

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, September 28, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY  
(Not present)

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JOSEPH COLBASSANI, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry. Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Mr. Perry has  
12 a family emergency this evening, that's why  
13 he is not in attendance.

14 MR. EVANS: I'd like to make a  
15 motion to take from the table File of  
16 Council No. 116-2017 and place it into  
17 Seventh Order for final passage.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
20 This piece of legislation is the capital  
21 budget for 2018, anyone who wishes to speak  
22 on this piece of legislation may do so  
23 during Fourth Order, Citizens'  
24 participation. All those in favor signify  
25 by saying aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
5 ayes have it and so moved. Dispense with  
6 the reading of the minutes.

7 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX  
8 ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE  
9 HELD SEPTEMBER 13, 2017.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
11 comments? If not, received and filed.

12 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
13 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD OCTOBER  
14 25, 2017.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
16 comments? If not, received and filed.

17 MS. RED: 3-C. CHECK RECEIVED FROM  
18 LUTHERWOOD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.00 FOR  
19 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES.

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

22 MS. REED: 3-D. AGENDA FOR CITY  
23 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER  
24 27, 2017.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any

1                   comments? If not, received and filed.

2                   MS. REED: 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE  
3 RECEIVED FROM THOMAS J. ANDERSON &  
4 ASSOCIATES, INC. REGARDING THE 2018  
5 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL  
6 OBLIGATION (MMO).

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

9                   MS. REED: 3-F. CHECK RECEIVED IN  
10 THE AMOUNT OF \$288,095.71 THAT REPRESENTS  
11 REIMBURSEMENT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFER  
12 GRANT EXPENDITURES.

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

15                   Do any council members have  
16 announcements at this time?

17                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one. Just  
18 reminding everybody to make it out to the  
19 North Scranton Neighborhood Association  
20 Watch, the annual fundraiser Octoberfest  
21 which is going to benefit the community  
22 throughout the year. It's going to be held  
23 October 7, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Polish  
24 Club on 1817 Brick Avenue in Scranton.  
25 Tickets are \$15 and it includes food, drink

1 and entertainment. There will also be a  
2 basket raffle and 50/50. Thank you.

3 MR. EVANS: I have one. There will  
4 be an informational program on the property  
5 tax reassessment and ballot questions. It  
6 will be cosponsored by the League of Women  
7 Voters of Lackawanna County, the  
8 Pennsylvania Economy League and the  
9 Political Science Department of the  
10 University of Scranton. It will be held  
11 Saturday, October 7, at 1 p.m. in the Kane  
12 forum, second floor, of Leahy Hall, the  
13 corner of Linden and Jefferson on the  
14 University of Scranton Campus.

15 MR. WECHSLER: The Saturday will be  
16 the dedication ceremony of the General  
17 Theodore J. Wint bridge on Rockwell Avenue.  
18 The dedication will take place at 12:45 p.m.  
19 Members of the VFW Post 25 will be  
20 participate as they are celebrating their  
21 100 anniversary on Tuesday.

22 Also, as a reminder, if you pay your  
23 refuse bail in two payments the second  
24 payment is due tomorrow September 29, that's  
25 the last time the city hall will be open

1 before October 1 to avoid any penalty.

2 Before I open it up the citizens'  
3 participation, I would just like to ask  
4 members of the audience to please restrain  
5 in having conversations among yourselves.  
6 If you have to discuss something with  
7 someone please go out in the hall. We're  
8 having a problem with the noise coming up  
9 the front so we are having a problem with  
10 our stenographer getting proper information  
11 from the audience participation and also  
12 from city council. So if you have comments  
13 to make amongst yourself please leave the  
14 room. It's becoming quite a distracting  
15 problem for us.

16 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
17 PARTICIPATION.

18 MR. WECHSLER: John Foley.

19 MR. FOLEY: Good evening, gentlemen.  
20 I like your Rules of Council. First time  
21 I've seen them, should have put out there a  
22 long time ago. I will try not be as  
23 cantankerous as some people think I am.

24 First, I'd like to apologize to  
25 Mr. Wechsler. If I had any impact on your

1 not being reelected to participate in the  
2 November election, I apologize, it was not  
3 meant to be.

4 MR. WECHSLER: You only need to talk  
5 to 82 more people, John. You had to change  
6 82 more minds before. That's all.

7 MR. FOLEY: I apologize to council  
8 because I was under the misguided opinion  
9 that you were primarily responsible for a  
10 lot of what has gone on over the last two or  
11 three-year period. I have changed my  
12 opinion that you are not primarily  
13 responsible.

14 Now, with that said, I have started  
15 to go through my files and pull out things  
16 that have been in there for awhile. I have  
17 looked at the three-year recovery plan and I  
18 will tell you that I am disappointed in the  
19 plan. First and foremost, the only  
20 reduction significantly in operating  
21 expenses that have caused close to a  
22 balanced budget for the three-year period  
23 and the December 31, 2012, is the  
24 elimination of COLA for retired employees.  
25 That's it. That's the only thing in there



1 of to get anywhere near a break even. There  
2 are things that were not in the plan that  
3 are equally disturbing. The plan does not  
4 address the three major pieces of litigation  
5 against the city. First and foremost, the  
6 Act 511 which I believe will strip out and  
7 be stapling in dollars worth of revenue from  
8 the city on an annual basis. The PL Plan  
9 was issued at the end of June 2017. The  
10 Court of Common Pleas ruled that the City's  
11 position was not correct. The city is going  
12 to appeal it. They will go to a higher  
13 court as they have in a number of other  
14 litigations and lost. It is time that the  
15 city take some responsibility and actually  
16 create a plan for the next three-year  
17 period.

18 You have three options as I see it.  
19 You will raise taxes, like it or not. You  
20 may have to borrow money, like it or not.  
21 Failing those two, at some point over the  
22 next couple of year period the city will  
23 slip in receivership with no help from the  
24 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which is  
25 currently experiencing it's own financial

1 problems. I would dare suggest to you, you  
2 take some of my remarks, go to the city  
3 business administrator, the outside  
4 financial advisors and set the plan in  
5 motion now. Don't wait for the problem to  
6 occur. Deal with it now. Unappealing as it  
7 may be, you are probably going to have to  
8 raise taxes.

9 So with that, I can go back to  
10 Moosic Lake, have dinner with my wife.  
11 Gentlemen, you have yourself a great  
12 evening.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Foley.  
14 Lee Morgan.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
16 Lee Morgan. You know, that was an enjoyable  
17 conversation we just had with Mr. Foley, but  
18 the problem is that the average residents in  
19 this city knew for the last 25 years that  
20 this was the way this was going to roll out.  
21 The sad part is we kept electing people with  
22 cheap suits on, well, maybe they weren't  
23 that cheap but, you know, who had no  
24 leadership ability and it's taken us right  
25 to where we are and there is still no

1 leadership ability here and the voters are  
2 going to vote soon. I find it mind  
3 boggling, but I think that what really has  
4 to happen for the average working person is  
5 that the taxes have to definitely be cut.  
6 The wage tax has to go away no matter what  
7 happened to this city because the residents  
8 should be paying 2 percent wage tax to the  
9 city, well, a little more than two, but, I  
10 mean, it's the beyond ridiculous. The 2.4  
11 percent we give to the city itself is like  
12 throwing money out a window and nothing good  
13 has come out of it all of the time it's been  
14 collected except to give the city an ability  
15 to spend money and prop all of these silly  
16 little games they play, and it's been going  
17 on for so long that it's ridiculous, and all  
18 of the residents properties are really just  
19 about worthless because this council has sat  
20 here and other ones and done nothing.

21 I think honestly that the residents  
22 of this city have to realize that what Janet  
23 Evans did to the Parking Authority was the  
24 best piece of legislation that ever came out  
25 of this council, and all of the other

1 garbage that we've seen has just buried us  
2 further and further. We are feeding  
3 nonprofits as the residents of this city go  
4 hungry. It's ridiculous. And there is  
5 never a really a comment coming from the  
6 council, you just sit there like cigar store  
7 Indians just -- I don't know what your  
8 purpose really is except for a ability to  
9 hold a meeting, legislate something through  
10 the council and spend money or transfer  
11 money. Because for the life of me, I don't  
12 remember anything that is really worthwhile  
13 coming out of this council for a long time.

14 We have pools that have been closed  
15 for years that are an asset that while  
16 allegedly belong to the residents haven't  
17 been repaired. We are putting more  
18 development in the downtown, but a building  
19 downtown and get a ton of money from the  
20 state or federal government, don't worry  
21 because the city will be a conduit for it.  
22 It's ridiculous. Not one answer to a  
23 problem.

24 And I disagree with the attorney  
25 that just stood here because the sale of the

1 Sewer Authority goes back to this council.  
2 All of the bad borrowing goes back to this  
3 council and previous councils who borrowed  
4 and borrowed and borrowed. The parking  
5 garages they knew they couldn't pay for.  
6 They legislated it through the council and  
7 built them. The council is the problem.  
8 You are supposed to be a counterbalance and,  
9 Mr. Wechsler, you know, you losing the  
10 election was a great thing. I hope  
11 Mr. Rogan can possibly get knocked off and  
12 maybe we can get something done here  
13 because, you know, I'm not a politically  
14 partisan person but at almost 60 years old  
15 and after coming to this council for decades  
16 watching a parade of incompetent public  
17 leaders march through here, it gets to the  
18 point where it's ridiculous, and then you  
19 wonder why people don't vote because you're  
20 just the next ship of fools. You come in  
21 here with some kind of grand idea, don't  
22 exercise the power of council, don't hold  
23 the mayor accountable, don't work for the  
24 residents of this city.

25 You know, I saw a remarkable thing

1 in the Scranton Times editorial page,  
2 somebody talked about the street signs and  
3 if we had any pride in our city we would do  
4 something about it. We did. Mayor Doherty  
5 spent a ton of money on garbage, okay, and  
6 took down street signs that were probably  
7 her for 50 years that you could read instead  
8 of replacing a couple that had to be  
9 replaced and they are all faded.

10 And you look at the boondoggle down  
11 at the Scranton Lace building where some  
12 arsonist was going to burn it down to the  
13 ground I guess. But, you know, we wanted to  
14 give people grant money and they came in  
15 there and they cut all of the metal out of  
16 the building and now it's an eyesore, just  
17 like North Scranton was and the junior high  
18 school was never fixed until they just got  
19 enough taxpayer's money out of it to put it  
20 together. But anything that means anything  
21 to the residents of this city, like the  
22 South Side Sports Complex built with Section  
23 70 money which was never to be sold ever was  
24 sold.

25 You have just looted the city and

1 bankruptcy is coming and I hope that the  
2 residents of this city realize that they  
3 have an obligation to come forward and to  
4 demand changes to this government and they  
5 did nothing so they got nothing.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Pedro Anes.

7 MR. ANES: Good evening,  
8 Mr. Chairman. I'd like to leave this with  
9 you, it's a press release.

10 MR. WECHSLER: If you could just  
11 state your name, sir?

12 MR. ANES: Okay. My name is Pedro  
13 Anes, and I chair the Scranton Human  
14 Relations Commission and I'd just like to  
15 make an announcement. I apologize for this,  
16 I had it on the screen. I just want to make  
17 an announcement that the Scranton Human  
18 Relations Commission will be holding it's  
19 first public hearing on Monday, October 2,  
20 here in chambers at 6 p.m. We will caucus --  
21 the commission will caucus at 5:30.

22 The second announcement is that it  
23 has to do with the Puerto Rico situation in  
24 Puerto Rico and some citizens of Scranton  
25 joined together and are putting a collection

1 for food and health and safety items to  
2 donate or to send to the people that  
3 desperately need it in Puerto Rico who are  
4 US citizens, as everyone sees in the news  
5 and that will be coordinated at Nay Aug Park  
6 on Sunday, October 1. That will be at Nay  
7 Aug Park from 2 to 7. At 7 we are going to  
8 have a vigil so some of the local  
9 organizations will be there with a  
10 candlelight vigil. Part of it would be for  
11 the families of Puerto Rico, but for the  
12 family members of the folks here in the City  
13 of Scranton to include my own family that's  
14 stranded over there.

15 And, also, a reminder, I'm US Army  
16 retired military, and a reminder that we  
17 have several million Puerto Rican soldiers  
18 in combat that just can't come back.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ron  
20 Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.  
22 What happened about the couple of million  
23 dollars that was the garbage fee money, and  
24 never heard what if -- they never heard  
25 nothing else about it except there was --



1 the city was charged too much. I mean, it  
2 didn't disappear like a dollar I've been  
3 talking about for the past two weeks or  
4 whatever. Year after year Courtright's  
5 friends helping friends program has done  
6 nothing except protect a bunch of tax cheats  
7 all over this city. These are all of the  
8 supporters of this administration and, of  
9 course, they oppose any political change.  
10 Why in the world there is people like  
11 Talerico got dozens of house on there,  
12 5,000, six, seven thousand year after year  
13 it just goes up and nobody says nothing.  
14 The Langans on North Washington they owe  
15 \$100,000 year after year, nobody tries to  
16 collect it. That Scranton investors I think  
17 they're on Boulevard, they owe like \$150,000  
18 and it just goes up, nothing is ever done.  
19 And Thomas Hill I think it's on Linden  
20 Street, he owed \$161,000 and this is all  
21 over the city, there is large amounts of  
22 money and nobody does a thing about it. If  
23 you collected all of this money, we wouldn't  
24 have our taxes double like they have been  
25 under this administration.

1                   You want to know why it's because of  
2 friends of the Courtright administration  
3 that's why this is allowed. I'd like  
4 anybody out there to find me another city  
5 like Scranton where all of these injustices  
6 against the taxpayers are tolerated. We've  
7 got an absentee mayor for four years as I  
8 have been -- like I said, I think Lackawanna  
9 College is running the city with Amoroso and  
10 Bulzoni just whatever he is told he does.  
11 He sure isn't any asset to anything.

12                   My son has a computer, he has been  
13 unable to find a city that has lost over a  
14 third of it's taxable properties like this  
15 and nothing being done except it's allowed.  
16 Every couple of weeks somebody buys  
17 something else for one of these phoney  
18 nontaxable entities. Well, that's -- I  
19 guess that's the city I live in, but I don't  
20 understand why I have to pay taxes and these  
21 people have to pay taxes and thousands of  
22 people that owe a million dollars or more in  
23 taxes that haven't been paid in years are  
24 allowed to vote. Why should they be able to  
25 vote for anything? We have to pay for the

1 streetlights and the paving, whatever, and  
2 these people get the same thing and don't  
3 pay taxes and it's your fault and it's the  
4 man downstairs fought because that's all his  
5 supporters and it's just gotten completely  
6 out of hand.

7 I went down Bromley yesterday, North  
8 Bromley Avenue, there is people hanging onto  
9 those poor old delapidated houses by their  
10 fingertips and the person I talked to told  
11 me they are expecting higher taxes  
12 especially if you have a reassessment. Some  
13 of these houses are just next to being  
14 condemned. Well, if you will allow me just  
15 a second more --

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Ellman, you can't  
17 start another thought, I'm sorry. It's five  
18 minutes.

19 MR. ELLMAN: I just want to give my  
20 condolences to someone that died. This  
21 young lady that was in the paper for OD'g I  
22 can just imagine how hard it is for that  
23 family because this is such a problem even  
24 here in town. It's just heartbreaking to  
25 read those things. Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
3 Scranton. I saw with pleasure in Monday's  
4 paper the summary of the 2016 audit and I  
5 note that under other financing sources,  
6 "Sale of Sewer Authority \$66,519,966."

7 Was that entire amount put into a  
8 trust or a lockbox?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, it's been  
10 separated because we still have some money  
11 that hasn't been spent yet but it's in  
12 separate bank accounts.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: And I'm still  
14 confused by the Controller's August report,  
15 which I mentioned to you last week, I'm sure  
16 you've had a chance to review. How is that  
17 as of August 31 the City's expenditures  
18 exceeded revenues by more than \$21 million?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I do have an  
20 explanation from the business administrator  
21 and I'll read that in motions for you.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because that's very  
23 troubling. I mean, if that's the  
24 refinancing of the bonds for which they  
25 spent \$28 million I don't understand why

1           that didn't come out of the sewer sale  
2           proceeds and why it would cause such a dip  
3           in revenues that would be coming from other  
4           sources. And I know you are coming into the  
5           budget season for next year, so I would  
6           really like some explanation on that.

7                        I was also pleasantly surprised to  
8           see September 25 a letter to the editor from  
9           the States Attorney General, Josh Shapiro,  
10          commenting on the City's request to review  
11          the sewer sale and basically he said we are  
12          reviewing the issue and when our  
13          investigation is completed we will  
14          communicate our findings, which says to me  
15          this is not necessarily a dead issue. For  
16          awhile there when we heard nothing from the  
17          Attorney General I thought, well, you know,  
18          they are not going to do anything. Well,  
19          maybe there is a possibility they will come  
20          down and review and audit that entire  
21          fiasco, and I sure hope the city has a Plan  
22          B prepared in case somebody says there is a  
23          problem with the sale of the Sewer Authority  
24          because if everybody is just plotting around  
25          saying, oh, everything is fine, don't worry

1 be happy, I don't think that's the way to  
2 go.

3 I was here yesterday morning at  
4 10:00 when the bids were opened for the  
5 independent medical examination coordinator,  
6 which is the rewrite of the third party  
7 administration for the pension funds. There  
8 was only one bid. It was Vocational  
9 Rehabilitation, Incorporated, which is based  
10 up in Clarks Summit. The president is a  
11 Thomas Boyles and he listed on his paperwork  
12 three employees, their fee schedule was \$85  
13 an hour plus mileage, tolls and parking  
14 fees, so if you kick in the parking fees  
15 they are going to make a lot of money per  
16 hour. But having said that, this is not I  
17 think the nationally recognized firm that  
18 the mayor promised us on March 18, 2016, but  
19 hopefully this will open the floodgates to  
20 move some of that money to the pension funds  
21 so they can start making interest in the  
22 stock market.

23 With regard to the capital budget, I  
24 know one of your items on the agenda tonight  
25 is the resolution to buy the property on

1 Wyoming Avenue and I saw in the backup that  
2 the price was \$375,000. Does that mean you  
3 are going to just adjust the figures in the  
4 capital budget where it says acquire that  
5 property for \$450,000? That should free up  
6 some money there, so before you pass that is  
7 there going to be some clarification on the  
8 capital budget? Because you got two  
9 different actions on the same property, one  
10 to transfer the deed for \$375,000 and the  
11 other one to acquire the property for  
12 \$450,000. I would like to see that cleared  
13 up.

14 What happened to the Knowel's  
15 insurance list which has now been promised  
16 to me for six months?

17 MR. EVANS: We have it. It's being  
18 routed around to the various department  
19 heads for final review and then we should  
20 have it probably by next week.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: That's been told me  
22 more than once.

23 MR. EVANS: Well, we have the  
24 physical document, but the cabinet members  
25 and the department heads haven't seen it

1 yet.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. Well, I'll  
3 be back again next week asking about it.  
4 And I saw the paperwork on the 2018 MMO,  
5 \$13.5 million. In today's budget terms of  
6 the 2017 budget of \$108 million that would  
7 be 12.5 percent of this year's budget so  
8 it's going up. Thank you.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
10 Marie Schumacher. I'm here to speak on and  
11 against 5-C in the capital budget which was  
12 taken off the table and I didn't get the  
13 ordinance number. I'd like to start tonight  
14 by reading something because I -- well, I'll  
15 read it and then explain. This is from a  
16 Times article titled, "County to Research  
17 Contaminated Sites." It's dated December 19  
18 of last year. "Lackawanna County's economic  
19 development team identified the first two  
20 contaminated sites in Scranton and  
21 Carbondale that could eventually return to  
22 productive uses through an EPA program with  
23 more on the way. The federal agency awarded  
24 a \$500,000 grant to Lackawanna County,  
25 Lackawanna County Redevelopment Authority in



1           Scranton last year to inventory and conduct  
2           environmental assessments on dormant  
3           brownfield sites."

4                     Dropping down a bit, "The grant  
5           funds, roughly 22 preliminary assessment of  
6           properties during which staff will research  
7           the history of the sites, ten follow-up  
8           assessments by engineers to better  
9           understand contamination issues, and  
10          creation of nine remediation plans.  
11          Mr. Kelly intends to use the remediation  
12          plans to get more funding from the EPA to  
13          solve the contamination problems at the  
14          sites freeing the properties from the  
15          burdens that so far kept the developers  
16          away. One of those two sites, of course,  
17          was Wyoming and Linden."

18                     Now, last week it was stated that  
19          the County has \$500 million to remediate the  
20          property in question. I don't believe that  
21          the government can work that fast from last  
22          December beginning in -- and having the  
23          money, but even giving the benefit of the  
24          doubt that there is \$500,000 laying around  
25          someplace that is able to be applied to that

1 project, I believe that taking this property  
2 off the tax rolls would take us also off the  
3 list of the what the county is trying to do  
4 because the county is goal is to put the  
5 county -- the properties back on the tax  
6 rolls and we are, if you pass the  
7 legislation, you are taking the properties  
8 off the tax rolls so they would no longer be  
9 eligible for redevelopment because they are  
10 not being redeveloped into anything economic  
11 anyway.

12 Also, I had told you I contacted the  
13 DEP and I verified that as of yesterday  
14 afternoon we still have a deficiency, those  
15 properties are still deficient. It's called  
16 a technical deficiency and the following is  
17 needed to complete your submission. The  
18 Department requests that the vapor intrusion  
19 pathways not been evaluated at the  
20 courthouse located across Forest Court  
21 southeast of the property boundary.  
22 Additional soil samples are required to  
23 delineate the horizontal and vertical soil  
24 contamination of PCE and TCE concentrations  
25 that were above the MSC at the property

1 boundary and determine whether the vapor  
2 pathway is incomplete.

3 So we have two items, we have vapor  
4 and we have soil and unless somebody can  
5 tell me tonight how much the city has in  
6 reserve to remediate that lot and then turn  
7 it into a essentially nonprofit I think you  
8 have an obligation to the taxpayers of this  
9 city to not go ahead with this program. If  
10 anybody would like to look at the documents,  
11 they are public documents from DEP and they  
12 say they were valid as of yesterday  
13 afternoon and I am very much against us  
14 taking on the liability and taking those  
15 properties off the tax rolls. We need to  
16 add things not take them off.

17 And I'll hold the rest of my  
18 comments for next week because I think that  
19 single item is huge and that's all I want to  
20 speak on tonight. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

22 MS. JEFFERIES: Norma Jefferies,  
23 Scranton taxpayer. I wasn't going to speak  
24 tonight, I just came to listen, but I wanted  
25 to thank the gentleman for his service, you

1 know, he is a veteran I think he had said  
2 and I just was taken and it hit my heart  
3 that, you know, that he was up here. So I  
4 wanted to thank him publically for his  
5 service, which I did that back there as  
6 well, but, I want to also piggyback on what  
7 he was saying about Puerto Rico and that the  
8 event that they are going to be having in  
9 Nay Aug Park and some of things I did ask  
10 him to write down, some of the things that  
11 he would like to collect up at Nay Aug Park.  
12 I think it's Sunday, October 1, and they  
13 would like nonperishable items, rice,  
14 diapers and water is some of the things that  
15 he wrote down. So I just I would piggyback  
16 on what he had said because we do like to  
17 recognize our veterans. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

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

20 MOTIONS.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I will be very  
23 brief tonight. Just one item I want to  
24 elaborate a little bit more on. We did have  
25 our public hearing regarding the 2018

1           Community Block Grant funding earlier today.  
2           I spent quite a bit of time reviewing the  
3           documents associated with this plan. As I  
4           mentioned during the hearing, we will vote  
5           on this plan again tonight for the second  
6           reading and then it will be tabled for a  
7           comment period.

8                       As was mentioned at the hearing, we  
9           are going to look into see if any  
10          adjustments can be made regarding Veteran's  
11          Park that I think all of us support, it's a  
12          question of whether HUD will allow those  
13          dollars to be used for that source, but I do  
14          want to talk a little bit more in broader  
15          strokes about the Community Development  
16          Block Grant Program. I think it's something  
17          that the average resident doesn't realize  
18          how much this program does for them and it's  
19          critical, and I'm pleading with everybody  
20          out there to contact their representatives.  
21          Congressman Cartright, Senator Toomey and  
22          Senator Casey to ask them to continue to  
23          support Community Development Block Grant  
24          funding. This money really is a lifeline  
25          for the City of Scranton. They are your tax

1           dollars, your federal tax dollars coming  
2           home to help the residents within the City  
3           of Scranton.

4                         Just a couple of items that are  
5           funded pretty much on a yearly basis through  
6           this program, one that's very popular is the  
7           neighborhood police patrols. Four of  
8           Scranton's police officers are funded by the  
9           federal government, your federal tax dollars  
10          through this program. Without CDBG funds,  
11          the city would either have four less police  
12          officers out on the beat or we would have to  
13          use city tax dollars to pay for those  
14          officers.

15                        We are currently paying for a new  
16          fire truck in part with federal dollars.  
17          The city I believe just this week finally  
18          had the first new truck in decades. There  
19          is no secret that infrastructure and  
20          equipment was something that the city put on  
21          the back burner over the past ten years  
22          while we had different financial struggles  
23          but this is an important piece of equipment  
24          that if, God forbid, one of us as a fire at  
25          our house or needs it it's there for us.

1 Little leagues. Various little  
2 leagues through my tenure on council have  
3 received funding from Community Development  
4 Block Grant dollars. The one I think that  
5 affects everyone every day is the road  
6 paving. As Mr. Preambo mentioned during our  
7 caucus, \$7.6 million has been spent of  
8 federal dollars to pave 415 city blocks.  
9 Again, I can't stress it enough, it's not  
10 free money, it's your federal tax dollars  
11 but it's important that Scranton gets their  
12 share and that we get these projects for our  
13 people. There is a number of other items on  
14 here, on the list, many different camps to  
15 help children, different housing for women,  
16 different programs skills to teach  
17 individuals to get them back into the work  
18 force, there's a whole slew of programs that  
19 are funded through this allotment.

20 So I guess this would be my yearly  
21 plea just to ask everyone to address their  
22 representatives to continue to support in  
23 program and I would ask it's okay with my  
24 colleagues that we send a letter as a  
25 council to both Congressman Cartright and

1           our two senators asking for the same support  
2           of this program. And that is all for today.  
3           Thank U.

4                     MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
5           Mr. Evans?

6                     MR. EVANS: Thank you. First I'd  
7           like to talk a little about the Civil War  
8           Museum that we talked about last week. I'd  
9           like to thank Councilman Gaughan again for  
10          bringing the situation with the Civil War  
11          Museum to the forefront. After our  
12          discussion last week, I felt it was time  
13          that I make a visit to the Civil War Museum  
14          in the basement of city hall, so last  
15          Saturday afternoon I did that. I met with  
16          two very nice gentlemen, Mr. Myers and  
17          Mr. O'Malley, who were kind enough to give  
18          me a tour and explain their role and the  
19          role of the museum in the community.

20                     First of all, the artifacts stored  
21          there are very extensive and very  
22          interesting, but what I found even more  
23          important was the story that could be told.  
24          You see, the museum is not just a Civil War  
25          Museum it really is a story about Scranton



1 and how our forefathers, in many cases the  
2 leaders of Scranton at the time and how they  
3 were involved in the Civil War. In fact,  
4 four mayors whose pictures hang on the walls  
5 of these chambers fought in the Civil War  
6 something I would not have knowing without  
7 visiting the museum.

8 Additionally, the location is vital  
9 because of the museum's connection and  
10 partnerships with the Scranton Public  
11 Library and the Lackawanna County Historical  
12 Society. Dozens and dozens of children each  
13 year have had the opportunity to learn about  
14 a history of Scranton that they simply  
15 weren't aware of, mostly because of that  
16 connection to the library, of course, and  
17 the Historical Society, but to me what is  
18 even more impressive is the dedication of  
19 the volunteers to this mission. They should  
20 be commended for all that they do. I want  
21 them to know that I will always be it's  
22 advocate now and in the future along with my  
23 fellow councilmen. So, again, to the  
24 curator of the Civil War Museum I thank you  
25 for all you do for keeping our history and

1           some of our story alive.

2                     Another of my favorite topics,  
3           reassessment. Most likely I will be saying  
4           something on this subject until election  
5           day. Tonight I would like to reinforce some  
6           of my comments from last week because I  
7           think they bear repeating. The two days of  
8           educational sessions on reassessment I think  
9           get underway next week so I would urge all  
10          of our property owners to be as informed as  
11          possible when voting on this matter in  
12          November. As you may know, the ballot  
13          question reads: "Shall Lackawanna County  
14          Commissioners incur debt not to exceed \$13  
15          million solely for the purpose of conducting  
16          a countywide revision of assessment so that  
17          all real estate within the county will be  
18          assessed at a predetermined ratio of 100  
19          percent of a new base year value."

20                     So now that you have totally glazed  
21          over after I read that question, this is my  
22          interpretation of what those who are against  
23          reassessment really want you to take from  
24          this question. In simplest terms they are  
25          saying let us borrow \$13 million so we can

1 raise your taxes. I would ask that you only  
2 do not take the bait and I believe the  
3 question is crafted solely to solicit a "no"  
4 vote.

5 First of all, \$13 million cost in my  
6 mind remains a phantom number and not based  
7 in reality because of all of the required  
8 work, the field work has been completed on  
9 every parcel throughout Lackawanna during  
10 the last attempt at reassessment eight years  
11 ago, so most likely that information only  
12 needs to be revised. It certainly doesn't  
13 need to be completely redone. Therefore the  
14 cost will more likely be closer to \$5  
15 million not \$13 million. So, again, I ask  
16 of our voters and our property owners take  
17 the time to be as informed as you can, and  
18 if you do I think you will chose to vote for  
19 tax equity for everyone by voting "yes" for  
20 the reassessment.

21 On pensions, I haven't talked about  
22 this in a little while, this is something  
23 that I did talk about at length and I'd like  
24 to revisit, I have been a proponent of  
25 offering all nonunion personnel and cabinet

1 members the option of enrolling in a 401-K  
2 are defined contribution-style plan. I  
3 first proposed this idea over three years  
4 ago when I was appointed to city council.  
5 We learned only recently just prior to our  
6 August recess, in fact, that a change would  
7 have to be made at a state level to language  
8 in our 2A Code that discusses pensions.  
9 Currently, the law only discusses defined  
10 benefit pensions and is silent on defined  
11 contribution plans. This occurred mostly  
12 because 401-K style plans were not available  
13 for the government employees at that time so  
14 I would like to send a letter to Senator  
15 Blake to see if his office can review this  
16 situation and if they would entertain  
17 legislation in the Senate to correct this  
18 deficiency as well as State Representatives  
19 Flynn and Haggerty to do the same in the  
20 house.

21 As we move beyond Act 47, we need to  
22 do more to prepare ourselves for exiting  
23 distressed status. This is just one of the  
24 many things we could take action on, but is  
25 something that I view truly is a

1           entrepreneurial spirit, but it's also  
2           something that's doable, so with the help of  
3           our state elected officials maybe we can  
4           finally get this one thing done. That's all  
5           I have for tonight.

6                     MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.  
7           Mr. Gaughan?

8                     MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. My  
9           first comment is Pedro, I can't remember  
10          your last name, but I want to thank you for  
11          coming and speaking tonight and I want to  
12          wish you the best of luck as the Chairman  
13          for the Human Relations Commission, and I  
14          agree with everything you said,  
15          specifically, the tragedy in Puerto Rico.  
16          My heart goes out to all of those who are  
17          affected, number one. And, number two, I  
18          would hope that just as we came together to  
19          give for the victims of Hurricane Harvey and  
20          Hurricane -- I can't remember, Irma, Harvey  
21          and Irma that when we came together for that  
22          we will do the same thing for Puerto Rico  
23          because I think it's very important, so I  
24          want to thank you for coming up to speak on  
25          that.

1 I would like to make a motion to  
2 send correspondence to Amazon's Office of  
3 Economic Development supporting Penns  
4 Northeast submittal of an application  
5 requesting the Amazon headquarters be  
6 located in Scranton or in Northeast  
7 Pennsylvania.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: There is a motion on  
10 the floor and a second, on the question?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
12 Penns Northeast, which is a regional  
13 economic development agency, is going to be  
14 making an application to Amazon so that they  
15 would consider us for their site to build a  
16 second headquarters. As I have mentioned  
17 over the last two or three weeks, this would  
18 bring roughly 50,000 jobs to the area. The  
19 average income for a position would be close  
20 to \$100,000, so I would think it's a great  
21 opportunity for the City of Scranton and the  
22 region to try and attract this type of  
23 business to the area.

24 Amazon has asked that the community  
25 submit sites for consideration and that

1 Penns Northeast is asking that council  
2 support this project by writing a letter to  
3 Amazon, so we are going to do that and I  
4 would hope my colleagues would support that.  
5 The letter is due by October 6.

6 And just an interesting sidenote,  
7 once I started talking about this two or  
8 three weeks ago and it was in the newspaper  
9 I was approached by someone from Marywood  
10 who said that -- or suggested that the  
11 School for the Deaf campus would be a great  
12 location for Amazon's campus, a potential  
13 satellite site. So I think this is  
14 important and I think it's important that we  
15 continue to promote the City of Scranton and  
16 the region. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor  
18 signify by saying aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. On the  
25 Civil War Museum, I thank Mr. Evans for his

1            comments. This is something that I have  
2            been speaking about now for the last few  
3            months. I'm very passionate about it  
4            because I think it is important. The mayor  
5            did respond through his secretary that he is  
6            working with the Law Department on a lease  
7            agreement, so I would like to thank him for  
8            that and I'm hoping that we get the lease  
9            agreement before us before the election, so  
10           I'm going to look forward to vote on that in  
11           the next few weeks.

12                        The Attorney General update, I think  
13            Joan mentioned that, there was an article or  
14            a letter to the editor from Attorney General  
15            Josh Shapiro and I would like to thank him  
16            for notifying all of us that he taking this  
17            serious, the Attorney General's Office is  
18            taking the review of the sale of the Sewer  
19            Authority very serious, so I'm going to look  
20            forward to whatever findings they have and  
21            their review.

22                        Just a couple of citizen's  
23            complaints. There were large potholes on  
24            Knox Road so if we could please send a  
25            letter to the DPW to try to take care of



1           that issue. We have several neighbors  
2           complaining about a halfway house in the  
3           1600 block of Church Avenue. We had two  
4           requests for stop signs, one the three-way  
5           stop sign at Church Avenue and Ferdinand  
6           Street, and a stop sign request at Walnut  
7           Street and Sanderson Avenue so we have  
8           forwarded that along to the city engineer.

9                       Also, some quality of life issues  
10           have been reported several times in the 100  
11           block of Pequest Drive in South Scranton.

12                      I have been getting several  
13           complaints from the Hill section residents  
14           about Pense who is doing paving work in that  
15           area, the utility companies. The residents  
16           cannot understand why the city is not  
17           forcing the issue and making this company  
18           restore the streets back to their original  
19           condition so I am going to reach out once  
20           again to the DPW and to our pave cut  
21           inspector to see if we can reconcile this  
22           because it is a big issue and there are  
23           several people, pretty much all of the  
24           neighbors in that area who are extremely  
25           upset. And that's all I have for this week.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Gaughan. Just a few items, following up  
4 on the Attorney General, I read the letter  
5 to the editor in the paper also on Sunday,  
6 now, we have not received anything formal in  
7 our office from Attorney General so we will  
8 reach out to them again this week to see  
9 exactly what the plan is with that, but as a  
10 caution we saw last week that there was --  
11 the Attorney General came to Scranton last  
12 week and that was at the end of a probably a  
13 year and a half to two-year investigation so  
14 I would not expect to see anything right  
15 away from the Attorney General's Office. If  
16 it comes that will be great, but I don't  
17 anticipate anything coming within the next  
18 two weeks or so. I don't see that  
19 happening.

20 Members of the Greenridge  
21 Neighborhood Association had sent an e-mail  
22 out saying they are not going to pursue  
23 their lawsuit against the use of the  
24 leachate line in Greenridge. I spoke to the  
25 Neighborhood Association president last week

1 -- or this week, I'm sorry, and back and  
2 earlier this year we had suggested the  
3 possibility that we request that the now  
4 Pennsylvania American Water that they  
5 voluntarily stop using the leachate line.  
6 Mayor Courtright also expressed his support  
7 for that. As of right now, we don't plan to  
8 do anything, put that request back in  
9 motion. I did speak to the president over  
10 there and just to make sure that it's what  
11 the neighbors want in Greenridge. I'd like  
12 to know what they want to do now, now that  
13 they are not going to proceed with the  
14 lawsuit I would like to have input from the  
15 neighbors over in Greenridge to see what  
16 they would like city council to do.

17 I'm speaking for myself only, I  
18 would pursue if they authorized pursuing  
19 contact from the water company and see if  
20 they would find a way to minimize the use of  
21 that line or stop using the line altogether  
22 if that's possible. So we are just hoping  
23 to see, you know, what direction the  
24 neighborhood group wants to give us there.

25 Last week we had some concerns

1           expressed about the development on West  
2           Mountain in regards to the PPL power  
3           station. We got in touch with city planner  
4           Don King and asked him a lot of the trees  
5           were torn up there and if they going to be  
6           replaced and according to Mr. King by  
7           federal guidelines there has to be a buffer  
8           between the trees and the power lines. In  
9           New England a few years ago the amount of  
10          trees were lessened and during a big storm  
11          the trees fell down and knocked down the  
12          power lines to the transmission line. So  
13          Mr. King assured me that the amount of trees  
14          that have been removed up there are in  
15          conjunction with federal guidelines in order  
16          to protect the line from storm damage from  
17          trees falling.

18                         And I did receive one complaint this  
19          week concerning the drainage ditches up  
20          on Derby Avenue up on East Mountain where  
21          the Friendship House used to be, there is a  
22          large gutter there that's really in need of  
23          some defoliation. The weeds have grown up  
24          there, also, and the residents are hoping  
25          that we can get something down before the

1 snow hits.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I just -- I have  
3 to mention one more thing, I'm sorry, I  
4 completely forgot. I forgot to answer  
5 Joan's question about the revenue and  
6 expenditures so I just want to read the  
7 e-mail from Mr. Bulzoni. He said that the  
8 two deviations are as follows: The city  
9 exceeded the budget because we began to  
10 account for various one-time revenues such  
11 as insurance reimbursement, LSA grant  
12 funding in that specific line item. Those  
13 items were captured in a variety of line  
14 items in the past.

15 Pages 14 and 15 identify the  
16 approximate amount that I referenced, which  
17 was I think it was over by about 20 or 21  
18 million. He says that the city sewer  
19 proceeds to diffuse or pay off debt the city  
20 either budgeted a nominal amount for debt  
21 service or a lesser number since the city  
22 knew that they would have to be repay that  
23 debt in it's entirety. Budgeting the entire  
24 amount would have created an abberation in  
25 the budget and would have required an

1           offsetting revenue item and one was not  
2           necessary. Generally, the city uses the  
3           fund balance or realized sewer proceeds to  
4           repay the debt, but the actual payoff needed  
5           to be accounted for, hence, the situation  
6           where you have \$1,000 budgeted for debt  
7           service and roughly \$7 million in actual  
8           payments, so there is no deficit, the fund  
9           balance was the offset. Thank you.

10                   MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
11           A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
12           OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
13           AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SCRANTON  
14           ELECTRIC HEATING AND COOLING SERVICE, INC.  
15           FOR PLUMBING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF  
16           SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITY  
17           IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

21                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22                   MR. EVANS: Second.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
7 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
8 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
9 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SCRANTON ELECTRIC  
10 HEATING AND COOLING SERVICE, INC. FOR HVAC  
11 SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE  
12 DEPARTMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
2 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
3 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
4 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MIKE WALSH  
5 ELECTRICAL, INC. FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICES FOR  
6 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
7 FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION –  
22 A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
24 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KEYSTONE  
25 QUARRY, INC. TO PROVIDE THE CITY 2000 TON



1 (MORE OR LESS) ANTI-SKID SAND FOR THE PERIOD  
2 OCTOBER 25, 2017 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2018.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
15 ayes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION – A  
17 RESOLUTION – APPOINTMENT OF JESSICA  
18 ROTHCHILD, 244 PUTNAM STREET, SCRANTON,  
19 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508 AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN  
20 RELATIONS COMMISSION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER  
21 12, 2017. MS. ROTHCHILD WILL BE REPLACING  
22 REVEREND KATHRYN SIMMONS WHO RESIGNED ON  
23 AUGUST 7, 2017. MS. ROTHCHILD WILL FILL  
24 THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF REVEREND KATHRYN  
25 SIMMONS WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON

1                   OCTOBER 18, 2018.

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

5                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6                   MR. EVANS: Second.

7                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question? On  
8 the question, I have gotten to know  
9 Ms. Rothchild over the past couple of years.  
10 I think she will be an excellent addition to  
11 our Human Relations Committee.

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

14                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

16                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17                   MR. WECHSLER: 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.  
21 118, 2017 - 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 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
3 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)  
4 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)  
5 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,  
6 2018.

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

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

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a  
20 motion to table Item 6-A to allow OECD to  
21 comply with the 30-day public comment period  
22 as required by HUD.

23 MR. EVANS: Second. There is a  
24 motion on the floor and a second to table  
25 Item 6-A. On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
2 I just wanted to mention one thing about the  
3 CDBG applications. First of all, I think  
4 that the presentation that was given by  
5 Mr. Pat Ahern tonight was a very good one  
6 and I fully support the Veterans Memorial  
7 Park that they want to put at Scranton High  
8 School.

9 I think it's important for a few  
10 different reasons. Number one, I think  
11 according his presentation this isn't just a  
12 park, it's not just a memorial, it is also  
13 an educational park and it's an opportunity  
14 for I think especially the young people in  
15 the community, those students who will be  
16 directly affected at Scranton High School to  
17 be able to physically see all of the people  
18 from the City of Scranton who gave their  
19 lives in defense of the United States so I  
20 think that is really important.

21 I think that, as I mentioned to Mrs.  
22 Aebli, I would like it see if we can get a  
23 special exception from HUD to be able to try  
24 to fund this, maybe not in it's entirety but  
25 to at least try to help these gentlemen out

1 and to get this park started so I will be  
2 interested to see Mrs. Aebli's response and  
3 HUD's response in the next few weeks and  
4 hopefully we can accommodate these gentlemen  
5 and help them fund this park. Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: I would agree  
7 wholeheartedly with those comments and any  
8 time we could have a -- any time we have a  
9 chance to honor veterans we certainly should  
10 do it, especially in this day and age when  
11 in my opinion a lot of veterans aren't  
12 getting the respect they deserve. I look  
13 forward to seeing HUD's reply and then  
14 council will act accordingly once we hear  
15 back from HUD.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I also agree  
17 that this project should get all of the help  
18 that it can, the thing that I'm concerned  
19 about is the timely response from the  
20 federal government in terms of what we are  
21 allowed to do and not to do, because just as  
22 a caution if we do get the go ahead to give  
23 any funding to this project there has to be  
24 an offset to the other programs that have  
25 already been determined at this time to be

1 beneficiaries of the program, so hopefully  
2 the answer will get back to us in time from  
3 HUD that we can -- or from the community  
4 development and hopefully we can get back  
5 and make the adjustments to the plan, but we  
6 have to do that in a timely fashion.

7 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I would agree, we  
8 all know that funding is a balancing act at  
9 best, but if we can find a way to help I  
10 think we all agree that's the right thing to  
11 do so we will see how it plays out.

12 MR. WECHSLER: I think, also, at  
13 this time we should also take a look at  
14 other ways that we could possibly help this  
15 program and if there is other monies that  
16 may be dormant or something like that we can  
17 help this project as best we can because I  
18 know everyone would like to show respect for  
19 the people that gave their life for our  
20 country.

21 All those in favor signify by saying  
22 aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
4 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 119, 2017 - AN  
5 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
6 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND  
7 EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF  
8 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND, IF  
9 SUCCESSFUL, A GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPT  
10 THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE BJA  
11 FY 17 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT  
12 ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL SOLICITATION IN THE  
13 AMOUNT OF \$19,133.00.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 120, 2017 - AN  
3 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE  
5 DEED CONVEYING TITLE FROM RSM PROPERTIES,  
6 LLC, THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 248-256 WYOMING  
7 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA TO THE CITY  
8 OF SCRANTON, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN  
9 EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART  
10 HEREOF.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C  
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -  
25 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 117,



1                   2017 – CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL  
2                   CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229622 ENTITLED “LINDY  
3                   CREEK FLOOD PROJECT 2017” FOR THE RECEIPT  
4                   AND DISBURSEMENT OF MATCHING GRANT FUNDS  
5                   FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
6                   DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
7                   (“DEP”) FOR REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE FOR  
8                   THE LINDY CREEK FLOOD PROJECT.

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

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

15                 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18                 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19                 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20                 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21                 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22                 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23                 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24                 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25                 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

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

3 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
5 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 190, 2017 -  
6 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
7 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A  
8 GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
9 AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED  
10 THERETO THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT  
11 OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED)  
12 FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT (GAMING  
13 FUNDS-MONROE COUNTY) IN THE AMOUNT OF  
14 \$75,000.00 TO BE USED TO DEVELOP A  
15 CHESAPEAKE BAY POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN.

16 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
17 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
18 Committee on Public Works?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
20 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
21 passage of Item 7-B.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
24 Roll call, please?

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

10 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
11 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
12 RESOLUTION NO. 191, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE  
13 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
14 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CC  
15 CLEANING SERVICES FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES  
16 FOR SCRANTON CITY HALL AND THE SCRANTON  
17 POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR A ONE (1) YEAR  
18 PERIOD.

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

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

3 I'm going to be voting against this  
4 contract. We did receive an explanation  
5 from Director Hinton earlier today, I just  
6 don't feel that this is a prudent use of  
7 taxpayer money at this time. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

19 MS. REED: 7-D - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -  
20 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
21 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
22 NO. 116 2017 - APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE  
23 CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR  
24 2018 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S  
25 HOME RULE CHARTER.

1 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
2 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
3 Committee on Finance?

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER