

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, April 23, 2015

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

ROBERT MCGOFF, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

JOSEPH WECHSLER

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here. Dispense with  
14 the reading of the minutes.

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

16 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION  
17 REPORTS REVIEWED MARCH 24 AND MARCH 31,  
18 2015.

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

21 MS. REED: 3-B. CONTROLLER'S REPORT  
22 FOR THE MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 2015.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S

1 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD APRIL  
2 8, 2015.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
6 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD APRIL 22,  
7 2015.

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

10 Any clerk's notes?

11 MS. REED: Nothing, Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Any announcements or  
13 comments from the council? Anyone? I do  
14 have a number of the things to mention  
15 before we start the meeting. First of all,  
16 the exit conference for the 2013 audit was  
17 held on Monday and the audit report should  
18 be posted to the city's website. I don't  
19 know if has been already, but it should be  
20 relatively soon. It's on the Department of  
21 Business Administration page if you want to  
22 look for it. There is a copy also available  
23 in the City Clerk's Office, and there should  
24 be a copy at the Albright Memorial Library.  
25 The Harrison Avenue bridge schedule

1 closures. The bridge will be closed from  
2 Friday, April 24, at 10 p.m. and will reopen  
3 on Sunday morning, April 26. If necessary,  
4 it will extend until Monday morning, April  
5 27, at 6 a.m. Emergency access for the  
6 bridge will be maintained at all times for  
7 emergency vehicles. Also, Scranton police  
8 officers will be stationed at all times and  
9 assist with pedestrians who still want to  
10 walk across the bridge during the closure.  
11 It should be noted that the Scranton police  
12 will be reimbursed for the project at no  
13 expense to the city.

14 Council has scheduled a public  
15 caucus as requested with PennDOT officials  
16 on the update for the bridge project, that  
17 caucus will be held on Thursday, June 4, at  
18 6:00 p.m. and it will be in council  
19 chambers.

20 This Saturday, April 25, is the  
21 kickoff celebration of Scranton  
22 Sesquicentennial. The event will begin on  
23 the steps of the city hall at 9:30 with  
24 remarks, proclamations and racing and the  
25 raising of the Sesquicentennial flag. At

1 10:30, this is a.m., there will be a parade  
2 down North Washington Avenue to the Mall at  
3 Steamtown where there will be a full day of  
4 the entertainment, artisans, ethnic foods  
5 and fireworks at 9 p.m.

6 Just for note today, April 23, is  
7 the 149th anniversary of the City of  
8 Scranton, of the establishment of the City  
9 of Scranton, so today is the actual date in  
10 1866 when the City of Scranton was  
11 established. Last announcement, yesterday  
12 was the Court, days get mixed up when you're  
13 retired every day is the same, so yesterday  
14 there was a Court hearing, the city  
15 presented it's case for the establishment of  
16 the LST tax or the -- making it \$156 rather  
17 than 52, that case, the decision, was handed  
18 down late today in favor of the city to  
19 pursue that increase in the LST and that was  
20 held before Judge Braxton and his decision  
21 was made. And that is it all. Anyone else?

22 MR. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
23 PARTICIPATION.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,

1 city resident and taxpayer. There is a God  
2 and there is a 2013 audit. It is 324 days  
3 late and, of course, the financial  
4 information captures the history of 16  
5 months ago. There is no copy on the website  
6 yet and there is no copy in the library, my  
7 understanding is that should be corrected  
8 probably tomorrow. It is a lengthy document  
9 and it will take several readings to fully  
10 digest, but there are two issues which I  
11 wish to raise tonight.

12 I draw your attention to page 37 of  
13 the document, if you have it available, with  
14 regard to the Parking Authority. I could be  
15 wrong, but I think this is the first time  
16 the city has ever received an adverse  
17 opinion and this one concerns the Parking  
18 Authority. An audit of the Parking  
19 Authority of the City of Scranton was not  
20 completed for the year ended December 31,  
21 2013. The city communicated their concerns  
22 to the receiver, trustee, bond insurers  
23 relative to the language in the bond  
24 documents requiring an audit of the  
25 authority operation. The parties did not

1 seek to authorize the completion of an  
2 audit.

3 Now, I don't know whether you are  
4 going to sell off the authorities assets  
5 this year and next year or ten years from  
6 now, but this issue is going to continue to  
7 haunt the city for some time to come. If  
8 memory serves, last November the city  
9 authorized a \$4 million loan for the Parking  
10 Authority and I believe the argument was  
11 that we needed to help the Authority recover  
12 its financial credibility because the city  
13 defaulted on the those loans and the city  
14 was responsible for that.

15 And I checked the minutes of council  
16 meetings and I think Mr. Evans said it best,  
17 "On a going forward basis this is about the  
18 future. It's about rebuilding our  
19 credibility in the financial community."

20 Well, I'm here to tell you that an  
21 adverse opinion will not go far to rebuild  
22 financial credibility anywhere.

23 The second issue that I want to  
24 point out was on page eight of the inserted  
25 from Robert Rossi & Company which is



1 attached to the actual audit and it refers  
2 to accounting procedures, and I quote, "The  
3 city should develop written accounting  
4 procedures to provide for consistent  
5 treatment of transactions and accounting  
6 principles as determined by management. New  
7 employees or employees temporarily  
8 performing duties due to sickness or  
9 vacation would benefit from such written  
10 procedures which would provide consistent  
11 financial reporting."

12 Now, we have had Baker-Tilly for a  
13 four-year period to perform functions that  
14 our finance and accounting personnel should  
15 be doing, basically preparing the  
16 information for the independent auditor. I  
17 still insist that we would be better served,  
18 the city would be better served and our  
19 employees would be better served if we  
20 establish the appropriate training program  
21 for them, document trained, got the  
22 procedures documented and then we would not  
23 have a problem with personnel turnover when  
24 somebody decides to retire or somebody  
25 becomes ill and falls out of the system.

1           Once you have got the procedures on paper,  
2           once you have got everyone trained and  
3           cross-trained you lay that issue to rest. I  
4           do not see why we have to be hiring an  
5           outside firm to perform that duty for us and  
6           if we have to hire anyone I suggest we hire  
7           a junk yard dog and it that we set that dog  
8           free. Maybe we can put the fear of God into  
9           some people.

10                         And, finally, I would like to know,  
11           I have asked this before, what is the  
12           deadline for the 2014 audit?

13                         MR. MCGOFF: In the RFP it stated  
14           that the audit -- if the audit was not  
15           completed by October there would be a 10  
16           percent, what do I want to say, 10 percent  
17           penalty on the auditors.

18                         MS. HODOWANITZ: We can't let the  
19           tail wag the dog again. We have done this  
20           with Rossi, it needs to stop. We need a  
21           firmer commitment from the auditor, you are  
22           going to hire this auditor, it should be  
23           clear to him date "X" is when it's due, show  
24           cause why you can't produce it and it  
25           shouldn't be the city's fault again

1           especially if you are hiring another audit  
2           firm to do the work for you. That's all I  
3           have tonight. Thank you.

4                     MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Les  
5           Spindler.

6                     MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
7           Council. Les Spindler, city resident and  
8           taxpayer and homeowner. Last week I got my  
9           garbage bill and I'm still not happy about  
10          that, I think \$300 is far to unfair.  
11          Dunmore did away with their garbage fees and  
12          they also lowered taxes, meanwhile we are  
13          raising our garbage fees at an unreasonable  
14          rate. My wife is a caregiver for a  
15          97-year-old woman, does anybody up there  
16          think it's fair for a 97-year-old woman to  
17          pay \$300 a year? Well, silence speaks  
18          volumes.

19                    MR. ROGAN: It's not fair and I have  
20          been saying for years I think it should be  
21          on a per bag basis.

22                    MR. SPINDLER: I agree.

23                    MR. ROGAN: It's not a popular  
24          opinion with some people.

25                    MR. SPINDLER: I agree with you. A

1 97-year-old woman she barely has one bag of  
2 garbage a week, it's ridiculous. Totally  
3 unfair and I still say, I have said it for  
4 years, I think it's illegal. We pay taxes  
5 to have our garbage picked up, we shouldn't  
6 be paying \$300 more. What do we pay taxes  
7 for? For services such as garbage  
8 collection. It's totally unfair to charge  
9 people \$300 and I own a double I pay \$600.  
10 I hope maybe this year council could look  
11 into it and maybe lower it.

12 Moving on, does anyone know when the  
13 street sweeper will be in the Tripp Park  
14 area?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: I have the list, I'll  
16 mention it in my comments. I'm not exactly  
17 sure, but I'll go through.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Something  
19 I mentioned awhile ago, the street sign on  
20 the corner where I live, the Bullworth  
21 Street sign still hasn't been put up, North  
22 Rebecca is up but Bullworth Street doesn't  
23 exist right now.

24 Another thing I mentioned last time  
25 I was here, the stop sign at North Sumner

1 and Pettibone, the stop sign is white. You  
2 can barely make it out to be a stop sign. I  
3 think that's a safety hazard.

4 MR. MCGOFF: On that, if you would  
5 call either the Clerk's Office or DPW and  
6 just make them aware of so they are trying  
7 to work on those.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. I tried call  
9 DPW in the past and could never get through.  
10 And I brought this up last year, Dorothy  
11 Street where the ball fields are and across  
12 from the playground, water collects there.  
13 There is a storm drain, the water doesn't  
14 make it to the storm drain, the pavement is  
15 dug up, it's just worn away, the water was  
16 six or eight feet out into the street and  
17 there is debris build up all along by where  
18 the storm drain is and the water just  
19 doesn't make it there. There is like a  
20 half -- it's a river about a half a block  
21 long and it just lasts there until it  
22 evaporates, but the way the weather has been  
23 it's just been sitting there so maybe  
24 Mr. Gallagher could get up there and take a  
25 look at that.

1 Another thing, a nice story on the  
2 news last night about a Scranton police  
3 officer helping a woman who was in labor and  
4 helped her deliver the baby, it was Officer  
5 Golden, I think Officer Golden deserves to  
6 come before city council and get a  
7 proclamation. I don't think delivering a  
8 baby is in his job description and I think  
9 he did a great job, and it was on the news  
10 last night and it was in the paper today, I  
11 think he deserves a proclamation.

12 And speaking of proclamations, I  
13 know this was brought up a year or so ago,  
14 maybe more, I know Council Rogan will  
15 remember, it was brought up about giving  
16 Matt McGloin a proclamation and it never  
17 happened so I'm just curious if that was  
18 still in the works or was it forgotten  
19 about.

20 MR. ROGAN: We could definitely  
21 discuss that, I think we should do a matt  
22 McGloin day.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Scranton has never  
24 had anybody as a quarterback in the national  
25 football league and I think that's a great

1 honor. Lastly, I don't if this just a rumor  
2 or I hope it's true, I heard there is going  
3 to be free swimming at Nay Aug, is that  
4 true?

5 MR. MCGOFF: As far as I know that  
6 is what is going to take place, yes.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Well, finally. I was  
8 coming to this podium for like 12 years on  
9 the same issue of free swimming now.  
10 Finally we got somebody in office that's  
11 going to go through with that and I think  
12 everybody should be able to swim for free.  
13 That's all I got tonight. Thank you for  
14 your time.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Spindler, the  
16 street sweeper in the Tripp Park section May  
17 11 through May 15.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: You're welcome.

20 THE COURT: Chuck Scrimalli.

21 MR. SCRIMALLI: Good evening. Chuck  
22 Scrimalli, resident. I believe last week,  
23 correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Evans, you  
24 started talking about the school that is  
25 being demolished on the corner of the

1 Mulberry and Colfax.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. SCRIMALLI: I wanted to say I do  
4 appreciate you wanting to keep intact some  
5 of the great buildings in Scranton, but I do  
6 have a question, I don't know if you are  
7 going to be able to answer it, that building  
8 has been being demolished for over a week  
9 now and it's a real eyesore. The windows  
10 are blasted out, it looks like they are  
11 really taking their time, do you have any  
12 idea when that's going to be finished?

13 MR. EVANS: I have no idea. That's  
14 a private contractor working for a private  
15 company so we have no idea. I mean, License  
16 and Inspections may have a schedule of how  
17 long demolition may take.

18 MR. SCRIMALLI: Thank you. That's  
19 all I have. I just was wondering because  
20 it's a real eyesore in the community. Thank  
21 you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Hetman.

23 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
24 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County's  
25 Community Relations Department, good to see



1           you as always. To begin this evening, just  
2           a reminder that the Commissioner's  
3           Children's Bicycle Safety Fair will take  
4           place this Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m.  
5           to 1:00 at PNC Field in Moosic. As we  
6           mentioned before, each child in attendance  
7           will receive a free bike helmet compliments  
8           of PNC Bank. Each child in attendance will  
9           also be eligible to a win free bicycle.  
10          That will be raffled off compliments of  
11          Cedar Bike and Paddle. We will also have  
12          law enforcement officers from the Scranton  
13          Police Department and the Pennsylvania State  
14          Police and the Lackawanna County Sheriff's  
15          Office present to do both bicycle safety  
16          demonstrations and also some canine  
17          demonstrations from the sheriff's office.

18                   The event is free and we will have  
19                   refreshments compliments of Gerrity's  
20                   Supermarket and the Rail Riders. The  
21                   weather may be a little bit chilly, we  
22                   advise folks to dress warm if they attend.  
23                   We look forward to having a good day of bike  
24                   safety in the morning at PNC field.

25                   Second, many of these events were on

1 the master schedule that were provided to  
2 you earlier in the year, but just as a  
3 reminder because of them have many of have  
4 individual registration open. The  
5 Lackawanna County Department of Parks and  
6 Recreation will be hosting a series of  
7 camps, clinics and sports leagues for  
8 children and adults through the upcoming  
9 months. Some of those include the youth  
10 tennis clinics, these are all for boys and  
11 girls, for children, and also men and woman  
12 for the older generations. The youth tennis  
13 clinic runs for ages 8 through 16, and also  
14 the junior golf clinic ages 8 through 16.  
15 The youth soccer clinic, actually three  
16 different locations, ages 5 through 13. Our  
17 outdoor basketball clinic, we have two  
18 divisions for that, ages seven to ten, and  
19 then 11 through 14, and also the adult  
20 tennis league, age 21 and up. For me to go  
21 through all of the locations and times and  
22 specifics would take up probably the public  
23 comment period so I won't mention everything  
24 here, but there are registration forms for  
25 each of these available on the County's

1 website at LackawannaCounty.org under Parks  
2 and Recreation and anyone seeking additional  
3 information may call our Parks and  
4 Recreation Office at McDade Park  
5 570-963-6764.

6 And then we do have one individual  
7 event, also, which is our annual children's  
8 fishing derby in the spring months, this is  
9 done at McDade Park on Saturday, May 9.  
10 There are two different times, ages four  
11 through eight from 10:30 to 12:45 and ages 9  
12 through 12 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The cost  
13 is \$5 per child which covers the bait that  
14 is provided that day, and we should mention  
15 this is the first of two fishing derbies for  
16 children our Parks and Rec Department holds.  
17 The second one is done normally in earlier  
18 October in Merlo-Sarnowski Park in Fell  
19 Township.

20 Third, Penn State Extension Master  
21 Gardner's program in Lackawanna County asked  
22 us to share some details on the spring  
23 workshop series that they are hosting and  
24 all the sessions are here at Nay Aug Park at  
25 the McNulty Greenhouse, and the address they

1 give us for that, if anyone wants to GPS it,  
2 200 Arthur Avenue in Scranton. It starts on  
3 Monday, April 27, with a session on rain  
4 barrels, and then there is several other  
5 sessions throughout April and May and on May  
6 21, on Thursday, a session on composting,  
7 and there is a range of gardening topics  
8 covered by sessions in-between.

9 All of the presentations are free,  
10 but reservations are required. Master  
11 gardeners asks that you bring a comfortable  
12 chair or blanket to sit on as the sessions  
13 will be held outdoors in a grassy area  
14 around the greenhouse. For more information  
15 or for a complete list of the clinics or to  
16 register for these please contact the Penn  
17 State Extension Office in Lackawanna County  
18 at 570-963-6842, and we do have all of those  
19 full schedules available at our website at  
20 Lackawannacounty.org so you can browse the  
21 whole list.

22 And also, another Penn State  
23 Extension event, master gardener's have  
24 their annual plant sale on courthouse square  
25 on the corner of Spruce Street and Adams

1 Avenue, it's Friday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to  
2 5 p.m. They have a wide selection of hanging  
3 baskets that are ten inch and also petunias,  
4 geraniums and more. There are in full bloom  
5 ready to take home, and again, if anyone  
6 wants additional information on the line up  
7 for that flower sale, again, Penn State  
8 master gardeners extension number  
9 570-963-6842.

10 And then lastly, the County's Arts  
11 and Culture Department is presenting a  
12 workshop and lecture and panel discussion on  
13 protecting intellectual property rights for  
14 artists, venturers, entrepreneurs, and they  
15 would also be concerned with anyone  
16 protecting, as they call it, their big idea.  
17 It takes place on April 29 from 5:30 to 7:00  
18 p.m. at the Electric City Trolley Museum.  
19 If anyone wants more information  
20 570-963-6590, extension 106.

21 And that's all we have for this  
22 month. Thank you. We will provide copies  
23 of the flyers for those parks and recreation  
24 programs to Mrs. Reed, and I do have copies  
25 with me for anyone who would like an

1 additional one, so thank you.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Hetman.  
3 Thank you very much. Ron Ellman. Sorry to  
4 interrupt your nap.

5 MR. ELLMAN: I thought you were  
6 going to take up a collection and send it to  
7 me to keep me there longer. Well, you  
8 didn't do it.

9 MR. MCGOFF: We tried.

10 MR. ELLMAN: I got thrown out of the  
11 motel, they kept my clothes. You ought to  
12 sleep in the car and have to walk around in  
13 nickers everywhere.

14 MR. EVANS: Next time give us your  
15 forwarding address.

16 MR. ELLMAN: See what you've done,  
17 you've ruined my image. Now, I was with  
18 four extremely wealthy, successful people.  
19 I didn't say other successful wealthy  
20 people. We talked -- it rained every day  
21 and we talked about Scranton a whole lot and  
22 the conclusion was that it just seems, and I  
23 had some newspaper articles to prove my  
24 point, it seemed like there are just a bunch  
25 of mindless some bees running this city.



1 junk carpet sitting a block from me for  
2 three or four months, I noticed it was gone,  
3 and Mr. Liptai on me two weeks ago so I  
4 cleaned up my yard, I know he must carry a  
5 lot of heat but this program sure had some  
6 quick results and all of those responsible  
7 for it I think it was a very good program to  
8 clean up the city. You know, you see such  
9 quick results.

10 I was glad to see so much people  
11 present tonight, I wish they could continue  
12 coming and I won't show up and bother  
13 everybody but, like I said, I said it a  
14 couple of weeks ago why are we supposed to  
15 be responsible for that state road, you  
16 know, nobody answered me. Why can't you  
17 just give it back to them if they gave it to  
18 us? It's a liability that we don't need and  
19 with all of this money they are collecting  
20 they can sure afford to pave it better than  
21 the City of Scranton, and right by my house  
22 on Throop Street, which is a very, very,  
23 it's excellent condition, they got equipment  
24 to work on it. I don't know whose idea that  
25 was. You go down Throop Street there is



1 nothing wrong with it. They got a grinder  
2 there to grind it. It's just such a waste  
3 what goes on around here, and then all we  
4 hear, well, we have to raise taxes. If the  
5 left hand knew what the right hand was doing  
6 we wouldn't have to raise taxes so much and  
7 if we had some competent people instead of  
8 this Amoroso plan we wouldn't have to raise  
9 taxes. You are just getting bad advice and  
10 getting worse advice and it just keeps  
11 getting worse. Like I have said a dozen  
12 times, you people just not in touch with the  
13 people that are paying the way. Thank you.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who would  
16 like to address counsel?

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
18 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
19 know you can't talk about the lawsuit but I  
20 spoke on this piece of legislation in 2006.  
21 I pointed out that 198 years was almost the  
22 length of the Republic. How could anybody  
23 in their right mind give out a contract like  
24 that, but council fell on deaf ears because  
25 I pointed out there is a little kicker

1 clause in this contract, both parties have  
2 to agree before any payment is made and you  
3 can see that no payment has been made for  
4 all of these years. It never will reach an  
5 agreement, the best thing you did was go to  
6 Court because that's the only way you're  
7 getting any action on it because if was up  
8 to me I would have never signed an agreement  
9 where I have to come up with \$600,000 but  
10 that's the way Scranton goes, but the  
11 question is who in their right mind did this  
12 and was it political? That's the question  
13 we have, was this all political? Because  
14 too many things were done at that time.

15 I don't know, you are not familiar  
16 with Briggin Henry, the drilling company  
17 that they torn down and built the Ice Box,  
18 they gave them all kind of setbacks and did  
19 whatever they could for this company, and  
20 then later on he came and asked for a KOZ  
21 for that front portion. Of course, the  
22 school board turned it down, but this is  
23 where we sit. Things were done by different  
24 councils and the mayor, mostly Mayor  
25 Doherty, that put us where we are today and

1           there is no question about it. I wish  
2           people used common sense when they vote for  
3           people. Mr. Amoroso's plan, I like it, he  
4           did get two pieces of his plan into effect,  
5           he gave the people higher taxes and he  
6           manages to get money from the nonprofits.  
7           Of course they went to him, but why not?  
8           This is the way Scranton works. We help the  
9           population by doing the best for ourselves  
10          and this is where we are today. There is  
11          too many people in this government that  
12          thinks only of themselves and not of the  
13          city as a whole, even though they profess  
14          they do, but anybody with common sense look  
15          at what's been done and they don't.

16                        We lost millions of dollars to  
17          different entities, the Hilton for one, they  
18          came before council and said we want to  
19          subordinate your loan. Okay. The reason  
20          why we wanted to -- I forget whether I'll  
21          get another loan I think it was, and if we  
22          don't get that, we are going to declare  
23          bankruptcy. So then they want to the county  
24          and the county arranged for them to get the  
25          loan and we subordinated our loan and then

1           they declared bankruptcy anyway. This is  
2           how the city works. We lack common sense  
3           for the people of Scranton. You got to look  
4           at the people of Scranton as a whole, not of  
5           my friend, my name or who I know or who I  
6           don't know. We have been going downhill for  
7           the last 12 years and there is no question  
8           about it and the people really are fed up.

9                     I realize that they complain about  
10           the \$300 garbage fee. The University has to  
11           pay \$300 garbage fee on every building they  
12           own but they probably hired a private  
13           contractor, but the city residents can't  
14           hire a private contractor to haul away their  
15           garbage, probably at a cheaper rate than  
16           what the city started. I always said, you  
17           got to make the city -- everybody in the  
18           city equal, businessmen as well as citizens.  
19           You can't just go one way or the other. You  
20           can't go all the way to the citizens or all  
21           of the way to the businesses. We are a  
22           combination.

23                     I like socialism. I'm a socialist  
24           actually and I believe that the government  
25           should own a lot of things to relieve people

1 from paying taxes. I do believe that. I  
2 believe that's the only way we can keep  
3 taxes from skyrocketing is for private  
4 government entities to own different things,  
5 not too much like the post office, but there  
6 is a lot of things we can do and I hope you  
7 realize and do it.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else who wishes  
9 to address council? Ms. Schumacher, these  
10 are for you. You don't have to run.  
11 They'll be here.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: She might be timing  
13 it.

14 MR. MCGOFF: No, not yet. We'll  
15 start now.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. I was  
17 going to say welcome back winter, but I'd  
18 like to wake up tomorrow morning so I'll  
19 skip that. I was happy when I learned of  
20 the BRT Ice action, but I believe I remember  
21 being unhappy when the revised recovery plan  
22 came along because it had dropped seeking  
23 that \$600,000 and so I went to the website  
24 to find out what was in the revised recovery  
25 plan and there was nothing on our revised

1 recovery plan, not in the BA's Office and  
2 not in the City Council's Office so I did  
3 contact PEL and theirs also was the August  
4 2012 version, but I sent them an e-mail and  
5 I received a notice back and if I didn't  
6 leave half my brains on the kitchen table  
7 tonight I would give you what the website  
8 is, but it is available I think in DCED at  
9 the state level.

10 And I did print part of that out, I  
11 did not because of my time schedule and the  
12 time I got I didn't have time to go through  
13 everything, but one of the things that I did  
14 get to go through were some of the mandates,  
15 and again, I printed them out and they are  
16 sitting on my kitchen table, but I would  
17 like to know, there were simple things,  
18 like, you know, shared services, and I know  
19 this is a little bit off from shared  
20 services, but when you got a Recreation  
21 Authority, and I brought this up you when  
22 the city went out for their chemicals for  
23 the pool this summer I asked and nobody knew  
24 whether it included the Recreation  
25 Department, and then this past week I see

1 the Recreation Department is out getting  
2 bids for their own chemicals. That's  
3 asinine. And there are several other things  
4 that are in there for that are mandates for  
5 2015 and then there is a section that are  
6 mandates for 2015/2016, and I would like to  
7 request, and it goes along with  
8 Mr. Gaughan's spoke during caucus, I would  
9 like to request that we get a monthly report  
10 maybe on the last Thursday of each month on  
11 the status of those mandates? I know there  
12 are a lot of things that are supposed to be  
13 accomplished and it would be -- I would  
14 really appreciate a status on them and I  
15 think some of the rest of the residents.

16 And now back to some follow-up. I  
17 thank you for the follow-up, these answers,  
18 if I have any further questions I'll come  
19 with you. I want to know if Mr. Rogan has  
20 anything tonight on the Jersey Freight  
21 building and the drop from 2014 -- or 2012  
22 to 2014 in the --

23 MR. ROGAN: If you could put those  
24 in writing I will get them for you.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will certainly

1 put in writing. And the other thing was the  
2 following up on verifying that all of the  
3 non-profits are eligible, and I know  
4 Mr. Evans when he first came aboard offered  
5 to do the letter for the HUP test and take  
6 care of that and I think maybe we need to  
7 review those items and if go forth with  
8 that. I know you had people here on other  
9 things that might be happening, but they may  
10 not happen and that was -- I was pretty sure  
11 this was a 2015 item so I think maybe you  
12 want to talk about that a little bit next  
13 week.

14 And then where does our cash flow  
15 stand at the end of March? And one of the  
16 reasons I ask that I was doing a comparison  
17 of where the real estate tax revenue from  
18 what's estimated for the year and what's  
19 collected by the end of March and in 2012 it  
20 was 41 percent, in 2013 it was 55, and in  
21 2014 it was 18 percent, and in this year so  
22 far it's 31 percent, and that's sort of  
23 jumps all over the place and I don't know  
24 you do a cash flow when it jumps that way,  
25 but I wondered if, Mr. Evans, if you have



1 any ideas on why it bounces like that and  
2 how we stand on the cash flow at the end of  
3 March?

