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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 22, 2015

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. MCGOFF: Please rise for the
2 Pledge of Allegiance and we have a special
3 guest, Eagle Scout Brian Bouton --Brandon
4 Bouton, I'm sorry, will lead us in the
5 allegiance.

6 MR. BOUNTON: Could everyone please
7 place their hand over their heart for the
8 Pledge of Allegiance.

9 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
10 moment of reflection observed.)

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Roll call,
12 please.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Here.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Here.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Here. At this point in
23 time we do have a proclamation for our Eagle
24 Scout and if Brandon and his family I would
25 like welcome to come forward.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. It's an
2 honor to read this proclamation. I have
3 known Brandon and his family for quite some
4 time, congratulations.

5 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
6 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "BRANDON
7 JAMES BOUTON", son of Brian Bouton and
8 Christine Stange-Bouton and grandson of
9 Lance and Nancy Stange and Al and Christine
10 Bouton; and

11 WHEREAS, "BRANDON", a sophomore at
12 Scranton High School, is a member of the Ski
13 Club and played violin in the school
14 orchestra; and

15 WHEREAS, "BRANDON" is studying
16 welding at the Career Technology Center of
17 Lackawanna County where he was named Student
18 of the Month for December 2014. His future
19 plans include attending Johnson College and
20 enlisting in the United States Navy to be an
21 underwater welder; and.

22 WHEREAS, "BRANDON" is a member of
23 the Hickory Street Presbyterian Church and
24 also attends the First United Church of
25 Christ; and

1 WHEREAS, "BRANDON" began his
2 scouting career in 2005 as a Tiger Cut at
3 Cub Pack 42. Upon transferring to Cub Pack
4 16, he progressed through Webelos 2 and
5 earned the Arrow of Light Award; and.

6 WHEREAS, "BRANDON" crossed over into
7 Boy Scouts in Troop 16 in 2010 where he has
8 held the positions of patrol leader,
9 instructor, and Scoutmaster for Troop 16.
10 "BRANDON" is a member of the Order of the
11 Arrow Lowwapanu Lodge 191 and received his
12 brotherhood membership in 2014. He was
13 presented with the God and Life Award in
14 December 2014 at the First United Church of
15 Christ; and

16 WHEREAS, for his Eagle Scout
17 Project, "BRANDON" organized and conducted
18 fund raising to provide labor and materials
19 to stain 462 linear feet of fencing at
20 Marley's Mission, Clarks Summit. His
21 project contributed materially to the
22 appearance of and extending the life span of
23 the fencing; and

24 WHEREAS, "BRANDON" participated in
25 the Honor Flight Philadelphia trip to

1 Washington, D.C. where he served as a
2 Guardian to the World War II United States
3 Army Veteran. He has also attended numerous
4 camping trips to Good Pond, Antietam,
5 Gettysburg, Washington, D.C. and the Florida
6 Keys.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
8 on Thursday, January 22, 2015, Scranton City
9 Council wishes to congratulate "BRANDON
10 JAMES BOUTON", his Family, Scout Leaders and
11 Teachers for his outstanding achievements
12 and extend our best wishes for success in
13 all future endeavors.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
15 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
16 Minutes of this Council, as lasting tribute
17 to "BRANDON JAMES BOUTON".

18 MR. ROGAN: I'd like to make a
19 motion to take from the table the resolution
20 regarding the memorandum of understanding
21 between the City and the Fraternal Order of
22 Police.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: No.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

5 MR. MCGOFF: The eyes have it and so
6 moved. Just a brief comment, when people,
7 you know, the youth of today and what they
8 are doing, it's nice to know that there are
9 students and young men like Brandon that
10 exemplify what the future generation will
11 be, what their generation will be. And
12 congratulation to Brandon and a fine example
13 for all of us and especially for your family
14 and your Boy Scout Troop. So
15 congratulations again.

16 The motion that was just made by and
17 approved by council is to remove the
18 memorandum of understanding concerning the
19 police contract from the table. It will be
20 in Fifth Order this evening. It's removed
21 from the table to allow for discussion and
22 possibly introduction of it, had it remained
23 on the table by rule there could be no
24 discussion on that particular issue, so that
25 will be in Fifth Order and anyone who wishes

1 to speak to that please did so during
2 citizens' participation.

3 I would also like to or need to
4 mention that prior to our caucus this
5 evening we had a brief executive session
6 concerning a personnel matter and by rule we
7 need to announce that at the next possible
8 meeting, it was very brief meeting and, as I
9 said, it was just to discuss a personnel
10 issue.

11 Anything from council? No.

12 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. SINGLE
13 TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON
14 REPORT 2014-2013.

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

17 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
18 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD JANUARY
19 7, 2015.

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

22 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZEN'S
23 PARTICIPATION.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,

1 Scranton resident. I am so mad I could spit
2 nails. I have asked for several weeks after
3 you passed the 2015 operating budget on
4 December 4 for that to be posted to the
5 website and it was posted on the website on
6 January 12. If the version on the website
7 is the same one, as I understand it that you
8 approved on December 4 so someone please
9 tell me why on the desk in the Clerk's
10 Office there is a beautiful bound copy of
11 the budget and it says "File of Council No.
12 58, and the numbers do not match the numbers
13 in the copy on the website.

14 Now, I'm a taxpayer and I have a
15 right to that information. I offered to pay
16 the money to put it on the website. I did
17 everything but kiss Mr. Bulzoni's derriere.
18 Why is the version different? Is it going
19 to change every week?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I was unaware --

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: It is.

22 MR. MCGOFF: I was unaware that
23 there was a discrepancy and I have no idea
24 why there is one.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Since January 12 I

1 printed that document off the website and I
2 have been analyzing it on Excel and now I'm
3 going to do it all over again. Now, I want
4 to know why the numbers were changed, why
5 there was no announcement made to the public
6 that the numbers have changed, do you even
7 know as a council that the numbers have
8 changed? You should. This isn't Monopoly
9 money, it's my money and their money. Okay.

10 Next thing, since you are taking the
11 FOP memorandum after the table I want to
12 remind the public that next Wednesday at 11
13 a.m. is the Composite Pension Board meeting
14 in this room. I believe before that they
15 have police and fire pension meetings, I
16 don't know if those two were open to the
17 public. The Composite Board at 11 is open
18 to the public. If you are concerned about
19 the distressed status of these pensions you
20 might want it attend if you're able to get
21 here. Wednesday at 11 a.m. in this room.

22 What's the status of the 2013 audit?

23 MR. MCGOFF: I have no --

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: I saw a hand go up.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I have not asked that

1 question.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: I'd like to know
3 that next week, and I do have some good
4 news, I was at the VA and I found out that
5 if you are a veteran and you have 100
6 percent disability and you are income is
7 under \$87,212 you are exempt from paying
8 real estate tax and I would like to every
9 veteran that qualifies to know this because
10 you are do not want to get hosed by the
11 county, the school board and the state. If
12 you are entitled to that benefit, by all
13 means take it. We deserve it.

14 As you were mentioning when you
15 begin council meeting to remember those who
16 have passed away, I would like to mention
17 Attorney Robert Gownley, Sr., 104 years old.
18 I understand he was the oldest member of the
19 Pennsylvania Bar Association and he had his
20 credentials current as of last year.
21 Wonderful, wonderful man.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, and thank you for
23 mentioning that. I neglected to.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: He's the kind of
25 citizen we need more of. Thank you. That's

1 all I have.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Ms.

3 Hodowanitz.

4 Gerard Hetman.

5 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

6 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County
7 Community Relations Department, good to see
8 you as always. To begin this evening, many
9 of the programs that we mentioned out of the
10 County Commissioner's Office at the start of
11 the year come from the Lackawanna County
12 branch of the Penn State extension. I'll
13 mention three of those programs this
14 evening. Each of the programs I will
15 mention has sessions that start in early
16 February. Some of them run just for a few
17 weeks where as others carry out over many
18 months or they may have one or more sessions
19 later in the year, but because of their
20 different start dates and run times just to
21 consolidate I'll mention the number for Penn
22 State extension at the end of remarks and
23 encourage anyone who is interested in one or
24 more of the programs to contact our Penn
25 State Extension Office.

1 With that in mind, our first program
2 is a called Dining with Diabetes. It's a
3 program that helps adults who suffer from
4 Type II diabetes to manage their illness
5 through diet and exercise programs. There
6 are four classes in the program, each are
7 taught by registered dietitians. The cost
8 to participate is \$40 for one person or \$55
9 for two family members in the same household
10 and financial assistance is available to
11 those who may struggle to pay that cost.

12 Second program is called Growing
13 Stronger, strength training classes for
14 older adults. This is a 12-week class to
15 help older adults improve muscle strength
16 and bone density through fitness training
17 and we should note here that older adults as
18 defined by the Penn State Extension's Office
19 are any individuals age 40 and up. Please,
20 that's not our department putting that
21 qualification in there, but anyone who is
22 age 40 and older is eligible to participate.
23 The classes are held at the Advocacy Senior
24 Center and the West Scranton Senior Center.
25 The cost to participate is \$115 and

1 financial assistance is available to those
2 who may not be able to make the entire
3 payment to participate.

4 The third program is known as the
5 Strengthening Families Program and this is a
6 program for young adults age 10 to 14 years
7 old to avoid substance abuse and other
8 problematic behaviors that they may
9 encounter in their adolescent years. The
10 sessions are all held at the Carbondale
11 Middle School, and because I also represent
12 the commissioners through the City of
13 Carbondale and the Carbondale School
14 District I have had chance to meet a number
15 of those students and faculty members who
16 participated in the program in recent years.
17 They speak very highly as to its
18 effectiveness and its ability to be a game
19 changer in the life of a young adult, and
20 any young adult from he Lackawanna County
21 can participate. There is certainly no
22 restrictions on residency. They would have
23 a have to travel to Carbondale, but again, a
24 it is a very effective program and we
25 encourage everyone in the city and beyond to

1 take a look if they feel that their child
2 may benefit or they may benefit from
3 participation.

4 So, again, the registration
5 required, there is registration required for
6 each program, and some of them run long,
7 some of them have several sessions
8 throughout the year. So we encourage
9 everyone who has an interest in one or more
10 items to contact the Penn State Extension in
11 Lackawanna County, the phone number is
12 570-963-6842. It's 570 963-6842.

13 And our second program to mention,
14 the second item to mention is the annual
15 Lackawanna County winter golf clinic. This
16 is the first of many camps, clinics and
17 sports leagues that are hosted by the
18 Lackawanna County Parks and Recreation
19 Department. The lessons are held at South
20 Scranton Intermediate School and the program
21 runs from February 23 to March 20. They are
22 all taught by PGA certified instructors.
23 There are four weekly sessions for adults
24 and children. The children sessions I
25 believe are all held on Friday afternoons.

1 The adult sessions are held Monday, Tuesday,
2 Wednesday and Thursday. Also, if an
3 individual couldn't make it let's say Monday
4 they could go to the Tuesday session or the
5 Wednesday session and so on and so forth for
6 adults. The cost is \$40 per person to
7 participate and the individuals must
8 register before February 20 by calling
9 570-963-6764. Again, it's Lackawanna County
10 parks and Recreation Department,
11 570-963-6764.

12 That's all I have for this evening.
13 Are there any questions from council?

14 MR. MCGOFF: No, but, I would like
15 to -- I can now tell my children that they
16 are officially old.

17 MR. HETMAN: I completely
18 understand. Again, Penn State Extension's
19 definition, not ours. Your counterparts in
20 Carbondale were quite surprised when I told
21 them that on Tuesday night, but there you
22 have it. Thanks you, ladies and gentlemen.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank, Mr. Hetman.

24 Ron Ellman.

25 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I was

1 walking around Honesdale this morning after
2 lunch and I never been there before, and I
3 noticed all of the businesses downtown, I
4 think it's Ninth Street, I don't know if
5 it's downtown, they all had a little sticker
6 for the Chamber of Commerce. You know, this
7 Chamber of Commerce has been pathetic for 50
8 years. My son showed me on the computer, we
9 went back and back and back there is not one
10 positive thing they have done for the city.
11 Nothing. I don't know how I come to this
12 conclusion really, it's just listening to
13 people but I believe this administration has
14 been taken orders from the Chamber of
15 Commerce through Amoroso this whole year who
16 dictates to the mayor how things are
17 supposed to be. Fortunately, they seem to
18 turn out just to be one failure after
19 another but nobody I have talked to can
20 figure out why the Chamber wanted to go
21 spend \$65,000 to go through all of this with
22 the city. Well, I won't go on. This man is
23 just a snack oil salesman and he hasn't
24 given us anything positive in a year.

25 Which brings about I hope Mr. McHale

1 shows more respect for the people of Dunmore
2 than he did this city about selling the
3 Sewer Authority. Today's paper ought to
4 show with all of that interest in it their
5 rates will skyrocket, there is no doubt
6 about it and there are smarter people than
7 me saying that.

8 Well, I guess I've alienated you for
9 the night so I'll say something positive as
10 much as I don't -- I don't like Al Boscov
11 I'm going to tell you a foolproof method
12 what to do with that mall and if you don't
13 like my idea I want to say that I don't see
14 a thing wrong with a casino, but I don't
15 think it's just -- I don't think it would be
16 ever be feasible, and it just seems like
17 something so farfetched, but it's certainly
18 -- I don't know gamble anymore.

19 Last Friday I was in Allentown and I
20 went to eat at a place called Farmer's
21 Market, I don't know if any of you all have
22 been to the fairgrounds, but it's a good
23 ways from downtown, like, two or three miles
24 isn't it, Mr. McGoff? Anyways, it's far
25 from town so they can have buildings and

1 parking and animals and so forth, and
2 Farmer's Market is the inside it's a closed
3 building, it's about the size of a football
4 field I would say. There is a row of stores
5 and a row of stores and then two more row of
6 stores. They are made up of restaurants,
7 sandwich shops, meat markets, just
8 everything you can think of and they are
9 small businesses, little tiny businesses,
10 you know, like the size up there where you
11 are sitting and this place is packed. It's
12 open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. I'm not
13 telling you it's busy, it's so packed you
14 just sort of got to go through wiggle around
15 and go through it, and that mall would work
16 for this. You got houses all around it and,
17 I mean, apartments right downtown. You got
18 buses, you got parking, if they could make
19 that place in Allentown that busy you can
20 certainly do it with the mall here, but you
21 got to do something quick before these
22 universities steal another piece of property
23 and that will be the end of the city right
24 there when they take that away, and I wish
25 one of you could go see this place over the

1 weekend. Like I said, it would fit into
2 that mall and it would save that mall and
3 the surrounding areas downtown. I guess
4 that's all the brilliant things I have to
5 say tonight.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Well, thank you for
7 your brilliance.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you for letting
9 me talk and I really wish somebody would go
10 see this mall in operation over the weekend
11 and consider it, because this is our savior
12 for the mall. Thank you.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

15 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
16 Bob Bolus, Scranton. On 6-G I believe it
17 should be tabled until other areas of
18 revenue are looked into and usually if are
19 you passing a garbage fee then you have to
20 pass this fee across everyone within the
21 City of Scranton, that's your KOZ's, your
22 nonprofits. That's the purpose of a fee.
23 This is basically a taxation without
24 representation because we pay taxes to have
25 our garbage picked up and taken care of and

1 now we are being taxed basically for more to
2 do what? We are not getting any other
3 benefits out of it. It's the same garbage
4 that people put out one bag here, two bags
5 there, yet all of the nonprofits in the city
6 whether they have it done commercially or
7 otherwise should be paying a fee.

8 I brought it up in the past that if
9 you put a 1 percent fee on everybody in this
10 city on their gross it will include all your
11 K0Z's and nonprofits, and they will have to
12 now then pay their fair share. That's been
13 ignored time and time again. As I said, if
14 you increase the tax base you will decrease
15 the tax rate. Here you are increasing the
16 tax rate and increasing the tax base and
17 that's unfair to the people of this
18 community so there should be other avenues
19 to look at this or put it across everybody.
20 Other than that, it's a fee that can't be
21 challenged.

22 On the contract, I'll elaborate more
23 on that in the Fifth Order, I guess,
24 Mr. McGoff, it will be Fifth Order as far as
25 the contract; am I correct?

1 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

2 MR. BOLUS: Are you going to have
3 somebody, like, speaking on it in Fifth
4 Order regarding the contracts?

5 MR. MCGOFF: No, you have an
6 opportunity now.

7 MR. BOLUS: Okay. As far as I'm
8 concerned with the contract, it should be
9 out here, it shouldn't be in a backroom in
10 caucus, this was issues we had many, many
11 times over many, many years. We need open
12 discussions here because the people who
13 can't be here have to rely on what they may
14 read in the Scranton Times or the newscast
15 or whatever it may be. When they hear it
16 here and it's live no matter how long it
17 takes they are now informed and they may
18 want to attend a meeting, but if they can't
19 have that opportunity it's not only unfair
20 to them but it's unfair to our union
21 employees because people are looking at them
22 in different lights, just like Ned
23 Abrahamsen said, "Oh, well, let's keep this
24 quiet on this end, we can't show our hand
25 here because somebody over here will know

1 what's going on."

2 That's totally unfair to union
3 members because people look at them in a
4 different light because their taxes are
5 going up, say pay them this or their
6 pensions, so in all honesty to the people,
7 council and the administration should bring
8 it out in the open and that's doing it the
9 right way and the honest way for people in
10 the city that are going to be burdened in
11 paying these new increases and everything
12 else.

13 On East Mountain Road when that was
14 widened, and Mr. Wechsler brought that up
15 that he was involved with East Mountain Road
16 and Joe knows what it was like before, but
17 right now it's dangerous, in fact, it's more
18 dangerous now than it was before because
19 when it snows and you have a plow or one of
20 the fire trucks trying to get down that
21 mountain cars are parked all along the edge
22 of it. What was the purpose of widening the
23 road out if people are all parked there and
24 it's still a narrow two-lane road? There
25 should be off-road parking there or make it

1 a snow emergency that when it snows these
2 people pull in their driveways like they did
3 in the past. That's for the safety of
4 everybody up there and I think that's
5 seriously got to be looked into. I came
6 down here the other day and I'm in the
7 towing recovery business and we are
8 accustomed to being out in the snow, it's
9 very slick and anybody could have hit him
10 especially where it curves, so it's a
11 serious issue and it has to be addressed.

12 On the casino, Mr. McGoff, I'm going
13 to raise this issue because I was a little
14 upset with the comment last week that this
15 isn't a city issue, this casino idea is
16 definitely a city issue. It's not an issue
17 for Dunmore, Throop, the Abingtons, it's the
18 city that's in dire need of salvation. As a
19 business, I have been in business over 50
20 years, the last thing I do is put the cart
21 before the horse. I don't need to go ask
22 the gaming board, "Here is my application,
23 now do you want to go look at it."

24 This is the legislator's problem.
25 This is their responsibility why they stood

1 up and took an oath. This is the
2 responsibility of this council, the
3 administration, the legislators, state
4 representatives to come forward and send a
5 letter to the Gaming Board asking them would
6 they consider a license for the City of
7 Scranton for a casino. If they say yes,
8 they will, we will be more than glad to tell
9 you who we are and what we are all about
10 because we are about saving Scranton and you
11 are not investing one penny of what we
12 intend to do, and if you want to see the
13 city die ignore what I'm saying and you will
14 see it die, you will see the county take
15 over the mall and spend your tax dollars but
16 Scranton will die if you don't stop and pay
17 attention and think from a businessman's
18 point of view not from some ridiculous
19 statement that this isn't the city's problem
20 or go get a license or make application
21 without support. If you want to support it,
22 we'll tell you who we are at that time.

23 And last, I brought up last week
24 about Carrie Newcomb, I asked that she be
25 removed from the zoning board, this is about

1 me, not Mr. Miller, she made statements
2 about me, she made them public, and I'm --
3 she put it on the internet, however, it got
4 out there, I really don't care. She is a
5 city official and she made comments
6 derogatory to me and I'm asking that she be
7 removed or I will litigate it and you can
8 take me on that, you can take my word on
9 that right to the bank. This is your
10 responsibility, she is a city official, she
11 was blasted nationally and made us all look
12 like a bunch of fools in the city again no
13 more than we couldn't even pay our
14 employees. Okay.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

16 MR. BOLUS: That's what I'm asking.
17 I won't ask again. Thank you.

18 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug
19 Miller, Scranton. You know, just to
20 reiterate feelings on what took place last
21 week, I'm not going to get into the
22 specifics of the contract, really not
23 relevant for me to do that tonight, what
24 really disturbed me though throughout the
25 whole process is just the fact that it

1 really upsets me when things go on in a back
2 room and the public is not aware of what's
3 going on. Again, I'm really interested in
4 the fact that people are welcome to go back
5 in this office, we are talking become
6 thousands of people who have an inability to
7 get down here on a Thursday night and rely
8 on the public access because one thing we
9 all know, gentleman, that camera doesn't lie
10 and I think what we have seen since this
11 majority of council has taken over we have
12 seen a lot of smoke and mirrors and a lack
13 of transparency and that's not how
14 government is supposed to be. You know, I
15 hope that you wouldn't continue to pull the
16 wool over the public's eyes because you are
17 doing that them a disjustice. Remember, you
18 represent us, it's not the other way around
19 and until we lose that mentality we are now
20 going to move anywhere.

21 You know, this morning we saw the
22 article again talking about selling off
23 assets, you know, we're talking about the
24 Sewer Authority again. You know, it just
25 really discourages me to see this and, you

1 know, we knew it was something that was
2 going to come forward and was recognized
3 under the Amoroso plan and, you know, I just
4 question that these aren't real solutions.
5 Selling assets aren't solutions.

6 We elected a council, we elected a
7 mayor who came claim they had plan through
8 the election. We get here. Not interested
9 in a man from New Jersey, interested in the
10 people that we put in these seats and we
11 haven't heard anything. Heard a lot of
12 promises, a lot of plans throughout the
13 campaign, talk is cheap, let's see some
14 work. Haven't seen any yet.

15 You know, we talk about the need for
16 people to come up here and be positive and,
17 you know, I brought up positive suggestion
18 for many years, a lot of other people have
19 brought up positive suggestions, but, you
20 know, going back to January again, I just
21 think ever since this council has taken
22 over, and I just solely speak for myself,
23 but I feel when I walk into this chamber I
24 don't get the same feeling that I used to
25 get in the past. I get a feeling of

1 darkness, I get a feeling of just a lot of
2 disrespect from our elected officials and
3 that really upsets me. I don't believe we
4 are taken serious. I believe the insults
5 and the mockery that's made of us is very
6 insulting and I think the gestures speak
7 volumes from our leaders and, you know,
8 I'm a grown individual and I really don't
9 need to have, you know, people offer
10 gestures that don't belong here, and it's
11 not just me it's a lot of other people that
12 come up here and are treated improperly and
13 that needs to change. The attitude from our
14 leaders needs to change if we want to talk
15 about being positive because it starts with
16 you people, not us.

17 Tuesday night I had a chance to
18 attend a neighborhood meeting in South Side
19 and, you know, I have had a chance through
20 the years to attend a lot of meetings, I
21 know I saw Mr. Wechsler over in Greenridge a
22 few weeks ago and I know you folks have a
23 chance to go around and you get a real
24 education when you talk to these people and
25 you just sit back and you listen to them for

1 a few moments and having the chance to
2 listen to some senior citizens who I
3 basically just get the idea that they are
4 totally disgusted with what's going on in
5 this city over taxation, blight, people just
6 trying to get out of here as quick as they
7 can, and it's really disheartening to hear
8 that, but you hear a lot of sad stories
9 because there is a lot of poverty. You
10 know, particularly, we talk South Side in
11 particular and what's going on there and how
12 it just spread throughout this entire city,
13 throughout West Side, the Hill Section,
14 everywhere. And, you know, a lot of these
15 individuals are looking for solutions and
16 they have really given up on the system.

17 You know, you talk about 30 percent
18 of the voters coming out in the election and
19 how that's a really troubling thing and that
20 it's easy to throw in the towel and give up,
21 but that's really not going to solve the
22 problem. You know, as they talked about the
23 need if we are not satisfied with where are
24 government is taking us, well, then in four
25 years you hand them the pink slip and you

1 hire people that are independent and are
2 willing to do the right thing, put politics
3 aside, and I think everybody at that meeting
4 and just a lot of the pulse you get from the
5 citizens in this community are that politics
6 has just completely destroyed the city and
7 the more we continue to play that game we
8 are just going to continue to kill off the
9 city that's, quite frankly, already on life
10 support and we have come to the point now
11 where we are just waiting on when we are
12 going to pull the plug, and bankruptcy was
13 brought up and it's been brought up here
14 many times and when that discuss has been
15 brought up a lot of those people are
16 criticized and ridiculed for talking about
17 that, but I think that's something that at
18 this point we have all acknowledged has to
19 be serious discussion at this point because
20 we have nothing coming from this chamber, we
21 have nothing coming from downstairs, and we
22 just have to wonder where we are really
23 going here. Is there a light at the end of
24 this tunnel. So I'm hoping we can see some
25 leadership moving forward.

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

3 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
4 I'd glad everybody has there suit on today.
5 It makes me very confident. You know, I
6 think it's time to realize one thing, the
7 government is not serving us, the people are
8 serving government. We are prisoners to
9 government's lack of the action and inaction
10 generally. There is no where for this city
11 to go at this point. You know, we have
12 listened to all of the silliness we can
13 listen to, we need to take a look at the
14 American Anglian deal that was entered into
15 during the Connors' administration and there
16 needs to be some real discussion where the
17 money came from to pay that debt off.

18 Selling parking garages and a
19 billion dollar asset the Sewer Authority is
20 just ludicrous and, of course, people are
21 going to line up because they are going to
22 make millions and millions of dollars, but
23 the average citizens aren't going to make
24 any money, they are going to be billed for
25 it all. And, you know, when you look at the

1 increases in the sewer rates is how much of
2 is that is responsible for, you know, the
3 borrowing that took place when they created
4 this privatization of the Scranton Sewer
5 Authority?

6 You know, another thing is I have no
7 ax to grind with the municipal unions, but,
8 you know, I really feel bad for them in a
9 way because they have never really earned
10 the money they deserve, you got to be honest
11 about that if you are truthful to yourself
12 but, you know, a city and a government
13 without money that's borrowed itself out so
14 far really can't pay the people that work
15 for it.

16 You know, on the way here today down
17 in front of Mr. Z's there was an accident,
18 we had fire and police there, they do a
19 great job, there is no doubt. And I have to
20 ask myself another -- reason another thing
21 is why were there pensions never fully
22 funded for people that serve us so well?
23 There is no doubt that we are really in a
24 tough situation, and I don't -- I don't
25 agree with this new contract that's come

1 here before the council for a multitude of
2 reasons, but it's not that I don't respect
3 the fire and police, I just think it's the
4 wrong plan and I think we need a better plan
5 than the one we have been presented.

6 You know, Mr. McGoff I don't know --
7 maybe you can answer this, do you know how
8 you control your future? Do you know how to
9 control your future?

10 MR. MCGOFF: How to control my
11 future?

12 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, when you are
13 talking about government how do you control
14 your future if you are in government?

15 MR. MCGOFF: I really don't
16 understand the question.

17 MR. MORGAN: Well, if you are trying
18 to make a city prosperous and create a
19 future for it how do you do that?

20 MR. MCGOFF: You do it by making
21 decisions.

22 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Well, in order
23 to control your future you have to control
24 your past, so if we enter into contracts
25 that offer the city no future we are not

1 controlling our past to give ourselves a
2 future. If we keep borrowing and selling
3 our all of our assets off we won't have a
4 future then either.

5 You know, there is more to
6 government than getting dressed up and, you
7 know, the saddest part of it all is that you
8 had a whole year to take this budget apart
9 and look at it. Now, I'm going to be honest
10 in my opinion we have got four politicians
11 on council and one statesman, and the only
12 reason I say we have a statesman there is
13 because, Mr. Evans, you volunteered for that
14 job, you weren't elected and I respect you
15 for that, there is no doubt about it. But,
16 you know, when you take a look at the
17 inability to sell property in this city and
18 when you take a look at all of the fees and
19 all of the taxes we have don't you think
20 it's time to reorganize city government?
21 Don't you think it's time to live within our
22 means? Do you possibly think it's that time
23 to stop doing borrowing and tax
24 anticipation? I mean, how is the city going
25 to have a future?

1 You know, they are talking about a
2 new plan for the mall, any business you put
3 in this city is going to be strangled by a
4 lack of credible leadership, by the people
5 that were elected and when you see all of
6 the people that have walked away from the
7 vote you can't deny that they're disgusted,
8 but the most important thing they have is
9 their vote, and when you look at seniors,
10 retired people that are grandparents and
11 their grandchildren are somewhere else they
12 have to look at themselves for not grabbing
13 ahold of this government and making it a
14 function so their children can grow up here
15 and their grandchildren can be here.

16 You know, the Scranton Chamber of
17 Commerce is going to come up with a new
18 Scranton plan, but the one thing they forget
19 is a legitimate government that understands
20 the constraints government has and the
21 ability to borrow. Even the county is
22 almost at the limit of its borrowing and the
23 city is well beyond that and, you know, the
24 new Act 47 that's nothing because the
25 legislature doesn't want to face up to their

1 own problems. They are 50 or 60 billion
2 dollars down in pension debt and the last
3 thing they want is the city's debt. But,
4 you know, the truth of the matter is this,
5 leaders lead, but you know what? Just
6 because you are elected doesn't mean you are
7 a leader and it doesn't mean you have the
8 ability to lead because in order to lead you
9 you need intellect and maybe that's
10 something we are missing here because maybe
11 there is no thought taking place.

12 And, you know, discussing things in
13 back rooms, that belongs in bar rooms, okay?
14 When you are talking about government, that
15 should take place in the open so that people
16 can see government function and get
17 confidence that government is functioning
18 but in this country they know government is
19 not functioning, but keep wearing pretty
20 skirts and blouses and maybe it will all
21 work out. Thank you.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
23 Dave Dobrzyn, resident.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Taxes paid so far. I

1 have a concern here and the concern is with
2 our websites. Once again the last time I
3 was here I mentioned that our quality of
4 life ordinance is not listed on the website.
5 Personally, I feel that all of the
6 ordinances even before they were adopted
7 should be listed on the website. It's
8 nearly impossible to make any kind of
9 constructive critique or suggestions if you
10 don't know what you are talking about. It's
11 ashamed that we don't use this website
12 because at times people are going to get
13 unpleasant surprises unless they run around
14 and jump through hoops and get down to the
15 library and pay money on top of what they
16 have already paid for net service which is
17 somewhere around \$180 a month for your
18 triple play, and if you go to the phone
19 company for one thing and the television
20 company for another you wind up with pretty
21 much the same charges so you can't win for
22 losing.

23 And I'd also like council to look
24 into cash for clunkers. There are several
25 towing companies in the area that have a

1 salvage license and if you have a clunker in
2 the backyard that you have been a dang gum
3 good fix or God knows how long, you can get
4 one hundred or 200 bucks for it, sometimes
5 more, and if you could drive it to the
6 salvage yard sometimes it's as high as \$500
7 so certainly that's preferable to having it
8 hauled off and paying \$150 fine or whatever
9 and you should have on that list license
10 salvage toe operators, there are several of
11 them, I know one, I'll give you a name and
12 number at the end of the night and hopefully
13 you request look into it.

14 On trash, once again, we have a high
15 trash fee this year, and I see where a lot
16 of people just don't care about recycling
17 which lowers the landfill rates, but also
18 I'm also concerned from what I can deduce
19 landlords get to pay partial years and so
20 forth, I don't see that as proper and here's
21 why. We have to buy trucks, we have to
22 employ men, we have to supply fuel and
23 maintenance and everything else and we have
24 to drive-by that house just to see if there
25 is a trash there all year and then at the

1 end of the year there are back looking for a
2 break. That is not suitable. If they want
3 to be in business fine, pay what everybody
4 else pays because I'm not getting on to look
5 any easier.

6 And as far as your transparency, I
7 have to give this last year a great deed
8 because of the lack of the use of the
9 website for ordinances and whatever, it's
10 just not right to have to jump through
11 hoops, and now in Harrisburg I don't know if
12 you got any of these, but I got this mailing
13 in my mailbox the he last day or so, don't
14 let wealthy nonprofits change the rules and
15 stick homeowners with the bigger tax bill,
16 so it would be my hope that you do some
17 research into in as I intend to and I think
18 they get enough of a break already. We
19 don't need -- and it's not all nonprofits,
20 it's tax exempts, it has nothing to do with
21 nonprofit. There is a man named Larusso, he
22 had the tea party express, he conned people
23 out of million of dollars to start
24 television stations, never produced, now he
25 is collecting money for veterans and he pays

1 himself about 30 or 40 percent. He paid
2 himself a million dollars last year,
3 collected about two and a half or three,
4 shame on him but, you know, he is a
5 nonprofit.

6 And finally, we have the
7 Transpacific Trade Pack. Well, if you are
8 sick and tired of hearing about people
9 complaining the money they are in the making
10 anymore and you are sick and tired of
11 hearing about the jobless and you are sick
12 and tired of hearing about how much taxes
13 aren't being collected because wage taxes --
14 because people aren't making money anymore
15 call your national government, your federal
16 government representatives, and the
17 president and tell them to take their
18 Transpacific Trade Pack and stuff it in the
19 trash can or wherever else they have to do
20 it. Thank you and have a good night.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
23 Council, Marie Schumacher, taxpayer. First,
24 I'd like to thank the Times-Tribune, which I
25 intended to do last week for all of the

1 articles they have written on the MOU and
2 seeking professional out-of-area input, and
3 for the DPW for the job they have been doing
4 on the streets. I think they have done a
5 good job this time and I'd like to thank
6 them for that, and Joan for the time and
7 effort that she is put into this budget and
8 for revealing tonight to us that numbers
9 change from the time the budget was approved
10 by you all last year and what is currently
11 apparently the official version.

12 Especially on troubling on top of
13 the Controller's revelation last year, all
14 of the inappropriate transfers that were
15 made between accounts throughout the year
16 and I think somebody really needs to sit
17 down and talk to the business administrator
18 and maybe give them a copy of the rules and
19 regulations of how to operate.

20 And a few -- couple of things. Is
21 this the final year that Rossi will be doing
22 the audit before it's put out to bid?

23 MR. ROGAN: I believe so.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could somebody find
25 that out, I don't know who is in charge of

1 the that area, but if somebody could check.

2 MR. ROGAN: We could check. I'm
3 almost certain it's being bid out again this
4 year.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, but I'd like
6 a for sure. And will PEL come up and
7 present the revised recovery plan next week,
8 which is the last -- I believe the last
9 Thursday in January which I thought was the
10 intent.

11 MR. MCGOFF: I do have a letter from
12 PEL that I can access in a moment and I'll
13 answer during motions.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And on
15 rental registration I don't know whose
16 bailiwick that falls in, but for next week I
17 would like to know during calendar year '14
18 what the number of the registered properties
19 was and how many of the inspections that are
20 required by the ordinance that invokes the
21 fee have been performed. Who should I look
22 to for response on that?

23 MR. EVANS: I'll find out for you.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And
25 then, Mr. Rogan, it's been a long time since

1 you reported on all of the defaulted loans
2 over the last decade, maybe you could do
3 that next week and let us know what the
4 status is of all of those?

5 MR. ROGAN: Sure, I'll reach out to
6 Attorney Hickey and Linda.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: There is way too
8 many. And then this was brought up during
9 the caucus, but it wasn't really assigned to
10 anybody so I would like to know with
11 certainty what the contract with Joyce for
12 the replacement of the streetlights what it
13 specifies files as far as replacement time
14 that was guaranteed from the report to the
15 fixing of the lights and the replacement.

16 And I will be anxious to sit down
17 and listen to what you are going to do
18 discuss with regard to the MOU tonight, I do
19 hope it's not introduced, I'm looking
20 forward to -- I'm sure you will be sharing
21 the information that you were scheduled to
22 receive this week, I do have a comment on
23 that.

24 And I would also one thing that
25 really troubled me is back in 2012 there was

1 a police officer that got in some kind of
2 hot water and the powers that be, I guess
3 the District Attorney and whoever refused to
4 press criminal charges but reverted back to
5 the chief of police and there was action
6 apparently taken that was reported, but we
7 don't know what that person did, and that
8 really bothers me because you cannot help --
9 we need to trust our police and by and large
10 I do, but somebody did something that was
11 serious enough to go to the District
12 Attorney for possible criminal and that's
13 protected by the contract, and I did not
14 realize that this memorandum of
15 understanding was an actual renegotiation of
16 the contract because that's something --
17 that's a clause I think should be deleted
18 from there for one thing, and I came down to
19 verify that it was, in fact, illegal because
20 I was incredulous that it could possibly --
21 that that information was not available to
22 the public, so I did go down and reviewed
23 the contract and I got several pages,
24 actually quite a few, reproduced after my
25 review and what troubles me now, and I'll

1 conclude with this, is there is a reluctant,
2 it was apparent to me from Mr. Abrahamasen
3 to include the six officers that were to be
4 named by name, but yet on page six of the
5 existing contract that was in the settlement
6 by and between the City of Scranton and
7 Lodge No. 2 of the Fraternal Order of
8 Police, Item No. 9, it says, "Upon their
9 retirement from employment, the city shall
10 provide bargaining unit members," and there
11 is one, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
12 eight names, their spouses and dependents
13 with the health insurance benefits free of
14 charge that were in effect at the date of
15 retirement for their lives and that of their
16 spouse.

17 Now, if it could be done then why
18 can't it be done now? You can't help but
19 wonder if it wasn't included and to deceive
20 us. If they are reluctant to put those
21 names in and tighten that up then I have to
22 wonder if it wasn't meant to be a big open
23 door, and I'll see you next week. I hope
24 that's not reintroduced tonight. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes

1 to address council? Just to answer the
2 question you had about the recovery plan, we
3 did receive a draft copy today via e-mail,
4 it's 59 pages so I did not have chance to
5 look at it, a final copy will be made
6 available next week, the 29th, it will be
7 made available to council. To the
8 administration and also to the office for
9 public inspection, and we will request of
10 PEL and they did say that they would come to
11 a public caucus in council chambers to
12 present the final draft of the recovery
13 plan, so when we have that finalized we will
14 have that.

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

16 MOTIONS.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
19 Mr. McGoff. Last week I seconded a motion
20 to table the memo of understanding and the
21 reason why I did that is that last week was
22 we really didn't have enough time to consume
23 the information that was given to us and
24 also there was some information that was
25 lacking that I needed to start making an

1 informed decision. Since that time last
2 week I had met with Mayor Courtright and
3 Attorney Abrahamsen and I have also had
4 phone conversations with Chief Graziano,
5 Solicitor Shrive, Union President Paul
6 Helring and John Judge. The administration
7 has provided us with information of the
8 benefits and costs of the proposed contract.
9 I'm still evaluating the numbers and I do
10 still share some concerns about the health
11 insurance for our retirees, but I think at
12 this time the information that's forthcoming
13 from the administration is what it is, and I
14 think we have to evaluate it and make our
15 best informed decision.

16 One again, I am still concerned
17 about the health benefits for the retirees.
18 Attorney Abrahamsen is supposed to get me
19 some more information on that and I am
20 waiting for that, but tonight I will be
21 voting to reintroduce this legislation
22 because I think by next week we do have to
23 have this decision to vote on this up or
24 down. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a few comments
2 regarding the new contract and the
3 concessions from the police union, and I
4 want to take a stroll down memory lane for a
5 minute here, and this placed in my mailbox
6 today, I don't know who requested it, but I
7 certainly appreciate it because it will come
8 in handy and I do want to read this.

9 "Background. After negotiations
10 between EB Jermyrn Lodge No. 2 with the
11 Fraternal Order of Police and the City of
12 Scranton for a collective bargaining
13 agreement to be effective June 2008 and
14 failed to reach an agreement, an impasse was
15 declared and the parties requested an Act
16 111 arbitration panel. The FOP designated
17 Thomas W. Jenkins to serve as it's party
18 designated arbitrator and the city
19 designated Timothy P. O'Reilly to serve as
20 it's party designated arbitrator. The two
21 party arbitrators then designated Edward J.
22 O'Connor to serve as the impartial chair of
23 the panel. In lieu of evidentiary hearings,
24 the parties agree to present their positions
25 and evidence and support thereof by way of

1 written submissions to the panel.

2 In addition to the factual
3 submissions, the parties each prepared legal
4 memoranda in support of their positions.
5 Subsequent to the receipt of presentation,
6 the panel met in a number of executive
7 sessions and considered the evidence and
8 arguments presented. After a review of the
9 evidence and arguments presented by both the
10 FOP and the city, the panel issues the
11 following order:

12 Award. The contract shall be a term
13 for seven years commencing on January 1,
14 2008, and continuing through January 31,
15 2014.

16 Wages. And this is the interesting
17 part, these are the raises that were awarded
18 the FOP by refusing to negotiate. January
19 1, 2008, 8 percent increase across the
20 board. January 1, 2009, 3 percent increase
21 across the board. July 1, still in 2009, 3
22 percent increase across the board. In 2010
23 there were two raises, January 1 and July 1,
24 both 3 percent, a total of six. In 2011,
25 same thing, January and July 1, 3 percent

1 increase, 3 percent increase. 2012, January
2 1 and July 1, 3 percent increase, 3 percent
3 increase. January 1, 2013, 3.2 percent
4 increase across the board. July 1, 2013,
5 3.2 percent across the board. January 1,
6 2014, 3.2 percent increase across the board.
7 July 1, 2014, 3.2 percent increase across
8 the board. Add it all up it comes to a 44.8
9 percent increase in pay by failing to
10 negotiate and basically going to war with
11 the city unions. That was the tactic that
12 our former mayor took and these are the
13 results.

14 In addition to what's here, the city
15 still owes to our police and fire in excess
16 of \$20 million which is a growing at a rate
17 of over \$100,000 per month just on the
18 interest because the city doesn't have the
19 funds to pay. The actual award was over \$40
20 million prior to receiving concessions from
21 the unions at that point in time. Moving on
22 to some of the information that was
23 presented regarding this contract, there are
24 some expenses, there are some expenses and
25 there are savings. The wage increases are

1 around 1 to 2 percent per year. Much better
2 than the 11 and 6 percent increases that we
3 saw over the previous years. There are many
4 savings outlined in the new contract.

5 Savings for new hires are projected around
6 1.4 million through the course of the new
7 contract. Pension contributions increase.
8 Now, this will not effect the general fund,
9 but it will effect the pension funds which I
10 do know are severely distressed, 1.2 million
11 over the course of the contract. Changes in
12 minimum shift manning \$1.3 million in
13 savings. The elimination of weekends off
14 for the highway division, approximately
15 \$700,000 in savings. Sick time incentive
16 approximately 60,000 in savings.

17 Elimination of a patrol captain, nearly
18 \$150,000 in savings. Civilian parking
19 enforcement projects nearly a 25 percent --
20 or \$2.5 million in revenue into the city.

21 Now, that doesn't come without
22 costs, some of the costs, health insurance
23 for six retirees \$449,000. An extra week of
24 vacation for employees that have met a
25 certain threshold \$177,000, and the sick

1 time bonus by not using the sick days of
2 approximately \$58,000. Now, if you add that
3 all up according to these numbers it comes
4 to an approximate \$6.8 million in savings.
5 I would argue that the pension savings
6 should be taken out of that because it
7 doesn't directly effect the budget, but this
8 is an outline of what we are voting on
9 tonight. So you have what we are currently
10 looking at by negotiating by the union and
11 the city coming together to reach an
12 agreement that not only keeps the level of
13 protection where it is, which to me is very
14 important, so you have a new contract by
15 negotiating or you could go the way that our
16 former mayor did by going to war with city
17 unions and we all saw what the end result of
18 that was.

19 After analyzing what has been given
20 to us, talking to union leaders, city
21 leaders, attorneys, our police chief, our
22 mayor, solicitors, it is my analysis that
23 this is a good deal for the city especially
24 in comparison to doing nothing and letting
25 this contract expire and ending up in front

1 of an arbitrator like we did a few years ago
2 and owing a \$40 million award and owing
3 nearly 50 percent in raises, and that's not
4 even compounding it. I was just adding them
5 straight so the actual amount if you
6 compound this is even higher. So that is --

7 MR. MCGOFF: 55 percent.

8 MR. ROGAN: If you compound it, it's
9 over 55 percent, thank you, Councilman
10 McGoff. So that is why I do support this
11 measure. It's unfortunate that for some
12 reason the newspaper has decided to run
13 multiple articles on each component the city
14 gave, and there is validity to most of those
15 articles, but there are items that the city
16 gave, but why not run an individual article
17 on each one of the items that the union gave
18 back to the city? That hasn't happened.

19 In addition, an article was put in
20 regarding a "Me, too" clause that has been
21 out since the Connors' administration.
22 Unfortunately, the media has driven this
23 discussion away from an objective analysis
24 of these numbers. By looking at it, to me
25 it a good deal and most importantly it will

1 keep our level of protection, which is the
2 main function of the government and it's the
3 main function of our police department and
4 they do a great job, just compare us to
5 other cities in our region of similar size
6 and of smaller size and our neighborhoods
7 are much safer, so for these reasons I will
8 be supporting this item. Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: I'd like to do a brief
11 recap of where we are financially at this
12 time. The pension plans are insolvent and
13 on life support, 5.2 million of our pension
14 payment goes towards disability pensions in
15 a number that's approximately ten times that
16 of other Pennsylvania cities our size. We
17 have a recurrent structural deficit, we are
18 looking to monetize the Sewer Authority to
19 super fund the pension, we are looking to
20 monetize the parking authority. We just had
21 a 19 percent tax increase. Our garbage fee
22 is almost doubled from what it once was just
23 two years ago. Our wage tax has already
24 proven to be a large disincentive to
25 attracting and maintaining the middle class.

1 The mercantile and business privilege tax
2 continues to drive out businesses and
3 restrict growth. We have increased property
4 taxes on residents and business owners
5 approximately 110 percent since 2010.

6 Remember, this was and still is the
7 backdrop for asking the unions for
8 concessions. Nothing has changed. This
9 council and this administration have been
10 largely on the same page as we try to work
11 together through the many financial issues
12 the city faces, and I have been consistent
13 in my goal to look for long-term solutions
14 versus short-term fixes, and sometimes
15 people have disagreements about certain
16 issues, but that does not mean we will or
17 should stop working together to achieve
18 financial solvency, and while I respect the
19 work the administration has done looking for
20 union concessions, and there is much that I
21 do like about the MOU, there are several
22 things that I still can't come to terms
23 with. I will offer further comment on those
24 when the opportunity presents itself later
25 in the tonight's meeting. Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I just
2 wanted to apologize for not getting back to
3 a few people that contacted me over the past
4 week, I have been sick. Let me remind
5 everybody to please get your flu shot. I
6 received a citizens' request about two
7 streetlights that have been out for over a
8 month at Olive Street and Quincy Avenue and
9 713-715 North Irving Avenue. Our office has
10 forwarded the information to DPW and Joyce
11 Electric.

12 Residents had also contacted me this
13 week about a "No Parking" sign being torn
14 down at the intersection of McDonough Street
15 and Birney Avenue in Minooka. This
16 intersection is very dangerous when cars are
17 pulling out and our office will contact DPW
18 to see if this sign can be replaced.

19 And I'll hold the rest of my
20 comments for agenda items. Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just a
22 couple of quick things, responses. First of
23 all, we will try and resolve the budget
24 discrepancy by next week. We should have an
25 answer as to which is the correct budget and

1 what numbers are correct. I think that is a
2 legitimate request and something that the
3 correct budget should be placed on the
4 website, and if that is it not correct then
5 it should be changed what's there.

6 Also, we will try and determine what
7 the status of the audit is, the 2013 audit,
8 and when it will be completed. Hopefully we
9 will have that answer, again, by next week.

10 Just a general comment, somebody
11 talked about -- I find it unusual that
12 Lackawanna County is one of the few that
13 does not have a county fairgrounds.

14 MR. ROGAN: We are the only one in
15 the state that does not.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Really? And we have no
17 countywide event, and I'm not doing that as
18 a criticism it's just something that has
19 never been done in Lackawanna County and,
20 like I said, you know, being the only one
21 it's very unusual, I guess.

22 MR. EVANS: Maybe Mr. Hetman should
23 take that back and let's get that done.

24 MR. HETMAN: I will take it back.

25 MR. MCGOFF: The other thing, the

1 suggestion about East Mountain Road I think
2 is a valid one and perhaps we can look into
3 how we would go about declaring that as a
4 snow emergency route. I think that that
5 would be a good idea for the future.

6 Also, again, in response to the idea
7 of a casino, it is not the city's
8 responsibility to go out and get a casino
9 license. The first step would be for
10 somebody to apply for a license. If that
11 were to be done then we would poll council
12 and the administration to see we were in
13 favor of the supporting that application.
14 We can't support something that doesn't
15 exist, at least that is my belief, and when
16 somebody presents us with an application or
17 has an application we will, in fact, do what
18 I just said.

19 Also, the comments about smoke and
20 mirrors and insults from council and council
21 being disrespectful to people at the podium,
22 I would like somebody to provide evidence of
23 any council member being disrespectful to
24 anyone at the podium. In this past year I
25 cannot remember any time that that took

1 place. If anything, the insults and
2 disrespect came from the podium towards
3 council and there is ample evidence of that.

4 And as far as the caucus, we keep
5 going over this, and the purpose -- we have
6 a public caucus every week. That is
7 something that was not done in the past.
8 Every week we meet before the meeting and
9 discuss what will happen at that week's
10 meeting, and the purpose of the caucus is to
11 inform council members as to the legislation
12 and what will be happen during the meeting.
13 That is the purpose of the caucus and always
14 has been. I think that we have been more
15 open about what we are doing than any
16 council in the past and I believe that I
17 would get support on that from, you know,
18 Mr. Rogan who has been here in the past.

19 MR. ROGAN: The caucuses have been
20 very informative and the public is welcome
21 to attend.

22 MR. MCGOFF: And I do take issue
23 with people criticizing what we are doing
24 because what we are doing is something that
25 is not or has not happened in the past.

1 And as far as anything else, I'll
2 reserve comment for the agenda items.

3 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 A RESOLUTION - REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 103,
5 2014 APPOINTMENT OF KRISTIN JENKINS, 818
6 CAPOUSE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
7 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL
8 RECREATION AUTHORITY. MS. JENKINS WILL BE
9 REPLACING ANTHONY MARINUCCI WHO RESIGNED
10 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2, 2014. MS. JENKINS
11 WILL FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR.
12 MARINUCCI WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 17,
13 2015. MR. MARINUCCI RESCINDED HIS
14 RESIGNATION.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I'd
21 just like to make note that Ms. Jenkins was
22 appointed to fill the spot of Mr. Marinucci
23 who we thought -- or the administration
24 thought had resigned. That resignation
25 apparently was rescinded and we need to

1 repeal this legislation since Ms. Jenkins
2 could not replace someone who was already
3 there so that is the purpose of repealing
4 this legislation.

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
12 eyes have it and so moved.

13 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF KRISTIN
15 JENKINS, 818 CAPOUSE AVENUE, SCRANTON,
16 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A MEMBER OF THE
17 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY.
18 MS. JENKINS WILL FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM
19 OF MARCIE RIEBE WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO
20 EXPIRE ON MARCH 1, 2016.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

1 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Yes,
2 this is the same Mrs. Jenkins that was
3 unappointed, she is now being appointed to a
4 position that is vacant. All those in favor
5 of introduction signify by saying aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JUDE J.
14 MCANDREW, 745 NORTH BROMLEY AVENUE,
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER
16 OF THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION
17 AUTHORITY. MR. MCANDREW WILL BE REPLACING
18 JACK DELEO WHO RESIGNED JANUARY 6, 2015.
19 MR. MCANDREW WILL FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM
20 OF MR. DELEO WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO
21 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: 5-E - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -
12 FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION -
13 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
14 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AN ENTER INTO A
15 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN
16 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND LODGE NO. 2 OF THE
17 FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff.

25 Just a brief comment because there will be

1 more as we move into it, part of the
2 consideration that has to be made when we
3 are evaluating this ordinance or resolution
4 is the reality that if this does not pass we
5 will stay under the current contract until
6 2017, and as a result of that we will
7 probably be entering into arbitration in
8 2018. The City has not done well in
9 arbitration in the past.

10 If we do not -- if we are unable to
11 pass this new contract, the savings that we
12 would experience will not be experienced.
13 So I think that's some of the things that
14 have to be considered besides a valid
15 extension as we look at it here. There is
16 also three grievances currently that the
17 police department has that will be waived if
18 the contract passes, which is another
19 potential savings of a lot of money, so
20 besides when we look at this everyone has to
21 look at the whole picture and consider if we
22 can start to take advantage of those savings
23 now. Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

25 MR. EVANS: Yes, on the question.

1 The Amoroso plan, which I have been
2 steadfast in support of says the following,
3 "Reopen the city contracts with the
4 collecting bargaining units, focus on
5 renegotiating health care and especially
6 pension reform as well as changes to
7 starting salaries, time between steps and
8 ranking standards and distribution."

9 That sounds like a blueprint or
10 concessions. Our goal was union concessions
11 and somehow we veered off in the direction
12 we have. We've turned it into a fully
13 renegotiated contract. Sometimes I look for
14 simple answers for complex problem and I'm
15 afraid that somehow this MOA may have
16 complicated the process even more and, quite
17 frankly, I'm still trying to figure out the
18 savings and the costs to this MOA. We have
19 received documentation from Chief Graziano
20 and Attorney Abrahamsen and Business
21 Administrator Dave Bulzoni, all
22 comprehensive, but all separate and
23 different and unique in their own way. I
24 appreciate their hard work, but again, I am
25 seeking simple clear and concise answers to

1 this complex issue. I am looking for one
2 set of comprehensive answers in an easily
3 understandable format, period, and I just
4 don't have that at this point.

5 As I mentioned, there are many
6 things I do like about this MOA and I will
7 say that the section that -- the section
8 that covers the personnel restructuring and
9 some others that were clearly were a result
10 of Chief Graziano's involvement were well
11 though out and will have a positive effect
12 on the manpower and overtime in the
13 department, and the addition of two SIT
14 clerks to enforce on-street parking citywide
15 is a concession 20 years in the making, so
16 thank you, Chief, and Union leadership for
17 your efforts on those issues.

18 However, I'm not a fan of other
19 areas of the contract, particularly adding
20 the fifth week of vacation, liberal sick
21 leave policy, retirement and health care
22 section, and the fact that there is no
23 reference to Pennsylvania reform for new
24 hires. With changes in those areas I would
25 easily vote for this plan. If I may, I'd

1 like to expand on one of those issues,
2 retiree health care. The intent is to allow
3 six eligible employees to participate in
4 this benefit, and in some way even help
5 lower the disability pension requests by
6 some officers that are approaching
7 retirement age. However, as written
8 according to the Scranton Times, there were
9 99 police officers that were hired after
10 January 1, 1994, and will eventually be
11 eligible to participate in retiree health
12 care benefits. The argument that this
13 benefit will be negotiated out of the
14 contract when this contract expires to me
15 has no merit. First of all, more than 65
16 percent of the voting members of the FOP
17 will be eligible for this benefit when the
18 next contract is negotiated. Human nature
19 simply would indicate that those 65 percent
20 that are eligible would not going to remove
21 a benefit that would allow them personally
22 and their spouses to have retiree benefits.

23 Now, let's talk about the cost of
24 this benefit if it remains in effect beyond
25 the contract period. The administration's

1 own numbers have indicated a \$224,780 per
2 employee for ten years of retiree benefits
3 for them and their spouse. In today's
4 healthcare dollars that would mean that all
5 99 eligible employees eventually elected to
6 take it, if they did, it would cost the city
7 over \$22 million. Again, that is in today's
8 health care cost dollars. If must be
9 assumed that health care costs, as they
10 always do, continue to rise and increase
11 over the years.

12 Additionally, if it is proven that
13 the fire department has a parity clause, and
14 even if doesn't, surely they will want this
15 language in their renegotiated contract.
16 There are approximately 65 firemen that will
17 fit in this category as well. Adding to
18 this number, another \$14 million based on
19 the police calculation. This would mean a
20 total in the are of \$36 million. Now,
21 again, using today's health care costs. So
22 what would appear to be a cost of \$449,520
23 that's present by the administration for the
24 MOA period most likely could cost as much as
25 \$40 million or more if the retiree health

1 care benefit cost is not negotiated out in
2 the future.

3 So once again, in my opinion we are
4 kicking the can down the road, opting for
5 what appears to be a short-term fix and
6 setting ourselves up for another long-term
7 fiscal climate. It is no longer somebody
8 else's problem, it is our problem. We are
9 the ones that are here today making
10 decisions that we feel will be in the city's
11 best interest and we do have a choice.
12 That's all I have for now.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
15 Thank you. I will be voting against
16 introducing this legislation tonight. After
17 reviewing the information that was given to
18 us piecemeal and at times begrudgingly,
19 which I still find completely shocking, over
20 the past two weeks, I still have many
21 concerns. I think it would be irresponsible
22 to introduce this contract even for
23 consideration. Let's first remember that
24 the entire purpose of asking for concessions
25 was to address the city's escalating

1 financial crises with the goal of saving
2 money. This was not supposed to be a full
3 blown contract negotiation.

4 Scranton is careening off a fiscal
5 cliff and is in no position and certainly
6 under no obligation to offer additional
7 benefits that will sink the city even
8 further. Two weeks ago the mayor touted
9 that this contract will save \$750,000 to a
10 million dollars annually over the life of
11 the agreement. If this was such a critical
12 savings and the city was in such dire
13 financial condition, then why would the
14 mayor add over \$1 million of discretionary
15 expenditures to the 2015 budget that was
16 just passed a month ago?

17 If you add all of the new positions,
18 all of the salary increases, and increases
19 in departmental expenditures, which I did,
20 and I was very generous, I didn't include
21 some that I thought we might need, you get a
22 total of over \$1 million, and that's not
23 including contractual expenses. For a city
24 that's on financial life support this made
25 absolutely no sense, so the alleged savings

1 and numbers that I still find somewhat
2 questionable that had been touted in this
3 contract will just about cover the mayor's
4 increases in this year's budget.

5 It's my opinion that the city
6 taxpayers still end up on the losing end
7 here and the city in the long-term doesn't
8 really save any money. There are specific
9 revisions to this contract that I have
10 serious concerns with. The first is
11 something that Mr. Evans touched on. The
12 administration agreed to give back health
13 care benefits to employees and their spouses
14 hired after January 1, 1994. The
15 administration has said the change is
16 intended to effect only six employees.
17 However, those employees are not mentioned
18 in the agreement and the city may be
19 required to offer spousal health care
20 benefits to all employees hired after 1994,
21 and Mr. Evans and the paper mentioned that
22 that I think is 99 employees.

23 So my question is and has been why
24 are these six employees not specifically
25 mentioned in the agreement? Why is that

1 provision ambiguous? It's my opinion that
2 this could end up having a devastating
3 crippling effect on the city's finances.
4 Employees will receive a 9 percent salary
5 increase over the life of the contract. I
6 have asked for a detailed breakdown of how
7 this will cost the city over the life of the
8 agreement. I can't understand how this
9 administration and the financial state that
10 it finds itself in can afford to give out
11 raises.

12 The administration has touted an
13 increase in the pension contribution, which
14 is good, but the fact of the matter is that
15 that the employees will only be contributing
16 2 1/2 percent more to their pension, which
17 is an investment in their own retirement. I
18 talked to many residents over the past two
19 and a half weeks who have endured wage
20 freezes in their own jobs during this tough
21 economic times who cannot fathom how a
22 struggling municipality can give out raises.

23 This administration expects our
24 citizens to make sacrifices financially,
25 yet, we never seem to practice what we

1 preach.

2 Some of the other revisions that I'm
3 having trouble understanding is the sick
4 time policy. As the paper pointed out, it's
5 exceptionally generous. Other cities
6 similarly sized have no where near the same
7 policy that we are going to institute, and
8 so to me that makes no sense. The extra
9 week of vacation, the parking enforcement,
10 which I believe is making money, and is not
11 a savings, it's a revenue generator so who
12 knows how that will pan out.

13 But one of the most troubling parts
14 of this whole agreement in my opinion is it
15 the extension of the contract until 2021.
16 Last year, as we know, the state legislation
17 made provisions to Act 47, the Distressed
18 Municipalities Act. One of the most
19 significant changes was to impose a timeline
20 for cities to get out of distressed status.
21 Scranton has until 2017 to make progress
22 toward exiting Act 47. If we are not out of
23 the distressed status in 2017, we will have
24 to request a three-year extension which is
25 then dependent upon approval of a three-year

1 exit plan. If the request is approved,
2 Scranton's final deadline is 2020 before it
3 faces either receivership, bankruptcy or
4 dissolution as a municipality.

5 The existing police contract is said
6 to expire proximate 2017. If it is extended
7 to 2021, I believe that it would tie the
8 city's hands in two ways moving forward.
9 First, we eliminate the possibility of the
10 city to renegotiate the police contract in
11 2017 when preparing the important three-year
12 exit plan.

13 Second, the extended contract would
14 still be in effect for an additional year
15 after the final deadline in 2020. This
16 means that both the city and the state will
17 be bound to this contract for a full year
18 after our Act 47 status expires. So this
19 four-year extension I fear may have a
20 negative effect on the city's ability to get
21 out of distressed status before the mandated
22 deadline.

23 The definition of concession is
24 something done or agreed to improve a
25 situation. After reviewing this contract, I

1 believe this administration will once again
2 be kicking the can down the road. This
3 administration will once again be making
4 decisions that will shackle us financially
5 for years to come and this administration is
6 once again gambling with the future of our
7 city. Scranton taxpayers deserve a good
8 deal and when I see one I will vote for it.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of comments.
11 First of all, my belief is that the current
12 contract that we have is not sustainable.
13 There are raises, there are other benefits
14 that are included in this contract that the
15 current contract that I believe will move us
16 toward further towards the cliff that
17 Mr. Gaughan mentioned. I think that the
18 revision that were made in the proposed
19 contract are things that are sustainable.
20 When this was proposed or when this
21 negotiation stated there were three things
22 that I was looking for: First, some concern
23 about the pension, and I believe that by
24 increasing the pension contributions of the
25 police department or employees to the police

1 department while it doesn't necessarily, you
2 know, fund the pension completely it is a
3 step forward. It is something that was
4 needed to be done.

5 I also was concerned about new hires
6 and in the proposed contract the salary
7 provisions for new hires I think is of great
8 savings moving forward.

9 I was also concerned about overtime.
10 We are spending close to a million dollars
11 in overtime at the current -- under the
12 current contract. I believe that the
13 provisions that are in the proposed contract
14 will do something to decrease this overtime.

15 Also, included are things that I
16 didn't expect, what I would call extra
17 benefits, the reorganization of the police
18 department. I think will go a long way to
19 making the police department more efficient
20 and also go a long way to putting more
21 people -- more policemen on the streets
22 where they are needed.

23 Also, the revisions in the manning
24 of the police department I think it's a
25 great savings and the SIT reemployment or

1 reemployment of SIT personnel was another
2 thing that is a benefit under this proposed
3 contract.

4 Are there concerns, yes? And I
5 believe that Councilman Gaughan and
6 Councilman Evans, you know, delineated
7 those. Health care for retirees is a
8 concern, but it's a concern as we move to
9 2021. We don't possess the ability to
10 foresee what will happen in 2021. While
11 Councilman Gaughan talks about maybe money,
12 I talk about this is a maybe expenditure.
13 We don't know what will happen there.

14 Also, the concern that Councilman
15 Gaughan brought about the length of the
16 contract that is also a concern. It goes
17 beyond the length of what will be the
18 revised recovery plan. That is a concern,
19 but I believe that the benefits that we will
20 see through the length of the contract,
21 while you may call them short-term benefits,
22 I believe that those benefits are things
23 that we need in order to make the city whole
24 again. We need relief now and if we don't
25 get something, as I said, I don't believe

1 that the current contract is something that
2 we can sustain.

3 MR. ROGAN: I already made the vast
4 majority of my comments on this under
5 motions, but there was one other thing that
6 I did want to point out, and it's something
7 that a lot of people don't understand unless
8 you are in government or in a union it's
9 difficult to understand, contract
10 negotiations between the public sector union
11 and the municipality are not capable to the
12 private sector. There are fair labor
13 practice laws in the city. If the city were
14 to come in and say, "We think police
15 officers are making too much money, we want
16 to cut everyone's pay 10 percent" or as the
17 previous mayor did freeze wages for a
18 certain period of time, it goes to an
19 arbitrator. We don't have the flexibility
20 that somebody in a private sector would or
21 with our at-will employees which we do have
22 that flexibility to flatly change salaries.

23 The idea that an arbitrator would
24 air with the city versus the unions and give
25 a contract that has wage cuts or stagnant

1 wages is unrealistic. Evidence of that is
2 what happened the last time a mayor tried to
3 tactic. It didn't work.

4 Would we like to see more as far as
5 concessions? Of course, everyone would, but
6 this is a fair contract. It gives minimal
7 raises, which are actually more than upset
8 by the increase in pension contributions by
9 the employees.

10 I think the vast majority of the
11 items in here are helpful for the city.
12 Obviously, as mentioned by my colleagues
13 there are some concerns, and I do think it's
14 dangerous to go out and say, well, because
15 of this contract that's going to effect 90
16 some more employees because we don't know
17 what we are going to be in seven years.
18 Hopefully the city will be in a much better
19 financial position, that's all of our goal,
20 but that might not be the case. A lot can
21 happen between now and then and this deal is
22 by far the best deal that can be negotiated
23 besides going to an arbitrator where we
24 would get destroyed and have increases, you
25 know, in pay of 55 percent, retroactive

1 benefits, and not only that but just for the
2 morale of the city and the morale of the
3 city employees the period of time over the
4 previous administration was one of labor
5 unrest, especially amongst the public safety
6 employees which are certainly the most
7 important employees the city has.

8 So I will not -- I won't go on too
9 long about this, but that's how I feel on
10 about this issue and mainly the points that
11 I made earlier comparing what's happened in
12 the past to what we are currently
13 considering.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I'd like to touch
16 on the pension contributions just for one
17 second. I'm very happy that we have pension
18 contributions in this contract, but I'm
19 very, very disappointed that we do not have
20 pension reform for the new hires. It would
21 have been a very, very simple fix to have an
22 optional pension plan, a 401K, a hybrid and
23 a directional plan available for all new
24 hires. That didn't happen and I am very,
25 very disappointed in that as well. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd just like to make
3 one final comment. I would agree with
4 Mr. Rogan that the arbitration process seems
5 to be -- the city never wins, but I think
6 maybe people out to look at maybe there is
7 something wrong with that whole process, the
8 arbitration process. I mean, it just, you
9 know, just because the city is going to lose
10 all the time, I mean, it just to me maybe
11 statewide that whole process needs to look
12 at because the city has got to have some
13 recourse eventually to do something, to have
14 some kind of way to control their financial
15 future, so --

16 MR. ROGAN: I think that's something
17 we all agree.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? All those
19 in favor of introduction signify by saying
20 aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

24 MR. EVANS: No.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

1 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
2 moved.

3 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
4 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
5 71, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE REPEALING FILE OF
6 THE COUNCIL NO. 50, 2014 ENTITLED "CREATING
7 AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
8 02.229613 ENTITLED "LIQUID FUELS" FOR THE
9 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF THOSE FUNDS
10 RECEIVED FOR THIS PURPOSE".

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

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

15 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
25 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 72, 2015 - AN

1 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
2 58, 2014, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
3 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2015" BY ESTABLISHING
4 SEPARATE "03" FUND ACCOUNTS TO DEFINE ACTUAL
5 LIQUID FUEL EXPENDITURES THROUGH THE "03"
6 FUND DESIGNATION; BY REDESIGNATING FUNDS
7 FROM CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
8 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING, INSPECTIONS AND
9 PERMITS ACCOUNTS LISTED BELOW TO THE "03"
10 ACCOUNTS; THE DEPARTMENT, BUREAU AND LINE
11 ITEM DESCRIPTION WILL REMAIN THE SAME.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
15 pass reading by title.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

17 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? I'd
18 just like to remind people, this is being
19 done under a state mandate for auditing
20 purposes. All those in favor signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
4 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 73, 2015 - AN
5 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
6 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
7 AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES
8 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE
9 MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL
10 REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
11 THEREAFTER.

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

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
24 ayes have it and so moved.

25 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 74, 2015 - AN
2 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
3 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
4 IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES
5 ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY SITUATE
6 WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND
7 REGULATING THE METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE
8 PAYMENT OF SUCH TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND
9 IMPOSING DUTIES UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND
10 PROVIDING PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE
11 OF THE REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND NINE
12 TENTHS PERCENT (2.9%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015
13 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
14 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
18 pass reading by title.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

22 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -
4 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 75, 2015 - AN
5 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
6 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
7 IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS
8 FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER
9 UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS
10 AND BUSINESSES THEREIN; PROVIDING FOR ITS
11 LEVY AND COLLECTION AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
12 MERCANTILE LICENSES; CONFERRING AND IMPOSING
13 POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF
14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING
15 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE
16 LICENSE TAX AT ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR
17 CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN
18 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
19 THEREAFTER.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E
23 pass reading by title.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
7 eyes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 6-F. READING BY TITLE -
9 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 76, 2015 - AN
10 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
11 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
12 PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE BY
13 IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS
14 UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR
15 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
16 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;
17 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE
18 TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH
19 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND
20 COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH
21 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;
22 CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX
23 COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
24 IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE
25 RATE OF ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR

1 YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL
2 FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-F
6 pass reading by title.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

16 MS. REED: 6-G. READING BY TITLE -
17 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 77, 2015 - AN
18 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
19 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
20 AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR
21 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
22 TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET
23 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,
24 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE
25 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR

1 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
2 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS
3 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
4 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
5 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO
6 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE
7 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
8 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
9 THE VIOLATIONS", BY RE-ENACTING THE
10 IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR
11 TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR
12 RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED
13 INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED
15 OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME
17 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
18 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-G
22 pass reading by title.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

7 MS. REED: 6-H. READING BY TITLE -
8 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 78, 2015 - AN
9 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
10 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
11 AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
12 OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND
13 COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING
14 REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND
15 COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY
17 IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE
18 OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND THE
19 SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
20 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

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

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

25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

1 MS. MCGOFF: On the question? I
2 would like to just reiterate that the
3 garbage bills will be collected semiannually
4 with the first one being due on May 1 and
5 second on September 1. All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 6-I. READING BY TITLE -
14 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 79, 2015 - AN
15 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
16 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RENAMING
17 THE EMERGENCY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX
18 ("EMST") TO LOCAL SERVICE TAX ("LST")" AND
19 BY IMPOSING A WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE
20 CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN
21 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
22 THEREAFTER.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-I

1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

11 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
12 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
13 -FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 114, 2015 -
14 AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CITY OF
15 SCRANTON DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES,
16 PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON PROPERTY LOCATED
17 AT 1621 WASHBURN STREET, SCRANTON,
18 PENNSYLVANIA ALSO KNOW AS PIN
19 NO.14517-030-052.01.

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

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I was just going to
4 say, I see Mrs. Foster here tonight and the
5 Lewis family and I know a lot of work has
6 been put into getting this project off of
7 the ground and I think it's going to be a
8 great improvement for that area of West
9 Scranton and I wish you all the best of
10 luck.

11 MR. MCGOFF: And I would like to
12 also mention that this tax abatement has
13 already been approved by the Scranton School
14 District and by Lackawanna County, and as
15 Councilman Gaughan said, good luck in the
16 project in West Scranton.

17 Roll call, please?

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

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MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER