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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2016

HELD: OFFICE OF CITY
COUNCIL/CITY CLERK

Monday, January 4, 2016

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 (Invocation given by Father Patrick
2 Albert.)

3 MS. REED: In accordance with the
4 Home Rule Charter of Scranton designating
5 the first Monday of January as the day for
6 city council to reorganize I hereby call
7 this 2016 reorganization meeting to order.
8 Roll call, please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

18 MS. REED: At this time, I ask that
19 as you are called to be sworn in with the
20 judges and elected officials, please sign
21 the documents when you are finished.

22 I have before me the certificate of
23 election for Mrs. Roseann Novembrino, city
24 controller. Will the council adopt a motion
25 to the effect that the certificate be

1 received and ordered filed and made a part
2 of the minutes?

3 MR. EVANS: So moved.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MS. REED: On the question? All
6 those in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

12 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have
13 it and so moved. I will now ask the
14 Honorable Judge Paul Ware to come forward
15 and administer the oath of office to
16 Mrs. Novembrino for the elected office of
17 City Controller.

18 (Ms. Roseann Novembrino was first
19 duly sworn into office.)

20 MS. NOVEMBRINO: Honorable Judges,
21 Mayor, Council, Reverend Father, I feel so
22 privileged once again to be receiving a
23 wealth of information and support from my
24 wonderful family, friends, and the people of
25 Scranton. Next to my love of God, my

1 family, and friends comes my love for me
2 city. As controller, I will always continue
3 to have an open door policy. I will always
4 be available to the citizens of Scranton
5 because my office belongs to you. I want to
6 be part of a positive process. There are
7 times when governmental bodies may disagree,
8 but with common sense and common courtesy
9 they should be resolved as soon as possible
10 for the betterment of the people of
11 Scranton.

12 Keep our eyes on the builders and
13 the people who plan things in our city, and
14 I have to mention Mr. John Basalyga who
15 undertook the mall as his project and I am
16 so proud of that young man in doing what he
17 is doing.

18 At this time, I would like to
19 congratulate Councilman Tim Perry, and
20 Councilman Wayne Evans. And a
21 congratulations always to my staff, they are
22 number one. We must never forget Bob McGoff
23 and his gentle soul. Thank you and God
24 bless you.

25 MS. REED: I have before me the

1 certificate of election for Wayne Evans and
2 Tim Perry as city council persons. Will the
3 council adopt a motion to the effect that
4 the certificate be received and ordered
5 filed and made a part of the minutes?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: So moved.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

15 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have
16 it and so moved. I will now ask the
17 Honorable Judge Joanne Corbett to come
18 forward and administer the oath of office to
19 Wayne Evans for the elected office of city
20 council.

21 (Mr. Wayne Evans was first duly
22 sworn into office.)

23 MS. REED: I will now ask the
24 Honorable Judge Alyce Hailstone Farrell to
25 come forward and administer the oath of

1 office of Tim Perry for the elected office
2 of city council.

3 (Mr. Tim Perry was first duly sworn
4 into office.)

5 MS. REED: I will now accept
6 nominations for temporary Chairperson, what
7 is your pleasure?

8 MR. EVANS: I nominate Mr. Joseph
9 Wechsler as president -- sorry. I move that
10 Bill Gaughan be appointed temporary
11 Chairperson.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. REED: On the question? All
14 those in favor signify by saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

20 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have
21 it and so moved. Mr. Gaughan, will you
22 please take over as temporary chairperson.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I now call
24 for nomination of a permanent president of
25 council for the ensuing two years.

1 MR. EVANS: I nominate Mr. Joseph
2 Wechsler as president of the Scranton City
3 Council.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

12 MR. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. The motion is
17 adopted and I declare Mr. Joseph Wechsler
18 duly and legally elected President of City
19 Council.

20 I now call for a nomination of vice
21 president of the council for the ensuing two
22 years.

23 MR. EVANS: I nominate Pat Rogan as
24 vice president of the city council.

25 MR. PERRY: Second.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
2 call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. The motion is
13 adopted and I declare Pat Rogan duly and
14 legally elected vice president of City
15 Council.

16 I now will ask for nominations for
17 City Clerk.

18 MR. EVANS: I nominate Lori Reed,
19 city clerk.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
22 call, please.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. The motion is
8 adopted and I declare Lori Reed duly and
9 legally elected city clerk.

10 MR. EVANS: At this time I would
11 like to make a motion that City Council
12 reappoint Attorney Amil Minora to the
13 position of city council solicitor.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion on
15 the there, is there a second?

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: All those in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

25 I will now ask Councilman Joseph

1 Wechsler to come forth and be sworn in as
2 Council President by the Honorable Judge
3 Joann Corbett.

4 (Mr. Joseph Wechsler was duly sworn
5 in as Council President.)

6 MR. GAUGHAN: I will ask Councilman
7 Pat Rogan to be sworn in as Council Vice
8 President by the Honorable Judge Paul Ware.

9 (Mr. Pat Rogan was duly sworn in as
10 Council Vice President.)

11 MR. GAUGHAN: I ask that Lori Reed
12 come forward to be sworn in as City Clerk by
13 the Honorable Judge Paul Ware.

14 (Ms. Lori Reed was duly sworn in as
15 City Clerk.)

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I will now ask
17 Mr. Wechsler to take over as permanent
18 Chairman and President of the Scranton City
19 Council.

20 MR. WECHSLER: We are now ready to
21 consider the Rules of Procedure by which
22 this council will be governed during the
23 next two years, what is your pleasure?

24 MR. EVANS: I move that the Rules of
25 Council be adopted by Resolution No. 1,

1 2016, as required by the Home Rule Charter.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Reed, would you
4 please read Resolution No. 1.

5 MS. REED: Resolution No. 1, 2016,
6 adopting the Rules and Order of Business of
7 the City of Scranton Council, Scranton,
8 Pennsylvania.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
10 those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. PERRY: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
16 ayes have it and so moved.

17 The following will be the Committee
18 Chairpersons for the next two years. For
19 the Committee on Rules, Joe Wechsler. For
20 the Committee on Finance, Wayne Evans. For
21 the Committee on Public Works, Bill Gaughan.
22 For the Committee on Public Safety, Tim
23 Perry. For the committee on Community
24 Development, Pat Rogan.

25 The Chairperson for the subcommittee

1 will be as follows: Pension Review and
2 Administration, Joe Wechsler. Downtown
3 Revitalization, Pat Rogan. Boards and
4 Commissions, Tim Perry. Revenue and Taxes,
5 Wayne Evans. Intergovernmental Relations,
6 Bill Gaughan.

7 I will now call on each Council
8 member for a few brief remarks. Mr. Perry?

9 MR. PERRY: Thank you,
10 Mr. President. I just want to be really
11 brief. I just want to say thank you to my
12 friends and family who put in as much hard
13 work, if not harder, than what I did to get
14 here. I'm very appreciative for everything
15 they have done and I'm also very
16 appreciative of the City of Scranton for
17 putting their faith in me and electing me to
18 the position. I promise to do this job to
19 the very, very best of my ability. I'm a
20 very open-door person, and I'm accessible
21 any time, and I'm here to work for the City
22 of Scranton and in the coming months and
23 years I hope to do you guys proud. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly. I
2 would just like to welcome our new
3 colleague, Mr. Perry and congratulate him on
4 his win in the election, and I would also
5 like to congratulate Councilman Evans on his
6 win, I believe the first Republican to win
7 in the city in 15 to 20 years, which is
8 certainly a major accomplishment. I've had
9 the privilege of working with Mr. Evans for
10 the last two years and I'm looking forward
11 to working with Mr. Perry and I think we
12 have a very good board here and we are going
13 to get a lot of things done over the next
14 two years of this term. Thank you.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'd like to
17 thank everyone for being here today,
18 especially my family who is with me today,
19 and I would like to personally thank and
20 welcome Tim to Scranton City Council. I
21 look forward to working with you in 2016.
22 And beyond and congratulations to vice
23 president Pat Rogan and, of course,
24 congratulations to our new Council President
25 Joe Wechsler, who I know will do a great job

1 for us. Thank you.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I'd like
4 to thank everyone for coming today as we
5 begin 2016. I'd first like to congratulate
6 Mrs. Novembrino on being elected once again
7 as City Controller. She also does a
8 fantastic job. I want to congratulate
9 Councilman Perry on being the newest member
10 to the Scranton City Council. I got to know
11 Councilman Perry as we campaigned together a
12 few years ago and he is a gentleman who
13 comes from a great family. I look forward
14 to working with him for the next two years.

15 I'd like to congratulate Councilman
16 Evans on his victory. I have enjoyed
17 working with Councilman Evans the past year
18 and a half and I'm looking forward to the
19 next two years. Councilman Evans has had a
20 very positive impact on our city with his
21 ideas and steadfast commitment to changing
22 the culture of the city government.

23 We are putting our faith in
24 Councilman Wechsler to lead us in the next
25 two years and I know he will do a great job.

1 I'd like to congratulate him on becoming
2 President of Scranton City Council.

3 I'd also like to congratulate
4 Councilman Rogan on being elected vice
5 president of Scranton City Council.

6 Our city clerk, Lori Reed, has done
7 a phenomenal job for the past two years. I
8 can't thank her enough for all the behind
9 the scenes work that goes into these
10 meetings along with our staff Kathy and
11 Jamie. I'd also like to thank our solicitor
12 Amil Minora for his hard work over the past
13 two years.

14 I know that we will face some very
15 serious and challenging issues in 2016. I'm
16 committed, just as I was when first elected
17 to this office, to researching each issue,
18 listening to the taxpayers of this city and
19 making not the political or popular decision
20 but the right decision. It's my sincere
21 hope that in the face of difficult decisions
22 that we will have to make in the next two
23 years this council has serious discussions
24 dissent and debate. I look forward to
25 working with the mayor and my colleagues to

1 make the right decisions for the taxpayers
2 of Scranton. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: It's odd to me to go
4 last, I used to going first, so I have to
5 get used to this new position that I have
6 here. I would like to thank my colleagues
7 for their confidence in me by selecting me
8 to be President of Scranton City Council. I
9 look forward to continuing the good work
10 that has been completed with Councilman
11 Rogan, Gaughan and Evans. I also anticipate
12 that Councilman Perry will be an excellent
13 addition to our team.

14 The next two years are going to be
15 the most important and challenging to
16 Scranton in its 150-year history. The
17 administration and city council must work
18 together to put the city in a position to
19 finally exit the distressed city designation
20 that it has been under for two years. I
21 look forward to working with the
22 administration, council, and employees and
23 citizens to use the opportunity presented
24 for the Scranton Parking Authority lease and
25 the Scranton Sewer Authority sale to start

1 to turn the finances of the city around.
2 The focus of those deals must be to use the
3 proceeds to reduce debt, satisfy the Court
4 award and stabilize the pension funds.
5 Pension reform must be accomplished before
6 any substantial amount of money is further
7 invested into the funds. All involved
8 parties must be committed to guarantee the
9 situation. It must never be allowed to
10 happen again.

11 In the next two years I would also
12 like to see city council become more
13 involved with working with the
14 administration and other community leaders
15 with economic development. While it was
16 necessary over the past two years, too much
17 time has been spent deal with taxes and
18 pensions. The investment made in the city
19 by mall owner John Basalyga shows that the
20 city has great potential. I'm committed to
21 find ways to help other entrepreneurs to
22 relocate or start their businesses in
23 Scranton. We need to assist the small
24 manufacturers that are in our town by
25 helping them search for bid opportunities

1 and establishing job boards for people who
2 are looking for work.

3 I would also like to thank the other
4 members of the council team, City Clerk Lori
5 Reed, Solicitor Amil Minora, Jamie Marciano
6 and Kathy Carrera. Their day-to-day work is
7 as important as any work done in city
8 government.

9 I want to thank my family and my
10 friends, especially my wife Cathy, and my
11 children Drew and Amy for their continued
12 support. It would be impossible to do their
13 job without their love and understanding.
14 So as we begin this new term, I'm ready to
15 meet the challenges of the future with hard
16 work and commitment to success. If we work
17 with each other and only have Scranton's
18 success as a goal we cannot fail. Thank
19 you.

20 I now ask Father Patrick Albert to
21 come forward once again to offer the
22 benediction.

23 (Benediction given by Father Patrick
24 Albert.)

25 MR. WECHSLER: If there is no

1 further business, I will entertain a motion
2 to adjourn.

3 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Our next regularly
5 scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday,
6 January 14, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. There being
7 no business at this time, this meeting is
8 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the
6 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true
7 and correct transcript of the same to the best of my
8 ability.
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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER