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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, April 3, 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

KATHY CARRERA, 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. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

14 Dispense with the reading of the  
15 minutes, please.

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

17 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD

18 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2014.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

20 If not, received and filed.

21 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE

22 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE

23 AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD

24 FEBRUARY 20, 2014.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
3 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION  
4 MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2014.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
8 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
9 HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2014.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?

11 If not, received and filed.

12 Any clerk's notes, Mrs. Reed?

13 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any  
15 announcements or comments from council?

16 MR. WECHSLER: I have one,  
17 Mr. McGoff. Telespond is going to hold a  
18 chicken barbecue dinner on April 27, 2014 at  
19 the St. Stanislas PNC Youth Center. Tickets  
20 have to be purchased ahead of time and  
21 purchased by April 17. If you are  
22 interested in tickets, please contact  
23 Loraine at 570-961-1954. Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: Just one, also. This  
25 Friday, tomorrow, from 4:30 to 7:30 the

1 Dante Club will be have a haddock fish  
2 dinner. The cost is \$12 per plate and  
3 takeouts are available.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: The Scranton School  
5 District is raising money in the fight  
6 against autism. The event is called Strikes  
7 Against Autism. It will be held Saturday,  
8 April 19 at the South Side Bowling Lanes  
9 from 12 to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and can be  
10 purchased at the door. All money raised  
11 benefits autistic support classrooms in the  
12 school district.

13 There is also a contest being  
14 sponsored by the Greater Scranton Board of  
15 Realtors through the website MyScranton.org.  
16 Participants are asked to tell their story  
17 about why love the City of Scranton, why  
18 they love living here and working here. You  
19 are to submit a video explaining why you  
20 love Scranton for the chance to win a \$1,000  
21 prize or one of the weekly prizes of \$100.  
22 You can upload your video on MyScranton.org  
23 and check the website out for details.

24 And also, there is the 11th annual  
25 Spring Fling being sponsored the West

1           Scranton Black Sheep. It is April 5 from 6  
2           to 10 at the Taylor Hose Company, 614 Union  
3           Street in Taylor. Door prizes, 50/50  
4           drawings, basket raffles and more. All  
5           proceeds from this fundraiser will go  
6           directly toward the Black Sheep Children's  
7           Fund. This fund gives aid to families to  
8           the children under the age of 18 who have  
9           been diagnosed with an illness. And that's  
10          all I have. Thank you.

11                   MR. MCGOFF: I have two. First,  
12           council did meet this evening at 5:00 in an  
13           executive session with the city solicitor at  
14           which time we received information about a  
15           possible -- about potential litigation.  
16           Just wanted to make that known to everyone.

17                   Also, the regularly scheduled  
18           meeting for April 17 is going to be  
19           rescheduled to Wednesday, April 16. April  
20           17 is Holy Thursday and we felt that it  
21           could be a conflict for many people, and  
22           therefore, we are rescheduling it to  
23           Wednesday, April 16 as opposed to Thursday.  
24           And that's all.

25                   MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'

1 PARTICIPATION.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Apparently we don't  
3 have anyone who wishes to address council  
4 since no one signed the sheet, but I will  
5 allow if there is anyone who does wish to  
6 address council to do so. Mr. Sbaraglia.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Mr. Sbaraglia. My  
8 mother always told me sign very little and  
9 you will be happier in life.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: You through a real  
12 zinger at us when you talk about the  
13 pension. We know the pension was \$112  
14 million under, now they think they are going  
15 to have litigation. That means the unions  
16 are going to be in litigation against the  
17 city, I presume. I know you can't talk a  
18 lot about it because knows enough about it,  
19 other than the fact it's going to the Courts  
20 again.

21 Now, if they tacked on that other  
22 \$22 million on top of that, that is one heck  
23 of a bite. The city can't do it. We really  
24 can't afford it. It's getting so bad that  
25 we can't even afford to have anybody working

1 for the city if they get through with all of  
2 the litigations.

3 I also was told that you couldn't  
4 sell a property in the city without the  
5 union approving it because they got a lien  
6 against all the properties, so I don't know.  
7 Actually, the unions are running the city.  
8 You are just are following suit. It's a  
9 shame it got to this point.

10 But I'm glad that Mayor Courtright  
11 has finally said he is going to fight for  
12 that seat on the Scranton Redevelopment  
13 Authority. When council appointed me that  
14 seat, they said if you want to go up and  
15 fight for it, and since I had the heart  
16 attack I couldn't put on brass knuckles to  
17 go out there and fight for it, but  
18 unfortunately that Scranton Redevelopment  
19 Authority has really bypassed a lot of their  
20 own rules.

21 I remember when you, well, maybe  
22 five months ago or four months ago when you  
23 said that most of the people on that board  
24 shouldn't have been appointed. They were  
25 supposed to have a little period in-between



1 before they got reappointed, and I remember  
2 that was written off by the lawyer. Well,  
3 apparently maybe some of them other people  
4 can be replaced on that board, too, that was  
5 appointed illegally or shouldn't have been  
6 on the board.

7 I'm not going to get into a lot of  
8 finances because there is no sense into it.  
9 The paper will probably come with it and I  
10 can read it in the paper, but I can tell you  
11 one thing we cannot afford to borrow more  
12 money to pay for 130 or 140 million dollars  
13 worth of litigation by the unions. We just  
14 can't afford it.

15 Then you think -- you always said  
16 you wanted to get rid of the parking garages  
17 and sell them off, the only way to really  
18 sell them off is to declare bankruptcy and  
19 then they will do the same thing they did  
20 with the Hilton -- I mean, not the Hilton  
21 the mall. They will put it up for sale real  
22 fast like. You are the cash cow that keeps  
23 the parking garages from being sold so if  
24 you want to get rid of them you figure a way  
25 to declare bankruptcy some way because we

1 are heading down that road now anyway. It's  
2 just a shame.

3 It's a shame that the Democratic  
4 party has done that to the city with their  
5 endorsements. You have to blame the  
6 Democratic party. No one else has been in  
7 control of this city for as long as they  
8 were and watch it go down the tubes. The  
9 last Republican was had was Connors and he  
10 left with 2 million in the till.

11 When Doherty came in they striped  
12 the city of everything they could and  
13 council went along with it until this point  
14 and at this point we are close to  
15 bankruptcy. The only reason to stop is  
16 going bankruptcy is if you don't want to,  
17 but the federal courts said you can declare  
18 bankruptcy, no matter what the state says,  
19 so if it comes to that point we are at the  
20 point where we can't afford to live in this  
21 city you should go that route. I don't  
22 approve of it, I don't like it, but it might  
23 be the only logical course to follow.

24 And like you said, I live on my  
25 pension and I hate to see people lose their

1 pension or deny a basic living wage. I  
2 believe in them two things, a living wage  
3 and a pension for everybody that works and  
4 that's how it should be.

5 And you should have -- no longer  
6 offer these good deals to everyone. They  
7 should have thought of what they were doing  
8 for our future because is going to become a  
9 point where they won't get a pension or they  
10 won't even get a living wage and that's a  
11 bad point. You got to keep within a budget.  
12 Scranton's budget is completely gone so  
13 there is no sense even getting out and  
14 saying anything about it. Whatever happens  
15 will happen. Thank you.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else wishes to  
18 address council.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
20 Dave Dobrzyn.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident. What is  
23 this litigation here is, something I didn't  
24 read in the paper today? Is it something to  
25 do with the unions taking us back to Court?

1 MR. MCGOFF: What's that?

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Or is it just that  
3 deal with the Housing Authority, is that  
4 what it is?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Dobrzyn, we gave  
6 you the information we were able to.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: That you were able to,  
8 okay, I'll try find out for more next week.

9 Last week I spoke about the utility  
10 damage to the streets with their running  
11 pipe lines and so forth and those are the  
12 potholes that I'm concerned with, not winter  
13 damage. I mean, they do have to be fixed,  
14 but my major concern here is that they don't  
15 just speak out of town and at the end of  
16 this year you are going to be driving over  
17 the same street that needs repaired. We  
18 have to start holding them to task. It's  
19 improper for the money to come out of our  
20 pockets or out of the city coffers because  
21 we obviously don't have it.

22 And as far as the comments on the  
23 Chamber and Mr. Amaro, I mean, I'm willing  
24 to listen, but it is the same thing  
25 basically that Frank Joyce had described,

1           our last councilman. He pretty much had  
2           most of the -- most of it nailed on -- the  
3           hammer on the nail and it's not new  
4           information, it's what is out there, but the  
5           Chamber has in the been operating in our  
6           better interest in Lackawanna County for  
7           years.

8                         Now they are building another  
9           business park up in Jessup. How many more  
10          businesses are going to be attracted out of  
11          Scranton and eventually you have to jump in  
12          your car just to get and drive ten miles  
13          just to get something that you might need.  
14          That's ashame. It's ashame.

15                        But I don't see why, obviously,  
16          business associations should be trying to  
17          establish new businesses, cutting down  
18          forest land and doing all of these  
19          developments and owning the property, it's  
20          improper. I feel that they've really  
21          extended their purposes. It's supposed to  
22          be in association emergency businesses for  
23          further the city and they turned it into  
24          greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce and now  
25          we have this situation like the last two

1 weeks we heard about the Vac Serve and  
2 Diverse, which is their former name, moving  
3 into tax exempt business parks.

4 And once again, I'm just reiterating  
5 o n the trash fees, we need to start  
6 collections and more or less like NCC just  
7 sat on it, I was there and I owed a trash  
8 fee one year. I was right in front of the  
9 them, I was paying up property tax on the  
10 property that I had acquired and I owed the  
11 money for the back year and they never  
12 notified me that I even owed the garbage  
13 fee. Then on top of that, they reported me  
14 to a credit agency and I had had a bad mark  
15 on my credit for seven years after that, so  
16 we have to more or less do it within our  
17 house and even if you had to fire people to  
18 do it if you could get more money in that  
19 way and certainly having somebody adding on  
20 a bunch of fees and fines on top of it not  
21 doing that would be a big help.

22 Okay, I'm going to mention once  
23 again trade packs. It's a national issue,  
24 but some of the working class have lost  
25 their wages or gone backward in wages that

1           it's really impossible, think of all of the  
2           wage taxes that Scranton can be collecting  
3           and so forth and it's just shameful. Please  
4           call your Congress and tell them to stop the  
5           trade packs we don't need them. We don't  
6           need anymore people unemployed.

7                         And the Supreme Court just once  
8           against authorized more campaign spending in  
9           an unlimited so they get the golden parrot.  
10          Bawk, bawk. Have a good night. Thank you.

11                        MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

12                        MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
13          Council. Marie Schumacher.

14                        MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

15                        MS. SCHUMACHER: First off, I would  
16          like to thank you for getting the Amaroso  
17          briefing posted to the city council page of  
18          the city's website, and speaking of that, I  
19          would just like to note one other issue that  
20          I have with it, which is I don't remember  
21          the exact terminology, I didn't write it  
22          down, I didn't think of it until I was  
23          coming in tonight, but the collection  
24          officer who is going to make sure that we  
25          get all of the revenue that we are due. I

1 would like to say that if we did honest  
2 budgeting and didn't throw in a lot of  
3 wishful thinking we wouldn't need that  
4 person. The whole reason we don't obtain a  
5 lot of the revenues is that we have  
6 overestimated wildly and we have done it for  
7 year after year after year and the same  
8 accounts, so start thinking about November,  
9 December and doing some honest budgeting if  
10 we make it that far.

11 And then I would also like to say  
12 that I believe our so-called tax fee or our  
13 trash fee is really -- should be a tax. If  
14 the 75 percent of us who pay our trash fee  
15 are paying for 100 percent of the cost then  
16 we are being taxed to cover those other  
17 people. Now, it would be a -- it's not just  
18 words, but if it was a tax we could at least  
19 put it on our income taxes and deduct it and  
20 get maybe a few pennies back, but that \$300  
21 unless somebody can prove otherwise, and I  
22 have asked, I have asked for all of the  
23 costs associated with that department, the  
24 equipment, maintaining the equipment and  
25 what we collect and how many ratepayers



1           there are and I get no answers, so I can  
2           only assume that's because it's really a tax  
3           and not a fee, which is supposed to cover  
4           the services rendered.

5                       And then again that gets me back,  
6           I'll ask it again, I probably won't get the  
7           answer, but I will get a Right-to-Know in  
8           one of these days and that is how many  
9           properties have -- rental registration  
10          properties have been registered and how many  
11          have been inspected? Anybody know?

12                      MR. MCGOFF: I do not have that  
13          information.

14                      MS. SCHUMACHER: And what council  
15          person that's --

16                      MR. ROGAN: I think it would be both  
17          myself and Councilman Wechsler. As far as  
18          the money coming in part of it would be  
19          Mr. Wechsler. As far as the inspections  
20          that would fall under OECD.

21                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Why would it fall  
22          under OECD?

23                      MR. ROGAN: Community -- it's a  
24          community issue.

25                      MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, well, it's not

1 OECD.

2 MR. ROGAN: Right, community  
3 development.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, which I did  
5 notice in the paper today we are getting cut  
6 by another roughly half a million dollars  
7 for the next year.

8 Okay, last week I asked a couple of  
9 questions again on Mr. Amaroso's briefing  
10 and I'd like to share maybe a little bit  
11 more. I will leave this paper with you,  
12 it's something from Oceanlaw.com and talking  
13 about Chapter 9 bankruptcies because I have  
14 a real concern about the way Mr. Amaroso is  
15 planning to fund the pensions with dedicated  
16 revenue, and I asked if that was considered  
17 a revenue bond and I got no response last  
18 week and to be honest I don't know the  
19 answer but I would really like the answer to  
20 that and then he never stated -- he said he  
21 was going to bring the \$22 million into the  
22 budget but he never said how, and if it's  
23 the same thing as he is planning to do with  
24 the pension, which is a dedicated portion of  
25 the property tax, I wonder how if those are,

1 in fact, considered revenue bonds, and I'll  
2 read a few sentence to you in a moment, that  
3 we won't get money for anybody else because  
4 if you start -- if you don't bring everybody  
5 in roughly the same time and the same way  
6 and ask everybody to sit down and listen to  
7 what they can really expect to come in and  
8 how that should be distributed and who wants  
9 to pony up and have equalized cuts then I  
10 don't think treating one class of debtor  
11 better than another is going to win us any  
12 friends and influence any of the credit  
13 market to give us loans.

14 So this, again, I don't know, but it  
15 says, "Unlike general obligation bonds --"  
16 may I finish this sentence?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: "Unlike general  
19 obligation bonds, special revenue bonds  
20 receive special treatment in Chapter 9 by  
21 generally: One, preserving any liens  
22 securing such bonds post-petition; and two,  
23 requiring a post-petition payment on such  
24 bonds during the pending Chapter 9 if  
25 special revenues are available."

1 I will be back on blight next week.  
2 Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

4 MR. TULFER: Hello. I apologize for  
5 not signing in. My first council meeting I  
6 was unaware of the protocol. My name is Tim  
7 Tulfer and I work for Smart One Energy and I  
8 am here to basically let you know about a  
9 couple of the Act 129 programs that are  
10 available through PPL utilities. I'm sure  
11 some of you are familiar with the utility  
12 program rebates, but figured it was a good  
13 time to come down here because there are a  
14 couple of the programs that just came out  
15 recently that are a specifically tailored  
16 towards government buildings and housing  
17 authority buildings.

18 The first one is the housing  
19 authority building, it's a low income master  
20 metered nonprofit program, so it's  
21 specifically tailored toward housing  
22 authorities. We have done a lot of work  
23 with a lot of housing authorities in the  
24 state, and the incentives are a lot of free  
25 LED light bulbs for the tenants of those

1 buildings, a lot of free upgrades of  
2 lighting fixtures and some really good  
3 incentives for LED exterior lighting as  
4 well. I just wanted to let everybody know  
5 what's available out there in those niche  
6 markets.

7 And the reason I'm actually here  
8 today is one for that, and the other one is  
9 as of earlier this week PPL also came out  
10 with a limited time offer for free LED wall  
11 pack, special signs and motions sensors for  
12 any government or nonprofit building. The  
13 catch to this program is it would have to  
14 be installed in and documented by May 9 of this  
15 year, so basically four weeks to take  
16 advantage of this program.

17 So I just want to let everybody know  
18 what the available out there and I have some  
19 flyers I can leave for you. Please give me  
20 a call with anything you have and basically  
21 we can try and get as much upgraded in this  
22 next three or four weeks as we can. Thank  
23 you very much.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
2 to address council?

3 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.  
4 MOTIONS.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
7 Mr. McGoff. Just a couple of things. I'd  
8 like to thank Scranton Tomorrow and the  
9 owners of Posh for bringing us altogether on  
10 Tuesday night with the mayor and the  
11 administration and some members from city  
12 council and Mrs. Reed. We were able to meet  
13 a lot of the downtown business owners and  
14 these are people that have made a  
15 commitment, they have skin in the game, and  
16 I did not know a lot of them to be honest  
17 with you. A lot of the businesses are not  
18 places that I frequent, like Steamtown yoga.

19 So I would like to congratulate them  
20 for their commitment and we also made a  
21 commitment to them that they would try to  
22 help them out wherever we can.

23 On Monday, which is April 7, I  
24 believe, Chief DeSarno and the fire  
25 department will be attending the West

1 Scranton Neighborhood Association meeting,  
2 which is a held in the Holy Rosary  
3 auditorium at 7:00 p.m. This is a commitment  
4 that the chief made to me that he would  
5 attend that meeting and he is following  
6 through and I'd like to thank him for that.

7 And one issue that was brought up  
8 last week, which was about some reporting  
9 that we have not been providing. This would  
10 be the information from the Single Tax  
11 Office for monthly comparison reports. The  
12 we have been in contact with the Tax  
13 Collector and we will be starting issuing  
14 those -- reading those reports when they  
15 become available to us. Thank you,  
16 Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just one  
19 very brief comment. Mr. Sbaraglia brought  
20 up about the Scranton Redevelopment  
21 Authority and appointments and something  
22 that's continued to bother me with that  
23 authority is its solicitor. Carl Greco it's  
24 been wildly reported in the newspapers that  
25 he owes large amounts of back taxes. These

1           were federal liens that were owed. As I  
2           stated before, city council chose not to  
3           appoint somebody, actually they rescinded  
4           their application who would have been a good  
5           person for an appointment to an authority  
6           because of that issue. If the protocol is  
7           going to be that we are not going to allow  
8           anyone who owes back taxes to serve on a  
9           board in a capacity where they won't receive  
10          any income, I certainly think that somebody  
11          who is, such as Mr. Greco, as the solicitor  
12          for the authority should be removed. And I  
13          hope that the new members of the authority  
14          as well as the current members will consider  
15          looking into this matter.

16                 Not only did Mr. Greco owe a large  
17                 amount of money in back taxes, he also lead  
18                 the charge on the eminent domain case that  
19                 cost the authority hundreds of thousands of  
20                 dollars with trying to take away two  
21                 longtime established businesses, that being  
22                 Buona Pizza and the wiener shop as well.

23                         MR. MCGOFF: Coney Island.

24                         MR. ROGAN: Coney Island. I just  
25                         call it the wiener shop because they are the



1 two best in the city, but if you look at  
2 that he is being allowed to stay there and  
3 continue to draw a salary while members are  
4 being held to a different standard, so I  
5 hope that the members of that authority will  
6 look into that issue and if Mr. Greco did,  
7 in fact, pay off the taxes federal, state an  
8 city, he should come forward and provide  
9 that to the public because that hasn't been  
10 done.

11 And that's all I have for tonight.  
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Just briefly I,  
15 too, would like to thank the Scranton  
16 Tomorrow for getting the administration and  
17 city council members together with downtown  
18 business people. And gave us a great  
19 opportunity to, as Joe said, meet the people  
20 downtown that, you know, a lot of us don't  
21 see on a regular basis. Gave us a good  
22 opportunity to hear some of their concerns  
23 and, you know, to work together with them in  
24 the future. They are our future here in the  
25 downtown, they have been here a long time,

1           they are keeping us together and we are  
2           looking forward to more communication and  
3           more meetings with them in the future.

4                     And that's all I have tonight.  
5           Thank you.

6                     MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

7                     MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just  
8           one brief comment. This Sunday, April 6, is  
9           the Scranton Half Marathon. It is going to  
10          be a wonderful event. I'm excited about it.  
11          I would hope that everybody gets out to  
12          cheer on over 2,500 people that have signed  
13          up to run in this event and the 2,500 people  
14          that have signed up are from all over the  
15          United States. 19 states are represented  
16          and they will be in the City of Scranton on  
17          Sunday, actually, starting tomorrow they all  
18          will be coming in. All of the hotels are  
19          booked. It's a really great event.

20                     If you need more information about  
21          the half marathon that will take place this  
22          Sunday, you can get it at  
23          www.Scrantonhalf.com it will be taking off  
24          at 9:00 a.m. down at Memorial Stadium.

25                     I'd also like to thank all of the

1 people that put that together. I think that  
2 we need to do more events like that. Those  
3 are the type of the events that attract  
4 people not just in this area to the downtown  
5 and to the neighborhoods, but from all over  
6 the country and I think this event is going  
7 to be one that when we look back it's just  
8 going to continue to grow. Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I'll continue on that,  
10 on the half marathon. I was going to  
11 mention that it does start at 9:00, however,  
12 people will start assembling around Scranton  
13 High School or Memorial Stadium probably  
14 around 8:00. Most runners get there early  
15 so there will be a large number of people in  
16 that area from 8:00; and then at 10:00, from  
17 10 until 2 Providence Road is going to be  
18 closed as the race ends. They are closing  
19 down Providence Road so that the runners and  
20 families and whatever can mingle, and also  
21 there are three establishments there that  
22 are catering to the runners, so just so you  
23 know that if you are traveling in this area  
24 that you may be inconvenienced.

25 Also, with the race is starting at

1 9:00, it does run out into Providence Road  
2 towards Greenridge and goes down into the  
3 Plot section, loops around the Plot and  
4 basically comes back North Washington Avenue  
5 into the city and then Cedar Avenue, Adams  
6 Avenue and Cedar Avenue down to Elm Street  
7 where they get on the trail along the river  
8 and then run the trail back towards Scranton  
9 High School. So those areas for a period of  
10 time the traffic will be affected. So just  
11 be aware anyone traveling on, you know,  
12 Sunday morning that you know, traffic is  
13 going to be disrupted in certain areas.

14 And just to also add, that of the  
15 2,500 runners I think it's over 1,500 of  
16 them are female which is becoming -- it's  
17 not unique, but it's becoming more than  
18 normal for distance running, more and more  
19 females being involved and also I think it's  
20 over 1,300 are people doing their first  
21 distance run, so it is going to be a unique  
22 event and I wish I was able to participate,  
23 but due to some issues I am not, but my  
24 daughter and grandson are both participating  
25 as our many, many people in the Scranton

1 area, so it will be a great event. If you  
2 want to go out and cheer some people on and,  
3 you know, it's going to be a great day.

4 Just a brief about it was brought up  
5 about the presentation from Mr. Amaroso a  
6 few weeks ago. What Mr. Amaroso gave to us  
7 was kind of I'll say a guideline for what  
8 may occur. There were no hard proposals  
9 here. There has been nothing given to  
10 council in the form of a definitive proposal  
11 and to comment on what Mr. Amaroso's intent  
12 was, I personally would not care to  
13 speculate on something that is not  
14 formalized, and that may be the reason I'm  
15 reluctant to answer at least, you know, part  
16 of the questions that are being asked.

17 When there is a final proposal and  
18 there are definitive parameters to those  
19 proposals, I think then council will, you  
20 know, begin to ask questions as to how it  
21 will be implemented and, you know, what's  
22 best for the city as far as the  
23 implementation of any type of program, but  
24 until then, as I said, I care not to  
25 speculate and hopefully we will be hearing

1           again from Mr. Amaroso and from the  
2           administration with, you know, definitive  
3           proposals for dealing with the economic  
4           situations that we have.

5                       And I should also mention that I did  
6           not mention, next week prior to the meeting  
7           there will be a public caucus with  
8           representatives from SAPA to make the  
9           presentation. At this point in time it's  
10          scheduled for 5:00, but we are going to move  
11          that time to 5:30 and that caucus will be  
12          held here in council chambers and we will  
13          ask that ECTV also televise that part of the  
14          meeting. And that's all.

15                      MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16          AN ORDINANCE - ABOLISHING AND CLOSING OECD  
17          ACCOUNTS WITH COMMUNITY BANK, NA AND FIRST  
18          NATIONAL BANK TRANSFERRING THE FUNDS FROM  
19          THOSE ACCOUNTS TO PNC BANK ACCOUNT LISTED  
20          BELOW.

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

24                      MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25                      MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
11 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROSETTA WALSH,  
12 2710 CEDAR AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
13 18505 AS CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE  
14 SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY. MS. WALSH WILL  
15 BE REPLACING KATHLEEN STELLA WHO WAS REMOVED  
16 FROM THE BOARD BY LETTER DATED JANUARY 22,  
17 2014. MS. WALSH WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED  
18 TERM OF KATHLEEN STELLA WHOSE TERM IS  
19 SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2015.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I

1 should say that we did receive a resume from  
2 Ms. Walsh prior to the meeting.

3 All those in favor of introduction  
4 signify by saying aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
12 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
13 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
14 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KNOWLES  
15 ASSOCIATES, L.L.C., FOR INSURANCE BROKERAGE  
16 SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS  
17 FROM APRIL 1, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2017  
18 AND WITH BRIT-STATE NATIONAL INSURANCE  
19 COMPANY, INDIAN HARBOR INSURANCE COMPANY/XL  
20 INSURANCE, ALTERRA AMERICAN INSURANCE  
21 COMPANY AND SAFETY NATIONAL INSURANCE  
22 COMPANY FOR CITY INSURANCE COVERAGES FOR THE  
23 PERIOD APRIL 1, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2015.

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. LOSCOMBE: Second.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I  
5 would also say that in caucus this evening  
6 Mr. Bulzoni, the business administrator, did  
7 explain this resolution, also said that the  
8 administration is working with Knowles  
9 Associates to determine the extent of the  
10 coverage that's needed, what's needed, the  
11 liabilities that are concerned so that we do  
12 have a proper coverage through -- or proper  
13 insurance coverage for the city.

14 All those in favor of introduction  
15 signify by saying aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

23 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12,  
24 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
25 COUNCIL NO. 11, 1999, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED

1 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 9, 1935,  
2 (AS AMENDED) AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE  
3 LICENSING OF PURCHASERS OF SCRAP GOLD, OLD  
4 GOLD, SILVER, JEWELRY, CLOTHING AND OTHER  
5 VALUABLE ARTICLES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES  
6 FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF", BY ADDING  
7 ADDITIONAL TERMS, INCREASING THE LICENSING  
8 FEE, INCREASING THE PENALTIES OF VIOLATIONS  
9 THEREOF, PROVIDING FOR SUSPENSION OF  
10 LICENSES, AND MODERNIZING THE LANGUAGE  
11 THEREOF, AND INCORPORATING RULES AND  
12 REGULATIONS BY FURTHER MAKING AMENDMENTS TO  
13 INCREASE THE LICENSE FEE IN SECTION 2 FROM  
14 FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) TO ONE HUNDRED  
15 DOLLARS (\$100.00) PER FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
16 178 OF 1992 SECTION 1 CODIFIED IN CHAPTER  
17 340 PEDDLING AND SOLICITING §340-13 (A) FEES  
18 AND AMENDING SECTION 4 (A) TO PROVIDE  
19 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BETTER IDENTIFY  
20 THE SELLER AND THE GOODS OR ARTICLE BEING  
21 SOLD AND SECTION 5 (A) TO INCREASE THE  
22 PENALTIES FOR NON COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
23 PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE CODIFIED IN THE  
24 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN CHAPTER 379  
25 SECONDHAND GOODS AND DEALERS AT §379-4 (A)

1 AND §379-5 (A) AND TO CHANGE THE DEPARTMENT  
2 NAME FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
3 DEVELOPMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING,  
4 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS THROUGHOUT THIS  
5 ORDINANCE.

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

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

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

11 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
12 those in favor signify by saying aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a  
20 motion to take File of Council No. 11, 2014,  
21 from the table.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
24 those in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 6-B, PREVIOUSLY TABLED,  
7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11  
8 2014 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
9 COUNCIL NO. 74, 1993, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED  
10 "CITY OF SCRANTON ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1993",  
11 BY CHANGING THE ZONING MAP DESIGNATION OF  
12 THE JOHN J. AUDUBON SCHOOL FROM R-1A (MEDIUM  
13 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) TO INS-G (GENERAL  
14 INSTITUTIONAL) IN THE CENTRAL PLANNING AREA  
15 IN THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE CITY OF  
16 SCRANTON.

17 MR. MCGOFF: You heard Reading by  
18 Title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

19 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to amend  
20 Item 6-B per the following amendment:

21 "This section is amended by changing  
22 the official zoning map designation of the  
23 John J. Audobon School, the premises, from  
24 R-1A, medium low density residential, to  
25 INS-G, general institutional in the central

1 planning area located in the eastern portion  
2 of the City of Scranton. This amendment of  
3 the official zoning map designation shall  
4 revert back to INS-G to R-1A in the event  
5 that the premises are transferred to an  
6 entity that is not controlled by and control  
7 of or under common control with the entity  
8 that occupies the current existing INS-G  
9 zone across from Mulberry Street identified  
10 as Parcel Map No. 15714010027. The zoning  
11 map designation shall be changed for the  
12 parcel map to 1571410028 more specifically  
13 described below."

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Are there questions on  
16 the amendment?

17 MR. ROGAN: Just for explanation for  
18 the public, if you recall this was part of  
19 the legislation that -- a part of a package  
20 of three pieces of legislation that came  
21 regarding the Audubon School and potential  
22 development on that property. All this  
23 amendment does is it changes up the legal  
24 wording of it a little bit so that if  
25 somebody else were to purchase that property

1           it would revert back to the medium low  
2           density residential zoning that it currently  
3           is in.

4                     And for further explanation, this  
5           will also be tabled after it's amended to  
6           allow the other governing bodies to follow  
7           suit.

8                     MR. LOSCOMBE: I will be abstaining  
9           from voting on this legislation. My wife is  
10          an employee of theirs just so there is no,  
11          you know, I don't know, implication of  
12          impropriety.

13                    MR. MCGOFF: Is there any objection  
14          from council? Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.

15                    MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

16                    MR. MCGOFF: All those favor of the  
17          motion to amend Item 6-B signify by saying  
18          aye?

19                    MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20                    MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21                    MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24                    And please record Mr. Loscombe did  
25          abstain.

1 MR. ROGAN: Are we going to vote on  
2 Item 6-B?

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

4 MS. REED: Someone needs to move.

5 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B, as  
6 amended, pass reading by title.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

8 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
9 those in favor signify by saying aye.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a  
16 motion to table Item 6-B, as amended.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: There is a motion to  
19 table Item 6-B, as amended, and a second.  
20 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER 7-A. FOR  
2 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
3 -FOR ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO. 41, 2014 -  
4 ACCEPTING A CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF  
5 \$500.00 RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
6 FROM THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, E.B.  
7 JERMYN LODGE #2 FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY  
8 MANPOWER INITIATIVE.

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

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

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.



1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

4 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -  
6 RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF  
7 AL BROCAVICH, 701 NEWTON ROAD, SCRANTON,  
8 PENNSYLVANIA 18504, AS ALTERNATE NO. 3  
9 MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING APPEALS  
10 REVIEW BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS TO  
11 COMMENCE ON MARCH 20, 2014. MR. BROCAVICH'S  
12 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2019.

13 MR. WECHSLER: I make amotion to  
14 amend Item 7-B per the following amendment:

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: He has to read it  
17 first.

18 MR. WECHSLER: I make a motion to  
19 amend Item 7-B by changing the expiration  
20 date of Mr. Brocavich's term from November  
21 24, 2019 to March 20, 2019.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
24 those in favor of the motion to amend Item  
25 7-B signify by saying aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

7 As Chair for the Committee on Rules,  
8 I recommend final passage of Item 7-B, as  
9 amended.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
23 Item 7-B, as amended, legally and lawfully  
24 adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -FOR ADOPTION -  
2 RESOLUTION NO. 43, 2014 - APPOINTMENT OF  
3 MARIO J. BEVILACQUA, 713 ARCHBALD STREET,  
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504, AS A MEMBER OF  
5 THE HOUSING APPEALS REVIEW BOARD. MR.  
6 BEVILACQUA WILL BE REPLACING MICHAEL TRAPPER  
7 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2013. MR.  
8 BEVILACQUA WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5)  
9 YEAR TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24,  
10 2018.

11 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
12 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
13 passage of Item 7-C.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

15 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
16 call, please?

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

3 Before we adjourn, I would like to  
4 remind people there will be a public caucus  
5 next week at 5:30 dealing with the SAPA plan  
6 and it will be in council chambers -- or in  
7 council chambers and televised.

8 Any other business? Motion to  
9 adjourn?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

11 MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is  
12 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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER