

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 18, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: 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. McGoff.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. AUDIT
16 STATUS REPORT FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO.
17 RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 11, 2014.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSORS
21 REPORTS FOR THE HEARING DATES TO BE HELD
22 OCTOBER 1st, 22nd, AND 29th, 2014.

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

25 Any clerk's notes?

1 MS. REED: No, Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Anything from council?
3 Announcements?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. This
5 Sunday, September 21, the first Kathleens'
6 Crusade benefit will be held from 3 to 7
7 p.m. at the Radisson and Lackawanna Station
8 Hotel. Admission to the event is \$20 and
9 tickets can be purchased at the door. All
10 proceeds will benefit the Women's Resource
11 Center in honor of Kathleen
12 Cavanaugh-Talerico. And that's all I have.
13 Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? I should
15 make note also Cancer Awareness Day this
16 weekend, this Saturday, will be the Komen
17 Race for Cure in downtown Scranton, please,
18 if you have an opportunity to participate or
19 simply to offer support during this time.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
22 PARTICIPATION.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Ozzie Quinn.

24 MR. QUINN: Good evening, Ozzie
25 Quinn, Hill Neighborhood Association. The

1 Hill Neighborhood Association will meet next
2 Wednesday, September 24, 7:00 p.m. The
3 public is invited and the council has an
4 ongoing visitation.

5 I would like to speak a little bit
6 about last Friday we had a tour initiated by
7 Councilman Evans. We also had the Chief of
8 Police and police officers, and man from
9 LIPS, the housing inspector, myself and we
10 did a tour of the block, a short block in
11 the Hill Section and, you know, in the 600
12 block of Prescott Avenue there is 16
13 properties that are absentee landlords and,
14 for instance, one owner is from Coral
15 Springs Florida, one is from Brooklyn, New
16 York, one is from Staten Island, one is from
17 New York City, one is Hemsted, New York, and
18 the other is from Los Angeles. Now, my
19 problem is how are they going to be able to
20 fix those properties up, you know what I
21 mean, when they are blighted. So basically
22 we are going to be send a letter to the Hill
23 Neighborhood association. We had it
24 reviewed by our attorney, out to all of the
25 absentee landlords just it remind them of

1 the rental registration program in the city
2 of Scranton and hopefully that they are
3 abiding by the regulations and if they
4 aren't they should get on board, you know?
5 And we will cc the LIPS and hopefully that
6 we can do something, you know, to address
7 the blight.

8 Now, Mr. Evans had an ordinance, a
9 quality of life ordinance that he brought
10 with him, and I think it's a natural for the
11 neighborhoods and the City of Scranton,
12 okay, and in the Hill Section we would like
13 to see that adopted if we could.

14 We are, you know, and I spoke to
15 Mr. Hinton at the meeting about this when he
16 was there, he says no problem with us
17 writing letters and we are going to try to
18 write letters and starting probably in two
19 weeks to the landlords and ask them to get
20 on board with the rental registration
21 program and go from the 600 block all of the
22 way through until we hit all of them, you
23 know? And hopefully, you know, something
24 can be done. That's all I want to say. I
25 appreciate what Mr. Evans did about that

1 walk, you know?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Just one question, did
3 the properties you talked was that primarily
4 student housing or --

5 MR. QUINN: No, no, no, that's down.
6 That's not on that block. No, but thank
7 you. That's all I have to say.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good evening,
10 Council. Joan Hodowanitz, Scranton
11 resident.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: I want to begin by
14 complimenting the city on the support it
15 provided for the funeral this morning for
16 Corporal Dickson. I know a lot of people
17 were irritated by the change in traffic
18 patterns and closed streets, but I think the
19 funeral was a well deserved salute to an
20 honorable citizen of our Commonwealth and I
21 think the city did extremely well providing
22 police and public support to that event.
23 Very sad day, but I think the city came out
24 looking well, and I'm pleased that Mayor
25 Courtright and Captain Graziano represented

1 the city at the Cathedral. I think that was
2 in this case appropriate.

3 Now, the second item that I'm not so
4 pleased about is the audit status report for
5 Rossi & Company, and once again no progress
6 has been made. We have less than two months
7 before the city must present its proposed
8 budget to the city council. What I'm really
9 bothered about is the fact that the audit
10 can only be as useful as the information
11 that's provide to Rossi by the city, and
12 what I'm beginning to get a sense of is this
13 thing is so delayed and so much in trouble
14 that we might be looking at a garbage in,
15 garbage out situation, and I don't mean to
16 demean the personnel that work in the
17 administration, but unless the auditor gets
18 complete information the auditor can't
19 provide a sound assessment of the city's
20 finances and you need that when you prepare
21 the budget.

22 So somehow we have got to get a
23 handle on this and if the solution is
24 getting more personnel who know how to do
25 governmental accounting I hope to see that

1 in next year's budget.

2 And finally, every day I read in the
3 paper about one tax or one fee going up and
4 people complaining and lawsuits here and
5 there, in fact, today's lawsuit hearing got
6 postponed to September 26 for the commuter
7 tax and I'm beginning to wonder if maybe the
8 Times-Tribune could do us a great favor by
9 instituting a new column and we could call
10 it the deadbeat of the day column and on
11 Mondays, it would be like the column they
12 have on Sundays where they have the people,
13 the most wanted people they are searching
14 for and they have the picture and the
15 description of the, you know, this miscreant
16 what he did or she did, we could have a
17 deadbeat of the day on Monday it could for
18 people who didn't pay the refuse fees and
19 get their picture off of Facebook. Put
20 their name and their picture right there.
21 And Tuesday would people who didn't pay
22 their real estate taxes. Wednesday, people
23 who didn't pay back their OECD loans.
24 Thursday, people who didn't pay traffic
25 tickets and another violations. Friday,

1 people who didn't pay their rental
2 registration fees, and Saturday people who
3 didn't pay the licenses and permits, okay?
4 Maybe what we need to do is start shaming
5 these people because the vast majority of
6 our citizens as much as they hate the taxes
7 they have to pay and the fees, as painful as
8 it is they did dig deep in their pockets and
9 they do it because they believe it's the
10 right thing and the responsible thing to do,
11 and then hopefully they'll change the system
12 that we voted on, but they don't leave the
13 government shortchanged. They don't let
14 somebody else pay their fair share and they
15 don't pay anything at all, okay? And they
16 have all kinds of sad, sob stories and
17 excuses but I'm tired of hearing if because
18 the majority of the citizens can dig deep
19 everybody can. Very few people have a
20 legitimate excuse. People are just working
21 the system because they know nothing is
22 going to happen if they don't pay and they
23 just continue to move on down the road.

24 So you may think this is a cavalier
25 recommendation, it's not. Before we start

1 raising taxes and raising fees we must do
2 everything we can to collect every
3 delinquent tax and every delinquent fee. If
4 that means shaming people in public who
5 aren't paying their fair share, so be it.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
9 Scranton City Council, Kathy, Cathene, Lori
10 and Amil. Through all my travels throughout
11 the City of Scranton and surrounding
12 communities I'm basically asked two
13 questions, why do you think Scranton has
14 been distressed for 22 years, that's
15 question number one. My question is always
16 I blame politicians. I blame the mayor,
17 city council and the city controller because
18 they are the ones that made the rules,
19 raised the taxes, passed the ordinances and
20 signed the union contracts. That's my
21 answer.

22 The second question that I'm asked
23 on a regular basis is what are your
24 solutions for the financial situation facing
25 the City of Scranton? My solutions, I hat

1 to say it, is bankruptcy and bringing in a
2 receiver because going back to my first
3 answer the politicians have not done their
4 job. They are the ones who are responsible
5 for all of this. I'm not just interested in
6 seeing what city council's answer would be
7 to these two questions since you five are
8 five elected officials of the City of
9 Scranton. So I hope that maybe during
10 motions tonight one of you or all five of
11 you would answer either one of those
12 questions or both of those questions. I
13 think the citizens and the commuters would
14 welcome your answer to those questions.
15 Like I said, I gave my answer, that's the
16 way I feel about it.

17 Okay, I would like to wish a happy
18 birthday to the United States Air Force.
19 Today is the 67th birthday of the United
20 States Air Force and as we all know we have
21 the Air Force pilots, Navy pilots and Marine
22 pilots flying combat missions over Iraq
23 every day, flying combat missions over Syria
24 every day because they are directed to do so
25 by the commander in chief and that's what

1 the military does, the military follows
2 orders and follows instructions.

3 Also, I'd like to make a
4 recommendation, the commander in chief is
5 sending 3,000 brave, young, strong military
6 members over to the fight Ebola, a very
7 serious disease that kills. My
8 recommendation is instead of sending 3,000
9 young, strong, brave Americans why don't we
10 send 3,000 elected officials and politicians
11 who are old and not very brave, that's my
12 suggestion. Thank you.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

14 MS. MORAN: Good evening, Council.
15 My name is Sandra Moran and I'm from North
16 Scranton. I'm a property owner and a
17 taxpayer. May I ask you, gentlemen, two
18 questions, just a yes or a no, do you know
19 where Hollow Avenue is or they call it "The
20 Hollow" in North Scranton? Have you ever
21 been there?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I'm unaware of where it
23 is.

24 MS. MORAN: You know where it is?
25 Do you know the bridge that is up in Hollow

1 avenue and have you ever spoke with the
2 Chief of Fire, has he spoke to you recently?

3 MR. MCGOFF: Not about anything
4 dealing with the bridge, no.

5 MS. MORAN: Well, every year they
6 keep lowering the weight on this bridge and
7 it is the only, the only way in and out of
8 the hollow, and there is nine families down
9 there. Older people, babies, middle age and
10 they keep lowering and putting the signs up.
11 It's down now to 9 ton. A few times a week
12 you will see the fire chief and his
13 chauffeur driving real slow around up there,
14 and I never stopped them to ask them but
15 last week my neighbor did and this is what
16 really called my attention to it, my
17 neighbor asked, "Why are you up -- why do
18 you keep coming up?"

19 And he said, "We are looking for
20 another road in or out," and my neighbor
21 said, "There is not another road in or out
22 or up in this area." And he said -- my
23 neighbor asked him, he said, "Is there a
24 fire up here can a fire truck go over that
25 bridge?"

1 And the Chief of Fire said,
2 "Absolutely not."

3 And this kind of scared me. I don't
4 want to see my neighbors -- we've had three
5 house fires up there. Thank God they were
6 not big ones, but they were enough that we
7 did and this was in the past. If we needed
8 one now we are in trouble, but I did write a
9 few little notes here to bring your
10 attention to it. We need your help,
11 gentleman, very, very badly and we can't
12 wait on this. This is an emergency because
13 if this bridge goes down, if a truck happens
14 to come down and not pay attention to the
15 sign that bridge goes down. We have no way
16 to get in or out to work, to the store, to a
17 doctor, no way and, I mean, what do we do
18 call our employers and tell our employers,
19 "We'll be with you in a couple of years
20 because we can't get out."

21 But I am here tonight to ask for
22 your help. As I said, I live on Hollow
23 Avenue, North Scranton. To get to the
24 houses of all nine families on Hollow Avenue
25 you have to go over a bridge. This bridge

1 is rated 9 ton. That's 18,000 pounds and
2 that is our problem. Fire trucks cannot get
3 to us. Rescue 1 weighs 28,000 pounds.
4 Engine 8, which is based in North Scranton,
5 weighs over 35,000 pounds. Ambulances can
6 weigh up to 9 ton limit. With the condition
7 of the bridge we expect the limit to be
8 reduced again and again then ambulances
9 won't even be able to legally get to us.

10 We pay the same garbage fee as every
11 homeowner in Scranton, yet 18,000 pounds
12 empty a garbage truck cannot cross the
13 bridge. Our garbage is removed by a pickup
14 truck. And may I add, the man that does it
15 he does a very good job, but with a pickup
16 truck, and as you can understand they can't
17 pick up everything that we have. Only the
18 smaller pickup sized snow plow can cross the
19 bridge, residents cannot get bulk delivery
20 or delivery stone or deliveries depending on
21 larger trucks. My neighbor just had to have
22 her driveway done a little bit because it
23 was getting potholes and she had to pay
24 extra because the contractor had to make a
25 couple of trips. They could not bring the

1 load of what he needed at one trip.

2 I come to ask tonight to ask for
3 help but I also come here with a solution.
4 In the 1400 block of Hollow Avenue just past
5 and to the left of 1422 Hollow Avenue there
6 is a right-of-way for Pennsylvania American
7 Water leading from the current to Wales and
8 Mary Street bypass bridge. Simply by making
9 improvements on this right-of-way and paving
10 it this problem would be solved and our
11 neighborhood would be safe again. I
12 understand that gaining permission to open
13 the road would be required. From a cost
14 standpoint construction will soon start on
15 rebuilding the Rockwell Avenue bridge a few
16 blocks away and the contractor, Kreiger,
17 will need a place to dump dirt, dirt that
18 could be used as fill for low spots on the
19 proposed road. Other contractors in the
20 city could also dump clean or fill instead
21 of trucking the materials other places.

22 I would hope the city could find fun
23 funding to pave this road and to help us and
24 we are nine families with infants to older
25 people, one very sick woman in our

1 neighborhood. Council, your assistance will
2 mean the difference between being trapped by
3 a failing bridge unable to be reached by
4 emergency equipment and municipal services
5 and getting back to a safe neighborhood. I
6 ask for your help at this time tonight and I
7 hope you understand this urgency. We can't
8 wait on this. We just can't wait any
9 longer.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs. Moran.

11 MS. MORAN: If I could approach
12 Council, I do bring down what I have just
13 said along with pictures and --

14 MR. MCGOFF: Please give them to Ms.
15 Carrera.

16 MS. MORAN: And my name address and
17 my phone number is on here. Feel free to
18 call me and at any time and I would be glad
19 to meet anybody there and explain or show
20 anybody but we really, please, be our hero
21 and help us. Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: I think what we should
24 do maybe contact Chief DeSarno and then
25 maybe have a meeting with the neighbors in

1 this area. I was aware of that.

2 MR. ROGAN: We should check, just
3 because we talked about it early, if OECD
4 funds would be available in that
5 neighborhood.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: And maybe we could
7 coordinate with the contractors who are
8 working on the Rockwell Avenue Bridge
9 project to see if they can take care of some
10 things.

11 MR. EVANS: I would also suggest
12 that Mr. Gallagher attend that, maybe we can
13 have some from the greenhouse as well down
14 there.

15 MR. WECHSLER: And see about getting
16 the North Scranton Neighborhood Association
17 can participate in that, too.

18 MR. EVANS: That's serious.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

20 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
21 Bob Bolus, Scranton. I'd like to take a
22 moment for the family of Corporal Dickson.
23 I worked with him in our towing and stuff on
24 the various assignments that he had in the
25 past and he was a trooper's trooper and he

1 was also fair in the dealings we had with
2 him and it's sad to see what's happened to
3 him. I can only wish his wife and family
4 the best and wish him God speed in his
5 journey.

6 On the casino last week, and I have
7 been raising this issue, and I have heard
8 nothing but negative comments from a city
9 that's in dire straights. Mr. Wechsler,
10 don't take this the wrong way, but your
11 comments last week kind of took me back
12 after I left. You said people will never
13 come outside of a casino if the casino is
14 built you won't shop anywhere in the city
15 and do anything else. That's the furthest
16 thing from the truth. Look at Mr. McGoff,
17 he goes to casinos, he frequents them he
18 said, where he is tonight? He is here in
19 the City of Scranton. He may have dinner in
20 the city, he is not living in a casino, he
21 doesn't stay there 24/7 and that's a false
22 statement to make. It's a statement without
23 merit.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus, it's my
25 opinion so it can't be false.

1 MR. BOLUS: Yeah, and I'm telling
2 you your opinions, as you sit up there, are
3 what put this city where it's got to go.
4 Keep that in mind. This isn't about you or
5 anybody else up there, this is about where
6 we can put this city. You're \$300 million
7 in debt, and it's time to wake up and smell
8 the coffee or around this whole town and if
9 you think for a moment you sit here and
10 reading your agenda tonight it's comical.
11 What's it on No. E, 300,000 you want from
12 the Gaming Act to bring into the city and
13 then you want another \$916,000 for the fire
14 department from Monroe County for a fire
15 truck. It's amazing isn't it, it's going
16 from a gambling casino but we can't put it
17 in the City of Scranton. Well, take a ride
18 around the city, look at your mall, it's
19 dead. Look at the store fronts and the
20 buildings in the city, they are empty. Go
21 down Lackawanna Avenue where the development
22 was done, look at them. This is your dream.
23 There is nobody in there though because
24 there is nothing to dream about. After 5:00
25 find a bar open in the city and you will

1 survive, but other than that forget it.

2 We are the ones putting up \$50
3 million for a license, it's not costing you
4 a dime but you will reap the benefits.
5 That's the difference. That's why we are
6 able to put up that kind of the money
7 because we take the risk, we take the
8 chances, we don't climb over the dollars to
9 get to the pennies. We pick up every penny
10 on the ground because if you have 99 of them
11 you need the one penny to make a dollar, and
12 remember that's what this city needs. It
13 needs to be regimented, it needs to come
14 forward with thought process, not
15 negatively. And I'm sick of hearing
16 negativity in here. I've been here my whole
17 life and when I hear negativity it just
18 turns my stomach because keep in mind you
19 saw it today how many people came to this
20 city. It teaches you something. All of the
21 roads lead to Scranton just like all of the
22 roads lead to Baghdad. Keep that in mind.
23 We have a golden opportunity, don't blow it
24 with negativity. That's why we are here
25 from past councils, past administrations. I

1 have dealt with complacency in the city, it
2 just turns your stomach.

3 Remember years and years ago,
4 probably before you were born, people used
5 to come to Scranton. They gambled, they
6 came to drink and they took whatever other
7 services were offered in the city, it was a
8 very famous city. I was in Singapore and
9 somebody asked me if the city was still the
10 same way, so our reputation was around a
11 long time ago and we could bring the city
12 back because we are broke.

13 We take the old Globe building and
14 we turn that into a convention and
15 conference center with a loft apartments in
16 it where people who work in the casino pay
17 their rent and pay things. We make things
18 happen. Why are we building a new bus
19 terminal, for what, to come to empty store
20 fronts? It's not time to be negative, it's
21 time to roll up your sleeve and move
22 forward. It's time to get a business
23 attitude just the company you work for.
24 They don't want to do nothing, they go broke
25 one day, but they think about business, they

1 think about competition. We don't give a
2 damn about competition that's what makes us
3 grow, but I'm fed up in the city with a lot
4 of things.

5 I took out a demolition permit this
6 week for the church I bought, Holy Cross
7 church, and the hall I bought because of the
8 corruption in this city, and I'll say it
9 very plainly, the original deal was a dollar
10 to buy the church and a district justice was
11 buying the hall after the church was torn
12 down and a parking lot was made for \$2.
13 Already had a deed but never filed it until
14 after I filed my deed for everything. I
15 paid \$35,000 to preserve Scranton's culture
16 and history, and you know what I'm paying in
17 taxes, \$45,000 yet you sit here and not do a
18 darn thing about the nonprofits like you and
19 others that should be paying for money, yet
20 I got assessed \$500,000 for a \$3 building
21 and church, so what I'm going to do is --

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

23 MR. BOLUS: -- I took the building
24 permit out to demolish the church and the
25 hall. The kids that I have allowed to play

1 free there, Mr. McGoff -- and please don't
2 roll your eyes, this is serious business.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus, every week
4 you come to the podium --

5 MR. BOLUS: I understand, but let me
6 finish, please.

7 MR. MCGOFF: -- and refuse to abide
8 by the time.

9 MR. BOLUS: It's important what's
10 going on in this city.

11 MR. MCGOFF: It's an insult to
12 everyone else.

13 MR. BOLUS: No, it's important
14 what's going on in this city and it's time
15 we all take a hard look at it.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus --

17 MR. BOLUS: I invested my money in
18 this city --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus, you are out
20 of order at this point.

21 MR. BOLUS: And I took out of a
22 permit to demolish so when those kids now
23 that have played there for five years at
24 Holy Cross hall have no where to go are you
25 going to give them a place to play for free

1 like I did?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus --

3 MR. BOLUS: Is anybody else going to
4 give them a free place? Answer my question?
5 Are you going to give something for free?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus --

7 MR. BOLUS: Look at the corruption.

8 MR. MCGOFF: You are out of order,
9 please leave the podium.

10 MR. BOLUS: Listen, look at the
11 corruption in the city, Mr. McGoff, that
12 they could assess from Lackawanna County and
13 assess you and take a building and assess it
14 for a half a million dollars that was worth
15 \$3 and you tell me if there is fairness in
16 this city. I have contributed to this city
17 and it was heartbreaking for me to take this
18 permit, but I have to demolish this church
19 in order to get myself where it's a business
20 practice now and not be screwed over by
21 these people that are corrupt in this city.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller.

24 MR. MILLER: Doug Miller, Scranton.
25 You know, just to respond to some comments

1 that were made earlier in regards to
2 allegedly deadbeats or claiming people are
3 deadbeats because they don't pay their bills
4 and that we want to implement some sort of I
5 guess public humiliation tactic I guess to
6 expose people that don't pay taxes or fees
7 and I just don't really understand what the
8 concept would be on that. I think that if
9 you take a look around the city and you see
10 the amount of poverty and the amount of
11 people living on fixed incomes it's very
12 simple, gentlemen, we can sit area and talk
13 about delinquent taxes, we can post names in
14 the paper, but at the end of the day the
15 bottom line is very simple we have talked
16 about it for decades, people don't -- people
17 can't pay what they don't have and until we
18 can grasp that concept I guess we are just
19 going to continue to waltz around and spin
20 around in circles and think we are going to
21 get somewhere.

22 I don't understand where the mindset
23 is sometimes. The problem in this city is
24 very simple, the voters have a
25 responsibility for the last 50 years to make

1 smart choices at the polls. Their track
2 record isn't too well. It's lead us to a
3 path of destruction. It's lead us to a path
4 of where the city is today over close to a
5 quarter of a billion dollars in debt and so
6 ultimately the voters have to look
7 themselves in the mirror and take
8 responsibility and the troubling thing is
9 they get to do that this day. They have yet
10 to take responsibility and, yes, the elected
11 officials are the ones that make these
12 decisions, but at the end of the day people
13 put them there. We don't just wake up and
14 assume office. Mr. Courtright didn't just
15 one day get the keys to the mayor's office
16 and walk in. You find people just didn't
17 get the keys to city hall and walk in, you
18 were elected and the voters have to take
19 responsibility for their decisions and their
20 actions, but yard signs and money and other
21 nonsense were more important than fact and
22 reality and that's lead us to where we are a
23 today, that's the reality.

24 You know, for some reason we want to
25 live in a fairytale land and think that we

1 are getting somewhere, but until we hold
2 ourselves accountable for actions we are
3 just going to continue to kick the same can
4 down the road and expect a different result.

5 Mr. Amoroso was brought in here one
6 reason and we know it's very simple to
7 liquidate every asset we have that isn't
8 nailed down. You want to sell the park and
9 garages, which is an absolute absurdity.
10 It's not common sense. We talk about the
11 need for common sense in our government,
12 well, folks, we haven't had that in our
13 government for a very long time. Selling
14 the Sewer Authority at a price that isn't
15 even near what that Sewer Authority is
16 probably worth because we haven't taken the
17 time to find out what it is worth, but even
18 taking the time to find out what it is worth
19 isn't even relevant because the discussion
20 of selling that asset shouldn't even be
21 coming forward.

