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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Saturday, February 15, 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
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- JOSEPH WECHSLER
- WILLIAM GAUGHAN
  
- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe. Mr.  
9 Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with  
13 the reading of the minutes, please. I  
14 should also make note that Mr. Loscombe did  
15 contact council and he will be unable to  
16 make today's meeting.

17 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

18 OUTLINE OF THE 2013 AUDIT TIME TABLE FROM  
19 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED ON JANUARY 21,  
20 2014.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
22 If not, received and filed.

23 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
24 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE  
25 AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD

1 ON NOVEMBER 21, 2013.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. REED: 3-C. RESULTS OF TAX  
5 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD ON  
6 JANUARY 8, 2014.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
10 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING  
11 AUTHORITY HELD ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

13 If not, received and filed.

14 MS. REED: 3-E. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
15 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12,  
16 2014.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. REED: 3-F. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
20 FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

22 If not, received and filed.

23 Are there any Clerk's notes for  
24 today?

25 MS. REED: Not at this time,

1 Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. On today's  
3 agenda, just very quickly, are number of the  
4 appointments. We have been asked if we  
5 would table, I'm looking for the right  
6 number.

7 MR. MINORA: 5-C.

8 MR. MCGOFF: It would be 5-C. We  
9 have been asked if we would table that  
10 appointment. And the others, I should make  
11 note that the appointments to the Parking  
12 Authority, the Parking Authority operates  
13 under a different set of -- or a different  
14 statute than other authorities, and that  
15 appointments and removals from the Parking  
16 Authority can be done at the discretion of  
17 the mayor. The mayor does not have to wait  
18 until the terms expire for those to make new  
19 appointments just so people are aware of  
20 that.

21 Any other announcements from  
22 council?

23 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. McGoff, I have  
24 two, please.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

1 MR. WECHSLER: This evening the  
2 North Scranton Viking football team will be  
3 having a benefit for the Lebron family.  
4 That will be held at McCullen's Bar, which  
5 is formerly Jilly's. The fundraiser will be  
6 begin tonight from 5 until 9.

7 And one other one I got is for next  
8 Thursday, February 20, the Kiwanis Club of  
9 Scranton is presenting a community salute to  
10 Matt McGloin. This will be at the Radisson  
11 Lackawanna Station and it begins at 5:30 to  
12 6:30 with dinner at 6:30. Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Just two  
14 announcements from the Business  
15 Administrator. Proposals will be opened in  
16 council chambers on Monday, March 3, 2014,  
17 at 10 a.m. for City of Scranton RFP for  
18 financial advisory services. That would be  
19 Monday, March 3rd at 10 a.m., proposals for  
20 RFP for financial advisory services.

21 And one other, it's kind of a little  
22 past due, but RFP proposals were opened  
23 yesterday for legal services, special labor  
24 counsel, for the City of Scranton and there  
25 were seven proposals submitted.

1 And that is all.

2 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
3 PARTICIPATION.

4 MR. MCGOFF: There is no one signed  
5 in, so anyone who would wish to address  
6 council, please do so.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good snowy morning.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Morning.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: First of all, could  
10 you provide the statutes that you mentioned  
11 before, the differing ones for the differing  
12 authorities at some point. Not right now,  
13 but I would like --

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I don't have it.  
15 It was communicated to us through the Law  
16 Department.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. On, 5-B --  
18 no, excuse me, 5-E, is this the same Paul  
19 McGloin that is regularly in the court memos  
20 for tax delinquencies?

21 MR. MCGOFF: What was the --

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: I said 5-E,  
23 Mr. McGloin, is he the same one that's  
24 regularly in the court notes for tax  
25 delinquencies? Could you check that,

1           because I really don't think we should be  
2           appointing -- if it is, I don't think we  
3           should be appointing people who are not  
4           doing what we ask of our citizens. Thank  
5           you.

6                         And then I've been wanting to ask  
7           this for some time, on 3-C, would it be  
8           possible for the Clerk's Office to provide  
9           on a monthly basis the results of just for  
10          the city taxes or city assessments on the  
11          whether they would -- how much they have  
12          gone up, the cumulative amount? How much  
13          they have gone up or down?

14                        MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I'm sure that we  
15          could do that. I will ask Mrs. Reed if that  
16          will be made available I would assume to  
17          Mr. Wechsler for --

18                        MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

19                        MR. MCGOFF: -- in a timely manner.

20                        MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

21                        MR. MCGOFF: Sorry to give you a  
22          duty.

23                        MS. SCHUMACHER: Mr. Loscombe is not  
24          here, but first the status of the questions  
25          I have submitted? When --



1 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Schumacher or Ms.  
2 Schumacher, I do --

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you have them?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I do have those, I was  
5 in the process of doing -- trying to get  
6 answers to all of those. I will get those  
7 to you. I do not have them, I will have  
8 them at least by the next meeting.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

10 Question, will Chief Graziano and the acting  
11 Chief DeSarno have overlapping pensions for  
12 four years? Last week you passed that --

13 MR. MCGOFF: What did you mean by  
14 overlapping, I'm not quite sure what --

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I assume as a  
16 chief they get a city pension that is  
17 separate from a union pension and you --  
18 Mr. Loscombe last week said it's always been  
19 in the firefighters' contract that they are  
20 allowed -- that if someone is acting they  
21 are allowed to contribute to the  
22 firefighters' union pension and so now they  
23 would be eligible for both, and then you  
24 passed the one for the police department to  
25 make it the same as the fire department.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know if they  
2 are paying -- if either was paying in or is  
3 paying into two different pension plans.  
4 I'm sure that the only way that they could  
5 collect from two would be if they were  
6 paying into two.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, could you  
8 check that out? Thank you. Because we do  
9 contribute a significant chunk of that as  
10 well.

11 And then I'm unhappy to report that  
12 I believe both of the fire hydrants that  
13 service my home are no where to be seen and  
14 several years ago I asked that we do as  
15 other communities do and that is put the  
16 flags on so people at least know where they  
17 are and that the plows can at least take  
18 that into consideration when they are  
19 plowing. You know, it was just two short  
20 weeks ago we were lamenting the fire hazards  
21 of the people that were affected by the  
22 water outage and now many of us are in the  
23 same boat because there is no access to the  
24 hydrants and they are iced in and packed in.

25 Again, back to the liability issue

1 with the rental registration fee, what  
2 services are provided by the fee paid by the  
3 owners of the rental property other than the  
4 safety verification? And are we  
5 currently -- are we current on those  
6 inspections, and if not what is the  
7 liability if we take the fee and something  
8 happens that could have been avoided if the  
9 inspection had occurred? Would the city be  
10 liable?

11 Again, I would ask for a monthly  
12 report on the number of properties that are  
13 registered and how many of those properties  
14 have been inspected, if we could do that. I  
15 don't know, whose bailiwick is that?  
16 Mr. Rogan's I guess with the community --

17 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know. I don't  
18 know which auspice that would --

19 MR. ROGAN: I think both me and  
20 Mr. Wechsler could both work on that  
21 together because it involves finance with  
22 the income coming in into community  
23 development. I know we spoke briefly about  
24 some changes to the rental registration  
25 so --

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And --

2 MR. MCGOFF: Continue.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Well, I  
4 would really like to talk about another  
5 subject tonight, I'm going to stick without  
6 firefighting for awhile, our force, as  
7 public safety is the number one priority for  
8 our or any city. I have more questions than  
9 answers, so unless Mr. Loscombe has any  
10 questions I won't expect any answers until  
11 next week, but first a little bit of  
12 history. Prior to the SAFER grant award  
13 three of the seven engine companies had been  
14 closed down and there were brownouts at the  
15 remaining companies. The number of  
16 firefighters was 113.

17 In late May of 2010, the award of  
18 \$8.2 million SAFER grant was announced. The  
19 grant was sufficient to rehire 28 laid off  
20 firefighters and one returning from military  
21 duty and for adding 20 new firefighters.

22 The administration declined the  
23 funds for the new firefighters as they would  
24 not have the money to retain them after the  
25 two-year life of the grant and would have to

1 pay unemployment benefits when they were  
2 laid off. This reduced the amount of the  
3 grant to \$5.1 million. My first questions  
4 have to do with the grant itself. Was it  
5 all received in one lump sum, and if so,  
6 into what account and if not how was it  
7 received? I'm assuming we don't have the  
8 answers to that tonight, but I'll get them  
9 in writing maybe this afternoon or this  
10 weekend hopefully.

11 Now, the SAFER grant website states  
12 the only allowable costs under the hiring of  
13 firefighters' category for new or rehired  
14 firefighters are salary and associated  
15 benefits, actual payroll expenses. SAFER  
16 funding will pay for the total salary and  
17 benefit costs for each unfunded -- or for  
18 each funded position. How much was drawn  
19 down from the total grant in 2012 and 2013?

20 Also, I assume that's got to be  
21 checked.

22 Now, back to the present. I'll skip  
23 part of it. In 2014 the budget compensation  
24 in addition to the standard salary is 133  
25 percent of the standard salary. Applying

1 the additions to standard salary factoring  
2 the average 2014 budgeted for the two  
3 categories funded by the SAFER grant  
4 rehires, that being 11 chauffeurs and 19  
5 privates, will cost about \$2,325,000.

6 While the operating budget includes  
7 this funding, and I might add very, very  
8 disappointing because it was overlooked by  
9 myself and I have been chastising myself for  
10 that, and also in the presentation of the  
11 budget, because the number when you go to  
12 the Bureau of Fire page it shows as a  
13 decrement the number of firefighters which  
14 remained the same but the amount it was not  
15 made clear that for half a year the budget  
16 was actually going up by \$2 million and we  
17 were in essence adding.

18 Now, I do want those firefighters  
19 there, but I don't think it was presented in  
20 a manner that people were aware was  
21 happening. But that being said, the mayor's  
22 transition team estimated on the night that  
23 Mr. Hickey was here that the budgeted  
24 revenues are over estimated by \$7.85  
25 million. What are the chances we might lose

1 all or a portion of these expenses formerly  
2 picked up by FEMA to balance the budget? If  
3 anything, the city's finances have  
4 deteriorated since 2012 when we couldn't  
5 afford more than 113 firefighters so how  
6 will we afford them now?

7 And that's my question, and I'll  
8 quit there for tonight and maybe see you  
9 Thursday night. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.  
11 Schumacher.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good morning.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Good morning.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
15 Scranton taxpayer, and I do mean taxpayer  
16 because on Monday I paid my real estate  
17 taxes. I had to fight hard at Steamtown  
18 Mall to let me in at 8:30 because they said,  
19 "The mall is not open yet."

20 And I said, "I'm going to pay my  
21 taxes."

22 Which brings up Marie's point on  
23 Item 5-E. I, too, have been reading the  
24 Lackawanna County notes every week and many  
25 times every year I see the name Paul

1 McGloin, and I always say to myself, "Gee,  
2 is that related to the famous Matt McGloin?"

3 And I think what we need to do is  
4 check that address to see if the two match,  
5 and if this is the gentleman who is  
6 repeatedly in the newspaper for tax liens I  
7 think we need to ask the question why is he  
8 being nominated to represent the Scranton  
9 Parking Authority, okay? He may have a  
10 reason, maybe it's a tax bill that he is  
11 contested so it appears in the paper, but  
12 for those of us who bother to pay our taxes,  
13 even though it's difficult, I think we are  
14 owed that explanation.

15 I understand that you do not make  
16 that decision, you are simply giving your up  
17 or down, you know, on these recommendations  
18 from nominations from the mayor and it's the  
19 mayor decision, but I think it's an answer  
20 that the taxpayers deserve. Is this man  
21 delinquent in his taxes and if so why is he  
22 being nominated for this post?

23 That having been said, the recent  
24 snow storm that we had, I'm sure there are  
25 many people who felt that the snow was not



1 removed fast enough, but it is not easy.  
2 And last night, I live in the Forum Towers,  
3 and I was watching them cleaning Penn Avenue  
4 at 2:00 in the morning and they are getting  
5 all of that excess out of the curb side so  
6 people could park, and I heard Mayor  
7 Courtright on the radio yesterday morning on  
8 WILK, apparently he had ridden with the DPW  
9 workers at 2:00 in the morning trying to  
10 make sure, you know, that they were able to  
11 get their jobs done and that they have to  
12 support they need, so he is taking a good  
13 faith effort and this is his first major  
14 snow storm, so maybe it wasn't perfect, but  
15 he certainly was involved in the process.

16 I also under that tomorrow at 10  
17 a.m. he will be interviewed on WVIA, and I  
18 think it's probably good for most of us who  
19 can take the time and watch that program to  
20 see what he says in his first interview  
21 after having the assumed position of mayor  
22 to see what policies he is going to advocate  
23 and what direction he wants to take the city  
24 as he is becoming familiar with, more  
25 familiar with the problems, and he has had

1 at least six weeks of ground.

2 So I would recommend that everybody  
3 has an opportunity to watch that interview  
4 10 a.m. on WVIA and that you do so. Whether  
5 you support the mayor or you do not, it's  
6 good, I think, to find out, you know, what  
7 he thinks, what he is going to do for us as  
8 the mayor so that we have the opportunity to  
9 fulfill our role as citizens. We need to  
10 hold our representatives accountable, and  
11 the only way you can do is that is by being  
12 informed.

13 And the last thing I have to say is  
14 I wish everyone would pray for spring.  
15 Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Since there  
17 is no one else in the room, I assume that is  
18 all for citizens' participation.

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

20 MOTIONS.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

22 MR. WECHSLER: Nothing at this time.

23 Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just two comments.

1 One, I would just like to thank all of my  
2 colleagues, we had four council members at  
3 the Pinebrook Neighborhood meeting this past  
4 weekend and there were a lot of items  
5 brought to our attention and we are looking  
6 forward to working with them. It was good  
7 to have LIPS director Pat Hinton there as  
8 well who will be looking into a lot of the  
9 issues that have been going on in Pinebrook  
10 for many years so we are looking to tackling  
11 those issues that were brought up.

12 And just two issues I wanted to  
13 mention publically, and I'll speak to  
14 Mr. Gaughan after the meeting because they  
15 are related, but a resident on the 1500  
16 block of South Irving contacted me, and I  
17 believe we all received an e-mail with a  
18 number of pictures regarding the snow  
19 removal on that street, and for those who  
20 aren't familiar with the area, the 1500 of  
21 South Irving there are two roads that run  
22 right by one another. It's a very strange  
23 setup. It's not a grid like the rest of  
24 West Scranton or South Scranton, and he did  
25 say that the snow removal has been

1           deplorable for decades. This isn't  
2           something new, it's something that's been  
3           going on far too long and I think from  
4           reading the e-mail and looking at the  
5           pictures that were sent that the frustration  
6           just boiled over when the resident couldn't  
7           get to his home because of the problems.

8                        So, Mr. Gaughan, I will give these  
9           to you afterwards and we did address them  
10          with the DPW.

11                       And another issue snow related is  
12          near CMC where there is much permanent  
13          parking for residents, it's been reported  
14          that private haulers have filled snow in the  
15          area where the permanent parking is for  
16          residents. Now, I know parking has always  
17          been a difficult situation up there with the  
18          hospitals between the employees and the  
19          hospital and the people coming to visit  
20          relatives who are in the hospital, so after  
21          the meeting I will take a swing up there to  
22          check it out for myself and to look into it.

23                       Regarding the agenda items, I think  
24          Mr. McGoff summed those up pretty well at  
25          the beginning of the meeting, and that's all

1 I have for now. Thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you. I  
4 have one announcement, it was covered in the  
5 paper I believe last week, I spoke to the  
6 DPW director Dennis Gallagher about it, just  
7 asking residents to please not plow, shovel  
8 and blow snow from your property into the  
9 road. It's causing a major concern in the  
10 neighborhoods throughout the city. I  
11 realize it's difficult because of the amount  
12 of the snow we have and there is really no  
13 place to put it, but if at all possible  
14 please refrain from doing that and it is  
15 causing a major inconvenience for DPW and  
16 residents and it does violate a city  
17 ordinance.

18 I did receive a complaint from an  
19 elderly gentleman of speeding up at Nay Aug  
20 Park. I spoke to Chief Graziano along with  
21 Mr. Loscombe about it and the chief said  
22 that he would notify patrolmen and send an  
23 extra patrolmen up to Nay Aug Park so I  
24 thank him for that.

25 I would also like to comment on the

1 DPW and their job during the snow storm. I  
2 think that they did a fantastic job. They  
3 worked very hard and I'd like to thank them  
4 for that.

5 I'd also like to bring up an idea,  
6 actually one of the council speakers brought  
7 it up, Mr. Quinn, I believe, and I spoke to  
8 my colleagues about it this past week, I  
9 also spoke to the mayor about it, a tax  
10 amnesty program throughout the city. I  
11 think it would be a fantastic idea. I have  
12 done a little built of research on it and  
13 every city that I have looked at that has  
14 instituted a tax amnesty program has  
15 received a huge infusion of cash into the  
16 city.

17 I know that the City of Reading did  
18 it, I believe back in 2012. It was an  
19 initiative that produced \$487,000 for  
20 Reading and \$320,000 for the school  
21 district.

22 I have spoken to the mayor, as I  
23 said, also to the Treasurer, Wayne Beck, so  
24 I would like to get this idea off the ground  
25 and up and running I think it would be a

1 huge help not only to the taxpayers but to  
2 the city because everyone knows we are in  
3 dire need of cash.

4 Also, I read in the paper, I think  
5 this is worth mentioning, another idea,  
6 Moosic just -- the Borough of Moosic just  
7 introduced an ordinance denying permits to  
8 applicants with delinquent municipal fees.  
9 The ordinance included building,  
10 occupational variances and special exemption  
11 permits. I think that would be a wonderful  
12 idea. I also brought that up to the mayor.  
13 I sent an e-mail out to my colleagues, so we  
14 are batting that idea around, too, I think  
15 that would help bring some more money to the  
16 city.

17 Also, I think because of the snow  
18 storm in the event that we have another snow  
19 storm, I think it would be a good idea to  
20 look at odd and even alternative parking on  
21 the streets, especially downtown. I think  
22 that might help with the clean up. I  
23 mentioned it to the mayor, I'm going to  
24 mention it again. I think the next snow  
25 storm we might want to implement that.

1                   And that is all I have. Thank you.

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

3                   Also, I'll continue the commentary on the  
4                   DPW and snow plowing and removal. In  
5                   speaking -- as we all know, the biggest  
6                   problem that we have with snow plowing and  
7                   snow removal is time and numbers. We simply  
8                   don't have enough people to -- in a major  
9                   snow storm we don't have enough people,  
10                  enough time, enough equipment to really work  
11                  at clearing the whole city which means that  
12                  under emergency certificates we need to go  
13                  out and get private businesses to assist in  
14                  both snow plowing and snow removal, which  
15                  puts a great deal of hardship on the budget  
16                  that requires, again, money and, you know,  
17                  time for people to do that.

18                  But with that said, I'll reiterate I  
19                  think the DPW does an adequate job of, you  
20                  know, snow plowing given the parameters in  
21                  which they have to work.

22                  A couple of the things that have  
23                  come up, as far as the odd/even parking,  
24                  downtown it may be possible. We talked  
25                  about this a number of the years ago and we



1 had a committee actually created to look at  
2 snow -- you know, the snow removal in the  
3 city and odd/even parking outside of the  
4 downtown is almost impossible.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Right.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Given the size of some  
7 of the streets and the volume of cars that  
8 are parked, I'll just take the block in  
9 which I live, both sides of that street are  
10 filled with cars. To try and do odd/even  
11 parking, I don't -- yesterday I drove around  
12 the block like three or four times waiting  
13 for somebody to come in and plow out a  
14 parking place. I had contacted somebody, so  
15 it really does make it difficult to do the  
16 odd/even parking.

17 The other problem is snow removal.  
18 Yes, piles of the snow are everywhere. We  
19 are running out of spots to put it. The  
20 days of dumping it into the Lackawanna River  
21 are over, you know, you can't do that. The  
22 University of Scranton or whoever has  
23 allowed us to dump snow down at the what was  
24 the South Side Complex, but room down there  
25 is running out. You know, the next spots

1 are up into areas of Nay Aug, which I'm told  
2 takes much greater time than getting down to  
3 South Side, especially from the downtown  
4 area, so there are so issues with the snow  
5 removal, which I'm sure we would all --  
6 hopefully temperatures go ups and it removes  
7 itself, but not likely to happen very soon.

8 The other problem, and I did speak  
9 to Mr. Gallagher about it, DPW director, are  
10 bridges and walkways. For anyone that comes  
11 into the downtown from South Side you need  
12 to walk either across the Spruce Street  
13 Complex or down across Cedar Avenue and very  
14 rarely are those walkways -- is the snow  
15 removed, which means now you have people  
16 walking out on the road to avoid the snow  
17 and people driving in or out of the  
18 downtown. It can be become very dangerous.

19 And I'll say the same for the  
20 Lackawanna Street Bridge Complex that very  
21 rarely are those walkways cleared which  
22 again puts people out into the street, very  
23 busy streets. I think we need to develop  
24 some way of getting these walkways cleared  
25 when there is a snow storm because there are

1 many people that do walk into the downtown  
2 from some of the closer areas, but that is  
3 something we will look at.

4 Again, in speaking with  
5 Mr. Gallagher it's an matter of, you know,  
6 personnel, you know, the number of people  
7 that are available, it's a matter of time  
8 and it's matter of equipment to get these  
9 things done.

10 Last thing I do want to mention is  
11 the -- since the taxes were brought up just  
12 a quick calculation as I got my tax bill as  
13 well and took a look at it. I don't know if  
14 mine is reflected, I'm sure that it's  
15 reflective of most of the tax bills, but  
16 just in percentages, right now the  
17 percentage of your real estate taxes that  
18 you pay, at least by my bill, 23 percent of  
19 the tax bill goes to the county, 31 to the  
20 city and 46 to the school district.

21 Again, that's my tax bill. That's  
22 percentage wise. That's how it works out  
23 and I think that adds up to close to 100,  
24 but at one point in time we were lower than  
25 the county, but are no longer that, you are

1           paying more to the city in real estate  
2           taxes, but again, far less than you do to  
3           the school district. And that's all for  
4           today.

5                        MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
6           A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS  
7           BORTHWICK, 719 NORTH SUMNER AVENUE,  
8           SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS  
9           VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON  
10          PARKING AUTHORITY. MR. BORTHWICK WILL BE  
11          REPLACING WAYNE HILLER WHO RESIGNED  
12          EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2014. MR. BORTHWICK'S  
13          TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2016.

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

17                      MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18                      MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

22                      MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23                      MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24                      MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25                      MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: Item 5-C will be tabled,  
3 Mr. McGoff?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. This is the one,  
5 if someone would care to make a motion to  
6 table Item 5-C.

7 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to table  
8 Item 5-C.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

11 Again, this is at the request of the  
12 administration. At this point in time they  
13 are going to send an amended appointment or  
14 an amended resolution. All those in favor  
15 of tabling Item 5-C signify by saying aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
22 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM  
23 CONNELL, 606 NORTH BROMLEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS CHAIRMAN OF THE  
25 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY.

1 MR. CONNELL WILL BE REPLACING KATHLEEN  
2 STELLA HO WAS REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BY  
3 LETTER DATED JANUARY 22, 2014. MR. CONNELL  
4 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF KATHLEEN  
5 STELLA, WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON  
6 JUNE 1, 2015.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
21 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF PAUL MCGLOIN,  
22 SR., 139 SOUTH MERRIFIELD AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
23 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE  
24 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY.  
25 MR. MCGLOIN WILL BE REPLACING FRANK J.

1 TUNIS, JR. WHO WAS REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BY  
2 LETTER DATED JANUARY 22, 2014. MR. MCGLOIN  
3 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FRANK J.  
4 TUNIS, JR., WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO  
5 EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2017.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO  
20 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

21 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
22 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
23 -FOR ADOPTION FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 8,  
24 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS  
2 FROM THE WALMART FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF  
3 \$2,000.00 TO PURCHASE TOYS AND COATS FROM  
4 THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL  
5 TOY/COAT DRIVE.

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

9 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
10 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
11 passage of Item 7-A.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
14 call, please?

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

24 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
25 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION FILE



1 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 10, 2014 - AMENDING FILE  
2 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 2009 "AN ORDINANCE  
3 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 91, 2002 "AN  
4 ORDINANCE AS AMENDED PROVIDING FOR THE  
5 ESTABLISHMENT OF PARKING METER ZONES WITHIN  
6 THE CITY OF SCRANTON; ESTABLISHING HOURS OF  
7 OPERATION; PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF  
8 METERS AND PARKING METER RATES; AUTHORIZING  
9 THE ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING ORDINANCES AND  
10 PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF"  
11 BY AMENDING SECTIONS 3 (A) TO REFLECT THE  
12 CHANGE IN HOURLY RATE AT PARKING METERS FROM  
13 \$1.00 TO \$1.25 PER HOUR.

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

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

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

7 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
8 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -  
9 RESOLUTION NO. 22, 2014 - AUTHORIZING  
10 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
11 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
12 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FINANCING  
13 AUTHORITY FIRST AMENDMENT TO GRANT  
14 NO.C000052035 AND FINANCING AGREEMENT, FOR  
15 A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT FOR THE PROJECT  
16 KNOWN AS "CEDAR 500" AND TO EXECUTE ANY AND  
17 ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE GRANT  
18 TO A LOAN PURSUANT TO THE AMENDMENT TO THE  
19 CONTRACT.

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

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

13 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -FOR ADOPTION -  
15 RESOLUTION NO. 23, 2014 - AUTHORIZING THE  
16 CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,  
17 PENNSYLVANIA THROUGH THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS  
18 ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A  
19 GRANT THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
20 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
21 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A COMMUNITY  
22 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) GRANT FOR  
23 FINANCIAL AID UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
24 MUNICIPALITIES FINANCIAL RECOVERY ACT, ACT  
25 47 OF 1987, AS AMENDED AND IF THE GRANT

1 APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, AUTHORIZE THE  
2 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
3 TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY  
4 TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS.

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

8 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
9 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
10 passage of Item 7-D.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

23 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -  
25 RESOLUTION NO. 24, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF

1           DOMINIC GEORGETTI, 3015 PITTSTON AVENUE,  
2           SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS CHAIRMAN  
3           OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION EFFECTIVE  
4           JANUARY 24, 2014. MR. GEORGETTI'S TERM WILL  
5           EXPIRE WITH THE TERM OF MAYOR WILLIAM L.  
6           COURTRIGHT.

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

10                   MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

14                   MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

16                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

18                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19                   MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

20                   MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
21           Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted and  
22           wish Mr. Georgetti good luck in his new  
23           position.

24                   If there is no further business,  
25           motion to adjourn?

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MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is  
adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned.)

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER