds. You did not provide the
10 individual accounts they were not identified
11 so without that, without something you gave
12 me it's impossible to see if they were
13 interdepartmental transfers, otherwise, one
14 single department would have to all of that
15 money for the MMOs, so what I need is the
16 individual accounts, the numbers of the
17 individual accounts that way I can find out
18 if money was transferred from one department
19 to another versus in-house instead of
20 keeping it all in one department itself, so
21 is that possible for you to get that?

22 MR. EVANS: Well, I'll ask. All I
23 can do is ask the administration for the
24 information.

25 MS. FRANUS: By next week possibly?

1 MR. EVANS: I'll ask prior to that,
2 I don't know if I will get it by then.

3 MS. FRANUS: Another thing, I have
4 to differ quite strongly about what Les
5 Spindler said either last week or the last
6 week about pit bulls. I would never, ever
7 ever want it see any kind of a legislation
8 passed against pit bulls. There is nothing
9 wrong with pit bulls it's the owners, it's
10 not the pit bulls. I know many friends that
11 have pit bulls and they kiss you all over
12 and they just love bugs, so trust me it's
13 not the dogs it's how they are raised. I
14 mean, you must have come across pit bulls, I
15 have come across them for years and I come
16 across them every day and I play with them,
17 I see them every day and they are fabulous.
18 So sure there is some that I know the type
19 of people that get them for you know what
20 I'm talking about that's the owner so please
21 don't ever, ever, ever go against pit bulls.

22 And please consider that senior
23 citizen discount for the garbage fee because
24 senior citizens can't take it anymore.
25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Jessica
2 Serrenti.

3 MS. SERRENTI: Good evening,
4 everyone. I am Jessica Serrenti from the
5 South Abington Township. I am here on
6 behalf of the Scranton Public Library. It's
7 not every day that we see a musician receive
8 the Noble prize for literature so we are
9 excited to hear that Bob Dylan has received
10 this award and this news comes at the same
11 time the library is holding a concert
12 starring folks and blues musician Chris
13 Smither who has covered several of Bob
14 Dylan's songs as well as written many of his
15 own.

16 Chris Smither will perform this
17 Saturday, October 22, at the People's
18 Security Bank Theatre at Lackawanna College
19 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale
20 at the Albright Memorial Library, Nancy Kay
21 Holmes and Library Express. We will also be
22 selling them at the doors as well and all of
23 the proceeds from the ticket sales do go
24 back to the Scranton Public Library.

25 If you haven't heard of Chris

1 Smither before, we invite you to our website
2 at www.operate.org where we have him post
3 things and we have some YouTube videos as
4 well so you can hear him sing, and we also
5 invite all concert goers to posh at the
6 Scranton Club after the show for free
7 desserts so we look forward to seeing you
8 there. Thank you.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Sylvia Parker.

11 MS. PARKER: No, pass.

12 MR. WECHSLER: There's a bunch of
13 sign-ins, does anyone wish to speak that
14 signed in? If you want to give it a whirl.
15 While you're hear. All you have to do is
16 state your name and the city name.

17 MS. COLEY: My name is Marisa Coley
18 and I live at Scranton Housing Authority
19 between Adams and Mulberry. I didn't have
20 an agenda to talk about, this is my first
21 meeting. It's very nice.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Welcome.

23 MS. COLEY: Thank you. I'm
24 concerned about I live between Adams and
25 Mulberry and they built a parking lot behind

1 the stores like of on Adams Avenue, there is
2 merchants there, and they built that about a
3 year ago and after a year it sunk in. So
4 now what they did was they filled it up with
5 gravel, and it may sound funny when look at
6 it in the wintertime it's an ice skating
7 rink. In the summer now it's an island with
8 a tree on top so I just wanted to know is
9 there any plans to fix it because there's a
10 lot of garbage on the side that accumulates
11 and once in awhile you will see cars parked
12 there, but it's just the taxpayers they pay
13 their taxes for it, but now it's just a lot
14 that's just sitting there so I just wanted
15 to know because I look at it, you know, it's
16 an eyesore and it's concerning in the
17 summer, like, it's hot, you know, with flies
18 and mosquitoes and, you know, there is
19 problems with mosquitoes.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: We can find out for
21 you.

22 MS. COLEY: So I was just wondering
23 is there any plans for the city to fix it?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Well, what was the
25 address, I'm sorry?

1 MS. COLEY: Well, I don't know the
2 exact address, but where Adams and Mulberry
3 because there is a parking lot they built
4 there it's going on two years.

5 MR. EVANS: That actually is part of
6 the building -- I know, I'm over here.

7 MS. COLEY: I'm sorry.

8 MR. EVAN: That's a privately owned
9 parking lot and it's owned by the people
10 that own the building on Adams Avenue, you
11 know, where Embassy Vinyl and a couple of
12 stores on Adams, so that's part of that
13 project so we can contact the owner and try
14 to find out if he has plans to develop the
15 parking lot the way it's supposed to be
16 developed.

17 MS. COLEY: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. EVANS: You're welcome.

19 MR. WECHSLER: That was easy; right?

20 MS. COLEY: Yes.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman.

22 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

23 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County
24 Commissioner's Office. The documents you
25 have before you this evening deal with the

1 County's tentative 2017 general fund budget
2 which was released to the public in
3 accordance with the County's Home Rule
4 Charter last Friday, October 14.

5 To go through the budget message on
6 the first two pages and give you some of the
7 highlights, the budget is very similar to
8 the budgets over the past several years and
9 many of the good steps we believe that the
10 commissioners have taken, along with the
11 revenue and finance staff to put the county
12 in a good fiscal position have paid off
13 especially in this budget.

14 First of all, the question always
15 everybody asks me what will the tax rate be?
16 The tax rate stays the same this year as it
17 has for the last five years at 57.42 mils
18 for your county taxes so there is no tax
19 increased included in this budget. This is
20 the fifth budget now starting with the 2013
21 budget where the tax rate has been set at
22 that level so, again, no tax increase this
23 year as projected in the county budget.

24 If you go down on the first page it
25 talks a little bit about some of the

1 specific financial steps, the restoration of
2 our bond rating late last year was a great
3 help, particularly in regards to several
4 refinancing initiatives that we conducted
5 that included converting the last few pieces
6 of hanging fruit in terms of variable rate
7 debt into fixed rate loans. That will open
8 several other refinancings that the
9 commissioners have completed over the last
10 several months to put us in a position where
11 we saved approximately \$1 million on our
12 budgeted debt service from the current
13 budget through to the start of this coming
14 one. So, again, many steps we have taken to
15 put the county in a good fiscal position we
16 have seen come to fruition now. I know you
17 guys know this take years sometimes to make
18 those pieces fit together on the jigsaw
19 board and now many of them have lined up for
20 us and we look forward to seeing more in
21 that regard.

22 The next page goes through some of
23 the basics on what is funded in the county
24 government and how we meet those challenges
25 and, again, many of these items and many of

1 these not hurdles but these objectives we
2 have to meet are familiar to you and to the
3 city administration, funding, pensions,
4 insurances, costs and continuing costs that
5 rise in terms of the pensions and health
6 care, funding public safety, funding
7 infrastructure and capital investments,
8 these types of things. Buildings, grounds,
9 and maintenance all familiar to the city.
10 The commissioners along with, again, our
11 revenue and finance staff and our row
12 officers managing their budgets and
13 department heads managing theirs we try to
14 meet these as best as we can. So all of the
15 specifics are in here.

16 The final one, we're on the general
17 fund, much like every year holds \$103,766,
18 279. Now, what's unique this year is in the
19 past the commissioners would release one
20 budget message statement to what you have.
21 This year in addition to that Commissioner
22 Notarianni as well as Commissioner Cummings
23 each chose to also release their own
24 statement on the budget process so those are
25 on sheets two and three before you again.

1 One statement from Commissioner Cummings on
2 the second sheet, and one from Commissioner
3 Notarianni on the third sheet.

4 The fourth sheet has the listing of
5 our public budget hearings. Again, it's
6 required by the Home Rule Charter, I'll just
7 read this briefly. Notice is hereby given
8 that the Lackawanna County Board of
9 Commissioners will hold the following public
10 budget hearings regarding the proposed 2017
11 budget. The first one is a Monday, October
12 24, 11 a.m. in the Commissioner's conference
13 room, the sixth floor of the County
14 Administration building, 200 Adams Avenue
15 here in Scranton and then the last three are
16 all on Friday, October 28. The first one is
17 9 a.m. in the Taylor Borough building, 122
18 Union Street in Taylor. The second one is
19 Friday, October 28, at noon at the City of
20 Carbondale City Hall, 100 Main Street,
21 Carbondale, and the last one is 3 p.m.,
22 again, Friday October 28, at the Benton
23 Township Community Center, Route 407 in
24 Fleetville. Those meetings are specifically
25 designed to allow the public to comment on

1 the budget, ask questions, of course they
2 are welcome to do that as the commissioner's
3 meetings or stop me here in the meeting or
4 on the street or call our office or stop in,
5 but those meetings are required by charter
6 specifically to give citizens a chance to
7 give commentary and ask questions about the
8 budget process before the commissioners vote
9 on it.

10 And just one other item to note on
11 that, all of the documents that we talked
12 about here as well as the complete budget on
13 PDF format comes to about 130 pages are
14 available on the county's website at
15 www.lackawannacounty.org. All of our
16 budgets are on there going back to I think
17 2006 or so and all our audits run all the
18 way back to I think 2002 so if anyone wants
19 to compare and contrast and read through the
20 details all information is there.

21 And just one other item that we
22 have, our Emergency Management Agency along
23 with the National Weather Service has a
24 winter weather Skywarn course coming up.
25 Skywarn is a program that the National

1 Weather Service run where individuals who
2 volunteer for this service work with the
3 National Weather service during a weather
4 event, a snow storm, thunderstorms, to
5 provide whether reporting to the NWS, in
6 this case their Binghamton operation from a
7 safe location. This isn't a storm chaser
8 training or anything like that, but these
9 people volunteer to provide real time
10 weather information, so the course is at the
11 Lackawanna County 911 center in Jessup,
12 Wednesday, November 9, 6:30 p.m., it is
13 free, refreshments are provided. A really
14 neat program for anyone who is into weather
15 and metrology so that's all we have. Are
16 there any questions on the budget or
17 anything else?

18 MR. WECHSLER: We are all going to
19 jump in.

20 MR. HETMAN: Please.

21 MR. EVANS: While you are here and
22 while you are you talking about the budget,
23 I would like to formally request that you
24 talk with the commissioners and ask them and
25 tell them that as a council person I

1 formally request that they include a
2 countywide reassessment in the 2017 budget.

3 MR. HETMAN: Understood. Thank you,
4 sir.

5 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Evans took the words
6 out of my mouth.

7 MR. WECHSLER: We were all jumping
8 in so here we are so I think as a body we
9 would --

10 MR. PERRY: Yeah, this is something
11 that I personally, and we talked about it a
12 lot, as Mr. Wechsler said, a countywide
13 reassessment is long overdue.

14 MR. HETMAN: Understood. Thank you.
15 We will certainly relay the message. I know
16 that the commissioners are aware of
17 council's desire to see that, but this is
18 the time to reiterate that if there is ever
19 one so thank you.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you very much.
21 Bob Bolus.

22 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
23 Bob Bolus, Scranton. I came back, I was out
24 of town, and I happened to read where you
25 want to redo the Scranton Lace buildings,

1 you want to give it to the Rinaldis, you
2 want to give them tax free money, again, you
3 know, look at Lackawanna Avenue, look at
4 vacant buildings in the city, they want to
5 renew the building, common sense dictates
6 the Scranton Lace building should be torn
7 down just like they went up to the mall and
8 tore out the old Sampter's building and
9 build a new, more modern facility. You
10 can't take a place that's deteriorated.

11 I was over there the other day
12 walking around it with a camera crew twice,
13 one from Dubai and the United Arab Emirates
14 that were in here with me for two days
15 filming what my part of a campaign is, and
16 one in the City of Scranton, they wanted to
17 see this lace building that Hillary Clinton
18 talks so much about. They were appalled.
19 From the Ukraine they were in with me and
20 they went over there. They were appalled
21 that they hear so much about what her father
22 did, and it was an embarrassment, but it was
23 an enlightenment. If they wanted to rebuild
24 this building, Hillary Clinton's husband
25 with a the president. They had eight years

1 to put in federal money, rebuild it in honor
2 of her grandfather or whoever the heck she
3 wanted to have instead of keep toting that
4 everybody worked there, we have people that
5 worked in the mines, this whole town is
6 under mines, yet nobody says anything about
7 what they did or didn't do. Yet, we hear
8 Scranton Lace, and Hillary Clinton comes to
9 this town she speaks, shoots over to
10 MacGregor's, fills her purse and bails out
11 of Scranton. Does she visit her father's
12 grave? No. Look at the cemetery when she
13 is not coming around here it's a damn
14 disgrace, okay?

15 And you want to turn around now and
16 give the Rinaldis more free rides and say
17 the people in there are going to pay taxes.
18 You got council here. If you give the
19 Rinaldis a free ride and tax free, guess
20 what the people in the apartment are going
21 to want to do? They are going to want it
22 tax free because you maybe made the
23 structure tax free. So tread lightly before
24 you squander any more of our money on
25 another dead issue in this city.

1 You sold the Sewer Authority, the
2 biggest farce that you have to put a
3 clothespin over your nose is the stench of
4 the parking garage. You turned around and
5 you paid Basalyga \$5 million for parking
6 spaces at our expense to park in his garage.
7 Why do we care who comes and parks in
8 Basalyga's garage or does business in the
9 city? It doesn't do us a damn bit of good,
10 yet the people in this town our taxpayers,
11 our elderly, who can't even afford to live
12 here anymore you are burying them.

13 You should have bought the mall, if
14 you were all that smart, great businessmen
15 here you should have purchased the mall, got
16 a grant and leased them to Basalyga. You
17 could have did everything he is doing, put a
18 million and some dollars in his parking
19 garage to fix it up? And then when the
20 county moves into their building O'Malley is
21 go to have the county people paying to park
22 there because Basalyga owns the garages and
23 you are paying to fix them and you get zero
24 return, gentlemen. That's not sound
25 business. The stench of this deal, believe

1 me, I'd rather go sit by a landfill or the
2 Sewer Authority and breathe fresh air by
3 them then deal with this deal that you
4 people are pushing out there. You have
5 destroyed our infrastructure in this city.
6 That's through your leadership. Take credit
7 for it walls when Scranton goes down you are
8 the guys that let it. You will go down in
9 history, you will have a plaque, I can
10 assure you that.

11 Why did you people do what you do?
12 I just can't believe that you even endorsed
13 this deal with the parking garage. I can't
14 even fathom it. It just -- the stench of
15 what you did I can't even put it into words,
16 and I travel all over the world and I have
17 never seen anything more pathetic than the
18 leadership in this town, and I have been
19 around a long time and I haven't seen
20 Scranton go forward, I've only seen Scranton
21 going down. You have liquidated all your
22 assets. What are you going to sell next?
23 You have nothing to sell and you have
24 nothing to show for what you have done.
25 Leadership takes the assets you have that

1 were given to you and make them work and
2 somebody else could buy them, you made them
3 tax free. You turned the parking garages
4 into a tax free deal. How do you expect
5 Scranton to survive? Are you going to plow
6 from the curb for the parking garage or are
7 they going to plow their own parking spaces?

8 Where else are you going to take the
9 city, and this is your leadership and you
10 came in, put a new council together, put a
11 new president in charge, you drove us
12 backwards. You've made a mockery of us and
13 when I saw these people from other countries
14 laughing when you want to try and do with
15 the old lace building you should be ashamed
16 of yourselves. Don't even call yourselves
17 leaders because leaders lead by example and
18 if this is your leadership example,
19 gentlemen, take the door. You don't belong
20 here.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.
22 Anyone else?

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
24 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.
25 You're about to give about \$400,000 out of

1 the revolving fund as a gift. You could
2 have at least waited until December and
3 called it a Christmas gift, but that's
4 \$400,000 that we are not going to have to
5 maybe bring a plant in that can produce more
6 than eight or ten workers, but that's the
7 way you work.

8 Mr. Evans talks about developers,
9 the only developers in this town is people
10 that are in the bed with the politicians,
11 and I don't know how you could say they are
12 so great when all they do is have their
13 hands out and deals. The 500 block of
14 Lackawanna Avenue, I don't know, Mr. -- I
15 don't know, some of yous might have
16 remembered why Buona had to sue and Coney
17 Island had to sue because Mr. Rinaldi wanted
18 a piece of their action. You don't ask for
19 a piece of their action if you want to
20 develop a project, you develop a project.

21 Now, you want to put some type of a
22 project in a flood plain. I was there
23 during the flood, I worked in the silk mill
24 during the flood, I worked on the elevators
25 putting them back into ready condition.

1 It's a flood plain so if you are going to
2 build any kind of townhouses there or what I
3 call row houses you better put them up on
4 stilts because if that gets flooded again
5 I'd hate to see people get hammered. Not
6 only that, I don't even know if they get
7 flood insurance so before you start doing
8 great with Mr. Rinaldi check and see what
9 the flood insurance would be and if the
10 government say that isn't a flood plain.

11 MR. ROGAN: It is a flood plain.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: I know it's a flood
13 plain. I did work there during the flood.

14 MR. ROGAN: Since the flood the levy
15 system was installed.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: You don't know what
17 conditions are coming. You don't know
18 what's happening. Don't you look at the
19 news to see what's happened down south?
20 Believe me, you don't know what's going to
21 happen.

22 MR. ROGAN: The federal government
23 has --

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Are you going to
25 give up money for them? Are you going to

1 say I'm going to -- if that section gets
2 flooded you can take my house and property
3 because I voted on it? No, don't give me
4 this bull.

5 MR. ROGAN: The federal government
6 says it's not a flood plain.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: When did the -- that
8 was designated as a flood plain. We don't
9 know if that dikes are going to hold. The
10 dikes may hold, they may not hold depending
11 on it. I have seen Wilkes-Barre get 1,000
12 year flood almost twice, but you can do what
13 you will because you're embedded somehow
14 with these contractors and I know that.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Sbaraglia --

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: One way or another
17 --

18 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Sbaraglia, I
19 caution you to say that. You cannot say the
20 we are in bed with anybody.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: The way you vote for
22 it that is embeddedness. That's
23 embeddedness.

24 MR. WECHSLER: I can assure you --

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Look at Cordaro and

1 Munchak, they were embedded with the --

2 MR. WECHSLER: Please be careful
3 where you are going here, please.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm saying that you
5 are voting for things -- well, take the
6 parking garage, you don't think that's
7 embeddedness?

8 MR. WECHSLER: No, I do not.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: What do you consider
10 the parking garage? You gave \$150 million
11 and seven people gave away \$150 million --

12 MR. WECHSLER: The financial
13 community and the world does not agree with
14 you. That is your opinion.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: No, they should
16 bring in malfeasance. We are entitled to an
17 investigation of all of the actions
18 throughout the case.

19 MR. PERRY: Mr. Sbaraglia, I don't
20 want to get you off topic, but when you are
21 that loud into the microphone it's very hard
22 for the people at home to hear you, and I
23 know you are passionate in what --

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: I know what are you
25 saying --

1 MR. PERRY: -- but the ones watching
2 aren't going to be able --

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: But if anybody with
4 common sense tells you that there is no
5 embeddedness, you are sitting on --

6 MR. WECHSLER: I don't understand
7 what the term embeddedness is because if
8 it's an accusation that that we are taking
9 money --

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: It's embeddedness --

11 MR. WECHSLER: -- you are wrong.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: I didn't say you
13 took money, I said you are embedded. You
14 make deals with these people and if you
15 don't call that parking a deal -- -

16 MR. WECHSLER: It was a deal.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: It is a deal.

18 MR. WECHSLER: It was a deal to get
19 us out of a --

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: And it's a bad deal
21 for the city.

22 MR. WECHSLER: -- dire financial
23 situation. The financial community agrees
24 with us.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: The financial

1 community gets money from the city. You
2 gave this man \$28 million to lease the
3 garage, okay? He don't have a penny of his
4 money in it.

5 MR. WECHSLER: The financial
6 community, the national financial community
7 agrees that Scranton did the right thing
8 with the parking garage lease.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Then I'd like to see
10 the Auditor General come in and see what the
11 this costs us and what we're going to make--

12 MR. WECHSLER: You have all the
13 rights in the world to go and request that.
14 You have all the rights in the world to
15 request that.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: I have done it.

17 MR. WECHSLER: But there is no doubt
18 that the financial community, the nationwide
19 financial community approved the deal that
20 Scranton made with the Parking Authority.
21 There is no doubt about that. You cannot
22 deny it.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: I cannot deny that
24 the banks did it because of the lease. If
25 the people move out of Scranton, what are

1 they going to do with that lease?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
3 else?

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
5 Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer. Last
6 week I seen -- I was unable to attend, but I
7 seen a subject came up with leaves and
8 recycling, please, make sure that they don't
9 pick a newspaper and cardboard week to pick
10 up the leaves. Let it be cans and bottles,
11 I can put them in bags. I used a white
12 trash bag and a magic marker and put,
13 "Please recycle" on it if I get too much. I
14 can leave it outside in the yard hidden
15 away, but with the one year we had a snow
16 before Christmas and I got stuck with
17 newspapers until New Year's from
18 Thanksgiving on and that's a real pain in
19 the neck.

20 Also, on the paving, I couldn't care
21 less if we ever pave another street in
22 Scranton until we resolve this with the
23 utilities going behind and digging them
24 right back up again. River Street is
25 terrible. Now, on Adams Avenue in front of

1 the Hilton we have a big hole and it just
2 goes on and on and on and on. They are all
3 over Crown Avenue, three blocks. It wasn't
4 that bad, hadn't been done in years, now
5 it's a mess. So, you know, the only thing
6 that's worse than driving over potholes on
7 an old road is driving over potholes on a
8 new road, I think you will all agree.

9 And this one business and different
10 things with things around the city, once
11 again, I seen an article on that Castle
12 house in the Scranton Times and it's just
13 ashamed. I mentioned years ago that keeping
14 the esthetics of the house shouldn't
15 preclude somebody from buying it and
16 breaking it up into apartments and providing
17 an affordable place for somebody to live.
18 It's just entirely ridiculous. I guess the
19 house has about two more weeks before it's
20 torn down. I wish my house looked like
21 that, and that's what I can afford. Sorry.

22 The South Side Complex, it is what
23 it is, but please don't hand somebody more
24 money than what they paid for it in grants
25 to renovate and do their renovations. That

1 money should go to somebody that needs it.
2 Personally, I never really cared much for
3 high school sports or college sports or any
4 of that, I always kind of resented the money
5 that was spent on it. Up in Mid-Valley,
6 they spent \$6 million renovating a stadium
7 and they their books were falling apart.
8 Give me a break. I was a science nerd so
9 who cares, and I also used to walk four
10 miles back and forth to see a girlfriend at
11 night so who needed gym.

12 Okay, the 500 block came up tonight,
13 and it's too bad Mr. Piccolino isn't here,
14 but my understanding from his cousin was
15 that that lot was went for 275 grand from
16 the city, now I hear it was sold to somebody
17 for a dollar, and on top of it, it was
18 \$35,000 over the eminent domain offer for
19 their business, which is pay taxes, and my
20 wife and I used to stop in there when I was
21 18 years old, I'm 62 now, and go to the
22 movie theatre and we'd go over for pizza and
23 stuff like that. I mean, all of those years
24 and, you know, it just -- I always wanted to
25 with my wolfie shirts that it's getting a

1 little too cold for. That's another one,
2 Tucks down there. Never had
3 (unintelligible) never will, and he sells
4 great clothes at an affordable price down on
5 Penn Avenue.

6 And I hear a lot about pension
7 reform, and the thought occurred to me that
8 why can't we have a special social security
9 fund for policemen and firemen and public
10 workers. It's totally ridiculous to have
11 all of these patchwork of pension forms and
12 reforms and then when I attend political
13 rallies, I'll make it fast, I hear all kinds
14 of derogatory comments about social programs
15 like social security from the very people
16 whose pensions are threatened all of the
17 time by lack of the taxpayers ability to
18 pay. Thank have and have a good night.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

21 Marie Schumacher. The first item on my
22 agenda for tonight was to check on the
23 status of the rental registration. I came
24 late to the caucus and it sounded as though
25 you may have been talking about that, but if

1 you were it certainly doesn't sound as
2 though it's ready to come before council.

3 MR. WECHSLER: It will up within the
4 next week.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And then how
6 many weeks behind that will the condemnation
7 ordinance revision be?

8 MR. EVANS: I'll talk about that.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

10 MR. EVANS: I'll talk about that in
11 motions.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Again,
13 the audit, when? It's the end of the
14 September. See, I keep forgetting that,
15 when we say the end of September we should
16 always ask which year, you know?

17 MR. WECHSLER: It will available to
18 us before the budget.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: How many days
20 before the budget?

21 MR. WECHSLER: I don't know.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Back to
23 the Sewer Authority for a few moments again,
24 another travesty about to happen I believe,
25 but I really would like to know this deal

1 about whether or not we are going to be
2 subject to a buyers prevailing waste water
3 tariff after -- and on top of the regular
4 service charge which is for the water and
5 the consumption. The contract or the
6 agreement does state, "The buyer," that
7 being the water company, "shall not propose
8 or implement a distribution improvement
9 system charge for the service area waste
10 water customers," that being us, "before
11 January 1, 2019."

12 That's two years. I checked online
13 at the Public Utility Commission and their
14 normal fee, of -- they being PAWC in
15 Pennsylvania, at least appears to be the
16 service charge is \$20 a moth -- a bill, and
17 then if we are going to be subject to this
18 tariff that then is added to the
19 distribution improvement system change, so
20 that's another bunch of money for --
21 especially for our senior citizens that are
22 trying to make it on social security and
23 don't even have the ability to go out and
24 work anymore.

25 Which leads me right into our

1 current status on our property values and
2 sales. As of today's paper, there were
3 1,515 property transactions since the middle
4 of March when I started this and of those
5 332, a paltry 21, 22 percent when we have
6 well over 40 percent of the homes in the
7 county, and of those 332, 46.7 percent of
8 them are below the common level ratio.

9 And I have just been noticing more
10 recently some rather troubling things where
11 the sale price is less than the purchase
12 price. Just a couple of recent ones. One
13 on Putnam Street it was purchased for
14 70,000, this was not too bad, \$70,250 back
15 in '06, it was sold very recently for
16 \$68,200. Before that, another one it was
17 purchased for \$100,000 in '07, it sold for
18 \$78,000, and the list goes on and they're
19 just occurring more and more that people are
20 having to go below their purchase price, so
21 there went their nice little asset and nest
22 egg. Something truly, truly needs to be
23 done.

24 And then back to the Sewer
25 Authority, what happens in your estimation,

1 the water company is not buying the assets
2 which we sold -- sold, we transferred to the
3 Scranton Sewer Authority back in '07, that
4 was totally legal split, so the Sewer
5 Authority owns those assets. Are we going
6 to have to buy them again or is the Sewer
7 Authority going to become a storm water
8 authority and pick up all of those assets or
9 are we going to have buy them back? More
10 next week if I'm back. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

14 MOTIONS.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

16 MR. PERRY: Okay. Let's see, let's
17 start a little bit on, and I wasn't -- I
18 don't have a lot of my notes with the Lace
19 project with me today, but I just wanted to
20 interject a little bit about the Scranton
21 Lace project. Now, the proposal is for tax
22 abatement on new construction only. All
23 existing property taxes that exist would be
24 paid from day one. Not one dollar of the
25 City's money will be handed over to anybody.

1 This project probably has a \$2 million
2 investment and it's going to be going up to
3 a \$13 million investment if, again, my
4 numbers are right.

5 And as far as the flood zone FEMA
6 has designated it as a no flood zone,
7 Mr. Sbaraglia. Whether you agree or
8 disagree with that, that's the designation
9 that has been given by the national
10 government.

11 Now, I said earlier, new
12 construction. When do we have the ability
13 as a body or a city to say there is people
14 wanting to do new construction in our city?
15 We need to not only encourage new
16 construction, but go out and seek new
17 construction. I said that years ago, I'll
18 say it today and I'll say it tomorrow, and
19 this is one of the best avenues we have as a
20 political body to spur new construction in
21 our city. This is going to be -- with that
22 being said, with the new information that we
23 have received about the delinquency on taxes
24 I don't -- this was just dropped on my lap
25 not more than 45 minutes ago. I don't know

1 if there is a correlation between what we
2 have here and the Scranton Lace project, but
3 if there is a correlation, in my opinion,
4 before we give out any type of benefit
5 whether it's a grant or abatement there
6 needs to be -- everything in the past needs
7 to be caught up. That goes without saying,
8 so that's my opinion on that. Again,
9 something just dropped on my lap, I can't
10 comment that these two things are the same
11 right now, but that is something I will
12 definitely be looking into.

13 And, secondly, over I believe it was
14 Monday this week I met with a couple of
15 officials from ABM and ND&C in response to
16 that letter that we sent out from the
17 incident that took place at Steamtown Mall,
18 the Marketplace at Steamtown last month
19 where there was a mugging and it was found
20 out that there was some -- it was in a blind
21 spot and that's just kind of why is there a
22 blind shot, how many blind spots. What's
23 the condition, what's the security, what is
24 the safety of our parking garages now they
25 wasn't into new hands. So I met with the

1 ABM general manager from New York Vito, and
2 I hope don't mess up his last name because
3 he was a big guy, Vito Delviscovo. I met
4 with the ND&C from Philadelphia Michael
5 Gaughan, and the local on-site facility
6 manager Kyle Ceecee who also works for ABM.
7 We sat down for about an hour and a half to
8 two hours and discussed the state of the
9 parking garages per safety when they took
10 over, as they are right now, and what they
11 want to be in the very near future, and I
12 must say it was a great back and forth that
13 I had with the three of them and I'm going
14 give you very quickly an update on
15 everything that we covered.

16 Currently, they have seven day a
17 week roving patrols by their outsource
18 company named Prestige. Roving patrol is
19 the guard goes through the garage and parks
20 their car out front, it's well-marked and he
21 is an armed guard. He will you walk from
22 the ground to the roof and back down. He
23 will get back in his car and he goes to the
24 next garage and he does that his entire
25 shift and they have that on seven days a

1 week.

2 They have a 67 working cameras that
3 cover every entry, elevator, payment machine
4 and stairwell in all garages. Their
5 lighting is at 90 percent operational, which
6 is up from the 75 percent operational from
7 the time they took over. I asked them
8 what's with the 10 percent, how come there
9 is 10 percent that's not working and they
10 are work on upgrading the whole ballast
11 system to be replaced. It's not just as
12 simple as putting in a new bulb in and some
13 of these older ballasts, you know, they are
14 just not -- it would be just a lot better if
15 you got the new ballasts put in, change the
16 light bulb and then use those lights for
17 years at a time. So that's where they are
18 with the lighting.

19 Future plans, they are going to be
20 reducing the square footage of their garages
21 to eliminate low traffic level. Some
22 garages they are just take the top level
23 right off because no one ever parks on it,
24 they are not just needed and once they get
25 rid of all of the dead space that are going

1 to condense all the parking which is going
2 to make for a less dead areas of the garages
3 which is going to make that a lot safer. A
4 lot of the high risk people areas where
5 people would like to hide out.

6 They are going to restructure the
7 contract with their security company
8 Prestige. What they would like to do just
9 for that accountability blanket is to put in
10 a detect system which basically a detect
11 system is when the guard gets to a garage he
12 wands a section of it's almost like a swipe
13 card that he touches with his wand and that
14 knows that that guard was there at that time
15 and they can monitor where they have been at
16 what time of day, what day of the week they
17 work, you know, make sure there is no one
18 sleeping in their car not doing what they
19 should be doing. It's a very good
20 accountability system.

21 Thirdly, they are going to be adding
22 and upgrading 20 to 30 cameras. Right now
23 their camera system that they have all go to
24 a central location within that parking
25 garage. Now, I asked them why have not have

1 it more centrally located on Adams Avenue
2 where all the offices are and they said,
3 well, that's exactly what they want to do,
4 but, again, they are still not transaction
5 phase. But they are going to get 20 or 30
6 new cameras and all their CC tv's they are
7 going aligned to the headquarters right
8 there on Adams Avenue.

9 So overall I'm very pleased, they
10 broke out a lot of their time for me, like I
11 said, one gentleman came from New York and
12 one came in from Philly and they want to
13 really work for the city and make sure that
14 we are safe. And, you know, Ms. Reed, if we
15 could, could we send them out a thank you
16 letter, as a matter of fact, for taking the
17 time out and meeting me that will be nice.
18 That's all I have right now.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

20 Mr. Rogan?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items.
22 First, I'd like to start off again by
23 thanking two of our departments, the police
24 department and the fire department. This
25 week in West Scranton an individual went

1 missing and both the police department and
2 the fire department all kicked into gear and
3 they really help everyone search the
4 neighborhoods and he was found safely so I
5 want to thank both the police and fire
6 department for their great work with helping
7 that individual out.

8 Mr. Evans already brought up the
9 reassessment earlier, I do think budget time
10 for the county is when we really should be
11 putting on a full court press to get the
12 county to look at reassessment. The
13 taxpayers in Scranton would benefit
14 tremendously from an overall reassessment
15 because many properties, especially in the
16 Hill Section and I know East Mountain, West
17 Mountain are assessed extremely high and we
18 see the list of appeals coming in front our
19 desk every week and it's a race to the
20 clock. There needs to be fairness in all
21 the properties that are taxed in the city
22 and reassessment would do that.

23 Regarding the Lace Works, Councilman
24 Perry already addressed a number of these
25 issues, but just to reiterate, I understand

1 when Mr. Sbaraglia worked at the Lace Works
2 many years ago it was a flood plain. There
3 are many areas in the city that were flood
4 plains. Luckily, because of help with levy
5 systems throughout the city that the federal
6 projects and federal government has done
7 these areas are no longer at risk of these
8 devastating floods and the lower Greenridge
9 area by the Lace Work projects there are
10 hundreds of people that live in that
11 neighborhood. It's a nice, quiet little
12 neighborhood in lower Greenridge and I know
13 the neighbors in that area desperately want
14 to see the Lace Works restored. It's been
15 an eyesore for over a decade and it's been
16 really been a big issue down there and as
17 Mr. Perry mentioned as well, there is --
18 there is not one dime of city dollars or
19 state or federal dollars that we are
20 approving to give to the developer of this
21 project. All we are allowing is that the
22 improvements that are made are not taxed for
23 a period of time. The current taxes that
24 are paid on the property will continue to be
25 paid. The city is not going to lose one

1 cent of revenue by doing this, but we do
2 need to encourage the development.

3 And I had a couple of positive
4 comments from residents of the Hill Section
5 this week regarding a number of the streets
6 that are being paved throughout the Hill
7 Section, it's very good to see the paving
8 program for this year it's coming an end,
9 but we really hit so many different sections
10 in the city and there is so much more that
11 needs to be done as far as paving goes, but
12 it's nice to see the work being done and to
13 ride on some smooth streets.

14 Another issue that was brought up
15 was the 500 block of Lackawanna and the
16 issue that Mr. Piccolino was having and we
17 will definitely follow up on that and
18 positive news on the 500 block of the
19 Lackawanna, last Friday Bogart Court I was
20 happy to attend a ribbon cutting for three
21 new small businesses that opened up in that
22 Court so it's good to see some development
23 going on there. Unfortunately, it's a
24 little bit later than we would have liked to
25 see these store fronts get occupied, but it

1 is good news to see business coming into the
2 city. The issue of how that project came to
3 be, there is nobody on the council that was
4 against what the Redevelopment Authority
5 tried doing to Buona Pizza and Coney Island
6 more than myself. They were really -- they
7 are the bookends of that block and two great
8 businesses within the city so what the
9 Redevelopment Authority did, you know, I was
10 not in support of and those two businesses
11 should have been included with the project,
12 but it is good to see these store fronts
13 starting to fill up.

14 On tonight's agenda also on the
15 economic development front there is Item 5-A
16 which is for the 16th Ward, LLC. This
17 legislation will create four full-time jobs
18 for low to moderate income individuals
19 within the City of Scranton and for anyone
20 who is not familiar with the 16th Ward, LLC,
21 probably you've never heard of that business
22 but you have probably heard of the other
23 business that these individuals own which is
24 Jack's Draft House. Many people throughout
25 the city have been there, they have a great

1 business.

2 As I mentioned last week, the Roll
3 Call loan and this loan as well come out of
4 money that was really frozen since the early
5 2000s and was sitting in an account unable
6 to be used and only through the work of the
7 Office of Economic and Community Development
8 and Governor Wolf and his staff is how we
9 are able to use this money to create these
10 jobs and between Roll Call and Jack Draft's
11 House I believe it's 13 jobs for low to
12 moderate income individuals within the City
13 of Scranton and, more importantly, the Roll
14 Call project it's a business moving from
15 Duryea into Scranton which is something we
16 wish we could see more of.

17 So these are two good projects for
18 the city and I'm glad to support them. I'm
19 very glad to see this money is being used.
20 I do agree I would much rather see a large
21 plant move into the city that's going to
22 create hundreds of jobs, unfortunately,
23 that's not the case, that's not happening
24 right now. We would love for it to happen
25 and if there are large employers out there

1 that want to move into the city contact us
2 and we'll be happy to work with you, but
3 right now it's small businesses in the city
4 that are really starting to drive our
5 economy.

6 MR. PERRY: Well, that's where it
7 starts. That starts with the small
8 businesses. It starts with those townhouses
9 and that's what's going to spur the growth.

10 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. You know,
11 we would love 500 manufacturing jobs to come
12 into the city, but that might be in a few
13 more years hopefully.

14 I believe that is all I have. A
15 couple of items when agenda items come up.
16 One last thing, I did attend a bonfire at
17 the iron furnaces over the weekend. That
18 was a great event. It was so packed you
19 couldn't even move, but it was a really nice
20 to see the big bonfire and I'm sure they
21 raised a lot of money with that fundraiser
22 as well so that is all. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.
24 Evans?

25 MR. EVANS: Thank you. To answer

1 Joan's question a little bit about the 500
2 block of Lackawanna Avenue and the empty
3 lot, if I recall it was purchased from the
4 SRA to be part of that entire project, and
5 as Councilman Rogan mentioned, Buona Pizza
6 wasn't part of it and Coney Island wasn't
7 part of it so this lot became a
8 non-developed lot for that project. Now,
9 personally I think that the failure at this
10 point is probably in the hands of the SRA
11 because according to the way it was written
12 if it wasn't developed in a timely manner
13 they should have taken it back, and I'm not
14 sure if that's why the taxes are being paid
15 or not, but we will contact Mr. Rinaldi to
16 get an answer as to why the taxes aren't
17 paid from 2014, but the way it's supposed to
18 work he was supposed to give them a
19 reasonable amount of time to develop it and
20 if they don't develop it we take it back and
21 that's what should have happened. It should
22 have went back to the hands of the SRA and
23 they could have turned around and found
24 another developer so that may happen yet,
25 but we'll find out and get an answer for you

1 hopefully next week.

2 I was glad to see that the
3 demolition of 1021 Richmond Street was put
4 on hold by the city. I had several
5 conversations with License and Inspection
6 director Pat Hinton as well as Community
7 Champions. Community Champions is a company
8 that registered our foreclosed properties so
9 I contacted them as well. They immediately
10 went to work on this and found out that, of
11 course, it's not in foreclosure, there is no
12 pre-foreclosure papers eminent, but they
13 also offered their help they have contacts
14 with banks throughout the country to see if
15 they could get a contact and somebody
16 responsible for the properties so if that
17 happens I think it's somewhat of a
18 breakthrough to get that situation
19 straightened out.

20 But this situation leads to a larger
21 issue, and it was brought up against by one
22 of our speakers is the current condemnation
23 policy. As any realtor will attest, when
24 that orange placard that reads "Condemned"
25 is attached to a property that building in

1 many cases has just received a death
2 sentence that can also lead to demolition,
3 and if that doesn't happen at the very least
4 the value of that property in many cases can
5 be reduced by almost 50 percent. The
6 property values of neighboring homes are
7 reduced and the property values on that
8 block are reduced. So this is the
9 conversation I think we need to have to come
10 up with better solutions than driving down
11 property values and demolishing buildings.
12 In some cases, demolition may be the only
13 answer but in many cases the home may be
14 rehabilitated, put back on the market for
15 sale and that simply is not happening
16 because the policies we have in place does
17 not foster redevelopment or encourage home
18 ownership.

19 It is my hope that in the very near
20 future this council and administration will
21 take a good hard, honest look at this issue
22 and address it head on. It has always been
23 our plan and our intent that once we
24 completed our rental registration ordinance,
25 which will be on the agenda next week, that

1 we'll move directly to the condemnation
2 policy, that's the still the plan we have in
3 place so hopefully we will see some action
4 on that as well. That's all I have. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

7 Mr. Gaughan?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
9 of all, I see some new faces in the audience
10 tonight and some familiar faces and I want
11 to thank all of you for coming. This is a
12 great crowd and I hope you will continue to
13 come to these meetings. You know, I think
14 we take for granted, my colleagues and I,
15 people like Ms. Schumacher and Ms.
16 Hodowanitz who come every week and ask
17 questions and are involved in the
18 legislative process, so everybody that I
19 talk to in the neighborhoods I encourage
20 them to come to these meetings because
21 without the public, without you being
22 involved, government doesn't exist and I'm
23 glad to see that you are involved in our
24 Democratic process and I hope to see you in
25 the next few meetings also being involved.

1 Mrs. Reed, have he we received any
2 update on the Young property on Wyoming
3 Avenue?

4 MS. REED: No.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: No. You know, I have
6 to be to honest, I continue to be disgusted
7 and discouraged by the way that this
8 administration is handling the property on
9 Wyoming Avenue. There is a hole, for those
10 of you who haven't this story, this is so
11 big and so dangerous that this family
12 literally can't sleep at night. They are
13 worried about what's going to happen to
14 their house, what's going to happen to the
15 young girl that lives next door. This
16 council made sure that there was money
17 appropriated to fill that hole and to take
18 care of this project and yet Mr. Young and
19 his wife cannot get a meeting with the mayor
20 or with anyone in city hall, so I would
21 challenge the mayor and members of the Law
22 Department to go down and stand next to that
23 hole and let's see how safe you feel,
24 because I talk to these people every single
25 week and they are disgusted. The hole needs

1 to be filled. If it was next to somebody's
2 house that lives in city hall it would have
3 been filled three years.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: That's right.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: So please send another
6 letter to the Law Department, get these
7 people in a meeting and get this project
8 taken care of because I'm quite frankly sick
9 of talking about it.

10 Second item, we received some good
11 news from the lighting project that's going
12 to be occurring in the city where
13 transferring over to LED lights and the
14 company was out pressure washing and
15 painting crews have currently been working
16 on holes on Mulberry Street and Spruce
17 Street and a good number of the poles are
18 pointed so you will start to see a
19 difference throughout our downtown and
20 that's going to be a positive aspect of that
21 project.

22 I did receive another complaint from
23 a woman who lives in the 100 block of West
24 Mountain who has drainage issues and if we
25 could send another correspondence to the DPW

1 to try and take care of that issue.

2 We did send a letter out to our
3 recycling coordinator. I have been getting
4 a lot of complaints from people who live in
5 the housing developments across the city and
6 the Scranton Housing Authority about the
7 lack of recycling that goes on in these
8 developments so we would like an update from
9 our recycling coordinator and we will expect
10 that before next Thursday.

11 I agree with Mr. Evans, I was glad
12 to see that 1021 Richmond Street is being
13 put on hold from being demolished. I think
14 we demolish far too many homes throughout
15 the city and we condemn far too many homes
16 throughout the city so I look forward to
17 working with Mr. Evans and my colleagues in
18 the next few weeks to change the
19 condemnation policy and, you know, help
20 these people out who are being effected
21 negatively by it.

22 I have asked for the last few weeks,
23 and hopefully we can get an answer on this,
24 I'm interested in finding out an update on
25 the third party administrator, the police

1 and fire pensions. I haven't heard anything
2 about that in the few weeks so we would like
3 a detailed update on what's taking place
4 there.

5 We received an update from our DPW
6 director, which we have talked about in the
7 caucus, on leaves, leaf collection. The DPW
8 director said that ideally the leaves should
9 be placed in paper bags and paper can be
10 recycled right in with the leaves and he is
11 planning, our DPW director, on speaking with
12 the mayor regarding the potential notice in
13 the paper prior to the first scheduled pick
14 up so that people know when to put their
15 leaves out so that is also a positive note.

16 And on the issue of condemnation and
17 Licensing and Inspections Department, I
18 received two e-mails this week, we all did
19 from two developers in the city, and I'm not
20 going to go into them because they are very
21 lengthy, but basically the e-mails had to do
22 with selective enforcement by our Licensing
23 and Inspections Department which I think is
24 a terrible problem that we have up there.
25 You know, I really think, and I have harped

1 on this a lot over the last few weeks, that
2 our Licensing and Inspections Department
3 needs to get their act together. That is it
4 the department that right now I think is
5 totally out of control. They are getting
6 sued left and right by different people
7 throughout the city because, in my opinion,
8 it depends on who you know and where you
9 live and if you get a ticket or not or if
10 you get your house condemned or, you know,
11 if the laws are actually enforced or not
12 enforced, so I think that Mayor Courtright
13 needs to get this department under control
14 because we are losing many thousands and
15 thousands of dollars from people who want to
16 invest in the community but who are totally
17 turned off by the lack of professionalism in
18 that office, and I have heard this for the
19 three years that I have been on city council
20 so hopefully he can take care of that.

21 And one final note, Mrs. Schumacher
22 did ask, and I will find out, what
23 percentage of projected liquid fuels revenue
24 is being used by the light project. And
25 that is all I have this week. Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Wechsler, Mr.
2 Gaughan did jog my memory about one thing
3 when he mentioned the flood issue on West
4 Mountain, next Thursday at 5:30 we will be
5 holding a caucus right here in council
6 chambers on storm water flooding issues in
7 the Keyser Valley area, actually all the way
8 from West Mountain into Keyser Avenue into
9 Keyser Valley, so it really starts at the
10 top of the mountain and rolls downhill. So
11 we will have that meeting and I know that
12 majority of the people that we've invited
13 are either going to be attending or sending
14 a proxy so I know we will have some folks here to
15 answer, hopefully answer many of your
16 questions.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Just an additional
18 note because you jogged my memory, I
19 received an e-mail from a woman on Phelps
20 Street. Myself and Mr. Wechsler have been
21 helping the neighbors out there with
22 different flooding issues and the DPW went
23 out and trimmed the trees on that block.
24 They have a streetlight there, but you can't
25 see it because the trees are hanging over,

1 so the DPW did go out and did a wonderful
2 job and the neighbors were very impressed so
3 I would like to thank them for a job well
4 done. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Okay, busy night. I
6 did meet were Jim Hoover this week, Jim
7 Hoover is the superintendent of the
8 Pennsylvania American Water, he supervises
9 the paving restoration projects in the city.
10 We met at the new Stafford Avenue
11 headquarters of the water company. Very
12 impressive facility, very detailed maps.
13 They do a great job tracking leaks and water
14 quality complaints and really based upon
15 those complaints, based upon those
16 maintenance problems that's how the roads
17 are selected for repair in the city so they
18 have an ongoing plan, they are developing
19 this for next year and there is going to be
20 a lot more work done in the city.

21 I also spoke to Mr. Hoover about
22 some concerns that the restorations, I want
23 to make sure that the restoration is being
24 followed and the PennDOT laws as required.
25 Mr. Hoover went out himself with some

1 inspectors to go look at some of the paving
2 work that was being done over in West Side
3 and he assured me that everything was being
4 done to code up there.

5 He also did remind me though that
6 there is a problem after the paving is
7 completed that Pennsylvania American Water
8 remains responsible for any repairs of any
9 paving job that perhaps has a flaw in it or
10 some kind of an issue with the quality of
11 work Pennsylvania American Water is
12 responsible for doing that repair.

13 I did meet with the mayor this week
14 to talk about a couple different items, one
15 of them was the Butcher Avenue on East
16 Mountain by the Irish Cultural Center, it's
17 in a very bad state of disrepair. They are
18 going to do some temporary milling and
19 paving to get the road through the winter
20 and then next year we'll take a look at what
21 type of paving is available for that road.

22 I also did speak to the mayor
23 concerning the State of the City address, I
24 believe right now it's tentatively scheduled
25 for November 4, that's a Friday, and it will

1 be at the Chamber of Commerce building. The
2 Chamber of Commerce requests that it's there
3 to serve the people of the community and it
4 will be taped and televised for future
5 reference. The time will be confirmed I
6 guess within the next couple of days we were
7 told.

8 Speaking about the Lace Works, I'm
9 not sure if Mr. Bolus was aware that all of
10 those buildings at the Lace Works are not
11 going to be repaired, there are a lot of
12 buildings over there that are going to
13 demolished and there is going to be new
14 construction and they are going to try to
15 save the historical part of these buildings
16 that they can. I understand that Mr. Rodham
17 did work there, but I look at that place
18 more as a tribute to the thousands of people
19 that worked there constantly. It's not a
20 tribute to one man, it's a tribute to the
21 families and the workers of the Lace Works.
22 I worked for 20 years over in that
23 neighborhood and you can just feel a sense
24 of history when you go there. All of the
25 homes are built exactly the same, it was

1 Levittown before Levittown, everybody shared
2 the same experience. It was a tight
3 community over there and I don't think we do
4 anybody a service saying that that project
5 should not move forward.

6 As Mr. Rogan said, there is still
7 people that are committed to that
8 neighborhood and the investment that -- we
9 don't have any cash. The only investment
10 that we can make is to forego taxes. That's
11 it. And I think it's a wise investment to
12 stabilize that neighborhood. I am concerned
13 though, and I don't want to disagree with my
14 colleagues, but I don't think that that area
15 can ever become not a flood plain. It's 150
16 year level. There is different levels, but
17 that area will always remain in the flood
18 plain. The insurance requirements are
19 dropped because of the levy system that's
20 there, I think that's protected to the 150
21 year level, so you could have a
22 200-year-level and, of course, it could
23 flood or you could have something worse, but
24 I think the flood plain and the flood
25 designations remain forever just because the

1 river is there, but if you look back when
2 that levy was first completed maybe ten or
3 15 years ago it really only had been open
4 for maybe two weeks when the fires challenge
5 to it came and if there was a time that we
6 were going to be concerned that that levy
7 wasn't going to hold it was that day and it
8 held, and I think the Corp of Engineers are
9 very confident in that levy, I'm confident
10 in that levy, so we have seen it save that
11 area twice already so I don't think there's
12 a threat to that being in a flood plain.

13 In regards to the rental
14 registration and the condemnation
15 registration, the Licensing and Inspections
16 Department to me is probably the worst job
17 in the city to have. Each day brings new
18 complaints, new concerns, it's a never
19 ending battle. We have given Mr. Hinton
20 some additional staff up there to try and
21 remedy some situations. The problem is we
22 only hear what happens bad up there and
23 there is lot of good that goes on up there,
24 and I think taking the steps that we are
25 going to do next week in terms of

1 introducing the rental registration, working
2 on the condemnation policy I think we can
3 develop the city's policy and procedures is
4 that more enforceable, more fair, more
5 legitimate, and I think we can solve a lot
6 of problems that we are having in that
7 department by just working together to
8 improve, like I said, our policies and our
9 procedures, and that's all I have tonight.

10 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
11 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
12 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE
13 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO
14 GRANT AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM
15 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
16 COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN
17 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.39 IN AN AMOUNT NOT
18 TO EXCEED \$130,000.00 TO 16TH WARD, LLC TO
19 ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
2 Mrs. Reed, I'd like to request from OECD
3 that they find out how much money is
4 currently in the commercial industrial
5 revolving program.

6 MR. ROGAN: I believe it's \$470,000.
7 There was correspondence given today on
8 that.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: No, that was from the
10 other account for the money that they are
11 taking out of the -- for Roll Call, I think.
12 I think this is a different account, I could
13 be wrong.

14 MR. ROGAN: No, I believe it was the
15 same account. We could check either way.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Just on the question,
18 I believe this is the building next to Mertz
19 that's had the application for a liquor
20 license in it for several years. I think it
21 used to be a novelty shop and I have been in
22 there and it's a novelty all right so I'm
23 happy that that block has retained the unity
24 of Scranton from Scranton was in the back
25 1870's and 1890's and I think if this

1 project goes through completing that
2 building will make that block very
3 reminiscent of the Georgetown section of
4 Washington, DC, and I just think it's a
5 great project.

6 MR. EVANS: I agree and I think if
7 anybody has visited Jack's Daft House you
8 know how unique that is as well and that the
9 proprietors do an excellent job there and
10 will be a great asset to the downtown.

11 MR. ROGAN: And as I mentioned, the
12 job creation aspect these are not huge
13 projects, but to the people that are going
14 to be getting these jobs to them it is. It
15 is a huge project.

16 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
17 introduction signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
23 ayes have it and so moved.

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

25 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 56, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - VACATING ANY AND
2 ALL RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST OF THE CITY OF
3 SCRANTON IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A PORTION OF
4 NORTH EIGHTH AVENUE IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
5 AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON THE MAP
6 AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION ATTACHED HERETO.

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

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

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. PERRY: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
19 ayes have it and so moved.

20 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
21 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 57, 2016 - AN
22 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
23 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT AND
24 DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF
25 \$94,268.00 AWARDED THROUGH THE U. S.

1 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BODY-WORN CAMERA PILOT
2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM TO PURCHASE AND
3 DEPLOY BODY-WORN CAMERAS FOR THE SCRANTON
4 POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

12 MR. PERRY: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
20 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION- RESOLUTION NO. 78,
21 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
23 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SANDONE TIRE TO
24 PROVIDE NEW TIRES FOR CITY OWNED VEHICLES
25 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH

1 DECEMBER 31, 2017.

2 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Public Works?

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: 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. Wechsler.

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

23 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
25 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 79, 2016 -

1 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
2 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
3 CONTRACT WITH SANDONE TIRE TO PROVIDE
4 RETREAD TIRES FOR CITY OWNED VEHICLES FOR
5 THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER
6 31, 2017.

7 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chairperson 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-B.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
15 Roll call, please?

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: 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. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

1 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
2 adopted.

3 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
4 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
5 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 80, 2016 -
6 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
7 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
8 ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT AGREEMENT AND
9 MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON
10 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY LOAN/GRANT PROGRAM FOR
11 PROJECT NO. 150.37 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO
12 EXCEED \$250,000.00 TO ROLL CALL LLC, TO
13 ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

14 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
16 Committee on Community Development?

17 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Community Development, I
19 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
23 I'd like to make a motion that we table Item
24 7-C.

25 MR. EVANS: I'll second the motion

1 for discussion.

2 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on
3 the floor and a second to table, on the
4 question?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
6 The reason that I asked that we table 7-C
7 tonight is for a number of different
8 reasons. First of all, I would like more
9 information about this corporation. I'd
10 like to request the articles of
11 incorporation and certificate of
12 organization, and the reason that I ask for
13 that is because, you know, a couple of red
14 flags came up as I researched this loan to
15 grant.

16 Number one, the Harris family
17 apparently owns Roll Call. The founder --
18 or cofounder rather of Roll Call is a city
19 policeman named Joe Harris. One of the red
20 flags that came up was that he sued the city
21 back in 2013, so I asked this week but
22 haven't received it yet for more information
23 on that lawsuit and what that entails. You
24 know, the other question I have is does he
25 receive any compensation from the company,

1 and I did find out that the city does do
2 business, although a very limited business
3 with this company, they buy ammunition, but
4 I would like it find out what kind of
5 business they have done with this company
6 over the past few years. My concern is that
7 may be a conflict of interest, though, I
8 don't know that for sure, but I would rather
9 be cautious and make sure that this is
10 vetted before we take a final vote.

11 MR. ROGAN: Regarding this project,
12 I met with Tom Preambo and Linda Aebli from
13 OECD and this was a concern. They did
14 inquire with HUD. This legislation should
15 have been on our desk three months ago if it
16 wasn't for delays with HUD checking on all
17 of these issues. I believe it was in August
18 over the recess when we had our meeting and
19 Mr. Preambo did say it wouldn't reach our
20 desk until they had clearance from HUD that
21 there were absolutely no conflicts of
22 interest whatsoever regarding Mr. Harris
23 being a city police officer and his parents
24 owning this business.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Just on the question,

1 I understand that but I'd like it see that.
2 That should have been disclosed and included
3 in the legislation so that we would be able
4 to know that. If I hadn't done my homework,
5 I would have never known that all of this
6 was going on. Not that that has any bearing
7 on the legislation, but it should have been
8 -- if that's what you are saying I'm not
9 disagreeing with you, but it should have
10 been disclosed in the legislation so before
11 I'm comfortable voting "yes" on this I would
12 like to see that and have my other questions
13 answered.

14 MR. ROGAN: I will say this, I know
15 from speaking with Mr. Preambo legislation
16 wouldn't have reached our desk if that
17 wasn't resolved.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Understandable, just
19 still should be included though, I'd like to
20 see it.

21 MR. EVANS: On the question, the
22 reason tabled it was really just that. I
23 wholly believe that they have been vetted
24 and that HUD has given that information, but
25 I feel it should have been part of the

1 backup. That's the only reason that I
2 would, you know, agree to table it and this
3 time, but I think it's a great project and a
4 lot of positives for the city and, you know,
5 will probably vote in the affirmative to it,
6 but I would like see the backup for the HUD
7 ruling.

8 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
9 tabling signify by saying aye?

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Opposed? No.

13 MR. PERRY: No.

14 MR. ROGAN: No.

15 MR. WECHSLER: By a vote of three to
16 two the motion is denied. Roll call,
17 please?

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: No.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
6 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
7 - RESOLUTION NO. 81, 2016 - RATIFYING AND
8 APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
9 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH SCRANTON
11 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
12 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
13 DEVELOPMENT(DCED) FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT
14 GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE
15 AMOUNT OF \$52,340.00 FOR RENOVATIONS TO
16 MCLAIN PARK AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT
18 THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND DISBURSE THE
19 GRANT FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF MCLAIN
20 PARK LOCATED ON ROCKWELL AVENUE IN NORTH
21 SCRANTON.

22 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
23 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
24 Committee on Public Works?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
2 passage of Item 7-D.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 MR. PERRY: On the question, this
6 was a hot, hot topic of discussion during
7 our CDBG meeting that we had, geez, a couple
8 of months ago already and although I don't
9 live fairly close to this park as a league
10 softball player my whole adult and kid life
11 this field is definitely in need, in
12 desperate need of some upgrade along with
13 the new playground that's there so I'm happy
14 to give this grant application a go. It's
15 desperately needed.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry.

18 MR. PERRY: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

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MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
adopted.

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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