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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING

HELD:

MONDAY JANUARY 6, 2014

TIME:

11:08 A.M.

LOCATION:

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

AMELIA NICOL, RPR
COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

JOHN LOSCOMBE

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

JOSEPH WECHSLER

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

1 MS. CARRERA: Please stand for
2 the Pledge of Allegiance and remain
3 standing for the invocation by
4 Reverend Joseph Sica.

5 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

6 REVEREND SICA: Let us bow our
7 heads in prayer. Gracious God, as we
8 begin this new year we need to know
9 that when life hits us or hurts us
10 with uncertainties, inevitable
11 disappointments and unexpected hard
12 aches, you will wrap your arms around
13 us, pick us up and give us the courage
14 to move forward. In your sacred
15 scriptures, oh, God, you said that
16 your people ought to be governed by
17 authorities and obey those
18 authorities. You've established these
19 authorities to promote peace, order
20 and justice, therefore, today we pray
21 for our City Council, we pray for
22 Joseph, Patrick, Robert, William and
23 Jack. We ask that you graciously
24 grant them the wisdom to govern amid
25 the conflicting interest and issues of

1 our times, to give them a sense of the
2 welfare and true needs of all of our
3 people, a keen thirst for justice and
4 righteousness, confidence in what they
5 do, the ability to always work
6 together and never make it personal,
7 to have an honest disagreement, to
8 have personal peace in their lives and
9 joy in their work knowing they helped
10 someone in need. While the privilege
11 to govern with the values that brought
12 them to public life, give the
13 assurance of your support as they work
14 each and every day for all of our
15 citizens of this beloved City of
16 Scranton. In your name we pray this.
17 Amen.

18 MS. CARRERA: In accordance with
19 the Home Rule Charter of the City of
20 Scranton designating the first Monday
21 of January as the day for City Council
22 to reorganize, I hereby call this 2014
23 reorganization meeting to order. Roll
24 call, please.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Here.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: At this time I
11 would like to ask that as people are
12 called to the podium to be sworn in,
13 it would be appreciated if the judges
14 and elected officials would then sign
15 the documents that Jamie will have
16 ready for you when you're through with
17 any comments you may have. I have
18 before me the Certificates of Election
19 of Pat Rogan, William Gaughan and
20 Joseph Wechsler as City Council
21 persons. Will the council adopt a
22 motion to the effect that the
23 certificates be received and ordered
24 filed and made a part of the minutes?

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I second the
2 motion.

3 MS. CARRERA: On the question?
4 All those in favor signify by saying
5 aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MS. CARRERA: Opposed? The ayes
12 have it and so moved.

13 I will now ask the Honorable
14 Judge Terrence to come forward and
15 administer the oath of office to Pat
16 Rogan for the elected Office of City
17 Council.

18 JUDGE NEALON: I want to
19 congratulate Pat on his reelection and
20 thank him for affording me the
21 privilege of swearing him in as I did
22 four years ago. Pat, if you can
23 please raise your right hand and repeat
24 after me. I, Pat Rogan --

25 MR. ROGAN: I, Pat Rogan --

1 JUDGE NEALON: -- do solemnly
2 swear --

3 MR. ROGAN: -- do solemnly
4 swear --

5 JUDGE NEALON: -- that I will
6 support, obey and defend --

7 MR. ROGAN: -- that I will
8 support, obey and defend --

9 JUDGE NEALON: The Constitution
10 of the United States --

11 MR. ROGAN: -- the Constitution
12 of the United States --

13 JUDGE NEALON: -- and the
14 Constitution of the Commonwealth of
15 Pennsylvania.

16 MR. ROGAN: -- and the
17 Constitution of the Commonwealth of
18 Pennsylvania --

19 JUDGE NEALON: -- and that I will
20 discharge the duties of my office --

21 MR. ROGAN: -- and I will
22 discharge the duties of my office --

23 JUDGE NEALON: -- with fidelity.

24 MR. ROGAN: -- with fidelity.

25 JUDGE NEALON: So help me God.

1 MR. ROGAN: So help me God.

2 JUDGE NEALON: Congratulations.

3 (Applause).

4 MS. CARRERA: I will now ask the
5 Honorable Judge Thomas Munley to come
6 forward and administer the office of
7 oath to William Gaughan for elected
8 Office of City Council.

9 JUDGE MUNLEY: This is a great
10 day for me to be here with my
11 colleague Judge Nealon. I want to say
12 that, first of all, to be here with
13 Bill. You're just an amazing person.
14 Bill and I are friends a long time.
15 Joe Gilhooly introduced us a long
16 time ago and I think you're a
17 wonderful person and your family. I
18 know your grandmother can't make it,
19 Helen, your family but she's a close
20 friend of mine also and all the rest
21 of families are here and I feel like
22 they're family to me. But you really
23 are an amazing person. I just want to
24 say this. I'm looking at all the
25 people here, all the office holders

1 that have showed up for all of the
2 council people who are elected and
3 Father Sica said, "I hope God helps
4 you." He will. Thank you, Father
5 Sica. They're going to need it -- but
6 Patrick O'Malley, thanks, Judge
7 Nealon. You know, we have district
8 judges here, we have Pat O'Malley,
9 Marty Flynn, all these people that
10 showed up for you. You deserve a lot
11 of credit for coming to honor the
12 people who are getting sworn in. And
13 I want to say that on your behalf
14 because like Paul Ware and Joanne
15 Corbett, they showed up for you and
16 for all the other people and so did
17 Marty Flynn and Patrick. Thanks so
18 much. That means a lot to all of the
19 people who are newly sworn in. Bill,
20 I call him Bill. He's down as William
21 but we call him Bill. Bill, raise
22 your right hand, please.

23 I, Bill Gaughan --

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I, Bill Gaughan --

25 JUDGE MUNLEY: -- do solemnly

1 swear --

2 MR. GAUGHAN: -- do solemnly

3 swear --

4 JUDGE MUNLEY: -- that I will
5 uphold the Constitution of the United
6 States --

7 MR. GAUGHAN: -- that I will
8 uphold the Constitution of the United
9 States --

10 JUDGE MUNLEY: -- and the
11 Constitution of the State of
12 Pennsylvania --

13 MR. GAUGHAN: -- and the
14 Constitution of the State of
15 Pennsylvania --

16 JUDGE MUNLEY: -- and I will
17 perform my duties --

18 MR. GAUGHAN: -- and I will
19 perform my duties --

20 JUDGE MUNLEY: -- as councilman
21 of the City of Scranton --

22 MR. GAUGHAN: -- as councilman of
23 the City of Scranton --

24 JUDGE MUNLEY: -- with
25 fidelity.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: -- with fidelity.

2 JUDGE MUNLEY: So help me God.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: So help me God.

4 JUDGE MUNLEY: Congratulations.

5 (Applause.)

6 JUDGE MUNLEY: And former Mayor

7 Jimmy Connors is here.

8 MS. CARRERA: I will now ask the

9 Honorable Judge Joanne Corbett to come

10 forward and administer the oath of

11 office to Joseph Wechsler for the

12 elected office of City Council.

13 JUDGE CORBETT: I stand here

14 honored and privileged to swear Joe

15 Wechsler in as a member of our City

16 Council. He is a long time advocate

17 of our city. I know he is going to

18 serve us well. He stands here with

19 his very supportive family today and

20 it is an honor to swear him into this

21 position. Joe, please place your hand

22 on the Bible. Repeat after me. I,

23 Joseph Wechsler --

24 Mr. Wechsler: I, Joseph

25 Wechsler --

1 JUDGE CORBETT: -- having been
2 duly appointed --

3 MR. WECHSLER: -- having been
4 duly appointed --

5 JUDGE CORBETT: -- do solemnly
6 swear --

7 MR. WECHSLER: -- do solemnly
8 swear --

9 JUDGE CORBETT: -- that I will
10 support, obey and defend --

11 MR. WECHSLER: -- that I will
12 support, obey and defend --

13 JUDGE CORBETT: -- the
14 Constitution of the United States --

15 MR. WECHSLER: -- the
16 Constitution of the United States --

17 JUDGE CORBETT: -- and the
18 Constitution of this Commonwealth --

19 MR. WECHSLER: -- and the
20 Constitution of this Commonwealth --

21 JUDGE CORBETT: -- and that I
22 will discharge the duties of the
23 office of a member of City Council --

24 MR. WECHSLER: -- and I will
25 discharge the duties of members of

1 City Council --

2 JUDGE CORBETT: -- of this great

3 city --

4 MR. WECHSLER: -- of this great

5 city --

6 JUDGE CORBETT: -- with

7 fidelity --

8 MR. WECHSLER: -- with

9 fidelity --

10 JUDGE CORBETT: -- to the best of

11 my ability --

12 MR. WECHSLER: -- to the best of

13 my ability --

14 JUDGE CORBETT: -- and I will

15 strive for the success of this city --

16 MR. WECHSLER: -- and I will

17 strive for the success of this city --

18 JUDGE CORBETT: -- within the

19 laws of the Commonwealth --

20 MR. WECHSLER: -- within the laws

21 of the Commonwealth --

22 JUDGE CORBETT: -- and the bylaws

23 of this organization.

24 MR. WECHSLER: -- and the bylaws

25 of this organization.

1 JUDGE CORBETT: So help me God.

2 MR. WECHSLER: So help me God.

3 JUDGE CORBETT: Congratulations.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. CARRERA: I will now accept
7 nominations for temporary chairperson.
8 What is your pleasure?

9 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to
10 appoint Jack Loscombe temporary
11 chairperson.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

13 MS. CARRERA: On the question?
14 All those in favor say aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MS. CARRERA: Opposed? The ayes
21 have it and so moved. Mr. Loscombe,
22 will you please takeover as temporary
23 chairperson.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary
25 chairperson, I now call for nominating

1 of a permanent president of council
2 for the ensuing two years.

3 MR. ROGAN: I nominate Robert
4 McGoff as president of City Council.

5 MR. WECHSLER: I second the
6 motion.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question?
8 Roll call, please.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: The motion is
20 adopted and I declare Mr. Robert
21 McGoff duly and legally elected
22 president of City Council.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I now call for
25 nomination of a vice president of

1 council for the ensuing two years.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I nominate Pat Rogan
3 as vice president of City Council.

4 MR. WECHSLER: I second.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question?
6 Roll call, please.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: The motion is
18 adopted and I declare Pat Rogan duly
19 and legally elected Vice President of
20 City Council.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. ROGAN: At this time I would
23 like to make a motion that City
24 Council appoint Amil Minora to the
25 position of City Council Solicitor.

1 MR. WECHSLER: I second the
2 motion.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye. Opposed?
10 The ayes have it. So moved. Thank
11 you. We will proceed with the
12 reorganization. I now ask for
13 nominations for city clerk.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I nominate Lori
15 Reed, City Clerk.

16 MR. WECHSLER: I second the
17 motion.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would just
20 like to thank outgoing clerk, Nancy
21 Krake, for her service. It was a
22 pleasure working with her. I wish she
23 could have stayed for two more years
24 but I am looking forward to working
25 with Mrs. Reed.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. Roll
2 call, please.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: The motion is
14 adopted and I declare Lori Reed duly
15 and legal elected City Clerk.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I will now ask
18 Councilman McGoff to come forward to
19 be sworn in as Council President by
20 the Honorable Judge Terrence Nealon.

21 JUDGE NEALON: You know, in
22 addition to congratulating Bob, I want
23 to point out much has been written and
24 said in the past few days about this
25 transitional period that council is

1 going through but I have to say I
2 think this is the first time in the
3 history of Scranton City Council that
4 you have had two sitting council
5 persons who have been married to women
6 whose last name is Nealon, Marita
7 Nealon McGoff and Kathy Nealon
8 Wechsler. I just want to point that
9 out. But having said that, Bob, if
10 you could kindly raise your right hand
11 and repeat after me. I, Robert
12 McGoff --

13 MR. MCGOFF: I, Robert McGoff --

14 JUDGE NEALON: -- do solemnly
15 swear --

16 MR. MCGOFF: -- do solemnly
17 swear --

18 JUDGE NEALON: -- that I will
19 support, obey and defend --

20 MR. MCGOFF: -- that I will
21 support, obey and defend --

22 JUDGE NEALON: -- the
23 Constitution of the United States --

24 MR. MCGOFF: -- the Constitution
25 of the United States --

1 JUDGE NEALON: -- and the
2 Constitution of the Commonwealth of
3 Pennsylvania --

4 MR. MCGOFF: -- and the
5 Constitution of the Commonwealth of
6 Pennsylvania --

7 JUDGE NEALON: -- and that I will
8 discharge the duties of my office --

9 MR. MCGOFF: -- and that I will
10 discharge the duties of my office --

11 JUDGE NEALON: -- with fidelity.

12 MR. MCGOFF: -- with fidelity.

13 JUDGE NEALON: So help me God.

14 MR. MCGOFF: So help me God.

15 (Applause.)

16 JUDGE NEALON: Congratulations.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I will now ask
18 Councilman Rogan to come forward to be
19 sworn in as Council Vice President by
20 the Honorable Judge Terrence Neal on.

21 JUDGE NEALON: Raise your right
22 hand. Repeat after me. I, Pat
23 Rogan --

24 MR. ROGAN: I, Pat Rogan --

25 JUDGE NEALON: -- do solemnly

1 swear --

2 MR. ROGAN: -- do solemnly

3 swear --

4 JUDGE NEALON: -- that I will

5 support, obey and defend --

6 MR. ROGAN: -- that I will

7 support, obey and defend --

8 JUDGE NEALON: -- the

9 Constitution of the United States --

10 MR. ROGAN: -- the Constitution

11 of the United States --

12 JUDGE NEALON: -- and the

13 Constitution of the Commonwealth of

14 Pennsylvania --

15 MR. ROGAN: -- the constitution

16 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania --

17 Judge NEALON: -- and that I will

18 discharge the duties of my office --

19 MR. ROGAN: -- and I will

20 discharge the duties of my office --

21 JUDGE NEALON: -- with fidelity.

22 MR. ROGAN: -- with fidelity.

23 JUDGE NEALON: So help me God.

24 MR. ROGAN: So help me God.

25 JUDGE NEALON: Congratulations.

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: I will now ask
3 Lori Reed to come forward to be sworn
4 in as city clerk by the Honorable Paul
5 Ware.

6 JUDGE WARE: Like those that were
7 here before me I have to tell you how
8 privileged I am that Lori thought me
9 worthy enough to swear her in as
10 Scranton City Clerk. I couldn't be
11 happier for them and for the City of
12 Scranton. Lori, kindly place your
13 hands on the Bible held by your
14 mother, Ann Kirby. Raise you right
15 hand and repeat after me. Now this
16 6th day of January --

17 MS. REED: Now, the 6th day
18 January --

19 JUDGE WARE: I, Lori Kirby
20 Reed --

21 MS. REED: I, Lori Kirby Reed --

22 JUDGE WARE: -- having been duly
23 appointed --

24 MS. REED: -- having been duly
25 appointed --

1 JUDGE WARE: -- do solemnly
2 swear --

3 MS. REED: -- do solemnly
4 swear --

5 JUDGE WARE: -- I will support,
6 obey and defend --

7 MS. REED: -- that I will
8 support, obey and defend --

9 JUDGE WARE: -- the Constitution
10 of the United States --

11 MS. REED: -- the Constitution of
12 the United States --

13 JUDGE WARE: -- and the
14 Constitution of this Commonwealth --

15 MS. REED: -- and the
16 Constitution of this Commonwealth --

17 JUDGE WARE: -- and that I will
18 discharge the duties of the office --

19 MS. REED: -- and I will
20 discharge the duties of the office --

21 JUDGE WARE: -- of City Clerk of
22 the City of Scranton --

23 MS. REED: -- of City Clerk of
24 the City of Scranton --

25 JUDGE WARE: -- with fidelity --

1 MS. REED: -- with fidelity --

2 JUDGE WARE: -- to the best of my
3 ability --

4 MS. REED: -- to the best of my
5 ability --

6 JUDGE WARE: -- and I will strive
7 for the success of this city --

8 MS. REED: -- and I will strive
9 for the success of this city --

10 JUDGE WARE: -- within the laws
11 of the Commonwealth --

12 MS. REED: -- within the laws of
13 the Commonwealth --

14 JUDGE WARE: -- and the bylaws of
15 this organization.

16 MS. REED: -- and the bylaws of
17 this organization.

18 JUDGE WARE: So help me God.

19 MS. REED: So help me God.

20 JUDGE WARE: Congratulations.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I can't take the
23 heat anymore. So I'll now ask Mr.
24 McGoff to takeover as permanent
25 chairman and president of Scranton

1 City Council.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.
3 Loscombe. We are now ready to
4 consider the rules of procedure by
5 which this council will be governed
6 during the next two years. What is
7 your pleasure?

8 MR. ROGAN: I move that the Rules
9 of Council be adopted by Resolution
10 No. 1, 2014, as required by the Home
11 Rule Charter.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: I second the
13 motion.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Reed, would you
15 please read Resolution No. 1.

16 MS. REED: Resolution No. 1,
17 2014, adopting the rules and order of
18 business of the Scranton City Council,
19 Scranton, Pennsylvania.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
21 would just like to make note that the
22 rules of council, the only significant
23 change in the rules of council moving
24 forward is the time of the meetings.
25 Meetings will be held on Thursday

1 evening starting at 6:30 to be
2 preceded by a council caucus at 6
3 o'clock. All those in favor signify
4 by saying aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 The following will be the
13 committee chairpersons for the next
14 two years. Community Development, Pat
15 Rogan; Public Works, Bill Gaughan;
16 Public Safety, Jack Loscombe; Finance,
17 Joe Wechsler; Rules, Bob McGoff.
18 Subcommittees, Pension
19 Review/Administration, Bob McGoff;
20 Downtown Revitalization, Jack
21 Loscombe; Boards/Commissions, Pat
22 Rogan; Revenues and Taxes, Joe
23 Wechsler; Intergovernmental Relations,
24 Bill Gaughan.

25 I will now ask or call on each

1 member for a few brief remarks.

2 Mr. Wechsler.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
4 McGoff. I'd like to thank everyone
5 today for coming and supporting this
6 council as we begin our journey in
7 revitalizing the City of Scranton,
8 Pennsylvania. I want to thank my
9 wife, Kathy; my son, Drew, and my
10 daughter, Amy. I wish my parents were
11 here today. And also want to make
12 sure that we know that this council is
13 committed to working with all the
14 residents, all the residents -- I will
15 now turn my mike on the next thing.
16 All the residents of the city, all the
17 interested parties and especially
18 working very closely with Mayor Bill
19 Courtright and moving this city
20 forward and I thank you for this
21 opportunity.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would like to
25 take a moment to once again thank

1 outgoing council members, Janet Evans
2 and Frank Joyce for their service. It
3 was a pleasure to serve with me on
4 City Council. I would also like to
5 welcome our two new members of City
6 Council, Mr. Wechsler and Mr. Gaughan.
7 I look forward to working with you
8 along with Mr. Loscombe and Mr. McGoff
9 over the next two years to help better
10 our city.

11 Today is a great day for the City
12 of Scranton. With the new mayor and
13 new leadership on City Council the
14 time is now to finally have
15 cooperation between the two branches
16 of city government to help get the
17 city moving in the right direction. I
18 am humble that the voters of Scranton
19 gave me their stamp of approval for
20 second term on City Council. I am
21 truly honored and I would like to
22 thank each and everyone of the 10,333
23 voters that made me the top vote
24 getter in the City of Scranton. I
25 would also like to thank my family for

1 supporting me in this endeavor. I
2 would especially like to thank my mom,
3 Debbie; my dad, John; my brother, Josh
4 who couldn't be here today because
5 he's attending school at Pittsburgh
6 University and my girlfriend, Amanda,
7 who put up with the entire campaign,
8 for their support throughout this
9 entire last year. It's no secret that
10 we face many challenges over the next
11 four years. But as Ronald Reagan once
12 said, we in government should learn to
13 look at our country with the eyes of
14 the entrepreneur seeing possibilities
15 where others only see problems. The
16 opportunities for a city with safe
17 neighborhoods, the hardest working
18 people in America and strong family
19 values are endless. Although it will
20 certainly take hard work and time to
21 realize all the potential our great
22 city has, I look forward to working
23 with Mayor Courtright and my
24 colleagues on City Council to turn
25 these possibilities into a reality.

1 Once again, thank you for the
2 opportunity to serve this great city.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you.

6 I, too, would like to thank Mr. Joyce
7 and Mrs. Evans for their service to
8 the city. I'm looking forward to
9 working with our new council members,
10 Mr. Gaughan and Mr. Wechsler and,
11 again, with Mr. McGoff and Mr. Rogan.
12 And not repeat what Mr. Rogan stated
13 but we do have a daunting task ahead
14 of us and I think we're all up to the
15 task. We've all been residents of the
16 city for many years. We come from
17 different age levels across the board
18 here. So we have a good cross section
19 from the youngest, Mr. McGoff to --

20 MR. MCGOFF: The youngest?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: But I'm looking
22 forward to, you know, things coming up
23 this year. There will be a lot of
24 hard decisions. First of all, I want
25 to congratulate the family and friends

1 who have come here this afternoon for
2 our new members and also our elected
3 officials. I believe I see some
4 former council members in the seats,
5 too. It's a little different on the
6 other there. For those family members
7 that are here now, you're the support
8 system for these gentlemen. They're
9 going to be coming home some nights
10 tearing their hair out. You're going
11 to be going to dinners, you're going
12 to be going to the stores, grocery
13 stores and people are going to come up
14 to you asking questions, asking for
15 help and asking for different things.
16 That's why we're here, to serve the
17 public. That's where we hear a lot of
18 our ideas and what concerns the public
19 has by being out there amongst the
20 public and along with the members of
21 the city that come here and speak on a
22 weekly basis and pass their ideas off,
23 their concerns, you know, it's going
24 to be a task. It's a part-time job
25 but it is a full-time job. You don't

1 really have any rest. And, again,
2 from my colleagues who have been here
3 and they realize this and we're in it
4 for the long term, we're in it for the
5 right reasons. We are here to help
6 get this city back on its feet. And
7 although we may disagree on different
8 decisions, at the end of the day we're
9 all working for what we believe is the
10 right thing and the right reasons.
11 So, you know, we've had rocky roads
12 here through the years but we've all
13 managed to come together when it was
14 really necessary. But I am looking
15 forward. Again, to those family
16 members, you know, be there -- be
17 there for these guys because they're
18 going to bounce things off you for
19 your advice also and they're going to
20 need your compassion when they're
21 feeling down about decisions. So it's
22 not all a bed of roses here. We do
23 have tough decisions sometimes to make
24 and we do anguish over them. But all
25 in all I think we have a great team

1 here. I'm looking forward to working
2 with them and I congratulate them all
3 and I congratulate everyone who came
4 here today and, again, continue
5 providing your support. Thank you
6 very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I'd like to
10 first thank Judge Munley for swearing
11 me in today. It's an honor for you to
12 be here and I really appreciate it. I
13 would like to congratulate my fellow
14 colleagues, Pat Rogan and Joe Wechsler
15 on running outstanding campaigns. I
16 look forward to working with them
17 along with current council members,
18 Bob McGoff and Jack Loscombe. I'd
19 like to congratulate Lori Reed on her
20 appointment as our new city clerk.
21 I'm confident that she will do an
22 outstanding job as well as Amil Minora
23 and congratulate him on his
24 appointment as our council solicitor.

25 I would like to extend my

1 congratulations to our new mayor, Bill
2 Courtright. I wish him the best of
3 luck and I look forward to working
4 with him. I'd also like to wish our
5 outgoing mayor, Chris Doherty, the
6 best of luck in his future endeavors.
7 I thank him for his service to our
8 city for the past 12 years.

9 I'm absolutely honored to be
10 sitting here today as councilman of
11 the City of Scranton. I did not take
12 the journey here today alone. I have
13 so many people to thank for all their
14 help and support throughout my
15 campaign. My fiancée, Kelly, who is
16 here today in the audience has been
17 with me since day one when I decided
18 that I was going to run for City
19 Council. There is no way I could have
20 done this without her love and
21 support. We're getting married in
22 September and I'm positive everything
23 with the wedding will go smoothly or I
24 am certain and I've been threatened
25 that I'll have her as a opponent in

1 four years. But I love her dearly and
2 I thank her for everything. I thank
3 my parents, Marie and Jack, who
4 encourage me every step of the way.
5 They've taught me so much and given me
6 every opportunity to be successful. I
7 know they are proud of me but I'm also
8 proud of them for being great parents.
9 I thank my brothers, Eddie and Jackie;
10 my sisters, Katie and Kelly, for their
11 hard work and dedication. They did
12 whatever I asked them and I won't
13 forget that. I have the best aunts
14 and uncles in the City of Scranton
15 that anybody could ever ask for.
16 Everyone of them pushed so hard for me
17 throughout the city every single day
18 of the campaign. My uncles, Jerry,
19 John and Billy Trently were there for
20 me every time I needed them. I have
21 so many cousins that I wasn't really
22 worried if the election was close as
23 long as they all voted and they did so
24 I thank them for all of their help.
25 My future father and mother-in-law,

1 Jim and Lori Wright, supported me and
2 went out of their way to help me. I
3 thank them for everything they have
4 done. Kelly's Grandma, Mary McLane, I
5 think her fingers are still swollen
6 from calling all of her friends and
7 she did more so than once so I thank
8 her very much for her hard work. And
9 last but not least I thank my
10 grandmother, Helen Trently, who as
11 Judge Munley pointed out couldn't be
12 here today. My grandma has been
13 involved in Democratic politics in the
14 City of Scranton her whole entire
15 life. Her father which would be my
16 great grandfather, Edward Nolan, ran
17 for City Council in the 1940's and was
18 a fierce advocate for residents in
19 South Scranton who were losing their
20 homes to mine subsidence. There was a
21 long history in my family of standing
22 up and fighting for what is right. My
23 grandmother has instilled that fight
24 in me and I sought my grandma's advise
25 every step of the way. Her Irish wit,

1 toughness and spirit inspires me every
2 single day. I love her and thank her
3 so much for everything she has done
4 for me.

5 In closing I'd like to thank all
6 of you for your confidence in me to be
7 your next City Councilman. I do not
8 shrink from this great responsibility.
9 I welcome it. I can promise one
10 thing. I will be honest. Everyone
11 will know where I stand on issues that
12 come before us as a council. I will
13 do my research and listen to each and
14 every side of the debate. It takes
15 courage to stand up and speak but it
16 also takes courage to sit down and
17 listen and that is what I'm committed
18 to doing. William Arthur Ward one of
19 America's finest writers said that the
20 pessimist complains about the wind.
21 The optimist expects it to change but
22 the realist adjusts the sails. I'm
23 confident that my colleagues on
24 council along with our new mayor will
25 begin to adjust the sails of the City

1 of Scranton. We cannot put the blame
2 on the past but we must accept
3 responsibility for the future of our
4 city. Thank you all for coming out
5 this morning and God bless Scranton.
6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to
9 thank my colleagues for electing me to
10 this post as President of Council.
11 It's a great honor and in the seven
12 years that I have been sitting here as
13 a member of council, I have a number
14 of different experiences as a member
15 of a majority/minority. And the lines
16 of demarcation had been pretty well
17 set in those seven years but as I look
18 forward to the next two years on
19 council I think those lines have been
20 erased. I think what we have before
21 us is a council of five independent
22 voices, five independent voices that
23 begin to set a new dynamic for city
24 government. I think we need to change
25 the way things have been done in the

1 past. I think we need to look forward
2 to working with the mayor and I do
3 congratulate Mayor Courtright as we
4 move forward. This new dynamic can be
5 one that will make a better Scranton,
6 one that will allow us to get out of
7 the distressed status and one that
8 will make for a better city. And I
9 look forward to doing that in the next
10 two years with my colleagues here on
11 council. And thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. MCGOFF: I now ask Father
14 Sica to come forward once again to
15 offer the benediction.

16 REVEREND SICA: Let us pray.
17 Gracious and loving God, you are kind
18 and merciful. Be with us each and
19 every day. We thank you for this
20 beloved City of Scranton where all of
21 us were raised, we have our roots, our
22 beginnings. We are proud of the men
23 that you have chosen to be on this
24 council. For Joseph and Pat and
25 Robert, William and Jack as they are

1 your servants now and you will trust
2 this area of your world to them. Let
3 them always work for the common good.
4 May the Lord be with all who gather
5 here today and are going out and are
6 coming home, our labor, our leisure,
7 our laughter and our tears and may all
8 of us be blessed by you of a God who
9 is the Father, the Son and the Holy
10 Spirit. Amen.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Father
12 Sica. I will now call for a motion to
13 adjourn.

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

16 MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is
17 adjourned there being no further
18 business. Our next regularly
19 scheduled meeting will be held on
20 Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 6:30
21 p.m. Thank you all for attending
22 today.

23 (Proceedings concluded at 11:45
24 a.m.)

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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 taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

Amelia Nicol, RPR
Court Reporter