

1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, March 26, 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 moment of reflection
2 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. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes, please.

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

16 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING
17 FEBRUARY 28, 2015.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
21 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD MARCH
22 11, 2015.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY

1 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 25,
2 2015.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed.

5 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
6 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
7 FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?
9 If not, received and filed.

10 Clerk's notes?

11 MS. REED: Yes, Mr. McGoff. Thank
12 you. There is a matter of housekeeping
13 regarding the numbering sequence of the
14 ordinances which were read last week, March
15 19, in Sixth Order as File of Council Nos.
16 90 and 91, those numbers as they appeared in
17 Seventh Order this evening have been
18 properly corrected as listed on the agenda
19 as File of Council Nos. 88 and 89.

20 Also, both ordinances were correctly
21 advertised following introduction on March
22 12.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anything
24 else?

25 MS. REED: No. Thank you.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just a
2 couple of quick items, first of all, a
3 reminder that next week's meeting will be
4 held on Wednesday evening, April 1, at 6:30,
5 just a change of evenings.

6 Also, a brief executive session was
7 held this evening, dealing with current
8 litigation or possible litigation with the
9 city and there was a very brief session, but
10 it was held this evening during the caucus.

11 Also, the consolidated annual
12 performance and evaluation report, known as
13 the CAPER, rather ominous name, is the
14 annual report by OECD that is presented to
15 the have for a review. It is a rather
16 voluminous and copies of or a copy is
17 available in the Scranton public library
18 should anyone wish to review it.

19 Lastly, for me, well, two things.
20 Just a thank you to Rick Schuettler from the
21 Pennsylvania Municipal League who spoke this
22 evening at our caucus concerning pension
23 reform. It was very enlightening and
24 something that I believe all members of the
25 council support and hopefully we can see

1 some progress on the bills that
2 Mr. Schuettler spoke of.

3 And last, just for information sake,
4 I have been having some extreme discomfort
5 with my right eye and the bandage over it
6 just aids my ability to actually see. The
7 only thing I can't do is I can't see to my
8 right, and I mean that literally and
9 politically so.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Was that for over
11 here, Mr. McGoff?

12 MR. MCGOFF: That was for Mr. Rogan.
13 Anything else from council? Any
14 announcements? No one? Thank you.

15 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER: CITIZENS'
16 PARTICIPATION.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
19 Scranton taxpayer. Today the 2013 audit is
20 298 days late. Does anybody have any idea
21 when it might be completed?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I did not -- I was not
23 able to attend the PEL meeting so I don't
24 know if that was brought up at the meeting.
25 So again --

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Interestingly
2 enough, tomorrow morning at ten the bids
3 will be open for the audits for the years
4 2014 through 2017 and I think that's going
5 to be an interesting drill considering that
6 we haven't had a completed audit since 2012.
7 I'd love to see the engagement letter given
8 to that auditor.

9 With regard to the sesquicentennial
10 coming up next year, as many problems as we
11 have financially in this city and with our
12 history of broad waste and abuse over the
13 years like many other cities, I think it's
14 still important that we recognize the good
15 that our citizens have done since its
16 founding keeping in mind the role to
17 Scranton played in the industrial
18 revolution, the number of citizens that have
19 served this country in time of war, so I
20 think it is very important that we do have
21 that celebration and appropriately recognize
22 these contributions.

23 Since the city is so financially
24 distressed I think it would be appropriate
25 if our local businesses, nonprofits, and

1 civic organizations step up to the plate to
2 fund those activities. After all, the city
3 has done an awful lot to support them over
4 the years. It's time for them to give a
5 little payback.

6 I would also like to see our World
7 War II veterans who are still alive
8 recognized in some fashion. They are part
9 of that greatest generation that we talk
10 about, they are slowly passing away, I don't
11 know if you ever had an opportunity to go to
12 the Gino Merli Center, but these are an
13 amazing number of people and they are a
14 treasurer and they should be recognized as
15 part of our celebration so I hope that in
16 some way or fashion maybe the Times-Tribune
17 could publish a page to identify these
18 people because they are heros in my book.
19 That's all I have tonight.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Mr. McGoff, I thought
22 my shirt might ease tensions between us.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I love the shirt.

24 MR. ELLMAN: I still consider
25 Council and Mr. Courtright credible leaders

1 no matter how I jump up and down and get mad
2 at you all once in while. I don't consider
3 Cross and Bulzoni and Amoroso credible at
4 all. Just like Mr. Doherty, Mr. Courtright
5 needs a good administration behind him to be
6 successful and these three men their advice
7 is not good. That's why the city is in such
8 a dilemma. The last administration was very
9 poor.

10 I just got so many things I want to
11 say I'm afraid I'm going to offend everyone
12 or say something and get you mad. Let me
13 just ask, does anybody know what LJB
14 Creative Strategy is? They got
15 telemarketers phoning the city asking a list
16 of questions, what do you think of Henry
17 Amoroso and Mr. Courtright and selling the
18 sale of the Sewer Authority. It takes about
19 ten or 15 minutes to talk one of the girls
20 because I did yesterday -- two days ago, I'm
21 sorry. Nobody -- they wouldn't tell me
22 nothing, but it must be awful expensive to
23 have a bunch of -- to pay a company that has
24 a bunch of telemarketers phoning people in
25 the city.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I know that it's not
2 being conducted by council and I'm not aware
3 of anything through the administration.

4 MR. ELLMAN: It's called LJB
5 Creative Strategies and that's all they
6 would tell me. I'm not against them, I just
7 don't know who pays them and what it is.

8 And I just got one other question,
9 for you, Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Uh-oh.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Oh, it's -- it's not --
12 in Sunday's paper they referred to
13 Mr. Amoroso as our financial consultant, you
14 told me he was gone and not on the payroll
15 why does the newspaper keep referring and
16 using this?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not sure what at
18 this point in time I know that his contract
19 with the Chamber of Commerce ran out at the
20 end of 2014. Now, how it -- and I'm pretty
21 sure that the Chamber was not going to renew
22 that. I don't know what the current status
23 is. As far as I know, there is nothing
24 being done, you know, there is no payment
25 from the city.

1 MR. ELLMAN: I don't know how big a
2 job you call what he was supposed to do, but
3 someone that was here a whole year and
4 didn't have the slightest idea about double
5 pensions, which is one of the things he was
6 supposed to investigate, and the other -- he
7 never addressed a minute little tiny bit of
8 nonprofits. I just don't see, this man
9 wasn't a necessity at all for this city and
10 that's why I say in my opinion Mr.
11 Courtright needs some better advice than he
12 has been getting, he needs a good
13 administration to drag this city out of the
14 hole it's in, it's a downward spiral, and
15 everything it seems that people come up with
16 are counterproductive. Well, thank you.
17 See, I didn't argue with you tonight.

18 MR. MCGOFF: It's the shirt, I
19 couldn't argue with the shirt.

20 MR. ELLMAN: I'll go have a couple
21 of cocktails and I'll have one for you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Bill
23 Jackowitz.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
25 Scranton City Council. Good evening Kathy,

1 stenographer, Lori, Amil. One of the
2 reasons why I'm here is to thank all of the
3 people who sent me cards, telephone
4 messages, and so on and so forth because I
5 have been sick for awhile and I didn't
6 respond to those people because basically
7 I'm lazy. But, anyway, I just want to let
8 everybody know, people who had called me and
9 sent me letters and sent me cards and
10 visited with me I'm just thanking them right
11 now because I hadn't had an opportunity to
12 thank them, so thank you all, I appreciate
13 it, glad somebody was thinking about me.

14 Mr. Wechsler, is 8,406 days a long
15 time?

16 MR. WECHSLER: Depends on what you
17 are adding up?

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. Rogan?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. McGoff?

21 MR. MCGOFF: With my life span, yes.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. Gaughan?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. Evans?

25 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I would agree with

1 that.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Do you know how many
3 days the City of Scranton has been
4 distressed? 8,406 and we still haven't
5 gotten any results on it. We are still
6 arguing about plans and we are still arguing
7 about recovery plans and pension plans and
8 everything else, you know? 8,406 and
9 nothing has been resolved. Nothing. I
10 mean, to me that seems like an awful long
11 time and I really believe that city
12 residents and taxpayers have waited long
13 enough and we need to get some answers now.
14 We need the answers by the end of the Year
15 2015, either affirmative or negative or
16 whatever they are, the citizens of Scranton,
17 even the transients are leaving, they don't
18 even want to stay here because there is
19 nothing here anymore. So I'm just asking
20 the city council, you guys, hey, talk to the
21 mayor, talk to the administration let's get
22 something going.

23 Next question, why hasn't Roseanne
24 Novembrino ever been called into city
25 council and asked questions under oath? She

1 has been the city controller for this entire
2 time. She has been the city controller for
3 the city for almost 30 years, I believe, so
4 why has she never been called into this
5 chamber and put under oath and asked
6 questions as to why things happened the way
7 they did, why she agreed with things that
8 were going on as her job as a controller,
9 why she signed paychecks, why she did
10 whatever she did that a city controller
11 does, she has been here 30 years. I'm
12 asking city council to call her in, put her
13 under oath and ask her some very pertinent
14 questions and maybe she could have some
15 answers as to why we have been distressed
16 for 8,406 days.

17 Okay, does anybody know do the
18 residents in North Scranton pay taxes, do
19 they pay property taxes and city taxes if
20 you live in North Scranton? If you live in
21 North Scranton you pay city taxes and
22 property taxes?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Well, you are asking an
24 obvious.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, the obvious

1 answer is why isn't anything done? The
2 roads in North Scranton are the worst in the
3 city. Now the Rockwell bridge isn't going
4 to be repaired again, how long is that
5 Rockwell bridge been out? How many
6 businesses have been affected by that? The
7 streets in North Scranton are terrible. If
8 those people are paying taxes in North
9 Scranton they should demand their money back
10 because they are not getting their money's
11 worth and, I mean, enough is enough.

12 I'd like to compliment Councilman
13 Gaughan and Councilman Evans because they
14 seem to be the only two councilmen that
15 actually stand up for the taxpayers in the
16 city and the residents of this city. The
17 grievance that just recently has been
18 negotiated with the police and the fire,
19 especially with the police I think it's
20 going to backfire and I think this is going
21 to end up costing the city more in the long
22 run, and if we have to go to Court we are
23 going to lose because we always lose. I
24 mean, maybe we got a 10 percent chance of
25 maybe of winning. But, again, I'd like to

1 compliment Mr. Evans and Mr. Gaughan for
2 standing up for us.

3 And if anybody wants any good clam
4 chowder or haluski or tuna fish sandwiches
5 at the Dante Club tomorrow from 12:00 until
6 6:00 they will be selling them. A quart of
7 haluski is \$7.00 or correction, a quart of
8 haluski is \$6.00, a quart of clam chowder is
9 \$7, tuna fish hoagies are \$6, also, and also
10 in April we are going to have Night at the
11 Races up at the club so come on out and
12 support the Dante Club.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you,
14 Mr. Jackowitz. Lee Morgan.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Good evening.

17 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I can
18 say is, Mr. McGoff, I hope you start feeling
19 better soon. You know, you must be
20 struggling with something so I just wish you
21 the best.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

23 MR. MORGAN: You know, seeing where
24 the city is and with all the discussions
25 that have taken place here and, you know,

1 looking I just hope that every resident in
2 Scranton will go on the internet and pull up
3 House Bill 1773-2014-199, and actually read
4 that document and understand what it means
5 because to be honest with you I have been
6 telling people to -- that I think it might
7 in their best interest not to sell their
8 home but to go get an equity loan against it
9 for all of the home will support and then
10 abandon the home and leave because the truth
11 of the matter is, like Mr. Jackowitz brought
12 up, there has been no relief for the
13 residents of this city for 8,400 days and,
14 you know, it's not only that the streets are
15 all torn up and they are mess but the
16 machine we bought to fix them has just been
17 destroyed and for all these years with all
18 of these councils, look it, I really
19 appreciate the way you dress, but it's not
20 about dressing, it's about thinking, and
21 rhetoric, political rhetoric and silliness
22 doesn't mean a thing, and 8,400 days of that
23 hasn't lead us anywhere, and the
24 legislature, well, look it, they haven't
25 done anything either, so I guess if you

1 dress pretty and do a couple of selfies of
2 yourself and pretend like you're, you know,
3 you got something going behind you when you
4 run for office and come up with a bunch of
5 brilliant alleged ideas and then you get
6 elected and do something else or do
7 absolutely nothing, well, this is what
8 happens.

9 And, you know, I received the same
10 call in regards to privatization of the
11 Sewer Authority or monetization of that and
12 the parking garages, if you read this House
13 Bill the first thing you will do is take all
14 of the money you can get out of your house
15 and run because there is really no way back
16 for in city the way we are going, and all of
17 the rhetoric and, look it, the police and
18 fire contracts that came through here the
19 council acknowledged they didn't know a
20 thing they were voting on. They tabled it
21 one week and the next one week it came back
22 up and it ran right there. The people in
23 this city needed an elected government that
24 knew that it was time to restructure city
25 government and change the way the government

1 functioned, and it didn't happen.

2 And, you know, it's like I said
3 before, even if only two people in this city
4 voted did this council and this mayor and
5 this state government have an obligation for
6 all of the other people other than them two
7 to protect everybody's interests? I think
8 they did. But, you know, and another thing,
9 Joan came up here and talked about veterans,
10 you know, I hope people can understand
11 during the Vietnam War when we made peace
12 there we left some of our soldiers there in
13 captivity and they never came home, and I
14 think enough people don't talk about that,
15 and I understand that we abandoned our own
16 troops who went to war to fight for this
17 nation and we turned our backs on them.

18 So, you know, I really think that
19 the people need to get a reality check
20 because the council, that's our council,
21 that's not some other organizations, council
22 for nonprofits and for the Harrisburg to
23 tell you what to do, your obligation to us
24 is to us and it's just never happened.

25 And when you look at the downtown,

1 look it, great plans to make it a rental
2 area because, look it, nobody is conducting
3 business there. Store front after store
4 front is empty, we can all talk about the
5 great plans we have for economic
6 development, but, you know, you have to look
7 to Washington to understand why all of our
8 jobs are removed from the country and sent
9 overseas, and what's happened to the middle
10 class. These are all people that were
11 elected in this country to represent us, and
12 it just hasn't happened, and here we are and
13 at 56 years old soon I'm going to retire.
14 Even social security hasn't been fixed and
15 they have talked about that since I have
16 been a child so what we do is we elect
17 people that dress pretty and talk a good
18 game but when they get elected there is no
19 meat to anything that they legislate, and
20 all the taxes are being shifted to the
21 working poor in this country, not business.

22 And you know something, anybody can
23 call themselves a businessman, but if you
24 can't pay a living wage to your employee I
25 don't know slavery and, you know what, the

1 federal government now talking about trying
2 to cut food stamps or EBT cards back to 2008
3 levels, you have to ask why we are going all
4 over the world continuing to expand trade
5 packs when our own people aren't working and
6 where people in my generation never made
7 enough money to pay back the student loans
8 and they are going be collecting social
9 security soon and never paid them and this
10 is the flaw in our government and some day
11 somebody should answer for it.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

13 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Bob Bolus.

15 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

16 Bob Bolus, Scranton. First of all, I'd like
17 to comment on Mr. Jackowitz, I really didn't
18 appreciate the comments I made regarding
19 Roseann Novembrino. I have known Roseann
20 Novembrino many, many years, well over 30,
21 she has been the controller in the city, I
22 don't think there is anybody more honest
23 that's been in this city to administer what
24 went on that Roseann has, and I take
25 personal offense as a resident, a taxpayer

1 and a friend of hers in this city to hear
2 the negative comments that I have been
3 hearing. You know, anybody, Mr. Rogan, any
4 of you on council that have some negative to
5 say how many have you gone up to see
6 Roseann Novembrino at any given time,
7 including Mr. Jackowitz. Her door is always
8 open. I never yet known Roseann Novembrino
9 to say, "Make an appointment with me."

10 It's always open, you can always get
11 an answer, so unless you got a better
12 solution, you know, I want to hear more on
13 the positive side that's going on in this
14 city than the negativity because it's a
15 campaign year. It's not about campaigns,
16 it's not about politics, it's about
17 credibility. I don't think there is anybody
18 more credible in this city than Roseann
19 Novembrino so when you guys got comments to
20 make justifiable comments, but don't make an
21 ignorant comment because it's uncalled for.

22 You know, this recovery plan is
23 basically an induced coma, that's what we
24 are in, we're in a coma and we are not
25 looking for any way to wake up, but it's

1 time to wake up because if we don't wake up
2 now we are never going to wake up. You
3 can't hammer the people in this city any
4 more than you are doing and let nonprofits,
5 other people skirt the issue. Go to your
6 legislatures if you need to, but you need to
7 make desperate changes, factual changes and
8 you are not doing that so start looking
9 around.

10 This leachate line, you want to sell
11 the Sewer Authority go after the leachate
12 line and make it a host community coming
13 through the City of Scranton and Dunmore and
14 put millions in your pockets because you are
15 taking the leachate from New York, New
16 Jersey and everywhere else so make your
17 assets work, only fools give something away
18 to somebody else that could turn around by
19 it and make a profit. So what that tells me
20 we are incompetent in this city to manage
21 our assets so let's give them away and pay
22 through the nose when they raise the fees.
23 That's the induced coma, my friends. It's
24 time to really look at what you are doing
25 out there and what you are not doing. Put

1 windmills up. There is so many avenues to
2 go here. Get creative. Think outside the
3 box and you would be surprised what you see.
4 Go travel around the United States, take a
5 trip abroad, see how things are done,
6 educate yourself. You got the internet, sit
7 there and Google and travel around the world,
8 come up with ideas because other people
9 survive by being creative and we are not, we
10 just want to beat the living heck off the
11 people in this community.

12 You know, you increase the tax base
13 you decrease the tax rate. I was at the
14 commissioner's meeting yesterday and I gave
15 them a suggestion, prison is overcrowded
16 with non-violent offenders so I gave a
17 suggestion why not the city, the county,
18 take these non-violent offenders, sit with
19 the judges, take them out of the jail and
20 put them to work. Put them in the city
21 instead of paying time and a half or double
22 time fixing your potholes and doing the
23 stuff. Here we need GPS's to get out of the
24 potholes. Don't pay out of our pocket, ask
25 them to come in and work for free, accredit

1 them for every day they work they get so
2 much time off their sentence. It doesn't
3 cost us a bloody dime and we reduce the cost
4 of the prison, we reduce the cost on the
5 taxpayers. That's just one suggestion,
6 there are many other out there. We need to
7 be creative and we could do that, each and
8 every one of you.

9 The administration, we have got
10 people here, we got brains, let's go to a
11 think tank, listen to the people that talk,
12 maybe you will all learn something because
13 everybody has something to offer so don't
14 close your eyes and be blind.

15 You know, the landfill, there is big
16 meeting in Dunmore today, and I believe each
17 and every one of you should be at those
18 meetings. Why? Because you represent the
19 City of Scranton. I'm not asking for your
20 opinions, whether you are for or against,
21 but I'm asking you to become knowledgeable,
22 understand what's going on. You represent
23 us, you represent the future generations,
24 Dunmore isn't alone in this. This is a
25 whole community effort that involves all of

1 our health, welfare and safety. Don't bury
2 your heads in the landfill so to speak, pay
3 attention, look ou and smell the roses not
4 the garbage because it's coming like you
5 need to take a voice. You represent all of
6 us and you do have a voice. You have a
7 voice to our legislatures. Let them be
8 heard with your voice, be loud and clear and
9 we'll get something down.

10 You know, Mr. Rogan, you made a
11 comment, I wasn't here, about the cameras, I
12 get more camera time from national networks
13 all over the world that I have been on
14 cameras, I don't need to come here to be on
15 camera. When I speak people listen to what
16 we are speaking to that's what people do
17 here. I had issue because it was a part of
18 the free speech. It was just an insult,
19 whatever happened, how it happened, the
20 issue I have over that --

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

22 MR. BOLUS: -- it was wrong, and to
23 make a comment you leave here or not, what
24 you do or don't do really doesn't concern
25 me, I spoke for myself.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

2 MR. BOLUS: I spoke about the
3 individual's wife who is a public official,
4 Rush Limbaugh had it on that public
5 officials are accountable. She made a
6 statement --

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus --

8 MR. BOLUS: I understand,
9 Mr. McGoff, but you are not taking action.

10 MR. MCGOFF: You have exceeded the
11 time repeatedly.

12 MR. BOLUS: Mr. McGoff, you got to
13 pay attention, you represent us, I don't
14 represent you and I'm asking for the time to
15 get this resolved. She made a statement,
16 she is a public official and officials need
17 to be held accountable.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus, we have
19 responded to that, we are not taking any
20 action on that, that was made public by
21 someone else. That a personal response.

22 MR. BOLUS: No, it was made by
23 Carrie Newcomb and it was national,
24 Mr. McGoff. Accountability is what counts.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

1 MR. BOLUS: Pardon?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Your time
3 is up.

4 MR. BOLUS: I understand that, but
5 what I'm telling you is you need to start
6 paying attention. You can't just shut
7 people up, it's a bad habit you have.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not trying to --

9 MR. BOLUS: And you have a bad habit
10 of not paying attention to people,
11 Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Doug Miller.

13 MR. MILLER: Doug Miller, Scranton.
14 You know, listening to Mr. Jackowitz I
15 always do enjoy that statistic that he
16 brings up in regards to the city being in
17 distressed status for "X" amount of days
18 and, you know, when you hear 8,406 days in
19 distressed status and, you know, as I
20 observed some of the individuals on council,
21 you know, you just get the impression that
22 it doesn't even phase you, not all of you,
23 but a certain select few. Just there is no
24 comprehension of it, it's not just you, it's
25 past councils, this administration, past

1 administrations, and it's something that we
2 should really be ashamed of, it's nothing to
3 be proud of. To be quite honest, it's
4 pathetic, it's beyond pathetic, and then we
5 ask ourselves is there ever going to be any
6 progress made, are we ever going to turn
7 this thing around? And at this point it's
8 really hard to realistically think that's
9 going to happen considering where we are
10 today.

11 You know, occasionally I get the
12 impression that sometimes I feel coming here
13 is just a complete waste of time in all of
14 years I have been coming here, but sometimes
15 I do stand back and pause and I do say that
16 to myself on occasion, that is coming
17 forward to this council a waste of time?
18 Because you just get a vibe in this room
19 when you come in here, a real eerie feeling
20 that there is just no respect from certain
21 people seated on this council. You know, I
22 really do appreciate the laughs, the
23 snickering, the eye rolling, it's not doing
24 anything to offend me, you are only making a
25 mockery of yourself, most of all you are

1 really just making a mockery of this city.
2 You know, we are beyond laughing, snickering
3 and rolling our eyes, we are well beyond
4 that. If you think it's a joke then we
5 should just leave then because we face some
6 real serious challenges and we just don't
7 have any solutions.

8 You know, it's nice to go back and,
9 you know, in regards to the quality of life
10 ordinance, and I understand stand that
11 certain individuals worked pretty hard on
12 this, putting this together, if you want to
13 say worked hard on it, and I understand the
14 intention is to target blight and some other
15 issues we have in this city, but, you know,
16 it just seems it's just yet again it's
17 another invert way to go back to same people
18 to take something from them they don't
19 possess. You know, we had no problem the
20 last two years raising taxes 76 percent, and
21 now we want to tell people because they have
22 a blade of grass higher than the other they
23 have to pay \$100. I mean, is that where we
24 really are now?

25 I think the question we should

1 ourselves tonight is who really caused the
2 blight in this city? Have the residents
3 really caused the blight throughout this
4 city when you walk through the neighborhoods
5 and see porches falling apart and you see
6 couches on people's porches and a blade of
7 grass higher than the other? Did they
8 really cause that or have the politicians
9 that we have elected repetitively caused the
10 problems we have today? Have they caused
11 the blight?

12 Because I personally don't believe
13 that somebody who has been living here for
14 40 or 50 years appreciates the fact that
15 their porch is falling apart, but the
16 problem is we have so many delusional people
17 in our government that they haven't realized
18 one thing, because we have gone back to them
19 and we've just continued to put the screws
20 to them year after year and we've just asked
21 them to pay and pay and pay and pay how do
22 we expect people to upkeep their properties?
23 How could you literally stand up and take
24 yourself serious and honestly think that
25 people have the ability to pay anymore?

1 I really don't understand where we
2 are going here. Like I said, I understand
3 the intent, but we are beyond that now. We
4 need to determine how we are -- how we are
5 going to turn this thing around without
6 taxes and it just seems that that's the only
7 thing our elected officials understand are
8 tax increases. There is no creativity in
9 our government, there never has been. We
10 revised recovery plan in 2012 that there
11 were some good things put into place there
12 that unfortunately weren't enforced because
13 the city has an inability to enforce things
14 that it puts in the plan and, you know, just
15 a lot of just outright mismanagement for
16 decades.

17 I mean, just look at the fiasco we
18 had a few weeks ago where we had thousands
19 of people receive letters from LIPS in
20 regards to the rental registration,
21 individuals receiving these letters who
22 don't even own property in this city and
23 think of all the money that was wasted,
24 squandered, the thousands and thousands of
25 dollars that was wasted. That's just

1 incompetence and we've had an awful lot in
2 this city, not just in the last few years,
3 20, 30 plus years, and yet for some reason
4 we just want to keep blaming the wrong
5 people and we want to blame the controller's
6 office for our issues, we have a council and
7 an administration that has an obligation to
8 implement, we have a council that implements
9 legislation, the administration sends it
10 down, and the administration administers the
11 city on a daily basis. That's how the city
12 functions. We just play politics.

13 Free speech is violated, it happened
14 to myself here two weeks ago and it's just
15 totally ridiculous. The pension problem, I
16 agree with Mr. Gervasi's statement, it is
17 the city's problem, but you want to know the
18 real sad part guess who is going to pay for
19 it? The same people that you continue to
20 put the screws for year after year and I
21 just feel real sorry for the residents of
22 this community, but most of all I feel sorry
23 for my generation. You know, Mr. Rogan I
24 don't agree with a lot of things he does,
25 but it's his generation, my generation, Mr.

1 Gaughan's, a lot of the young folks in this
2 community because we are going to pay for
3 it, and unless we are willing to stand up
4 and doing something about it now there isn't
5 going to be anything left of the city.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Miller.
8 Gerard Hetman.

9 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
10 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's
11 Community Relation's Department, good to see
12 you as always.

13 To begin this evening, the third
14 annual Lackawanna County Children's Bike
15 Safety Fair will take place on Saturday
16 afternoon, April 25, from 11 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
17 at PNC field in Moosic. This is the same
18 event that we've had the last two years at
19 McDade Park and through a new partnership
20 with the Scranton/Wilkes Barre Rail Riders
21 we'll have the event at PNC field, that will
22 include the ability for children to bring
23 their own bikes and ride their bikes around
24 the stadium concourse on a pre-organized
25 supervised course. As we have done the last

1 two years, all children will receive a free
2 bike helmet compliments of PNC Bank. We'll
3 also have free refreshments available for
4 all, compliments of Gerrity's supermarkets.

5 One of the key components in our
6 bike safety fair event is our annual bike
7 helmet coloring contest. I have one of the
8 entry blanks here with me, children that
9 live or attend school in Lackawanna County
10 can enter the bike contest by printing and
11 turning in one of their blanks with the
12 preferred helmet design that they color in.
13 We have distributed this to all of the
14 school districts in Lackawanna County and
15 throughout the Lackawanna County library
16 system. The forms are also available to
17 download on the county website a
18 www.lackawannacounty.org. They just need to
19 be when they are completed either mailed or
20 dropped off at the Commissioner's Office
21 located in the Lackawanna County
22 Administration building, 200 Adams Avenue,
23 Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18503, and a few
24 days before the event the commissioners will
25 choose one male and one female entrant to be

1 the successful winners and those two
2 individuals will receive a free children's
3 bike, compliments of Cedar Bike and Paddle.

4 In addition, all children who are in
5 attendance the day of the bike safety fair
6 can enter a random drawing to win a free
7 bike the day of the event, via compliments
8 of Cedar Bike and Paddle. The only children
9 ineligible for that event would be the two
10 that win the bike helmet contest, we can't
11 have two bikes going home with the same
12 child on the day of the event.

13 All children in attendance will also
14 be able to see free bike safety
15 demonstrations, checkups on their bike and
16 also free bike helmet fittings for helmets
17 that they bring or receive the day of the
18 event phone. Officers from the Scranton
19 Police Department, the Pennsylvania State
20 Police and the Lackawanna County Sheriff's
21 Office present for that service.

22 So look forward to a good turnout
23 and we've seen approximately 200 children
24 and accompanying adults come through in our
25 two previous years, hope to see the event

1 grow.

2 Second, Spring is finally kind of
3 here, the Lackawanna County Conservation
4 District is holding its annual seedling
5 sale. There is a variety of seedlings
6 available this year including pear, apple
7 and peach trees, mountain laurels and
8 blueberry and strawberry plants. Order
9 forms are available on the county website at
10 LackawannaCounty.org or by calling the
11 Conservation District Office at
12 570-382-3086. Orders must be picked up by
13 Friday or Saturday April 17 or 18, at the
14 Civic Center in Scott Township where the
15 conservation district office is located.
16 And again, for more information on that and
17 for a full of all the seedlings available
18 call 570-382-3086.

19 And also, our department is involved
20 in a small way on the Armed Forces week
21 committee for the planning of, among other
22 events, the Armed Forces parade that takes
23 place on Saturday, May 16, stepping off at
24 11 a.m. at the Gino Merli Center on Penn
25 Avenue in Scranton. I know this will come

1 up many times during the upcoming meetings
2 of council leading up to the event and
3 council has been fantastic since we have
4 been here to publicize the parade and I know
5 I've seen many of you out at the parade so
6 we would just like to mention the parade
7 keeps growing year after year and anyone who
8 is interested in entering their civic
9 organization or group in the parade should
10 call either Sergeant First Class Tammy
11 Meslowski at 570-496-8908 or Joseph Besser
12 at 570-961-2696.

13 And lastly, just to close, I do have
14 one constituent concern that was brought to
15 me by a woman in a downtown restaurant this
16 week and she asked me to bring it up to
17 council at the next meeting I attend, it's
18 just a pothole on the corner of North
19 Webster Avenue and Pine Street she told me.
20 I know there is many road issues that need
21 attention in the city and all of our
22 municipalities and highways, but she asked
23 me to mention this and I just wanted to
24 bring it up to council, she described it to
25 me as a threat to public safety. I know

1 that there is many holes and bumps that
2 would fit that description but I promised
3 her that I would mention it in service to
4 our residents.

5 Is there any questions from council?

6 MR. MCGOFF: What was the date and
7 time for the Armed Forces parade?

8 MR. HETMAN: The flyer we have here
9 that we eventually will leave with council
10 is Saturday, May 16, and it steps off at 11
11 a.m. it's the corner of the Veteran's Center
12 of Vine Street and Penn Avenue, caddy corner
13 from St. Francis. Again, thanks to this
14 council for promoting that over the years, I
15 know it will be mentioned it again and
16 always comes up here so our thanks.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Hetman.

18 MR. HETMAN: Thank you, gentlemen.

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

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
22 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.
23 Big headline in the paper today we might get
24 sued by our firemen and police. I can
25 understand the police, when you are any kind

1 of an official with the union you are a
2 union member for all members retired and
3 active, they have no choice to do what they
4 have to do. Of course, you have a choice to
5 you can either appeal it or fight it or
6 whatever, go along with it, but they have no
7 choice so you should never criticize them
8 for that choice, they have none. There is
9 something you take an oath to do they have
10 to do what they had to do, but the other
11 thing isn't.

12 The other thing has to do with
13 pension requirement. In other words, they
14 have to have 25 years and be 55. Now, you
15 had the contract before you what less than
16 two months ago, less than a month ago, I
17 believe. You all had a copy of that
18 contract and the city administration
19 business or your law office sent down a copy
20 of it and you have had it to study, how
21 could you have missed an important thing
22 like that being pensions were all over the
23 paper? That's something that should have
24 stuck to you like glue considering the
25 articles that were written in the Scranton

1 Times, but you just glossed over it. So
2 what? But you passed it and now we got to
3 live with it or fight another court battle
4 when you got have put into the revised
5 contract when it was there, but this is how
6 the city works. We are always -- after the
7 barn is closed we are trying to get the
8 horses out. It doesn't work that way. You
9 have to be more on your toes.

10 Now that Act 111, I guess it has to
11 do with arbitration, the reason why we have
12 arbitration is we took away the right to
13 strike. The police can't strike and the
14 firemen can't strike. You understand the
15 reasons why. Now they set up a process of
16 arbitration but they also set up a process
17 where you can challenge the arbitration
18 decision and go through the courts, and all
19 them courts look at it. They are all
20 different people, how they can figure that
21 arbitration is fixed is beyond me. You have
22 too many judges looking at it and they are
23 going to take the award as it is or throw it
24 out. Now they want to change it.

25 Any time you see change on anything

1 that has to do with your rights you got to
2 take action, you got to do more than take
3 action you got to fight for your rights. I
4 keep telling you many, many times your
5 government is your enemy not your friend.
6 They can take food from your mouths, which
7 they do quite regularly, and your weapon is
8 your vote. There is no other choice. You
9 passed a lot of laws, you are always --
10 well, you mentioned one time that you march
11 for a long time you weren't allowed to
12 march. Well, I understand that, I
13 understand the colonial system was pretty
14 rough, but you are putting all of these same
15 things that they did to your relatives back
16 in Ireland on us today. You got new quality
17 of life where if you do this and do that or
18 do that that's what the British did. To get
19 your land they raised the taxes up high so
20 you couldn't afford to pay for your land
21 then they confiscated it. You are doing the
22 same thing. You are getting to be no
23 different than what they did. Maybe that's
24 the only solution there is, I know not, but
25 I do know the people of Scranton are really

1 being oppressed further and further and
2 further and there is no reason for it. We
3 are all in the same boat, maybe if you gave
4 up your salaries and then just came like we
5 do because you love the city and use that
6 money really to do something else maybe
7 that's part of the solution.

8 We come before you because we love
9 this city. Most of us -- - well, I have, I
10 have lived all my life here, I never desired
11 to live anywhere else. I love my mountains,
12 I always did. I love the river, I love
13 everything, but please look at what you are
14 doing to the quality of life you are so
15 concerned about up keeping because pretty
16 soon there will be none. Thank you.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
18 Dobryn, resident. Blight in the area, 1974
19 I'm trying to describe the events that
20 effected the working class, we had the Opec
21 oil embargo, in '79 we had the another
22 so-called energy crisis with the hostage
23 crisis, in 83 I lost a job while the
24 administration called the automotive
25 industry an expensive job's program, in '85

1 we negotiated the apparel industry away for
2 20 nuclear power plants in China which I
3 know not whether they were ever built or
4 not. In '91 we had another incident. In
5 '98 we had the Chinese trade pack, most
6 favorite nations, then we had 9/11. Then in
7 '04 or '05 we had the Central America Free
8 Trade Act. In '07 we had the Wall Street
9 collapse. In '011 we signed another trade
10 pack that involved Panama, Korea and one
11 other country, it's not on the tip of my
12 tongue right now, and last year we exported
13 40,000 cars to Korea, only trouble is they
14 exported 450,000 to us. Once again, ten
15 cents on the dollar.

16 So I just try and try and try to get
17 everybody out there in TV land to stop, tell
18 the government to stop the trade packs
19 because if our wages were double your income
20 taxes would be double, a lot of our problems
21 would be gone by then.

22 And on ordinances, a few weeks ago,
23 a week or two ago, Pat mentioned that it
24 seems like every week we are dealing with
25 something new and what we need, I feel, is a

1 forensic review of all ordinances, bring
2 them up-to-date with possible advice from
3 civil liberty lawyers, eliminate all
4 ambivalent language, make them people
5 friendly, for instance, junk cars, there
6 isn't a junk car that's sitting in the yard
7 that isn't worth \$200 right now in scrap
8 steel, so why not when you send that person
9 over to say, "Move this car in 48 hours,"
10 give them a list of people that take these
11 scrap cars and pay cash for them, you know,
12 and sweeten the deal a little bit. I know a
13 guy that's as poor as a church mouse and
14 they took cars off his lawn and resold them
15 for \$5,000. It doesn't sound fair to me.

16 And on these contracts it's really
17 ashamed, I mean, we are hiring allegedly
18 educated people and it simply amazes me how
19 many educated people can get themselves into
20 so much trouble even though the fact that
21 they are supposed to be smarter than the
22 average bear, I mean, maybe we shouldn't be
23 so conceited about our liberal arts diploma,
24 it's only required reading and no more fast
25 track on this stuff. We really should have

1 sat down and read the contract just as Andy
2 stated and we don't have access to a lot of
3 this stuff, somebody complained about three
4 week ago, I think it was Marie, that she
5 couldn't get the quality of life ordinance
6 up on the computer.

7 And downtown, I'll make it quick, we
8 don't have any money to go shopping at the
9 mall, so it just -- it's every year it's
10 worse and worse. The utility bills go up,
11 the tax bills go up, and I expect my whole
12 income tax return to get swallowed by city
13 taxes and fees now.

14 And, finally, paving. Are we going
15 to allow the utilities to destroy our work
16 without inspecting their work and they
17 should be returned to a year or two later
18 and make sure that all of the borders are
19 still sealed and if not they come back. I
20 was up on Stafford Avenue the other day, the
21 gas company was there and boom went my car,
22 you know.

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

24 MR. DOBRZYN: Four inches high.

25 Thank you and have a good night.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
2 Council. Marie Schumacher, citizen and
3 taxpayer. Ever since you passed the MOUs
4 for the police and fire I have been asking
5 for a matrix that would keep us up-to-date
6 on how we are doing on the concessions that
7 are supposed to be benefiting the taxpayers
8 and I didn't see anybody step up, so I
9 thought I would file a Right-to-Know and at
10 least find out on one item, which I did and
11 I'd like to share because perhaps there is
12 some reason for optimism, but also for
13 keeping our eye on this. What I asked for
14 was the overtime for the police and fire
15 comparing last January 2014 and February of
16 2014 with this year. Now, the police in
17 January of 2014 spent roughly \$81,000 on
18 overtime. This year in January they spent
19 111 point eight-thousand dollars, and that's
20 \$30 million dollars -- or excuse me,
21 31 roughly thousand dollars over last year,
22 but February they have -- last year was
23 44.4, this year it's 34 even so it's about
24 ten down, \$10,000 so that's a reason to be
25 optimistic, I think.

1 Now, the Fire Department, however,
2 cleaned the Police Department's clock
3 because while they to went up 2015 over
4 2014, in the month of January the figures
5 were 18.1 in January of 2014 and 43.8 this
6 year, so they were up 25.7, but in February
7 last year they were at \$29,000 and this year
8 they are down 23.5 with a mere \$5,499.64 for
9 overtime in February, so I hope that trend
10 continues. I would hope one of you would
11 pick it up to do this on a regular basis but
12 if you don't I'd be happy to continue doing
13 Right-to-Knows.

14 And I have to insert here that I
15 agree with Bob Bolus' assessment of the
16 Controller's Office, as long as I have been
17 involved I have never, ever gone to Roseann
18 Novembrino or picked up a phone and called
19 her that I did not get an answer and it is
20 the most open office in this building and I
21 am happy to say that I support Roseann.

22 And I hope later on in next order I
23 will learn what the percent of the trash
24 bills were paid and unpaid in 2014 from
25 Mr. Wechsler. And, Mr. Evans, did you find

1 out, I'd like to read just a brief excerpt
2 from File of Council 199 of 2003 which deals
3 with the pensions that we talked about last
4 week. It says, "Contribute \$90,000 for the
5 pension benefit for clerical employees who
6 are hired before 1987, qualify for
7 retirement and retired between January 1,
8 2002, and December 31, 2002. The city is
9 further authorized to contribute \$30,000
10 toward the pension benefit for those
11 clerical employees who fell within the
12 retirement window approved by File of
13 Council No. 131, 2003," which I'll get back
14 to.

15 Were you able to check and see if
16 that money was ever disbursed into the
17 pension fund.

18 MR. EVANS: No, I wasn't able to get
19 that information yet.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because I say when
21 the budget was prepared for the following
22 year considerable time over July it had not
23 been expended, so I just wonder what
24 happened to that money.

25 And I was happy to see the council

1 president at the Pension Board meeting in
2 person yesterday, that was nice, and I'd
3 like to go through a little bit of a time
4 line on the pension because I don't
5 understand, and I think there is something
6 you guys can do and it was brought up
7 earlier tonight by somebody else, the
8 importance of what you do. On January 1,
9 2003, in the Tribune there was an article
10 entitled, "Two deals down, two more to go."

11 May I finish? Thank you. The
12 article notes "The two that were done were
13 the public works and the clerical union and
14 of particular interest are two stated
15 provisions, one in the DPW contract
16 prohibits privatization."

17 Is that still in the current
18 contract?

19 MR. ROGAN: It is. That's the
20 reason I voted again the previous contract.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: And number two,
22 "And one-time retirement incentive for those
23 of non-uniform pension allowing those with
24 25 years of service, but under age 55 to
25 retire at full pension. The pension was

1 also increased for those hired before 1987
2 from \$700 a month to about \$1,200 a month."

3 Now, \$1,200 is obviously not double
4 \$700, so I would like to know in the
5 materials -- in the caucus I believe it was
6 stated that you all provided a packet of
7 materials to the Attorney General for the
8 investigation he was doing, and was there
9 anything in there that said the pensions got
10 doubled? You didn't review those?

11 MR. MCGOFF: We provided to our --
12 or I'll say in the city clerk provided to
13 the investigators all pertinent materials
14 that were requested. As far as our review,
15 I don't think anyone reviewed them before.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I just
17 wondered if there was an ordinance or
18 something that I missed because this -- and
19 I have more on the timeline of the pension,
20 but I'm out of time so I'll return with that
21 next week and also some comments hopefully
22 on that paving list because I think East
23 Mountain is getting shortchanged, but that
24 will be next week. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Anyone

1 else?

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

3 MOTIONS.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Just prior to going to
5 that I'd just like to make one comment, as
6 far as the Controller's Office is concerned
7 nobody on council said anything about
8 investigating or, you know, impune the
9 Controller's Office in any way. To even ask
10 if there is -- you know, to conduct an
11 investigation implies that there is
12 something wrong or something has been done
13 illegally or unjustly, I don't know what,
14 but nobody on council has implied that or
15 stated that and we have no intention of
16 conducting any type of investigation into
17 the Controller's Office. And I guess that
18 was all. Mr. Wechsler?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
20 Mr. McGoff. Tonight I'd first like to make
21 a comment on the articles that were in the
22 paper this morning. The first thing I'd
23 like to say is that the council and the
24 administration are in agreement that raises
25 should not be given while the pensions are

1 distressed and we are also in agreement that
2 the age requirement has been established as
3 25 years and 55 years of age for the police
4 contracts. I feel today that the impression
5 that was given in the paper is that only two
6 council persons agreed with that and I have
7 to say that that's not the case. We were
8 not contacted for that story and myself I
9 agree with the fact that we also want to get
10 these things cleared up and that we are not
11 in favor of them as well.

12 And I also want to state that the
13 administration, that the council will stand
14 with the administration concerning
15 litigation or arbitration on these issues.

16 In regards to the issues raised by
17 Ms. Schumacher, Treasurer Beck was able to
18 inform me there was 20,479 garbage bills
19 mailed out last year. Due to some
20 technicalities in how they are returned,
21 they can't give me a final number on how
22 many of those 20,479 were returned. He did
23 provide me with dollar values that if you do
24 the extrapolation based on \$300 per mailing
25 that the dollar represents about 92 percent

1 of the garbage bills collected.

2 For this year, I have been in
3 contact with Mr. Beck that I do want to be
4 in contact with the person tonight we are
5 going to work on the person that's going to
6 print these bills, I'd like to get some
7 information on how many was provided, the
8 list for addresses, I also want to make sure
9 that the bills are done about account
10 numbers or if they are done by addresses.

11 I also requested that he allow me to
12 be involved with the collection agency
13 because I'd like to see how they determine
14 this 20, 479 is the accurate number. I'm
15 not sure if that's too many because some
16 come back or is it too few because we are
17 missing some companies. I'm not sure how
18 the list is coordinated, but I think other
19 references could be used, for example, and I
20 don't know if we can access this, I'd like
21 to know how many residential electric meters
22 are there are in the city. No one gets free
23 electricity from PPL so I'd like to do a
24 correlation between the garbage bills and
25 either electric bills, water bills or tax

1 bills as they are mailed out.

2 I'd also like to see that during the
3 course of the year as a tax bills are mailed
4 if there is a way that we can keep track
5 more accurately of the amount mailed out and
6 the amount that are returned. We also need
7 a better system for verifying vacancies of
8 the people that appeal their bills just to
9 make sure that we are not penalizing people
10 who have vacancies, but we are also not
11 missing people who don't pay their bill and
12 use that as a reason.

13 Finally, I was contacted by a few
14 residents this weekend concerning problems,
15 one was, one was some unkept property on
16 21st Street, the other was about some
17 potholes on Doud Avenue and Corey Street
18 back in Minooka. The DPW was back there to
19 put some cold patch and solve those holes
20 and I appreciate their efforts in doing
21 that. Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a few very
24 brief comments tonight. I would like to
25 thank Councilman Evans for organizing the

1 caucus this morning and the mayor for
2 attending as well. There was a lot of
3 information that was given to us and I
4 certainly look forward to reading over and
5 forming an opinion on the two pieces of
6 legislation that were provided to us.

7 Two other items, next Wednesday, as
8 you know, council will be meeting next
9 Wednesday as well. Prior to the council
10 meeting the blight committee that myself and
11 Councilman Evans are on that we spoke about
12 last week will be meeting and we are
13 continuing to work on proposals on Friday to
14 streamline many of the ordinances through
15 licenses and registration. I'm looking
16 forward to that meeting, I know Councilman
17 Evans is as well and we hope to have -- make
18 more progress and we will continue to inform
19 our colleagues and the public as those
20 progress.

21 And finally, I normally don't read
22 citizen's requests, but this came to me
23 right before the meeting. Neighbors have
24 called numerous times regarding violations
25 at 2652 Cedar Avenue. There is number of

1 issues ranging from illegal vehicles,
2 debris, paint cans, wood, etcetera, to
3 motorcycles racing down the street in the
4 summer. If we could please forward this to
5 Mr. Hinton and have one of the inspectors go
6 out and take a look at this. And that is
7 all for tonight. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans?

9 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I agree with
10 Councilman Rogan that I think the blight
11 committee has great potentials and I
12 appreciate the mayor trying to put it
13 together and forming it and we look forward
14 to some progress beginning next week. Our
15 first session will basically be a
16 brainstorming session but I think we are
17 going to have something constructive over
18 the next couple of weeks.

19 Before I comment on the articles on
20 today's paper I did want to state for the
21 record that my disagreements with the unions
22 and at times the pension boards should not
23 be considered a reflection on the great work
24 that the public safety employees do for our
25 citizens. We have the most professional

1 police and fire department in the northeast
2 and that's something we can all take pride
3 in, but back to the pensions. Yesterday
4 there were two actions that were taken that
5 continue to make matters worse. First, the
6 Pension Board's decision to litigate the
7 administration's decision not to pay
8 increases for the retiree pensions points to
9 the deeper issue of not fully understanding
10 the severity of the matter at hand.

11 Sure, it would great to give pension
12 increases to retirees, many deserve raises
13 and more, but maybe if we weren't paying
14 \$5.2 million dollars in disability pensions
15 each year that would be possible. Maybe if
16 we didn't have two to five years before
17 those pension plans default or maybe if
18 double pensions were not given out or maybe
19 if the city was not fighting for our
20 financial life just maybe that would be a
21 good idea, but the pensions are severely
22 distressed and I know this council has
23 demonstrated by tonight's public caucus is
24 committed to finding solutions and not being
25 accelerating their demise.

1 Secondly, the police union continues
2 to threaten litigation for a clerical error
3 and it's success will pretty much guarantee
4 that Scranton will be forced into a fiscal
5 emergency. Again, this council was in full
6 support of the administration's position on
7 this matter. Now, one would think that the
8 number one problem facing the city is budget
9 and pensions and from a financial
10 perspective that would be true, but there is
11 a different problem facing this city and
12 maybe a more difficult problem to solve,
13 while there is so many great employees that
14 work for the city, they are assets and do a
15 wonderful conscientious job every single day
16 and the city could not exist without them,
17 but over the decades and generations a
18 culture that has been developed within the
19 walls of city government that just does not
20 allow our city to prosper and if that
21 culture does not change and we cannot come
22 to terms as we would have to do together to
23 move Scranton forward I strongly feel this
24 government may implode from the inside out.

25 Our government should be for the

1 people, all of the people, and should not
2 exist for a select few who have highjacked
3 progress, highjacked cooperation, and
4 highjacked reality.

5 While I still think recovery is
6 possible, my gut is telling me that this
7 government may need to be totally overhauled
8 and reinvented, maybe recovery is simply not
9 enough.

10 And, again, while we continue to
11 work towards recovery the decisions that are
12 being made by some unions and pension boards
13 to fight the city at every opportunity as if
14 this government is somehow flush with cash,
15 as if their pensions were not nearing
16 default and they go about as business as
17 usual is disheartening. Those actions among
18 other issues will sooner than later drive us
19 to receivership and ultimately bankruptcy.
20 That's all I have right now. Thank you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
23 would just like to echo my colleagues'
24 sentiments to Mr. Evans thanking him for
25 inviting Mr. Schuettler to our caucus

1 tonight. I thought it was very informative
2 and I appreciate Mr. Evans' passion and
3 share his passion about some of these
4 important issues.

5 And just a few items, there was
6 significant damage to the fence at the
7 baseball field at McLane Park in North
8 Scranton over the past week. It looked as
9 if someone drove a car or ATV into the
10 fence. Our office had contacted parks and
11 recreation and Mr. Lynch, who is in charge,
12 reported that the issue has been checked and
13 the fence is in the process of being fixed
14 so we on behalf of the residents over there
15 I would like to thank him personally for his
16 quick response to that issue.

17 I spoke to a resident in Minooka
18 whose son was involved in a very bad
19 accident at the intersection of Birney
20 Avenue and McDonough Street. Cars are
21 parking on the sidewalk near the
22 intersection of the streets and if you are
23 trying to pull out onto Birney Avenue from
24 McDonough Street is almost impossible to see
25 oncoming traffic. It's a very dangerous

1 situation that many in this section of the
2 city are very concerned about including
3 myself. Our office contacted Chief
4 Graziano, who had the highway division of
5 the police department look into that
6 situation. After their review, the Chief
7 asked DPW Director Gallagher to have a "No
8 Parking Here to Corner" sign installed at
9 that location. So, again, I'd like to thank
10 Chief Graziano and the police department for
11 their quick response to take care of that
12 very dangerous situation.

13 We also received an update on the
14 fraudulent parking permits in the Greenridge
15 area that I reported on last week. There
16 has not been any discovered as of yet but
17 the police department are continuing to
18 investigate.

19 And two weeks ago I mentioned that
20 residents in the 1200 block of Woodlawn
21 Street had a complaint that five permit
22 parking signs were stolen and they were
23 having difficulty with parking in that
24 block. The five permit parking signs have
25 been replaced by the DPW and the neighbors

1 in that block are thrilled. So, again, I
2 would just like to thank the department
3 heads for their quick response and on behalf
4 of the neighbors who are thrilled thank them
5 for their service and their hard work in
6 those areas. And that is all I have for
7 this week. Thank you.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Again, very brief
9 items. First of all, as far as the potholes
10 and the condition of the streets, everybody
11 realizes the severity of that, DPW is
12 working daily to try and address some of the
13 issues of the potholes. You have to realize
14 that many of -- many of these are weather --
15 most of these are weather conditioned
16 potholes that I know for a fact that the
17 ones that the ones at the bottom of River
18 Street and Prospect Avenue I think have been
19 filled three times. It just keeps -- these
20 cold patches just aren't sufficient to, you
21 know, last through the weather that we have
22 had. With that said and hopefully warmer
23 weather along the way, perhaps DPW will
24 begin to address the issues in a more
25 permanent manner, plus people have to

1 realize that we are looking at a \$2 1/2
2 million paving project this summer that will
3 hopefully address the pothole issue, you
4 know, over a longer period of time by the
5 repaving.

6 So I know it's difficult, we drive
7 every day through the city, we realize the
8 problem. Hopefully, you know, just a little
9 bit of patience and some of these issues
10 will be addressed.

11 Second, it was brought up about the
12 landfill again and council's responsibility
13 or the City's responsibility, I would just
14 like to say that we as a group have
15 responded with a letter to I believe DPW --
16 or, yeah, DEP, sorry, with our response to
17 the landfill situation and we have also done
18 so individually as we had been asked by
19 newspaper and other groups so we are
20 concerned with that issue and we have made
21 our response.

22 Just an announcement, I'm trying to
23 find the right paper that I should have made
24 earlier, the Parents Loving Children Through
25 Autism Foundation PLCTA is conducting a walk

1 and run for Autism awareness that would be
2 Saturday, April 18, at Nay Aug Park. Run
3 registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and it's
4 \$20 for that day of the run, and the 5-K
5 begins at 8:30 a.m. and at the end there are
6 other kids game, items for sale, picnic,
7 etcetera, but that's the walk and run for
8 autism awareness Saturday, April 18, at Nay
9 Aug Park, and that's it.

10 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
11 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
12 NO. 110 OF 2005 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
13 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 45 OF 1996
14 REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR
15 HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON BY UPDATING THE LIST OF HISTORIC
17 PROPERTIES" TO FURTHER UPDATE AND ADD THE
18 CLELAND HOUSE AT 520 MADISON AVENUE TO THE
19 HISTORIC PROPERTIES LIST.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I

1 would like to note that this is a
2 recommendation from HARB to place this on
3 the historic registration register and we
4 are merely voting on the approval of that
5 recommendation.

6 MR. EVANS: If I may, I'd like to
7 thank the HARB for their own hard work
8 involved with this and also Director Hinton
9 in LIPS who has involvement in this as well,
10 so I think he should be congratulated as
11 well.

12 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of
13 introduction signify by saying aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
21 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JONATHAN C.
22 KRIEGER, 1233 SLOAN STREET, SCRANTON,
23 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE
24 SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. MR.
25 KRIEGER WILL BE REPLACING ROBERT TIMLIN

1 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 5, 2015. MR.
2 KRIEGER'S TERM WILL BE EFFECTIVE MARCH 19,
3 2015 AND WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 5, 2020.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? I
10 would like to thank Mr. Timlin for his years
11 of service on the Scranton Development
12 Authority, I never thought that I would be
13 thanking a basketball official for his
14 service, but Mr. Timlin has been a valuable
15 asset to the City of Scranton.

16 All those in favor of introduction
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
25 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

1 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
2 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SSS PRINTING A
3 DIVISION OF SECURITY SAVINGS SYSTEMS, INC.
4 FOR THE PRINTING AND MAILING OF CITY OF
5 SCRANTON 2015 THROUGH 2017 WASTE DISPOSAL
6 BILLS.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

21 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
22 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
23 92, 2015 - AN ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE
24 INCREASING THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY OF
25 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,

1 BY THE ISSUE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE IN
2 THE AMOUNT OF \$2,242,820.00 FOR SUNDRY
3 PURPOSES; FIXING THE FORM, NUMBER, DATE,
4 INTEREST, AND MATURITY THEREOF; MAKING A
5 COVENANT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE DEBT SERVICE
6 ON THE NOTE; PROVIDING FOR THE FILING OF THE
7 REQUIRED DOCUMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE
8 APPOINTMENT OF A SINKING FUND DEPOSITORY FOR
9 THE NOTE; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION, SALE
10 AND DELIVERY THEREOF.

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: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
25 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-

1 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 88,
2 2015 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE
3 COMMONLY KNOWN AS 630 CLAY AVENUE, SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA, TO JONATHAN OLIVETTI, 201
5 FRANKLIN AVE, 3RD FLOOR, SCRANTON,
6 PENNSYLVANIA, 18503, FOR THE CONSIDERATION
7 OF \$16,000.00.

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

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

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

22 MR. EVANS: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

3 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
4 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE- FOR ADOPTION -
5 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 89, 2015 - CREATING
6 AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
7 02.229615 ENTITLED "EIT CONTRIBUTION" FOR
8 THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING A 2.4% EIT
9 CONTRIBUTION BY BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, DAVE
10 BULZONI.

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

14 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
16 passage of Item 7-B.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll
19 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: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 Prior to adjournment, just once
7 again would like to remind people that next
8 week's meeting will be on Wednesday, April
9 1, with a caucus at 6 p.m. in the Clerk's
10 Office followed by the meeting at 6:30.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

14 MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is
15 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