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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 15, 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
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATES TO BE
17 HELD OCTOBER 5, OCTOBER 19 AND OCTOBER 26,
18 2016.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
22 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON
23 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD JUNE 6 AND JULY 11,
24 2016.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
2 any council members have any announcements
3 at this time?

4 MR. EVANS: I do. First, I'd like
5 to offer a reminder that the second payment
6 is now due for refuse bills. It's payable
7 by September 30 to avoid penalty. Also, an
8 additional reminder, beginning in 2017 if
9 you pay the full amount of your refuse bill
10 by the end of May you will receive a 10
11 percent discount on the total bill.

12 Also, friends of Connors Park is
13 sponsoring a chicken barbecue on Sunday,
14 September 18 to be held in the park at 515
15 Orchard Street from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.
16 Tickets are only \$10 and all monies raised
17 will be used to purchase and install a
18 handicap accessible play equipment in the
19 park. Tickets will be on sale at the park
20 Saturday, September 10 through 10 a.m. to 12
21 noon.

22 Also, a reminder, as you can see
23 when you walked in city hall today it's well
24 decorated for the annual Susan Komen Race
25 for the Cure this Saturday in downtown

1 Scranton. I plan on participating for the
2 -- I'm not sure how many years, I think I
3 have done it every year since it's started
4 so it's something I believe in. My mom was
5 a 33-year cancer survivor, so it's something
6 I believe in very, very much so if you can
7 make that as well please do. That's all I
8 have for tonight.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: And I have one, just a
10 reminder that this Sunday, September 18,
11 will be a special day in remembrance of
12 Kathleen Cavanaugh you who was a victim of
13 domestic violence. This is called
14 Kathleen's Crusade. It will be 3 to 7 at
15 the Radisson Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Avenue.
16 It's \$20 per person and all proceeds will
17 benefit the Women's Resource Center. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: One announcement
20 concerning the agenda this evening, Item
21 5-B, the 2017 Action Plan on tonight's
22 agenda will be the first of three readings
23 with a public hearing scheduled for next
24 week, September 22, at 5:30 p.m. Following
25 that second reading, the legislation will be

1 tabled for OECD to provide for the 30-day
2 comment period as required by HUD. The
3 legislation is expected to be finally acted
4 upon and adopted on October 27.

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
9 city resident and taxpayer. By my count the
10 City's independent audit is now 180 days
11 late. Are we still on track with that
12 project?

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

14 MR. EVANS: It will be ready prior
15 to the budget, yes.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: I'm sorry?

17 MR. EVANS: It will be ready prior
18 to the budget, that's the goal.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. With regard
20 to Rainey & Rainey, they had a two-year
21 contract to assist employees in the BA's
22 office audit preparation activities, I
23 assume there is no need to extend our
24 contract into the third year?

25 MR. EVANS: I'm sure that will be

1 reviewed now because they are still active
2 for this year. It's being reviewed.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: All right, I'd be
4 interested in that. I attended the
5 Composite Pension Board meeting yesterday
6 and learned that the Auditor General's audit
7 of the municipal pensions had been briefed
8 orally in draft form to the Composite
9 Pension Board. Four members said there were
10 no major findings and hopefully the final
11 report will be made available to the public
12 in the coming week, we'll see how that goes.

13 I raised several questions last
14 week, and I'll raise them again in case
15 there is any new information the status of
16 the Sewer Authority sale, I still haven't
17 seen anything about briefings on the
18 easements, still a non-issue for them?

19 MR. WECHSLER: No, I contacted Mr.
20 Barrett this week and he did not respond to
21 me.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I saw in the
23 paper on Saturday all the legal notices and
24 the RRP for preliminary storm water analysis
25 which they said the deadline for input

1 tomorrow morning.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: It may be a
3 non-issue by now, maybe it's been resolved.

4 MR. PERRY: But the fact that it's
5 hanging over the head --

6 MS. HODOWANITZ: If has not been,
7 the public is due an explanation.

8 MR. PERRY: I absolutely couldn't
9 agree more.

10 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Also, I
11 attended last week the County Commissioner's
12 meeting and they introduced a resolution to
13 offer property tax relief to the seniors and
14 I asked the questions whether or not there
15 had been discussions with the city, has
16 anybody been looked into that or is the city
17 looking into that? Anybody know? That's
18 another thing you should look at, please.

19 And yesterday an article in the
20 paper that a woman was attacked in the
21 garage at the Marketplace at Steamtown, I
22 know that Mr. Basalyga and the new owners of
23 the parking garages have made quite a bit of
24 to do about the fact that as soon as they
25 got control of the garages one of the first

1 priorities would be repair with an eye
2 towards safety and security. Now, I'm well
3 aware that you can't prevent all crime and
4 place can't be everywhere at all time and
5 you can't guard an entire parking garage.
6 On the other hand, if those parking
7 garages -- if those owners do not come and
8 follow through with their promises to
9 upgrade safety and security all of those
10 garages in the city are just opportunities
11 for criminal activities so that something
12 that need to be monitored and watched. That
13 attack happened at 9:00 in the morning so I
14 don't think lighting would have been an
15 issue. It was on the second floor of the
16 Marketplace at Steamtown garage. That's all
17 I have tonight. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Gerard
19 Hetman.

20 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
21 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's
22 Community Relations Department. To begin
23 this evening, the fifth annual Lackawanna
24 County senior health fair will take place
25 tomorrow, Friday, September 16, 10 a.m. to 1

1 p.m. at PNC field. We will have dozen of
2 exhibitors relating to senior health and
3 wellness with health screenings, give-aways
4 and lots of free refreshments. The event
5 features free parking and admission and is
6 open to all ages. We gear towards seniors,
7 but everyone is welcome to come and get some
8 good health and wellness information and
9 checkups.

10 Second, our fifth annual Hero's Day
11 public safety fair takes place next
12 Saturday, September 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at
13 the County's 911 Center in Jessup. This
14 offers a behind the scenes look at emergency
15 service dispatching and operations in
16 Lackawanna County. It features guided tours
17 of the 911 Center as well as hands on
18 displays of fire, police, EMS vehicles and
19 equipment. Again, free admission and
20 refreshments. It's a really neat chance to
21 check out some of the technologies and more
22 importantly the people that go to our 911
23 dispatching system. It's a really neat
24 operation that takes a lot of dedication and
25 effort to make it work and a lot of

1 technology and the human element, you get to
2 meet those people, really neat opportunity.

3 Third, Lackawanna County blood drive
4 annual event in conjunction with the
5 American Red Cross will take place
6 Wednesday, September 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
7 There's a new location, the lobby of the
8 former Globe Store on Wyoming Avenue in
9 downtown Scranton. We've had the blood
10 drive in different locations before. We
11 thought now that we own the former Globe
12 Store facility and all of the good downtown
13 happenings with new businesses and events
14 coming in we thought this was a good
15 opportunity to make the blood drive a little
16 bit more visible and accessible to the
17 public. Walks in are accepted. We ask that
18 you make an appointment. You can do so by
19 calling myself at 570-963-6743, extension
20 1872. I'd be happy to get you scheduled.

21 Also, Penn State's extension master
22 gardener fall mum sale also takes place this
23 Friday, September 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on
24 courthouse square on the corner of Spruce
25 Street and Adams Avenue. For more

1 information call 570-963-6842.

2 Also, the county budget process for
3 2017 fiscal year is now underway. The
4 budget will be available mid-October keeping
5 with the Home Rule Charter. I'll present a
6 tentative presentation on the tentative
7 budget at your October meeting, of course,
8 we will have all of the information
9 available on the county website in a
10 complete PDF of the proposed budget and all
11 of our supplementary budget materials when
12 the budget is released again mid-October.

13 Lastly, I'd like to thank Mr.
14 Bulzoni. He attended our Department of
15 Planning and Economic Development meeting
16 today on ground field reclamation and
17 redevelopment. This is an exciting program
18 and the County's OECD Department has a grant
19 to study, of course, the ground field is a
20 former industrial property that cannot be
21 developed at the present time due to
22 contamination of some sort and some
23 environmental factors so we have got a grant
24 to study those properties in the county, we
25 are looking for properties to study and we

1 think Mr. Bulzoni's involvement, if anyone
2 else from city government it would be a
3 great opportunity to develop some of those
4 properties in the city and put it towards a
5 productive use.

6 Lastly, we'd be happy to follow up
7 with council on Ms. Hodowanitz's
8 recommendation on the program that was voted
9 on by the commissioners last week. We'll
10 work to get details to your office and the
11 mayor's office as well. That's all we have.
12 Lots of good events coming up and hopefully
13 we'll see you there.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Albert
15 Young.

16 MR. YOUNG: Good evening, Council.
17 Albert Young, Scranton Pennsylvania. I'm
18 not going to take a lot of your time,
19 gentlemen. I'm going to hand out some
20 papers that I have received lately on the
21 Meadow Brook fiasco. The top copy is the
22 copy that was received by my lawyer the
23 other day and the second copy is the changes
24 that we have indicated for their digestion,
25 but I will say this, over the last six

1 months we have gone -- we have come here to
2 council and you deemed it an emergency
3 project. Six months have gone by and this
4 thing has gone from ridiculous to more
5 ridiculous as far as the language is
6 concerned. City law and engineering have
7 seen fit to drag their feet with a lot of
8 legal jargon.

9 Now, the mayor stated that there was
10 no need -- that there was a need to repair
11 but the contractors were needed not city
12 workers. You have in front of you now the
13 latest information that I have from city law
14 and engineering that they have put together
15 and it is very ridiculous. It's time that
16 city law and engineering get off the deck
17 and fix this before it costs the city a lot
18 more money. The weather is going to start
19 to get cold and I would like this thing
20 fixed ASAP no later than December 1 in its
21 entirety.

22 Now that the second property has
23 gone down the estimate that I gave you back
24 in April was for 60 feet. That's going to
25 have to be increased to 80 feet to cover two

1 pieces of the property and the estimate
2 naturally is going to be more and probably
3 cost of materials have gone up because we
4 can't agree to disagree here. It's no fault
5 of yours, it's the mayor, the city law and
6 city engineering and drag their feet on
7 this. I think I'm going to start selling
8 burial plots for remains if this thing
9 doesn't get on the stick.

10 Now, I'm going to segue back to
11 there was a mention of a budget, I don't
12 know whether you have done anything with the
13 budget for crossing guards for a raise, but
14 I think it's time that they are considered,
15 also, after ten or 12 years everybody else
16 gets a raise, they should get a little.

17 My thanks, gentlemen, if there are
18 any questions. I know, Bill, you have
19 contacted me numerous times. Digest this,
20 gentlemen, and please, if you can, put a
21 word in with the mayor if it does any good
22 or city law to get this thing fixed. We are
23 about at our wit's end at this point. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Young, is there

1 any future meetings planned? Is there
2 anything -- I know last week they talked
3 about a meeting that was supposed to happen.

4 MR. YOUNG: The last I got was there
5 was supposed to be a meeting on sometime in
6 September 19, Monday. Then this document
7 comes into play. I don't know whether they
8 are going to continue or not. My lawyer has
9 e-mailed -- they have been playing e-mail
10 tag here with this thing to try and get this
11 thing squared away, but --

12 MR. WECHSLER: Not going through the
13 whole thing, but did they did take any of
14 the modifications that your lawyer said?

15 MR. YOUNG: At this point they have
16 not take any modifications that I have -- or
17 the lawyer has made, so I'm at a loss to
18 answer any questions you have as far as
19 modifications are concerned. I did talk to
20 the lawyer extensively this afternoon and,
21 you know --

22 MR. WECHSLER: I don't think anyone
23 here has been made aware of that meeting.

24 MR. YOUNG: We were not invited
25 either, gentlemen. My lawyer nor either

1 party, the Kennedys or myself were not
2 invited along with none of the council so
3 these secret meetings I guess are secret.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Ron Ellman. Hello,
7 Council. I hope everybody rested up enough
8 for the 11 months of abuse that's probably
9 coming. Pat, I asked Mr. O'Brien to add my
10 bill onto yours but he said when he finished
11 yours would be big enough.

12 MR. ROGAN: One of the best
13 mechanics in town.

14 MR. ELLMAN: Council, I was at
15 Allentown for the car show and the Red Cross
16 gave these out, CPR, these little kits, and
17 they are just such a wonderful tool if you
18 can see, and the best thing they are free,
19 and if anyone has been fortunate enough to
20 use CPR to help save a life like I have it's
21 a wonderful achievement. I figure I can
22 tell St. Peter about it when I go up there
23 to overcome all of my adversities. I asked
24 someone if CPR would help for an overdose
25 and they said it couldn't hurt, so with all

1 of the problems going on I believe somebody
2 up there could get the Red Cross and get
3 these as a tool to the right people in the
4 city and you can have this one, I don't have
5 much use for it, but I wish it could be
6 instrumental that council could do something
7 like this.

8 Like I said, they are free and they
9 gave away gobs of them at --go ahead, open
10 it up and see how it is. It's really
11 something.

12 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I took a class.

13 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Ellman, I'm glad
15 you are going to see St. Peter.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Sir?

17 MR. WECHSLER: I said I'm glad
18 you're going to see St. Peter, that's very
19 optimistic.

20 MR. ELLMAN: He might need that if I
21 get that far.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

23 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council,
24 Lee Morgan. In regard to the parking
25 garages, you know, maybe it would be a good

1 idea for Scranton and the mayor to come up
2 with a law that requires all parking garages
3 to put cameras on every level so that there
4 would be some monacle of security there at
5 all times. I mean, there are many different
6 places, and I just think it would be a
7 benefit to the residents. Maybe it's time
8 to enact some legislation that might
9 actually help someone in this community.

10 Other than that, I'd just like to
11 say that the city itself is going to be
12 faced with an election fairly soon. There
13 are just too many questions in this city
14 about how so many things took place. I
15 think the residents need to know how the
16 parking deal came about and what the former
17 mayor might have had to do with that parking
18 deal since he was hired as consultant to the
19 owner of the new mall, and I think there is
20 a host of other questions in regard to that
21 deal.

22 I also believe there is a host of
23 questions to be asked about how authorities
24 members are chosen and what their
25 qualifications are and how the authorities

1 were so mismanaged over decades. I think
2 it's a very, very, very important questions.

3 It doesn't only have to do with the
4 Sewer Authority or the Parking Authority, it
5 has to do with all of the authorities. Are
6 they playgrounds for the politicians to
7 appoint their supporters because that's not
8 what they were intended for? Really it's
9 questionable to try and figure out what the
10 intentions of any of these authorities were
11 when you consider the amount of debt they
12 carry and the additional taxation burden
13 they put on the average resident of this
14 city. It's extremely troubling what's taken
15 place in our city since Act 47. I think
16 there needs to be some questions asked about
17 just so many things and council hasn't asked
18 these questions. It's just been basically
19 beyond ridiculous.

20 Now, today I paid my taxes on the
21 three properties I own in this city, pretty
22 close to \$11,000, and you know the future of
23 the things I own in this city in my opinion
24 is extremely bleak because council and the
25 administration, and not just this one but

1 others, have done nothing to contain costs
2 and to manage the city in a way which would
3 be productive and to call Scranton a
4 progressive city, an electric city I think
5 is a stretch, and I think that in the next
6 election the residents of this city need to
7 make a choice. They either continue as they
8 are and be unable to pay their property
9 taxes, you know, I had a conversation with a
10 person today who sold their house for less
11 than they bought it for 30 years ago to get
12 out of it because they couldn't keep it
13 because social security, and the payments
14 from social security have been so managed by
15 the federal government because they do the
16 cost of living index and they have looted
17 that fund. They have looted social security
18 so they can't given increases because they
19 are paying it out of the deductions that
20 Americans make every week into the system.

21 And once again that's politics,
22 chewing up everything around it, and the
23 question is how long can the American people
24 stand here and let a two-party system
25 destroy their lives and their ability to

1 earn a living? You know, we don't hear
2 anymore about keeping taxes down so that
3 American can be competitive anywhere because
4 there is nothing left in American because
5 the politicians, the Democrats and
6 Republicans, voted all of these trade deals
7 in. It's just really pathetic.

8 And, you know, I'd like to see what
9 Chimpanzees in a suit could do if they were
10 elected because, obviously, this isn't
11 working. Thank you.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Doug Miller.

13 MR. MILLER: Doug Miller, Scranton.
14 You know, Ron, you may want to go back down
15 and get about 70,000 of those CPR kits
16 because when the residents of the city get
17 their tax bill they're sure as hell going to
18 need them and even moving forward.

19 You know, listening to a lot of the
20 speakers tonight a lot of valid points and a
21 lot of frustration from people in this
22 community. You know, it's really
23 discouraging because it seems that the
24 attendance here just gets lesser and lesser
25 by the week because it's gotten to the point

1 where the residents of this community have
2 just given up on people because they have
3 come to realize one thing, you are not
4 representing their best interest and your
5 actions have proven that for a long time,
6 not just this particular council but
7 councils we have had in the past, this
8 administration, previous administrations and
9 the list goes on. This isn't something that
10 occurred overnight, but what's frustrating
11 is when you continue to repeat the same
12 mistakes over and over again you would think
13 eventually we would have people competent
14 enough to come up with solutions to fix the
15 problem, but all of the elected officials in
16 this community only understand kicking the
17 can down the road, putting the burden on the
18 residents of this city, and also putting the
19 same burden on people outside of the city
20 and as far as any realistic future for this
21 city I think we can basically, you know,
22 toss that in the wastebasket because that's
23 not realistic to think there is a future,
24 you're only fooling yourselves. Anybody my
25 age 25, 26 or even younger, the best thing

1 that they could do is get out because there
2 is no future. We have pumped hundreds of
3 thousands of dollars in a downtown trying to
4 turn it into a neighborhood, which is
5 completely ridiculous when you can't even
6 maintain the neighborhoods themselves. I
7 find it to be very comical. Take a look
8 around the neighborhoods, do you even walk
9 them? I know it's not an election so you
10 probably don't, but in the spring, in May
11 coming up, when you walk through the
12 neighborhoods asking for votes go through
13 the neighborhoods and take a look at them
14 and look the people in the eyes and listen
15 to their stories because I listen to people.
16 Everybody here listens to them, but for some
17 reason you don't and I don't understand, but
18 I figured it out, you know, it's all about
19 the good 'ole boy club.

20 You know, the parking deal was an
21 absolute disgrace. The Sewer Authority deal
22 it's my hope that that doesn't happen but,
23 you know, what's really just mind boggling
24 is how we can have an elected body here that
25 claims that they have an understanding of

1 these deals. I mean, you never held any
2 public meetings in regards to getting input
3 from the residents of this city. I'm not
4 interested in your little backdoor meetings
5 you have in your little office back there.
6 That's silliness, okay? It's not
7 transparent. You people haven't been
8 transparent so don't claim you have been
9 because I listened to, you know, the excuses
10 oh, we have been transparent, we have had
11 things in the public, you haven't, and
12 that's just not me saying that a lot of
13 people in this community that feel that way,
14 but they don't want to waste their time
15 coming down here talking to a bunch of
16 chimpanzees, although Lee is right, a
17 chimpanzee probably would do a better job.

18 MR. PERRY: Chimpanzees?

19 MR. MILLER: That's right,
20 chimpanzees.

21 MR. PERRY: I just want to make sure
22 I heard you right.

23 MR. MILLER: Yeah, you heard me
24 quite clear. So, you know, we look at the
25 problems in the city and as Mr. Morgan said

1 and other people have said, you know, next
2 year is a very important election and you
3 have a chance to make changes. You know,
4 are we going to actually do something
5 beneficial for the residents of this city
6 for a change? I highly doubt it. Not in
7 the track we are -- not in the path we are
8 following now.

9 You have Mr. Amoroso come forward
10 with his grand vision for the community.
11 You haven't heard from him in awhile.
12 You've heard about all of these different
13 things that you were going to do. You know,
14 Mr. Courtright talked about getting the city
15 back on track, the poor guy hasn't even
16 found the tracks yet. I mean, it's
17 ridiculous and here we are just waltzing
18 around the same things over and over again.

19 You know, and the one question I
20 have tonight is we talk about jobs, you
21 know, are have a very critical election in
22 the next 55 days, 56 days, where I think you
23 are going to see some real significant
24 change in this country. I think you are
25 going to see Mr. Trump just obliterate

1 Hillary Clinton in this election. Forget
2 what you see on the polls on TV, it means
3 nothing. You know, you have Hillary Clinton
4 here a few weeks ago and Joe Biden. There
5 are Scrantonians when they need our vote,
6 but this is a city that's been in distressed
7 status for almost 30 years. What have they
8 done to help this community besides come
9 here every four or eight years and waltzing
10 in here for our vote. She couldn't even
11 take the time to go pay her respects to her
12 father, but she had enough time to go over
13 to Greenridge because that's where the money
14 is.

15 But all you guys learn from people
16 like that, corrupt political hacks because
17 that's what you are. Not all of you --

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
19 Mr. Miller.

20 MR. MILLER: -- but most of you are.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
22 Miller.

23 MR. MILLER: You're very welcome.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else
25 who would like to address council?

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie
2 Schumacher. I'd like to start out with a
3 shout out to the city, or I believe it's
4 OECD more precisely, I don't think this
5 mentioned, but when you were on vacation on
6 the 20th of August there was an article
7 about the city filing suit to recoup a loan
8 to a developer. A developer, I might add,
9 who happened to be in -- happens to be
10 located in Binghamton, but rest assured
11 there are many local people who are as
12 delinquent or deeper in delinquency and I am
13 requesting tonight that we get that whole
14 list of all of the OECD loans that were made
15 from 2002 on and the current status and what
16 happened to them, were they paid, are they
17 delinquent, have they been written off, I
18 would like to know that and I think the
19 people deserve to know that? But I do and I
20 happy they're finally starting to do that.
21 Very overdue.

22 I didn't bring all of the statistics
23 tonight, I'm sorry, I got a little
24 sidetracked today, but I do recall that as
25 of today the property transfers, all of the

1 property transfers since I started keeping
2 Scranton and everybody else in March the
3 45.5 or 6 percent are below the CLR and
4 that's tragic. It's truly tragic.

5 Next, on the agenda for tonight, 5-H
6 during motions or before you vote on these I
7 would like to know on "F" what -- if there
8 is a retention of all of these tapes
9 included and if they are -- if the retention
10 and storage of those tapes is included in
11 this and the duration of retention because
12 that's proving to be a problem across the
13 country. A lot of police departments are
14 stopping cameras because of the need to
15 store and retain all of those tapes.

16 And the next one is on "H", I would
17 like to know, again, the amount of this and
18 I would like to know the duration of the
19 lease.

20 And then finally for tonight agenda
21 Item I, I missed the RPF for this can
22 anybody tell me in your backup when this was
23 in the paper and what is the duration? No?
24 Okay. Maybe if somebody find it before your
25 vote that would be of interest.

1 And, Mr. Wechsler, before your next
2 meeting of the parking group I would suggest
3 you suggest they put on the agenda the
4 promised safety item.

5 And, now, we all saw this headline a
6 couple of days ago, "PAWC Alters Sewer
7 Plan." If they can alter it so can we, and
8 I think it's time we say nothing until we
9 get much more information and how much this
10 storm water is going to cost us. I have
11 been looking through some old documents, a
12 1991 document that I did a Right-to-Know
13 with the county and I thought this was worth
14 reading tonight because it's just yet
15 another one, and the long-term control plan
16 what it costs, so just reading the Sewer
17 Authority's long-term control plan. This is
18 the your SAPA and it says for the City of
19 Scranton, "Scranton City has a wide array of
20 storm water problems ranging from inadequate
21 past practices to aging infrastructure. As
22 urban area that has been developed for many
23 years, stream enclosures exist through
24 entire city blocks. Older neighborhoods,
25 such as the East Mountain, were built

1 without adding the storm water planning for
2 infrastructure. The City's working
3 constantly to add storm water management
4 facilities to address past practices and is
5 not limited by need but by funding. Many
6 areas of the city are served by a
7 combination of sanitary storm sewers leading
8 to significant problems associated with
9 combined sewer outfall discharge throughout
10 the city. Constant maintenance and
11 preservation of the flood control project is
12 required and implementation of additional
13 regulations would help preserve their
14 capacity."

15 May I just read one more sentence?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Please keep it within
17 the time limit. Thank you.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: The one -- it lists
19 all of the creeks and all that are causing
20 damage and infrastructure along with soil
21 bank erosion and it says here, "Bleach Creek
22 is currently routed through what appears to
23 be a railroad tunnel and requires a major
24 construction project. "

25 That would be in our next capital

1 plan.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll see you next
4 week, good Lord willing.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
8 was here when Mr. Boscov came for his last
9 borrowing why -- I think you are all very
10 smart. Mr. Rogan, might have been there.
11 Were you -- might have been at that meeting?

12 MR. ROGAN: I was and I voted
13 against it. I was the one vote against it.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: It wasn't so much
15 that he was asking for money, it was a
16 question who in their right mind would lend
17 to the Mall Partners instead of the company
18 headquarters. I believe everyone else that
19 lent Mr. Boscov money lent it to the parent
20 company and not to the Mall Partners when
21 you know there were financial problems but
22 it was done. I think you are very smart.
23 That's the trouble. I know you understand
24 everything that's happened, my question is
25 why. I don't understand. Why anybody would

1 do the things you do.

2 Let's take the street lighting,
3 that's my favorite one. We borrowed money
4 to buy lights from PPL then we have gave
5 another contract for the people to change it
6 to mercury vapors and then another contract
7 for people to go around and replace the
8 bulbs. Now you want to borrow another 44
9 million to change the lights again. There
10 was nothing wrong with our lighting.

11 If you come up and give a figure of
12 how much we are saving by doing all of these
13 things that would make more sense, not just
14 giving contracts out for things like we give
15 contracts out for. Things that aren't
16 needed are being given on contract. That's
17 what made he wonder what is going on here
18 because I think you are all very intelligent
19 or you wouldn't get away with what you are
20 doing but, unfortunately, that's way it
21 goes.

22 And the problem with the water is
23 not the homes it's the asphalt. You and I
24 know the biggest culprit of any city when
25 rain happens is the asphalt. Most of the

1 homes on the outskirts or where I am the
2 water mainly goes into the yard and perks
3 down to the river, but the asphalt does not
4 perk so they in turn flow into the sewer
5 system and that's the main culprit so you
6 can blame the city as being the main culprit
7 for the water problem. The only trouble is
8 we are going to have to pay for it because,
9 unfortunately, we like to drive our cars on
10 asphalt instead of bricks and dirt so these
11 things are there and they will continue to
12 haunt us.

13 As far as the parking garages, you
14 know what I think of it, I just wish a
15 government agency would come in and
16 investigate. I'm surprised they didn't.
17 I'm surprised PEL isn't in here crying their
18 heart out. That's what's surprised me more
19 than anything, PEL would let that go through
20 without any kind of comment and that's the
21 sad part because obviously they are smart,
22 too. They know what's going on.

23 Everybody knows what's going on and
24 they are going to show up when it comes to
25 voting time then they are going to have to

1 say what happened and the family ain't going
2 to bear the jury duty. I understand the
3 family is very proud of them. You want to
4 call it a political organization, I call it
5 the family. People in the housing, schools,
6 city, state, county, they all vote as a
7 block and that's what's destroying
8 Lackawanna County. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
10 else?

11 MR. PERRY: I just want to quickly
12 address two things that Mr. Sbaraglia said.
13 When we entered into this latest agreement
14 for the streetlights there was actually a
15 guaranteed savings. This contract that we
16 signed with them if we didn't see the
17 savings that they offered us in that
18 contract they were going to pay the balance
19 of it, so there is going to be a savings
20 with that contract that we signed.

21 And just to defend my part of the
22 parking decision, the general fund was
23 constantly getting raided at the end the
24 year to pay that Parking authority and
25 that's after you include revenue from the

1 meters and the garages. There still wasn't
2 enough money to pay for it, and not only was
3 there not enough money to pay for it, but
4 year after year it was just the revenue was
5 cycling down and down and down the garages
6 just were empty and it wasn't even able to
7 be propped up any longer. It was going to
8 cost us a lot more down the road and, you
9 know, personally that's why I voted for
10 this. It just stopped the seepage from the
11 general fund.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
14 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxes paid. First
15 of all, once again call Congress, talk to
16 your senator and your congressman
17 1-202-224-3121, tell them to pack it in on
18 their trade packs. And 1-202-456-1111 to
19 talk to the president and tell him you are
20 very disappointed and please pack it in on
21 the trade packs, especially the transpacific
22 pack. You are tired of social security
23 going broke, you are tired of the government
24 being broke, you are tired of paying more in
25 property taxes, you are tired of people

1 going crazy. Tell them to pack it in on the
2 trade packs.

3 Now, on local issues, the tax
4 office, one of the things that disturbs me
5 about my tax form is that I get combined
6 city and school taxes and all I would like
7 to know is how much am I paying the city and
8 how much am I paying the school? The person
9 that was employed by the school and on
10 council years back used to crow that the
11 school taxes were high, but, you know, I'd
12 like to know who is charging what and they
13 shouldn't be combined.

14 On the Parking Authority, years
15 back, and there is nothing you people can do
16 about it, I don't know if the current path
17 is the right path, but several people that I
18 know personally resigned from the Parking
19 Authority years ago because they felt that
20 the aggressive building policy was stupid
21 and that's all there is to it. We are stuck
22 with what we are stuck with, but it's ashamed
23 and I do agree that it's going down. Oh, by
24 the way, I parked in the Parking Authority a
25 couple of weeks in a row and it won't accept

1 my credit card so they didn't even get paid.
2 Give me a break.

3 ITT, if you read in the paper a
4 large institution, ITT went broke, well, it
5 brought new meaning to thousands of people
6 that you can go 'ta school. It's a big
7 business anymore. You get put out of a job
8 because of these trade packs and stuff and
9 you can go to school. It sounds like the
10 politician knows something, well, they don't
11 know anything because you are in for years
12 of debt, and in addition if you are ever
13 accepted in that field or if you even have
14 an aptitude for it because the unemployment
15 office has been sending people and paying
16 for it and some people don't have a clue
17 when they are in the field anyway.

18 This flooding is getting really
19 disturbing. We have people from West Side,
20 people from Greenridge with problems that
21 really -- would you really want sewer water
22 backing up in your house and I know you have
23 expressed concern on it, but it is time to
24 get something done about it and done in a
25 hurry. I mean, sewage in a house that makes

1 a house condemnable. How would you like to
2 have your house just condemned some day
3 because things got out of hand? It's just
4 not right. The people shouldn't have to
5 deal with that, that type of stuff should be
6 the dealt with immediately. Mr. Young has
7 been in and out of here six months and all
8 he has gotten from the law office is a bunch
9 of hoopla and legal ease and it's sad. It's
10 really sad.

11 And once again, oversized housing we
12 need to consider the ordinances that we have
13 on oversized housing. It's silly to have
14 two people living in a 14-room house, and
15 granted if should be done tastefully, but it
16 could be an answer and the rents are going
17 way up. I had a house next to me that was
18 left for taxes sold for \$15,000 and with a
19 few repairs \$850 a month rent. You know,
20 there is no competition in the rent. It's
21 ashamed because not a lot was done with it,
22 and I'm just glad somebody is in there and
23 I'm glad the guy bought it, I don't mean
24 that, but 850 a month is kind of high.
25 That's an awful hefty investment to get back

1 for something you put \$20,000 in and get
2 \$2,000. Thank you and have a good night.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

5 MOTIONS.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

7 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I have a couple of
8 things and I'll try got get through as
9 quickly as possible. Ms. Hodowanitz brought
10 up about the Rainey & Rainey contract, I'm
11 going to drop Mr. Bulzoni a line tomorrow
12 and just see if he has an idea of an
13 extension because at this point, you know,
14 we are wrapping up the 2015 audit, although
15 it's late it's months ahead of where we were
16 last year and we are that cusp of the 2017
17 budget so even if he doesn't have a
18 definitive answer about the extension I
19 think he has pretty good idea on which way
20 he wants to build his team after, you know,
21 they just may needed to and it's success
22 rate in getting this 2015 audit, knock on
23 wood.

24 Really right now the biggest thing
25 on our plate on my mind is the Sewer

1 Authority and the sale. I mean, it's coming
2 to a head, it's coming to a head very soon
3 and I don't know if anxious or anxiety is
4 the word I would like to use that's hanging
5 over everybody's head, but there is just
6 major issues waiting for this shoe to drop
7 with storm water management and storm water
8 costs. There is the easement questions that
9 are happening and, you know, I'm sure, you
10 know, one thing has to happen for the next
11 thing to happen, but the more we wait and
12 the longer this goes it just shortens that
13 window of how prepared we are going to be
14 and that's definitely a reason for me to put
15 some energy into this and see where we are
16 because this is too big of a deal to the
17 city right now. This is the biggest thing
18 that we have going for us and we cannot, for
19 lack of a better word, underperform on this.

20 I also will call Chief Graziano
21 about the missing rape kit and see just
22 what's the deal with it. Is it just
23 something that's misplaced or was it
24 returned, just to get an answer because I
25 think we are all wondering.

1 And I don't want to steal Councilman
2 Rogan's thunder, but I do want to just say
3 thank you to Linda Aebli and the whole team
4 really at the Office of Economic and
5 Community Development for getting that
6 Section 108 information to us about Boscov's
7 and the money that is outstanding still
8 because I know, again, that's something else
9 that popped up in the also eight to ten
10 days, the foreclosures on his property that
11 we do have some stake in, but I'll let
12 Mr. Rogan get into all of that.

13 And, finally, Mr. Morgan brought up
14 kind of a good idea about cameras in the
15 parking garages. If there is no push back
16 from councilmen, I would like to send a
17 letter on behalf of council, Ms. Reed, to
18 not only the DNC but also the Marketplace at
19 Steamtown to see if there is any chance to
20 add cameras. That might be something that's
21 in the works already because I know they
22 were very extensive and they are very proud
23 of the record of safety. It just so happens
24 that, you know, before they get the feet up
25 and running and everything is in place we do

1 have an issue and I want this issue to be
2 followed up. I want this to be the place to
3 go that, you know, this needs to -- we need
4 to reign this in and stop it. One is too
5 much. That's kind of my feeling on that.
6 And that's all I have today.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

8 Mr. Rogan?

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes, before I get into
10 the Boscov loan issue, two positive items
11 I'd like to mention. Earlier this week
12 while leaving a meeting at city hall I ran
13 into students from the University of
14 Scranton, first year freshman who were doing
15 a tour of Scranton, and the timing was very
16 well and the mayor and myself were outside
17 and we were able to speak to the students
18 and let them know about many of the great
19 things that are available in the City of
20 Scranton outside of just being on the
21 University of Scranton campus so I enjoyed
22 the opportunity to speak to those students.

23 Also, the same day WNEP did a very
24 nice story about businesses in the downtown,
25 new businesses relocating to the downtown

1 and expansions. It was very nice to see a
2 positive story about the city downtown, and
3 if you look at what's happened it's really
4 all started with the mall, with John
5 Basalyga's investment in the city and we are
6 starting to see that snowball effect.

7 The paving that has been in the
8 downtown as well as certainly gone a long
9 way towards making the downtown more
10 friendly for people to commute in and, you
11 know, there is much more work to be done but
12 there is a lot of progress on that front.

13 Getting into the Boscov issue, as
14 last week I brought up a number of questions
15 regarding we'll call it Boscov's, they're
16 technically called Steamtown Mall Partners
17 and Steamtown Mall Associates, but they are
18 loans in regards to the Steamtown Mall and
19 Al Boscov as noted was the principal on
20 these partnerships.

21 So the first question was regarding
22 the amount that was owed in total to the
23 City of Scranton and it's listed as
24 Steamtown Mall Partners around \$22,700,000.
25 Steamtown Mall Associates is \$4,638,000 for

1 a grand total of \$27,332,000. In addition
2 to that \$27 million, there is an additional
3 Boscov Section 108 loan for 2008 which was a
4 principle loan of \$3 million. The current
5 balance on that loan is around \$2.5 million
6 of that loan currently Boscov's is paying
7 that correctly to HUD and it is current but
8 if there is default on that loan the city
9 has guaranteed that loan as they have the
10 other Section 108 loans.

11 The second question was provide a
12 breakdown of each loan, which I will get
13 into when I give it to the spreadsheet in
14 the back here. The next question was
15 regarding the 108s which the city is
16 responsible for paying back, again, I will
17 get to that in one minute. And, finally,
18 which was one of the more pressing questions
19 that myself and I know some of my colleagues
20 raised as well was have any donations been
21 received from Mr. Boscov and if so in what
22 frequency?

23 And the reply that we received is
24 that "Scranton's Office of Economic and
25 Community Development has no knowledge of

1 the City of Scranton receiving donations
2 from the Steamtown Mall Partners, the
3 Steamtown Mall Associates and/or Boscov's
4 Department store other than the personal
5 contributions from a Boscov's Department
6 Store on December 4r, 2014, in the amount of
7 \$713,00 to pay for an overdue Section 108
8 loan that was owned by the Steamtown Mall
9 Partners. That amount was around \$613,000
10 in principal and \$102,000 in interest."

11 So since that one good faith
12 donation has been made to the city there
13 hasn't been any else that follows.

14 As a breakdown of the loans, as I
15 mentioned, there are two types of loans that
16 are involved here. There is one type where
17 if they're defaulted upon the city is not
18 responsible for paying them, but we do lose
19 that programming income coming in to loan
20 out to other small businesses or for other
21 projects within the city. The second type
22 of loan, which is much more detrimental to
23 the city where they're defaulting on the
24 Section 108 loans, and the timing for this
25 is very coincidental that tonight we are

1 also introducing the 2017 Community
2 Development and Block Grant funding, which I
3 will get into in a minute, as payment for
4 one of these Section 108 loans that has been
5 unpaid. So not to go into too much because
6 there is quite a number of loans here that
7 have been paid off, refinanced, if you
8 remember I believe it was my second year on
9 council Mr. Boscov came in or he sent
10 attorneys in asking for I called it a
11 bailout, others called it a remodification
12 of his loan so many times these loans have
13 changed the form they were in, so the
14 current total that the city is either out or
15 on the hook is \$27 million but that could
16 increase to almost \$30 million if the
17 Boscov's loan, 108 loan that is current is
18 not paid.

19 So that is the total of where we
20 currently stand regarding the Boscov's
21 loans, and I do think, and my colleagues
22 agree, we should send correspondence to
23 Mr. Boscov asking if there will be any
24 future donations made to the city as was
25 promised at the caucus that city council had

1 that Mr. Boscov was looking for for future
2 loans.

3 MR. PERRY: The only item that I
4 would just like to add is if we would could
5 see what time frame when the next donations
6 would be made.

7 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely, and I always
8 say this and sometimes people will stop me
9 on the streets and say I'm being too hard on
10 Mr. Boscov, and I always preface my
11 statements with I say he has a great store.
12 I don't think there is anyone that could say
13 that Boscov's isn't one of the best stores
14 in the area, but the stores and his
15 financial dealings with the City of Scranton
16 are two completely different things. I have
17 long been a Boscov shopper, if these loans
18 continue to go unpaid and the taxpayers are
19 out millions of dollars I think it will be
20 hard for myself and many people in the City
21 of Scranton to continue shopping at
22 Boscov's.

23 Moving on and still OECD issues, we
24 are introducing the 2017 Community
25 Development Block Grant funding for this

1 year, so I'm go to go through all the items
2 that are proposed to be funded. There will
3 be a public hearing on this if anyone wishes
4 to comment. I'll first start off with the
5 four biggest funding sessions within these
6 programs. The largest is paving. The city
7 has one, it's no secret that the city
8 streets are -- many of them are in disrepair
9 and this year \$400,000 is allocated for
10 paving.

11 Neighborhood police patrols \$261,000
12 is allocated. That will pay for four
13 full-time police officers to patrol the
14 beats in other neighborhoods. That's a
15 great program, I think everybody is very
16 happy to see that funded.

17 This next one bothers me quite a
18 bit. The third largest funding source out
19 of our block grant allocations is one of the
20 Section 108 loans from the Steamtown Mall
21 Partners and that's in the amount of
22 \$201,000. If that loan had been current and
23 paid by the partners headed by Mr. Boscov
24 that would be \$201,000 additional dollars
25 could be used for any of these programs that

1 I have been mentioned while I go through the
2 rest of these allocations.

3 The fourth largest item is
4 demolition of hazardous structures within
5 the City of Scranton, which there are far
6 too many and the \$200,000, unfortunately,
7 only was a small debt to that but it is a
8 start.

9 Some of the other items that are
10 being funded through the city are public
11 sidewalks with ADA ramps and increased
12 lighting to serve economic development
13 zones.

14 This one is very important, a
15 balance of the engine purchase price for
16 Scranton Engine 7. As you know, our fire
17 department has gone many, many years without
18 upgrades. I talked to one firemen who is
19 about to retire and he told me he is using
20 the same piece of apparatus today as he was
21 hired over 20 years ago because of all of
22 the breakdowns throughout the city, so
23 that's a very important piece of funding
24 there.

25 St. Joseph's Center, the

1 mother-infant program will be funded for
2 \$10,000.

3 United Neighborhood Center, the
4 Bellevue Youth Program will be funded for
5 \$10,000.

6 United Neighborhood Center, the
7 Project Hope summer camp, which is one I
8 know we are all happy to see that that's
9 still going on, it's proposed for \$40,000.

10 Administration for the Office of
11 Economic and Community Development will be
12 funded for \$500,000.

13 CDBG funding for the HOME Program
14 will be \$28,000.

15 The North Scranton Neighborhood
16 Association, this is the McLane Park
17 improvement project, and I did speak to the
18 mayor at length about this project and I
19 believe we received a petition just this
20 week in our mailbox, that's going to be
21 funded for \$90,000 and that sounds like it's
22 going to be a great, great improvement for
23 the North Scranton neighborhoods.

24 The Connell Park little league will
25 be funded \$29,000 for various projects at

1 that little league.

2 Boys and Girls Club of NEPA \$15,000
3 for the Park-It program, which is one the
4 Scranton school district and the city
5 partners up to help low to moderate income
6 children enjoy the parks in the summer.

7 The Scranton/Lackawanna Human
8 Development Agency, that's for the
9 weatherization program to help individuals
10 who get their house up to code as
11 weatherization goes to save them some money.

12 The Catherine McCullough Center,
13 \$5,000 for rental assistance.

14 And I believe that is it. There are
15 a number of other funding though the HOME
16 Program that I won't get into, many of those
17 are housing rehabilitation. Our first time
18 homebuyers program, which I know myself and
19 Councilman Evans have always fought for
20 increased funding on, but that is in a
21 nutshell the current proposal for 2017, and
22 unfortunately, a very long and sad trip down
23 memory lane regarding Mr. Boscov's loans for
24 the City of Scranton. That's all.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

1 Mr. Evans?

2 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I would like
3 to ask for mayor and his administration
4 officially and on the record again why don't
5 you create a defined contribution pension
6 plan, a 401-K-type plan for you and your
7 cabinet and the non-union personnel that are
8 employed by the city? In fact, I would not
9 be surprised if you polled cabinet members
10 and non-union employees with city government
11 I'm sure you would find a large majority
12 would be in favor of such a change.

13 Besides the obvious benefits of
14 making the change, there are other reasons
15 for the city to do this. Number one, we
16 need to find ways to eliminate legacy costs
17 at every opportunity. Number two, there
18 will be will some long-term savings,
19 something we don't look at nearly enough.
20 And three, it is a benefit that would help
21 attract qualified and professional staff for
22 cabinet and non-union positions on a going
23 forward basis.

24 For the enrollee, this type of plan
25 there are many benefits as well. Number

1 reassessment received another supporter this
2 week as the director of the Greater Scranton
3 Board of Realtors endorsed and are in full
4 support of a countywide reassessment. They
5 recognize that increased property values and
6 growth as well as tax quality cannot be
7 fully achieved without a reassessment
8 particularly within the City of Scranton.

9 Finally, while we will forever have
10 those that will tell us how bad Scranton is
11 as not a good place to live or work or it's
12 a dying town with no opportunity etcetera,
13 etcetera, etcetera, I would like to offer a
14 slightly different perspective of who we are
15 as Scrantonians. I attended a fundraiser
16 for Patrick Sweeney at the Icebox on
17 Saturday. Pat is a friend but he is also my
18 wife's cousin so to me he is a family. My
19 sons came with their wives and girlfriends
20 and some of our grandchildren came as well
21 as so did hundreds, maybe thousands of
22 others to offer their support. As I said
23 hello to old friends and some new ones,
24 politicians and relatives and strangers, I
25 couldn't help but think that this is what we

1 are all about. This is who we really are.
2 When one of our own needs help we rally. We
3 come together, we care for each other. I
4 saw hundreds of smiles and just as many
5 tears, not out of sadness, but out of joy.
6 A joy that comes when you realize that you
7 are not alone that "we", the collective "we"
8 that is Scranton are with you. That is all
9 I have for tonight.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
11 Mr. Gaughan?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just
13 a few items. Last week I asked when
14 Colliery Avenue and Cedar avenue would be
15 paved due to the extensive pave cuts that
16 have taken place on these two roads and on
17 the pave cut inspector informed us that the
18 utility companies would be paving both
19 streets in the spring. I was hoping that it
20 would be done earlier because I believe that
21 this is going to make for rough travel
22 during the winter.

23 Councilmen Wechsler and I attended
24 at meeting in the 400 block of Phelps Street
25 in regard to the flooding that has occurred

1 there this week -- or rather the flooding
2 that occurred previously, we attended the
3 meeting this week. The damage to this block
4 is absolutely astounding and unacceptable.
5 People lost cars, there were cars that are
6 floating down the street, water heaters,
7 boilers, and many other things that cannot
8 be replaced. To give you an example,
9 Pantuso corners, which is right on the
10 corner there, had well over \$200,000 in
11 damage and as we stood there on that block
12 my heart broke for those people because they
13 literally have no recourse whatsoever. They
14 can't get flood insurance because they are
15 not near a body of water and a lot of their
16 insurance doesn't cover many of the things
17 that they lost and some of the deductibles
18 are absolutely ridiculous.

19 Councilman Wechsler and I invited AJ
20 Magnotta to the meeting who works as an
21 engineer on behalf of the Sewer Authority
22 and he explained what some of the issues
23 were in this area. Apparently, they need to
24 do an extensive cleaning of one of the lines
25 that may be blocked and causing the flooding

1 but this may take months because of bidding
2 procedures. I'd like to find out if there
3 is a way that we can possibly speed this
4 process because these people cannot afford
5 to get hit with another disaster.

6 Also, we need to investigate if
7 there is funding available to these people
8 to recoup some of their losses and for that
9 matter all people across Scranton who have
10 lost many different things with some of the
11 disastrous flooding. This is an absolute
12 tragedy that has happened to this block and
13 these people and hopefully something can be
14 done to help them out.

15 We also requested that PPL go out
16 and cut the trees in the 400 block of Phelps
17 Street. There is lot of different hazards
18 and hopefully PPL can get out there and cut
19 those back so they can get off of the lines.

20 I was informed this week by
21 Mr. Wechsler that the mayor will not be
22 attending a caucus in council chambers to
23 give us a state of the city update. He is
24 apparently working on his state of the city
25 address and will give it at some point to

1 the Chamber of Commerce.

2 I mentioned this before the recess,
3 but I think that the mayor needs to sit down
4 and review the quality of life ticketing
5 program in the city. I requested last July
6 how many tickets had been issued to date in
7 2016 and the amount of money has been
8 collected as a result of these citations,
9 and I did receive the information and the
10 numbers seem to extremely low. Just to give
11 you an example, January 53 tickets, February
12 65 tickets, May 87 tickets, so we are not
13 issuing as many tickets as I thought we
14 should be based on the complaints we get
15 every week from people in the neighborhoods
16 about all of the things that are going on.
17 We budgeted \$42,500 and it doesn't look like
18 we are going to hit that amount.

19 Now, saying that, I don't believe
20 that this program is just about giving
21 people a ticket so that the city can collect
22 the money. Rather, find out what the
23 problem is and try to work with the person
24 to get it cleaned up and keep our
25 neighborhoods clean. One of the things that

1 I mentioned that I think has been done
2 before and it was very successful is
3 saturation patrols with all city inspectors,
4 police department, and the neighborhood
5 groups, so focus on one section of the city
6 instead of keeping the inspectors spread
7 out. I believe you can make more of impact
8 that way.

9 So I definitely think that there are
10 more efficient ways that this program can be
11 successful and we can accomplish some of
12 these goals.

13 I'd like to thank the DPW for taking
14 care of a very dangerous situation on Olive
15 Street that was impeding pedestrian traffic.
16 They cleared some brush there that blocked.
17 It was very dangerous for students from
18 Lackawanna College traveling down to the
19 stadium and to Scranton High School
20 students.

21 Also, as was mentioned, council
22 received the RFP for a preliminary storm
23 water analysis and proposals will be opened
24 Monday, October 31, at 10 a.m. in council
25 chambers. And that is all I have this week.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
3 Gaughan. This evening my comments are
4 really going being basically following up
5 pretty much on everything that was said by
6 my colleagues, very well spoken as it was.

7 Mr. Perry mentioned the storm water
8 plan and the Sewer Authority plan. I think
9 as a city government, and especially
10 administration working with council, is we
11 really have to start separating the say of
12 Sewer Authority and the storm water
13 management plan. The sale of the Sewer
14 Authority is on a track of it's own and it's
15 either going to be successful or it's not
16 going to be successful, the powers that be
17 will decide that. The storm water
18 management issue is our problem. The city
19 holds the storm water permit and it's up to
20 us as city government officials to get this
21 plan moving either the Plan A working with
22 the new owners of the Sewer authority or
23 Plan B working on our own or Plan C working
24 with some type of hybrid agreement between
25 the new owners, old owners and the city.

1 But we are seeing -- starting to see
2 problems with the neighborhoods as
3 Mr. Gaughan and I saw and part of the
4 problems that we are seeing is even though
5 we hear tonight there is nothing happening
6 in the city, there are a lot of developments
7 now in the city that are causing more
8 parking lots to be built and more buildings
9 to be built and they are impacting the old,
10 obsolete system that we have in our homes.

11 Following up on Mr. Gaughan's
12 comments, when we were over on Phelps Street
13 this weekend -- this week, I'm sorry, the
14 thing that struck me is these are just
15 working people. There is no -- we hear from
16 the podium all the time about special
17 interests and we are only serving this one
18 and we're serving that one, I can honestly
19 say that I have never met one of these
20 people at political functions and never seen
21 them at a political function, don't know if
22 they're "R", "D's, "I's" or not registered
23 at all, but when you talk to them they go to
24 work and they fear that when they come home
25 their property isn't going to be there or

1 when they go to bed at night they fear that
2 they can't wake up in time to go down and
3 rescue their vehicles and their properties.
4 These are the people that need are help.
5 These are the people that we need to make
6 sure are taken care of.

7 One of the questions that came up
8 while we were there, and I am going to
9 request that we get in contract with
10 Director Barrett, if there is a possibility
11 that the Sewer Authority is putting off work
12 while waiting for the sale of the Sewer
13 authority these problems exist today, and
14 just as I said, we have to start looking at
15 this city whether in terms of where we are
16 today, not if the Sewer authority is sold or
17 not if the Sewer authority is sold. That
18 would be very disappointing to hear that
19 there are projects being delayed while the
20 Sewer Authority is waiting to see their
21 status with the Sewer Authority because
22 these people need to be served.

23 And just as we did with Mr. Young if
24 it's a matter of doing an emergency
25 declaration, if it's the matter of just

1 cleaning out a drain that should be done and
2 it shouldn't be delayed while we wait for a
3 study or anything like that, and I am not go
4 to listen to putting off this work, but this
5 is something -- every person should go over
6 and talk to these people on Phelps Street
7 and just get a sense on how terrified they
8 are of what happens there.

9 Also, following up on Mr. Rogan's
10 comments about the good news in the city.
11 Once again, we hear how bad things are now,
12 being accused of not being in the
13 neighborhoods, councilmen are in the
14 neighborhoods all of the time. I don't see
15 the speakers where I'm at, I don't see them
16 there and we are all in the neighborhoods.

17 On Saturday, Councilman Evans and I
18 and the mayor we attended a unity rally at
19 the mall that, you know, those people
20 weren't there. We were at the Sweeney
21 benefit where there were so many people
22 there they ran out of raffle tickets to
23 sell. Once again, an outpouring of people
24 positive and the majority of those people
25 were Scrantonians there, dedicated

1 Scrantonians trying to help a friend and
2 they will come out when you need them, so
3 maybe I happen to go to different places and
4 get a better feel for the negativity out
5 there, but I really believe if some of our
6 people that are not seeing a good they need
7 to get out and try to go to some of the
8 places where good things are happening.

9 Try to get at the City Deli on
10 Spruce Street on Saturday morning or Sunday
11 morning, it's loaded with customers. It's
12 so big they had to add more seating. There
13 are positive things going on here if you
14 choose to see them. I mean, I choose to see
15 a lot of the negative, but you have to open
16 your eyes to some of the positive as well
17 and it's frustrating for me that maybe I'm
18 not seeing some of the negative, but they
19 are not seeing any of the positive and it is
20 there. It really is there.

21 I also want to kind of a personal
22 neighborhood note, we came very close to a
23 tragedy on East Mountain last week with a
24 fire and, fortunately, Engine 10 was quick
25 responding to the fire, saved a home without

1 any major property damage and no loss of
2 life, so I always have to give a shout out
3 to East Mountain finest Engine 10, and it is
4 one of the things that myself as a
5 councilman would never allow that station to
6 be closed. That's all I have at this time.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
9 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
11 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
12 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
13 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
14 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
15 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
16 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE
17 PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
6 ayes have it and so moved.

7 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
9 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT
10 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF
11 \$20,920.00 AWARDED THROUGH THE BJA FY 16
12 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
13 GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL SOLICITATION FOR
14 THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF MOBILE
15 VIDEO RECORDERS IN FOUR (4) PATROL CARS.

16 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
17 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
18 introduced into its proper committee.

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
7 NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
8 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY
9 TRANSFERRING \$10,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
10 01.380.38000 (MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE
11 OTHER-NOT CLASSIFIED) TO ACCOUNT NO.
12 01.080.00083.4550 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
13 WORKS-BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CAPITAL
14 EXPENDITURES) TO UTILIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE
15 RECEIVED FROM THE SCRAP VEHICLES BID PROJECT
16 BY INCREASING THE REVENUE AVAILABLE IN THE
17 DPW BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
18 LINE ITEM.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

1 saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE
10 UPDATED CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR
11 THE YEAR 2017 WHICH IS THE FOURTH-YEAR AND
12 FINAL REVISION AND EXTENSION OF THE 2013
13 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
4 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
5 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
6 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
7 DEPARTMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
8 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT(DCED) FOR
9 A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS)
10 MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,000.00
11 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHTEEN (18)
12 SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS TO BE INSTALLED IN FIVE
13 (5) CITY PARKS AS PART OF THE SECURE OUR
14 PARKS PROJECT AND BE MONITORED BY SCRANTON
15 POLICE PERSONNEL TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS A
16 DAY, SEVEN (7) DAYS A WEEK AND AUTHORIZING
17 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
18 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF
19 SUCCESSFUL, AND DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS FOR
20 THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
21 PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THE EIGHTEEN
22 (18) SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN FIVE (5) CITY
23 PARKS.

24 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. EVANS: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
6 I strongly support this grant. As somebody
7 who lives near a park in the city I think
8 this is going to improve public safety.
9 Just to let everyone know, there are five
10 city parks that are going to be involved in
11 this program, should we get the grant. One
12 of them is Nay Aug Park, Connell Park,
13 Connors Park, Fellows Park, and Rockwell
14 Avenue Park, otherwise known as McLane Park,
15 so I think all of the hard work that
16 everybody puts into these parks and all of
17 the people that use them, and the last
18 couple of months we have seen at Weston Park
19 some damage up there from some individuals
20 so I think again this is going to
21 incompetent prove public safety in these
22 areas. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
24 introduction signify by saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION
8 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
9 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
10 APPROPRIATENESS FOR WIDMER SIGN COMPANY,
11 2209 AMELIA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
12 FOR INSTALLATION OF A VINYL WALL SIGN ON THE
13 NORTHWESTERN EXTERIOR WALL MEASURING 28 FEET X
14 15 FEET; AN LED LIGHT MOUNTED FROM ABOVE AND A
15 SINGLE LED LIGHT MOUNTED BELOW AT 515
16 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MR. MINORA: Before we introduce
7 5-H, there was an error in the caption. The
8 last sentence reads, "Any wholly owned
9 subsidiary or M & T bank as lessor."

10 It should read, "Any wholly owned
11 subsidiary of M & T Bank as lessor."

12 So to do this appropriately I would
13 ask for an amendment that the last "for" in
14 the caption be amended to the word "of".
15 You need a motion.

16 MR. ROGAN: I'll make a motion to
17 amend the last "or" to "of" to correct the
18 error.

19 MR. EVANS: Second.

20 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
21 those in favor of the modification signify
22 by saying aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
4 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
5 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A
6 MUNICIPAL LEASE FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR THE
7 CITY OF SCRANTON STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT
8 PROJECT, TO BE EXECUTED BETWEEN THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON, AS LESSEE, AND M&T BANK AND/OR ANY
10 WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF M&T BANK, AS
11 LESSOR.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question
19 just to answer Mrs. Schumacher's question,
20 the amount is \$4 million for a 12-year term
21 with a fixed rate of interest of 3 1/2
22 percent and that money -- this will not have
23 any effect on the general fund. The money
24 will be coming out of our liquid fuels
25 account. Thank you.

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

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
11 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
12 AND ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
13 GRANICUS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION AND
14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO PROVIDE SCRANTON
15 CITY COUNCIL'S OFFICE, GRANICUS SOFTWARE AND
16 MANAGED SERVICES TO AUTOMATE AND STREAMLINE
17 THE AGENDA PROCESS.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

25 This has been a project that I have

1 spearheaded and worked on for quite some
2 time. I'd like to thank the administration
3 and my colleagues for working with me to
4 make this goal a reality.

5 Since I took my seat on council
6 almost three years ago, I knew that there
7 was ways in which we could become more
8 efficient and save money at the same time in
9 council's office. My goal was to get
10 council's office to become virtually
11 paperless and at the same time more
12 transparent to the public which we serve. I
13 would to take a second and explain what this
14 program is and how it will benefit the
15 taxpayers.

16 Currently in council's office we
17 have a highly manual paper dependent process
18 with little automation. We literally waste
19 hundreds of pieces of paper a week,
20 thousands of pieces of paper a year with
21 multiple agenda packets being created
22 manually, and this will just give an idea
23 and there is even more to it, (holding up
24 agenda packet) but what we get in a packet
25 each week.

1 Order items will be posted automatically to
2 the City's website for all residents to view
3 with ease, and a secondary benefit of this
4 is I'm sure it will bring more traffic to
5 the city's website.

6 Another benefit is all of the
7 material that's posted on the city's
8 website, legislation and backup will be
9 searchable by keyword making it easy to find
10 specific pieces of legislation.

11 Granicus has thousands of clients in
12 all 50 states across the United States
13 serving almost every level of government.
14 They work with the United States Senate, and
15 United States House of Representatives.
16 They are a top shelf, top class company that
17 will bring efficiency and transparency to
18 our office.

19 When I became a councilman, I
20 listened to many people who wanted more
21 transparency from our office and I think we
22 are about to deliver that with this program.
23 Once everything is signed, sealed and
24 delivered our staff will be trained and we
25 are looking to roll everything out in the

1 next few months so I will keep everyone
2 posted as we move towards paperless agendas.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. EVANS: On the question, I agree
5 and I think this really in my view at least
6 will usher in a new era of transparency and
7 efficiency to our government beginning with
8 and through the Office the City Council.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, just one
10 comment, as Mr. Gaughan said just the amount
11 of paper that we save is good for it and the
12 benefit of this is we've heard this
13 complaint before, that this information will
14 be become available right at the beginning
15 so it won't be something where we can't post
16 it because the legislation hasn't passed yet
17 as in the past we have been reluctant to put
18 that out because we wanted it to be passed
19 before the information was given out, just
20 because that's the way it was done before,
21 but under the new system now the citizenry
22 will be equal to the council members
23 actually for the amount of information that
24 they are going to receive and I just think
25 it's a good thing that it's out there.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd also like to add
2 as one final point, from an environmental
3 standpoint we will be saving roughly six
4 trees a year. Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: That will replace the
6 ones we are going to cut down on Phelps
7 Street.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? All
10 those in favor of introduction signify by
11 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
19 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

20 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
22 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 46,
23 2016 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126,
24 2015, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY
25 OPERATING BUDGET 2016" BY TRANSFERRING

1 \$60,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
2 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
3 EXPENDITURES - CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
4 01.040.00040.4201 (DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS
5 ADMINISTRATION BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION
6 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT
7 FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT
8 THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

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

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
6 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION - FILE
7 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 47, 2016 - AMENDING FILE
8 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2015, AN ORDINANCE
9 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET
10 2016" BY TRANSFERRING \$300,000.00 FROM
11 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299
12 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES -
13 CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
14 01.080.00083.4460 (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
15 WORKS-BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS STREET LIGHTING) TO
16 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE STREET
17 LIGHTING ACCOUNT THROUGH THE 2016 BUDGET
18 PERIOD.

19 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
20 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Finance?

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 Roll call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

4 MR. PERRY: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
13 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
14 adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
17 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 48,
18 2016 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 47, 2013
19 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
20 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
21 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
22 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
23 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
24 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
25 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

1 PROGRAM BY TRANSFERRING \$200,000.00 FROM
2 UNALLOCATED CDBG FUNDING/LINE OF CREDIT AND
3 PROJECT NO. 2014-01 WEST LACKAWANNA AVENUE
4 BRIDGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00 TO
5 PROJECT 16-04 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND
6 HANDICAP CURB CUTS.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Community Development, I
12 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

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

3 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -
5 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 49, 2016- REPEALING
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO 16, 2004, AN
7 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED "CHANGING
8 THE DIRECTION OF CERTAIN DOWNTOWN STREETS,
9 PROVIDING FOR ANGLED PARKING AND ELIMINATION
10 OF PARALLEL PARKING, AND ELIMINATION OF
11 CERTAIN TURNING LANES IN DOWNTOWN SCRANTON".

12 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
13 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-D.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
6 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -
7 RESOLUTION NO. 61, 2016 - ACCEPTING A ONE
8 THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM
9 TOYOTA OF SCRANTON PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE K-9 UNIT.

11 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Finance?

14 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-E.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question, I
20 just want to say thank you to Toyota of
21 Scranton. They have been a great asset to
22 the city not only as a great business
23 partner but also their donations to public
24 safety have been more than generous over the
25 last couple of years and, again, it shows

1 you what a great partner they are of the
2 city.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
14 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
15 adopted.

16 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
17 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -
18 RESOLUTION NO. 62, 2016 - ACCEPTING A ONE
19 HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM
20 AMERICAN UKRAINIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF
21 LACKAWANNA COUNTY PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE POLICE
23 DEPARTMENT ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT.

24 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Finance?

2 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
4 passage of Item 7-F.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
7 Roll call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
18 declare Item 7-F legally and lawfully
19 adopted.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.
24
25

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