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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 4, 2014

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S RESULTS REPORT FOR THE HEARING
17 DATE HELD JULY 23, 2014.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
21 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 13,
22 2014.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S

1 REPORTS FOR THE HEARING DATES HELD
2 AUGUST 13, AUGUST 20, AND SEPTEMBER 3, 2014.
3 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed.
5 MS. REED: 3-D. AUDIT STATUS REPORTS
6 FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED AUGUST 14
7 AND AUGUST 28, 2014.
8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
9 If not, received and filed.
10 MS. REED: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
11 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON AUGUST
12 27, 2014.
13 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
14 If not, received and filed.
15 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
16 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
17 JULY 23, 2014.
18 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
19 If not, received and filed.
20 MS. REED: 3-G. MINUTES OF THE
21 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION
22 MEETING HELD JULY 23, 2014.
23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed.
25 Are there any announcements from

1 members of council?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, I have
3 two. First, the Dante Literary Society is
4 presenting a Miner's tale the story of an
5 anthracite coal miner in Northeastern
6 Pennsylvania through monologue September 6
7 at 8 p.m. at the Dante Club at 1961 Prospect
8 Avenue in South Side. The cost is \$8. For
9 further information contact Jack at 342-7110
10 or 878-6760.

11 Also, the West Scranton Hyde Park
12 Neighborhood Watch is hosting the coal
13 cracker smoke and stove barbecue competition
14 September 12 and 13 at Montage Mountain
15 Resorts. On Saturday, the 12th, it will be
16 held from 4 to 11 p.m. and on the 13th it
17 will be held from 10 to 8 p.m. VIP passes
18 are available. General admission is \$5 for
19 children -- or general admission is \$5,
20 children under 12 is free. Live
21 entertainment and barbecue can be purchased,
22 and the Villa Capri car show is on Saturday
23 from 12 to 6. And is that all I have.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. EVANS: September is suicide

1 prevention awareness month. Northeast
2 Suicide Prevention Initiative will hold a
3 walk Saturday, September 6, at 9 a.m. from
4 courthouse square in downtown Scranton. For
5 more information you can go onto the website
6 at www.northeastsuicideprevention
7 initiative.org.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. A couple of
9 things. Well, first of all, my apologies
10 for appearance. Ten days ago I had some
11 surgery to remove a subcutaneous squamous
12 cell carcinoma, I'm learning a lot of
13 medical jargon, write that one down. And it
14 was very extensive and required plastic
15 surgery in order to repair and this is part
16 of the results. I have asked or I will ask
17 ECTV that they do not do any close ups for
18 fear that we scare women and small children,
19 but just point of information.

20 We are going to deviate a little bit
21 from the agenda for this evening just to
22 make people aware of some of the items that
23 have taken place during the past month, some
24 of the things that we are looking forward to
25 doing in the coming months, and also some

1 items that may be of interest to those
2 people who would come to the podium on some
3 of the issues that are a part of the agenda
4 this evening.

5 The first thing that I would like to
6 do is to read a letter that was sent to
7 council from Solicitor Jason Shrive
8 concerning the EIT legislation that is on
9 tonight's agenda under emergency
10 certificate. This letter was received by
11 council on August 15 as an explanation as to
12 why that legislation was being presented at
13 this point in time and not earlier in the
14 year. It is somewhat lengthy, but I do want
15 to read through the entire letter.

16 "Dear Honorable Council Members: I
17 write this letter in response to a
18 Councilman William Gaughan's press release
19 statement that ran in this morning's
20 Scranton Times-Tribune wherein Councilman
21 Gaughan requests a special meeting of the
22 council with the mayor, the administration,
23 HAB Berkheimer and others to investigate my
24 failure to submit the 2014 EIT ordinance to
25 council earlier this year. It is my sincere

1 hope that this letter of explanation will
2 answer any and all questions that council
3 might have regarding this matter.

4 In January of 2014, soon after being
5 sworn into office as the new city solicitor,
6 one of the many tasks to be completed was
7 that of submitting the various 2014 taxing
8 ordinances to city council. As you know,
9 public notices were placed in the newspaper
10 advertising the proposed adoption of the
11 taxing ordinances as required by law and the
12 various taxing ordinances were adopted by
13 city council on January 30, 2014, and signed
14 into law by Mayor William Courtright on
15 January 31, 2014, with a retroactive
16 effective date of January 1, 2014. Since
17 that time the city has gone about the
18 business of the city including the
19 collection and receipt of tax revenues to
20 support its operations.

21 On Friday, August 8, 2014, requests
22 were made to the City Clerk's Office and the
23 city law department for a copy of the city's
24 2014 EIT ordinance. It was at this time
25 that I discovered that I had not submitted

1 the 2014 EIT ordinance to city council for
2 adoption with the other taxing ordinances in
3 January of 2014. I need to say this as
4 plainly as possible without any excuses
5 being made that this was an oversight on my
6 part as the new city solicitor. I missed it
7 and it was and is my error. I drafted all
8 the other taxing ordinances, reviewed the
9 same and submitted them to city council not
10 realizing that I had forgot one, namely, the
11 2014 EIT ordinance. The 2014 EIT has been
12 and continues to be collected by the HAB
13 Berkheimer, the city's earned income tax
14 collector at the rate previously authorized
15 by the city for residents and non-residents.

16 With that said, it is my legal
17 opinion that the city was not required to
18 reenact the 2014 EIT ordinance as there was
19 no change in the rate of taxation and is not
20 required to reenact any taxing ordinance
21 that does not contain a change in the rate
22 of taxation. I base this opinion on my
23 reading of the Local Tax Enabling Act which
24 states in pertinent part as follows: Every
25 such tax, meaning those taxes authorized by

1 the Local Tax Enabling Act, of which EIT is
2 included, shall continue in force on a
3 calendar or fiscal year basis as the case
4 may be without annual reenactment unless the
5 rate of the tax is subsequently changed. It
6 is my determination that the city has
7 consistently reenacted the EIT ordinance
8 over the years. Out of an abundance of
9 caution, the only change from year to year
10 in the EIT ordinance has been the tax year
11 and the collection period itself is listed
12 in the ordinance.

13 The plan to correct this error is to
14 run the required legal notices in the
15 newspaper and submit the 2014 EIT ordinance
16 to city council at its regularly scheduled
17 meeting on September 4, 2014, under an
18 emergency certificate requesting a
19 suspension of the rules and final adoption
20 of the 2014 EIT ordinance at this evening's
21 meeting. The 2014 EIT ordinance will be
22 effective retroactive to January 1, 2014,
23 and the same is permitted under the Local
24 Tax Enabling Act since there is no change in
25 the rate of the taxation.

1 It is also worth noting that
2 historically most of the city's taxing
3 ordinances are effective retroactive to
4 January 1, including all of the other taxing
5 ordinances adopted by city council earlier
6 this year.

7 Going forward, the City Law
8 Department will take steps to ensure that
9 this error never occurs again, including
10 enacting taxing ordinances in 2015 that
11 continue in full force and effect unless and
12 until a change is made in the rate of
13 taxation in accordance with the parameters
14 of the Local Tax Enabling Act.

15 I have also already calendared
16 reminders for the next three years for the
17 City Law Department to review all of the
18 various city taxing ordinances for any
19 required legislation in early January of
20 each year. I will also draft a letter now
21 for any future incoming administration to be
22 provided to the same during the transition
23 period notifying them of the taxing
24 ordinance requirements and the safeguards of
25 that I have put in place to recommend that

1 they follow the same.

2 In this week's newspaper article the
3 possibility for a legal challenge to the
4 city's recently adopted Act 205 tax has been
5 discussed with this error raised as a
6 potential avenue of attack. While I do not
7 believe that the argument will be a strong
8 one, I do not think it would be in the best
9 of interest of the city to hold a special
10 meeting or public caucus discussing this
11 matter publically with a looming threat of
12 litigation.

13 I have answered the questions posed
14 by the press, I have provided this
15 explanation, and I am more than happy to
16 speak with each member of city council
17 and/or the city council solicitor
18 individually regarding this matter and will
19 make myself available at your convenience.
20 I take full responsibility for this
21 oversight and have apologized to the mayor
22 and now do so to the members of council.

23 If you should have any questions or
24 would like to schedule a meeting, please do
25 not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for

1 your time and your understanding. Very
2 truly yours, Jason A. Shrive, city
3 solicitor."

4 Attorney Minora, is there anything
5 that you would add to that subsequent to
6 that letter being sent to us?

7 MR. MINORA: I did review the EIT
8 statute at the state level and there is no
9 requirement that it be reenacted every year.
10 It would not have been something that would
11 have come to our attention simply because it
12 need not be -- it need not be reenacted
13 every year. When it didn't come down there
14 was no need for us to call up and say why
15 didn't it, the statute already provided for
16 an automatic continuation of the tax from
17 year to year. That's what Attorney Shrive
18 was referring to and is correct about that.

19 As to the retroactivity, I think
20 practically every year the taxing ordinances
21 that we pass are retroactive if not for some
22 period of time I think it was the end of
23 January this year so they were retroactive
24 for a month, and in my recollection it has
25 been that way virtually every year because

1 there is no taxing ordinances prior to the
2 upcoming year where the tax would be imposed
3 so I believe he is correct about that as
4 well.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Second
6 thing that I would like to -- other members
7 of council may respond to this as we get to
8 the legislation. The second thing that I
9 would like to address is the Scranton Times
10 article that appeared concerning the said
11 the refusal of the city clerk to provide
12 someone with the legislation, the EIT
13 legislation for this agenda. We believe
14 that that was -- I believe and members of
15 council believe that the article was very
16 misleading. There was no refusal on the
17 part of the Clerk's Office to provide that
18 information. The information that was
19 requested was simply not available. The
20 legislation for the agenda is not official
21 until it is posted on Wednesday afternoon,
22 24 hours in advance and, therefore, the
23 clerk has been -- the protocol with all
24 councils the clerk did not provide the
25 legislation prior to it being approved by

1 council for the agenda and being posted. To
2 provide legislation prior to it being posted
3 in my opinion and the opinion of our
4 solicitor and the city solicitor would be to
5 provide something that is possibly
6 misleading because until it's officially
7 posted it can be changed, it can be removed
8 from the agenda, and to provide somebody
9 with something prior to that period of time
10 might lead to providing either
11 misinformation or misleading information so
12 there was no intent on the part of the
13 clerk, the Clerk's Office or city council to
14 deceive anyone or to hide anything from the
15 person making the request. It was simply
16 following the protocol that we have always
17 followed as far as providing legislation and
18 publication of legislation.

19 The third item that we are dealing
20 with is SAPA legislation. We have -- there
21 has been some confusion as to the status of
22 the SAPA and where it stood. We have sort
23 of worked that out and it is our intent to
24 have the legislation concerning SAPA on the
25 agenda for November 6. That would be the

1 earliest that it would appear and at that
2 time a vote on the disposition of SAPA will
3 can be held, but that be something that we
4 are looking at for the future, the very near
5 future.

6 As far as the I'll say recovery plan
7 or Amoroso plan or items, there are a number
8 of things have taken place during the past
9 month and are ongoing. Obviously, the
10 priorities of the administration and of
11 council are to first deal with the pension
12 problems that exist. I am told from the
13 administration that negotiations with the
14 labor union have begun. That both sides are
15 well aware of the need of the distress under
16 which the pension funds are or how far they
17 are stressed and that both sides are
18 understanding of the need for revisions in
19 the current pension plan and in future
20 contract negotiations as far the pensions
21 are concerned. These are negotiations that
22 are currently ongoing and hopefully some
23 resolution to them, again, prior to November
24 and the time that we need to prepare for the
25 budget.

1 Also, the negotiations continue on
2 the Scranton Parking Authority and Scranton
3 Parking Authority debt and the disposition
4 of the garages. It is hopeful that
5 resolution to at least dealing with the debt
6 is somewhat imminent, hopefully we can look
7 for that in the relatively near future.

8 As far as the Act 205 tax, I know
9 that there was an article that ran in the
10 local newspaper, certainly the city is --
11 that there are going to be challenges to the
12 Act 205 tax and that the city is preparing
13 to defend those challenges. We fully intend
14 to implement the Act 205 tax and defend
15 against any challenges.

16 The last thing, one of the
17 priorities is the Sewer Authority, it's a
18 little bit more difficult to deal with. The
19 administration is still reviewing options as
20 far as the Sewer Authority is concerned as
21 to what might be done, you know, some of the
22 options that may exist as far as the Sewer
23 Authority and the monetization of the Sewer
24 Authority as well.

25 The 2013 audit is woefully behind.

1 This is primarily because of some personnel
2 issues that had had listed in the BA's
3 Office actually since last year. When the
4 person, the finance manager, left that
5 office she had been the one that had dealt
6 entirely with the audit and the person that
7 replaced her then went out on medical leave
8 and it has been difficult getting the
9 adequate personnel to deal with the budget.
10 Hopefully the administration has done a
11 number of things to try and shore up the
12 BA's staff so that the budget hopefully --
13 we certainly want the budget completed prior
14 to the end of this year.

15 On a positive note, as far as the
16 2015 TANS are concerned there has been
17 interest from local banks, investment
18 groups, who are looking at the possibility
19 of funding the 2015 TANS at rates that are--
20 interest rates that are much more accessible
21 to the city and also without the punitive
22 restrictions that had existed in some of the
23 other -- in our previous TANS.

24 Also, we are looking at the
25 possibility, and I know as people sit there

1 waiting fanning themselves in the heat, we
2 are also looking at publication of a
3 comprehensive of a snow removal or snow
4 plowing program. Mr. Gaughan has some ideas
5 from some other areas and will be hopefully
6 meeting with members of the DPW and the
7 administration so that can publish it, as we
8 said, a comprehensive plan for snow plowing,
9 snow removal, prior to the first snow
10 incident of the year.

11 One thing that -- another thing that
12 we need to look at for the coming months,
13 the elevator in city hall is going to need
14 extensive repairs, which would mean that the
15 elevator would not be in operation for
16 anywhere from four to six weeks, maybe
17 longer, which presents a problem because
18 without the elevator this room becomes
19 non-compliant with ADA. There is no
20 handicapped accessible way other than the
21 elevator, as it would be for any of the
22 offices above here, so the administration is
23 looking at ways to deal with that situation
24 as far as moving something like LIPS down to
25 the first floor or basement.

1 What it means for council is that we
2 are not able to hold council meetings here,
3 we are going to need to move council
4 meetings to an alternate site. We are
5 looking at some possibilities, as it becomes
6 more imminent for the repairs of the
7 elevator we will make announcements as to
8 where meetings will be held. The one thing
9 that does become a problem is that this room
10 is the only one that is available for a live
11 feed from ECTV, so to move the council
12 meetings to another site would mean that a
13 live broadcast of the council meeting would
14 not be possible, that it would have to be
15 done on a taped delay or a delay basis of
16 some kind.

17 And last thing, I meet with the
18 mayor and the mayor and I have agreed that
19 we will meet on a weekly basis to simply
20 discuss what legislation is going to be
21 brought before council, some initiatives
22 that may exist and simply a discussion so
23 that council can be hopefully better
24 prepared to deal with some of the things
25 that come from -- some of the legislation so

1 that we can be in a better part of the
2 process and hopefully make for a smoother
3 operation of the city.

4 And I know that was lengthy, but I
5 thought they were some bullet points or
6 talking points that needed to be presented
7 prior to citizens' participation.

8 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
9 PARTICIPATION.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
12 Scranton resident. I want to go back to the
13 issue of Rossi's 2013 audit, and I have been
14 watching reports that have been submitting
15 on a monthly basis, and if memory serves we
16 had 24 outstanding items in July before the
17 recess and we still have 24 outstanding
18 items. Instead of being woefully late it's
19 going to be tragically late. I understand
20 that we lost one person with the subject
21 matter expert, but maybe the administration
22 could take a lesson from the military. Any
23 very sensitive position that has a key
24 function like supporting the audit needs to
25 document those procedures into standard

1 operating procedures. Everyone is
2 expendable, okay? This should not happen
3 again.

4 You realize that in 70 days is the
5 deadline for the administration to present
6 its budget to the council and the audit is
7 it already 95 days late. The administration
8 should have that in hand today, before
9 today. It should have it on May 31 because
10 that's what you base part of your budget
11 process on. You must know, you know, what
12 happened in prior years and what you have to
13 change and correct.

14 I would also like to see when the
15 mayor submits his proposed budget that he
16 adds a couple of the line items in there and
17 gets somebody there whose function is the
18 audit, who has those qualifications, that
19 expertise. That should not happen again. I
20 also hope that the administration learns
21 from this experience the importance of
22 cross-training its employees, okay? I take
23 nothing away from the work that they have
24 done up to this point in time, but this is a
25 second chest wound that's been

1 self-inflicted by the city on itself and we
2 need to stop this. I don't want to stand up
3 here next January saying, "What's the status
4 of the 2014 audit," which I will be doing,
5 by the way.

6 Which leads me to the more tragic
7 issue the municipal pensions. I do not have
8 a warm fuzzy. I wonder if you all have a
9 warm fuzzy. When the state auditor general
10 gave his press conference did he leave a
11 written copy of his audit finance for the
12 city?

13 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know that -- I
14 had not received anything so I do not know.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, he did.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: He did? Is that
17 available to the general public?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, it is. I think
19 it was --

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Is it on the
21 website?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know if it's
23 on the city's website, but I know it was on
24 the Scranton Times' website and I'm sure we
25 would get you a copy.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, I'll talk to
2 Jim later on. I would like to look at that.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Or we could get you a
4 copy of it.

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: I would love to see
6 that to see what he said lives up -- it's an
7 interesting article in the paper, but I want
8 to see the details.

9 Mr. Evans, I compliment you for
10 having taken the time and initiative to
11 attend that press conference.

12 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Like many people I
14 was sorely disappointed that the mayor did
15 not have the opportunity to attend.

16 Mr. Evans, do you know if the mayor
17 sent a representative.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes, Attorney Shrive was
19 there.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay, and were the
21 pension boards represented?

22 MR. EVANS: Yes, actually, they were
23 having a meeting in that room. Right before
24 that announcement they all came over for the
25 press conference.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I just think
2 that, you know, the single most cripple
3 issue facing the city today, I can't imagine
4 a higher priority than addressing the
5 pension crises. Do you know if the city has
6 made any effort to coordinate with the state
7 on the state level pension reform?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I know Mr. Bulzoni has
9 been in contact with numerous people at the
10 state level --

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because the AG is
12 insisting that this is not a problem the
13 city can solve by itself it's a statewide
14 problem, so I'd love to see some kind of
15 coordination in that regard.

16 The only other thing, I would like
17 to compliment the city workers who supported
18 the Latin and Italian festivals. I think
19 they did an excellent job, as they do every
20 year. That went very smoothly and was very
21 enjoyable.

22 The only other thing, Mr. Rogan,
23 this whole brouhaha about you and your use
24 of your land for the Verizon cell tower, I
25 understand that what you did was perfectly

1 legal but in the words of who was it, Jay
2 Leno, what were you thinking?

3 MR. MCGOFF: Bill Jackowitz.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
5 Scranton City council. Kathy, City Council
6 Stenographer, Lori and Amil, welcome back, I
7 guess. Piggybacking on the audit, okay, I
8 agree with what Joan just said, maybe the
9 city should get in contact with the military
10 because I have been through at least a
11 thousand audits in my 34-year career, and I
12 tell you what, they know how to do audits.

13 Not having a qualified person, not
14 having an SOP, standard operating procedure,
15 not having a checklist for a city this size
16 that deals with hundreds of millions of
17 dollars at one time that's ridiculous. That
18 is an unacceptable, and the only people
19 responsible for it are, like I have been
20 saying for years, are the seven elected
21 officials, the mayor, the city council and
22 the city controller.

23 We have been distressed since 1992
24 and you mean to tell me that no one, no one
25 thought about standardizing the audit

1 procedures so that the audit would be done
2 by 31 May of every year? Is that what I'm
3 expected to believe? Well, I tell you what,
4 I don't believe it and I don't accept the
5 excuse of not having anybody qualified.

6 We have Tobyhanna Army Depot right
7 up the street, 25 miles away, they do audits
8 on a regular basis. Someone knows how to do
9 an audit up there so why doesn't the city
10 send somebody up there to find out how to do
11 it correctly and then standardize it and
12 keep it there so that -- we know we have an
13 election every four years for mayor and for
14 city council, so we know people are going to
15 change, but yet no one thought of this? I
16 find that very hard to believe.

17 Okay, now how does a pension fund
18 get to 16.5 percent? Please, can someone
19 please explain that to us during motions?
20 How did it get there? Who is responsible
21 for it getting there and those people should
22 be subpoenaed if they have to come in here
23 and explain that to the citizens and the
24 residents of the City of Scranton because
25 this is, again, totally ridiculous and

1 should never, ever, ever have happened, but
2 it did. We have been distressed since 1992
3 for God's sake. When are we going to learn?
4 When are we going to actually start doing
5 things the right way and quit making excuses
6 and blaming other people for the mistakes
7 that our elected officials have made?
8 Nobody else, but our elected officials.

9 Okay, I just heard on the news today
10 that there was 18 bogus cell towers in the
11 United States. All 18 of these towers are
12 located within military -- by military
13 installations, okay, and what they are doing
14 is they are stealing information from
15 people, okay? So the only thing is if you
16 going to approve cell towers make sure that
17 they are legitimate because there is 18
18 right now in the United States and more
19 being built, so all I'm doing is let's use a
20 little bit of common sense, a little bit of
21 caution before we start approving cell
22 towers, okay, because they may be bogus, you
23 know? They may not be, but they may be, so
24 we have to make damn sure that they are not,
25 okay? We have enough problems in this city

1 and in this state and in this country.

2 Okay, in reference to Mr. Rogan,
3 Pat, you made a big mistake. It may be
4 legal, it may not be against any ethics
5 violation, but you know what, you made a big
6 mistake, okay. And that's all I'm going to
7 say on the matter, okay? But again, right
8 now in the City of Scranton there is not
9 much confidence in our elected officials.
10 Most people do not trust city council, they
11 don't trust the mayor, they don't trust the
12 school board, they don't trust the president
13 of the United States, Congress, the Senate,
14 and when politicians go out and make
15 mistakes like this all it adds to is more
16 destruction, distress, okay?

17 So, again, it's over, it's done
18 with, I'm sure you are going to hear more
19 about it, but that was a dumb move, Pat.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

21 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
22 Bob Bolus, Scranton. It's been awhile since
23 I have been here and it's kind of disturbing
24 having watched over a period of time what's
25 transpired in this city. You know, I don't

1 see Scranton going forward in the direction
2 we have been going. Brought in Mr. Amoroso,
3 what could he tell us that Parenti -- it
4 used to be Parenti and Randolph, John
5 Nealon, they merged with a huge firm today,
6 that they couldn't come in and ask us? They
7 are from Scranton, why don't we go ask them
8 what we should do with the City of Scranton
9 from a business point of view?

10 Why didn't we go to the University
11 and let them logically tell us what needed
12 to be done. They create PhD's. They have a
13 bachelor's program, they have a Dean of
14 Business, I'm sure they know what we need to
15 do in the City of Scranton. Why are we
16 bringing somebody from out of the area to
17 tell us what we already know? We have a
18 hell of a problem here and we are not doing
19 a darn thing about adjusting it or doing
20 anything about it. We have continued to
21 squander millions and millions of dollars
22 here. We are intelligent people hopefully
23 that we can solve our own problem with if we
24 just want to solve it and put politics aside
25 and the good ole' boy clubs Scranton could

1 survive.

2 I came here for a number of the
3 reasons. One, I'd like to thank Mr. Shrive
4 for standing up like a gentleman. He took
5 the beating, but it was unfair because there
6 is people on this council, people in the
7 administration that knew what the tax is all
8 about but nobody came forward. He got blind
9 sided, but he was still man enough to stand
10 up and say, "I take responsibility" because
11 he is the attorney.

12 I think the people should be
13 refunded the money from that tax because we
14 have no business collecting it or taking it.
15 It's not our money, we didn't enact the
16 right legislation to keep the money, it
17 should go back to those that it came from
18 and if we are going to do something let's do
19 it right.

20 We sit here and we keep talking
21 about we are going to change this and change
22 that. I've donated to the commuter tax
23 fight because I don't think the people
24 outside this city should have to pay for our
25 carelessness and our neglect to squandering

1 and mismanagement and I can go on and on and
2 on that we have done and asked people to pay
3 our pension funds, our responsibilities.

4 It's not their responsibility, nor is it our
5 responsibility to worry about their town,
6 but we keep killing this city and there is
7 going to be nothing left here. It's unfair
8 to those people to have to pay to come to
9 the city to work. It's bad enough as it is.

10 I came here for a couple of the
11 other issues. One, it was sad to see, and
12 I'm looking at the agenda on "C" that we are
13 looking to find money to fund to swimming
14 pool. You realize 3 1/2 million plus
15 dollars that I fought, and others went to
16 Court over to put away perpetually and only
17 the interests used for parks and recreation
18 was squandered by the council and the
19 administration past. Think of that, 3 1/2
20 million bucks plus the interest went down
21 the toilet and now we are going to look at--
22 where is this money going to come from?
23 What magical wand do we have that is going
24 to bring more money here when we're already
25 trying to beat everybody up to stay the heck

1 out of Scranton.

2 I'm being assessed on a church I
3 bought, over \$500,000 assessment on Holy
4 Cross church that I paid \$35,000 to preserve
5 history and culture in this city. They were
6 going to get rid of it for \$2 -- or \$1
7 rather and \$2 to a judge, magistrate in this
8 area, and because he didn't get it I got
9 assessed \$500,000 with a tax on it already
10 of \$45,000 and you want to tell me about
11 political corruption in the City of
12 Scranton? And we are going to fight it and
13 deal with it, but this is it what's wrong
14 yet the University and other people don't
15 pay a dime for what they are doing here yet
16 I'm paying \$45,000 in taxes on a church that
17 was only worth three bucks? You know, it's
18 sad.

19 What I came here really for though
20 is I'm asking this council, I'm proposing
21 and I'm pioneering putting a casino in the
22 Steamtown Mall. I'm looking to save
23 Scranton, not kill Scranton. We have the
24 opportunity right now, and I'm asking this
25 council to send letters to the legislators,

1 our congressmen and everyone that's involved
2 in the political funding to this city,
3 whether it's state or federal, ask the
4 gaming board to create a license for a
5 resort and casino for Steamtown Mall. I'm
6 not looking for a casino license, so you
7 understand that, I'm part of the
8 spearheading of the funding that is going to
9 put the people in the mall. Keeping in
10 mind, that the gaming board could created a
11 license for a felon, they could create a
12 license for the salvation of the City of
13 Scranton. Who is going to compete? Who is
14 going to argue about us? Mohegan Sun is
15 going to come up here with war paint? Well,
16 guess what, we'll circle the wagons and show
17 them just how strong we are in the Scranton
18 area and how we could survive and that's
19 what's killing us. I'm not throwing Boscov
20 out, we are going to make many Boscov's
21 stores in there, but I'm looking at saving
22 Scranton and I'm asking you people today if
23 you have any intentions of saving this city
24 I'm here to help you give it the hope and
25 salvation that it needs. Other than that,

1 you are going to have a dinosaur on your
2 hands here.

3 You are selling the parking garages,
4 you are trying to sell the authorities --
5 no, Mr. McGoff, I need a couple of minutes
6 here because what's going on has been wrong
7 -- you are trying to sell businesses making
8 money, what do you think the people that are
9 buying them are going to do. Raise money,
10 they got to pay for their business. They
11 are going to hammer us. You cannot sell our
12 assets learn how to preserve them and manage
13 them and that's what's been wrong here.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Maddy
15 Garzone.

16 MS. GARZONE: Good evening, city
17 council. I'm not really sure this is the
18 correct venue, but as a 30-plus year
19 resident of the City of Scranton I don't
20 know where to turn.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Would you just state
22 your name for the record?

23 MS. GARZONE: Oh, my name is Maddy
24 Garzone. I live in North Scranton.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

1 MS. GARZONE: For over 20 years the
2 property next to mine has been condemned. I
3 have written letters to the city council, I
4 have written letters to the community
5 development, I have pretty much become a
6 thorn in Brian McAndrew's side for the last
7 seven months about the property next to
8 mine. I have copies of letters, like I
9 said, from city council dating back to 1994,
10 "We will look into it."

11 Every single one of them. I'm sick
12 of it. The housing inspector says, "Well,
13 there is nothing we can do. We can cite
14 them for not cutting the grass."

15 I work and I live in the City of
16 Scranton and I work up Tobyhanna. I earn a
17 fair wage and I pay my taxes. No problem
18 there. You know, there is things that I
19 think the city could do better, but who
20 doesn't, but as a taxpayer what is the city
21 doing for me? I've had letters saying, "Oh
22 it should be the razed, the property should
23 be razed."

24 Several different people, and I made
25 copies of the letters that you guys can

1 have, and all I get is "We'll look into it."

2 Well, I'd like to know when you are
3 going to look into it, in my lifetime?

4 That's all I have to ask. You know, I would
5 like some sort of a response from city
6 council. An accurate and honest response
7 whether they will look into it and actually
8 follow through on that or not.

9 MR. MCGOFF: If you would leave your
10 name and address with the Ms. Carrera and a
11 phone number --

12 MS. GARZONE: Certainly.

13 MR. MCGOFF: -- I will contact you, I
14 will meet with you at the property.

15 MS. GARZONE: Okay, and I will leave
16 these with her. Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

18 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

20 MR. MORGAN: President McGoff, could
21 I give a copy of this to you, sir?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

23 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council,
24 Lee Morgan. We all have differing opinions
25 on where the city is so today I am going to

1 take a new approach tonight with council
2 because I know I'm on this side of the
3 podium, I know where I am, I just have my
4 own ideas. My name is not Mr. Amoroso, I
5 have come to these council meetings for
6 decades. This man's plan is going to kill
7 our city, there is not a doubt in my mind
8 about it, not even the slightest doubt. What
9 I have here is I'm petitioning the city
10 government to cut Scranton's 2015 budget by
11 30 percent by however you have to do it
12 because to be honest with you, sale of the
13 Sewer Authority is not the answer. Remember
14 American Anglican, okay?

15 And look at the pension problems we
16 have, well, when you look at the pension
17 problems we have and they ask who is
18 responsible for that, council is responsible
19 for that. They have an oversight in the
20 budget. They can veto the mayor's budget.
21 Council never did it. We have a
22 dysfunctional government, and I respect
23 everybody sitting there and I always have, I
24 just disagree.

25 I think you know, Mr. Wechsler, I

1 asked you a question on your first day in
2 this seat about the amount of debt per
3 property in the city and the amount of debt
4 on every resident, that was a very, very,
5 very important question because that's going
6 to tell you whether this city should
7 immediately file for receivership or
8 bankruptcy, and no disrespect to you,
9 Mr. Wechsler, but the budget isn't something
10 that you can handle by yourself. You aren't
11 prepared to do that, I don't think any
12 council member on that council is prepared
13 to handle that budget by themselves and
14 anybody who believes that is delusional.

15 This city needs a quick turn around.
16 The most important legislation that's going
17 to come in front of this city is coming
18 November 6, as Mr. McGoff said. SAPA is
19 going to be the thing that's going to turn
20 this city around if you know how to
21 implement it. You know, we can blame
22 out-of-town landlords for the decline of the
23 city, no, they were just scapegoats. You go
24 to any successful city they never complain
25 about investors coming in and buying rental

1 properties. I think you should talk to
2 Mr. Evans here about the amount of
3 properties for sale in this city and who is
4 really going to come here, and then look at
5 how you are trying to solve of our problems
6 with a commuter tax, the most egregious
7 mistake this council could make. These
8 people didn't create this problem, they are
9 coming here to work and support their
10 families.

11 This council needs to wake up and do
12 it's job, and it's going to be a hard job,
13 but you asked for the job and you have got
14 it. I have no ax to grind with the mayor.
15 The mayor talked about a plan. I put my
16 plan in the nice paper. I know my plan will
17 work because I spent over two decades here
18 watching everything that happened and I got
19 here late because there were people here for
20 20 years before I got here. This city
21 hasn't declined just, you know, over a short
22 period of time. And I disagree, with all
23 due respect to the Scranton Times, their
24 ideas about blight are absolutely
25 incredible. This city has been strangled

1 since the 20's and 30's by political
2 indecision and mistakes and politics and
3 it's just kept going and going and going and
4 now we have come to a city with allegedly
5 76,000 people that can't pay this city's
6 debt, and as far as the pension, during the
7 last mayoral campaign for council races long
8 before that I said that the pension debt was
9 the gorilla in the closet.

10 We need to name a receiver in this
11 city that that council can't get the job
12 done and we need to file for bankruptcy and
13 we need to try to protect the people in the
14 city and the most remarkable thing that you
15 can do before you look at the budget and try
16 to figure out what's going on figure what
17 the average person in the city earns and
18 then figure how much tax they are paying
19 and you know when you go and you have to
20 factor things how do these people have
21 enough income to pay rent, okay? The sewer
22 bills are outrageous. How do they pay that?
23 Your water, your utilities, how do you have
24 a life? Mismanagement of the city by the
25 city government has made this a place with a

1 lack of upward mobility wage wise and it
2 needs to change. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.
4 Doug Miller.

5 MR. MILLER: Good evening, everyone,
6 Doug Miller, Scranton. Just to begin on a
7 personal side note, Mr. McGoff, you
8 mentioned some of the medical issues and I
9 just want to wish you a speedy recovery for
10 a brief moment.

11 Moving forward, I have quite a few
12 issues tonight obviously after a long break,
13 vacation, you know, we certainly have gone
14 through an awful lot over the last 30 days
15 or so. Unfortunately, during this time I
16 personally believe the city's outlook has
17 only worsened with some of the events that
18 transpired over the last month,
19 specifically, you know, an issue in regards
20 to public trust and public confidence, you
21 know, elected official in regards to the
22 actions by Mr. Rogan. You know, although
23 Mr. Rogan has ended his pursuit to place a
24 Verizon cell tower on his property located
25 on 905-907 West Locust Street, I do believe

1 there are still many serious questions
2 related to this matter that still need to be
3 addressed. These questions are still
4 relevant and I think we all need to know
5 what took place. Who generated the list of
6 the properties eligible for cell phone
7 towers. Was this decision made by the
8 zoning board? When did council become aware
9 of Mr. Rogan's pursuit of a cell phone tower
10 and at any time did he ever share his
11 intentions with you? Also, when did
12 Mr. Rogan plan on informing the public of
13 this adventure.

14 And with all of this in mind having
15 these questions out there on the table and
16 hoping to get answers, I think moving
17 forward we need to find a permanent solution
18 to address this issue so that it doesn't
19 happen again, because the thing that
20 troubles me is I just don't understand how
21 this adventure could have moved forward and
22 moved along and probably would have happened
23 had it not be brought forth by the media and
24 a lot of other people that gave it the
25 attention that it got, and I think that's

1 what's most frightening is how this council
2 was sort of left in the dark on this issue.
3 I know two council members acknowledged that
4 they weren't aware of it until it was
5 allegedly tabled on the zoning board's
6 agenda.

7 And so those are the things that
8 certainly trouble me and yet again it's just
9 another sign of the mistrust in government
10 and, you know, the politics in this city is
11 just so disgusting, as I have said, it's
12 destroyed everything it's touched and, you
13 know, had we stop forward here and we wonder
14 why we are in the shape we are in it's just
15 because we keep electing people that just
16 have no respect for people and no respect
17 for law, and I do think people need to be
18 held accountable here and that this should
19 not be swept under the rug like many other
20 things that have been swept under the rug
21 for decades and we wonder why the city is in
22 the situation it's in. It's just mind
23 boggling, it really is. It's just
24 discouraging and it's just another example
25 of why we can't seem to get anywhere and we

1 can't seem to move forward because of the
2 politics in this community.

3 You know, some of the other issues
4 tonight were the wage tax. I, too, believe
5 that the individuals who have had the wage
6 tax collected for the last seven months
7 should have it reimbursed to them because I
8 think for the last seven months this city
9 has been illegally collecting the wage tax.
10 You know, with all due respect to Mr. Shrive
11 and his letter citing his opinion a judge
12 will determine what's legal or not and I do
13 believe a legal challenge should be made to
14 this. I think by retroactively going back
15 and staying this legislation that should
16 have been legislated in January, I mean, we
17 have a mayor that served on council for six
18 years, he should have known the procedure.
19 We have two council members that have served
20 on this council in the past, you should have
21 been aware of it.

22 And I do appreciate Mr. Shrive
23 coming forward and admitting the mistake,
24 but my point is we have had people that hold
25 office currently that have been part of this

1 process for decades and to sort of have it
2 get by, I guess, is a little troubling and
3 it's a little frightening as well, but by
4 doing this I think that it would using a
5 Latin term, legal term, nunc pro tunc,
6 meaning now for then, and I do think that
7 this should be looked at and I do plan on
8 pursuing the issue with some other
9 individuals in regards to the legality of
10 this matter.

11 You know, we just continue to go
12 down the wrong track. I mean, we had
13 Mr. DePasquale here, the auditor general, to
14 discuss the pension that we have known for
15 decades was the gorilla in the closet, but
16 what I find most troubling is that we have a
17 mayor that felt it was more important to
18 speak to students at a school than to come
19 to a meeting dealing with the pension
20 crises. This is his city. He is the chief
21 executive officer, and I think we are having
22 an issue with priorities. I do respect
23 Mr. Evans for attending that meeting, but
24 the mayor should have been there.

25 The commuter tax, you know, you made

1 sure that that was rammed through before you
2 broke for August and I spoke at the meeting
3 in Olyphant three weeks ago and I support
4 their challenge and I hope they are
5 successful with that challenge because the
6 fact that we are so incompetent that we
7 mismanaged the pension fund to now pass on
8 to somebody who had absolutely nothing to do
9 with it I just think is totally
10 inappropriate and I think that we really
11 need to get our priorities in order here.

12 Selling assets, the parking garages
13 allegedly for \$20 million, we owe \$50
14 million, we'll still have a \$30 million
15 deficit, is that a common sense? I don't
16 think so. Selling the Sewer Authority to a
17 private entity that is only going to raise
18 the rates that will skyrocket is not the
19 answer.

20 Going the Amoroso way is not the
21 solution that I said. It's not a real plan
22 for recovery it's a suicide mission and I
23 can only hope that moving forward we will
24 actually take the bull by the horn and we'll
25 be able to solve our own problems without

1 having to go people outside.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

3 MR. MILLER: Thank you, very much.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I'm
6 not going to fight with nobody tonight.
7 That's good news, huh? Before I get started
8 I want to repeat myself about I'm not smart
9 enough to think of some of the things that I
10 bring up here. I talked to 12, 15 people
11 during the vacation and everybody was
12 complaining about something or rather, you
13 know, to me but one thing that came up was
14 Mr. McGoff putting Mr. Evans in his seat
15 before the vacation and a dozen people or so
16 felt it could have waited. And believe it
17 or not, no one ever mentioned your problem.
18 I don't know if that's good or bad. It
19 didn't ever come up and, you know, I don't
20 know if they didn't think it was important
21 enough.

22 But I read the article this week in
23 the paper about the Licensing Bureau
24 Inspections, to me it was just a whitewash.
25 I don't know, they just don't see to have no

1 power to enforce their own codes. I don't
2 understand this. I don't have no example,
3 but let's just take a dog license or cars on
4 the sidewalk, there is codes, there is good
5 codes in the book they are not enforced. I
6 was at the grocery store on Keyser Avenue
7 the other day and I couldn't get my car out
8 because there was wall to wall cars, it says
9 "No Parking. Fire Zone" or something, you
10 know, and I had to go up around the car to
11 get out. Somebody ought to drive around and
12 give them tickets for crying out loud. The
13 people that deserve tickets ought to get
14 them. I very seldom park in the handicap
15 place because people hit my car doors and
16 all, but I see young people get of cars and
17 go in they just park there, you know, no
18 respect for anybody.

19 And in the paper today was that
20 little article about -- well, it was
21 yesterday I think, Luzerne County College
22 wanting to come here, yesterday, and our
23 absentee mayor instead of showing some
24 authority is he welcomes another nonprofit
25 that won't contribute nothing to the city.

1 What we need is people to come in here and
2 pay taxes, you know, like Mr. Amoroso's
3 idiotic nonsense that he is shoving down
4 everybody's throat and he doesn't tackle one
5 single problem that we have had. You guys
6 think he is a hero, he is the messiah. To
7 me he is destroying the city like everyone
8 else that comes in here. All of these
9 developers they have little token building
10 permits and get away with it. Look right
11 across the street Mr. Joyce's building, he
12 bragged he spent \$32 million or something,
13 his building permits are little minor
14 things. I understand you don't buy one for
15 \$32,000, I know how it works, but they get
16 away with murder, and his name is in the
17 paper owing for seven pieces of property he
18 had to pay taxes, but he doesn't mind
19 grants, loans. He wants forgiveness on
20 everything.

21 Like I said, nobody is tackling the
22 problems that are -- Goodwill. 20 years
23 it's been going on with them. Nobody does a
24 thing about Goodwill. They are just -- all
25 of the tens of millions of dollars and the

1 only thing that comes up raise taxes. You
2 people are just out of tune with what's
3 going on in the city. Two-thirds of the
4 city are giving up something to keep their
5 homes. Maybe not two-thirds, it's more than
6 a third I guarantee you. You can see that
7 with all of the houses in the paper, three
8 or four thousand people have had houses
9 foreclosed on.

10 I was talking to a fellow the other
11 day that got 15 house he said to tear down
12 in town. You sneaked up on me. I thank you
13 for letting me speak and get it off my
14 chest.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
16 Anyone else wish to address council?

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, City
18 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, we are
19 talking about the pension fund being it
20 seems to be earth shattering news at this
21 point, but the truth is I believe there is
22 around 60 some million dollars in our
23 pension fund and we are draining it down
24 about five or six million dollars a year.
25 You got enough money at the current rate

1 with the current people that are getting the
2 pensions to go about ten years. We all know
3 at one point further out it becomes
4 insolvent, but we are not bankrupt on the
5 pension fund. We have money to cover the
6 people that are on pension for a good ten
7 years. Now, the problem with the pension
8 fund is the length of the time you have to
9 work before you get it. A guy working for
10 social security has to work until he is 67,
11 a guy working for the city 20 some years
12 does that make sense? You seen the police
13 captain that was in Scranton go down to
14 Wilkes-Barre and get another job in the
15 police force so he gets the Scranton pension
16 and he is working toward the Wilkes-Barre
17 pension. This is what is wrong with the
18 pension.

19 You people ain't old enough to
20 remember a buck an hour or a buck ten an
21 hour, that's when a lot of these things were
22 done, but they're not getting a dollar ten
23 an hour anymore, they are getting more in
24 wage than the average citizen. I believe
25 the average citizen in Scranton makes 23,000

1 a year, look what the average policeman
2 makes or average firemen make. Now, they
3 are entitled to a pension, I believe that,
4 sincerely believe that, and your job is to
5 make sure that the new hires will get a
6 pension. The people that already get the
7 pension chances are in ten years or so when
8 the -- if the fund wasn't changed they would
9 be in trouble, but as far as it goes now you
10 got ten years to solve this problem, even
11 though they say it's insolvent, this and
12 that and whatever. It's only insolvent when
13 you can't pay the pension then it becomes
14 really insolvent. As long as you can do
15 that we got some solvency, we got some
16 working time and you got to work at it in
17 time.

18 Of course, you can't do much for
19 three years. When you took office the
20 contract was signed for three years so it's
21 going to be there for three years and I
22 don't think you are going to see much of a
23 change, and the change for the new hires
24 isn't going to make it. It has to go way
25 back to people that are going to get their

1 pension, not the people who had their
2 pension they are making changes to that
3 unless you declare bankruptcy, and I don't
4 think you are willing to do that even though
5 they keep saying we'll be bankrupt in four
6 years, two and a half year the pension fund
7 will be, the city already is. We are
8 bankrupt as far as the city. When you are
9 going to sell a \$50 million debt for \$20
10 million and then pay \$30 million for the
11 next ten years that's idiotic, but the city
12 is very idiotic. That's what our problem
13 was a long time ago.

14 Never vote your party or your name,
15 know the individual and make sure decision
16 on that and you wouldn't be in the mess we
17 are in today. All they did was go there and
18 pull it, well, Mr. Rogan can tell you that.
19 As a Republican he couldn't get elected so
20 he changed to a Democrat and he is sitting
21 up there now because people vote their party
22 not their brain and that's where we are
23 today in debt, in debt, in debt, and it just
24 keeps piling up and the newspaper calling us
25 the Legion of Doom, well, the doom is here.

1 Ten years ago it wasn't here. Ten years ago
2 you could have done something to avoid
3 what's happening today, but now you are
4 stuck with it and in the end I don't know
5 what you are going to do, and I don't blame
6 Mayor Courtright because his hands are tied.
7 There is not a darn thing he can do. Maybe
8 when he takes control of the Sewer Authority
9 he can get a few bucks with that, but if you
10 new guys remember we went through this
11 already with the Sewer Authority. American
12 Anglican used to run it and we decided to
13 borrow \$20 million or 30 million to pay them
14 out, I don't remember what it was, maybe it
15 wasn't that high, but we had to borrow money
16 to pay them off and take control of the
17 Sewer Authority. And what did we get from
18 that? We got a \$35 connection fee for every
19 sewer line in the city every two months, and
20 that's what we got from them. Did we get
21 better sewer service? To me it doesn't
22 matter. You open your faucet it goes down
23 the drain. What the state may say I don't
24 know.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
2 Mr. Sbaraglia.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
4 Council, Marie Schumacher. First, I would
5 like to start by saying I think that the
6 condition of our pension funds calls for you
7 folks to vote requesting a receiver. I
8 believe that we are not just going to get
9 out of this mess and I would ask
10 Mr. Wechsler if next week he would tell us,
11 unless maybe he knows tonight during
12 motions, assuming that the 205, the Act 205
13 commuter tax goes through, how many years
14 will that add to the pension fund before it
15 dries up?

16 I would also like, since I'm
17 speaking to you now, next time you give the
18 wage tax, which the third quarter should be
19 coming in shortly, if in addition to
20 comparing it to what was collected last year
21 you would also compare it to the cash flow
22 analysis on whether or not we are ahead or
23 behind where we expect it to be when the --

24 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Schumacher, let
25 me just jump in here, actually this is my

1 last week as Finance Chair. I will be
2 switching over to public safety. Mr. Evans
3 will become Finance Chair because he has
4 more time to give to the position than I am
5 since he is retired, so although I would be
6 happy to answer all of those questions,
7 Mr. Evans will now --

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, then
9 I'll just switch sending --

10 MR. WECHSLER: Not that I don't care
11 about the position any more, but I will not
12 be directly responsible for that.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I thank you
14 for that. Then I'll give you one for yours,
15 I don't know that --

16 MR. WECHSLER: That didn't take
17 long.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: For your new
19 assignment. On the SAFER grants I have not
20 heard anything about us receiving a SAFER
21 grant so I'm assuming the time is expired
22 for the award of those grants, if you could
23 let us know next week. I think that's the
24 proper assumption, but I'm not positive, and
25 I would also like to publically thank Mayor

1 Doherty for rejecting that portion of the
2 last SAFER grant based on the addition of
3 the people based on how many people were
4 going to be retiring because we sure haven't
5 seen those retirements and we would be in
6 really deep doo-doo now if those people had
7 been added and we had to support them.

8 Next, the packages I gave you all
9 before the recess did anybody have an
10 opportunity to go through those and reach
11 any conclusions or see the implication of
12 the ratio of the actual sale price or market
13 price within Scranton compared to the
14 surrounding areas and what that is doing to
15 the residents of the City of Scranton? No.

16 MR. EVANS: No.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think that's
18 something that very much needs to be
19 addressed. That's one thing I do agree with
20 Mr. Amoroso on, a reassessment is not only
21 desirable, but essential and I also believe
22 that you should be talking with our elected
23 officials in Harrisburg to change to a pure
24 market base where it changes every year
25 based on the actual sales of the property as

1 is done in Northern Virginia and other
2 communities. It keeps it current and it's
3 fair because it's actual.

4 And now, Mr. Rogan, I will -- I
5 guess I may as well do it now -- no, I'll do
6 what I want to do on the things tonight. I
7 don't understand why on 5-B if it's not
8 necessary you are bothering to vote on this
9 tonight. It's either necessary and it
10 should be voted on tonight or it's not
11 necessary and it shouldn't be voted on. I
12 think the fact that you use past practices
13 for a number of the reasons. Tonight, for
14 instance, you said the failure to provide
15 the ordinance was based on past practices.
16 I don't know why when the public
17 announcement is made that it's going to be
18 on the agenda that should not be the point
19 in time when if you know it's going to be on
20 the agenda that that should be available,
21 but even at worse if you have an ordinance
22 that's supposed to be three readings when
23 you are planning to ramrod something through
24 in one evening and people get 24 hours that
25 is not proper, it's not fair, and I think

1 that is terrible and even tonight's -- as I
2 know it was called to your attention the
3 certificate of emergency is not even dated,
4 so it could have been pulled from any
5 legislation.

6 So I will be back next week,
7 Mr. Rogan, I'll address you and a few other
8 items. Thank you.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
10 Dobrzyn, resident. Now, on this 205 wage
11 tax, I stated once again before that I
12 support it for the specific reason is this,
13 we are constantly bombarded by tax exempts
14 and are not just church in the valley by the
15 wildwood or the little school house on the
16 prairie constantly.

17 Now, one thing that was mentioned
18 was the school once up here, another tax
19 exempt. The county just acquired four
20 properties to build a parking lot for the
21 Lackawanna County Prison. Another tax
22 exempt. It just keeps going on and on and
23 on, but what's the answer? Are we getting
24 anything from the state other than
25 bamboozled? No. The state constitution is

1 defective. It's defective because it's
2 saddling us with 33 percent and growing
3 property tax that is exempt and we can no
4 longer afford and I can no longer approve of
5 such a situation where I have to pay taxes
6 for the entire county or Northeastern
7 Pennsylvania and even more so that foreign
8 exchange students are going to these school,
9 aren't we all nice Americans. It's wrong.

10 I'd love to see some day to take to
11 Federal Court the constitution of the
12 Pennsylvania and force the state into
13 replacing these property taxes that are not
14 being paid because they are giving
15 exemptions by the state.

16 Wayne, I'd like to comment on and
17 compliment you on the state is always here
18 to tell us how bad we are in the hole but
19 they offer no help and this relates right to
20 the very 205 wage tax and whatever other
21 plans are being made. It's ridiculous. We
22 lost \$26 million out of the pension plan, I
23 understand with the boondoggle in 2007 and
24 2008 and nobody went to jail, some of these
25 discredited investors are headed right back

1 to other banks and are poised to cause more
2 problems in the future. Right now our
3 chamber of the commerce they are creating a
4 building property, a business property
5 bubble. That's why the mall was empty.

6 That's why I can't get -- my wife
7 loves to go to Montage concerts, I never get
8 there on time, I miss half the damn show and
9 it really peeves me off because I'm paying
10 for it to get there, but there is a big line
11 on the way up the hill, you got a bunch of
12 people screaming at you to drive recklessly
13 to get parked. Then you walk up there and
14 there is searching you and frisking you and
15 every which -- they didn't frisk me properly
16 I could have had a half a dozen firearms
17 under my coat, and I don't know if my size
18 intimidated the guy or he thought I was
19 going to smack him or what, but they didn't
20 really search me anyway.

21 Sewer utilities and utilities, the
22 worst part of the Amoroso plan is any type
23 of sale of the sewage treatment plan. I
24 would rather pay -- my question is are the
25 taxes worth paying double taxes to the city

1 even be a steal compared to what some
2 companies, service company is going to raise
3 the rates to. I pointed out previously that
4 they have practically doubled or tripled,
5 practically tripled in Coatsville,
6 Pennsylvania, of what a reasonable rate for
7 water and I chase my wife around, she has a
8 giant washing machine and I open it up and I
9 see three pairs of jeans and I'm paying
10 about \$32 bucks a month. So, you know, it's
11 like giant washing machine, three pairs of
12 jeans, can't talk to her.

13 I'd like to cherry pick the Amoroso
14 plan because if it all gets passed last
15 minute 12th hour it's just going to be a --
16 it's just a way of slipping it under the rug
17 and all of the negative situations with it,
18 and on these Harrisburg tax thieves I'd like
19 to point out just quickly that if you earn
20 minimum wage and they have the LST tax,
21 local service tax, at \$156 and someone else
22 earns a little over \$90,000 a year, you are
23 paying 1 percent more. If all of this came
24 to light where we paid the commuter tax from
25 Scranton and all of this other stuff between

1 state and local taxes, income taxes, it will
2 be somewhere around 9 percent or higher on a
3 \$15,000 a year wage. Give me a brake. And
4 then on top of it, if you make \$90,000 a
5 year the LST will be about 1 percent.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Point 166 percent of,
8 you know, it's like 166 thousandths of a
9 percent of their wages as compared to 1
10 percent for a poor jerk that cannot even
11 afford the gas to get to work.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you and have a
14 good night. Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
16 to address council?

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

18 MOTIONS.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
21 Mr. McGoff. I'd like to just touch on a
22 couple of issues that came out while we were
23 on -- well, we weren't at the meetings. I'd
24 hate to say that we were on vacation because
25 we were very busy in that month. In regard

1 to the EIT tax, I was one of the people that
2 had wished that we had had a public caucus
3 on this issue. And I would have preferred
4 that Mr. Shrive and Mayor Courtright had
5 come out and gave us the details that were
6 in the letter. The details in the letter
7 are what happened and at this time that is
8 the understanding that we have on the issue
9 and that's where it's going to be.

10 I do like the ideas that Solicitor
11 Shrive are putting in place to prevent this
12 from happening again. I would like to him
13 when they are complete for us to get a look
14 at them just so we have some comfort heading
15 into the end of the year that this will not
16 happen again or if we get the final
17 determination that we don't have to vote on
18 it again.

19 In regards to the issue with our
20 colleague, Mr. Rogan, our solicitor is still
21 pursuing a determination from the Ethics
22 Commission not so much on what it affects
23 Mr. Rogan, but how this all affected the
24 city council. I was one of the people that
25 did not know about this, I was taken by

1 surprise, and I just want to make sure that
2 the public has confidence in us that we are
3 doing the right thing up here and I want to
4 regain the public trust on this issue, so
5 Solicitor Minora is pursuing that request
6 that we made.

7 Also, during our recess since we are
8 prohibited from meeting as more than three
9 people we kind of have to do a lot of things
10 individually so as far of the process each
11 of has prepared issues that we wanted to
12 present to Mayor Courtright so we can
13 establish an agenda for the fall. I think
14 part of the problem as we were on eyeing
15 what the mayor knew, what Solicitor Shrive
16 knew it, we wanted to get more of an idea of
17 what was happening, how it was supposed to
18 happen and not finding out about it maybe
19 the week before, so we all made a list.
20 President McGoff had a meeting with the
21 mayor, sat down and discussed some of the
22 issues as he reported today which was mostly
23 as a result of that meeting and I am very
24 happy to hear that there will be a weekly
25 meeting between the mayor and the council

1 president and I'm sure his opportunity comes
2 up some other of us may be able to attend.
3 We just want to get a better feel for what's
4 happening, be more involved in the process
5 moving the agenda along.

6 I'd also like to mention that --
7 I'd like to thank Pat Hinton and Dennis
8 Gallagher and his staff for correcting the
9 problem that arose up as an emergency
10 situation on East Mountain. They did a
11 great job. There was a blight problem
12 there, h it's still going to continue in
13 some form, but the major problem with
14 garbage on East Mountain Road was removed.

15 As mentioned earlier, I didn't want
16 to scare everybody when I said it was going
17 to be my last meeting as Finance Chair, it
18 won't be my last meeting as a council
19 person, but one of the reasons why we
20 decided to make the switch is because
21 Mr. Evans is retired. He has time during
22 the day to attend meetings. As an example,
23 the meeting that was here with the auditor
24 general I work in Mountain Top so it's
25 impossible for me to attend any meetings at

1 city hall during the day. On the previous
2 day there was a conference call that I was
3 able to participate in, but I feel that the
4 city will be much better served because of
5 Mr. Evans' time and some of his expertise
6 serving as Finance Chair and for myself a
7 lot of the meetings in terms of the public
8 safety occur in the evening, I'm back in
9 Scranton around 5 p.m. so that will allow me
10 to participate a little bit better I think
11 being on that committee and that's all I
12 have at this time. Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. First,
15 I want to thank some of the speakers tonight
16 for raising this issue and giving me an
17 opportunity to address it before moving onto
18 city business. I learned of Verizon's
19 potential investment in the city the way
20 everyone else did, at a public meeting. It
21 was at a meeting of council when we all
22 learned that Verizon was looking to secure
23 locations within the City of Scranton. The
24 representatives stated and the minutes also
25 reflect that they were looking for

1 additional locations for their expansion
2 project within the city parks and outside of
3 the city parks. I didn't receive any
4 information at any time that was
5 confidential regarding that project. I
6 sought the same information that was
7 received by other private investors when I
8 learned the same thing that we all did at
9 that meeting.

10 I purchased it at public auction in
11 my own name and applied for approval to be
12 part of the project from the Zoning Hearing
13 Board because I have nothing to hide.
14 Everything that I pursued has been legal and
15 in accordance with the State Ethics
16 Commission. It's not just my opinion, but
17 it's the opinion of a well-respected private
18 attorney as well. Although, everything I
19 pursued has been legal and in accordance
20 with the State Ethics Act, I notified
21 Verizon that I am no longer interested in
22 renting my land to them because I believe
23 this has become a distraction to many of the
24 important issues facing the city. For not
25 anticipating that possibility when I began

1 to look into this investment and for the
2 distraction that has caused, I apologize to
3 each one of my council colleagues
4 individually and to the public as well. I
5 look forward to moving forward and, again,
6 my apologies to the residents and to my
7 colleagues for this becoming a distraction
8 to the many important issues that we are
9 facing.

10 Now onto some of those many
11 important issues. The first item I'd like
12 to speak about tonight is the pension
13 report. We all know that the pension has
14 been the problem in the city for quite some
15 time. The report that came out really put
16 that into focus to how big of an issue it is
17 for the city that the pension fund may run
18 out of money within as little as three to
19 five years, and that's with the market
20 staying flat. If we experience a market
21 pullback like we did from 2007 to 2008ish
22 the pension fund could be decimated because
23 of the markets and that's something that's
24 completely out of control with anyone in
25 this room.

1 This is probably -- actually this is
2 the most serious issue facing the City of
3 Scranton right now. I know there are a lot
4 of misconceptions regarding the pension out
5 there because when people think of a pension
6 they think, well, it only affects the city
7 employees and the retirees, but that's not
8 the case. If the pension fund runs dry the
9 city is obligated by law to make those
10 pension payments prior to making any other
11 payments in the general operating fund.
12 That would include basic city services such
13 as paying our current police officers, our
14 current fire officers, providing for street
15 cleaning, garbage pick up, any item that's
16 done throughout the city if the pension fund
17 runs dry that has to be paid prior to any of
18 the general obligation funds, the items that
19 we normally would get. This just puts into
20 focus the importance of dealing with the few
21 strategies that we have for the pension. I
22 know which has passed city council already
23 and it's pending Court approval is the Act
24 205 tax. I think we have to wait to see how
25 other Courts rule on that one. I know

1 Mr. Evans has brought up quite a few times
2 the idea of other pension reforms, and I
3 know Councilman McGoff notified us that
4 negotiations were going to be taking place.
5 That certainly needs to happen as well.

6 In addition to that, the idea of
7 super funding the pension is something I
8 fully support. By putting a large dollar
9 amount up front and allowing it to grow over
10 time that may save us much more money down
11 the line than just going with our MMO, and
12 when we talk about the MMO it's exactly
13 that, it's the minimum. It doesn't mean
14 it's the correct amount to be putting in,
15 it's the minimum amount, just enough to get
16 by. And again, one market correction and a
17 few other factors and the pension fund could
18 run dry and at that point the city may have
19 to declare bankruptcy. That's how serious
20 of an issue the pension is.

21 Moving on regarding the 205 Act, and
22 I did bring his up at in our caucus, I do
23 believe that if the 2015 tax is implemented
24 on commuters that city council rules should
25 be amended of some sort to allow a public

1 participation from those who are paying that
2 tax. Just an idea that we tossed around in
3 the caucus and I'm sure once we get a
4 finalization on that tax we could look into
5 how we want to amend those rules if that's
6 agreeable to the rest of the board.

7 Next, I did receive our mail here.
8 We have a bill from the Griffin Pond Animal
9 Shelter in the amount of \$37,500 and it is a
10 third notice to the city. This is something
11 that I am concerned about because I know
12 that there are a lot of problems with feral
13 cats in our community and other stray
14 animals, but on the flip side of that some
15 good news, and it's reported in the
16 newspaper and I know the group has spoke at
17 our council meetings as well, the group
18 Street Cats has taken over the old zoo at
19 Nay Aug and is looking to rehab that into a
20 trap, neuter and release program, which is
21 where they trap feral cats, they bring them
22 in, spay or neuter them and release them.
23 Now, it doesn't quite solve the problem of,
24 you know, some feral cats in the community
25 that some people would like, but what it

1 does do is it stops the growth and it's
2 safer and it's humane. I know a lot of
3 people from the have approached me, I do
4 think it is a good idea that the city needs
5 to explore and also at the same time it may
6 reduce by going through -- maybe directing
7 some funds to the Street Cats group it may
8 help reduce the cost that we are incurring
9 at Griffin Pond.

10 Next, an item that was brought up
11 from some speakers and it's been brought up
12 sporadically at meetings and it's been all
13 over social media for quite awhile is the
14 idea of a casino, casino resort in downtown
15 Scranton. That's definitely -- and I know I
16 made some comments about it before, it's
17 definitely an idea I would support if it
18 would be feasible if the state would release
19 a special license for the city. Now, I
20 don't think council should advocate for one
21 specific person to obtain a license, but the
22 idea of the state exploring, opening up a
23 special license specifically to help
24 Scranton I think would be a good idea. That
25 this should be looked into.

1 Next, city council did send a letter
2 to Mr. Gorge Roberts, the district engineer
3 from PennDOT, following our public meeting
4 we had two weeks ago regarding the problems
5 at Keyser Avenue requesting that they
6 reconsider the new ban on large trucks
7 turning right from northbound Keyser Avenue
8 onto Dalton Street. The letter was to say
9 that although PennDOT -- the reason for it
10 was for safety, the end result will actually
11 result in trucks traveling through more of a
12 residential neighborhood and through where
13 the Falcons play and West Side baseball
14 plays as well. Did follow-up with James May
15 from PennDOT, it is something that they are
16 looking at, hopefully this is an item that
17 will be resolved, and just as a follow up on
18 that meeting that we had, and I know in the
19 past and the future I probably still will be
20 against the recess in August, but I think
21 the meeting -- if we are able to schedule
22 more meetings in the month of August or
23 throughout the year like we had regarding
24 that one specific issue, I thought that was
25 a very productive meeting, a lot was

1 accomplished and it was very specific. We
2 were just focused on that one issue and I
3 think by doing that it may enable council to
4 work with other agencies a little bit more
5 to get many items completed.

6 Two more items. Next, the SAFER
7 grant was brought up again. I do believe
8 from speaking to members of the fire
9 department that the federal government has
10 not opened up the application period for
11 next year's SAFER. I think that happens
12 around November. I could work with
13 Mr. Evans and we will check -- or, I'm
14 sorry, Mr. Wechsler --

15 MR. WECHSLER: There you go.

16 MR. ROGAN: And check into that.
17 And, also, as far as attrition goes, the
18 city cannot afford any further attrition on
19 the fire department. We saw what happened
20 last time when fire houses were closing,
21 particularly on East Mountain, the problems
22 that were caused from that, so that's
23 something that we need to keep at a minimum
24 the fire houses that we have open currently.
25 Further, I would like to see all of them

1 open and have no brownouts, but at a bare
2 minimum we have to keep the staffing of
3 those where they currently are.

4 And finally, regarding the emergency
5 certificate and Item 5-B I did speak with
6 Attorney Shrive at length on this issue,
7 probably a good half hour conversation and I
8 spoke to Attorney Minora briefly on it as
9 well, I will be voting "yes" on this
10 legislation to authorize it under the
11 emergency certificate, and I will be comment
12 more on it under -- when the time for that
13 vote comes, and that's all. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: First I'd like to
16 clarify some comments Mr. Wechsler made.
17 Sadly I'm not retired. I did retire my
18 previous job as an engineer, but I have to
19 explain 60, 70 hours of work right now to my
20 family if I'm retired.

21 MR. WECHSLER: That's retirement.

22 MS. EVANS: But I'd like to make a
23 couple of comments on some of the discussion
24 tonight. As you know, I attended the press
25 conference given by the Pennsylvania Auditor

1 Scranton and our property owners are getting
2 crushed because lack of reassessment in
3 Lackawanna County. Again, while this county
4 abandoned the initiative there needs to be a
5 statewide solution, a plan that will mandate
6 countywide reassessment, however, it cannot
7 be another unfunded mandate. There must be
8 cost sharing involved through the state and
9 the county. There are other things that
10 state could do thinking outside of the box
11 like we looked into. Marie touched on this
12 a little bit, for example, allowing rolling
13 reassessments tied to property value
14 increases that would not cost merely the
15 amount that a standard reassessment would
16 and could be done annually to see any even
17 more. Again, this is something our state
18 reps and our state senator could look into
19 our behalf.

20 Finally, I want to touch on cell
21 towers. Myself, Council Gaughan and
22 Councilman Wechsler were at the zoning
23 meeting last month. I served on the city
24 planning commission when the current zoning
25 code was drafted in 1994. The technology

1 and the need for increased placement of cell
2 towers was not even an issue back then.
3 However, 20 years later we are still using
4 the same code to regulate cell towers in our
5 city. I would suggest with the concurrence
6 of council that I ask Don King, the city
7 planner, and the city planning commission to
8 review this matter and come up with a
9 comprehensive zoning amendment change
10 relative to cell tower placement in our city
11 for our review. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Evans.
13 Mr. Gaughan?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. And I
15 would agree with the asking Mr. King, I
16 think that your are totally right on that,
17 we need to make sure that cell phone towers
18 are not put in the middle of residential
19 neighborhoods. It's a major problem.

20 I was contacted by a gentleman today
21 about speeding on Sloan Street in West
22 Scranton and I did tell that gentleman that
23 I would get together or send correspondence
24 to Chief Graziano to see what we could do
25 about that an increase patrol on Sloan

1 Street so I will taking care of that.

2 During the break numerous residents
3 contacted me with various concerns. There
4 were issues with properties on Quincy Avenue
5 in the Hill Section. Our office contacted
6 Licensing and Inspections and they are
7 looking into those issues. There was also a
8 concern about a wall that is falling over on
9 McKenna Court in the Hill Section. An
10 inspector is being sent out to this location
11 and we will be updated as to the problems on
12 that. A resident also expressed concerns
13 about 1103 Blair Avenue. It's a vacant
14 property and the grass is severely
15 overgrown. Our office has forwarded it's
16 concerns, again, to Licensing and
17 Inspections and hopefully that can be taken
18 care of for the residents in that
19 neighborhood.

20 Over the break a few residents had
21 inquired about getting street lights put up
22 in different sections of their neighborhoods
23 for various reasons. There is a process for
24 this. I won't go through it, but there are
25 eight steps that needs to be taken in order

1 for council to consider putting a
2 streetlight up in your neighborhood. It has
3 to go through the city engineer and PPL. I
4 will be requesting that this process be
5 published on the city's website so residents
6 can have easy access to it. Also, a
7 reminder, again during the break it came up
8 a lot, about reporting streetlights when
9 they are out. If you have access to a
10 computer you can go to www.nepalights.com.
11 You will need the pole number and street
12 address, and the pole number is 11 digits,
13 so you can report it on there. If you don't
14 have access to a computer, you can call
15 Joyce Electrical at 570-521-4273 to report
16 your streetlight being out.

17 I was pleased to be present on
18 Tuesday for a press conference held by
19 PennDOT regarding the Rockwell Avenue bridge
20 project. Everything seems to be on schedule
21 for an October 2015 completion date and work
22 should begin in the next few weeks so that
23 was good news.

24 I would also ask that we send a
25 request to Licensing and Inspections that

1 the zoning board agenda is posted on-line to
2 the city's website as soon as possible, as
3 soon as available. The last agenda posted
4 on the website is from June of this year.
5 It's my hope that the agendas will be posted
6 as soon as they can be so the public can be
7 informed about that.

8 Council received a petition to
9 eliminate illegal parking in front of the
10 Geneva House on Adams Avenue. Residents of
11 the Geneva House would like a new "Emergency
12 Exit Only No Parking" sign. The current one
13 is in bad shape and it seems to be they are
14 having an awful time with those issues. I
15 will be contacting DPW to see if we could
16 get that done and I will also speak to Chief
17 Graziano about the petition that the
18 residents in the Geneva House send down to
19 council. He was copied the letter so I'm
20 sure he was aware of it and when I do get
21 that information I will update the public.

22 We are approaching winter once
23 again, as Mr. McGoff mentioned earlier in
24 the meeting, and as I expressed last winter
25 I think it's important that we revisit

1 alternate side of the street parking during
2 snow emergencies and we get a jump on this
3 issue. I also think it's important that the
4 city develop a snow emergency plan that can
5 be accessed by residents on the city's
6 website. This will help keep everyone on
7 the same page during the snow emergency and
8 we can become more efficient in alerting the
9 public, and many other cities do this. I
10 plan on reaching out to the DPW director,
11 Dennis Gallagher, the mayor and Chief
12 Graziano to get their input and see if they
13 would be on board with this, also Mr.
14 Wechsler, since he will be the public safety
15 chair, and Mr. McGoff as he mentioned spoke
16 to the mayor and it seems like there is a
17 the hope that we can get this done.

18 I'd also like to see if it's
19 possible that the city could notify
20 neighborhood residents when the street
21 sweeper is scheduled to be in their area.
22 During August I was approached by numerous
23 citizens as I attended some neighborhood
24 meetings who said they would be more than
25 willing to move their cars to give the

1 gentleman from the DPW better access to the
2 curbs. They just need to know when the
3 street sweeper will be in their area and
4 think the DPW workers do a wonderful job in
5 this may make it easier on them and help the
6 residents so I will be speaking to DPW
7 Director Gallagher about that to see if
8 there is a different way we might be able to
9 do that for next year.

10 And finally, just a comment as
11 Mr. Wechsler did earlier about the cell
12 phone tower issue, I was, as Mr. Wechsler
13 was, disappointed and disheartened that that
14 took place during the break. I believe that
15 Mr. Rogan used extremely poor judgment and
16 his actions affected the perception that the
17 public has on this council as a whole and
18 that's what really bothered me the most
19 about it to be completely honest, and I
20 appreciate Mr. Rogan apologizing, but I
21 would appreciate if he would apologize for
22 not disclosing the fact that he was in
23 negotiations with Verizon and apologize for
24 the fact that he brought Mr. Oster in to our
25 caucus without telling us that there was any

1 hint of what was going on, because as
2 Mr. Wechsler explained, we did not find out
3 about this until the night of the zoning
4 board meeting. So we, as councilmen, need
5 to remember our responsibilities as elected
6 officials, and as a speaker said earlier
7 today there is this sense in the city that
8 no one can be trusted. There is not a trust
9 of council or the administration and we need
10 to get that trust back and what happened
11 during the break was not a good start, and
12 Mr. Rogan said an attorney said it was
13 ethical what he did, my code of ethics and
14 Gaughan code of ethics it wasn't ethical
15 what went on. And that's all I have to say.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just a
18 couple of comments, I spoke long enough
19 before. On the pension, everyone in the
20 administration, everyone on council, I think
21 everyone in the city recognizes the severity
22 of the problem that exists with the pension.
23 The problem becomes how to deal with it.
24 It's not just identifying the problem, it's
25 identifying a way to resolve the problem and

1 task. There are restrictions against
2 licenses in proximity to other gambling
3 licenses and there are all types of
4 restrictions as far as the license is
5 concerned, and even if that were to take
6 place just because you have a license
7 doesn't mean that you have someone that will
8 open a casino or operate one and that
9 becomes the second question, you know, big
10 question to me, is who would actually
11 operate a casino in the City of Scranton.
12 That could be problematic.

13 And lastly, even though I do
14 frequent I'll say Mohegan and Mt. Airy at
15 times, I'm not a big fan of having a casino
16 in an urban area. I think that that old
17 idea that gambling is going to bring about
18 salvation, if we look at Atlantic City and
19 what's occurred there I don't think that's
20 necessarily a true or a fact of any type. I
21 think the problems when you put in a casino
22 far outweigh the benefit they would bring to
23 the city, and that's all.

24 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL

1 NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
2 AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR
3 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
4 TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET
5 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,
6 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE
7 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
8 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
9 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS
10 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
11 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
12 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO
13 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE
14 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
15 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
16 THE VIOLATIONS"; BY RE-ENACTING THE
17 IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR
18 TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR
19 RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED
20 INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF
21 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED
22 OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2014. (EMERGENCY
24 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

1 gone through three readings. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to comment
3 as well. First of all, the tax was part of
4 the 2014 budget. It was approved as part of
5 the budget. The enabling legislation did
6 not come to us, but as has been stated by
7 Attorney Shrive and also Attorney Minora by
8 the law that's not necessary, so to me by
9 enacting it as part of the budget we did, in
10 fact, enact the EIT tax for 2014.

11 As far as doing it in three readings
12 or in one evening, I think the idea of an
13 emergency certificate attached is maybe a
14 bit of a misnomer. As we said the other
15 day, I think that the more proper term would
16 be an expedient certificate attached. I
17 don't think doing this in one reading or one
18 evening or three weeks makes a difference.
19 It is something that we would have voted
20 for, it's something that was, you know, part
21 of the budget, I don't think it makes a
22 great deal of difference in the number of
23 days in which we do vote on this.

24 MR. ROGAN: I would comment just
25 briefly, kind of echo what my colleagues

1 said regarding this legislation, it also
2 mentioned that this piece of legislation is
3 actually enacted retroactively every year.
4 It's normally the end of January, but it's
5 still also retroactive to January 1 so that
6 in a sense is the same. You know, as far as
7 passing it in one night under a emergency
8 certificate, I'm normally not a fan of an
9 emergency certificate but because of pending
10 litigation over the 205 tax and this
11 possibly being one of the items that may be
12 debated, I think it would be in the city's
13 best interest to get this passed and get it
14 on the books as quickly as possible.

15 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of
16 introduction signify by saying aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
22 eyes have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
25 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229612

1 ENTITLED "FREE SWIM FOR CITIZENS OF
2 SCRANTON" FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT
3 OF THOSE FUNDS RECEIVED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

12 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
19 AN ORDINANCE - DESIGNATING THE 500 BLOCK OF
20 BOGART PLACE AS ONE WAY DESIGNATION-
21 WESTBOUND FROM CEDAR AVENUE TO SOUTH
22 WASHINGTON AVENUE, APPROXIMATELY 430 LINEAR
23 FEET.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? For
5 those people that aren't familiar with where
6 Bogart Place is, it is the court, I'll say,
7 that runs behind the 500 block of Lackawanna
8 Avenue behind Coney Island and now the
9 Renaissance 500 or whatever the development
10 names are. It is that court there, and with
11 the introduction of some hopefully new
12 businesses into the 500 block of Lackawanna
13 County and possible increased traffic in
14 Bogart Place it was thought that a one-way
15 were to be much more appropriate for that
16 area rather than two-way traffic since it is
17 a narrow court.

18 All those in favor of introduction
19 signify by saying aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
2 RESOLUTION – APPOINTMENT OF SANTA J. CORBY
3 A/K/A SANDY CORBY, 401 WILLIAMSBURG LANE,
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF
5 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY
6 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2014. MRS. CORBY WILL
7 BE REPLACING FRANK J. TUNIS, JR. WHO WAS
8 REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BY LETTER DATED
9 JANUARY 22, 2014. MRS. CORBY WILL FILL THE
10 UNEXPIRED TERM OF FRANK J. TUNIS, JR., WHOSE
11 TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2017.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

17 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

18 I just want to say to Mrs. Corby
19 that your brother asked me to vote "no" on
20 this so that you would not be appointed, but
21 I will not listen to him.

22 All those in favor of introduction
23 signify by saying aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
6 RESOLUTION – APPOINTMENT OF MAUREEN
7 MCNICHOLS, 551 NORTH HYDE PARK AVENUE,
8 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF
9 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY
10 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 11, 2014. MRS. MCNICHOLS
11 WILL BE REPLACING ROSETTA WALSH WHO RESIGNED
12 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 5, 2014. MRS. MCNICHOLS
13 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ROSETTA
14 WALSH, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON
15 JUNE 1, 2015.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
6 RESOLUTION – AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 1,
7 2014, ENTITLED "ADOPTING THE RULES AND ORDER
8 OF BUSINESS OF THE SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL,
9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA", BY AMENDING ARTICLE
10 III. COMMITTEES, SECTION 2. STANDING
11 COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL AND SECTION 3.
12 STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'd like to
20 congratulate Mr. Evans on his retirement.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. ROGAN: And his new position as
23 well.

24 MR. MCGOFF: And the need to do this
25 was the names of the people and their

1 committees were placed into the Rules of
2 Council and just so that we can reflect the
3 proper committee assignments we felt it
4 necessary to make this amendment to the
5 Rules of Council.

6 All those in favor of introduction
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. EVANS: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
15 RESOLUTION – RE-APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL
16 SALERNO, 1200 BRYN MAWR STREET, SCRANTON,
17 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE
18 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY FOR
19 AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR.
20 SALERNO'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON JUNE
21 1, 2014 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE
22 1, 2019.

23 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be
25 introduced into its proper committee.

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

3 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
4 those in favor of introduction signify by
5 saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
13 RESOLUTION – APPOINTMENT OF DOMINIC
14 GEORGETTI 3015 PITTSTON AVE, SCRANTON,
15 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE
16 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY
17 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 27, 2014. MR. GEORGETTI
18 WILL BE REPLACING ELIZABETH RANDOL WHO
19 RESIGNED ON AUGUST 26, 2014. MR. GEORGETTI
20 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF ELIZABETH
21 RANDOL, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON
22 DECEMBER 31, 2015.

23 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be
25 introduced into its proper committee.

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

3 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
4 those in favor of introduction signify by
5 saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
11 ayes have it and so moved.

12 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
13 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
15 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE
16 CITY OF SCRANTON, PP&L AND THE UNIVERSITY OF
17 SCRANTON FOR THE PLACEMENT OF SURVEILLANCE
18 CAMERAS ALONG A PORTION OF VINE STREET IN
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS WELL AS ANY AND
20 ALL ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE
21 NECESSARY TO CONSUMMATE THIS TRANSACTION.

22 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-J be
24 introduced into its proper committee.

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

4 I just want to read the locations of the
5 cameras because I think that's important.
6 There will be six cameras that will be
7 located at Madison and Vine, Monroe and
8 Vine, Quincy and Vine, Clay and Vine, Taylor
9 and Vine and Webster and Vine, and these
10 cameras will have no cost to the city as
11 discussed in caucus.

12 MR. MCGOFF: And it should also be
13 mentioned that they will be integrated into
14 the surveillance camera system that is in
15 place at police headquarters.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
23 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to
25 suspend the Rules and move 5-B to Sixth and

1 Seventh Order to be considered for final
2 passage based on the attached emergency
3 certificate.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: 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 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
13 ayes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A -
15 FORMERLY 5-B - READING BY TITLE -FILE OF
16 COUNCIL NO. 41 -2014 - AN ORDINANCE -
17 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11, 1976 -
18 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
19 ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE
20 PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO PERCENT (2%)
21 ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS ON PERSONS,
22 INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO
23 ARE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
24 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
25 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS

1 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
2 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
3 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO
4 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE
5 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
6 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
7 THE VIOLATIONS"; BY RE-ENACTING THE
8 IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR
9 TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR
10 RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED
11 INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF
12 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED
13 OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2014. **(EMERGENCY**
15 **CERTIFICATE ATTACHED)**

16 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to, if anyone
17 would like to speak to what is now 6-A and
18 potentially 7-A, will have the opportunity
19 to do so now.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
21 I would like to reiterate if this is not
22 necessary I don't know why you are doing
23 this at all. There is no emergency. If
24 there had been an emergency, presumably you
25 would have come back during the month of

1 August and taken care of it then, and again,
2 if it's not required why bother? Thank you.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, Bill
4 Jackowitz. I don't have a problem with you
5 guys pushing this on up and getting it done
6 in one night, my problem is the same problem
7 I had with the audit, we do this on regular
8 basis. Why don't we have standard operating
9 procedures in the City of Scranton? The
10 City of Scranton has been in existence for I
11 don't know 200 years? I have no idea. I
12 remember growing a beard for the 100-year
13 centennial when I in high school so I don't
14 know how many years it's been here, when are
15 we going to wake up? I mean, seriously.
16 Now we opened up a door for the commuters to
17 take us into Court and now we have to defend
18 this, which is going to cost the city more
19 money because we are going to have defend
20 this because of the statements made.

21 I appreciated Attorney Shrive
22 stepping up to the plate and admitting that
23 he made a mistake. I think that's awfully
24 manly of himself to do that, but it doesn't
25 rest with him. Mayor Courtright was a city

1 councilman for six years. Mr. Rogan and
2 Mr. McGoff have been on council for several
3 years, we have been through this before.
4 Again, if we had a standard operating
5 procedure, an SOP, and a checklist that
6 would outline to all of the people in these
7 jobs what to do, how to do it and when to do
8 it, we could probably alleviate a lot of
9 problems that this city has, okay? That's
10 my point. We make more problems for
11 ourselves than we solve. It's time for the
12 City of Scranton to wake up, so I hope
13 someone passes this onto the administration
14 and to Mayor Courtright that maybe we need
15 to sit down and get the administrative
16 people working on drawing up SOP's, standard
17 operating procedures, like they do in just
18 about every major company in the United
19 States and probably every city except
20 Scranton.

21 MR. MCGOFF: You've heard reading by
22 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

23 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
24 pass reading by title.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

1 MS. MCGOFF: On the question?

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff, just
3 one comment. The reason why I understand
4 this could not be voted on prior to this
5 evening was that a tax -- any tax
6 legislation requires a longer advertising
7 period; is that correct?

8 MS. REED: Correct.

9 MR. WECHSLER: So that's why we
10 couldn't act on it prior to this evening
11 because it had to be advertised I believe
12 for 30 days, so this is the earliest
13 possible chance that we could vote on it.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor
16 signify by saying aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
25 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 70, 2014 -

1 APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK DESARNO, 606 HAMPTON
2 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO THE
3 PERMANENT POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF FIRE
4 FOR THE SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE
5 JULY 26, 2014.

6 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
7 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
8 passage of Item 7-A.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

17 MR. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

23 MS. REED: 7-B, FORMERLY 6-A, FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
25 FOR ADOPTION -FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 41,

1 2014, AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 11,
2 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
3 AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR
4 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
5 TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET
6 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,
7 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE
8 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
9 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
10 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS
11 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
12 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
13 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO
14 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE
15 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
16 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
17 THE VIOLATIONS"; BY RE-ENACTING THE
18 IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR
19 TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR
20 RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED
21 INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED
23 OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF
24 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2014. (EMERGENCY
25 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED) .

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

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

23 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

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

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER