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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 24, 2015

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. ROGAN: Call this meeting to
2 order. Please rise for the Pledge of
3 Allegiance.

4 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
5 moment of silence observed.)

6 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please?

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

10 MR. ROGAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

12 MR. EVANS: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff?

16 MS. REED: Gentlemen, Mr. McGoff
17 sent an email this evening. And he noted
18 that he was still hospitalized. And he will
19 be unable to attend tonight's meeting. He
20 also noted that it was his hope that he
21 would return shortly in the near future and
22 fulfill his obligations as he was so elected
23 to.

24 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: I make a motion to

1 appoint Councilman Rogan as the temporary
2 Chairperson for the Committee on Rules.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

4 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
5 those in favor signify by saying aye?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
11 it and so moved.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a
13 motion to take to the table File of the
14 Council No. 108, 2015.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

16 MR. ROGAN: On the question? This
17 is the legislation that pertains to
18 competitive bidding and the amounts from
19 which quotes would be obtained in line with
20 Commonwealth standards. It is being taken
21 from the table and will be placed in Seventh
22 Order for the final vote. Anyone who wishes
23 to speak on this particular piece of
24 legislation may do so during Fourth Order
25 citizens' participation. All those in favor

1 signify by saying aye?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
7 it and so moved.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a
9 motion to take to the table File of the
10 Council No. 109, 2015.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

12 MR. ROGAN: On the question? This
13 is the legislation to increase the cost for
14 the bidding threshold for professional
15 services. That will be taken from the table
16 and will be placed in Seventh Order for
17 final vote. Anyone who wishes to speak on
18 this particular piece of legislation may do
19 so during the Fourth Order citizens'
20 participation. All those in favor signify
21 by saying aye?

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The ayes have
2 it and so moved. Please dispense with the
3 reading of the minutes.

4 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
5 ASSESSOR'S REPORTS FOR HEARING DATES TO BE
6 HELD OCTOBER 6, OCTOBER 13, AND OCTOBER 20,
7 2015.

8 MR. ROGAN: Any comments? If not,
9 received and filed.

10 MS. REED: 3B. CHECK RECEIVED FROM
11 LUTHERWOOD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00, WHICH
12 IS PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF
13 SCRANTON.

14 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
15 If not, received and filed.

16 MS. REED: 3C. MINUTES OF THE
17 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST
18 26, 2015.

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

21 MS. REED: 3D. MINUTES OF THE
22 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF SCRANTON
23 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD JULY 6, 2015.

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

1 MS. REED: 3E. CORRESPONDENCE
2 RECEIVED FROM THOMAS J. ANDERSON &
3 ASSOCIATES, INC. REGARDING THE 2016
4 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL
5 OBLIGATION.

6 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?
7 If not, received and filed. Do any Council
8 members have announcements at this time?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. This
10 Saturday at 1 p.m., there is an unveiling of
11 the Vietnam Memorial on Courthouse Square.
12 We are remembering and honoring the 55
13 Lackawanna County Veterans who lost their
14 lives in the Vietnam War. I would urge
15 everyone to come out and support the
16 families of these brave individuals who gave
17 the ultimate sacrifice for our country.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

20 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
21 PARTICIPATION.

22 MR. ROGAN: Our first speaker
23 tonight is Joan Hodowanitz.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
25 resident and taxpayer. With regard to Item

1 3E, correspondence from Beyer Barber Company
2 dated September 21st on the City of Scranton
3 Pension Plan's 2016 Minimum Municipal
4 Obligation's or what we call MMOs. As you
5 certainly recall for the last two years, the
6 city has missed its MMO payment on December
7 31st of each year. And a result of that was
8 that we paid 8 percent interest. For the
9 two years together, I think we paid
10 something like half a million dollars in
11 interest. We shouldn't have had to pay.
12 This correspondence is sent to help the city
13 prepare for its 2016 operating budget as Mr.
14 Bulzoni explained during your caucus. And I
15 think the public needs to be made aware of
16 this correspondence. And since it's not
17 part of tonight's legislation, let me just
18 read the pertinent portions. The funding
19 percentage of the aggregating plans has
20 declined from 47 percent in 2009 to 24
21 percent in 2015, one of the lowest in the
22 state. Let's see. If--now, people may not
23 realize this, but when we pay the MMO, we're
24 actually getting a 25 percent reduction.
25 And you're able to take that every year

1 through the year 2016. After 2016, there
2 will be no reduction. You will pay the bill
3 in full starting January 1st, 2017. So, the
4 letter goes onto say: If the city should
5 chose to use the Act 44 relief for 2016--it
6 says actually 2015, but I'm sure that's a
7 typo--the MM0 for 2016 will be \$14,400,052.
8 If it were paid in full, it would be
9 \$18,695,993. But the reduced number, the
10 \$14 million is not, I say again, is not
11 sufficient to pay for the benefits that will
12 be earned in 2016 and interest on the past
13 service liability. As a result, the past
14 service liability will grow and the funding
15 percentage will continue to decline. This
16 relief provision is available to the city
17 for the 2016 MM0, but will not be available
18 for 2017 and later years. Based on this
19 fact, we recommend that the city make
20 contributions to the plan in excess of the
21 full 2016 MM0 before consideration of Act 44
22 relief. Now, Mr. Bulzoni mentioned in
23 caucus that he's looking at a number of
24 remedies including the monetization of the
25 sewer authority so that the pension plans

1 can be superfunded. I would not bet my life
2 on all that coming to pass. We're not
3 getting the tax revenue we anticipated
4 through the end of this year because of the
5 LST. God knows what other holes you're
6 going to have to plug in 2016. The public
7 needs to be made aware that this bill come
8 due may force, if nothing else transpires,
9 an increase in real estate taxes again. And
10 I'm not talking a minor increase, I'm
11 talking a lot. We may be looking by 2017 at
12 our--one of our major Bojinka moments.
13 Remember Bojinka? Bend over, here it comes
14 again. So I hope that the Times Tribune
15 will start publicizing this in the paper and
16 explaining this to the readers because they
17 need to be aware. And I would be very, very
18 surprised if we meet the MMO for this
19 December 31st because we missed it for the
20 last two years. And if we don't make it
21 this year, I don't think we have a prayer
22 for making it next year and the years beyond
23 that. So, I look forward to what Mr.
24 Bulzoni and Mayor Courtright are going to
25 put together in the budget and how they

1 think they're going to be able to fund this.
2 But this needs some publicity, this issue.
3 This should not be dropped like a bombshell
4 on the public in 2016 and 2017. Because
5 this is going hurt. Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Les
7 Spindler?

8 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
9 Council, Les Spindler, city homeowner. Two
10 weeks ago when I was here, I spoke about
11 Firefighter John Rivers saving four lives in
12 the terrible fire at Sandone Tire. Not one
13 of you spoke a word about that. But I
14 thought it should get the proper news. What
15 did you decide to talk about? That I asked
16 for Mr. McGoff to resign. And you know
17 what? I'm stilling asking him to resign.
18 He's not fulfilling his oath that he took.
19 I don't know when he was here last. He's
20 still hospitalized. Like I said, he's not
21 fulfilling his oath. And this isn't just me
22 saying this. This is many citizens on the
23 street that come up to me asking for his
24 resignation. Because many, hundreds of
25 people over the years, they come up to me

1 and say, you're doing a great job, thanks
2 for speaking up for us. And these are the
3 people coming up to me and asking me this.
4 It's not just me. And this isn't a
5 political thing. This is the right thing to
6 do. He's not fulfilling his oath and he
7 should resign. Next thing, I've been a
8 supporter of the Mayor every since he sat on
9 City Council. But if I think he's doing
10 something wrong, I'm going to call him out
11 on it. And I consider the Mayor my friend.
12 But I'm here on something I don't like what
13 I'm hearing. Someone in the LIPs Department
14 told me he's trying to put the LIPs
15 Department out to a third party. And I have
16 proof. And you can check on this. And I
17 was told the plumbing inspector left.
18 Because everybody in that department is
19 unhappy with the director. They don't like
20 the way it's being run. They said they hate
21 coming to work. They loved coming to work
22 when Mr. Fiorini was there. Anyway, the
23 plumbing inspector left. His job was put up
24 to bid. Nobody was qualified to bid it.
25 They gave that out to a third party

1 non-union job. It's a union job. They gave
2 it to a non-union person. And I hear four
3 or five people are leaving at the end of the
4 year because of this and because of the
5 director. Also, they were told when they go
6 on a call, to charge the people \$50. And
7 they complain and say, we don't want to walk
8 around carrying money with us. The union
9 fought it and did win that decision. They
10 don't have to do that. But I don't like the
11 way this is going. And the Mayor was
12 supposed to be a union person. I can't
13 believe he's trying to get rid of the union.
14 And like I said, this is all proof, somebody
15 that I knew a long time in the LIPs
16 Department told me this. And you can check
17 on the plumbing inspector, if he's in the
18 union or not. I'm really disappointed with
19 the Mayor. I do consider him a friend, but
20 I don't agree with what he's doing. And
21 from what I hear, I don't like his decision
22 of who he picked for the director either.
23 Because nobody there likes him. And by the
24 end of the year, we'll hardly have anybody
25 in that department. And I guess that's what

1 he wanted. That's all I have tonight.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Elizabeth
5 Davis?

6 MS. DAVIS: Hello, my name is
7 Elizabeth Davis. And I am here on behalf of
8 Scranton Reads and the Scranton Public
9 Library. And I wanted to talk for a few
10 minutes about our annual reading event that
11 takes place every October, Scranton Reads.
12 Every year we encourage all citizens of
13 Scranton to join together and read a great
14 work of literature. We participate in book
15 discussions, special events related to the
16 book. And we have two main goals with
17 Scranton Reads. The first goal is to
18 encourage reading of people of all ages.
19 The second goal is to bring the community
20 together through a shared common experience.
21 And we do that by building a community
22 with--by bringing them together with
23 different--of different backgrounds through
24 the love of literacy, art and culture. And
25 this year is our 14th year actually. And we

1 selected J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher In The*
2 *Rye*. Hoping everyone can join us as we
3 participate in different activities. Our
4 kick off event is October 3rd at the Library
5 at 2 p.m. And I have copies for everyone on
6 Council. So I hope you all can join us.

7 MR. EVANS: That's awesome.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.

9 MS. DAVIS: May I approach?

10 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

12 MS. DAVIS: Hope you can join us.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
15 would like to address counsel?

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, City
17 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I too was
18 at the caucus. I too told you many, many
19 years ago, you're ruining the city. Your
20 government is your enemy. Your weapon was
21 your vote. And the people stuck up their
22 hands and surrendered to the parties. Where
23 we are is not--I say about 15 years of
24 mismanagement. And you're not doing a darn
25 thing through it. In fact, I think you're

1 going to sit back and try to get anything
2 you can out of this before it collapses.
3 You and I know we're not going to make no
4 payments. If I were you, I would ask the
5 county if they want to buy the city. And
6 turn the whole city over to the county. It
7 probably be a better deal for the residents
8 of Scranton, but not maybe for you. You
9 have lacked any foresight sitting up on that
10 Council for a lot of years. Even when you
11 had the majority, of course it was too late
12 then. But Mr. Rogan, you were there to know
13 why, for all the years, the money that was
14 set up for different contracts were changed.
15 The Mayor changed them up. Janet changed
16 them. And now, you want to change them up
17 again. Maybe not as high as the Mayor
18 wants, but just go up. Tell me how much did
19 we have to pay the Scranton Tribune for
20 advertising for all these contracts that you
21 said we're in trouble with on them payments?
22 Does anybody know the dollar amount?

23 MR. ROGAN: I had the dollar amount
24 when we first looked at this, I thought I
25 announced it, but I could get that for you

1 again. But the point--and Councilman
2 Wechsler is going to make an amendment to
3 this legislation. It's something that he's
4 been leading on and I completely agree with
5 him. That when we have an opportunity to
6 save money by putting these items on the
7 city website versus paying Scranton Times,
8 the city website is more accessible than the
9 Scranton Times. It's free. The Scranton
10 Times, you have to purchase. And even if
11 you read online, you have to pay.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't have a
13 computer online. That means--and there's a
14 lot of people my age that don't.

15 MR. ROGAN: Well--

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: We're going to be
17 asked to pay even though we're not going to
18 know what's happening. And you know and I
19 know, there was so much mismanagement in the
20 Doherty administration that when you, the
21 majority took control, you had millions of
22 dollars in unpaid bills that were done this
23 way. And you're going back to the same way.
24 You're not going to save the city.

25 MR. ROGAN: We're not going back to

1 the same way. There's going to be a number
2 of amendments that are made that puts
3 Scranton in line with the rest of the state.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Is Scranton
5 financially sound like the rest of the
6 state?

7 MR. ROGAN: No and that's why we
8 need to get in line.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: So you're not going
10 to put it in line with the rest of the
11 state. You're going to put it in line with
12 what's good for the administration, not for
13 the people of Scranton.

14 MR. ROGAN: No.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: We have done this
16 for transparency. You've got dollars
17 amount. You have a lot of dollar amounts.
18 I don't know which member of the council
19 voted to forgive the loans to city
20 employees? Which one of you did it? It was
21 in the paper. It was there. It was passed.
22 Which one of you voted for them not to have
23 to pay back the money you received?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know what
25 you're talking about.

1 MR. ROGAN: City Council did not
2 vote on that. That was a legal settlement.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Aren't you on the
4 Pension Board? Isn't City Council on the
5 Pension Board?

6 MR. ROGAN: City Council has one
7 seat on the Pension Board.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, who voted on
9 that? And that one seat voted to forgive
10 the pensions.

11 MR. ROGAN: Nobody did. That was a
12 court settlement.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: What court
14 settlement? I didn't realize what the court
15 had--

16 MR. ROGAN: There were hearings.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: There was a lot of
18 hearings, but I don't remember going to
19 court.

20 MR. ROGAN: Attorney Minora could
21 probably explain the process a little bit
22 better. City Council did not take a vote.
23 And I agree with you that the back money
24 should be paid back.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, what's your

1 game, Mister? How did this come where they
2 didn't have to pay it back? That we gave
3 them a gift?

4 MR. ROGAN: Attorney Minora, would
5 you care to--I'm sorry to put you on the
6 spot.

7 MR. MINORA: No, that's okay. I
8 only read the newspaper. So I didn't talk
9 to Attorney Durkin about it. But I know at
10 one point, I know Attorney Durkin felt that
11 the prospect of actually recovering the
12 money was very slim. Because the people we
13 were claiming from had very little in the
14 way of assets. And to cut their pension
15 back to an amount that would possibly
16 recover it was also an impossibility because
17 of their advanced ages. And there was
18 ongoing litigation that was, of course,
19 costing the city money on top of that. It
20 then became a question of balancing cost
21 versus opportunity. And I believe that was
22 what he was considering when he resolved
23 these things that way.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm sure he wasn't
25 considering lost votes for the party?

1 Attorney Durkin represents the Pension Fund,
2 doesn't he?

3 MR. MINORA: That's correct.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, how do you
5 expect him to go? You expect him to vote
6 for the city or for the Pension Fund?

7 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
8 would like to address Council?

9 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5A.
10 MOTIONS.

11 MR. ROGAN: Councilman Wechsler, do
12 you have any motions or comments?

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, thank you, Mr.
14 Rogan. First, I'd like to comment on the
15 past weekend in the City of Scranton, I was
16 fortunate enough to see the spirit of
17 Scranton very active over the weekend. I
18 attended quite a few of the fundraisers that
19 were held. And once again, I'd just like to
20 thank everyone in the city who came out to
21 support all these great local fundraisers.
22 Last week, Councilman Gaughan raised a
23 question about the parking website. I
24 inquired from Council that name. And
25 actually, it was H and J Associates who paid

1 for the website. As part of the grant that
2 they received from Allied, Geisinger and
3 Lackawanna, it's part of their function to
4 get publicity out for some of these
5 arrangements that we're working. So the
6 answer to that is that H and J Associates
7 paid for that through the grant money. I'd
8 like to thank Director Hinton and Director
9 Gallagher for correcting a problem that was
10 up on East Mountain. They did a fine job of
11 getting that corrected. And also tonight I
12 was pleased to see as I was on my way down
13 here tonight that the utilities have started
14 to repair the sidewalks on Moosic Street,
15 they are laying down new sidewalks. And
16 just as Councilman Rogan mentioned, this
17 evening just for simplicity, Councilman
18 Evans is going to make the whole amendment
19 for the new bidding requirements. But one
20 of the things that we had talked about as a
21 Council that allows us to change these
22 bidding requirements is that the
23 announcements for these bids are now going
24 to be placed on the city websites. In fact,
25 if you visit the city website right now, the

1 test procurement is on the website. This
2 won't replace normal bidding, but it will be
3 posted that all of these procurements now
4 will be on the city website. Which I think
5 is a major step forward along with some of
6 the other amendments that we're going to
7 make. That's all I have.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Councilman
9 Evans, do you have any motions or comments?

10 MR. EVANS: Briefly on one of my all
11 time favorite subjects which is
12 reassessment. The fact that we haven't had
13 one in 45 years has had a severe and
14 crushing affect on real estate values in the
15 city. In combination with large property
16 taxes based in Scranton, property owners are
17 facing an unfair devaluation of what, in
18 most cases, is their primary asset, their
19 homes and their businesses. And this can't
20 continue. I'll give you my latest example
21 of an impact of an unfair assessment
22 combined with higher millage rates. As a
23 realtor, I recently showed a perspective
24 buyer a small two bedroom cape cod in a very
25 nice neighborhood. The asking price was

1 \$89,000. A fair amount for that alone. My
2 client was approved for \$120,000, so the
3 industry--in our industry we call that
4 basically a slam dunk as far as financing is
5 concerned. Well, because of a high and
6 unfair tax assessment, the taxes on this
7 small two bedroom home are \$5,100. When the
8 mortgage broker calculated the monthly
9 payment for the taxes into the equation, the
10 individual previously approved to buy a home
11 for \$120,000 was unable to qualify for the
12 purchase of this home for \$89,000. And this
13 story is repeated throughout the city, day
14 in and day out. We have to fix the tax
15 problem and we certainly have to fix the
16 assessment problem. So I am urging the
17 Mayor and his administration following the
18 November election to immediately get on the
19 phone to the newly elected incoming
20 Commissioners and get this conversation
21 started before it's too late. On the
22 Mercantile Business Privilege Tax, it is
23 Council's intent and the intent of the
24 recovery plan to look into the feasibility
25 of replacing the Mercantile Business

1 Privilege Tax with a more equitable Payroll
2 Tax. Several weeks ago, I mentioned some
3 numbers that indicated there was a large
4 difference between the identified businesses
5 that will be eligible to pay the Payroll Tax
6 and those that are currently paying the
7 Mercantile Business Privilege Tax. Since
8 then, it was brought to my attention that
9 those numbers may not be completely accurate
10 because the study mentioned had not been
11 fully completed. While I was under the
12 impression that that portion of the study
13 was complete, I do apologize for any
14 confusion on that matter relative to
15 information not being completed. However,
16 that does not change my resolve to eliminate
17 a nuisance tax that has been, quite frankly,
18 a nuisance to small and large businesses in
19 our city. As well as a constant negative to
20 new businesses wishing to open in Scranton.
21 We need to create a new perception in the
22 business community that we are a great place
23 to do business and we are certainly open for
24 business. I'd also like to comment on what
25 Councilman Wechsler said. His suggestion to

1 put the RFP's and RFQ's on the city website
2 is a sound, smart business practice. And
3 something that should be well received. And
4 I think what you'll see tonight is the
5 amendments that are being offered was a
6 concerted effort by all the councilmen here
7 and with input from Councilman McGoff as
8 well working together and taking an
9 ordinance and making it better and stronger
10 for the citizens throughout the city. So
11 that's all I have for now.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Councilman
13 Gaughan, do you have any motions or
14 comments?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I do. Thank you.
16 I forgot to mention earlier, there will be a
17 flag raising ceremony at Saint Joseph's
18 Cemetery on Davis Street in Minooka this
19 Saturday at 12 p.m. for anyone who is
20 interested. The residents of Greenridge
21 will hold a Pretzel Park clean up this
22 Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. And October
23 3rd, there will be a Crowley Park clean up
24 in Greenridge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. I was
25 contacted this week about the condition of

1 the 500 block of North Hughes Court. And we
2 have contacted DPW to hopefully take care of
3 that situation. For anyone who is
4 interested, the 2015 Fall OECD paving list
5 is located on the city's website on the main
6 page on the right hand side. And Minooka
7 and South Scranton are the areas that are
8 being targeted. So all the streets are
9 listed on the website for anyone who is
10 interested. We did find out this afternoon
11 that our City Engineer, John Pocius and our
12 DPW Director Dennis Gallagher will attend a
13 6 p.m. caucus next week to update us on the
14 2015 paving program in the City of Scranton.
15 I'm going to make a request that the paving
16 list be put on the city's website. I am
17 getting a lot of questions about the paving
18 program, so I'm looking forward to hearing
19 more information and getting an update next
20 week. I did get a question about the paving
21 of North Washington Avenue. And we spoke
22 with Mr. Lopatka who is the engineer on the
23 project. And North Washington Avenue is
24 being paved from Morel Street to University
25 Avenue. And I received a complaint from a

1 number of different people that we forwarded
2 to the Police Department about school
3 traffic going the wrong way on North Lincoln
4 Avenue towards West Gibson Street. So
5 hopefully that will be looked into and taken
6 care of. And that is all I have this week.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And I'll be
9 very brief. I guess one of the
10 disadvantages to speaking last is I'll say
11 everything that's already been said. But I
12 would just like to echo some of the items
13 that my colleagues, as Councilman Wechsler
14 mentioned before, there were a number of
15 fundraisers in the community this past
16 weekend. And I was able to attend a couple.
17 Not as many as I would have liked, but the
18 fundraiser for Officer Wilding was very well
19 attended. And I was--I got there later when
20 things were winding down, but it was great
21 to see the community come together for a
22 fallen officer. The VFP did an excellent
23 job putting that together. So they deserve
24 a job well done for that. Regarding the
25 double pensions, I did have Attorney Minora

1 contact the State Police to see if Scranton
2 City Council would be in a position
3 currently to conduct, I don't want to say
4 its own investigation, but hearings with
5 some of the key players that were in that
6 scandal. And Attorney Minora, do you want
7 to give a brief update on how that
8 conversation went?

9 MR. MINORA: Well, it was actually a
10 very short conversation. I asked the State
11 Trooper if he would be in a position to
12 update us on the progress of his
13 investigation. And he declined to do so
14 because it is still under investigation. He
15 then requested some information from me
16 concerning members of Council and who the
17 solicitor was at that particular time. And
18 I provided all of that information to him.
19 That really was just about the entire gist
20 of the conversation and exchange of
21 information.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And I know
23 for myself, I will continue to pursue this.
24 I do think we need to have something at some
25 point for the public if charges aren't filed

1 down the line. But at this point, I do
2 agree that we have to respect the State
3 Police's wishes and hold off on anything
4 further. Regarding the bidding threshold,
5 what Councilman Evans and Councilman
6 Wechsler said is exactly right. We need to
7 find a middle ground on this. And
8 especially when we could be transparent and
9 save money at the same time, that's a
10 win-win. The idea of putting these bids on
11 the city's website makes them very
12 accessible. And it's no secret and I know
13 it's been mentioned by my colleagues and by
14 speakers that the city's website is
15 underutilized. It is a great asset that we
16 could use to save money and be more
17 transparent. And that's what my hope is
18 that this legislation will do after we make
19 the amendments that Councilman Evans will
20 read off tonight. And I know it's been
21 mentioned before by myself and some other
22 members, if we were doing an up or down vote
23 in the current form, I wouldn't be
24 supporting this. The key for me was the
25 placing of these items on the city's

1 website. So those out there that want to do
2 business with the city can do it as easily
3 as going to www.ScrantonPA.Gov. They don't
4 have to subscribe to the Scranton Times or
5 purchase the newspaper. We'll have
6 everything right online as many of the
7 municipalities do. And I hope this is
8 something we can do with many other items
9 and utilize our city's website for the
10 things it should be, to get that information
11 out to the public in a quick, easy and free
12 manner. So that is all I have for tonight.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION AN
15 ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AN AGREEMENT OF
16 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION FOR THE
17 PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF A
18 MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY THE
19 CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE ADJACENT
20 MUNICIPALITIES OF: THE BOROUGHS OF: CLARKS
21 GREEN, CLARKS SUMMIT, DALTON, DUNMORE; AND
22 THE TOWNSHIPS OF GLENBURN, NEWTON, SOUTH
23 ABINGTON, WAVERLY, AND WEST ABINGTON.

24 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5B be

1 introduced into it's proper committee.

2 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

4 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
5 those in favor--

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
7 I was a little late there. I'm very happy
8 that we are going to be voting on this and
9 implementing SAPA. There are three reasons
10 why I am supporting SAPA, increased
11 opportunities for economic development,
12 increased funding from the state and
13 opportunities to increase our tax base.
14 This plan will give the city a way to
15 facilitate economic involvement based on a
16 coordinated and comprehensive strategy
17 rather than every municipality competing for
18 tax revenue. SAPA puts a strong emphasis on
19 Scranton being the center for economic
20 development in this region. And as we all
21 know, a healthy, vibrant, urban center in
22 Scranton is key to the overall vision of
23 this plan. Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: Anybody else on the
25 question? All those in favor of

1 introduction signify by saying aye?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
7 it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 5C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
9 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J.
10 PALMITESSA, 730 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE,
11 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS ALTERNATE
12 NO. 1 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
13 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. PALMITESSA
14 WILL BE REPLACING CHARLIE SPANO WHOSE TERM
15 EXPIRED ON JULY 1, 2015. MR. PALMITESSA'S
16 TERM WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AND EXPIRE ON
17 JULY 1, 2020.

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

21 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

24 MR. WECHSLER: On the question, Mr.
25 Rogan, just a comment of all these

1 appointments we are going to go through for
2 the city tonight. Once again, I would just
3 like to thank all these people who are
4 stepping up to help our city out. It takes
5 a lot of time and a lot of effort for these
6 positions. And they're not paid. But I do
7 recommend and congratulate all these people
8 for stepping up.

9 MR. ROGAN: I agree. And I would
10 like to thank Mr. Spano for his service on
11 the Zoning Board. He has done an excellent
12 job and we're looking forward to working
13 with him in another capacity in the future.
14 And the same goes for all the members that
15 are being--all the individuals who are being
16 appointed to these various committees. All
17 those in favor of introduction signify by
18 saying aye?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
24 it. So moved.

25 MS. REED: 5D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A

1 RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT
2 GATTENS, 528 ORCHARD STREET, SCRANTON,
3 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS ALTERNATE NO. 2
4 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR
5 THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. GATTENS' TERM
6 EXPIRED ON JULY 1, 2015 AND HIS NEW TERM
7 WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 1, 2020.

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

13 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
14 those in favor of introduction signify by
15 saying aye?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
21 it. So moved.

22 MS. REED: 5E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
23 RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT OF PAUL J. STRUNK, 3
24 CROSS DRIVE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505
25 AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS

1 COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.
2 MR. STRUNK IS BEING APPOINTED TO A THREE (3)
3 YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 16,
4 2018.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
18 it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
20 RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT OF ALEXANDER LESTER,
21 621 LARCH STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
22 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS
23 COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.
24 MR. LESTER IS BEING APPOINTED TO A THREE (3)
25 YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 16,

1 2018.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

6 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
15 it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5G. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
17 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE
18 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
19 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON
20 BEHALF OF THE EVERHART MUSEUM, TO THE
21 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH
22 THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A
23 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE
24 PA RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN
25 THE AMOUNT OF \$210,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO

1 BE KNOWN AS "EVERHART MUSEUM SAFETY
2 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT" LOCATED IN SCRANTON,
3 PENNSYLVANIA. AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
4 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY
5 OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF
6 SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
7 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND
8 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
9 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT
10 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$210,000.00 AWARDED BY THE
11 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH
12 PROJECT.

13 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
14 entertain a motion that Item 5G be
15 introduced into its proper committee.

16 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

20 I would just like to say that this is an
21 outstanding project. The Everhart Museum is
22 an asset to our community. And as is stated
23 in the application, the project will allow
24 the Everhart to focus on their mission,
25 which is to support the imagination of the

1 region through collections, exhibitions and
2 programs. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
4 in favor of introduction signify by saying
5 aye?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
11 it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5H. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
13 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 181, 2015
14 ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
16 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRIBEN INSURANCE
17 SOLUTIONS, INC. TO PROVIDE INSURANCE
18 SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON LIFE,
19 DISABILITY AND DENTAL INSURANCE FOR A FOUR
20 (4) YEAR PERIOD FROM MARCH 1, 2015 THROUGH
21 FEBRUARY 28, 2019" TO CORRECT THE INSURANCE
22 SERVICES PROVIDED BY TRIBEN INSURANCE
23 SOLUTIONS, INC. TO LIFE AND DISABILITY
24 INSURANCE ONLY AND TO CHANGE THE EFFECTIVE
25 DATE OF THE CONTRACT TO A FOUR (4) YEAR

1 PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2015 THROUGH
2 SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.

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

6 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
16 it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5I. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
18 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
19 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
20 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL OF
21 PENNSYLVANIA TO PROVIDE INSURANCE SERVICES
22 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON DENTAL INSURANCE
23 FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1,
24 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.

25 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5I be
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. WECHSLER: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
6 those in favor of introduction signify by
7 saying aye?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
13 it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6A. NO
15 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7A.
16 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
17 FINANCE FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
18 NO. 117, 2015 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
19 NO. 58, 2014, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
20 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2015" BY TRANSFERRING
21 \$63,477.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
22 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
23 EXPENDITURES-CONTINGENCY) TO THE ACCOUNTS
24 LISTED BELOW TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR
25 CADETS TRAINING AT HACC AND EMT TRAINING

1 REIMBURSEMENT AND 10% MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE
2 2014 AFG GRANT FOR SCBA PURCHASE.

3 MR. ROGAN: What is the
4 recommendation of the Chairperson of the
5 Committee on Finance?

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
20 Item 7A legally and lawfully adopted.

21 MS. REED: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS FOR ADOPTION
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 119, 2015
24 AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A STOP SIGN
25 (R1-1) WITH EXCEPT RIGHT TURN (R1-10P) BELOW

1 IT, BE INSTALLED AT THE NORTHWESTERLY
2 INTERSECTION OF RIDGE AVENUE AND ASH STREET
3 AND THAT THE EXISTING ONE-WAY SIGNS BE
4 REMOVED AT THE INTERSECTION OF RIDGE AVENUE
5 AND MYRTLE STREET AND NEW ONE-WAY (R6-1L)
6 SIGNS BE INSTALLED ON A CHANNEL THERE AND
7 ALSO AN ADDITIONAL ONE-WAY (R6-1L) BE
8 INSTALLED NEAR 927 RIDGE AVENUE.

9 MR. ROGAN: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Public Works?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairman of the
13 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7B.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7B legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
3 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
4 - RESOLUTION NO. 182, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE
5 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
6 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
7 ARRIS ENGINEERING GROUP LTD. FOR THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON ARCHITECT/ENGINEER (A/E) FOR STREET
9 LIGHTING PROJECT PHASE II.

10 MR. ROGAN: What's the
11 recommendation from the Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Public Works?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7C.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
19 I did receive a question about this
20 legislation this week, so I'd just like to
21 clarify one thing. The cost of this
22 contract will be borne as a professional
23 service through the general fund. The cost
24 of the actual project, however, will be
25 neutral to the general fund as the funding

1 will be realized as a component of the
2 city's capital project fund. And the energy
3 management service contract will be repaid
4 with liquid fuels money. Thank you.

5 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? Roll call,
6 please?

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
15 that Item 7C be legally and lawfully
16 adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
18 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
19 RESOLUTION NO. 183, 2015 - RATIFYING AND
20 APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
21 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
23 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)
24 FOR THE 2016 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT
25 (GAMING FUNDS) MONROE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT

1 OF \$401,568.00 TO CONVERT THE SERRENTI
2 MEMORIAL ARMY RESERVE CENTER, LOCATED AT
3 1801 PINE STREET, INTO AN EMERGENCY SERVICES
4 CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
5 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE
6 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND
7 DISBURSING THE GRANT FUNDS FOR THE
8 CONVERSION OF THE SERRENTI MEMORIAL ARMY
9 RESERVE CENTER INTO AN EMERGENCY SERVICES
10 CENTER.

11 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend
12 Item 7D as follows: In the caption summary
13 title, omit the word, "Accept the grant and
14 coordinating and disbursing the grant
15 funds." And insert the words, "Submit a
16 resolution to City Council to accept the
17 grant and coordinating and disbursing the
18 grant funds."

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. ROGAN: There is a motion on the
21 floor and a second. On the question? All
22 those in favor signify by saying aye?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Opposed?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

3 MR. ROGAN: The aye's have it and so
4 moved. What is the recommendation for the
5 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance?

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

9 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
11 I would just like to reiterate my comments
12 from last week. I think it's a mistake for
13 Mayor Courtright and the administration to
14 acquire this major piece of property as they
15 are doing through the Redevelopment
16 Authority. I can't figure out what sense it
17 makes for a city who is financially
18 distressed as we are to add another asset
19 when it's clear to me and to many other
20 people that we can't maintain the ones that
21 we already own, such as City Hall, Fire
22 Stations, parks and different things of that
23 nature. We also do not know yet what impact
24 maintaining this asset will have on future
25 budgets. Although, I don't think you'd have

1 to be a rocket scientist to know that it is
2 going to have an impact on our budgets. I
3 also don't see an urgent need to do this
4 given our current financial position. So
5 for these reasons, I cannot support this
6 project. Thank you.

7 MR. EVANS: On the question. It's
8 my understanding that the Redevelopment
9 Authority may have already purchased the
10 property if I'm not mistaken.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: I think it's
12 still--they did, but it still has to go
13 through--I can't remember the actual name of
14 it. But they have to go through this
15 process to actually acquire it.

16 MR. EVANS: Probably decommission or
17 whatever.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah.

19 MR. EVANS: I think that our
20 management works because what it allows us
21 to do is get another crack at the grant. It
22 allows the grant to move forward. If
23 successful, after the facility study is done
24 by the city and we find that this is not a
25 good fit and not a good idea, then we would

1 redirect the grant to another more worthy
2 cause. So I think it sort of covers our
3 bases both ways. So I will be voting
4 affirmative.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Just to comment, I
6 don't object to the Redevelopment Authority
7 taking over this property. The fact that
8 it's in a residential neighborhood, I would
9 rather have it under the control of the
10 Redevelopment Authority than a commercial
11 interest that may be able to put some type
12 of truck center there or something else that
13 would have a negative impact on the
14 neighbors. So I'm happy that it will be
15 under the control of the Redevelopment
16 Authority.

17 MR. ROGAN: I would just mention
18 that we are not voting on the actual
19 acceptance of this facility. That will be
20 separate legislation down the line if this
21 project gets to that point. I did speak
22 with Chief Graziano about that project. And
23 it does seem that it could certainly help
24 him and the police officers with training
25 and many other items. I know he has a

1 comprehensive plan that he's putting
2 together regarding this property and
3 possibly the removal of other facilities
4 that the Police Department has been using.
5 And that's the entire package is what we'll
6 have to take into consideration when we vote
7 on accepting the grants and also on
8 accepting the facility. But at this point,
9 we are just approving applying for the
10 grant. Anyone else? Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

14 MR. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
19 Item 7D as amended legally and lawfully
20 adopted.

21 MS. REED: 7E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
23 RESOLUTION NO. 184, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF
24 JESSICA L. BOYLES, ESQUIRE, OF SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF

1 THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE
2 SEPTEMBER 10, 2015. ATTORNEY BOYLES WILL BE
3 REPLACING DOMINIC GEORGETTI WHO RESIGNED
4 SEPTEMBER 10, 2015. ATTORNEY BOYLES WILL
5 FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF DOMINIC
6 GEORGETTI, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE
7 ON DECEMBER 31, 2016.

8 MR. ROGAN: As temporary Chairperson
9 for the Committee on Rules, I recommend the
10 final passage of Item 7E.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

12 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
13 call, please?

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

17 MR. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
22 Item 7E legally and lawfully adopted.

23 MS. REED: 7F. PREVIOUSLY TABLED.
24 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
25 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 108, 2015 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
2 14, 2010, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE "AMENDING
3 THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION 6-14
5 CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (A) TO REDUCE THE
6 AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE BIDDING IS
7 REQUIRED FROM \$20,000.00 TO \$10,000.00 AND
8 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH QUOTES MUST
9 BE OBTAINED FROM \$5,000.00 TO \$4,000.00" TO
10 INCREASE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE
11 BIDDING IS REQUIRED FROM \$10,000.00 TO
12 \$19,400.00 AND TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT FROM
13 WHICH QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED FROM \$4,000.00
14 TO \$10,500.00 TO BE IN LINE WITH
15 COMMONWEALTH STANDARDS AND OTHER SIMILARLY
16 SITUATED MUNICIPALITIES WITH REGARD TO
17 BIDDING THRESHOLD.

18 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend
19 Item 7F as follows: At the end of the first
20 Whereas, after the word, "And." And by
21 adding, "Requiring the City's Purchasing
22 Department to prominently display all
23 requests for RFQ's and RFP's, request for
24 qualifications, request for proposals, and
25 all the bid specifications on the city's

1 website." In the second Whereas Clause--in
2 the third Whereas Clause, change the word
3 "cost" to "amount." In the fourth line,
4 change the word "process" to "threshold."
5 In the Now Therefore Clause, add to the last
6 sentence, "And to index any increases as per
7 the Department of Labor and Industry Notices
8 or Consumer Price Index Adjustment base
9 amounts on bids effective January 2015
10 regarding requirements for public bids
11 attached hereto as Exhibit A. Attached
12 hereto incorporated herein by reference
13 thereto."

14 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

15 MR. ROGAN: There is a motion on the
16 floor and a second. On the question? All
17 those in favor signify by saying aye?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Opposed? The aye's have
23 it and so moved. As temporary Chair for the
24 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7F as amended.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. Rogan, just
4 to reiterate the fact that the City Council
5 and the administration worked together to
6 approve this legislation I think it speaks
7 volumes to the relationship and the efforts
8 that they're both making. The fact that
9 we're now in line with state requirements
10 and also that we're going to begin to use
11 our website to advertise procurements will
12 improve our efficiencies in regards to those
13 procedures.

14 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. One thing
15 that wasn't mentioned that also was included
16 in Councilman Evan's amendment is that in
17 the future this will be indexed to the
18 Consumer Price Index, so there should never
19 be a need for this Council or any future
20 Council to make adjustments. Because these
21 amounts will rise with inflation or decrease
22 with inflation. Roll call, please?

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

1 MR. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
6 Item 7F as amended legally and lawfully
7 adopted.

8 MS. REED: 7G. PREVIOUSLY TABLED.
9 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
10 - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
11 109, 2015 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
12 41, 2010, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AMENDING
13 THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION 6-14
15 CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (C) TO PUBLICLY BID
16 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES" TO INCREASE THE
17 COST OF THE BIDDING THRESHOLD FROM
18 \$10,000.00 TO \$25,000.00 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE
19 FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF MUNICIPAL
20 SERVICES AND TO CHANGE PROPOSALS TO
21 QUALIFICATIONS.

22 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend
23 Item 7G as follows: At the end of the
24 second Whereas, after the word "and." And
25 by adding, "Requiring the city's Purchasing

1 Department to display prominently all
2 requests for qualifications, RFQ, and
3 request for proposals, RFP, and all bid
4 specifications on the city's website." The
5 caption title, change the word "cost" to
6 "amount." Change the word "bidding" to
7 "advertising." And change the dollar amount
8 from "\$25,000" to "\$19,400." In the second
9 Whereas clause, in the first line, change
10 the word "cost" to "amount." And the words
11 "bidding process" to "advertising
12 threshold." In the third line, change the
13 word "bid" to "advertise." And change the
14 dollar amount from "\$25,000" to "\$19,400."
15 In the third and fourth Whereas clause in
16 the first line of each, change the word
17 "bid" to "advertise." And in the Now
18 Therefore Clause in Subsection C1 in the
19 first line, change the word "bid" to
20 "advertise." And change the dollar amount
21 from "\$25,000" to "\$19,400." And add a new
22 Subsection C4 to read, "And to index any
23 increases as per the Department of Labor and
24 Industry Notices or Consumer Price Index
25 adjustments base amounts on bids effective

1 January 2015 regarding requirements for
2 public bids attached hereto as Exhibit B.
3 Attached to and incorporated herein by
4 reference thereto."

5 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

6 MR. ROGAN: There is a motion on the
7 floor and a second. On the question? All
8 those in favor signify by saying aye?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: The aye's have it and so
14 moved. As temporary Chair for the Committee
15 on Rules, I recommend final passage of Item
16 7G as amended.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
19 call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler?

21 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans?

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan?

MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7G as amended legally and lawfully
adopted. If there is no further business,
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: Motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: Meeting is adjourned.

(WHEREUPON, the proceedings
concluded.)

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA

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I, Elizabeth V Kedrick, Notary Public, in and for the County of Wayne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify:

That said testimony was taken down by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting, and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, nor in anyway interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Elizabeth V Kedrick,
Notary Public,
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,
Honesdale Borough, Wayne County
My commission expires 11/14/15

(The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)