22 We have thousands of people fleeing
23 this city on a daily basis, why, because of
24 overtaxation, so we have sucked the life out
25 of every resident in this city that we

1 possibly can and what are we going to do?
2 We are not going to put it on the backs of
3 commuters, people who are just, again,
4 coming into the city to earn a living, to
5 support a family, and now we want to punish
6 them because we are incompetent because we
7 mismanaged the pension fund, where did all
8 of the money go? You know, we talked about
9 the pension shortfall, but yet we haven't
10 gotten an answer as to where that money
11 went, how it was squandered and mismanaged
12 and yet so much our elected officials just
13 find it to be a big joke. You know, the
14 disrespect in this chamber is just totally
15 obscene.

16 You know, last week we had a
17 resident of this city who has been coming
18 here for decades, probably -- well, not
19 probably definitely been coming here a lot
20 longer than anybody seated on that side of
21 the podium who had a few simple requests,
22 and the fact that this council couldn't be
23 courteous enough to submit those requests I
24 find that very troubling because I feel that
25 this council should be just as concerned as

1 anybody that comes to this podium and to not
2 follow through I just think is a total
3 failure by our government. You have an
4 obligation to represent the residents of
5 this city, not yourselves. We have had a
6 lot of self-serving representation in city
7 government and that's why we are standing
8 here today speaking in this tone because
9 there is not one reason to have any
10 optimism. My generation I guess the best
11 thing you could say is get out of here, and
12 I have had so many people say that to me,
13 "Doug, what are you doing here, you're?
14 You're 24 years old, you are a young guy,
15 get out of here, this city has no
16 opportunity."

17 But I'm not going to give up. I
18 have been coming here for 12 years and I'm
19 not ready to throw in the towel, but, you
20 know, when you see the way this city is
21 going it's hard to see any light at the end
22 of this tunnel, and I'm not going to lie,
23 I've been discouraged and I've questioned
24 why bother, but I don't have that give up
25 and tell, but I know that we come together

1 and actually show some leadership and create
2 some realistic solutions we can turn this
3 city around, but if we continue to play
4 politics and mistreat people and we can't
5 cut this budget by 30 percent at the end of
6 the year then say goodnight. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

8 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
9 The first thing, you know, just sitting here
10 listening to Mr. Bolus, if I was him I think
11 I would hire an attorney and I'd sue the
12 city for political retaliation because if
13 these documents exist that he talked about
14 today I think the city would find themselves
15 in very, very bad situation.

16 But, you know, Mr. Wechsler, I
17 missed something you said, I think you said
18 something about something was your opinion
19 and it couldn't be wrong because it was your
20 opinion.

21 MR. WECHSLER: No, I said it can't
22 be false. Your opinion can't be false.
23 Your opinion can be wrong, but it can't be
24 false.

25 MR. MORGAN: Okay. You know, the

1 other thing I have here is a lady came here
2 today and spoke about her bridge, you know,
3 we are pretty good walking through
4 neighborhoods, and I'll get to that in one
5 moment, but that's the ultimate sign of
6 blight, all the bridges in this city are
7 falling apart, you know? I mean, you know,
8 it's pretty easy to mail people letters and
9 decide you are going to chase people for
10 rental registration and raise taxes and all
11 of these things, but to be quite honest with
12 you we are well beyond that point. I think
13 we are at the point now where we have three
14 things here to determine, cutting the taxes,
15 cutting the budget by 30 percent, not make
16 believe, but just go in there and cut it by
17 30 percent, five intelligent people city
18 sitting on that council and the mayor
19 downstairs, okay, or go into receivership or
20 bankruptcy because, you know, shaming people
21 into allegedly paying money they don't
22 possess is absurd. Going forward and asking
23 people to keep contributing to something
24 that cannot be turned around is just as
25 absurd.

1 Selling parking garages and, you
2 know, the most troubling thing though is
3 that last week the questions I asked this
4 council they should have asked themselves
5 the first day they took those seats. That's
6 very troubling and there is like -- without,
7 you know, exaggerating I probably have about
8 a 100 or 150 other questions I'd love to ask
9 but that's because I have been on this side
10 of the podium for 20 years, and like I said
11 before, I got here late and there were
12 people who tried to turn this city around
13 long before I got here, long before I got
14 here.

15 And I just think that speaking for
16 myself I'm interested in any mayor or any
17 council's opinion, I'm interested in fact.
18 I'm not interested in studies unless I know
19 who paid for the study and how it was
20 compiled and the questions that were asked.
21 You know, it's time to stop being mislead,
22 it's time to stop presenting the residents
23 of this city with falsehoods that we are
24 going to walk through a neighborhood, and I
25 tried to get to that last week when I was

1 here.

2 You know, I grew up on the hill. We
3 talked through that hill when I was kid 16,
4 17 years old, people were afraid from
5 outside of this city to walk in the hill. I
6 never had a problem walking in the hill. I
7 walked through the hill all times in the
8 morning from midnight to five in the morning
9 if I wanted to. I was never afraid somebody
10 was going to mug me or something bad was
11 going to happen to me. It wasn't a bad
12 neighborhood, it was a poor neighborhood,
13 something that we have spread throughout the
14 city in desperation to receive federal funds
15 because as long as the city was economically
16 distressed the federal government thought it
17 had an obligation to try and turn it around
18 and, boy, they did quite a job. Because you
19 know what I'd like to know, I'd like to know
20 where all of the community development money
21 in this city went to for 30 years and why
22 the city looks the way it does.

23 And, you know, a lot of things that
24 Mr. Miller said here tonight I have said
25 many times before, but the difference

1 between myself and you, possibly you, I
2 don't want to put words in your mouth is I
3 make my decisions based on fact, not
4 opinions, not how I feel, but what I think
5 and what I have studied, and I think that
6 that's why we can't make a term because
7 everybody has got a great plan but when you
8 factor it together it doesn't add up.

9 Look at the block where Buona's is,
10 that's the biggest -- that is just a total
11 waste of money. Look at the Hill section,
12 look at South Side, look at our city, look
13 at our bridges, look at our infrastructure,
14 non-existent. It's time for -- it's really
15 time to cut the budget by 30 percent. It's
16 really time to start considering cutting
17 taxes.

18 You know, Andy Sbaraglia said here a
19 couple of much weeks ago when the wage tax
20 was instituted he was willing to suffer
21 through it because he wanted to make sure
22 that his mother could stay in her home.
23 Well, look it, it hasn't solved any of our
24 problems and is the wage tax actually going
25 down and what have we accomplished? Thank

1 you .

2 MR. MCGOFF: Gerard Hetman.

3 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
4 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's
5 Department of Community Relations, good to
6 see you as always. To begin this evening,
7 this Saturday, September 20, from 11 a.m to
8 2 p.m., the Lackawanna County Center for
9 Public Safety, better know as the 911
10 Center, on Valley View Drive in Jessup will
11 host our annual Hero's Day, public safety
12 fair and exhibit. We should note that in
13 the wake of the tragic shooting incident at
14 the Pennsylvania State Police Blooming Grove
15 barracks last Friday we will be dedicating
16 the event to Corporal Brian Dickson and
17 Trooper Alex Douglas. Our office was
18 contacted earlier this week by the spouses
19 of several state police troopers who are
20 locally based. Those spouses and several
21 others will be present at the event to
22 assist anyone who would like to make a
23 memorial contribution in honor of Corporal
24 Dickson and a fund to help Trooper Douglas'
25 with their related expenses in his recovery.

1 In addition, we will offer guided
2 tours of the 911 facility as well a variety
3 of fire, police and EMS and public safety
4 and public works vehicles and equipment that
5 will be on stand and displayed. Hands on
6 exhibits with staff present to assist anyone
7 who wants to get a better look, an up close
8 look at emergency services in Lackawanna
9 County and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

10 The day is free and open to the
11 public. We will have light refreshments
12 available, and I would just like to note
13 regarding the date, we did have several
14 logistical issues to deal with at the 911
15 Center in terms of scheduling a date for
16 this. We are aware that it's the same day
17 as the Race for the Cure, but we were
18 careful to set a time when the event was
19 started after the race has concluded. We
20 did speak to the event organizers in
21 consultation to see what the best time would
22 be to start it, so that anyone who
23 participated in the race could attend. And
24 I will say that myself and many of the staff
25 involved in this event will be participating

1 in the Race for the Cure earlier in the day.
2 So we look forward to seeing lots of folks
3 for that event.

4 And coming up after that, our other
5 major fall event is next Friday, September
6 26, is our third annual senior health fair
7 which will take place at PNC Field in
8 Moosic, Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. to 1
9 p.m. We have over 40 exhibitors attending
10 providing a variety of senior health-related
11 services, blood pressure, vision, hearing
12 screenings as well as free flu shots for all
13 in attendance and a variety of give-a-ways
14 an information dealing with senior health
15 and wellness.

16 And we should note that while the
17 event is senior health fair and while the
18 services there are geared primarily for
19 senior citizens and their health and well
20 being there is no age limit on any of the
21 services that will be provided and everyone
22 is welcome to attend and get free health
23 screens and information regarding their
24 health and wellness.

25 This event we've seen great turnout

1 at the few years and we see that primarily
2 through friends and neighbors and elected
3 officials who tell the folks in their
4 communities about it, so we look forward to
5 seeing a good crowd again and invite
6 everyone out for a good afternoon relating
7 to health and wellness in our community.

8 Lastly, just a few housekeeping
9 notes. As we head into the fall season, the
10 city, as you know, county commissioners and
11 their staff are preparing the county's
12 tentative 2015 general operating budget, so
13 later this year we will have the dates and
14 times and locations available for the
15 commissioner's budgets hearings. We will
16 post those on the county's website and
17 Facebook page, the county's website,
18 LackawannaCounty.org as well as, of course,
19 advertising through all legally required
20 channels, and then we will also have a
21 tentative copy of the 2015 budget available
22 in PDF format on our website and Facebook
23 page as well as a paper format in the
24 Commissioner's Office during normal business
25 hours, 200 Adams Avenue on the sixth floor.

1 The last note that we would like to
2 make, the city has not yet applied for the
3 Arts and Culture Grant Funding that is
4 allocated for arts and culture programming
5 in the community during the 2014 calendar
6 year, so we would encourage any city
7 department which does the programming to
8 apply to our arts and culture department.
9 Your office can just give me a call and I
10 would be happy to assist in applying and we
11 would just like to see the funds used to
12 provide programming in the city during this
13 year. We ask that you apply 30 days before
14 the date of programming which will
15 everything to process. And again, I'll be
16 happy to assist with that, whatever you may
17 need.

18 That's all I have for this evening,
19 are there any questions from counsel?

20 MR. ROGAN: Just a comment, would
21 you be able to pass a message to the
22 commissioners that we appreciate their
23 support with the North Scranton Junior High
24 School Project.

25 MR. HETMAN: Absolutely, not a

1 problem, and thank you for working with us
2 on that. We appreciate it. I know it's
3 been a long time coming and I know that we
4 all play an important part in that process
5 so thank you.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Steve
7 Wallace.

8 MR. WALLACE: Good evening, Council.
9 Steve Wallace, South Side Neighborhood Watch
10 vice president. I'd like to thank the
11 council personally for all of the help and
12 assistance they have given us since they
13 took the new seats and cooperated with us on
14 a good amount of things we have done
15 already. The reason I'm here is because the
16 other night Lee Morgan mentioned that we
17 want more South Side Associations and
18 watches to come to these council meetings,
19 is there any questions you have of us that
20 need to be answered? Anything you need us
21 to work on particularly?

22 Okay, now, here's what we need from
23 you, we need to know when you are going to
24 tear down houses so we can warn the
25 neighborhood. We need to know when there is

1 going to be a blighted property that hasn't
2 been cited for six months cited properly and
3 actually acted on and we don't get this
4 information. How do we go about getting it?
5 We request it and we don't get it. There is
6 properties that have been cited so many
7 times it's ridiculous, and they just keep
8 getting cited.

9 MR. EVANS: Now, where are you
10 trying to get information from, are you
11 talking to Mr. Hinton's office?

12 MR. WALLACE: We submit information
13 to Mr. Hinton's office, we asked the
14 inspector herself, I believe it's Patti
15 Fowler that takes care of our section, and
16 we have the OECD officer on our beat, she
17 also puts stuff in, but it seems like it
18 takes so long to get something accomplished.

19 Now, I had proposed at one point
20 that you people have the rental
21 registration, if you took the rental
22 registration and put an ordinance of that
23 amendment on it where a tenant is actually
24 charged with a citation because the landlord
25 isn't there, put it on the tenant who is

1 causing the problem.

2 MR. EVANS: That's actually a big
3 part of that quality of life ordinance that
4 we are proposing, all of the council members
5 have reviewed and they are very interested
6 in it, and what that does is if an inspector
7 goes to the property and the problem is
8 caused by the tenants, the tenant gets a
9 ticket.

10 MR. WALLACE: Right, it's a
11 non-structural issue --

12 MR. EVANS: Right.

13 MR. WALLACE: The landlord --

14 MR. EVANS: Garbage, furniture on
15 the porch, quality of life.

16 MR. WALLACE: Right. If you put it
17 on the tenant they have to respond.

18 MR. EVANS: Yeah, the problem before
19 was what happened is they sent a citation to
20 the landlord who lives in New Jersey --

21 MR. WALLACE: Out of state and
22 doesn't respond.

23 MR. EVANS: -- in a month, if he
24 respond at all, so we feel this is going to
25 be a much more proactive approach and I

1 think you will be happy with those results
2 of it.

3 MR. WALLACE: So you are working on
4 it?

5 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

6 MR. WALLACE: Okay, that's great to
7 hear, I'm glad to hear that. As far as
8 these tenants that say they can't afford it,
9 why can't we have community service? They
10 can't afford it, you do ten days a week and
11 you clean up other people's blighted
12 property or vacant property, and the
13 magistrate said to me at one point that she
14 cannot do that unless there is somebody to
15 oversee it, the people who are doing the
16 work.

17 MR. EVANS: I did that for many
18 years with Magistrate Russell and it's
19 always an issue of getting somebody to
20 supervise that, but what you are talking
21 about is if somebody gets cited and they
22 fail to pay, part of that punishment could
23 be for community service.

24 MR. WALLACE: Right.

25 MR. EVANS: That's a long process

1 until you get to that point. There is
2 always people that are available to do that,
3 and I would go back to Magistrate Corbett
4 again and ask her if you are willing to
5 surprise if they has community service
6 workers to help out, because every year at
7 this time we always have dozens of
8 University of Scranton students that get
9 caught for underage drinking or other kids
10 and there is plenty of people around that
11 can help you out.

12 MR. WALLACE: All right, sounds good
13 to me. Thank you for listening to me and I
14 hope to be working with you successfully in
15 the future.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

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

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
20 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, taxes and
21 fees paid. Once again I'd like to announce
22 that the Taxpayers' Association had a
23 conference on the river and sewer and it can
24 be viewed on ECTV, hopefully some you will
25 catch it and review it and keep in mind what

1 the information is available.

2 Number two, once again I mentioned
3 volunteer firefighter last week
4 Swoyersville, 700 grand pilfered. Moosic
5 over 300 grand pilfered. Many more,
6 probably well over a dozen, even close to 20
7 where large amounts of money were pilfered.
8 We need a new state law in dealing with
9 these organizations, it's not the
10 organization, but one rotten apple, but a
11 warning to the wise outside the city if you
12 have a volunteer fire course you better keep
13 in mind that these people are tired of
14 working around the clock only to have all
15 the money and funds they rounded up
16 pilfered.

17 Now, on these delinquent fees it was
18 mentioned earlier, and we are taking steps
19 to collect current and just barely past due
20 fees, but what about these fees that have
21 been listed for years? I heard a story of a
22 landlord, and it could be checked I never
23 checked it, I remember the name, something
24 like a half a dozen properties owes \$15,000
25 on trash fees, hasn't paid since -- almost

1 they existed, and this is a real problem
2 here because it's like \$7 1/2 million or
3 something? We are not in trouble we are
4 just having trouble collecting our money and
5 we need to do this. We need to get some
6 kind of program.

7 And as far as people on fixed
8 incomes or whatever, well, they do get
9 raising but years back we reformed the wage
10 of cost of living assessment and in a way if
11 somebody is getting -- was getting an honest
12 cost of living assessment and another person
13 is working in a private sector job market,
14 the retiree in five or ten years might be
15 making more than the working man in the same
16 field because the raises aren't forthcoming.

17 I worked in the automotive industry
18 for years and every time there is an Iraq or
19 an Iran or a hostage crises, something and
20 then an unsympathetic government they stop
21 and, oh, the automotive industry is just an
22 expensive jobs program. Well, how do you
23 people make your living if they don't have a
24 job, you know? So the point being that
25 social security hasn't kept up with it, but

1 delinquent taxes and fees when somebody is
2 definitely well able to pay, I was also
3 wondering if you could put like the old
4 style welfare lien on against the property
5 where it doesn't get collected until it
6 changes hands or we used to have to go to
7 Court, you probably remember, Wayne, back in
8 the 70's to get a welfare lien that was
9 handed out during the 30's or early 40's and
10 the people died off and the house changed
11 hands, but somewhere in some file there is a
12 welfare lien against the house so they used
13 to have to get it crushed. That's what
14 title insurance is about, also.

15 And the tax exempts, now, I'd like
16 to know Luzerne College has expressed an
17 interest in Scranton. Adams Plaza just fell
18 to a non-profit, intermodal transportation
19 center, we lost two tax paying businesses
20 and we don't have any intermodal
21 transportation, there is no rail service and
22 on this site it's been talked about for 30
23 years. County prison just bought up four
24 houses, four properties, and they are going
25 off the rolls, so it's time we start to

1 fight the state even if we have to go to
2 Federal Court to overrule the state
3 constitution.

4 And I'm also interested in that
5 information you read off last week, Wayne,
6 is there any kind of website or something
7 that I could go to?

8 MR. EVANS: The HUP test?

9 MR. DOBRZYN: On the --

10 MR. EVANS: Criteria.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Tax exempt evaluation.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes, I will, just like
13 an HUP test. It's hospital utilization
14 project is what it was and the criteria will
15 be there.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, maybe I'll catch
17 you on the way out.

18 MR. EVANS: That's fine.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: At the bottom I have
20 it in my do-gooder book here, all righty.
21 And once again I'd like to warn on
22 authorities just quickly, we don't need a
23 trash authority on top of it, obviously they
24 are too hard to control once they are in
25 there and seated in power. Thank you and

1 have a good night.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

3 Marie Schumacher, city taxpayer. Going back
4 to last week for a few moments, please
5 provide the statute that allows the Scranton
6 Parking Authority to conduct business on the
7 2nd of September when three of the five
8 voting were not nominated by the mayor at
9 that time and/or approved by council on that
10 date. I still believe any actions taken at
11 that meeting should be null and void.

12 Further, the Parking Authority hired
13 a solicitor at that meeting and I asked
14 whether they had the resources to pay that
15 person. I was informed all bills would be
16 forwarded to the receiver for payment. I
17 failed to follow-up with a question of
18 whether the receiver has been paying bills
19 forwarded to him by the Scranton Parking
20 Authority and/or are these expenses merely
21 being added to the parking garage shortfall
22 which we taxpayers are paying? Please up
23 obtain the answers to these questions for us
24 taxpayers.

25 On 5-B, now, I realize that some of

1 these were somewhat answered during the
2 caucus, which I think is another reason it
3 would be nice if the caucuses were held out
4 here and in the public because it just
5 wastes time, but on 5-B the Home Rule
6 Charter calls for the capital budget to be
7 submitted to the council at least three
8 months prior to the final date for the
9 submission of the budget, which would make
10 it the 15th of August. Why is this budget
11 five weeks late and what is the amount for
12 2015 and is the steeple of the building
13 included in the capital budget? I don't
14 know if anybody has taken a look up there
15 lately, but it doesn't look really healthy
16 and I would think that should be one of the
17 items on that list. Maybe you could answer
18 how much is in for 2015 in motions.

19 5-C, who is the current paying
20 agent? Okay, there is none, for the city
21 and what is the basis for payment to
22 Community Bank? Is it a flat fee or is it
23 based on transactions and how does it
24 compare -- well, it doesn't compare with
25 what is currently paid for the service

1 because we are not using one now, but I'd
2 like to know how the reimbursement is being
3 made.

4 On 5-D what amount is included in
5 the budget for the hiring services of the
6 Carfax and was this put out for bid? Also,
7 prior council made a no cost policy for
8 certain circumstances, would the approval of
9 this resolution void that action?

10 6-B, actually I'm going to skip down
11 to seven just in case I run out of time.

12 7-C how much is included in the capital
13 budget for that item in 2015?

14 7-D, what is Phase II of the Kane
15 Street project and how much has already been
16 expended in Phase II and how much was
17 expended in Phase I.

18 7-E, is this purely a passthrough
19 item and is it included in the capital
20 budget for 2015?

21 7-F, how much is the capital budget
22 for this item in 2015 and what is the
23 current book value and scrap value of the
24 2001 Ferrara truck? I did notice there is a
25 truck being offered by one of the local

1 municipalities and they had a minimum bid,
2 it was pretty high, so I would like to know
3 what the value of that piece of equipment
4 is.

5 7-G what is the statement of work
6 for this item? Is it merely keeping current
7 traffic signals working or will they be
8 altering the timing of the signals as well?

9 And then I'll go back to five and
10 finish up on five, or six, I'm sorry. With
11 the 2014 increase in the refuse fee and the
12 pay/non-pay ratio added to the current
13 delinquent amounts and these additional fees
14 it is highly likely that the threshold for
15 seeking a bid has been exceeded. Why is
16 this being treated as a simple contract
17 amendment and not put out as a bid and what
18 percent of the bills have not been paid as
19 of today for the refuse fee?

20 6-C what is the likelihood that the
21 threshold for seeking bids will be exceeded
22 by this item and why is it not being bid
23 out?

24 And then since I have some time,
25 Mr. Rogan, I will share with you the

1 concerns as I have been promising because I
2 would like to get this out of the way, the
3 concerns I have with the cell phone. I'll
4 be back next week.

5 MR. ROGAN: We can talk, if you'd
6 like, afterwards.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Schumacher, can
9 you --

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm going to leave
11 these questions.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I was going just to
13 going to say that. You can give them to
14 Kathy. Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

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

17 MOTIONS.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
20 Mr. McGoff. Just a few things this evening.
21 First, I'd like to congratulate my
22 colleague, Mr. Evans, for initiating the
23 walk in the Hill Section and bringing the
24 Quality of Life Ordinance. We spoke about
25 it before, but he took some action on it.

1 The rest of the council we are also
2 interested in that and we are working with
3 the administration to get that going as fast
4 as possible.

5 Last week we spoke a little bit
6 about the refuse fee for 2014, we have been
7 working with the city business administrator
8 and the city treasurer to look at ways that
9 we can improve the collection of that tax
10 during the year. Right now you receive one
11 bill and that's it, so we are working to see
12 if there is a way that we can send out
13 subsequent bills to people that didn't pay
14 as reminders and also doing some cross
15 checking to see if those bills we keep
16 better check so as some of the pointed out,
17 if we can keep better check of who is paying
18 the refuse bill and who is not.

19 Part of the problem is that the
20 vacant properties, people who are
21 demonstrating that the properties are
22 vacant, they have to demonstrate that with
23 utility bills from successful months, so
24 normally those aren't put into the system
25 until around I believe September or October

1 so the list is kind out of whack with
2 delinquent properties that may be vacant.

3 Last night I did attend the meeting
4 of the South Scranton Neighborhood Watch and
5 I would like to congratulate them on a
6 successful program that they ran for
7 children at Connors Park.

8 Speaking on some of the things that
9 were said tonight, at this time I do not
10 agree with receivership or bankruptcy. We
11 are here to try to do our job first before
12 we do anything about receiver or bankruptcy.
13 We have a new council, we have a new mayor,
14 we have a some new administration in place,
15 we have people on different boards, we are
16 developing a better attitude in our city and
17 within the financial community and at some
18 point we may end up with a receiver or
19 bankruptcy, but right now we have to be
20 given a chance to do what we can.

21 I feel that there is a misconception
22 about the receiver, the receiver has no
23 other options than options that we also have
24 and the only thing with a receiver is their
25 decisions would be probably much more severe

1 than anything that we are discussing, so
2 like I said I do not believe in that right
3 now.

4 In regards to the Carfax service,
5 the Carfax service is a free service to the
6 city, there is no charge for that, and
7 that's all at this time.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. First, and
10 Mr. McGoff mentioned this under -- when we
11 did our prayer, my thoughts and prayers are
12 with Trooper Brian Dickson and all of those
13 in the state police who have been working
14 diligently to catch this heinous individual
15 who committed these acts so our thoughts and
16 prayers are with them.

17 Onto just a few items tonight, the
18 first one is I have to give a giant thank
19 you to somebody who I have been very
20 critical of in the past and that's State
21 Senator John Blake. For those who don't
22 know, Senator Blake cast the deciding vote
23 to move Senate Bill 76 for property tax
24 relief out of committee. He was the
25 deciding vote, so I want to extend a huge

1 thank you to him for doing the right thing
2 for the people in this district and
3 especially the people in the City of
4 Scranton. I hope that people continue to
5 support this bill and that this bill will
6 pass the Senate, the House and be signed
7 into law by the Governor because this is one
8 of the few ways that property tax relief can
9 be brought not only to the City of Scranton
10 but to the entire State of the Pennsylvania.

11 Regarding Item 5-B I believe Ms.
12 Schumacher was referring to the ordinance
13 that city council passed, it was about four
14 years ago now to ensure that police reports
15 were free for the victims of crimes. I
16 think, you know, we would like to check to
17 be 100 percent sure that this would stay in
18 accordance with that because that was the
19 last thing I ever want to see is a victim of
20 a crime be victimized again my government to
21 have to pay a fee. I remember the case very
22 clearly, it was actually the person who
23 brought it to our attention has since passed
24 away, but it's certainly not fair for anyone
25 to be penalized after or revictimized, so I

1 will check into that just to be sure.

2 And finally, just because it's been
3 brought up many times at these meetings and
4 a lot of times in the community, I have been
5 hearing the idea of a casino. Obviously,
6 city council or anyone can't advocate for a
7 specific person to obtain a casino license.
8 Now, do I personally believe if the state
9 were to allow a license for the City of
10 Scranton it would be a good thing? I do. I
11 think it would encourage economic
12 development in our downtown. I also think
13 it would -- it would be the other side
14 effect which we are benefitting some from it
15 now is the gaming funds. The host county
16 receives much more money in gaming funds
17 than the counties that are touching those so
18 we are receiving and we are voting on some
19 of these items tonight, so we are receiving
20 from gaming funds. If there were a casino
21 in Scranton or Lackawanna County we would
22 receive much more bang for our buck as far
23 as those funds go. It could be used for
24 projects or what it should be used for,
25 which is property tax relief, but it is an

1 idea that I fully support. Do I think the
2 city is going to act on it? Unfortunately I
3 don't, but I hope that they will. And that
4 is all I have for tonight. Thank you.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going to
7 touch a little bit on Act 76 as well and
8 thank State Senator Blake for being the
9 swing vote in this bill out of the Senate
10 Finance Committee. We have a long way to go
11 before we have a bill, but the first step,
12 that very first step, is huge.

13 For those who may not know,
14 remember, as we said 76 is a proposal for
15 real estate property tax reform that
16 eliminates school property tax which is
17 replaced by a broad base tax approach which
18 includes an increase in the sales tax and
19 the state earned income tax. This allows
20 for the burden of the public school system
21 to be shared by all consumers and workers
22 and not just through the archaic concept of
23 taxing property owners. This Bill will
24 allow seniors in stay in their homes. It
25 will foster economic growth and it will

1 bring fairness in the tax system. So again,
2 thank you, Senator Blake.

3 Currently there are two Bills before
4 the state legislators dealing with pension
5 reform, and I don't mean to be a broken
6 record on pension reform, but I just can't
7 help myself. One simply mandates what many
8 of us already have been saying all along
9 which is new hires must be in a 401-K stile
10 of 403-P style plan or at least a hybrid of
11 the current system. Of course, the wheels
12 of government take a long time to turn, so
13 with that said I personally believe the only
14 way for the city to begin to have long-term
15 financial stability as it relates to the
16 pension issue is: One, immediately close
17 the existing pension plan for any new
18 employees; and two, create a defined
19 contribution plan for all new hires.

20 Also, something you may have seen
21 the news article about the Quality of Life
22 Ordinance that we talked about a little bit
23 about that tonight. Of course, this is
24 modeled after an ordinance in effect in the
25 City of Hazelton, and because I am not one

1 for reinventing the wheel if something is
2 working somewhere else we should look at it
3 and if it will work for us we should
4 implement it.

5 Pat Hinton, the director of
6 Licensing and Inspections and Chief Graziano
7 were both on the walking tour along with
8 Ozzie Quinn, and all of them expressed
9 support for enacting the ordinance so we are
10 hoping to get it fast tracked so Mr. Hinton
11 and his department can begin. I know in
12 conversations with my fellow council we were
13 all excited about the possibility this has
14 to improve the quality of life for all of
15 our residents.

16 Finally, I know last week I made an
17 offer to the administration to help in any
18 way with discussions with nonprofits as a
19 representative from council. I still my
20 background in real estate, as a former
21 director of assessments with Lackawanna
22 County and as a consultant for 21st Century
23 appraisal during the Luzerne County
24 reassessment process gave me a unique
25 perspective on having those discussions, so

1 give me a call, I'm here, I'm ready. So
2 that's all I have.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. My
5 prayers go to the families of State Troopers
6 Brian Dickson and Alex Douglas in this very
7 difficult time. My prayers also go out to
8 our state police and local law enforcement
9 in trying to apprehend the suspect in this
10 terrible crime, this terrible incident.

11 I mentioned two weeks ago that I
12 felt the city should revisit alternate side
13 of the street parking during snow
14 emergencies, and I hate to keep bringing up
15 snow, but it's definitely coming soon. I
16 also said that I felt the snow emergency
17 plan should be published on the city's
18 website so that residents could access it.
19 Other cities in Pennsylvania do this and it
20 is very successful. I had a very productive
21 meeting with the mayor and DPW Director
22 Gallagher in which we discussed these items
23 among some others with regards to the DPW
24 during snow emergencies, and I am very
25 hopeful in the new next few weeks we will

1 see action on those proposals, and that is
2 all I have tonight. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Very
4 quickly, first of all on the audit, I know
5 the business administration, the Office of
6 Business Administration is looking at hiring
7 a new Finance Manager, should be taking that
8 position I believe next week. Also, they
9 are seeking at this point in time to
10 redirect some funding to the possibility of
11 seeking an outside accounting firm to help
12 expedite the budget -- or excuse me, the
13 audit. It is felt, and I know in
14 conversations with the Business
15 Administrator and with others, that closing
16 this audit by the end of the calendar year
17 is a paramount concern and they are working
18 toward that end even though it would be
19 exceedingly late it is still something that
20 we really need to have done by the end of
21 the calendar year.

22 As far as the pension, and it keeps
23 coming up that, you know, what has happened
24 to the pensions, again, a variety of reasons
25 why pensions are in failure throughout the

1 Commonwealth, especially in the City of
2 Scranton, we face some very difficult
3 challenges with our pension system. One of
4 them being that we pay more in disability
5 pensions than we do in regular retirement
6 pensions, very difficult situation. It
7 means that when somebody goes out on a
8 disability pensions they are on that pension
9 for a longer -- usually for a longer period
10 of time than if they went out under, you
11 know, a regular retirement pension. It's
12 one of the issues that's being looked at as
13 we move forward on the discussions with the
14 unions as far the pensions are concerned.

15 Believe me, the administration and
16 council is working every day to try and
17 resolve the issues that confront the city.
18 It is not something that we only do once a
19 week on Thursday nights. It's not something
20 that the administration does just, you know,
21 a few hours a week. This is something that
22 is constant and we heard from Business
23 Administrator Bulzoni during the caucus that
24 at least one of the issues is hopefully
25 being brought to resolution and there are

1 others in process and hopefully that we can,
2 as Mr. Wechsler said, begin the chance to
3 resolve the problems that confront the city
4 before we go, you know, looking at extreme
5 measures to try and deal with our problems.
6 That's it.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE
9 UPDATED CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET
10 FOR THE YEAR 2015 THE SECOND-YEAR REVISION
11 AND EXTENSION OF THE 2013 FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
2 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
3 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
4 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY BANK,
5 N.A. TO PROVIDE PAYING AGENT SERVICES FOR
6 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR A PERIOD OF
7 THREE (3) YEARS FROM AUGUST 1, 2014 THROUGH
8 JULY 31, 2017.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

14 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? To
15 answer one simple question, at this point in
16 time the city does have a number of paying
17 agents for different debts, there are
18 different paying agents. One of the
19 purposes of this is to create a single
20 paying agent to sort of simplify the process
21 of debt payments, again, Business
22 Administrator Bulzoni explained some of the
23 possibility with this single paying agent
24 and the reasons why the city is looking into
25 doing this.

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
10 RESOLUTION - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE
11 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO USE
12 THE COMPANY KNOWN AS CARFAX TO MANAGE THEIR
13 REPORTABLE AND NON-REPORTABLE TRAFFIC
14 ACCIDENT REPORTS VIA AN ONLINE SERVICE TO
15 THE PUBLIC AND TO ALLOW CARFAX TO ACCEPT
16 PAYMENT FROM CITIZENS FOR OBTAINING THOSE
17 ACCIDENT REPORTS AND DISBURSING THOSE
18 PAYMENTS TO THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

19 MR. MCGOFF: 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. WECHSLER: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff.

1 From speaking with Chief Graziano this is
2 actually an upgrade to the services that the
3 citizens would be able to take advantage of.
4 Carfax is providing the service to us. This
5 will help people to download their accident
6 reports from the internet and also the
7 Carfax will collect the fees that have
8 already been established for accident
9 reports within the city so it kind of brings
10 us into the current century.

11 All those in favor of introduction
12 signify by saying aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

20 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
21 44, 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
23 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
24 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
25 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

1 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
3 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
4 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
5 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE
6 PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015.

7 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
8 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. WECHSLER: Second.

12 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?

13 MR. EVANS: On the question, for the
14 record I will be abstaining from voting or
15 participating in any votes related to the
16 2015 OECD action plan. I have had a
17 longstanding professional relationship with
18 two of the applicants, UNC and Lackawanna
19 Neighbors, Incorporated. I have represented
20 both of these extraordinary nonprofits as a
21 realtor on several projects and I respect
22 the work that they have done and continue to
23 do so. I feel it would be inappropriate for
24 me to vote on next years funding while I
25 still have a business relationship with both

1 of them. Even though that relationship had
2 been previously disclosed to OECD solicitor
3 by me prior to taking my seat on council, I
4 still felt this would be the proper course
5 of action at this time.

6 Furthermore, I have asked our
7 solicitor to review any possibly conflict
8 that my business relationship with those
9 applicants may have as defined by HUD and he
10 said he will review that for determination.
11 That's all I have.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
13 All those in favor signify by saying
14 aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

19 MR. EVANS: Abstain.

20 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
21 moved.

22 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to table
23 Item 6-A as per the 30-day public comment
24 period required for OECD that's required by
25 HUD.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
3 those in favor of tabling Item 6-A signify
4 by saying aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

9 MR. EVANS: Abstain.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Abstentions. The ayes
11 have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
13 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 45, 2014 - AN
14 ORDINANCE - APPROVING PENALTY, INTEREST AND
15 FEE SCHEDULE FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT
16 REFUSE FEES.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
20 pass reading by title.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 46, 2014 - AN
7 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
8 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A THIRD
10 ADDENDUM TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
11 CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES LLC
12 FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES TO
13 EXPAND THE COLLECTION SERVICES PERFORMED BY
14 NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE
15 COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT ANNUAL OCCUPANCY
16 LICENSE AND PARKING LOT OPERATOR FEES.

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

19 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to
20 amend Item 6-C as follows: In the summary
21 title delete "Occupancy, license and parking
22 lot operator fees," and insert "Rental
23 registration fees."

24 In the second whereas clause delete
25 "Occupancy, license and parking lot operator

1 fees," and insert, "Rental registration
2 fees."

3 In the, "Now, therefore," clause
4 delete "Annual occupancy license and parking
5 lot operator fees" and insert "Delinquent
6 annual rental registration fees."

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any questions
9 on the amendments? All those in favor of
10 motion to amend Item 6-C signify by saying
11 aye.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MR. WESCHLER: Mr. Chairman, I move
19 that Item 6-C, as amended, pass reading by
20 title.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
23 those in favor signify by saying aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
6 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
7 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
8 NO. 42, 2014 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
9 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229612 ENTITLED
10 "FREE SWIM FOR CITIZENS OF SCRANTON" FOR THE
11 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF THOSE FUNDS
12 RECEIVED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

13 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
14 recommendation of the Chair for the
15 Committee on Finance?

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
21 call, please?

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

8 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
9 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
10 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 43, 2014
11 - DESIGNATING THE 500 BLOCK OF BOGART PLACE
12 AS ONE WAY DESIGNATION-WESTBOUND FROM CEDAR
13 AVENUE TO SOUTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,
14 APPROXIMATELY 430 LINEAR FEET.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chair for the
17 Committee on Public Safety?

18 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
19 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
20 final passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
9 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
11 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION
12 -RESOLUTION NO. 77, 2014 - RATIFYING AND
13 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
14 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE
16 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
17 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL
18 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE
19 COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$180,000.00 FOR THE
20 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FUND
21 THE COMPLETION OF PHASE 2 OF THE COMMUNITY
22 SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROJECT. AUTHORIZING
23 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
24 OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF
25 SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND DISBURSING THE

1 GRANT FUNDS FOR PHASE 2 OF THE COMMUNITY
2 SURVEILLANCE NETWORK PROJECT.

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

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

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

17 MR. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

23 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
24 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION
25 -RESOLUTION NO. 78, 2014 - RATIFYING AND

1 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
2 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
3 SCRANTON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO THE
4 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL
6 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE
7 COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$625,417.00 FOR THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO FUND THE
9 COMPLETION OF PHASE 2 OF THE KANE STREET
10 PROJECT. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
11 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
12 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND
13 DISBURSING THE GRANT FUNDS FOR PHASE 2 OF
14 THE KANE STREET PROJECT.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chair for the
17 Committee on Finance?

18 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-D.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

10 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION
12 -RESOLUTION NO. 79, 2014 - RATIFYING AND
13 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
14 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF THE EVERHART MUSEUM,
16 TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
17 ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING
18 AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT,
19 PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT
20 AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.00
21 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "EVERHART
22 MUSEUM SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT"
23 LOCATED IN SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
25 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

1 ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND
2 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT
3 GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH
4 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT
5 AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
6 \$300,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF
7 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

8 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
9 recommendation of the Chair for the
10 Committee on Finance?

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

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
16 call, please?

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

3 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION
5 -RESOLUTION NO. 80, 2014 - RATIFYING AND
6 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
7 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA
9 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
10 DEVELOPMENT (DCED) FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT
11 GRANT (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE
12 AMOUNT OF \$916,035.00 FOR THE CITY OF
13 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT TO BE USED TOWARD
14 THE PURCHASE OF A NEW KME 100' MID MOUNT
15 AERIAL TRUCK TO REPLACE A 2001 FERRARA
16 TRUCK. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
17 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
18 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND
19 DISBURSING THE GRANT FUNDS TOWARD THE
20 PURCHASE OF THE NEW AERIAL TRUCK.

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

24 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Finance, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-F.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

16 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
18 ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 81, 2014 -
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
20 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
21 CONTRACT WITH A & M ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION,
22 INC. TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC
23 SIGNALIZATION FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR
24 THE PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 1,
25 2014 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2015.

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

4 MR. WESCHLER: As Chairperson for
5 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
6 final passage of Item 7-G.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

23 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER