

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, February 12, 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

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

14 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. AUDIT
15 STATUS REPORT FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY
16 RECEIVED FEBRUARY 5, 2015.

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

19 MS. REED: 3-B. CHECK RECEIVED
20 FEBRUARY 9, 2015 FROM COMCAST REPRESENTING
21 THE CATV FRANCHISE FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF
22 \$217,751.76.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed. Any Clerk's
25 notes?

1 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Anything from council?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I have one.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: I think I mentioned
6 this two weeks ago, there will be a benefit
7 for Pat Walsh of Minooka tomorrow, Friday,
8 February 13, at the Divine Mercy Parish Hall
9 in Minooka from 5 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10
10 and can be purchased at the door. All
11 donations will help the Walsh family offset
12 hospital expenses due to a recent illness.
13 That will be beverages, light fare, basket
14 raffles and entertainment. If you would
15 like to make a donation to help Pat and the
16 family, checks can be sent to the Minooka
17 Lions Club, PO Box 4071, Scranton, PA,
18 18505. Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? A couple
20 of announcements. First of all, Monday,
21 February 16, city hall will be closed in
22 observance of Presidents Day. However, DPW
23 is working that day, so refuse pick up will
24 be on the schedule.

25 Also, some people have been asking

1 about the prior legislation and just a for
2 information's sake, if you go onto the
3 city's website Scrantonpa.gov and select
4 city codes, then general code, you will be
5 linked to ECODE 360. On that, you will have
6 access to all legislation that was adopted
7 through December of 2014, okay? I'll go
8 through again. Go to the city's website
9 Scrantonpa.gov, select city codes, then
10 general code, and that should link to ECODE
11 360 and that will have all legislation
12 adopted through December of 2014. I have
13 been informed that that was just recently
14 updated so everything that you are looking
15 for prior to December of 2014 should be on
16 there.

17 Also, on the agenda there will be a
18 motion for 7-D, which is the waiving the
19 residency requirements for Business
20 Administrator Dave Bulzoni. Two amendments
21 will be -- a motion will be made to amend
22 that legislation. It will set a termination
23 date of December 31, 2015, and the other
24 part of the motion will be to require
25 payment of the city's EIT. So if you wish

1 to speak to that know that those motions
2 will be made by council when the legislation
3 is read.

4 MS. REED: The letter from Jason,
5 did you want to read that now?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry. Thank you.
7 We have received information from Attorney
8 Shrive, the city solicitor, concerning the
9 article that was in the -- I think it was
10 the newspaper today from the Single Tax
11 Office concerning the extension of the
12 discount period for taxes. I will just read
13 this letter.

14 "The Lackawanna County, City of
15 Scranton and Scranton School District taxing
16 authorities, have all agreed to extend the
17 real property tax discount payment deadline
18 to March 17, 2015. The discount period is
19 being extended as a result of tax bills
20 being sent out later than usual. The tax
21 bills were distributed later than unusual
22 due to a change in the printing format of
23 the tax bills in an effort to make the tax
24 bills more easily understood. All
25 Lackawanna County, City of Scranton and

1 Scranton School District property taxes must
2 be paid to the Single Tax Office on or
3 before the close of business on March 17,
4 2015, in order for the taxpayer to receive
5 the applicable discount."

6 Okay? So the discount period is
7 extended to St. Patrick's Day, I have to
8 mention that, is extended to March 17. If
9 you pay your taxes by that period or by that
10 time you will receive a discount. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
16 Scranton resident and taxpayer. I'm very
17 pleased to hear that we can access all
18 legislation on the website. I would still
19 like to see, however, a lot of the
20 background documentation that city council
21 sees every week also posted on the website.
22 For example, the revised recovery plan, is
23 that ever going to be posted on the website?

24 MR. MCGOFF: That I do not know. I
25 will inquire from PEL if that's available to

1 be posted.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: In my opinion all
3 documents that effect the financial status
4 of the city, audits, the minutes of the
5 pension board, all of those things should be
6 on the website for public access.

7 And speaking of the recovery plan,
8 are we going to have a caucus on that or did
9 that get shelved or what's the status?

10 MR. MCGOFF: The recovery plan is
11 under revision again.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay.

13 MR. MCGOFF: And as soon as it is
14 completed and not in a draft form and it's
15 presented to council in it's, you know,
16 final form there being will a caucus for
17 presentation. That was clarified at the PEL
18 meeting this past week.

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: Thank you. That's
20 good. The 2013 city audit, I saw
21 Mr. Rossi's 5 February letter, there was
22 only two issues outstanding, GASBE 45 and 47
23 post-employment benefit calculations and the
24 Parking Authority's financial statements.
25 Have we got a projected completion date?

1 MR. MCGOFF: We had a letter. I did
2 not read the letter that we received from
3 the business administrator, I'm not aware of
4 any particular date for --

5 MS. HODOWANITZ: I bet you 25 cents
6 this is going to be a city record.

7 MR. MCGOFF: I think it already is
8 but --

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, in light of
10 that where do we stand about issuing an RFP
11 for the 2014 city audit?

12 MR. MCGOFF: I guess there was some
13 confusion that --

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: The one you
15 referred me to last week was the single tax
16 audit.

17 MR. MCGOFF: I apologize, yes, last
18 week I thought that's what the --

19 MS. HODOWANITZ: The point is we are
20 already behind the power curve. At this
21 point last year Rossi had sent a letter to
22 the city on January 20, 2014, itemizing the
23 information that had to be submitted. This
24 is February 12 and we haven't even gotten to
25 the RFP stage so I think whatever record we

1 set for the 2014 budget is likely to be
2 broken by the 2013 and 2014. This is going
3 in the wrong way on budgets -- or audits,
4 rather.

5 And on the budget, the 2015
6 operating budget, has the business
7 administrator's office done anything to
8 amend it since the revenues and expenditures
9 did not match?

10 MR. MCGOFF: We have received some
11 communication from Mr. Bulzoni about
12 possible ways to reconcile that problem,
13 nothing formal has been presented to us and
14 I believe that anything would have to come
15 through the law office to council, you know,
16 as a formal piece of legislation.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good. And on a
18 more positive note, April 16, 2016, is the
19 city's sesquicentennial so you will be 150
20 years old. Have you as council members
21 worked with any of the other organizations
22 in the city such as the Historical Society,
23 the library, or any of the other
24 organizations planning events to mark this
25 milestone in our history?

1 MR. MCGOFF: I believe Scranton --

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I was just going to
3 say, and I believe Councilman Wechsler has
4 attended a meeting that they had held
5 concerning that and I have attended one, our
6 city clerk has attended the meeting so we
7 are well aware, we have copies of the
8 minutes of all of the previous meetings and
9 I will say that the -- all of the people
10 that are involved are very excited about
11 that event and I think it's a going to be
12 great.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Actually the kickoff
14 is planned for 015, the weekend of April 27,
15 I believe it is.

16 MS. HODOWANITZ: Good.

17 MR. WECHSLER: At Steamtown Mall.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because as dire as
19 our financial situation is we have many
20 citizens past and present who should be
21 recognized for the contribution to the city
22 and we shouldn't let, you know, the problems
23 that we have overshadow that responsibility.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Lee Morgan.

2 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

4 MR. MORGAN: I had a wonderful
5 conversation this Sunday with PEL, they
6 called me, this city could have filed
7 bankruptcy in 2012 and it didn't. It met
8 all of the requirements to do so and refused
9 to do it. I'm very troubled by the new
10 contract that this council seems to be
11 ramming down the throats of the citizens of
12 this city. They are going to have very dire
13 consequences for this city. I don't think
14 that the city should have to wait the
15 remaining years to go into receivership.

16 I stopped at State Senator Blake's
17 office today, you know, I think all of the
18 residents of this city need to call the
19 Governor's Office and tell him not to give
20 any funds to this city. It's just terrible
21 what's going on in this city. When you look
22 at the Local 60's contract with this city,
23 the firemen's contract it's terrible, just
24 it shouldn't even be considered. All of the
25 cost saving is being put on the backs of the

1 new employees. We are giving present
2 employees more vacation time, the city is
3 going to pick up the costs of the PPE's in
4 the future and the new employees are going
5 to be met to -- be held the standards for
6 physicals. You know, what's really going on
7 here, you know, is just a disgrace. New
8 employees are going to have to be EMT or EMR
9 certified. The disability plan that's tied
10 to this pension, I mean, that's tied to this
11 contract is just ridiculous, just makes no
12 sense at all you and you have a copy of it,
13 I have a copy of it. I mean, if you just
14 have to look at it and see exactly what's
15 being done to this city. I mean, it's just
16 ridiculous where we are and the things that
17 are happening and for this council to ram in
18 contract down the throats of the citizens,
19 you know, the PEL understands that house are
20 being sold for almost no money in this city
21 and the plight from there city is outrageous
22 and they know that.

23 We just have to ask, like I said
24 before, does Scranton really have legitimate
25 government? Do we? The downtown is

1 abandoned, the neighborhoods are a mess,
2 look at all of the shops that are empty. We
3 have put apartments in buildings that were
4 designed for commerce. We have a council
5 that admitted in the police contracts that
6 they had no clue what those contracts meant
7 and they were going to look for more
8 information. Look at your own reviews when
9 you tabled it, and I really don't think you
10 have any idea what's going on now. And you
11 know what I think, I think that Mr. Gaughan
12 and Mr. Evans should go into court and ask
13 the Courts, since you are councilmen, to
14 reverse the contracts and throw them out
15 because you have standing in court, and that
16 would be the end of it, it would be over.

17 Because you know something, the city
18 has a rough draft of the revised recovery
19 plan, but why is the recovery plan coming
20 after the contracts? Are we going to mesh
21 it with the new contracts? And what's the
22 state going to do under Act 199 when the
23 city can't meet it's requirements? Are we
24 have to wait all of that time to go into
25 receivership. All of the citizens in this

1 city that can't pay their taxes and working
2 low wage jobs.

3 You know, Mr. Gaughan, I asked you
4 about the pothole paving machine, look at
5 our city streets. Look at the amount of --
6 Mr. Evans, look at the amount of properties
7 we are selling in this city and how much we
8 are selling for and then take a look at this
9 fire contract and see just what the
10 residents are getting. You know what I hope
11 you do? I hope you take that contract and
12 put it on the city's website so that all of
13 the people in this city can see exactly what
14 this council is voting on and understand
15 what's going on in here. This is a
16 sweetheart deal in my opinion for the rank
17 and file that went and got people elected to
18 the city government, so we are throwing all
19 of the rest of the people in the city over
20 the side to create contracts that are going
21 to go into 2021 with no real savings for the
22 residents of this city. Just a political
23 smoke screen, everybody in state government
24 knows where the city is headed.

25 You got Senator Casey trying to

1 interact with the new governor to bring
2 bailout money to the city. We have wasted
3 so much money in this city that we could
4 have -- the streets should have gold on them
5 and they don't. We only have despair,
6 poverty and just a total decline of the
7 city. The population base is fleeing and
8 the population base is getting smaller and
9 we got people with pretty suits on without
10 the ability to be honest to the voters and
11 the residents of this city, and I really
12 just don't think you're competent. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.
16 Ron Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: I'm declaring war on
18 you people, I just give up.

19 MR. MCGOFF: You going to make us
20 mad at you?

21 MR. ELLMAN: You people need to
22 listen to a talk show or see what people are
23 saying about this administration. They
24 ridicule it and detest it. One adversity
25 after another as far as this consideration

1 be. What are you thinking? You expect us
2 to pay our taxes, our school taxes, and
3 employ a person that has lied to you about
4 coming here and refuses to come here, you
5 want to use our money for his salary when he
6 won't contribute nothing, does that make any
7 sense? I don't think anybody in this city
8 is going to fall for it. This is a shameful
9 disgrace and any of you that vote for it
10 don't deserve to be sitting in those seats.
11 This is terrible. Besides you open the door
12 to anybody that comes down -- what if I want
13 to waive my garbage fees, can I do that?
14 What if I -- all of these things that people
15 could ask for up here you'd be liable for if
16 you allow this. This is -- you just don't
17 have no business supporting or even bringing
18 up such nonsense before the people of this
19 city.

20 Like I said a dozen times, you are
21 sitting up there, you don't know what people
22 are saying down here. You don't listen. I
23 know nobody listens to the radio, no one
24 ever comments on it, what goes on in
25 Corbett's shows or nothing. This is just --

1 I just give up on you guys. I have tried to
2 support you and I have talked to people and
3 they wonder if I'm nuts, I guess I was.

4 Let me say something real quick
5 before you throw me out of here, last month
6 I spoke about the mall being an example like
7 I saw in Allentown, of course you had no
8 interest, I must have bored you with all of
9 that, I'd like to know what the Teamster's
10 Union thinks if they lose that mall, it's
11 their money in it. These colleges are just
12 sitting here like a wolf waiting to pounce
13 on the land for that to be lost to the city
14 and when you go in there it sure like it's
15 next to that point. This was a good idea
16 and I'm very glad to see a few people
17 on-line have tried to get some support to go
18 into it and I know it's a long-term project,
19 I wouldn't know, but it would be -- it would
20 rejuvenate, this whole downtown, this whole
21 city could benefit from such a plan. You
22 people need to investigate it and support it
23 for once, the town is getting just like
24 Hazelton. There is just nothing left here
25 any good. The wage taxes and why people,

1 want to live here anymore is because of you
2 and the mayor. This just can't go on. My
3 taxes are three times what they were when I
4 bought the house. My insurance is \$1,600, I
5 used to pay 300 twenty years ago. You don't
6 talk all of that into consideration. I have
7 to get a wheel alignment, it's \$50. Nobody
8 up there cares about it because of these
9 potholes. I never seen such a waste of
10 money. Yesterday morning they put that cold
11 patch on a bunch of holes right by my house
12 where I walk the dog, I guess it was four or
13 five hours later they were all empty. It
14 won't stay. They need something better and
15 I don't know what because I'm not familiar
16 with that, I know they are trying, but there
17 is holes out there a foot deep. Hubcaps all
18 up and done the street for God's sake.
19 Somebody is going to end you suing the city
20 for \$350 and then people are going to find
21 out and somebody else is going come down
22 here and sue the city for 350, that would be
23 the end of your budget.

24 I know I skipped all around this
25 because I got so much on my mind and no time

1 up here, I appreciate you allowing me up
2 here. And again, please, think of the city
3 for once before you do such an idiotic thing
4 and vote for a man that won't contribute to
5 his salary and doesn't think enough of the
6 people and the taxpayers to live here.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
10 to address council?

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
13 7-A I guess this has to do with the gift you
14 gave to the Landmark Bank for a debt that we
15 weren't required to pay, but as you say, we
16 got plenty of money to throw away, what
17 difference does it make. Not only that, if
18 we push the debt up long enough we can push
19 the taxes up higher. We can get a lot of
20 cheap houses in this city and grab them up.

21 You really, really, really don't
22 understand what's going on in this city.
23 You really don't. The only person that
24 really makes sense was Bulzoni. Believe me,
25 he made a wise decision not to move into the

1 city. That made the most sense of
2 everything he ever did in office was not
3 wanting to move in the city. Scranton is
4 sinking and he sees it sinking because he is
5 the business administrator so what does he
6 figure he can do? Let the ship sink, be
7 safe in a little row boat and collect
8 anything else you can see floating down the
9 sea, and that's what the way he sees it.
10 You know, you said you are going to give him
11 a little incentive, going to make EIT tax,
12 but you didn't say if he pays anything
13 similar to where he is now, you didn't
14 mention that, and if he is paying say 1
15 percent up there then his tax in the city
16 would only be one and a quarter or 1 1/2
17 percent, but you don't mention them things.
18 I don't even know if you checked to see.
19 No, you didn't do it and non of you will.
20 That's your job though.

21 If you had done your job when the
22 mayor appointed you to this office we
23 wouldn't be where we are today. I blame you
24 more than anybody for the demise of the
25 city. You sat there and sat there and sat

1 there and people came before you over and
2 over and over and told you what was going to
3 happen now the road, but the Times didn't
4 help either, because anybody who came and
5 said something against the mayor they were
6 called Legion of the Doom. Well, the doom
7 is here. The skies are not green they are
8 black and you got to look at that that way.
9 You haven't done anything to really correct
10 the problem. The nonprofits are still
11 nonprofits.

12 When I asked to look and see if any
13 kind of safety legislation could have been
14 passed for the fire service and the police
15 would be on like the Sewer Authority you
16 have to pay to use them you never looked.
17 Maybe it's not possible, but maybe it is
18 possible, but unless you do things like that
19 the nonprofits will never give a penny, but
20 you can't -- you keep trying to get blood
21 out of a stone. People really can't afford,
22 especially the elderly who wants to die and
23 you are taking away their right to die. You
24 are going to make it so they can't afford to
25 live here and that's all they want to do is

1 die in their home. That's all they want to
2 do. Most of the elderly that's all they
3 want to do. Why are you making it so hard
4 for them to do it?

5 Have you done anything at all to try
6 and lift the burden? You are still giving
7 contracts like crazy out. Every time you
8 read the paper you are giving a new
9 contract, more contracts, more contracts.
10 The Democratic party and all parties exist
11 for two things, patronage and contracts and
12 that's what's the problem with Scranton is.
13 We gave too many contracts out and too much
14 patronage. What good is sitting there if
15 you only are remembered as a person who
16 ruined the city and that's what it's going
17 to be, that's going to be your legacy. The
18 person who sat there and watched the city
19 burn and not lift a finger to help put out
20 the fire. Thank you.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
23 Dobrzyn, resident, citizen of Scranton. On
24 7-B once again I just heard from Joan this
25 week is a lot of this legislation going to

1 recycling wasn't. Now, I presume that they
2 are behind and they had to come downtown and
3 remove snow but we are the last day of the
4 week, this is your neighborhood, too, I
5 don't know you are probably Thursday; right?

6 MR. EVANS: On Wednesday, but they

7 --

8 MR. DOBRZYN: You're Wednesday.

9 MR. EVANS: They picked up the
10 recycling Friday.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, if you get it on
12 Friday now, it started with Martin Luther
13 King Day and the snowstorm and then we had
14 another snowstorm issue and now Monday is
15 President's Day so conceivably I have four
16 weeks worth of cans and bottles hanging
17 around my property and other people have six
18 weeks already as of next Friday hanging
19 around their property, and if they miss us
20 again that will be eight weeks for cans and
21 bottles, and if you put it in the trash, by
22 the way, there's a nice heavy fine; right?

23 MR. EVANS: Should be.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: There we go. So it's
25 incumbent that some kind much a plan be made

1 that can't just be the upper South Side
2 neighborhood passed by every time there is a
3 problem, you know, I called a guy and one of
4 the guys from the DPW and he was polite and
5 I'm sure he tried but he takes orders, you
6 know, so it comes to the top. Too bad the
7 stuff doesn't blowup hill instead of
8 downhill.

9 Now, one thing that hasn't been
10 mentioned tonight is these pensions that
11 were doubled up and all kinds of whacky
12 stuff going on. That's where our last
13 mayor, I mean, council just left things go.
14 They didn't question Mayor Doherty in too
15 many instances, especially after DiBileo and
16 that crew left and nobody reviewed anything
17 and certainly, I mean, they caught Jack
18 Loscombe on a questionable thing and then
19 our controller didn't happen to catch
20 anything of that, so there is another area
21 of fault, but when Mrs. Evans took over it
22 got very contentious, but what you are
23 supposed to do with a mayor that just does
24 what he wants? I mean, we are supposed to
25 have a legislative and executive branch here

1 and this is an example of how things just
2 got so messy. It's not right. And,
3 unfortunately, now I don't know if those
4 people could ever be made even ethically to
5 pay that money back, but certainly it
6 shouldn't continue.

7 And finally, once again, with all of
8 these contracts and so forth 7-F and the
9 police contract I was very disappointed a
10 few years ago when I found that most of the
11 public safety workers in Ohio voted at 70
12 percent for John Kasick and he stooped them.
13 He started beating them to death on their
14 contracts and they were on the Edgehill,
15 which is a left wing news show complaining,
16 and it's time to start telling your
17 congressmen, especially in Washington, it's
18 incumbent upon you people as you are getting
19 a tough time the wage taxes are low and they
20 should be double what they are now and
21 instead we're going the other way and that's
22 where a big part of the problem is. So,
23 please, no to the Transpacific Trade Pack.
24 I don't know where Obama is, totally
25 frustrated with him, too. It's sad. No, no

1 more trade packs. We have lot 50,000
2 factories since 2002.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you. Have a
5 good night.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
7 Council. Marie Schumacher, resident and
8 taxpayer. First of all, I would like to
9 start by thanking Mr. Rogan and Mr. Wechsler
10 for making my point of setting a precedent
11 with 7-D. The first thing they did was
12 bring up George Parker. Now we are going to
13 have a second precedent. Does anybody on
14 here know what Mr. Parker paid, if anything,
15 back to the city for the privilege of
16 remaining in Moscow? I think perhaps we
17 should they check that out and table 7-D
18 until we know the answer to that, because I
19 think if we are going to do a precedent then
20 I think we should have a similar precedent.

21 MR. ROGAN: We all --

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's my time, thank
23 you. I don't think -- I still don't think
24 he has got enough skin in the game. There
25 is nothing like owning a piece of property,

1 and a retirees favorite past time is not
2 watching one of their major investments
3 wither away and until you've felt that
4 personally you don't know what it is you are
5 doing to the taxpayers so I still am against
6 this, but I know you are going to vote for
7 it, I still think it should be tabled.

8 Do we have any idea when the revised
9 recovery plan will be presented, a number of
10 weeks? No? Okay.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Well, okay.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Now, at the
13 end of last month the Times-Tribune reported
14 that police would be administering a drug
15 that is it reported to be an antidote for
16 heroin and opiate overdoses. I'm concerned
17 about several issues. First, has this
18 action of diagnosis and treatment been
19 cleared with our insurance coverage as I'm
20 concerned about liability lawsuits. Two, do
21 we have a publically available policy on
22 these actions and does it include those
23 whose lives have been saved will have to
24 agree to treatment or is there any limit to
25 the number of the times that an individual

1 will be saved, from themselves I might add,
2 and will the same person's insurance company
3 be billed for this service and the drugs
4 that are administered to them? I think
5 that's only fair.

6 Next, in mid-December of last year
7 the city business administrator announced
8 that the city was close to landing a \$5
9 million loan which would be applied to the
10 Supreme Court award to the uniformed
11 employees. Eight weeks have passed without
12 an update. During motions I would like an
13 update because I find it incredible that the
14 business administrator was able to find a
15 loan to repay the Scranton Parking Authority
16 loan that was not guaranteed by the city,
17 but pays off the loan to his former employer
18 with the Scranton Parking Authority rather
19 than paying what we have been owing for
20 several years now to our uniform police and
21 firemen? It just doesn't make I sense.

22 Three weeks ago I noticed that it's
23 been a long time since Mr. Rogan reported on
24 all of defaulted loans over the last decade
25 and requested that maybe the following week

1 he would let us know what that status is.
2 Mr. Rogan replied, "Sure. I'll reach out to
3 Attorney Hickey and Linda."

4 Still don't have that report. It's
5 not a pretty report, maybe that's why, maybe
6 we don't want the public to know but
7 especially with this new KCRIZ that they are
8 talking about if it turns out the same way
9 as that I think we need to look at some of
10 our history before we get even further in
11 debt.

12 And then, Mr. Evans, you have
13 material for me that tonight on the rental
14 registration that you brought last week and
15 I left too early to collect?

16 MR. EVANS: I e-mailed that
17 information.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, while I'm on
19 you, what happens to our 2014 unfunded debt
20 of \$4.9 million? The last two years of the
21 administration of Mr. Doherty it went to
22 Court to get -- have borrowings. I don't
23 believe it's in the 2015 budget so what
24 happens? I know it doesn't disappear, it
25 has go be paid, that's almost \$5 million.

1 Are we going to take something out of this
2 year's budget or just end up 2015 with
3 another big unfunded debt?

4 And then on -- if I may finish one
5 more. On the quality of life, today is --
6 this week is paper recyclables. We are
7 expecting high winds tomorrow morning and I
8 can envision what's it's going to be with
9 everybody's trash bins out, are we supposed
10 to bring them in if they are not collected
11 by DPW or the day that they are supposed to
12 be or is there some way DPW could put
13 something in the paper when they know they
14 are not going to be collecting until the
15 following day? Especially with paper when
16 you are going to have high winds I think
17 that will be very nice. I'll save the rest
18 until next week. Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes
20 to address council?

21 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
22 MOTIONS.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.
25 McGoff. You know, this week I did something

1 follow-up with Chief Graziano in regards to
2 the quality of life legislation and also the
3 new police contract that went into effect,
4 specifically, I asked him about where we are
5 at with enforcing the new quality of life
6 ordinance and his response was that the
7 Director of LIPS is finalizing the final
8 ticket and the ordinance that will be issued
9 by the police and LIPS' employees and the
10 LIPS Department will be responsible for
11 tracking all of that information related to
12 ticketed issues, so the quality of life
13 ordinance has not been fully enforced yet as
14 they are waiting for the actual tickets to
15 be prepared.

16 I also asked that chief in regards
17 to what took place since the new contract
18 was put into action and he informed me that
19 the manning changes per the contract went
20 into effect on February 9. Parking
21 enforcement personnel are targeted for going
22 into place on April 1, and they are also in
23 the process of getting software and
24 ticketing devices to make that ordinance
25 more efficient.

1 I would like to make one comment on
2 the recent issue in the paper about double
3 pensions, and actually what I have done this
4 week is I have contacted our solicitor to
5 look into the matter of what council can or
6 should do and I will not have any further
7 comment until his review is complete.
8 Stating that it is a concern I think at this
9 time is an understatement.

10 In regards to another issue that I
11 have been working on, the Duffy park
12 statute, currently right now we are in the
13 process we have found a location for it be
14 stored in the next couple of weeks. The
15 statute is actually going to go over to the
16 National Parks Service. We have an
17 agreement with them for storage. The
18 evaluation of the statute has been
19 completed. There was some bad news in that
20 the statute probably should not be stored
21 outside anymore. There is some
22 contemplation of perhaps making a bronze
23 casting of the statute. The bronze statute
24 would take the place of that in the new
25 Duffy Park and the old Duffy Park statute

1 will be placed somewhere inside for
2 safekeeping. It is only one of the few left
3 in the United States and it deserves to be
4 protected and respected and that's what our
5 goal is from the very beginning of this, so
6 right now there is nothing set in stone but
7 the original idea of restoring that statute
8 and putting it back in Duffy Park does not
9 seem to be practical for the statute.

10 My other comments I have I will
11 reserve until motions.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Rogan?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items
14 briefly. Councilman McGoff mentioned the
15 extension of the discount period to March 17
16 and I think if something were all concerned
17 about. I know I was contacted by a number
18 of residents who were wondering when they
19 would receive their tax bill and to get it
20 in under the discount period. I also spoke
21 to the mayor today regarding this issue and
22 one thing I think that should be looked into
23 moving forward is making the discount period
24 out to March 17 on a permanent basis. I
25 think three of the last four years it has

1 been extended on a temporary basis, but I
2 think with rising taxes I think it would be
3 make sense to extend that out at least to
4 March 17 on a permanent basis to make it
5 easier for residents to pay their taxes.

6 Secondly, just a report, demolition
7 of hazardous structures through the city has
8 begun. A few properties in South Side were
9 -- I believe one was the demolished already,
10 a few others are ready to go so that is
11 ongoing.

12 A couple of issues that were brought
13 up from the podium, the issue regarding the
14 OECD loans, I did speak to Attorney Hickey
15 and I did request reports from Linda Aebli,
16 I haven't received a report from Ms. Aebli
17 as of yet but I did speak to Attorney Hickey
18 at length about the delinquent loans which
19 has been a long outstanding problem for over
20 a decade now and they are going being looked
21 into. Two lawsuits have been filed and they
22 are continuing to go through each
23 delinquency and determine the best course of
24 the action on each case.

25 A question was also brought up

1 regarding an antidote for those who have
2 been overdosed on certain drugs. This is
3 nasal spray and it's a statewide program
4 that police departments across the entire
5 state are being trained to administer this
6 antidote to hopefully save lives.

7 And finally, the two issues I wanted
8 to talk the most about today besides the
9 agenda items, the first one is the article
10 that was in the newspaper and the Facebook
11 page regarding I think it's Reading Terminal
12 at The Mall at Steamtown. I spent much of
13 the week reading many of the posts on there
14 and I know Council McGoff had commented on
15 some as well. It is a very good idea for
16 the mall and there are a number of good
17 ideas that have been brought up by
18 face-to-face with us, at that podium here,
19 out in the community, on social media, and
20 the list goes on and on and all of the great
21 ideas but the one big problem -- the big
22 obstacle that we are facing regarding this
23 mall is the ownership of it. It would be
24 great if the five of us up here and the
25 mayor could say this is what we want to do,

1 the mall is a private property. It's not
2 owned by the government and Mr. Boscov has,
3 unfortunately, driven the mall down a path
4 where you see these high vacancy rates.
5 Some people believe that that is being done
6 intentionally to drive down the price of the
7 mall so can come in and buy it. There are
8 many ideas out there for the mall and I
9 think it has to start with new ownership of
10 that building, new private ownership. The
11 idea the county commissioners floated of
12 making the building government offices would
13 be a disaster, but there are so many good
14 ideas out there from the public.

15 I think the idea of the Reading
16 Terminal market style venue would be great.
17 I think the idea of a casino would be great.
18 Many other stories that were floated around
19 or a hybrid where you would have loft
20 apartments on the top and shops and
21 restaurants on the bottom. There are many
22 ideas and they are all great, but I firmly
23 believe that the biggest problem facing that
24 mall right now is the ownership and
25 Mr. Boscov.

1 Finally, regarding the articles in
2 the paper regarding the double pensions, I
3 know that Councilman Wechsler touched on
4 this a little bit, obviously moving forward
5 we want to make sure this doesn't happen
6 again, but yet it's also our obligation to
7 find out how this happened under the
8 previous administration and the city
9 controller's watch.

10 So, Mrs. Reed, if it's agreeable
11 could we please send a letter to City
12 Controller Rosanne Novembrino asking for a
13 report on how this error did occur and what
14 she is doing to try and correct this moving
15 forward so it doesn't happen again.

16 Two other brief items actually I'll
17 bring up now. We did receive a memo from
18 the business administrator that bids will be
19 opened in council chambers on March 4 for
20 the maintenance of streetlights. I know
21 that's been brought up quite a bit at the
22 meetings. Hopefully, a new vendor will be
23 chosen that be will little bit more
24 efficient than our current vendor.

25 And regarding Mr. Bulzoni, I guess I

1 will comment on this now, I know I spoke to
2 Councilman Evans multiple times on this
3 issue and he prepared some amendments to
4 make that issue regarding Mr. Bulzoni's
5 residency more fair, requiring him to pay
6 the wage tax to the City of Scranton and
7 placing I believe it's to the end of the
8 year limit on when the waiver will expire
9 and he will have to move into the city.

10 As was mentioned, some people have
11 said, well, this is setting precedent for
12 future employees, and in the past a blind
13 eye was just turned to these issues. This
14 is setting a precedent that there is a
15 proper procedure to follow if there is an
16 employee that doesn't live in the city or
17 that is considering one of these positions
18 that doesn't live in the city. I firmly
19 believe that anyone who does work for the
20 city that's living outside should pay the
21 wage tax to the city. I discussed with some
22 of my colleagues that for me that was the
23 big item and if that wasn't included I
24 wouldn't have voted for the waiver. So I'm
25 hopeful that this will pass, the amendments

1 will pass and make it more fair situation,
2 and that is all for tonight. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

4 MR. EVANS: Very brief comments.
5 After tonight's meeting concludes I'm
6 looking forward to making progress on some
7 other items that this council has previously
8 discussed, for example, revised recovery
9 plan, review of the rental registration
10 ordinance, the city's condemnation policy,
11 tightening the language and ordinance for
12 approval of disability pensions, the land
13 bank initiative, a real discussion on
14 nonprofits, and quite a few other issues
15 that were set aside while we debated the
16 labor contracts over the last two months, so
17 that's all I have at this time.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
20 received numerous complaints about an empty
21 lot in the 600 block of Fig Street in South
22 Side. The lot is overgrown and is littered
23 with debris and there is a major problem
24 with cats and various other animals that are
25 causing neighbors in that area grief. Our

1 office has sent a request to the Licensing,
2 Inspection and Permits Department to ask
3 that they investigate and hopefully get the
4 owner to clean the lot up.

5 A few weeks ago I was contacted by
6 citizens who were requesting a stop sign at
7 the intersection of Los Robles Street and
8 North Sumner Avenue. An evaluation of the
9 area was performed by city engineer John
10 Pocius and the police department and it was
11 determined that a stop sign should be
12 installed at this intersection. An
13 evaluation was also done at the intersection
14 of Alder Street and South Webster Avenue and
15 it was determined that a stop sign was not
16 warranted at that intersection.

17 I was also asked about an update on
18 the Rockwell Avenue bridge project.
19 Obviously because of the winter weather
20 there is currently no construction activity.
21 The contractor is scheduled to start
22 construction again in late March. And that
23 is all I have this week. Thank you.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Again, just
25 a few brief comments. First of all, we had

1 a caucus this evening and at the caucus
2 Mr. Charlesworth of Trout Unlimited made a
3 short presentation. Apparently there is
4 going to be convention of Trout Unlimited in
5 the City of Scranton in September I believe
6 he said, a five-day convention that will
7 bring he said somewhere over 500 fishermen
8 and environmentalist to the city for that
9 five-day convention. Not being a fisherman,
10 I was not aware of the fact that the
11 Lackawanna River and some of it's
12 distributaries have become a destination
13 site for trout fisherman. As I said, I'm
14 not a fisherman, I didn't know that, but he
15 claimed that, you know, the economic impact
16 of this convention and designating part of
17 this as kind of a designation for trout
18 fishermen can be very, very beneficial. We
19 will hear more from Mr. Charlesworth as the
20 convention gets closer.

21 Also, I would like to make mention,
22 I criticized the newspaper for it's
23 reporting of the MOU for the police
24 contract, I would like to say that I believe
25 that the reporting of the MOU for the

1 Scranton firefighters was much more fair and
2 equitable. While I don't necessarily agree
3 with the opinions that have been put forward
4 by the newspaper, I do appreciate the
5 reporting of the MOU for the Scranton
6 firefighters. And that's all.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
8 TIME.

9 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY TITLE
10 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 82, 2015 - AN
11 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF THE
12 EXISTING "NO PARKING" SIGNS LOCATED IN THE
13 500 AND 600 BLOCKS OF ADAMS AVENUE
14 (S.R.3023) AND REPLACING THOSE SIGNS WITH
15 NEW R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGNS AT
16 ADEQUATE INTERVALS ALONG THE WESTERLY SIDE
17 AND EASTERLY SIDE OF THE 500 AND 600 BLOCKS
18 OF ADAMS AVENUE (S.R.3023) FROM THE
19 INTERSECTION AT VINE STREET TO THE
20 INTERSECTIONS WITH NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE.

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

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

25 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The
8 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
11 FOR ADOPTION FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 80,
12 2015 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 58,
13 2014, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY
14 OPERATING BUDGET 2015" BY CREATING A NEW
15 EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.15333.4299
16 ENTITLED NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES OPR
17 TSF TO DEBT SVC LANDMARK RESERVE ACCOUNT AND
18 TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM ACCOUNT NO.
19 01.401.15319.4299 NON-DEPARTMENTAL
20 EXPENDITURES OPER TSF TO DEBT SVC SCRANTON
21 PARKING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOR MONTHLY
22 DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS TO LANDMARK BANK.

23 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chair for the
25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

18 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
19 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
20 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 81, 2015
21 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
23 ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NORTHEAST
24 INSPECTION CONSULTANTS ("NEIC") FOR THE
25 FORMER SUPPLY ROOM IN THE LICENSING,

1 INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS DEPARTMENT (LIPS),
2 FOURTH FLOOR, CITY HALL TO BE USED FOR
3 THIRD-PARTY INSPECTIONS.

4 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chair for the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Community Development, I
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

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

1 RESOLUTION NO. 121, 2015 - APPROVING THE
2 FINANCING BY THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH
3 AND WELFARE AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN CAPITAL
4 PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALLIED HEALTH
5 CARE SERVICES, INC., A PENNSYLVANIA
6 NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION; DECLARING THAT
7 IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND
8 WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
10 AND THE AREA SERVED BY ALLIED HEALTH CARE
11 SERVICES, INC. TO HAVE THE PROJECTS PROVIDED
12 BY AND FINANCED THROUGH THE AUTHORITY;
13 DESIGNATING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY, OR, IN
14 HIS ABSENCE, THE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT
15 OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AS THE PERSON TO ACT ON
16 BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AS THE
17 "APPLICABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE" WITHIN
18 THE MEANING OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF
19 1986, AS AMENDED; AUTHORIZING SUCH MAYOR OF
20 THE CITY OR THE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT
21 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY TO TAKE
22 CERTAIN ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY
23 COUNCIL OF THE CITY AS SUCH "APPLICABLE
24 ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE"; AND AUTHORIZING
25 OTHER NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.

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

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
22 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
23 RESOLUTION NO. 122, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
25 TO WAIVE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR

1 DAVID BULZONI, CITY OF SCRANTON BUSINESS
2 ADMINISTRATOR.

3 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to Item
4 7-B per the following: Amending Section II
5 to include, "To temporarily extend the
6 waiver of the residency requirement for the
7 City of Scranton employee until 12-31-2015,
8 and to require David Bulzoni to pay the City
9 of Scranton earned income tax during the
10 term of this employment."

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All
13 those in favor of the motion to amend Item
14 7-D signify by saying aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

20 MR. MCGOFF: The ayes have it and so
21 moved. Excuse me. As Chairperson for the
22 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
23 passage of Item 7-D, as amended.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
2 I will be voting against this waiver tonight
3 as I did last week for introduction. As I
4 mentioned last week, I have a great respect
5 for Mr. Bulzoni and the difficult job he has
6 as business administrator. However, I can't
7 vote for this waiver because I feel it's
8 going to set a bad precedent moving forward
9 for the city. All city employees are
10 required to live in Scranton and pay
11 property taxes and various fees. I don't
12 think it's right that this waiver has come
13 down six months after the original six month
14 period in which Mr. Bulzoni had to move into
15 the city which expired back in June of 2014
16 and at the end of the day I think this comes
17 down to a question of fairness and that is
18 the reason I will be voting no. Thank you.

19 MR. EVANS: On the question, my
20 personal feelings are voting against
21 Mr. Bulzoni and not having him at this
22 critical juncture of the city's financial
23 situation would be viewed as reckless and
24 somewhat irresponsible so this amendment to
25 me gives Mr. Bulzoni further time to move

1 into the city or if you not he will have to
2 properly transition a new position with a
3 new business administrator. This is a sound
4 process that I feel that the financial
5 community will understand and should feel
6 good about as we prepare for 2016.

7 MR. WECHSLER: On the question, the
8 way I look at this is the end date is the
9 end date and it's the same result as if we
10 took action on it today. If Mr. Bulzoni
11 does not move into the city, he will not be
12 the business administrator anymore, but the
13 benefit to us is the work that he is doing
14 right now and the effort that he has put
15 into it should not be wasted. We should
16 take advantage of his knowledge until the
17 end of the year. As we approach the end of
18 the year, it will become obvious if
19 Mr. Bulzoni is going to remain the business
20 administrator or not. In that case as we
21 approach into the fall and into the budget
22 process whoever the new business
23 administrator may be, or Mr. Bulzoni may
24 move into the city, but whoever that new
25 administrator would be we need to have a

1 smooth transition for Mr. Bulzoni to whoever
2 may take his place if necessary.

3 I don't believe that the city should
4 be penalized for an error that the
5 administration made. Mr. Bulzoni has made,
6 as I said, a lot of progress and we talk
7 about skin in the game, I don't think there
8 is anybody here that works longer hours that
9 Mr. Bulzoni and I don't believe that the
10 city should be penalized for a mistake in
11 terms of this waiver. Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

13 MR. ROGAN: Just two final points,
14 and Mr. Evans brought up a very good point,
15 if this were to be voted down tonight I
16 guess that would mean the city as of
17 tomorrow would have no business
18 administrator. I don't think anyone thinks
19 that's practical. By allowing Mr. Bulzoni
20 to the end of the year to hopefully obtain
21 residency in the City of Scranton, which is
22 I think what all of us on council would like
23 to happen, we are at that point in time it
24 would allow the mayor to find a suitable
25 replacement.

1 And as was mentioned last week and
2 was mentioned from the podium, this isn't
3 the first time there was a member of
4 administration that wasn't living within
5 city limits. This is just the first time
6 that it's been done through the right
7 process of the vote of council.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to follow-up,
9 too, just a very briefly. I believe that
10 this does set a precedent and I think the
11 precedent is that if this occurs again it
12 will be reviewed by council, by the
13 administration to determine if, in fact,
14 there is reason to extend a waiver or to
15 make some changes or some requirements for
16 that extension. I think that is the
17 precedent that we are setting and I believe
18 it's a good precedent to have.

19 Anyone else? Roll call, please.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
5 Item 7-D, as amended, legally and lawfully
6 adopted.

7 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
8 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION
9 - RESOLUTION NO. 123, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE
10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
11 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MEMBERSHIP
12 AGREEMENT WITH PENNSYLVANIA ONE CALL SYSTEM,
13 INC. (POCS) IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY ALL
14 UNDERGROUND FACILITIES THAT ARE OWNED BY THE
15 CITY AND LOCATE THE SAME ON MAPPING.

16 MR. MCGOFF: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chair for the
18 Committee on Public Works?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
20 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
21 passage of Item 7-E.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
24 call, please?

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
10 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
12 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
13 RESOLUTION NO. 124, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE
14 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
15 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF
16 UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF
17 SCRANTON AND LOCAL UNION NO. 60 OF THE
18 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS,
19 AFL-CIO.

20 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
22 passage of Item 7-F.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
25 call, please?

1 MR. EVANS: On the question.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, I'm sorry.

3 MR. EVANS: You want to go?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: I'll go first, thank
5 you. I will be voting against this
6 legislation tonight. Extending contracts
7 until 2021 in light of the City's Act 47
8 deadline and dire financial situation along
9 long with passing contracts in advance of
10 the revised recovery plan is grossly
11 irresponsible and extremely short-sided.

12 Giving out raises, giving back
13 retiree health care, giving more vacation
14 time and taking the cap off sick days is not
15 something a financially distressed city
16 should be doing.

17 It's clear to me and many citizens I
18 have spoke to over the last few weeks that
19 Mayor Courtright is hoping that our problems
20 will just go away and maybe someone else
21 will make the tough decisions later on.
22 Mayor Courtright should understand that
23 kicking the can down the road isn't going to
24 work much longer because he is running out
25 of road. My decision to vote no on the both

1 contracts isn't simply to be a cog in the
2 wheel of this administration. I want Mayor
3 Courtright and our city to succeed. My job,
4 however, is to review all of the facts and
5 make a decision that I feel is in about best
6 interest of the taxpayers and the future of
7 this city.

8 It bothers me that going back to the
9 police contract I submitted at least 15 or
10 16 specific questions and I have not --
11 still have not received answers to those
12 questions which I find outrageous. They
13 were legitimate questions, and even though
14 the police contract has passed I still want
15 those questions answered. I submitted two
16 questions about the fire contract and I
17 haven't received a response to those
18 questions as of yet, so hopefully I will
19 receive those at some point within the next
20 year.

21 I feel Councilman Evans and I have
22 presented legitimate, valid arguments and
23 concerns over the past few weeks. I respect
24 my colleagues, but I strongly disagree with
25 their vote on these issues and I do not

1 think this is a good deal for the taxpayers
2 of this city. Thank you.

3 MR. EVANS: On the question, as we
4 enter into our closing arguments, last week
5 I mentioned part of the proposed MOU and I
6 certainly appreciate the efforts by the
7 bargaining teams on what they were able to
8 accomplish on many, many facets of the
9 contract. However, in reviewing the
10 firefighters MOU I came to several different
11 conclusions on the savings aspect and those
12 that were presented.

13 First of all, the savings of nearly
14 \$1.5 million was achieved on the premise
15 that if the city went to arbitration the
16 salary increases of 3 percent would be
17 expected, yet, there have been some
18 indication that th is trend may have
19 shifted, especially considering the
20 financial status of cities like Scranton.
21 If arbitration brought in 1 percent less
22 than projected, those cost savings would be
23 eradicated and neither scenario is
24 speculative at best.

25 Additionally, savings through the

1 sick day enhancement, vacation increases and
2 retirement changes are based mostly on
3 expecting changes in behavior. By offering
4 enhancement to the sick day policy by adding
5 vacation time, by giving retiree health
6 care, they are taking a very carrot and a
7 small stick approach to saving money.

8 Frankly, in some cases we are hoping
9 for change and cost savings by rewarding
10 even bad behavior, particularly as relates
11 to disability pensions, but if behavior
12 doesn't change projected savings may be
13 reduced or eliminated and we are left with
14 only the costs.

15 While this might be a very
16 interesting case study for future labor
17 contracts through the use of human behavior
18 patterns and psychology, I am finding it
19 difficult to hold the projected savings in
20 as high regard as some others have. Yet,
21 the future legacy costs that I have
22 discussed during the FOP contract are real.
23 The administration put a dollar amount of
24 \$224,000 per retiree from the FOP contract
25 on retiree benefits. Basic math will tell

1 you that if all 99 of those police officers
2 take this benefit it would cost a minimum of
3 \$22 million.

4 While it's more difficult to
5 determine the cost of retiree health care
6 for the 60 elderly firefighters, because we
7 haven't seen an estimate provided in this
8 MOU, but because the language is tighter in
9 the firefighters' contract, even if we
10 conservatively estimated that would be 75
11 percent of the FOP contract or \$168,000 per
12 retiree, this would still mean an additional
13 cost of a minimum of over \$10 million.

14 These are legacy costs that will
15 begin in the 2020 to 2021 timeframe and
16 extend for the next ten years and beyond.
17 These are costs that are not accounted for.
18 If everything somehow goes well financially,
19 almost perfectly over the next few years, we
20 could exit the distressed city status in
21 2020 or earlier and then find out that we
22 have an additional \$32 million or more still
23 waiting for us on the other side.

24 Therefore, I can't in good
25 conscience vote for something that I believe

1 will subject future taxpayers and
2 Scrantonians to increased long-term legacy
3 costs in exchange for short-term gains, some
4 of which are simply tied to the change in
5 behavior. I can only hope and pray that I'm
6 wrong, but I truly believe this MOU will
7 ultimately bring us back full circle to
8 financial distress or worse, and for those
9 reasons I will be voting "no" to this
10 legislation. Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else?

12 MR. ROGAN: I guess I'll respond, I
13 was content with voting on it because I
14 think we have all discussed this quite a bit
15 over the last few weeks and there are many
16 reasons why I believe this is a good plan
17 for the taxpayers and I think the majority
18 of this council when we will vote will
19 agree, and the first one is, and this is
20 where Councilman Evans and I strongly
21 disagree, is regarding arbitration. You
22 heard last week and also with the police
23 contract what going to arbitration under the
24 previous administration cost the city. The
25 costs were astronomical. Raises over 50

1 percent to police officers and firefighters
2 when compounded. An arbitration award that
3 we still owe that was in excess of \$40
4 million, is now -- it was reduced through a
5 union concession to approximately \$20
6 million and the interest on that award is
7 growing at a rate of approximately \$100,000
8 per month. That was the result of letting
9 old contracts expire and failing to
10 renegotiate. Although it is possible that
11 when the city goes to arbitration we could
12 get a better deal than we currently have,
13 judging by the past arbitrations of this
14 city that is very, very unlikely.

15 In addition to the cost savings that
16 were outlined in this proposal, and I have
17 to agree with Councilman McGoff's earlier
18 statements that the reporting from the
19 Scranton Times regarding the fire contract
20 has been much more fair than the reporting
21 for the police contract, but another item
22 that is very important outside of the
23 financial aspect is keeping our firehouses
24 open. We saw what happened when former
25 Mayor Doherty closed firehouses on East

1 Mountain and in other areas of the city. It
2 was a disaster. This proposal will keep
3 neighborhood firehouses open and it could
4 possibly reduce the overtime cost to zero if
5 we get the SAFER grant in the amount that we
6 are applying for, which is a much lesser
7 amount because of the lower wages in this
8 contract compared to the wages under the
9 current contract.

10 For those reasons and many, many
11 more than I can probably go on for another
12 15 minutes, I will be voting "yes" for this
13 contract and I'll be very happy that it is
14 going to pass tonight.

15 MR. WECHSLER: I just have a few
16 things here. Number one, a copy of the
17 confidential agreement was provided to the
18 Scranton Times this week including all of
19 the information in color so that was -- I
20 think it's part of the reason why reporting
21 on this issue was a bit more fair than the
22 previous one, they were provided more
23 information so that was good.

24 I would like to address the changes
25 in behavior. The changes that are going to

1 be required, as Mr. Evans mentioned, weren't
2 determined by the city, these changes in
3 terms of the physical fitness of the
4 officers, the training of the officers, the
5 different reviews of disabilities, those
6 came from the members. Our fire department
7 right now is in transition. There are
8 several younger firefighters and perhaps the
9 new ones that are going to come on board
10 have a different attitude towards
11 firefighting. They are firefighting
12 professionals. Many of them have college
13 degrees in various fire science, some of
14 them are accountants, some are even
15 attorneys, so there is going to be a change
16 in behavior just because the face of the
17 organization is changing.

18 Another thing that I would like to
19 mention is many of these concessions that
20 were finally agreed upon were very similar
21 to the ones that were suggested in the first
22 recovery plan that 70 percent of the
23 citizens of Scranton voted for. We got
24 those concessions, we went at it a different
25 way this time. The last time we went at it

1 it costs us \$40 million, later to be reduced
2 to \$22 million with interest still growing
3 on that.

4 Also, in touching on what Mr. Rogan
5 said, keeping neighborhood firehouses are
6 very important to me. Coming from East
7 Mountain, we want to see Engine 10 remain
8 open and one of the ways to do this is to
9 add more firefighters to our force and the
10 only way we can do that is to get some new
11 personnel in there. This new contract as
12 ratified will make it easier for the SAFER
13 grant to be awarded to us.

14 When we talk about the legacy cost,
15 I can use the same argument on legacy costs,
16 if we are going to say that the city will do
17 better in arbitration because of it's status
18 I don't see why we can't use that same logic
19 to say that in the future if the city can't
20 afford that legacy cost why couldn't the
21 arbitrator negotiate it out. A lot of the
22 arguments that are used against can be
23 turned the same way for. And lot of it, and
24 we are forced to deal with this, it is in
25 the future, but I can't see waiting two

1 years and doing nothing when the end result
2 may be worse. Here we are being proactive
3 trying to make something happen here. You
4 know, if we sit and do nothing I'm not sure
5 where we will end up so I will be voting for
6 this, and also, and just like I did tonight
7 I followed up with the police, with the FOP,
8 with Chief Graziano. It's going to take a
9 lot of monitoring and commitment by the
10 administration and council and the union to
11 make these things work. It's going to be
12 more of a partnership I hope than it has
13 been in the past. We saw that with the
14 information that was given back and forth
15 last week. Like I said, even given to the
16 Scranton Times.

17 So I'm optimistic about this. I'm I
18 nervous about it, yes, but I am optimist
19 that in the short-term and in the long-term
20 this is the way to go for the city. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: As far as the contract
23 is concerned, Mr. Evans used the word "if"
24 quite a bit in his comments and I agree with
25 him there are a lot of ifs both positive and

1 negative concerning this contract if behavior
2 doesn't change. You know, those types of
3 things are assumptions that are being made.
4 I would rather take a look at some of the
5 actual concrete changes that will take place
6 because of this contract, some of which have
7 already been mentioned. The disability
8 language will close up some of the gaps in
9 disability pensions. I think that's a great
10 step forward that this contract will
11 provide. The department reorganization both
12 in the police and the fire department I
13 think will improve public safety, something
14 that we all desire. Increase pension
15 contributions. While it may not be
16 everything that was anticipated it is a
17 concrete change, it is something that will
18 help improve the pension situation.
19 Employment requirements that somebody
20 actually criticized. These are requirements
21 that will help improve the fire department,
22 will help insure the health of fire
23 personnel, something again, which will help
24 as far as disabilities and other
25 requirements.

1 I believe the concrete changes that
2 are in both contracts are something that are
3 -- things that are desired and will help
4 improve the status of the police and fire
5 departments and also will benefit the
6 economic situation of the City of Scranton.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I just have one final
8 comment.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Wechsler mentioned
11 the recovery plan and that we are doing some
12 things in these two contracts, I guess, that
13 coincide with that the recovery plan says.
14 We are also doing things that go against
15 what is in the recovery plan. The revised
16 recovery plan and the recovery plan that we
17 are currently under says no retiree health
18 care. It says not to take the cap off of
19 the sick days. It says no more vacation
20 days, no increase in vacation days so we are
21 at odds with the current recovery plan and
22 with the draft version of the revised
23 recovery plan, and I think for me the most
24 troubling part of this whole thing is that
25 we are extending a contract until 2021 as I

1 have mentioned ad nauseam over the past
2 month. That's what makes me nervous is that
3 in 2017 it's either, you know, get out of
4 distressed status or go into receivership.
5 If we get a three-year extension we have to
6 until 2020 to either get out of distressed
7 status or go into receivership. These two
8 contracts take us a year past all of that
9 so, you know, that makes me really nervous.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Just one comment, the
12 recovery plan that I'm speaking about was
13 the one that Mayor Doherty had put up for
14 the referendum. The thing that I have
15 learned while I have learned from council
16 for many years that these recovery plans are
17 living and breathing documents. They don't
18 -- they are not able to be set in stone, I
19 know that they should but they are not. The
20 facts of every situation have to be taken
21 into consideration in these recovery plans.
22 The recovery plan that's issued is going to
23 ask us for savings. The savings that are
24 coming from these contracts are where those
25 savings are going to come from. The

1 recovery plan in issue without these savings
2 we're faced with severe cuts that have to
3 come from somewhere.

4 MR. ROGAN: Just one final comment,
5 it's been -- the idea has been floated a few
6 times that this violates the recovery plan,
7 which certainly isn't true. As council -- I
8 believe Councilman McGoff alluded to this
9 two weeks ago, if there was one lesson that
10 was learned from the court case is that Act
11 111 trumps Act 47 so the city has the right
12 to collectively bargain and that was the big
13 question regarding the recovery plan why the
14 previous recovery plan went to the
15 Pennsylvania Supreme Court and why the city
16 ultimately lost is because Act 47 does not
17 trump Act 11.

18 In addition, PEL, the recovery plan
19 coordinator who it's no secret I'm not a fan
20 of the Pennsylvania Economy League, but they
21 have not objected to the FOP contract or the
22 current contract for the firefighters.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else.

24 MR. EVANS: Briefly I want to touch
25 back and circle back a little bit on the

1 change in behaviors comments I made. This
2 contract alludes to saving almost \$1.7
3 million simply by changing behavior by
4 enhancing sick days and stating that if each
5 firefighter reduces their sick days either
6 by two we get \$1.7 million. That's changing
7 behavior. That's purely speculative.
8 That's why I feel the way I do on a lot of
9 the contract, but again, a lot of the things
10 in the contract it's just a different
11 concept and philosophy. You know, my
12 philosophy is we have to take care of those
13 costs down the road we can't keep on adding
14 legacy costs and years from now that's why
15 we are where we are today because decisions
16 weren't made in the past that addressed
17 those issues. That's all I have.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

24 MR. EVANS: No.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
6 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
7 RESOLUTION NO. 125, 2015 - REPEALING
8 RESOLUTION NO. 29, 2014 (AS AMENDED)
9 APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY PERRY, 2325 BIRNEY
10 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A
11 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON
12 REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. MR. PERRY WILL BE
13 REPLACING PETER RIEBE WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON
14 FEBRUARY 4, 2010. MR. PERRY'S TERM WILL
15 EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 4, 2015. THERE WAS A
16 DISCREPANCY AS TO THE LIMIT OF MR. RIEBE'S
17 TERM AND LITIGATION WAS FILED.

18 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
19 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-G.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare
9 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
11 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
12 RESOLUTION NO. 126, 2015 - APPOINTMENT OF
13 TIMOTHY PERRY, 2325 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,
14 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD
15 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.
16 MR. PERRY WILL BE REPLACING PETER RIEBE
17 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2015. MR.
18 PERRY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 4,
19 2020.

20 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the
21 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
22 passage of Item 7-H.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
25 call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

11 Item 7-H legally and lawfully adopted.

12 If there is no business, I'll

13 entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Meeting is 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