4 MR. EVANS: That has to do when the  
5 money comes in to the city coffers from the  
6 banks on escrow accounts and different  
7 things like that and when the tax bills  
8 actually go out. This year they went out  
9 later than they normally do, that's the  
10 impact on that, but I'll check that for you  
11 because I know we discussed it at the PEL  
12 meeting, but I don't have my notes from the  
13 meeting.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Can we get some of  
15 the figures, can we get the figures for the  
16 2014 year end by budget line item? That  
17 would be really helpful in making some  
18 comparisons. I'll document them either  
19 later tonight or tomorrow morning. Thank  
20 you.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
23 Dobrzyn, resident, taxes paid. First of  
24 all, I have been addressing some things  
25 outside of our community, but we are caught

1 up in the whirlwind here. It's a total  
2 economic system in the United States having  
3 to do with trade packs so I have a few phone  
4 numbers I'd like to announce because if  
5 people aren't earning money and people don't  
6 have jobs property taxes have to go up, if  
7 you are tired of property taxes going up  
8 call this number. If you are tired of no  
9 jobs for your relatives call this number.  
10 If you are tired of your retirement  
11 constantly being threatened because if  
12 somebody works for half the money they did  
13 last year then you get half the social  
14 security eventually you run out of money.  
15 So the first one is for all Congressmen  
16 Toomey, Matt Cartright and Casey, and Casey  
17 is, by the way, he has been against it, I'm  
18 a little uncertain on Matt Cartright and I'm  
19 sure Pat Toomey would just like another  
20 trade pack. 1-202-224-3121. Matt  
21 Cartright, I'm not certain of this one, but  
22 I'm reasonable certain 1-202-225-5346, and  
23 finally, the White House, the most  
24 disappointing president that I have ever  
25 worked for at this point, 1-202-456-1111.

1           Enough said on that, I'm going to get to  
2           city issues now. First of all, I would like  
3           once again to remind everybody if you have  
4           that clunker in your back yard sprouting out  
5           maple shoots you can get \$150, 200 bucks for  
6           it. Call a salvaging tow company, there are  
7           several, and you can probably call City Hall  
8           here and get a list of them.

9                   A week or two ago three people were  
10           cited on Alder Street for parking the wrong  
11           way and granted they are in violation of the  
12           regulation, however, they were supposed to  
13           park pointing up the hill in the 900 block  
14           of Alder and if you try that without a good  
15           going head start you will probably be  
16           replacing a transmission or an engine so we  
17           need to consider that at least during the  
18           winter and maybe it's time to back up a  
19           little bit or modify things.

20                   And trash fees, now, a year and a  
21           half ago there was \$7.5 million were  
22           announced in unpaid trash fees. If it's  
23           Aunt Milly on her \$700 a month salary or  
24           social security then, you know, I think we  
25           could just leave a lien closed, I'm not sure

1 of that, I'm not a legal expert, but we have  
2 plenty enough that we pay, but when somebody  
3 owes \$15,000, \$10,000, and they are bold  
4 enough to even run for city offices, shame  
5 on you, pay it. No more free lunches.

6 And once again, the Chamber of  
7 Commerce and this Amoroso plan and  
8 everything else, these organizations hire  
9 people to come up with studies that benefit  
10 them, the national Chamber of Commerce  
11 constantly, US Chamber of Commerce,  
12 Transpacific trade pack, despite the fact  
13 that wages have within stagnant for 35 or 40  
14 years in this country and in the privately  
15 employed working class and it's not  
16 acceptable. It's no longer acceptable.  
17 It's like I said, that's also less taxes  
18 coming in in the form of wage taxes, and as  
19 much as we need our \$156 tax, EMT tax, it is  
20 revers progressive taxation because if you  
21 make \$100,000 that's about .15 percent of  
22 your paycheck, if you make \$15,600 that is 1  
23 percent of your paycheck annually, and  
24 locally they are contributing the sprawl and  
25 the business property bubble. They get

1 grants to go move up valley and you have to  
2 have a car and these companies don't want to  
3 pay the wages. They don't want to pay  
4 anymore than \$9 or \$10 an hour, cars with  
5 60,000 miles \$15,000, \$16,000, where is that  
6 going? Thank you and have a good night.  
7 I'll be back next week.

8 MR. WALSH: Good evening, Council.  
9 My name is John Walsh, I'm a resident. In  
10 regards to Judge Braxton coming out today  
11 and giving his response, yesterday when I  
12 was in the courtroom he said he was going to  
13 take two to three weeks to do it, and he  
14 shocked me when he came out, but I will be  
15 appealing it to the Superior Court and on to  
16 the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania just to  
17 let you know. Thank you.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Good evening. My  
19 name is Sean McAndrew, I'm a homeowner. I'm  
20 here to talk about the pension problem  
21 that's been going on in the city. It's no  
22 secret that it's under investigation but,  
23 you know, this is taking a very long time  
24 and the issue with the time it's taking is  
25 every day that passes by more money is being

1           wasted on people who are receiving benefits  
2           that weren't qualified for it in the first  
3           place and also the double benefits on top of  
4           that so every day that goes by we are losing  
5           more money and it's a really discouraging  
6           for the taxpayers, because as everybody else  
7           is talking about the garbage bill we got in  
8           the mail today, or this week, you know,  
9           that's money that we can use towards the  
10          roads or the garbage fees and, you know, I  
11          understand stand it's under investigation  
12          but we are kind of in the dark here.  
13          Hopefully, eventually we can get some  
14          insight on the process of it or, you know,  
15          what's been found or what's going on, and  
16          I've been trying to do some research myself.  
17          One of the members of the pension boards was  
18          on the board back in 2002 when the pensions  
19          were approved, happens to be our city  
20          controller as well Mrs. Novembrino. I have  
21          sent a three-page letter asking questions if  
22          her office has received any contact from the  
23          local authorities or have they been under  
24          investigation or are they aware of any of  
25          these problem that's been going on because



1 permit the City to exercise its right to the  
2 increased LST tax, hopefully that will help  
3 us meet the budget requirement that we  
4 filled in for that item this year. Going  
5 forward, it will become -- the problem with  
6 this tax is that it is permanent, the  
7 commuter tax was something that was not  
8 going to be permanent, it was only going to  
9 be used for the pensions and would  
10 eventually go away, the LST tax I think is  
11 here to stay.

12 Also, the story that was out about  
13 the Boscov's and the mall, I'm very anxious  
14 to get that settled. To me, the mall  
15 represents a problem that hangs over the  
16 city's head constantly. There is some  
17 interest in the private sector and community  
18 sector of getting the mall moving in another  
19 direction and I would like to see this  
20 settled as quickly as possible that we can  
21 make some progress on that issue.

22 I did welcome the news that the city  
23 is pursuing litigation against the Ice Box.  
24 Some of these items that have been hanging  
25 around the city for quite a few years, I'm



1 happy to see that they are being started to  
2 be settled one way or another so we can move  
3 on into the future projects that I think are  
4 important to the city.

5 I would like to take an opportunity  
6 to congratulate the Scranton High School  
7 Knights Show Choir, they finished second and  
8 third in some national singing competitions.  
9 The work that there moderators do, Lisa  
10 McGlocklin and Ronald Barrett and along with  
11 the work of the parents. These are  
12 something that these kids do on their own on  
13 their free time and using their  
14 contributions from their friends.

15 Also, the news that was also today  
16 about Officer Golden, I think our police  
17 department always does a fine job but in  
18 this case Officer Golden kind of went beyond  
19 the -- I don't know if I could deliver a  
20 baby on the street, I'm not sure about that.

21 And, also, in terms of the audit, as  
22 we heard about today I would like to see a  
23 monthly status report now on the audit as we  
24 go forward. Council came on this year and  
25 last year actually the auditing company has

1           always been in place and the problems with  
2           the audit and the process were still in  
3           place, also, so I am anxious to see  
4           improvement in the auditing process for the  
5           city to move forward.

6                         And finally, I am very excited about  
7           Saturday, I have been part of the planning  
8           committee for the 150th anniversary of the  
9           city. There is a fine program prepared for  
10          Saturday. Also, the work of Scranton  
11          Tomorrow to get a group of ethnic food  
12          vendors and local talents to perform so far  
13          is an outstanding list and there is going to  
14          be many very exciting demonstrations on  
15          Scranton's history, this is the first event  
16          for the one-year celebration and, once  
17          again, I congratulate Scranton Tomorrow for  
18          the work that they have done in putting this  
19          together. Thank you.

20                        MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

21                        MR. ROGAN: Yes, a couple of brief  
22          items and then I'll talk a little bit more  
23          at length. I would like to echo some of  
24          what Councilman Wechsler mentioned, the  
25          benefit of speaking first is you get to talk

1 about all the good things.

2 MR. WECHSLER: I'll give you the bad  
3 stuff.

4 MR. ROGAN: But on a couple of other  
5 things, I'd also like to thank Scranton  
6 Tomorrow for the good work they are doing  
7 with the kickoff for the festivities.  
8 Unfortunately I -- or fortunately I will be  
9 out of town, my brother is graduating from  
10 Pittsburgh University this weekend, so I  
11 won't be able to attend any of the  
12 festivities this weekend, but I am looking  
13 forward to future events.

14 Regarding the mall, there has been a  
15 lot of talk, and specifically on social  
16 media and local blogs about different ideas  
17 for what the mall can become and how that  
18 space can best be utilized. Many of the  
19 ideas that were brought up are great ideas,  
20 some of them are a little more out there,  
21 but other things really are good ideas that  
22 people in the community want to see and the  
23 list goes on and on and on, different  
24 businesses people would like to see come  
25 into the area, different concepts. The idea

1 of a Reading Terminal-style venue is one  
2 that's very popular but there are others.

3 Regarding today's article with the  
4 mall, with the diagnose on for auction, I  
5 think part of the problem with the mall is  
6 Al Boscov. I think that Mr. Boscov cares  
7 about one thing and one thing only and that  
8 is his store. That's plain as day if you  
9 look at the vacancy rate. It appears there  
10 have been no attempt to attract new  
11 businesses into that mall. I firmly believe  
12 that Mr. Boscov is trying to devalue that  
13 property so he can buy it at a rock bottom  
14 price. It's not right what's being done. I  
15 am very hopeful that in outside investor  
16 will purchase that property and develop it.  
17 If Boscov remains a part of it great, but we  
18 need to move in a different direction with  
19 this building.

20 The current concept of malls is not  
21 working nationwide. It's not a unique  
22 problem to Scranton that shopping malls  
23 aren't doing well. Viewmont is the  
24 exception. The Viewmont Mall is right  
25 outside of the city doing extremely well,

1 but if you look at shopping malls all across  
2 the country they are suffering and the  
3 Steamtown Mall in Scranton is in even much  
4 worse shape than many of them are. Walking  
5 through that mall is like a ghost town.  
6 There are very few stores and it's a domino  
7 effect. Each store that closes that's fewer  
8 people than are walking there that might buy  
9 something else at another store, and it  
10 works in reverse. If a new developer comes  
11 in and puts one or two new ideas in there,  
12 things that are popular, we get people back  
13 into that building that will shop at all the  
14 stores in there not just the one new store  
15 that they are looking for.

16 So I'm encouraged by the progress in  
17 this regarding the mall, but I'm hopeful  
18 that we will see new ownership and that that  
19 will, you know, that it won't be Mr. Boscov  
20 calling the shots there anymore.

21 Secondly, the pension issues were  
22 brought up tonight and I spent a little bit  
23 of time reading through the minutes that we  
24 get from all of the pension boards, we  
25 receive five sets of minutes from all of the

1 different pensions composite, police, so on,  
2 but there is a few things that I did want to  
3 read, and I won't mention the people's names  
4 other than the attorney for the Pension  
5 Board, and I have been very concerned about  
6 this issue since it first came to light that  
7 people were receiving double pensions and  
8 months have gone by and we haven't heard any  
9 answers.

10 Even at the March 25 meeting a  
11 resident asked when a status report -- if a  
12 status report will be given as far as the  
13 investigation goes, and Attorney Durkin  
14 asked, "Maybe the Auditor General or the  
15 state police?"

16 And the resident said, "Either or."

17 Attorney Durkin, "No, they will have  
18 to speak for themselves. On our  
19 investigations other than what I said no.  
20 We have a hearing scheduled on -- "I'm not  
21 going to mention the name -- "in April and  
22 others are in progress. I do have a meeting  
23 today with the lawyers involved and some of  
24 the people. That is the extent of what I'm  
25 going to say about it. Thank you."

1 Another resident asks, "With regards  
2 to these hearings, are you going to inform  
3 the public?"

4 Attorney Durkin, "No."

5 The reporter from the Scranton Times  
6 then asks, "Unless the employees agree to  
7 it?"

8 Attorney Durkin, "Right. If the  
9 employees agree to it then that's fine. My  
10 position is that there are not open under  
11 the Sunshine Act because they involve  
12 investigations and hearings regarding  
13 personnel matters."

14 "If the employees agree," is posed  
15 as a question again. Attorney Durkin, "That  
16 is fine. Then we would do it."

17 The resident then asks, "Would there  
18 be some kind of public notice in the legal  
19 section of the newspaper?"

20 Attorney Durkin, "No. There will be  
21 a notice at the board about when the hearing  
22 is."

23 The resident asks, "What does that  
24 mean?"

25 Attorney Durkin, "Here, like we are

1           today, like I'm telling you today there will  
2           be a notice."

3           The resident asks, "You will know?"

4           Attorney Durkin, "It will be known  
5           when they are."

6           The resident asks, "Well, there  
7           won't be another meeting until April 17 so  
8           how would we know if the person wanted  
9           theirs open to the public?"

10           And the response from Attorney  
11           Durkin was that the resident would have to  
12           ask her. And these go on and on and with no  
13           answers on what's going on with this pension  
14           scandal. Looking through the Pension Boards  
15           are constantly in executive session and we  
16           are not provided with minutes on what goes  
17           on in executive session and even if we were  
18           we wouldn't be able to comment on them. I  
19           think that the public has a right to know  
20           what's going on regarding these double  
21           pensions that have been given out illegally,  
22           and as I stated, many months have gone by  
23           and we know as much now as we did the day  
24           this story broke so I'm hopeful that very  
25           shortly these answers will be -- these



1 questions will be answered whether it be by  
2 the Pension Board or by any of the other  
3 agencies involved, particularly, the Auditor  
4 General's Office, so we need to know what  
5 happened, what mistakes happen, so they  
6 don't happen again and who is responsible  
7 for this waste of taxpayer money and that is  
8 all for tonight. Thank you.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Just a few  
11 items, I'd like to circle back to House Bill  
12 316 which addresses municipal pension reform  
13 at the state level. I find it interesting  
14 that what happened recently was a group of  
15 ten mayors from York, West Chester, Meadow  
16 Lynn, Lancaster, Kutztown, Easton,  
17 Harrisburg, Allentown, Pittsburgh and Erie  
18 felt the need to issue a press release  
19 basically calling out state reps and state  
20 senators to get on board and support House  
21 Bill 316 and Senate Bill 211. So with that  
22 in mind I'd like to remind our State Senator  
23 Blake, and State Representative Farina and  
24 State Representative Flynn to take a good  
25 hard look at House Bill 316 and Senate Bill

1           211. It's time to act and time to get  
2 engaged. Municipalities in the state are  
3 floundering under a sea of debt and the  
4 pensions are crushing these municipalities  
5 including Scranton because we are number one  
6 on the list. So it's time to step up and  
7 get involved.

8                       Secondly, when I became a city  
9 councilman I wanted to get some real change  
10 done, some tangible things, and it's just to  
11 effect positive change where I could help  
12 make Scranton a better place for residents,  
13 taxpayers and the business community. It  
14 really wasn't much more complicated than  
15 that and over these past months working  
16 alongside these gentlemen to my right I have  
17 come to learn that we all share that common  
18 vision. We sometimes disagree on policies  
19 and certain issues, but we respect each  
20 other's opinions and viewpoints and we all  
21 sincerely want to make our city a great  
22 place to live and to work and we all want to  
23 find a way to create those positive changes  
24 sooner than later. We can no longer wait  
25 for change to come to us, we must find a way

1 to act to make change happen.

2 Since I joined the city council we  
3 have been at the forefront of the  
4 discussions on pension reform, union  
5 contracts, the recovery plan, land banks,  
6 blight, pro-business policies,  
7 pro-neighborhood policies, tax exempt  
8 properties, reassessment and more. There is  
9 much to accomplish and as we know 2015 is  
10 the critical year in Scranton's future. We  
11 should continue to strive to be partners  
12 with the administration because we know the  
13 mayor and his administration wants many of  
14 the same things we do, but we also must  
15 realize that time is of the essence and we  
16 can no longer wait on the slow, deliberate,  
17 palatial pace of the city government.

18 Over the next eight months of  
19 governing this year I hope you will see --  
20 or continue to see a positive and an even  
21 more proactive city council. That's all I  
22 have. Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.

25 Council received a revised street sweeping

1 schedule due to the recent weather this  
2 week. The street sweeper is scheduled to be  
3 in the West Mountain area Jackson Street to  
4 Pettibone Street, including North South Road  
5 from May 4 to May 8.

6 We have not received an official  
7 response from the mayor to the letter that  
8 council sent two weeks ago about forming an  
9 exploratory committee on land banks. I  
10 would like Mrs. Reed to send that again and  
11 ask for a response before our next meeting.  
12 That is a part of the recovery plan and I  
13 don't think we should wait any longer for  
14 official action to be taken.

15 In light of the LST increase, the  
16 final completion of 2013 audit and the  
17 recent retention of Henry Amoroso as a  
18 consultant to the mayor, I think it would be  
19 appropriate to request a public caucus with  
20 Mayor Courtright, Henry Amoroso and Business  
21 Administrator Dave Bulzoni to give us an  
22 update on how the administration intends to  
23 proceed with the plan developed by  
24 Mr. Amoroso and where we are within that  
25 process.

1                   Specific questions I'd like to  
2                   address include how the LST revenue will  
3                   effect the plan overall, how the LST revenue  
4                   will be allocated and distributed, what are  
5                   the next fiscal priorities moving forward in  
6                   the 2016 and 2017 and what measures are  
7                   being taken to ensure that the 2014 audit is  
8                   submitted on time. We had a similar caucus  
9                   last year and I think it would be helpful to  
10                  get an update on where we are within the  
11                  plan and within that process and I would  
12                  hope that we would send a letter to the  
13                  mayor, Mr. Amoroso and Mr. Bulzoni asking  
14                  them to come to a public caucus in the near  
15                  future, and that's is all I have this week.  
16                  Thank you.

17                  MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. The audit  
18                  seems to be -- now that it's completed there  
19                  are still questions concerning the audit and  
20                  what's going to happen and in the future, as  
21                  far as the Parking Authority the receiver  
22                  does not respond to the city and that's a  
23                  problem, that's where the problem lies.  
24                  Mr. Washo is not employed by the City of  
25                  Scranton, he is employed by the bond insurer

1 and, therefore, he responds to them and they  
2 are then I'll say unwilling or slow in  
3 producing the information that is needed.  
4 Believe me, I have been at numerous meetings  
5 where this has been discussed and yet the  
6 bond insurers have not responded very well  
7 to the city.

8 As far as the moving forward, yes,  
9 we have employed someone to be involved in  
10 audit preparation. Part of that employment  
11 is a training component that the people in  
12 the Business Administration Office will be  
13 through the process of preparation be  
14 trained for those jobs. I think getting  
15 someone in to help with audit preparation is  
16 an asset to the city. It will help us to  
17 have the audit done on time. The cost for  
18 this audit prep is minimal when you look at  
19 the overall budget and if we can -- if they  
20 will help in having an audit done in due  
21 time I think that that becomes a great asset  
22 to the city.

23 And as far as the completion of the  
24 audit in the future, it was in the RFP that  
25 there would be a penalty. The RFP was

1           accepted by the bidder and so that is  
2           within, you know -- now within the contract  
3           of the auditor. I believe that we will see  
4           the audit for 2014 done in a very effective  
5           efficient manner. I'm maybe being  
6           optimistic, but I would hope that, in fact,  
7           it is done by, you know, 2014, we do have in  
8           a timely manner, hopefully before October,  
9           but that remains to be seen.

10                       As far as the Ice Box is concerned,  
11           this has been an ongoing concern. Since I  
12           have been on council it has been talked  
13           about. As one of the speakers said, it was  
14           no one here that was involved in that  
15           contract. Now that it's gone to litigation  
16           hopefully we will see some proceeds from the  
17           Ice Box, but remember that the developer did  
18           make marvelous improvements to that  
19           property, and once the KOZ ran out there are  
20           taxes now being paid on that property,  
21           probably I think at last it was, I forget  
22           the amount, but that property is an asset to  
23           the city. Yes, hopefully we get the money  
24           that is deserved, but also remember that,  
25           you know, the Ice Box is much better than

1           what was there before.

2                       Yes, the pension is an issue that is  
3           ongoing. I think that it would be helpful  
4           for us to see some type of status report on  
5           the investigations. I think once the first  
6           hearing is held information will be more  
7           forthcoming, you know, once that first  
8           hearing is over we will kind of see what the  
9           situation was and sort of what happened that  
10          becomes public record then maybe we will  
11          have some more answers as to how that took  
12          place and what we are going to do to remedy  
13          that situation.

14                     And the last thing on the mall, I'm  
15          glad Mr. Rogan spoke to that, now Mr. Boscov  
16          can get upset with Mr. Rogan. I'm already  
17          on the list. I think there is, you know, a  
18          no entrance picture on the entrance to  
19          Boscov's but, yes, something needs to be  
20          done. The ownership of the mall is what is  
21          in contention here. Until we can get a  
22          specific, that's a tough word to get out,  
23          I'm sorry for the impediment there, until we  
24          get a specific ownership there is no way  
25          that we can -- that anybody can move forward



1 on the development of the Steamtown Mall so  
2 something needs to be done and as Mr. Rogan  
3 said, I'm not sure that Mr. Boscov is the  
4 one to do that. He has known in the past as  
5 Mr. Rogan said that his primary interest is  
6 Al Boscov and I would much prefer someone  
7 owning that whose interest is in developing  
8 it so that it is a benefit to the City of  
9 Scranton. We have had numerous -- Michelle  
10 Dempsey was here and showed, you know, kind  
11 of a grandiose, you know, idea for the mall,  
12 but there are other ideas and we do need to  
13 move forward. We can't let that mall  
14 continue to deteriorate to the point where  
15 it's just an empty building. We need to do  
16 something and something needs to be done  
17 quickly, and that's all. Thank you.

18 MR. ROGAN: I don't want to belabor  
19 the point, but one thing I forgot to  
20 mention, another item that would probably be  
21 actually worse than the mall staying in it's  
22 current state would be the county taking it  
23 over and turning it into office buildings.  
24 Some of the candidates for county  
25 commissioners are putting on a platform of

1 bringing the county under one roof, and what  
2 concerns me with that is if they are  
3 considering using the mall as that one roof.  
4 That's prime commercial space in downtown  
5 Scranton. We don't need more government  
6 offices, it will be off the tax rolls. That  
7 is all.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
11 NO. 47, 2013, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE  
12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
13 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE  
14 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
15 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY  
16 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE  
17 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
18 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
19 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
20 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM", BY ACCEPTING  
21 AND DISBURSING A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION FROM  
22 BOSCOV'S DEPARTMENT STORE TO PAY AN OVERDUE  
23 SECTION 108 LOAN OWED BY STEAMTOWN MALL  
24 PARTNERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$715,173.00 AND  
25 TRANSFERRING THESE FUNDS TO PROJECT 14-04

1 RE-CONSTRUCTION OF CITY STREETS TO INCLUDE  
2 HANDICAPPED CURB CUTS.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

15 MS. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
16 ayes have it and so moved.

17 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
18 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
19 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
20 ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH HORSEPOWER  
21 HARLEY DAVIDSON, INC. TO LEASE FIVE (5)  
22 POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES FOR THE CITY OF  
23 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

24 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll  
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

13 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
14 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
15 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
16 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH REUTHER & BOWEN,  
17 PC TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE  
18 CITY OF SCRANTON 2015 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT  
19 PROJECT.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

25 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, Mr. McGoff, on  
2 the question, as discussed in caucus we are  
3 still -- we have a list that we've been  
4 kicking around since last year of the  
5 proposed streets, and just so the public  
6 know that street list is a work in progress,  
7 per se, and I guess by next week we will  
8 have a better understanding of what roads  
9 are going to be considered for paving.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, and it should be  
11 noted that this is a contract with the  
12 engineer, the engineer would then go out and  
13 look at the streets that were contained  
14 within that list to determine what the costs  
15 would be, whether they are something that  
16 could be paved which would result possibly  
17 in a reduction in costs so that more streets  
18 could be added. It could result in an  
19 addition in cost to certain streets so we  
20 may have to adjust, so it is -- the list is  
21 something that is not final as of yet, but  
22 we want to get it to a point where we are  
23 not -- we are not paving streets that are  
24 then going to be dug up by the utilities, we  
25 are paving streets that really are within

1 the kind of constrictions of the PIB loan  
2 and we are not paving streets that would be  
3 under OECD so we are working on this list  
4 and hopefully some time in summer we will  
5 see a sort of massive paving program for the  
6 City of Scranton.

7 All those in favor of introduction  
8 signify by saying aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
16 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
17 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
18 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DUNBAR'S  
19 EVERGREEN LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR FLOOD  
20 PROJECT LEVEE CUTTING OF SOUTH SCRANTON,  
21 ALBRIGHT, PLOT AND GREENRIDGE LEVEES FOR A  
22 TWO YEAR SEASONAL PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 15,  
23 2015 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015 AND MAY 15,  
24 2016 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2016 FOR A TOTAL  
25 BID PRICE OF \$24,400.00.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

6 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
7 those in favor of introduction signify by  
8 saying aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

15 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO  
16 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

17 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
18 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE-  
19 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 96,  
20 2015 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 58,  
21 2014, AN ORDINANCE "ENTITLED GENERAL CITY  
22 OPERATING BUDGET 2015" BY CREATING A NEW  
23 REVENUE ACCOUNT NO. 01.331.33120 CIVILIAN  
24 PARKING ENFORCEMENT TICKETS.

25 MR. MCGOFF: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chair for the  
2 Committee on Finance?

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

20 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
21 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
22 RESOLUTION NO. 136, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE  
23 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
24 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SB  
25 & COMPANY, LLC TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF



1 SCRANTON INDEPENDENT POST AUDIT FOR FISCAL  
2 YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014, DECEMBER 31,  
3 2015, DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND DECEMBER 31,  
4 2017.

5 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
6 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
7 passage of Item 7-B.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
21 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted and  
22 wish his company luck in providing a timely  
23 audit.

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

1 - RESOLUTION NO. 137, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE  
2 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
3 TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM FACTORY MUTUAL IN  
4 THE AMOUNT OF \$2,200.00 FOR THE SCRANTON  
5 FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE TWO (2) CAMERAS  
6 FOR THE FIRE INSPECTOR'S OFFICE.

7 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
8 recommendation of the Chair for the  
9 Committee on Public Safety?

10 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
11 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
12 final passage of Item 7-C.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS- FOR  
4 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 138, 2015 -  
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
6 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
7 CONTRACT WITH GENE METSCHULAT ELECTRICAL  
8 CONTRACTORS, INC. TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE OF  
9 STREET LIGHTS FOR A TWELVE (12) MONTH PERIOD  
10 FROM APRIL 9, 2015 THROUGH APRIL 9, 2016.

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

14 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
15 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
16 passage of Item 7-D.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Roll  
19 call, please?

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

25 MR. EVANS: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

6 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
7 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR ADOPTION -  
8 RESOLUTION NO. 139, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE  
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
10 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN  
11 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE SCRANTON SCHOOL  
12 DISTRICT WITH JOSEPH M. ALU AND ASSOCIATES  
13 TO PERFORM THE SCRANTON SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
14 INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR YEARS ENDING DECEMBER  
15 31, 2013 AND DECEMBER 31, 2014.

16 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
17 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
18 passage of Item 7-E.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second. Motion to

9 adjourn.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to adjournment, I

11 would like to mention there are a number of

12 students here from Scranton Prep?

13 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: From the

14 University.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, the University of

16 Scranton, thank you. And thank you for your

17 presence at our meeting. If there is no

18 further business, I'll entertain a motion to

19 adjourn.

20 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

21 MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is

22 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER