

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, June 4, 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 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD  
17 MEETING HELD APRIL 22, 2015.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD  
21 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD JUNE  
22 10, 2015.

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

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

1 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD  
2 MAY 27, 2015.

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

5 MS. REED: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
6 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD  
7 APRIL 22, 2015.

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

10 MS. REED: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE  
11 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING  
12 HELD APRIL 22, 2015.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Are there any comments?  
14 If not, received and filed.

15 MS. REED: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE  
16 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION  
17 MEETING HELD APRIL 22, 2015.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-G. SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
21 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT FOR  
22 2015-2014 YEAR TO DATE 5-31-2015.

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

1 MR. WECHSLER: I have one,  
2 Mr. McGoff. I have been asked by several  
3 people if there is going to be a concert  
4 series at Nay Aug Park this year. I'm  
5 pleased to announce on Sundays a 2 p.m.  
6 there will be several different concerts.  
7 Starting this week with Joe Stanky and the  
8 Cadets. The events will be Sundays at 2  
9 p.m. There also will be a special Regal Pop  
10 celebration on July 4. That's all I have.  
11 Thank you.

12 MR. ROGAN: I have one as well.  
13 This as a repeat, I announced it last week,  
14 but I wanted to announce it one more time.  
15 2016 CDBG applications are available. They  
16 are due Friday, August 7, 2015.  
17 Applications are available in the City's  
18 website at [www.Scrantonpa.gov](http://www.Scrantonpa.gov) under OECD's  
19 webpage or the OECD office, first floor of  
20 city hall. With any questions perspective  
21 applicants can call 570-348-4216. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: And I would just like  
24 to remind everyone that tonight, Friday and  
25 Saturday, is the Divine Mercy Parish picnic

1 at Minooka and I would hope everyone would  
2 try to attend. Thank you.

3 MR. MCGOFF: A couple of things.  
4 First of all, just a comment on the Auditor  
5 General's press release concerning the tapes  
6 that were -- the audiotapes that were given  
7 to them. The press release I feel unfairly  
8 characterized our Clerk's Office, and the  
9 Clerk's Office has been nothing but helpful  
10 toward the Auditor General in this  
11 investigation. Back in February this list  
12 of items was presented to the Clerk's Office  
13 and said that they would like these, you  
14 know, when they arrived, which was a day  
15 later. Boxes of information were provided  
16 by the City Clerk and her office and there  
17 was absolutely no attempt to hide anything  
18 from the Auditor General or to keep any  
19 documents from the Auditor General.

20 As I stated to the newspaper, there  
21 is absolutely -- first of all, there is no  
22 one here that was here in 2002 when these  
23 things were stored or when they happened.  
24 Secondly, the people that are here have no  
25 reason to hide anything that did exist in

1           2002 or mislabel or anything else. So,  
2           again, I just feel it was unfair of -- I  
3           thought the wording of the press release  
4           from the Auditor General was unfair to the  
5           Clerk's Office and I would just like  
6           everyone to know that we have done  
7           everything possible to help in this  
8           investigation.

9                     And, secondly, on the agenda, 5-B,  
10           is to create an account, it's under an  
11           emergency certificate, this is being done by  
12           a Court order. Judge Braxton ruled that 50  
13           percent of the revenue from the rental  
14           registration should be put into a separate  
15           account immediately and we believe that  
16           immediately meant tonight -- or today and so  
17           that's why it's under an emergency  
18           certificate. There will be a second comment  
19           period prior to Seventh Order on this if  
20           anyone wishes to speak to this specifically,  
21           and I'm sorry about the talking, the  
22           difficulty.

23                     5-E, this has come up a number of  
24           times, this is payment for work at the  
25           Taylor dump. This is according to an

1 agreement with EPA at the time this was  
2 being cleaned up the City of Scranton used  
3 the Taylor dump. We agreed at the time, and  
4 I don't even know when that was, that we  
5 would cut the grass and maintain the fence  
6 around that area and that is why this  
7 legislation is there. We are still  
8 compelled to do that through the EPA order,  
9 and I believe that's all.

10 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
11 PARTICIPATION.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Joan Hodowanitz.

13 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
14 Scranton resident and taxpayer. First, a  
15 reminder the Friends of the Library book  
16 sale continues through Sunday on the second  
17 floor of the Steamtown Mall. It's a good  
18 deal.

19 I was happy to hear in your caucus  
20 in the back room that you were thinking of  
21 amending the contract for Rainey & Rainey  
22 from four years to two years. I certainly  
23 had a problem with the four-year contract to  
24 perform functions that should be done  
25 upstairs. Granted, there may be a training



1 issue here, but training should not be  
2 taking years to accomplish, but thank you  
3 for considering an amendment to that  
4 resolution.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mrs.  
6 Hodowanitz, I should have mentioned that  
7 when I was talking about the agenda, that a  
8 motion will be made to amend it.

9 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because I was going  
10 to scold you if you didn't.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Sorry.

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: And, again, I'd  
13 like to compliment the Times-Tribune and its  
14 reporters, Jim Lockwood and Terry Morgan  
15 Beesacker for their articles over the/OEFRT  
16 past week, especially Jim's piece last week  
17 on donor's kin gets job. I don't know about  
18 any other citizen, but that kind of hit a  
19 sore spot with me. Call me naive, call me  
20 simple, call my stupid, but I always that if  
21 you went to school and studied hard and  
22 acquired the right skills set and if you  
23 didn't get yourself in trouble, especially  
24 with the law, that you should be competitive  
25 for the jobs and the local areas especially

1 the good public sector jobs in the city, and  
2 I don't know, I remember when I was 22 and  
3 went away to graduate school because I  
4 couldn't find work here the sensing that I  
5 had was it wasn't what you knew it was who  
6 you knew, and we seem to be coming full  
7 circle, at least that's the impression that  
8 this incident conveys.

9 Now, I had nothing against the  
10 worker who was hired, and everyone deserves  
11 a second chance, but don't you think that  
12 our young people deserve a first chance,  
13 that they shouldn't have to do what I did  
14 and leave the city and join the military to  
15 get a first job? I'm sorry, but, you know,  
16 that brought to mind a lot of very painful  
17 memories and, you know, just coincidentally  
18 once the job was not advertised and  
19 coincidentally, you know, the man's brother  
20 give \$10,000 to the mayor's campaign and,  
21 yes, I understand that the mayor can hire  
22 anybody he wants, but Scranton's problems  
23 are not just financial, there is the  
24 perception that this city is not taking care  
25 of it's citizens. That it's not what you

1 know, it's who you know, and that that can  
2 be stacked against you and maybe you better  
3 leave town. Thank you.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Joan.  
5 Marie Schumacher.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
7 council, Marie Schumacher. First, on the  
8 Rainey & Rainey, 5-C, I was glad to hear  
9 that you are reducing it, but I still agree  
10 with Joan, I questioned both the need and  
11 the duration even at two years.

12 And I brought with me tonight the  
13 questions that I asked of council on the  
14 14th of May and have not received answers  
15 to, and the 2015 city expenditure initiative  
16 that were noted in the budget that I brought  
17 up and for the most part have not been  
18 answered.

19 And now I would like to review again  
20 this maintenance person worker's just a time  
21 line because I don't think you guys did your  
22 due diligence when you approved one of the  
23 things anyway because back in October there  
24 was a resolution from the mayor to execute  
25 and enter into -- or on the 23rd of this

1 year, there was authorize the mayor and  
2 appropriate city officials to execute and  
3 enter into a contract with Dunbar  
4 Evergreen's Landscaping for flood project  
5 levy cutting of South Scranton Albright plot  
6 and Greenridge levies for a two-year  
7 seasonal period for a total bid price of  
8 \$24,400 or 12,200 per annum. And then on  
9 the fourth of June, tonight, you are talking  
10 about authorizing the mayor to execute a new  
11 agreement with Latona Trucking for grass  
12 cutting at the Taylor landfill for one  
13 calendar year for a lump sum bid of \$12,800.

14 Now, I'll go through the time line.  
15 Back in 2010, Governor Rendell gave the City  
16 of Scranton \$25,800 to purchase levy  
17 maintenance equipment including a truck, a  
18 brush mower, a riding mower, and a skid  
19 mounted spare. On the 4th of December last  
20 year you all, except for Mr. Evan's, council  
21 approved the 2015 budget which includes  
22 authorization to add a staff, to add to the  
23 staff of the Highways Department of DPW  
24 another flood control/levy maintenance  
25 worker. On the 29th there was an

1 application, a semi-completed application  
2 for that newly created position. On the 1st  
3 of January, in the middle of winter, the  
4 mayor hires the applicant who had filed the  
5 semi-completed application. Tonight you are  
6 introducing a resolution to contract for the  
7 grass cutting at the Taylor landfill for  
8 part of a mowing season for half of what  
9 Dunbar is charging for all of the city  
10 levies for two years, so my question are the  
11 following:

12 How is equipment procured under the  
13 2010 Rendell grant being utilized currently?  
14 Two, if the levy work has been contracted  
15 out for two years what do the three flood  
16 control levy maintenance workers do other  
17 than mow the lawn? I have requested via  
18 Right-to-Know the job description, but I  
19 have not yet received it. Certainly they  
20 could -- I could see if they were used  
21 someplace else, but when you contracted it  
22 out you never once, that I can recall,  
23 question why you needed three people in that  
24 department if the work was contracted out.

25 And then a question regarding the

1 square footage comparison of all the grassed  
2 areas of the levies and the Taylor landfill.

3 And then part of this was answered  
4 tonight, but I would like to know if you  
5 could provide the resolution or ordinance  
6 that committed the city to mowing and fence  
7 maintenance of Taylor landfill and if this  
8 is forever or is there a termination year  
9 and if so what is the year of that  
10 termination?

11 MR. MCGOFF: In the United States  
12 District Court for the Middle District of  
13 Pennsylvania United States of America vs.  
14 City of Scranton, as a defendant a consent  
15 decree March 5 of 2008.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: And forever?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I do not have -- I  
18 cannot find the term. If I find it -- I  
19 don't have the entire decree.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Yeah, I  
21 would appreciate that. I mean, \$12,000 in  
22 our time is a lot and now can I give you all  
23 of these and I really would like answers to  
24 those questions. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Les Spindler.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
2 Council. Les Spindler, city residents and  
3 homeowner and taxpayer. I want to comment  
4 on Boscov's Department store asking for a  
5 grant of \$10 million. First of all, I want  
6 to get back to an article about this, it was  
7 in the paper a few weeks ago. Councilman  
8 Rogan, I usually agree with you, but you  
9 made a comment you blamed Mr. Boscov for the  
10 problems the mall is having right now. I  
11 couldn't disagree with you more. I think  
12 Mr. Boscov is the reason that mall even  
13 exists. He's a brilliant businessman,  
14 Mr. Boscov has forgotten more about business  
15 than the five of you would know together up  
16 there and he was here a number of years ago,  
17 I don't think any of you were on council.  
18 He came here asking for money because he did  
19 retire 15 years ago and whoever he gave the  
20 business to it was running down, he came out  
21 of retirement and took the business over and  
22 brought it back to where it is today. The  
23 store downtown, I just read in the paper, is  
24 one of the top stores of all his 32.

25 I think if anything hopefully

1 Mr. Boscov takes ownership of the mall I  
2 think it's the only way that mall is going  
3 to exist because it's being managed poorly  
4 now. I think if I was general manager there  
5 I would lower the rent. I heard their rents  
6 are outrageous. It would make sense to  
7 lower the rent and get some businesses in  
8 there than to have this the place half empty  
9 and not collect any rent. It doesn't take a  
10 rocket scientist to figure that out, first  
11 of all, I think the general manager, whoever  
12 it is now has to go, and hopefully if Mr.  
13 Boscov takes ownership he will take care of  
14 that.

15 Now moving onto that \$10 million  
16 grant that some of the comments made some  
17 council people and, Mr. Rogan, you were one  
18 of those, also. I'm going to quote you,  
19 "The garage certainly needs fixed, but I  
20 believe that the best long-term solution for  
21 the mall is for somebody other than  
22 Mr. Boscov to own it."

23 And I just said how I disagree with  
24 that. I think he is the only one that can  
25 make that mall exist again and I hope he



1 gets that grant and I hope he gets ownership  
2 of the mall.

3 And Mr. Wechsler, you said there  
4 were many other worthy applicants, well,  
5 again, I have to disagree, I think the mall  
6 is the only worthy applicant. If there is  
7 no mall downtown there is no downtown. I  
8 don't what other worthy applicants there  
9 could, but, as I said, I think the mall was  
10 the most important think we have downtown.  
11 If that mall closes, Lackawanna Avenue will  
12 look like it did before the mall opened,  
13 just empty buildings and nobody will shop  
14 downtown, so I'm hoping that Mr. Boscov gets  
15 everything he wants ownership, the \$10  
16 million grant and I think he would bring  
17 that mall back to life. That's all I have  
18 on that.

19 I was there for the caucus, I'm  
20 sorry to hear the old bridge has to be  
21 demolished. It will be sad to see that go,  
22 it's very historic. Traveled over that I  
23 don't know how many times in my lifetime,  
24 but I guess we have to progress forward, but  
25 it would be a nice thing to make that bridge

1 if they wanted to. If has to be torn down  
2 it has to be torn down.

3 A couple of things that I brought up  
4 in the past, the corner I live on, the  
5 corner Bulworth Street and North Rebecca the  
6 Bulworth Street sign is still not up, and on  
7 Dorothy Street where the softball complex  
8 is, I brought this up also, and that street  
9 has to be paved, water collects on that  
10 street, the pavement by the curb is all torn  
11 up and the water just sits there and doesn't  
12 make it to the storm drain and there is dirt  
13 piled up, that has to be all repaved. I  
14 don't know it will. I don't know if it's on  
15 the list, but I think it has to be done  
16 because every time it rains there is a river  
17 there and, like I said, there is debris  
18 built up, and plus with the pavement being  
19 torn up the water just sits there for days  
20 and days and days.

21 MR. ROGAN: I know there was a  
22 number of streets in the Tripp Park area on  
23 the paving list, I don't have it in front of  
24 me now, but if it is on the paving list  
25 hopefully that will take care of it. If

1 not, we may need to contact the Sewer  
2 Authority. I know there were similar  
3 problems in other sections where a poor  
4 paving job was done or the road wasn't  
5 sloped right and the water would collect  
6 and, you know, in the one case the Sewer  
7 Authority did put in a drain in that area.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Well, this is, like I  
9 said, a lot of pavement missing --

10 MR. ROGAN: I know exactly where you  
11 are talking about.

12 MR. SPINDLER: All right, that's all  
13 I have tonight. Thank you.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr.  
15 Spindler. Lee Morgan.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
17 I kind of agree with most of the things that  
18 Les said about Mr. Boscov and the mall  
19 except for the \$10 million. I think the  
20 state should loan Mr. Boscov the \$10 million  
21 at a low interest rate, maybe 2 or 3  
22 percent. I think that the problem with the  
23 mall is the city itself and the way it's  
24 been run and the amount of debt it carries.

25 You know, this big investigation

1           into the pension plan and all of the --  
2           everything tied to it, that investigation  
3           needed to happen 20 years ago, and what  
4           really, what really I hope would happen, is  
5           that there would be a real in-depth  
6           investigation into many parts of the  
7           government here. The Court of Common Pleas,  
8           the District Attorney's Office, the city  
9           government, the county government, and I  
10          would really like that investigation to be  
11          true and very aggressive, because I think  
12          that we'd have an awful lot of people  
13          finding themselves in Court and I think we  
14          would find a lot of the things that were  
15          going on here that just weren't right and  
16          maybe we would find a lot of people going to  
17          jail, and some of them would be judges and  
18          some of them would be various other people  
19          because the theft that's taken place in this  
20          city over decades wasn't a mistake and the  
21          things that have been done here aren't a  
22          mistake, and a lot of it is political and  
23          it's based in political ideology of pay to  
24          play politics and the people who have really  
25          been unfairly treated here are the

1 residents. They are overtaxed, the bills  
2 just never stop coming and everybody outside  
3 of the city who has any money and they are  
4 willing to invest they don't come here  
5 because they know what's going on here.

6 And, you know, the amazing thing you  
7 look at other places and you see  
8 development, and I do understand that  
9 overseas they are in trouble, but that's  
10 just go to pay to play politics on the  
11 national level where our government has made  
12 trade treaties and gave of America's jobs  
13 away to other countries under the guise of  
14 being competitive and the middle class has  
15 basically been wiped out this country,  
16 that's why in this presidential election you  
17 won't hear very much about the middle class  
18 but it almost doesn't exist, and they are  
19 discussing how they are going to discuss the  
20 situation in the country without bringing up  
21 the middle class that just didn't exist  
22 anymore.

23 And anybody who is my age they  
24 understand what America was like at one time  
25 and now we understand that really what we

1           have got is we have allowed the Democratic  
2           and Republican party to take control of  
3           every aspect of our life from the Courts to  
4           our legislators. You know, you can't even  
5           get into the state to see Senator Casey  
6           because you are not allowed on that floor.  
7           I mean, it's come to the point where our  
8           representatives they are beyond us. They  
9           don't call us. You know, we have got a  
10          state legislature where we have elected  
11          people to the legislature that are barely  
12          functional and have no really -- no real  
13          understanding and we talk about the need for  
14          higher education and we in America educate  
15          people and I don't know how they cannot see  
16          the problems we face no matter what they  
17          are. I mean, it just seems that America is  
18          turning to a very arrogant country that just  
19          doesn't see reality, and the residents of  
20          our country they either don't participate or  
21          they don't see it either, and when you ask  
22          somebody why they voted they give you a  
23          political sound bite, but they have no real  
24          grasp of any reality.

25                           And everybody looks to the

1 government to come up with money and  
2 financing and, you know, special legislation  
3 and we are just adrift in something that's  
4 not based in reality. You know, like the  
5 city that continues to tax and create fees  
6 and everybody knows what the poverty rate is  
7 here, well, most people do, look at all of  
8 the children getting free or reduced lunch  
9 in this community. Look at the very city  
10 itself we live in. You know, when I was a  
11 child I never thought the city would look  
12 like this. Never in my wildest imagination  
13 did I believe that we would have condemned  
14 properties all over the city, we would find  
15 ourselves in some instances in litigation  
16 and in other instances, I mean, if I was an  
17 attorney I would take the city to Court for  
18 all of the condemnations they did and I  
19 would go upstairs and I would get the  
20 condemnation book and I would find out what  
21 properties were on it why they were  
22 condemned, why some weren't, and I would get  
23 answers and I would put a lot of people in  
24 jail. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

1 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,  
2 Bob Bolus, Scranton. I have a few  
3 questions. I'd like to start with the  
4 Scranton Parking Authority public and  
5 parking system, and do they pay a mercantile  
6 tax here to the city?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know.

8 MR. BOLUS: Could we look into that  
9 because they are separate businesses, they  
10 run around especially with public tickets no  
11 matter where they want to put them on who  
12 they want to put them all over of the city  
13 and they collect the fee, they are a  
14 business. That's what they were put in here  
15 and I believe they should be paying a  
16 mercantile tax or any other taxes that are  
17 appropriate. Like, for example, the  
18 authorities in Scranton, the Sewer Authority  
19 it's a separate authority, it's a separate  
20 business, they should pay a mercantile tax.  
21 The same way for the Scranton Rec and all of  
22 the other authorities that we have in this  
23 city. They collect money, they hire people,  
24 they disperse money, you know, they buy  
25 equipment, they do this and do that as a



1 normal business. I believe that they should  
2 pay a mercantile tax on what they are doing  
3 and I would ask council to look into that  
4 and the next time I come here if possible  
5 I'd like a response to it.

6 The other thing is I brought before  
7 council numerous times, asked for their  
8 support in writing, a letter to the  
9 legislators to support or create a new  
10 license, a gaming license for the City of  
11 Scranton for the mall, yet it fell on deaf  
12 ears, nobody bothered to do it, you see  
13 where we are headed, yet the mall today  
14 could be in the bidding process to become a  
15 casino tying in the theatre, the Oppenheim  
16 building or the old Globe building and the  
17 other areas around here to develop this  
18 city. Everybody in here goes to a casino at  
19 some point or the other, whether it's in the  
20 Poconos or down or go to New Jersey or  
21 wherever you go. We should have had that  
22 support for what we could put here in the  
23 City of Scranton and those that own the mall  
24 would get 100 percent of their money back,  
25 there would be no losers only winners and I

1 would ask that you guys reconsider that.  
2 You still have time to do something for the  
3 city to make it come back to life.

4 Another nice thing I liked is that  
5 all of the negative comments that happened  
6 here against Controller Novembrino, I'm glad  
7 to see all of those negative comments that  
8 were issued by people and made against her  
9 are down in the Keystone landfill, that's  
10 exactly where they went because they stunk  
11 from the time they were brought forward and  
12 the people knew the difference. I brought  
13 up about the leachate line between Scranton  
14 and Dunmore becoming a host community for  
15 the leachate line, you can bring in millions  
16 of dollars yet it's ignored. You can't  
17 ignore these issues any longer. The  
18 consultants are coming in and paying a lot  
19 of money and I haven't heard one credible  
20 thing from any consultant coming in here.

21 You had the golf course, you sold  
22 that, you gave it away. It was a money  
23 making thing, it made money, it was  
24 self-supporting and you sold it and you blew  
25 \$3 1/2 plus million now you can't even open

1 the pools because that could be used for  
2 parks and recreation, and I keep bringing  
3 that up because I like throwing mud back at  
4 everybody that allowed it to happen because  
5 it was there for a purpose and we blew it.

6 The University of Scranton new  
7 building, a beautiful facility, it's going  
8 to make millions of dollars for the  
9 University of the Scranton. It's going to  
10 give the people, the taxpayers of the city a  
11 big zero. We get nothing out of it.

12 Another political crony maneuver. Let the  
13 mall take advantage of the City of Scranton.

14 Remember I have brought about KOZ's  
15 and nonprofits creating a fee, a public  
16 service fee or a fee that's creative that  
17 goes across everybody in this city say of 1  
18 percent that would include the University  
19 and all of the other nonprofits, they would  
20 then be paying their fair share because,  
21 remember, if you increase tax base you will  
22 ultimately decrease the tax rate that's been  
23 ignored. You can't ignore them anymore,  
24 they are. No matter what the cronyism is,  
25 the political atmosphere in this city, it's

1 going to change and it's going to change for  
2 the better.

3 Wayne, I don't like picking on you,  
4 we have been friends for many, many years,  
5 but I believe a man's word is his bond. You  
6 stated you with not take the seat, you would  
7 not run for the city or even take the seat,  
8 and I know people wanted you there, but I  
9 would expect you to live up to your word and  
10 not take the seat no matter that it's been  
11 offered, even though I think you were one of  
12 the most qualified individuals to sit in  
13 that seat a man's word is a man's word and  
14 that's his bond and I don't think that can  
15 change because you word is your word. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Bolus, just one --  
18 if I'm not mistaken, I will check, I believe  
19 authorities are created as nonprofit  
20 organizations and, thus, are tax exempt and,  
21 therefore, that's why a mercantile tax and  
22 such would not be addressed. I will check  
23 on that though.

24 MR. BOLUS: And that's a  
25 possibility, but that's where putting the 1

1 percent fee on everybody in the city,  
2 everybody now pays something and we could  
3 decrease the rate and the taxes on our  
4 taxpayers in the city and let those that are  
5 making --

6 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

7 MR. BOLUS: --- profits start paying  
8 their fair share. That's all I'm trying to  
9 do here. Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Doug  
11 Miller.

12 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
13 Doug Miller, Scranton. A few issues  
14 tonight. First just to start off in regards  
15 to Mr. Evans, get that out of the way early,  
16 you know, I think ultimately when someone  
17 isn't on the ballot and you are facing a  
18 situation where you happen to have residents  
19 write you in and that takes place and you  
20 are successful with that I think it is a  
21 testament to a lot of people in this  
22 community who have gained a lot of respect  
23 for Mr. Evans in the short time he has been  
24 here, and I know you did give your word at  
25 that time that you had no intention on

1 seeking a reelection for the full term, but  
2 I think in some situations exceptions can be  
3 made and I think this is one of those times.  
4 I have gained a lot of respect for Mr. Evans  
5 just from sitting back, certainly not  
6 attending as often as I have in the past,  
7 but from observing his actions and the  
8 things he has done, the statements he has  
9 made, I do believe you should seriously  
10 consider. I know you are, but I think you  
11 should consider seeking the full-term in the  
12 general election in November, I think you  
13 have earned it and I know a lot of residents  
14 feel the same way.

15 You utilize some common sense,  
16 something we don't see too often in these  
17 chambers and I do want to commend you for  
18 that so I know you will take some time to  
19 think that over. It's not an easy decision,  
20 but I'm sure you will do what's in your  
21 interest.

22 You know, every year this time of  
23 year we had the same discussions, sort of  
24 repetitive, often times I feel I should just  
25 come up with a tape recorder and play back

1           what I have said previously and that's in  
2           regards to the swimming pools and, you know,  
3           it's really a sad state of affairs to see  
4           where we are in regard to these swimming  
5           pools that here we are another summer now  
6           were a lot of children throughout this  
7           community are going to be the deprived of  
8           the opportunity to utilize the neighborhood  
9           swimming pools, specifically in Pinebrook  
10          and in West Scranton and, you know, now we  
11          are having a fight on whether or not we  
12          should be charging residents to swim at Nay  
13          Aug whether they are 12 and under or  
14          accompanied by a guardian or a parent now we  
15          are discussing whether we should be charging  
16          them and it's totally ludicrous that we are  
17          having this discussion and it just goes back  
18          to the point I have made so many times here  
19          it's beyond pathetic that a city has an  
20          inability to operate as simple, to me it  
21          seems, as a functioning swimming pool and,  
22          you know, many communities throughout the  
23          United States have the ability to follow  
24          through, but, you know, we are the unique  
25          situation because we have allowed yourselves

1 to borrow and tax so many people in this  
2 community that we have basically just sucked  
3 everything out of here that we ever had and,  
4 you know, when you are a city that's over  
5 \$300 million in debt that's what happens  
6 when you squander away the assets that we  
7 have and it's really sad state of affair.

8 And I know the Hill Neighborhood  
9 Association has worked very, very hard for  
10 the last few years, particularly recently  
11 now that they have sort of picked up some  
12 more steam with Mr. Quinn and I know they  
13 will continue to do what they can for Nay  
14 Aug Park and the residents that live in this  
15 surrounding area.

16 You know, some statements were made  
17 previously particularly by Mr. Morgan in  
18 regards to investigations in the city, and I  
19 do agree with the comment he made as far as  
20 these investigations should have been taking  
21 place years ago and it just seems that this  
22 community we are always behind the times and  
23 this council has the ability to issue  
24 subpoenas, that's something you have in the  
25 Home Rule Charter and never taken advantage



1 of that for the most part, other than  
2 Mrs. Evans a few years ago and, you know,  
3 just when you look around and you go  
4 throughout this city and you talk to  
5 residents a lot of them just feel that  
6 bankruptcy is the inevitable because that's  
7 where we are at this point. You know,  
8 resorting back to the same solutions of  
9 taxes and fees it's just going to continue  
10 to drive people out of the city on a daily  
11 basis because that's what's happening right  
12 now. You know, the seniors at this point  
13 are struggling every day and I have met many  
14 people and I have talked to people who are  
15 just -- they have had it and they are tired  
16 of politics, they are frustrated with the  
17 game playing because they just want to know  
18 when somebody is going to represent them.  
19 Special interests have taken complete  
20 control, stranglehold of this community and  
21 it's put us to where we are today because  
22 we've elected people who for the most part  
23 were never qualified because they were  
24 friends with someone or they were affiliated  
25 with a certain party or a special interest

1 organization and money was put behind them  
2 and that's how people are elected where the  
3 average person who puts their name on the  
4 ballot, doesn't have any money, doesn't have  
5 a big following behind them they don't have  
6 a chance because, you know, we kind of have  
7 that small -- that small town mentality time  
8 where the previous speaker mentioned how  
9 it's not what you know it's who you know,  
10 and that's what Scranton is. That's  
11 basically the definition of Scranton. It's  
12 not what you know, it's who you know and  
13 until we get away from that, you know,  
14 ultimately the city is just going to die off  
15 and there is nothing to look forward to, but  
16 if we get our acts together and straighten  
17 up and keep people seated here that have  
18 common sense maybe we can turn this city  
19 around. Thank you.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Welby. Oh, I'm  
21 sorry, sorry, Mr. Ellman. I was skipping  
22 ahead. Sorry, Mr. Ellman.

23 MR. ELLMAN: He can go, he probably  
24 got something more consequence to say.

25 MR. MCGOFF: It was a Freudian slip.

1 MR. ELLMAN: I got some good news  
2 and some bad news for you, my friends phoned  
3 me, they want to have another golf meeting  
4 this time in Memphis, that's the good news,  
5 I'll be gone a week. The bad news is it's  
6 in August when you won't be here to miss me  
7 but I can ask them to move it into September  
8 where you gain a little bit.

9 Seriously, I got a neighbor on one  
10 side of me who is everything a person would  
11 want in a neighbor. You just couldn't ask  
12 for a better neighbor. They don't give any  
13 kind of problem. On the other side of me, I  
14 got a neighbor that is a nightmare. They  
15 are just a living hell. This woman, this is  
16 the past couple of the weeks, the police  
17 come, we are on a first name basis. This  
18 week she told Mr. Liptai there is a water  
19 hose going into my basement she suspects I'm  
20 growing marijuana so he had to come  
21 investigate it. Of course, there is no  
22 marijuana there.

23 Then last week she phoned, she was  
24 in my garage looking at my antique car and  
25 said there is no license plates on it. It's

1           been licensed since 1990 and it's licensed  
2           into next year. I don't know why she says  
3           all of these stupid things. Then she was  
4           screaming the other day that I've had a  
5           dozen PFA's. I said, "Where did you hear  
6           that?"

7                         She said, "I got it from the horse's  
8           mouth."

9                         You know, people that know me I love  
10          woman. There is not a PFA from California  
11          to New York on me. I have never had that.  
12          I have been in jail for tickets and  
13          everything else, not no PFA's. And what  
14          starts all this her husband works for  
15          Martin, the potato chip people and Martin  
16          bread, all winter he has a diesel truck he  
17          has to plug it in when it's cold out, which  
18          was almost every day this winter, this truck  
19          is like 30-feet long and 10 or 11 feet high  
20          and 10-foot wide it completely blocks the  
21          street light which is across the street, my  
22          house is in complete darkness. At 4:30 in  
23          the morning he starts this thing. My whole  
24          neighborhood six, eight houses around us  
25          everybody is retired. It's a bunch of the

1 old people like me. We don't have to get up  
2 4:30 in the morning. This is absolutely  
3 unheard of that he has the dictate to the  
4 neighborhood, I don't know why Martin let's  
5 him bring this damn truck home. It's huge.  
6 It doesn't belong in people's driveway it  
7 belongs in a terminal which is in Avoca.  
8 They are not even a Scranton company.

9 Then the truck is two foot wider  
10 than a car, to back out I can't see until I  
11 hit back of the truck which is even on the  
12 sidewalk people are blowing their horns. I  
13 can't see nothing until I'm backed  
14 completely out in the street which is a  
15 terrible safety, you know, unless you want  
16 to get rid of your car, which I don't want  
17 to right now. There is no reason in the  
18 world except there is no code against this.  
19 You know, your laws are antiquated.

20 Something got to be done. I don't  
21 know how you go about the city codes or  
22 something, but I'm not against trucks, I got  
23 a pickup truck, I don't park it near my  
24 house, you know. I'm not against the big  
25 trucks, but they don't belong in driveways

1 starting at 4:30 in the morning and waking  
2 up the neighborhood, and that's what we go  
3 through. You know, I don't fight with this  
4 lady, her fence is on my property by two or  
5 three feet, I haven't ever told her to go  
6 get a survey or move her fence, she just  
7 enjoys provoking me, so does the Mr. They  
8 got two names though, I don't know if they  
9 are married or what, but the house is in her  
10 name and she sure let's you know it, but  
11 there is no reason this truck got to be  
12 parked in the driveway. There is nothing  
13 valuable in it. We don't have nothing in  
14 the neighborhood. There is no cars, nothing  
15 has ever been broken into that I have seen  
16 in the paper or heard, and I'd appreciate it  
17 if the city could get my whole neighborhood  
18 some kind of protection from this matter.

19 You, of all people, should know that  
20 diminishes -- if that diminishes our style  
21 or livelihood diminishes the value of our  
22 house.

23 MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

24 MR. ELLMAN: If one of these houses  
25 is for sale who wants to look at an

1 unsightly great big huge truck parked in the  
2 driveway?

3 MR. EVANS: Is he parked anywhere  
4 near the street or just in the driveway.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Sometimes he will leave  
6 it at t eh end of, I don't know if you know  
7 where Throop Street makes a turn by the  
8 railroad tracks, he parks it down there, but  
9 he just provokes me on purpose. He  
10 purposely parks it there.

11 MR. EVANS: Because you can't park  
12 large commercial vehicles on the street.  
13 There is an ordinance against that.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I spoke to Mr. Ellman  
15 man today and we pulled the ordinance so we  
16 are taking a look at it and I think what we  
17 are going to have to do is speak to the  
18 zoning officer.

19 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I appreciate what  
20 you can do about it because it's getting to  
21 be more than a problem, you know, it's  
22 getting where a few of us have talked about  
23 getting a lawyer and suing him and Martin or  
24 something to move it. Thank you very much  
25 for your time.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.  
2 Now, Mr. Welby.

3 MR. WELBY: Well, actually I was  
4 asked to come down on behalf of State  
5 Representative Marty Flynn who had intended  
6 to be here, but was unable to come down and  
7 I told him that I would come down and read  
8 his statement, but I get into Marty's  
9 statement if I could do a couple of public  
10 service announcements.

11 First, the Greek festival, which, of  
12 course, you all know is continuing through  
13 Saturday. In fact, I think a few of the  
14 people that are here commenting are over  
15 there now, they are serving until 8:00 so I  
16 knew that's where a few of them took off to.

17 But, also, tomorrow is First Friday  
18 weekend, and this is a particularly special  
19 First Friday weekend. We have -- I  
20 volunteer with the organization and we  
21 partner with Lackawanna Heritage Valley and  
22 what we are doing is encouraging people to  
23 come out for First Friday and enjoy all of  
24 the art that's on display inside of the  
25 venues and then when you're finished



1           enjoying everything that's good in all of  
2           our venues, and we have about 35 venues  
3           tomorrow night that are open for First  
4           Friday to step outside and to look up and  
5           enjoy all of the art that exists in our  
6           buildings downtown. The architecture of the  
7           buildings of the City of Scranton which is  
8           absolutely wonderful and sometimes it's a  
9           little more encouraging if you instead of  
10          looking down looking up maybe a little bit  
11          more positive and we're encouraging people  
12          to take advantage of that and participate in  
13          that and Lackawanna Heritage Valley clearly  
14          will add at a lot of venues because we  
15          booked those, so let's describe all of the  
16          different facets and the factoids about a  
17          lot of the architecture in the City of  
18          Scranton.

19                   And then after that Arts on Fire  
20                   kicks off the irons furnaces festival from 8  
21                   to 11 tomorrow night and then Saturday and  
22                   Sunday, all day Saturday and Sunday is the  
23                   Arts on Fire festival. There is a lot of  
24                   activities and entertainment for all ages at  
25                   the festival, including an iron pour where

1           they take old molten iron -- they take old  
2           radiators and throw them in there and it's  
3           just a fabulous thing to see and it's free.  
4           It's free for everybody all day Saturday and  
5           all day Sunday, and that's just some of  
6           things. Of course, Mr. Gaughan mentioned  
7           the church picnics are all starting off  
8           beginning with, I still St. Joe's, beginning  
9           with Divine Mercy parish and that's just a  
10          wonderful thing that we all enjoy all summer  
11          long, the ethnicity and the celebration of  
12          our ethnicity and celebration of our  
13          ethnicities particularly at the church  
14          picnics.

15                        Regarding, if I may put my glasses  
16                        on, a statement from Representative Flynn  
17                        and it opens with, "I just learned that  
18                        Councilman Wayne Evans called me out at a  
19                        recent meeting and expressed disappointment  
20                        and concern saying that I voted against  
21                        property tax relief in voting against House  
22                        Bill 504, also known as the sales and use  
23                        tax exclusion for timber operations. While  
24                        I did expect partisan politics of Councilman  
25                        Evans to let the facts get in the way of a

1 good story, I wish that just this one time  
2 he would have had at least looked into the  
3 content of this bill and my previous votes  
4 and my efforts to eliminate school property  
5 taxes previously.

6 HP-504 is smoke and mirrors that  
7 will leave of the taxpayers wondering where  
8 the relief is just a few years down the road  
9 just like what happened with the tax relief  
10 that was promised with the casino promises.  
11 I did vote for real tax relief when I voted  
12 against the great majority of Democrats in  
13 favor of House Bill 76 last year a bill that  
14 a Republican House and Republican Senate and  
15 Republican Governor should have been signed  
16 into law last year, but they did not and  
17 could not work together within their own  
18 party let alone with a full house and  
19 Senate. The plan being promoted by our  
20 governor, which I support, will provide real  
21 property tax relief to the residents of our  
22 area. It is specifically targeted to send  
23 the greatest property tax relief where it is  
24 needed most. Under his plan, districts in  
25 urban areas benefit the most, and that

1 includes Scranton. The plan mentioned by  
2 Mr. Evans, HB-504, does not, but it does  
3 provide substantial property tax relief to  
4 major corporations but not providing relief  
5 needed by the many residents of Scranton.

6 As a Republican representative Fred  
7 Keller said of HB-504 this plan will deliver  
8 only temporary short-term property tax  
9 relief. The plan that I support will  
10 provide up to 80 percent school property tax  
11 relief to Scranton residents, and I also  
12 want to see more relief for renters. The  
13 value of the governor's approach is that it  
14 was not offered in a vacuum as someone said  
15 the legislation cited by Mr. Evans was.

16 I look for the record to working  
17 with my colleagues to come up with real  
18 solutions to the issues that are facing our  
19 local residents, but I am not go to push  
20 another bait and switch shell game as  
21 Mr. Evans' suggestion would do. If any  
22 council member have any ideas or suggestions  
23 for the city that you think I may be able to  
24 assist with, my door has and will always be  
25 open. In this particular instance I have to

1 disagree with Councilman Evans, unless you  
2 are a major corporation or member of the  
3 timber industry this is a tax hike not tax  
4 relief."

5 And that's the end of the statement.

6 MR. EVANS: If I may, my only  
7 statement in referencing Representative  
8 Flynn was that he voted no. That was it. I  
9 didn't take it --

10 MR. WECHSLER: Well, voting no  
11 against property tax relief with voting no  
12 against that bill.

13 MR. EVANS: And we agree to disagree  
14 because I actually favor House Bill 504 and  
15 I disagree with your interpretation of  
16 Governor Wolfe's plan, whose proposal does  
17 not limit taxes and will allow taxes to  
18 creep back up after they're reduced. So I  
19 am familiar with HB-76 so at the end of the  
20 day I'm thrilled that Representative Flynn  
21 is engaged, I appreciate his comments, I'll  
22 be glad to discuss pension reform and  
23 property tax reform with Representative  
24 Flynn any time because I think that's how we  
25 get the dialogue started and the

1 conversation started. I think somewhere  
2 along the line both the bill and Governor  
3 Wolfe's plan have merits and deficiencies,  
4 hopefully the House, Senate and Governor  
5 Wolf will come together and work out a plan  
6 that will be mutual agreement with everyone.

7 MR. WELBY: And he did vote for  
8 HB-76 which was --

9 MR. EVANS: And I applaud him for  
10 that because that was an excellent bill.

11 MR. WELBY: It wasn't an easy vote.

12 MR. EVANS: And I hope that  
13 somewhere along the lines we get back to  
14 that Bill, HP-76 and HB-76 that were far  
15 better than both of the bills that are  
16 produced right now.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

18 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

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

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
22 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
23 wasn't going to talk on House Bill 76, I  
24 told you many, many times everybody that  
25 rents will be hurt by the bill, we are

1 talking about millions of people. You don't  
2 pass a law that's going to hurt a lot of  
3 people. I don't blame people for not going  
4 with 76. The problem is how the schools are  
5 formulated. You got to correct the school  
6 problem, get over to some of them school  
7 boards, have -- I think somebody down there  
8 in Harrisburg finally said maybe the state  
9 should take over all of the schools and get  
10 them straightened out and then pass a bill  
11 to alleviate school tax, but we don't work  
12 that way, we just hurt people and that's bad  
13 part about that Bill and you know that and I  
14 know that, plus the fact that a lot of  
15 people are living in -- well, problems. The  
16 only thing that were excluded was the WIC,  
17 and I didn't think that was great either,  
18 everything else would have been taxed, but  
19 let's get onto the city problems.

20 As you know, you have been there  
21 almost a year and a half now and not one  
22 city problem is straightened out. All we  
23 get from the mayor and you is rhetoric, with  
24 the way things are we are heading for a 20  
25 percent tax hike come January and you have

1 done nothing to alleviate it. I told people  
2 many, many times political parties run on  
3 two things patronage and contracts. People  
4 aren't going to give money to use people to  
5 run without getting something back. You are  
6 not above the group the people and that's  
7 about the only way I can describe it so  
8 every time I hear a contract the first thing  
9 that comes to everybody's mind is kickback  
10 in some way. A political contribution or  
11 some other thing and the authorities that we  
12 form solve nothing. They are separate  
13 governments and they run to their own  
14 agenda, not to the people's agenda. That's  
15 why we are where we are today. Nobody's  
16 looked at the total picture. The picture is  
17 the way the government in Scranton is  
18 formulated. Do we need five members sitting  
19 on council? We can probably get by with  
20 three, that would save 25 to 30 thousand  
21 dollars over the life of people sitting  
22 there. Well, actually a year, you get  
23 12,500 a year. These are things that could  
24 have been done. When I asked maybe we  
25 should have a public safety tax where



1           everybody would have to pay for police  
2           protection and fire protection because  
3           unless you get the nonprofits to come up  
4           with anything we are bound to destruction.

5                     You going to declare bankruptcy,  
6           actually, the whole city is doomed anyway.  
7           That's right there, the writing is on the  
8           wall. I didn't need the Auditor General to  
9           come up and say we are going to go bankrupt  
10          in two years, we have been bankrupt for many  
11          years. It's the way the government is  
12          formulated that's bankrupt. You got to do  
13          something to alleviate what's going to  
14          happen and you can't just sit there and have  
15          rhetoric. You need action and not  
16          oppression. You got to come up with a way  
17          to get down there and then nobody wants  
18          their tax reduced to sit down there and  
19          fight because we can't afford to have people  
20          reduce their taxes on their properties. We  
21          can't get the LERTA's in there where they  
22          get the taxes at the -- I guess the lowest  
23          part where you got the building, and things  
24          like that.

25                     And as far as everything goes we

1           need a piece of the action. We don't want  
2           to give a grant, we want to take part of the  
3           business and that's it. If we are going to  
4           give \$10 million we want \$10 million worth  
5           of equity. That's the only way we can get  
6           out of where we are. Sally May and Freddie  
7           Mac points that out very good. We are  
8           getting millions and millions of dollars  
9           away to these hat we saved from bankrupt and  
10          that's money that individual taxpayers are  
11          going to have make up.

12                        I mean, where we are now is  
13          something that happened many, many years ago  
14          and you are not going to correct it  
15          overnight, but you got to make an effort to  
16          correct it. You can't just sit there and  
17          agree to everything that's happening and  
18          stop voting on contracts. Thank you.

19                       MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
20          Dave Dobrzyn, resident and taxpayer, just  
21          paid my trash fee, very last minute but I  
22          paid it. Didn't need to pay \$12 extra with  
23          \$ 7 1/2 million owed thanks to Mayor  
24          Doherty's policies of collection. Once  
25          again, call Congress 1-202-224-3121, all of

1           them, house of Representatives, and you  
2           could call the Senators and tell them what  
3           you think of them on the Transpacific Pack.  
4           Call the White House at 1-202-456-1111 and  
5           tell them what you think of their  
6           transpacific pack. Currently today before I  
7           came here six major steel manufacturers have  
8           filed a complaint about pricing differences.  
9           When Salindra went bankrupt making solar  
10          cells, the Chinese were dumping solar cells  
11          at 60 percent of the cost.

12                    If you are tired of poor jobs and  
13                    poor wages, if you are tired of hire  
14                    property taxes every time you turn around,  
15                    the wage taxes aren't making up for what's  
16                    missing along with our tax exemptions  
17                    throughout the city, but the wage tax if  
18                    people aren't making money they're not  
19                    paying taxes. In you are tired of threats  
20                    to your retirement, if you tired of hearing  
21                    that half of the pollution in California is  
22                    compliments of the Chinese government and  
23                    why the capitalists just love a communist  
24                    government as opposed to Russia back in the  
25                    90's I don't know.

1                   Now, it translates into the malls.  
2                   People don't have any money to go running  
3                   around the mall. All you could do is run up  
4                   your credit cards and when that's exhausted  
5                   then you stay the hell home and worry about  
6                   how to put food on the table.

7                   Now, some positive things, on 7-B,  
8                   it's about time that we clamp down on our  
9                   utilities. We have five different utilities  
10                  beating up on the streets and sidewalks and  
11                  it's time they do a real repair and it's  
12                  time that we inspect afterwards and make  
13                  them bond money for that inspection to do  
14                  real repairs.

15                  And on 7-C, it's high time that we  
16                  start offering training and bids, I don't  
17                  know where the unions are with this, but  
18                  they should be pushing the administration to  
19                  get people into courses, nighttime courses  
20                  in accounting and so forth because they  
21                  audits are inexcusable and the state is  
22                  starting to holler.

23                  Harrison Avenue bridge, I think that  
24                  needs to be put to sleep with what I heard  
25                  before I went and I'll hear some more. I do

1 run a tape player before I leave the house.

2 Now, with school taxes we just had a  
3 big debate there, once again, I would like  
4 to mention we have too many governments.  
5 Everyone passes the buck back and forth and  
6 these school boards, really I think the  
7 state should take care of it, take it over  
8 and we don't need them. We don't need  
9 constantly. We have no uniformity of wages  
10 and salaries. We have no uniformity of  
11 insurance, no uniformity in retirement,  
12 nothing. We have nothing. And when it  
13 comes to states and states rights, years ago  
14 we had a big federal government and now we  
15 have five times more government, so states  
16 that maybe would be better off just going  
17 with the big federal government and then we  
18 would only have one to worry about and a  
19 bunch of administrator's from there because  
20 it's really getting down to the wire with  
21 taxes and we can't keep raising taxes all of  
22 the time on people's property and so forth  
23 and make up for what we are not making.  
24 Fines and fees don't cut it either. I just  
25 about dropped over last week I finally got

1 my lawnmower to start, and it broke a  
2 governor spring and I can't find it, you  
3 know, anywhere. I brought two of them and  
4 they didn't work, you know, so I finally got  
5 it to run and me and my wife tag teamed so  
6 that our grass isn't over seven inches high  
7 and I don't have money for the fine, you  
8 know, I spend it all on governor's springs.  
9 Thank you and have a good night.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else.

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

13 MOTIONS.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Wechsler?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
16 Mr. McGoff. This week I contacted the  
17 council solicitor to investigate what  
18 legislation council can amend or create that  
19 would require all job openings to be  
20 publically advertised in the newspaper and  
21 on the city's website. I would desire that  
22 this posting would include the minimum  
23 requirements for consideration and a defined  
24 period for applications to be submitted. In  
25 my mind, this legislation would not limit

1 the mayor's authority in certain hiring  
2 positions, but I do feel that the openness  
3 would make the public feel more comfortable  
4 with the city's hiring practices.

5 In another matter, I know that we  
6 all feel that there should be reforms to how  
7 nonprofits are handled within the city, but  
8 I would like to congratulate the University  
9 of Scranton as it nears the completion of  
10 the new center for rehabilitation education.  
11 It will have a beneficial impact on the  
12 city. Based on construction and engineer  
13 expenses it includes an output of economic  
14 activity of \$87.7 million, labor income of  
15 \$36.1 million, value added of \$44.5 million,  
16 \$6.6 million in federal taxes and an  
17 estimated \$3.1 million in state and local  
18 taxes. It created 322 jobs in 2013, 657  
19 jobs in 2014, and 5,004 jobs in 2015.

20 As I said, this doesn't change the  
21 fact that we do need some reform in  
22 nonprofits, but the University and the other  
23 nonprofits do make a major investment in the  
24 city and I do appreciate what they do.

25 There was good news from the county

1           this week that they are going to introduce  
2           the land bank legislation. I support their  
3           idea and want to see the particulars. I  
4           would want to see how it affects Scranton  
5           since we have the most affected properties.  
6           I do know that without the commitment and  
7           leadership of Scranton City Council,  
8           especially Councilman Gaughan, that this new  
9           legislation would not have been introduced.

10                         In follow-up to what we discussed at  
11           the PennDOT caucus I have an update on the  
12           Dough Boy, the Dough Boy statute is still in  
13           storage at the Steamtown National Park.  
14           After contacting PennDOT, I have been  
15           informed because federal funds are being  
16           used for this project no funds can be spent  
17           for repair of the statute. I have been in  
18           touch with Senator Blake and Representatives  
19           Farina and Flynn concerning other funding  
20           sources. I have also investigated what  
21           funds the city may be able to offer. I've  
22           discovered that the city was paid \$28,400  
23           for the right-of-way at Duffy Park. That  
24           money was deposited in the general fund and  
25           was used for paving. I was hoping that that



1 money might have been available for the  
2 refurbishment of the statute, but it's gone.

3 We still have a few months before it  
4 becomes critical to have a resolution before  
5 the new Duffy Park opens in 2017, but as I  
6 mentioned tonight in the caucus, the dollar  
7 values that are being thrown around with  
8 this bridge I have to believe that somewhere  
9 in the funding there has to be \$50,000 to  
10 restore this part of our history, especially  
11 for the people of South Side. PennDOT has  
12 been trying to do that, but I would like to  
13 have them concentrate more on finding some  
14 funds for that project. That's all I have  
15 tonight. Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Rogan?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, a number of items  
18 and I will address each of them briefly.  
19 Regarding the Times article with the hiring  
20 procedures on the front page, I do want to  
21 do a little research into this matter.  
22 While it's, you know, certainly is an issue  
23 that needs to be addressed, I don't believe  
24 this is anything new in the city. So what  
25 I'm going to do is I'm going to look back

1            maybe over the last ten years and see how  
2            many jobs have been given out that haven't  
3            been hired. I believe it's a longstanding  
4            practice in the city, obviously that doesn't  
5            make it correct, but I would like to go back  
6            and see the names of the individuals who  
7            were hired without being advertised and  
8            compare that to the campaign finance reports  
9            and see if the Times is just taking an  
10           interest in this now because I think you  
11           will see very similar situations that have  
12           taken place over the previous decades.

13                        Next, regarding the rental  
14           registration, Councilman Evans and myself  
15           have been hoping for quite awhile to get  
16           this ordinance reformed and the legislation  
17           that -- the emergency legislation we have to  
18           vote on tonight is just another reason why  
19           those changes need to be made. I firmly  
20           believe the rental registration ordinance  
21           needs to be overhauled, the fee needs to be  
22           reduced and it needs to be more manageable  
23           for landlords and renters in this city.

24                        I believe additional exceptions  
25           should be added for family members granted

1 to another family, immediate family, maybe a  
2 grandfather to grandchild type of  
3 arrangement. We don't want to get into  
4 third and fourth cousins or I'm sure nobody  
5 would be paying the fee.

6 So I think that's something that  
7 definitely needs to be changed and changed  
8 quickly. I hope that with this ordinance  
9 that was sent down from the judge that it  
10 will get to move on this pretty quickly.

11 Regarding Councilman Wechsler  
12 mentioned regarding the University of  
13 Scranton project, and I know one of the  
14 speakers brought it up as well saying we  
15 didn't get anything out of it, I am proud to  
16 have voted to advance that project along  
17 with Councilman McGoff and former Councilman  
18 Frank Joyce. While I agree that nonprofit  
19 reform needs to happens, it needs to happen  
20 fast. If nonprofits in the city want to  
21 tear down smaller buildings and build bigger  
22 buildings on the same footprint that's  
23 something we should certainly encourage  
24 because it does create jobs and spur  
25 economic development without additional land

1           being taken off the tax rolls, so for the  
2           nonprofit -- all of the nonprofits in the  
3           city if they want to expand upwards I think  
4           that's a very good thing for everyone. When  
5           it comes to nonprofits purchasing additional  
6           properties and taking them off the tax rolls  
7           that's where we get into some other issues.

8                         Regarding the audit legislation, I  
9           did speak with Councilman Evans and I know  
10          he was working with the business  
11          administrator on amendments to this  
12          legislation. I agree wholeheartedly with  
13          the amendment that Councilman Evans came up  
14          with to reduce the term from four years to  
15          two years. Obviously, something needs to be  
16          done regarding the audit in the City of  
17          Scranton. It is unacceptable that for every  
18          I have sat on council, and I'm in my fifth  
19          year, the audit has been chronically late.  
20          The audit is a very important document that  
21          the city needs to have prior to producing  
22          budgets and producing budgets without an  
23          audit certainly hasn't worked. We have seen  
24          results of that over a number of years. I  
25          am hopeful that with this firm that will

1 tighten things up while the staff in the  
2 Business Administrator's Office can be  
3 trained in a one size fits all plan to have  
4 an audit done in a timely manner. Not like  
5 in the past where one person was the audit  
6 person and nobody else knew what was going  
7 on. It needs to be interchangeable. When  
8 one a person leaves the position somebody  
9 else needs to know the exact role to be able  
10 to take to step in and do those duties. If  
11 two years isn't enough for staffing in the  
12 Business Administrator's office to be  
13 trained and so-called take the training  
14 wheels off at that point in time we should  
15 look to maybe cut back responsibility from  
16 the Business Administrator's Office and have  
17 it done exclusively by the private sector.  
18 So I will be supporting Councilman Evans'  
19 amendment and the final bill to straighten  
20 out our audit.

21 And, finally, I would like to thank  
22 County Commissioner, I generally disagree  
23 with him, Mr. Wansack and Mr. O'Malley, who  
24 I generally do agree with, on their pushing  
25 for the land bank. I would also like to

1           thank the mayor who campaigned on this, and  
2           Councilman Gaughan, who fault for it as  
3           well, but I do agree with comments that were  
4           made in the paper by my colleague regarding  
5           city representation on the land bank. Land  
6           bank is great idea, but the vast majority of  
7           the properties that will be in this land  
8           bank will be in the City of Scranton and the  
9           City of Scranton needs to have proportionate  
10          representation on that board, just not one  
11          seat. We should have a majority of the  
12          seats or at least, you know, maybe one less,  
13          we're looking at a seven member body, the  
14          city should have at least three, because it  
15          affects the residents of Scranton much more  
16          than it would affect residents in an area  
17          that doesn't have the blight problems the  
18          City of Scranton does.

19                        So that is all for now, I may have  
20                        some additional comments on agenda items.  
21                        Thank you.

22                        MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Evans.

23                        MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm very  
24                        happy that the county commissioners finally  
25                        took action in the beginning steps of the

1 formation of a land bank that occurred. I'm  
2 hopeful, like all of us up here, that we can  
3 work out the logistics of adequate  
4 representation for the City of Scranton and  
5 the proposed authority and will move this  
6 process forward.

7 On the Harrison Avenue bridge, the  
8 old Harrison Avenue bridge, I'm  
9 disappointed, but it wasn't unexpected that  
10 PennDOT would not go along with that idea,  
11 and for legitimate reasons, I understand  
12 that, but with that said I'm still  
13 encouraged that the city council continues  
14 to search out new ideas and is showing a  
15 willingness to think outside of the box in  
16 an effort to include the quality of life for  
17 all of our citizens.

18 Tonight I would like to talk about  
19 economic development for a change. The  
20 Lehigh Valley, according to some experts,  
21 has the fastest growing economy in  
22 Pennsylvania, and how did that happen as the  
23 Lackawanna valley in Scranton continues to  
24 struggle through the remnants of recession.  
25 In many ways, this renaissance started in

1 Allentown in 2009 when State Senator Pat  
2 Brown wrote legislation for what is known as  
3 a neighborhood improvement zone, also known  
4 as a NIZ. In the legislation, it only says  
5 that a first class city with a population of  
6 between 106,000 and 107,000 to get a NIZ.  
7 The genius of this legislation by Senator  
8 Brown is that the only city that could  
9 possibly meet this definition was the City  
10 of Allentown, his own district. Therefore,  
11 after the legislation approved the Bill --  
12 the legislature approved the Bill, Allentown  
13 became the one and only city with a NIZ in  
14 the State of Pennsylvania. This is  
15 interesting because we have been told for  
16 decades that passing legislation for the  
17 City of Scranton was the main reason for  
18 remaining a Class 2A because any legislation  
19 passed would only effect Scranton. Of  
20 course, we don't have a NIZ and you will  
21 have to draw your own conclusion as to why  
22 not.

23 So what is a NIZ? The NIZ allows  
24 developers in certain parts of Allentown to  
25 use state and local tax dollars to construct



1 and rehabilitate buildings. These tax  
2 dollars are paid by the businesses that move  
3 into the developer's new buildings. Within  
4 a NIZ developers can also use state and  
5 local tax dollars where they can build,  
6 rehabilitate and expand new ones. The zone  
7 is not large, it's broken up in a few  
8 pieces. One is a five-block area in  
9 Allentown's downtown and the other piece is  
10 in Allentown's waterfront on the Lehigh  
11 river.

12 What are some of the results of the  
13 impact of the NIZ? In the center city area  
14 National Bank Penn Bank Shares will be the  
15 primary occupant and new 11 story building  
16 with 272,000 square feet of office space.  
17 Lehigh Valley Health Network will lead to a  
18 seven floor, 186,000 square foot building  
19 within the NIZ and bringing its 500  
20 employees with them.

21 Another project that occurred  
22 because of the NIZ were the \$200 million  
23 arena called the PPL center, home to the  
24 Philadelphia Flyers minor league hockey  
25 team.

1                    Additionally, in a recent news  
2                    article from the Lehigh Valley business dot  
3                    com site the \$305 million waterfront  
4                    development is expected to begin in July  
5                    which will include new office buildings, 433  
6                    upscale apartments, two parking structures  
7                    for 2,200 cars all along the river. It is  
8                    estimated that with just what is presently  
9                    proposed for the NIZ area of Allentown there  
10                    will be an estimated \$1.3 billion in  
11                    development, yes, that is a billion with a  
12                    "B". The main reason that it works instead  
13                    of keeping that tax money, the government is  
14                    it giving to developers so they can pay off  
15                    their debt because those developers are  
16                    saving a lot of money they can put more  
17                    businesses in the downtown in the NIZ by  
18                    offering lower rents in buildings and other  
19                    areas.

20                    What is most interesting, most of  
21                    the tax revenue is coming from the state  
22                    coffers. Most state and local taxes paid in  
23                    the zone, including taxes on personal  
24                    incorporating a tax cigarettes, malt  
25                    beverage and liquor and sales of

1 construction materials go the developer to  
2 pay off debt. 97 percent of this money is  
3 state tax revenue, not local tax revenue.  
4 Property taxes cannot be used and continue  
5 to go to the cities in the county. That  
6 means the state, far more than the city, is  
7 subsidizing Allentown's revitalization.

8 Since then the state has adopted a  
9 similar program called a Community  
10 Reinvestment Revitalization and Improvement  
11 Zone or KRRIZ. This program is very similar  
12 to the NIZ and simply ties on some  
13 requirements for the developers. While it  
14 became available in 2013, to apply for a  
15 KRRIZ you must be a city with a population  
16 of over 30,000, be a third class city and be  
17 engaged in the Act 47 process. The only  
18 cities currently enrolled to be eligible are  
19 Bethlehem and Lancaster. There are some  
20 other requirements, but essentially Scranton  
21 once again was not eligible.

22 Again, here we sit as a city, the  
23 only class 2A city in distressed status for  
24 decades and we are on the outside looking  
25 in. We should be the poster child for

1 programs like the ones I described.

2 Harrisburg has been big on Allentown and is  
3 paying huge dividends, doubling down on  
4 Bethlehem and Lancaster with the KRIZZ, yet  
5 they continue to find ways to exclude the  
6 City of Scranton. One can only imagine the  
7 impact of a neighbor improvement zone like  
8 Allentown encompassing the mall at Steamtown  
9 or the 100 block of Wyoming Avenue where the  
10 Globe store sits vacant again.

11 Harrisburg needs to get us in the  
12 game and finally include Scranton in these  
13 programs that have become tremendous  
14 economic engines for participating cities  
15 and they have to stop finding ways to  
16 continually exclude us. That's all I have.  
17 Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Gaughan?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you, a few  
20 things. First, I'd just like to announce  
21 the street sweeper is scheduled to be in the  
22 Greenridge area from Greenridge Street to  
23 Fairfield Street from June 8 to June 12. I  
24 actually ran into the street sweeper today  
25 in North Scranton and I will say that they

1 are doing a fine job throughout the city.

2 I'd like to correct Mrs. Schumacher  
3 on one thing, she mentioned four people  
4 voted for the budget and I think insinuated  
5 that I voted for it, I did not vote for the  
6 last budget just to be clear on that.

7 Mrs. Schumacher also asked last week  
8 about a consultant that was hired by the  
9 DPW, what she was referring to was a  
10 recycling consultant that was to be added to  
11 the DPW's budget to assist with the  
12 improvement in the city's commercial  
13 recycling program. I did contact the  
14 Business Administrator and his response was  
15 that the request for the retention for the  
16 recycling consultant was forwarded to the  
17 solicitor's office for council preparation.  
18 Her name is Joyce Hatala, the former  
19 director of the Lackawanna County Recycling  
20 Center so we should see that on our agenda  
21 sometime in the near future.

22 Does anybody know if we have  
23 received any word on when the public caucus  
24 will be with the mayor?

25 MR. MCGOFF: As far as I know there

1 has been nothing communicated to our office.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. There was  
3 a gentleman that came to council last week  
4 requesting consideration for a three-way  
5 stop sign at the intersection of Ferdinand  
6 and Sweeney Avenue. Our office has sent a  
7 letter to Chief Graziano requesting a review  
8 of this location and we will update that  
9 gentleman as the process moves along. I'd  
10 also like to thank the DPW for taking care  
11 of our request to replace a street stop sign  
12 on Beech Avenue in North Scranton.

13 If you have a streetlight that is  
14 out near your house or in your neighborhood  
15 you can now go on the city's website and  
16 report it. If you click on the public works  
17 link on the main page you will see a link  
18 where you can report the streetlight  
19 directly to Metchulat, who is the new  
20 company that is taking care of the  
21 streetlights in the city. You will need the  
22 pole number to report the streetlight. If  
23 you are unsure of the pole number but know  
24 the location you can find the pole on an  
25 interactive map of the city, which is a new

1 feature. The map shows every streetlight in  
2 the city along with information about that  
3 street and streetlight on the pole. The  
4 actual web address for this new website is  
5 Scranton.streetlightmap.com.

6 I would like to touch for a second  
7 on the land bank. I was very pleased to see  
8 that the county has moved forward with that  
9 process of creating a countywide authority.  
10 I think it's a first step in taking charge  
11 and seriously addressing vacant, abandoned  
12 and tax delinquent properties and get them  
13 back to productive use and on the tax rolls.  
14 I am still reviewing the legislation that  
15 they are passing, there is an additional  
16 reading that will take place I believe June  
17 17, so we have a little bit of time to get  
18 in contact with some county officials and  
19 then move forward with intergovernmental  
20 cooperation agreement between the city and  
21 the county. There are a few things I'd like  
22 to talk with the officials in the county  
23 about, one of them being, which my  
24 colleagues brought up tonight, the  
25 representation of Scranton on that board. I

1 would hope that we would have dedicated  
2 representation since, as Mr. Rogan pointed  
3 out and he is correct, the city does have  
4 most of the properties that will be in the  
5 land bank, and that is all I have for this  
6 week. Thank you.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Reed?

8 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
9 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
10 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229617 ENTITLED  
11 "RENTAL REGISTRATION ESCROW ACCOUNT" TO  
12 ACCEPT 50% OF THE FUNDS COLLECTED FROM  
13 RENTAL REGISTRATION FEES. (EMERGENCY  
14 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

18 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

20 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? All  
21 those in favor of introduction signify by  
22 saying aye.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.



1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MR. EVANS: I would like make a  
5 motion to suspend the Rules to move Item 5-B  
6 into Sixth and Seventh Order to be  
7 considered for final passage based on the  
8 attached emergency certificate.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

10 MR. MCGOFF: On the question? Once  
11 again, we are doing this under an emergency  
12 certificate due to a Court case and a ruling  
13 by Judge Braxton that this needed to be done  
14 immediately. All those in favor signify by  
15 saying aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
23 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE  
24 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE  
25 GRANT MANAGER AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS OF

1 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, FOR  
2 A PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
3 GREEN LIGHT GO PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT  
4 OF \$11,760.00 TO BE USED TOWARD REPLACEMENT  
5 OF INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS WITH LED BULBS  
6 IN TRAFFIC SIGNALS LOCATED AT DESIGNATED  
7 CORRIDORS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
8 AND IF THE GRANT APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL,  
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
10 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL  
11 DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE  
12 THE GRANT FUNDS.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

18 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
20 just a note on this, the total estimated  
21 project cost is \$23,520 and \$11,760 of that  
22 will come from the city who will match the  
23 funds using the liquid fuels contribution  
24 and they are targeting 20 intersections  
25 throughout the city.

1 MR. MCGOFF: All those in favor of  
2 introduction signify by saying aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

9 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
10 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE  
11 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE  
12 GRANT MANAGER AND OTHER CITY OFFICIALS OF  
13 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, FOR  
14 A PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
15 GREEN LIGHT GO PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT  
16 OF \$99,000.00 TO BE USED TOWARD THE  
17 RECONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT OF THE FAULTY  
18 TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF GREEN  
19 RIDGE STREET AND SANDERSON AVENUE AND IF THE  
20 GRANT APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, AUTHORIZING  
21 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
22 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS  
23 NECESSARY TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE GRANT  
24 FUNDS.

25 MR. MCGOFF: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be  
2 introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, just briefly on  
7 the question again, this is the same type of  
8 deal as the agenda Item 5-C, the city will  
9 match funding in the amount of \$99,000 and  
10 the money will come from the liquid fuels  
11 contribution. The intersection as mentioned  
12 is located in a critical corridor as  
13 designated by PennDOT and the reconstruction  
14 or replacement of the traffic signal will  
15 result in a more effective and efficient  
16 traffic signal and a safer intersection.  
17 Thank you.

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

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
3 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
4 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LATONA  
5 TRUCKING, INC. FOR GRASS CUTTING AT THE  
6 TAYLOR LANDFILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015.  
7 CONTRACT TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 31, 2015 FOR A  
8 LUMP SUM BID OF \$12,800.00.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
24 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARTIN KENEHAN,  
25 546 LEGGETT STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

1 18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY PLANNING  
2 COMMISSION EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2015. MR.  
3 KENEHAN WILL BE REPLACING EV JONES WHO  
4 RESIGNED EFFECTIVE MAY 27, 2015. MR.  
5 KENEHAN WILL FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF  
6 MR. JONES WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE  
7 ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A -  
23 FORMERLY 5-B - READING BY TITLE - FILE OF  
24 THE COUNCIL NO. 153-2015 - AN ORDINANCE -  
25 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY

1 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229617 ENTITLED "RENTAL  
2 REGISTRATION ESCROW ACCOUNT" TO ACCEPT 50%  
3 OF THE FUNDS COLLECTED FROM RENTAL  
4 REGISTRATION FEES. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE  
5 ATTACHED).

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

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

10 MR. WECHSLER: Second.

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

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye. Opposed? The  
18 ayes have it and so moved. Since there is  
19 no further business in Sixth Order, if  
20 anyone would like to address council on what  
21 will be 7-E, please do so at this time.

22 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz. I  
23 just have some questions, I'm trying to  
24 understand how this is going to impact the  
25 budget, if at all. How much money are we

1 talking, how long will the money be in  
2 escrow, do we have a sensing of this yet?

3 MR. ROGAN: I would assume it  
4 wouldn't be until the judge rendered a final  
5 ruling, but there is around \$600,000 in the  
6 budget for rental registration.

7 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

8 MR. ROGAN: And I would imagine we  
9 are halfway through the year.

10 MR. EVANS: Well, theoretically  
11 rental registration is due on May 31 so  
12 theoretically they should have a good  
13 portion of that already in because it was  
14 already due. Now, again, what that portion  
15 means because as I said before we only  
16 register about 25 percent of the units that  
17 are out there.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: If the city losses  
19 this suit, what's the impact then?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not aware of what  
21 the suit entails and I think that we would  
22 have to await what the judge would determine  
23 I don't think we have any way of knowing  
24 that.

25 MS. HODOWANITZ: I understand that





1           tonight, as it should, but try to keep the  
2           public informed as to, you know, when the  
3           judge makes his decision, be it for us or  
4           against us or anywhere in-between that  
5           spectrum what it means to the city and its  
6           budget and ultimately the taxpayers.

7                   MS. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Hodowanitz, I  
8           believe that that is a good question and  
9           question that should be answered when we  
10          have a public caucus with the mayor,  
11          Mr. Bulzoni and Mr. Amoroso as we start to  
12          prepare for the budget for next year.

13                   MS. HODOWANITZ: Write that down.

14                   MR. GAUGHAN: It's in my head.

15                   MR. EVANS: I would hope though that  
16          the final outcome is as simple as fix the  
17          rental registration ordinance to a  
18          reasonable amount of money for 2016 and --

19                   MS. HODOWANITZ: No offense to  
20          Mr. Minora, but you never know with these  
21          legal eagles.

22                   MR. EVANS: Absolutely.

23                   MS. HODOWANITZ: They can surprise  
24          you and, unfortunately, we are not in a  
25          position to take any more bad surprises so

1 I'll be watching.

2 MR. ROGAN: After looking through it  
3 what we are bringing in on the rental  
4 registration currently and how low the  
5 collection rate is I firmly believe, and I  
6 know Councilman Evans agrees that we can  
7 reduce the fee while still realizing the  
8 same amount of revenue by increasing the  
9 base. When only one out of four eligible  
10 properties is paying the fee, you know,  
11 that's certainly not acceptable. Now it's  
12 just how do we get from there to, you know,  
13 where we need to be with the compliance.  
14 Even if we were to get the compliance of the  
15 garbage fee, which certainly isn't high  
16 enough, you know, it could be much higher  
17 than 25 percent.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: I understand all of  
19 that but, you know, considering how really  
20 distressed we are financially even little  
21 holes can hurt us so we need to keep our  
22 finger on this particular pulse.

23 MR. ROGAN: And that's why we want  
24 to have the new legislation done well before  
25 the budget so the budgetary number can be as

1 accurate as possible for next year.

2 MS. HODOWANITZ: Let's hope so.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Just quickly, Pat, you  
5 stole my thunder again, you mentioned the  
6 trash fee and what these rental registration  
7 fees are all about and I remember Attorney  
8 Hickey was here pointing out that very few  
9 -- they aren't very many landlords across  
10 the town, the city, that are not paying  
11 trash fees and it's really, really gotten to  
12 a point we could pay off almost half of what  
13 we owe to the public safety unions just if  
14 we collected all of the back trash fees back  
15 to 2002 and so I certainly hope it turns out  
16 good, but my saying is if you wind up in  
17 court you lost already. Have a good night.

18 MR. EVANS: Thank you, but I have to  
19 agree with what you are saying, I firmly  
20 believe if we increased participation in the  
21 rental registration to a reasonable level we  
22 are going to pick up thousands of trash fees  
23 that we don't even know about which will  
24 offset the reduction in the rental  
25 registration.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: But on the other side,  
2 I'm not being critical of you people, but on  
3 the other side maybe that's why these people  
4 are fighting so heavily. They are cheating  
5 the system and there is five bags of trash  
6 out in front of their house and no recycling  
7 and they own the house and not paying their  
8 fair share.

9 MR. MCGOFF: We are getting a little  
10 off target.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Have a good night.  
12 Anyone else?

13 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES- FOR  
15 ADOPTION -FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 101, 2015-  
16 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 85, 2015,  
17 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "APPROVING THE  
18 TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE  
19 CURRENTLY OWNED BY KOSMART ENTERPRISES, INC.  
20 D/B/A PIZZA HUT OF DUNMORE LICENSE NO.  
21 R-14852 TO BAR PAZZO, INC. FOR USE AT  
22 131-133 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
23 PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
24 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD" BY MAKING A CORRECTION  
25 TO THE LIQUOR LICENSE NUMBER, REFERENCING

1 LACKAWANNA COUNTY IN ADDRESSES AND  
2 CONFIRMING THAT THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED BY  
3 A PUBLIC MEETING TO READ AS FOLLOWS:  
4 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT  
5 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY KOSMART  
6 ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A PIZZA HUT OF DUNMORE  
7 LICENSE NO. R-13458 TO BAR PAZZO, INC. FOR  
8 USE AT 131-133 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,  
9 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS  
10 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL  
11 BOARD.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
3 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted and  
4 look forward to the opening of Bar Pazzo.

5 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
6 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
7 - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 102, 2015 -  
8 AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY  
9 OF SCRANTON CHAPTER 412 STREETS AND  
10 SIDEWALKS, SECTION III GOVERNING EXCAVATIONS  
11 BY MAKING ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, RELETTERING  
12 AND CHANGING THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT IN  
13 PORTIONS OF SECTION 111 RELATING TO  
14 EXCAVATIONS IN ORDER TO BRING THE CODE UP TO  
15 DATE.

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

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

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

11 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
12 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION  
13 RESOLUTION NO. 148, 2015 - AUTHORIZING THE  
14 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
15 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
16 RAINEY & RAINEY CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
17 FOR CITY OF SCRANTON AUDIT PREPARATION  
18 SERVICES MUNICIPAL AUDITOR FOR THE YEARS  
19 2015 THROUGH 2018.

20 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend  
21 Item 7-C as per the following: Authorizing  
22 the mayor and other appropriate city  
23 officials to execute and enter into a  
24 contract with Rainey and Rainey, certified  
25 public accounts, for the City of Scranton,



1           audit preparation services municipal auditor  
2           for the years 2015 through 2016.

3                   MR. ROGAN:    Second.

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

6                   MR. WECHSLER:  Aye.

7                   MR. ROGAN:    Aye.

8                   MR. EVANS:    Aye.

9                   MR. MCGOFF:   Aye.  Opposed?

10                  MR. GAUGHAN:  No.

11                  MR. MCGOFF:   The ayes have it and so  
12           moved.  What is the recommendation of the  
13           Chair for the Committee on Finance?

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

17                  MR. ROGAN:    Second.

18                  MR. MCGOFF:   On the question?

19                  MR. GAUGHAN:  Yes, on the question.  
20           I'll be voting no on final passage of this  
21           legislation tonight for a few reasons:  
22           First, I just want to be clear so people  
23           understand that by law the city has to  
24           contract with an outside firm to complete  
25           the audit.  What we are voting on tonight is

1 to allow the city to hire a firm, Rainey &  
2 Rainey, to assemble information to give to  
3 the auditors. The administration has said  
4 that the reason we must hire this firm is  
5 because of the limited experience of the  
6 staff in the Business Administration Office.  
7 I believe the employees in this office  
8 should be capable of doing this work. The  
9 mayor added a position and increased  
10 salaries in the BA's Office. According to  
11 the 2015 budget highlights the BA's Office  
12 budget reflects a full staff and compliment.  
13 How can we justify an increase in salaries  
14 and an additional position if the job isn't  
15 getting done and we have to hire an outside  
16 firm at an additional and possibly expensive  
17 cost. The professional services budget for  
18 the BA's Office was increased dramatically  
19 to include staff training. It was increased  
20 to \$130,000.

21 Also, within the grant application  
22 that was submitted asking for the increase  
23 in salaries and funding for an additional  
24 position, which we all voted for, PEL  
25 recommended the continued use of college

1 level interns to assist in audit  
2 documentation prep. I fully understand the  
3 importance of completing the audit and the  
4 negative consequences if we do not.  
5 However, I cannot justify hiring a firm for  
6 two years to do the work the employees  
7 should be doing, experienced or not. A  
8 contract with this firm takes the  
9 responsibility off of the staff where it  
10 belongs and I believe sets a bad precedent.  
11 This firm is it not responsible for training  
12 the employees on how to prep for the audit.  
13 That's why we increased professional  
14 services is to train the staff. A two-year  
15 contract sounds to me like another way to  
16 fund a full-time position in this office  
17 when we already have staff that were hired  
18 to do the work. And that is all I have.  
19 Thank you.

20 MR. EVANS: On the question, I  
21 happen to find the reduction to a two-year  
22 contract to be a reasonable compromise. I  
23 think a four-year contract does not give the  
24 necessary incentive to the current staff to  
25 be totally engaged in this process from the

1           outset and is simply too long. Audit prep  
2           and the audit itself are far important to  
3           the city to simply hope that a young staff  
4           in the BA's Office can accomplish the audit  
5           prep without this help. We would be doing a  
6           disservice to the process to think  
7           otherwise.

8                       Based on my conversations with  
9           Mr. Bulzoni, I'm confident that at the end  
10          of the two-year period his office will be  
11          ready to do this job inhouse in an competent  
12          and timely manner. Thank you.

13                      MR. ROGAN: I would just agree with  
14          what Councilman Evans said. I do agree that  
15          a two-year period is a good compromise, and  
16          that's what government is all about. I do  
17          know for a number of years we have had  
18          residents, one of them is still sitting  
19          here, coming up to the podium every week  
20          saying it's "X" hundreds of days the audit  
21          is late and that's not acceptable so  
22          hopefully this will get things straightened  
23          out and we will have that data that the city  
24          certainly needs.

25                      MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I agree that

1           should be done -- this prep service should  
2           be done inhouse, but I believe that this  
3           legislation acts as an insurance policy to  
4           make sure that if it doesn't happen it  
5           doesn't -- we can't say it should have  
6           happened. This will allow us to complete  
7           the 2015 and the 2016 audit with confidence  
8           that it's going to be done properly. We  
9           can't afford another late delivery of the  
10          audit. It affects us with the financial  
11          community and I agree that the four-year  
12          term was too long for this, the two-year  
13          term is proper and will assist us in making  
14          it through the next two years properly.

15                 MR. ROGAN: Not to belabor the  
16                 point, but Councilman Wechsler makes a great  
17                 point that I didn't even think of, although  
18                 there is a cost associated with this, the  
19                 cost associated with having a proper audit  
20                 can wind up saving tens of thousands of  
21                 additional or even millions of additional  
22                 dollars by avoiding mistakes in budgets  
23                 which have been done in the past.

24                 MR. MCGOFF: Anyone else? Roll  
25                 call, please?

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

6 MR. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
11 Item 7-C, as amended, legally and lawfully  
12 adopted.

13 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
14 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS- FOR  
15 ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 149, 2015 -  
16 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
17 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
18 CONTRACT WITH MAIN POOL AND CHEMICAL  
19 COMPANY, INC. FOR SEASONAL CHEMICALS FOR  
20 SWIMMING POOLS EXCLUDING NAY AUG POOL FOR  
21 THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015.

22 MR. MCGOFF: What is the  
23 recommendation of the Chair for the  
24 Committee on Public Works?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the

1                   Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
2                   passage of Item 7-D.

3                   MR. ROGAN:    Second.

4                   MR. MCGOFF:   On the question?  I  
5                   would just like to say I agree with some  
6                   people who have talked on this before, there  
7                   is no reason that we should -- that the Nay  
8                   Aug Pool and the other pools should be  
9                   bidding separately on chemicals.  All city  
10                  pools, it would be reasonable to get a  
11                  contract for all of the pools.  It may cost  
12                  less that way and it's been discussed in the  
13                  past but for some reason it has never been  
14                  done.  Roll call, please.

15                  MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Wechsler.

16                  MR. WECHSLER:  Yes.

17                  MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Rogan.

18                  MR. ROGAN:    Yes.

19                  MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Evans.

20                  MR. EVANS:    Yes.

21                  MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. Gaughan.

22                  MR. GAUGHAN:  Yes.

23                  MS. MARCIANO:  Mr. McGoff.

24                  MR. MCGOFF:  No.  I hereby declare  
25                  Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

1 MS. REED: 7-E, FORMERLY 6-A -FOR  
2 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE - FOR  
3 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 153-2015  
4 - AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
5 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229617 ENTITLED  
6 "RENTAL REGISTRATION ESCROW ACCOUNT" TO  
7 ACCEPT 50% OF THE FUNDS COLLECTED FROM  
8 RENTAL REGISTRATION FEES. (EMERGENCY  
9 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

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

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Just one comment,  
19 Mr. McGoff, I hope that the administration  
20 will take note of the discussions that was  
21 held here this evening amongst residents and  
22 the council of the importance of getting the  
23 new revised rental registration down to us  
24 as soon as possible. I am very concerned  
25 that a judge has gotten involved with this



1 case and we have to show the good faith that  
2 we are trying to make corrections for a  
3 possible problem with the current  
4 legislation.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Roll call, please?

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans.

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I hereby declare  
16 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted. If  
17 there is no further business, I'll entertain  
18 a motion to adjourn.

19 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

20 MR. MCGOFF: This meeting is  
21 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