

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, February 4, 2016

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:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Do any council members  
4 have announcements at this time?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have one.

6 MS. REED: Roll call first.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Here.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Do any council  
18 members have any announcements?

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I have one. Pawsitive  
20 for the Animals is a new volunteer  
21 organization based in Scranton that is  
22 dedicated to pet rescue, adoption and low  
23 cost spay and neuter services and it needs  
24 your help. During the month of February,  
25 Lackawanna County libraries are collecting

1           cat litter, canned and dry cat, dog and  
2           puppy and kitten food, treats, collars and  
3           leash, bowls, litter scoops and blankets for  
4           the animals. You can drop off your  
5           contribution at any library in Lackawanna  
6           County. Thank you.

7           MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

8           MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
9           MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH  
10          AND WELFARE AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD  
11          MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 17, 2015.

12          MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
13          comments? If not, received and filed.

14          MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD  
15          OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD  
16          FEBRUARY 10, 2016.

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

19          MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
20          PARTICIPATION.

21          MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

22          MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
23          city resident and taxpayer. Over the last  
24          few days, I have been in and out of city  
25          hall stopping at the B.A.'s Office, the

1 Mayor's Office, Controller's Office, in my  
2 never ending pursuit for some kind of status  
3 on the 2014 audit. Needless to say, no one  
4 knew what was GOING on and the audit is now  
5 249 days late. This after having hired  
6 Rainey & Rainey and taken \$20,000 last year  
7 to assist in the preparation of the  
8 financial data to be given to the  
9 independent auditor, so I won't ask the  
10 question so I don't have to give it to you  
11 in writing, but I'm still very interested in  
12 when this audit is going to be completed.

13 With regard to item 7-C, Mr.  
14 Bulzoni's indefinite residency waiver, I'm  
15 still against it, I'm against it for two  
16 reasons: One, I think it sets a bad  
17 precedent for all city workers; and number  
18 two, I think it's partly a matter of  
19 integrity. We were lead to believe that  
20 after a one-year waiver Mr. Bulzoni would  
21 move into the city, we would have a new BA.  
22 Even as late as past November, he spoke of  
23 his intention to return to banking and leave  
24 the city and now we have had an indefinite  
25 waiver. But more than that, it underscores

1 the City's propensity for picking and  
2 choosing what rules and what standard to  
3 enforce and which ones we'll ignore. And I  
4 understand that the Home Rule Charter has  
5 many sections that are in dire need of being  
6 updated, but let's -- I would update them or  
7 let's abide by them. You can't pick and  
8 choose and have your way. City residents  
9 when we get our tax bills we have to pay  
10 them, we don't have a chance of saying,  
11 well, know, had a bad year last year, I  
12 really can't pay all of this money, we pay  
13 it.

14 With regard to the status of the  
15 Municipal Pension Funds, good news is that  
16 the stock market is up about 350 points  
17 since last week, the bad news is that it's  
18 down about a 1,000 points from the beginning  
19 of the year. I remind everybody, including  
20 those watching this on TV, that the next  
21 Composite Pension Board meetings will be  
22 here at 11 a.m. on February 1, and it's in  
23 everyone's interest to follow this issue  
24 because if anything pushes us into  
25 receivership it will be the pension funds.

1 I noted with some disappointment  
2 that the December Controller's report is not  
3 yet on the City's website, I don't know why  
4 that is. The last one that was posted was  
5 for the month of November. I know that you  
6 can view it in the City Clerk's office but  
7 it should be on the website.

8 I also learned this week from the  
9 Single Tax Office that they have started  
10 mailing out the property tax bills, I  
11 haven't been fortunate enough to receive  
12 mine yet, but they are quote/unquote in the  
13 mail.

14 And I noticed that we don't have  
15 many items on tonight's agenda so that  
16 prompts me to hope that in the near future  
17 we will start seeing the long promised  
18 reform legislation, particularly with regard  
19 to rental registration and the pensions  
20 themselves. That's all I have. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lee  
22 Morgan.

23 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
24 Lee Morgan. You know, I'd like people to go  
25 to my Facebook page Lee Morgan: The

1 Alliance. I think it's really important to  
2 organize and try to do something about the  
3 serious dilemma we face here not just in the  
4 city but in many other places.

5 I'd also like to refer to a Scranton  
6 Times article that talked about the  
7 privatization of the Scranton Sewer  
8 Authority and just how bad of a deal it is  
9 for the city residents so, I mean, I think  
10 it's very important for people to get a copy  
11 of that newspaper and see just what our  
12 public officials and what the long range  
13 affects that are going to be and I think  
14 it's time for the city to be honest with the  
15 residents and realize that all of the make  
16 believe things they have talked about for  
17 decades were just that and the reality of  
18 the situation is that we face a very corrupt  
19 political atmosphere in this country, not  
20 just the Democrats but the Republicans,  
21 also.

22 And tonight I wanted to talk about  
23 something. Now, I'm not sure if I'm going  
24 to run for state representative, but I went  
25 and I picked up some files and I thought



1           that they speak volumes of the kind of  
2           malfeasance we face from our elected  
3           officials and I think that there are very  
4           serious conflicts and it has to do with  
5           party politics. The Democratic party in  
6           this instance, but the Democratic and  
7           Republican parties are just different faces  
8           on a coin and when you realize where the two  
9           parties system came from you would have more  
10          of an understanding of what I'm talking  
11          about, but this isn't a civics class and you  
12          would have to educate yourself with that.

13                   I have campaign contribution lists  
14          here for Mr. Marty Flynn. These are public  
15          records, but they speak volumes of the  
16          problems of why the city can't seem to get  
17          any relief in any way whatsoever because we  
18          are faced with a situation where the  
19          Democratic party is strangling the City of  
20          Scranton, and if the Republicans were  
21          empowered they would be doing the same thing  
22          so I don't want to make it sound like I'm  
23          biased, but when you have elected officials  
24          that are making political contributions to  
25          their friends why would they want to put the

1 heat on one of their friends to look for  
2 solutions to the city's problems.

3 Now, I may be wrong, but,  
4 Mr. Wechsler, you are listed here as a  
5 donator to Mr. Flynn's campaign, would you  
6 agree with that?

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

8 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Rogan, you are also  
9 listed there, would you agree with that?

10 MR. ROGAN: I believe it was \$20.

11 MR. MORGAN: I don't know what it  
12 was.

13 MR. ROGAN: No, it's listed on  
14 there.

15 MR. MORGAN: It may be.

16 MR. ROGAN: So you do know what it  
17 is.

18 MR. MORGAN: No, I know you are  
19 here. No, it's 200, but that's neither here  
20 or there.

21 MR. ROGAN: It was not 200.

22 MR. MORGAN: You're right, it was a  
23 hundred, but you know what the problem is, I  
24 want to go further with this list. Now,  
25 Mr. Blake's a contributor, the mayor is a

1 contributor, Mr. Farina is a contributor,  
2 well, when you got your state senators and  
3 your state representatives giving each other  
4 money, and there is a lot of other political  
5 people here that are contributors, how can  
6 you ever get the reform that you need in  
7 your government when all your elected  
8 officials are friends and don't want to make  
9 any waves? You can't get any kind of change  
10 whatsoever, and it's not the old boy system,  
11 it's a very corrupt and twisted situation  
12 where even you have judges giving  
13 contributions, and it just twists and just  
14 -- I can understand why people have no faith  
15 in their government, I really can. And, you  
16 know, people come up here week after week  
17 and endure just punishing abuse by this  
18 council, unable to answer any questions. I  
19 feel sorry for the people who keep come up  
20 here year after year after year and ask  
21 about an audit it's ridiculous. Really it's  
22 beyond ridiculous, and then people come up  
23 here and talk about the Home Rule Charter or  
24 the Administrative Code. Come on, it's  
25 absolutely ludicrous because this government

1 has no respect for those documents because  
2 if it did the pension plan wouldn't look  
3 like it was because council has an  
4 oversight. It never exercises anything,  
5 it's just pass everything down to the little  
6 people and let them pay and make sure all  
7 the grants go to the non-profits and all of  
8 the people that are connected and give  
9 contributions and we'll let the governor  
10 come here and let him give the contributions  
11 to redo the downtown again and that will  
12 spread out to all of the people that are  
13 sucking the life out of us.

14 And, you know, the judicial system  
15 and the political system has come to a point  
16 that we have got people that are mentally  
17 ill, like the people in Oregon who took a  
18 bird sanctuary and then decided they were  
19 going to drive the street with their guns.  
20 What were they thinking? If there is ever  
21 going to a revolution in this country,  
22 people are going to have to stand up and  
23 hold their ground and do something because  
24 to be truthful if we follow your scenario  
25 with the corrupt way that you run our

1 government we are done.

2 And, Mr. Rogan, I was talking last  
3 week about Mr. --

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

5 Mr. Morgan. Thank you.

6 MR. MORGAN: Oh, you are welcome,  
7 sir.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Doug Miller.

9 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
10 Doug Miller, Scranton. It's been awhile  
11 since I have been here, I'm not really  
12 surprised with the lack of production out of  
13 the council, to be honest with you. It  
14 doesn't surprise me at all. That's why I  
15 haven't been around. I have been paying  
16 close attention, as I have always done and a  
17 lot of other people do, but, you know, I  
18 just us have to sit back and ask myself  
19 where are we really going here? You know,  
20 this idea of now I guess we have a Gestapo  
21 where we can't ask questions without putting  
22 them in writing, and to be quite frank with  
23 you, I mean, I don't have time for that bull  
24 crap. I'm not going to sit back and write  
25 you people love notes, you know, it's just

1 not going to happen. But I really don't  
2 care because, and I don't expect to get  
3 answers from a lot you guys, it's hard to  
4 get answers from people when they don't have  
5 any, I learned that a long time ago. But  
6 the people I really feel bad for are the  
7 people like Mrs. Schumacher, Ms. Hodowanitz,  
8 Mr. Sbaraglia, Mr. Ellman, Mr. Morgan, all  
9 of the dedicated residents who have been  
10 coming down here for the last 10 to 15 years  
11 asking the same questions week after week  
12 and they continue to fall on deaf ears.  
13 Those are the people I really feel bad for  
14 because to honest with you the real sad part  
15 is these knowledgeable, dedicated people  
16 that put their heart and soul into this  
17 community and do their research who come up  
18 here every week are people that should  
19 probably, quite frankly, should be the ones  
20 sitting in these seats because they know  
21 what's going on. They see it, they live it.

22 But the problem in this town is real  
23 simple, we have elected one political hack  
24 after another. We have, you know, people  
25 who want to smile, Mr. Rogan last week

1 smiling at Mr. Ellman like it's a big joke,  
2 and it's really sad because when you take a  
3 look at this city and you go through the  
4 neighborhoods, just this past weekend I had  
5 an opportunity to go through the  
6 neighborhoods, just happen to be going  
7 around, and it's real just sad to see the  
8 condition, the decay of the neighborhoods  
9 just within the last 10 to 12 years.  
10 Condemnations everywhere, people's homes  
11 just falling apart.

12 You know, you talk to seniors who  
13 just discuss that they're considering now  
14 reverse mortgaging their homes because they  
15 just can't take the beating anymore, and  
16 they are just tired of these councils  
17 pounding the living hell out of them because  
18 that's all you guys do. That's all you  
19 understand are raising taxes, selling off  
20 assets, and it's not all you.

21 You know, I have a lot of respect  
22 for Mr. Gaughan and the issues he has  
23 brought forward, but the problem is when you  
24 one guy battling against a lot of other  
25 people it's hard to get things done so to

1 speak, but I give him credit for speaking  
2 his mind and being productive. And, you  
3 know, the same with Mr. Evans as the Finance  
4 Chair. The only thing that I disagree with  
5 him on is when he made the comment that he  
6 had to hold his nose on voting for the  
7 budget. You know, that I just find to be  
8 inappropriate because we are not here to  
9 hold our noses, we are here to get the job  
10 done and pull that budget apart, and you  
11 have an oversight obligation to do that, but  
12 you opted to rubber stamp the  
13 administration's budget. That's not  
14 productive. That's not in the best  
15 interest of the residents of this city, but  
16 then again that's not what you are looking  
17 out for.

18 I mean, you just heard earlier  
19 tonight, I mean, that speaks for itself.  
20 Campaign finance reports, they don't lie.  
21 It doesn't matter what you gave, whether you  
22 gave a penny or you gave \$5,000. That's  
23 irrelevant. The bottom line is it's still  
24 contributed. You still contribute to  
25 somebody's campaign and it just goes to show



1           how corrupt the system is.

2                       You know, and further what really  
3           infuriates me is in regard to the Sewer  
4           Authority that a comment was made that this  
5           council wasn't aware of what was going on  
6           with the Sewer Authority deal. Are you  
7           kidding me? Are you really that  
8           incompetent? Do you know what the Home Rule  
9           Charter is, the Administrative Code, these  
10          documents that we have talked about? Maybe  
11          you should pick a copy of it up and read and  
12          take a moment to see what your duties and  
13          responsibilities actually are, that they are  
14          actually to look out for the residents of  
15          this community, not the special interest  
16          that put you in these seats, you have been  
17          doing that for a long time. Asinine. So we  
18          are selling off assets left and right. We  
19          gave everything away already so we are going  
20          to get rid of what we have left now. We are  
21          going to tax the living hell out of the  
22          residents of this community and force them  
23          out of this city because, quite frankly,  
24          there is nobody left, just go through the  
25          neighborhoods. Mr. Evans knows it, he is a

1           realtor, he sees it. Everyone is getting  
2           out of here because they have had it. They  
3           have been lied to by one political parasite  
4           after another and it's not going to change  
5           until we get ordinary, honest,  
6           knowledgeable, honest people in these seats.  
7           Will that ever happen in Scranton? Probably  
8           not and that's what's sad.

9                         But I think you are going to see  
10           some big changes coming up nationally in  
11           this election, and I think at some point it  
12           may just trickle on down to the local side  
13           of government, but we might be a long way  
14           away. But, you know, we just have to ask  
15           yourselves where are we really going here?  
16           And, you know, I have a lot of respect for  
17           the firemen and what they do, believe me I  
18           do, a lot of respect for what those men do,  
19           but now we are hiring 15 firemen that we  
20           can't pay for. I mean, where are we going  
21           here, gentlemen? It's time to take  
22           responsibility for your actions, show some  
23           leadership and start representing the  
24           residents of this city because you sure as  
25           hell haven't done it to this point. It's

1 not about you, it's about these people here  
2 and the 70,000 people at home watching you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Miller.

5 MR. MILLER: You're welcome.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

7 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.  
8 Bob Bolus, Scranton. First off, I'd like to  
9 know why if anybody has an idea why Lake  
10 Scranton is so low right now. If anybody  
11 has been up around the lake it's really down  
12 and it's something that I think that we need  
13 to look into. That's our main water supply  
14 and there's got to be a pretty good reason  
15 why it's been drawn down.

16 The other thing I need is I'm going  
17 to ask council to ask the County to reassess  
18 the mall here in Scranton. It was assessed  
19 at \$3 million with a \$20 some million dollar  
20 property and it's assessed at \$3 million.  
21 People say I have sour grapes, I do. I  
22 bought the church to save Holy Cross Church  
23 and the hall. It was being torn down by the  
24 city, they were paying a dollar for it and  
25 demolishing it. I paid \$35,000 to save some

1 of our culture and let the kids who still  
2 play free at my expense over there. We are  
3 assessed at \$500,000. There is no equality  
4 here. We were going to redevelop the church  
5 into something really nice in the area to be  
6 used, but at a \$500,000 assessment it's  
7 absurd because I wouldn't sell it to a local  
8 magistrate who had been playing the game  
9 with another deed. I'm not one who likes to  
10 be blackmailed or coerced into doing  
11 something and I didn't do it so I paid  
12 \$500,000 on an assessment.

13 I'm asking the county and the  
14 council to reevaluate what that is. I don't  
15 care who bought it, what they did or what  
16 they can do for the city, it's like anything  
17 else they bought it just like we do with  
18 anything else, they bought it to make money  
19 and profit and when they go on a vacation  
20 they don't take everybody in the city with  
21 them bought it for a reason, make all of the  
22 money in the world you want to make, but  
23 don't make it at our expense, so I'm asking  
24 council again to contact the county and ask  
25 for a reassessment.

1                   The K0Z's and nonprofits, we didn't  
2                   put a fee, they have to pay their fair  
3                   share, there are no more free rides. We  
4                   have been giving it for years and years and  
5                   years and you got to do something about it.  
6                   You can't just sit here barking at the moon  
7                   anymore with all of us and we aren't going  
8                   anywhere.

9                   We, in Scranton, pay three times  
10                  what everyone else pays. 130 million in the  
11                  city, 140 some million I guess in the school  
12                  plus the county. We get buried and we do it  
13                  one year. 365 days we got to pay how many  
14                  millions of dollars back out of our pockets.  
15                  It's an absurdity that we have let this go  
16                  on and on and on. You got to take a hard  
17                  look, it's time. You know, somebody has got  
18                  to get firm in this city, and it either  
19                  starts with the council or it's going to  
20                  start with the administration, but it's got  
21                  to start somewhere and it's gotta start now  
22                  or there will be no more Scranton.

23                  You are selling the Sewer Authority,  
24                  which is the most ridiculous, asinine thing  
25                  I have seen. This is something that makes

1 money. It's something we all -- sure, there  
2 are other things that we are going to need,  
3 but there is grants and other things that are  
4 go along just like every other community,  
5 but we as a city can't manage our assets  
6 because we let squandering go down the  
7 toilet. We just let it go and go and go.  
8 You think these people are stupid that are  
9 going to come here and take over the Sewer  
10 Authority and do it for free?

11 We are going to get screwed.  
12 Everybody in this city is going to pay  
13 through the nose because they are here to  
14 make money. That's why they are where they  
15 are today. That's why they are a profitable  
16 business. Are we that dumb we can't make  
17 money with our own asset that's paid for  
18 because we can't manage, because we are  
19 politically controlled? We allow this to go  
20 on and on and on and what happens? The  
21 people in this city pay and pay while the  
22 chosen few get away? The KOZ's, the  
23 University, whatever. It's time to pay to  
24 the piper, but it's got to be an equality  
25 and nobody in this city -- there is no

1 leadership here, there is nothing here that  
2 benefits the people in this city.

3 And it would be a refreshing thing  
4 to see, I have traveled all over the world  
5 and I see progress, I see things happen, but  
6 I see equality. This is the only city I see  
7 politically, I don't want to say corrupt in  
8 a sense, but I see politically motivated in  
9 destroying the tax base in this city. We  
10 are good at it. If you don't increase the  
11 tax base, you will never increase the tax  
12 rate and that's our problem here because,  
13 remember, council represents all of the  
14 people in here, not the chosen few.

15 And one of last things I really  
16 think we should do, and I have looked around  
17 the city and I have seen it, realtors put  
18 signs up all over the city, this is for  
19 sale, that's for sale, they put them on  
20 businesses and houses, well, they put ads in  
21 newspapers they pay, they put it on the  
22 internet they pay, well, I think we need to  
23 put a fee, a permit fee which we do you put  
24 on political signs, they only last so long,  
25 you tear them the heck down when you're

1 done. I think there should be a \$25 fee for  
2 every sign, every realtor puts up in a yard  
3 or on a business in this city that goes  
4 towards our public service fee, and the  
5 money is put in there to support our public  
6 service, but I think they have had a free  
7 ride long enough, they make their  
8 commissions, they make money, it's all about  
9 making money, but think, they have no  
10 investment in that house. They don't have a  
11 dime invested, and they make 100 percent  
12 profit they should pay to put signs up at  
13 everyone else should.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

15 MR. BOLUS: You are putting a sign  
16 up for business, it should be put up and I  
17 think they should pay, but I think council  
18 needs to start taking the bull --

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

20 MR. BOLUS: I heard you -- I think  
21 the bull by the horns should be done by this  
22 counsel. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else  
24 who would like to address council?

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.



1 Dave Dobrzyn, resident. I'd like to point  
2 out that it's not our local representatives  
3 in Harrisburg that have caused all of the  
4 commotion down there, a lot of people that  
5 can't be gotten along with, it always  
6 surprises me you have a local official in  
7 the county was just elected and they were in  
8 medical services business, well, 60 percent  
9 of the medical services are paid for Uncle  
10 Sam so how in the heck can you be a tea  
11 partier at that rate, you know? Please,  
12 give me a break.

13 Now, last week I just watched you  
14 guys, I was playing hookey, trash. I keep  
15 hearing bag and I don't want to be nasty  
16 about it, but I think it's time for barrels  
17 only because we have an awful dirty town and  
18 it's a rotten shame with the amount of money  
19 we do pay for trash, but these people aren't  
20 hired and able to run around and pick up  
21 individual pieces of the garbage that get  
22 drug all around the place.

23 And, once again, I'd like to remind  
24 people on the pension the reason you are  
25 paying a higher taxes is because of Wall

1 Street losses at least in part \$26 million  
2 missing from the police and firemen pension  
3 fund. Nobody went to jail over it. It's  
4 and a little food for thought, we keep  
5 hearing about the Sewer Authority being  
6 sold, well, I'd just as soon see that money  
7 go to paying back wages if it gets sold,  
8 which I think it will be irregardless of  
9 what anybody's opinion is, instead of  
10 handing it to Wall Street because the paid  
11 bills is as big of an asset is a way bigger  
12 than lost money. I suspect with our  
13 business bubble, construction bubble that we  
14 are going to have another crash and it's  
15 coming. It's already -- are seeing it  
16 teeter, it's up a couple hundred one day and  
17 down a couple of hundred the next and the  
18 next thing you know you pick up a paper and  
19 find out it's down \$1,000 and it keep going  
20 from there.

21 And on our county, we keep hearing  
22 about the Globe Store being sold to the  
23 county. That's taking 250 grand out of our  
24 pocket and it will turn it into a tax  
25 exempt. 250 grand a year and people that

1           emptied it out in the first place, the  
2           Chamber of Commerce by running another  
3           business out of town and giving them offers  
4           of the tax exempt are the ones that are  
5           holding it, so why don't they just default  
6           on it and it can come back to us and we can  
7           sell it ourselves so we don't have to like  
8           it gets done with houses.

9                         Also, last week I heard about the  
10           Hill, and that's basically what you call a  
11           gentrification program, and I just like to  
12           point out that a lot of times when sections  
13           of the city get gentrified the current  
14           residents in many instances get displaced,  
15           their rents go up or they just get moved out  
16           and it gets gentrified and it's prettier and  
17           so forth, but it also contributes to a lot  
18           of homeless situations or people having no  
19           where else to go.

20                        And on fair housing, I don't know  
21           what you thought about it, Wayne, but some  
22           of those regulations are just crazy.

23                        MR. EVANS: They are.

24                        MR. DOBRZYN: You know, a thought  
25           occurred to me that a lot of young people

1 don't have money and they don't have the job  
2 offers that people used to have and that's  
3 why the real estate business is in such a  
4 problem with all of the outsourcing and then  
5 we are going to stack a bunch of impractical  
6 demands on it that a house has to be  
7 entirely renovated and all kinds of updates  
8 that were never there to begin with so, all  
9 right. Well, I'll let you off the hook.  
10 Thank you and have a good night.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Dobrzyn. Anyone else?

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
14 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I  
15 agree with Mr. Bulzoni. He is the only one  
16 that shows sense. Stay the heck out of this  
17 city. Why would anybody with common sense  
18 want to live in this city? If you are like  
19 me in age and you are going to go up to the  
20 Cathedral I understand, but if you got young  
21 children you got to be crazy. Mr. Bulzoni  
22 is right. He doesn't have to pay the school  
23 tax, he doesn't have to pay the 1 percent  
24 added onto the wage tax, so you are giving  
25 him thousands of dollars more by not living

1 in the city, so I don't blame him. Common  
2 sense. Not that we don't have people that  
3 could do that job. Scranton has a lot of  
4 smart people, it's just too bad they are not  
5 politically connected.

6 Okay, let's go, you talked about the  
7 mercantile tax and the business privilege  
8 tax that the people in business don't like  
9 it. Well, you are right, they don't like  
10 it, but we don't like it either, our tax.  
11 Do you understand that a job, just a couple  
12 of facts, if a company makes \$100,000 in  
13 business privilege tax you pay \$100. And  
14 the other end of it, the mercantile tax  
15 \$50,000, I mean, yeah, \$50,000 will give you  
16 another \$100, okay, but if you or I was to  
17 make that money -- actually it's 100,000.  
18 If we should make 100,000 our contribution  
19 to the city would be 240 -- \$2,400 would pay  
20 on \$100,000. They would pay for both \$100.  
21 Now, how do you think that's fair? Why  
22 should they have to pay only \$200 on  
23 \$100,000 while the poor Joe Blow has to pay  
24 \$2,400 on the same 100,000? But this is the  
25 way the system is. Joe Blow ain't giving

1 contributions to the party or to the  
2 candidates that's why the system is like it  
3 is. That's the reason why you are not even  
4 going into it.

5 There was all kinds of the deals  
6 that we were going to hire somebody out to  
7 go check all the businesses to see if they  
8 are paying their tax, which they should be  
9 paying their tax, but you claim they're not  
10 paying their tax and they probably ain't  
11 much well. It's an awful thing. If I give  
12 \$1,000 to a candidate I'm sure he will make  
13 sure that they overlook my taxes. That's  
14 the trouble with this city. Too much is  
15 being overlooked. The people can't afford  
16 to pay what they are paying, but you are  
17 letting other people skid away with  
18 thousands and thousands of dollars. That's  
19 not democracy. You are setting up a system  
20 where it's back to the old days, you're back  
21 in the old system where the landlords and  
22 the surfs were there, we are becoming surfs  
23 and the politically connected are becoming  
24 landlords. Is this America? Is this what  
25 we wanted? We have the right to overthrow

1 the government, just not by force because  
2 somewhere along the line the cities got  
3 together and the states got together and  
4 said you can't use force, but you have the  
5 right to overthrow the government. Scranton  
6 can be overthrown. Different ways as long  
7 as they are not violating, holding back tax  
8 revenue. Say all of the tax revenue be put  
9 into an escrow account, the city would  
10 collapse in three months. Maybe that's the  
11 solution, maybe that's the only solution.  
12 We can't be held for services. You can't  
13 put everybody in debt or worried because of  
14 services. Maybe it's time to change some of  
15 the services. The mayor had the right thing  
16 when he said you can only afford the  
17 services you can pay for. That made the  
18 most sense that he ever did and I fought  
19 with him many, many times, but that made  
20 sense. We just can't afford the services at  
21 the cost.

22 I mean, people are selling their  
23 homes everywhere. Every time I go up Main  
24 Avenue I see more and more signs out. Is  
25 this what we are going to have? I mean, I

1 don't know if we even got the 72,000  
2 residents anymore. I just hope we do.  
3 Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Sbaraglia.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
7 Council. Marie Schumacher. Last week I  
8 said I would read what you said the first  
9 time around on Mr. Bulzoni, but I have other  
10 things so I'm going to shorten it up, but I  
11 do agree with what Mr. Evans said. "I'm not  
12 a fan of waiver requests mostly because I  
13 have always felt that we have and should  
14 have a rich enough talent pool of the  
15 candidates for any position within our city  
16 boundaries and that any employee that comes  
17 from the outside of the city should want to  
18 live in the city they are wishing to serve."

19 But now the same excuses or reasons  
20 substantiation that was given almost a year  
21 ago, a full year, are being used again.  
22 Critical things, we got things, but I  
23 wondered about over this past weekend most  
24 of all is that the Times-Tribune announced  
25 that on the 11th of November that



1 Mr. Bulzoni was going to leave and go back  
2 to his banking career. Where was the  
3 concern then? You were in session, did you  
4 know there was no replacement? I'm sure you  
5 did. I'm sure that would have been  
6 announced. Where were you?

7 MR. WECHSLER: We regularly asked  
8 the mayor what his plans were for the  
9 business administrator.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: But you weren't  
11 enforcing it. Last year, Mr. Wechsler, you  
12 said that you would -- where was it? Here.  
13 "If Mr. Bulzoni -- the way I look at this is  
14 the end date is the end date and it's the  
15 same result as if we took action on it  
16 today. If Mr. Bulzoni does not move into  
17 the city he will not be the business  
18 administrator anymore, but the benefit to us  
19 is the work that he is doing right now and  
20 the effort that he is put into it should not  
21 be wasted. We should take advantage of his  
22 knowledge until the end of the year. As we  
23 approach the end of the year, it will become  
24 obvious if Mr. Bulzoni is going to remain as  
25 the business administrator or not. In that

1 case, as we approach into the fall and into  
2 the budget process whoever the new business  
3 administrator may be or Mr. Bulzoni may move  
4 into the city, but whoever that  
5 administrator would be we need to have an  
6 into the city or if he will not you have to  
7 properly transition a new position with a  
8 new business administrator."

9 You know, you knew there was none,  
10 this legislation on the waiver didn't even  
11 come until your second meeting of the year.  
12 Where was this? I mean, if there was real  
13 concern, and it really makes me wonder is  
14 there something special, does Mr. Bulzoni  
15 need to grease the skids for something like  
16 another Landmark loan before we pay the  
17 court award.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Schumacher, I  
19 don't think you should say that.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: I already said it.

21 MR. WECHSLER: It's an accusation  
22 that you can't prove. You can't prove it.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it's too late.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Well, it's an  
25 accusation.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I said in my -- it  
2 makes me wonder.

3 MR. WECHSLER: It's still an  
4 accusation.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I can wonder on  
6 anything, thank you. But the thing that's  
7 really most disturbing is all of the issues  
8 that have been brought up over the past two  
9 years that we were going to do something  
10 about, and it seems to me nothing has been  
11 done. The audit, I would like to know if  
12 the current contract that we have for the  
13 audit has an escape clause. If we can get  
14 rid of this company that we just hired  
15 because the county has been using Baker  
16 Tilly and they have the same standards that  
17 we have to comply with, but yet they have  
18 managed to achieve an early or on-time  
19 availability of the audit for the four  
20 consecutive years. If they can do it, why  
21 can't we?

22 Condemnation policy. It was stated  
23 we really need a new condemnation policy,  
24 where is it? Missing in action.

25 A firm policy on snow removal for

1 the downtown, where is it?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: It's there, it has to  
3 be enforced.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: I understand that,  
5 but, you know, people need to know. People  
6 park downtown.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: I have said that, but  
8 that's the administration. I can't go out--  
9 I don't the power to go out and make, you  
10 know, people do something. That's the mayor  
11 and the administration.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, maybe you  
13 need to knock on some doors to get it done  
14 and I think you could demand that that be  
15 done.

16 The current court award pay down pay  
17 off, haven't heard about for a long time.

18 Rental registration, again, long  
19 time.

20 Trash fee collection, does anybody  
21 know what percent we collected last year?  
22 Okay.

23 Validation of the property tax  
24 exemption for nonprofits. A lot of chatter,  
25 but no action.

1                   If I may finish this list? The  
2 taxing on the total assessments as does the  
3 rest of the county instead of separate  
4 millage for land and improvements?

5                   We need a confidence that there is,  
6 in fact, a way forward. We need a  
7 multi-year budget that is supportable, three  
8 years at a minimum. You probably saw  
9 Mr. Cross' article saying house prices are  
10 all down, only two cities have increased  
11 property values, ours have gone down  
12 significantly and our low to moderate income  
13 population is growing. The demographics are  
14 against us, we need something hard to see to  
15 give us faith. Thank you.

16                  MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Just as a  
17 comment, there is many things on the list  
18 that Ms. Schumacher has brought up that we  
19 work on every week. There is more to being  
20 on council than showing up here at 6 p.m.  
21 We go to many different meetings and discuss  
22 many different topics, most of them are some  
23 of the things that Ms. Schumacher brought up  
24 on her list. A lot of these things aren't  
25 ready, to my standpoint they are not ready

1 to be protective of the community to be  
2 brought up to council.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie  
4 Ellman. This February 6 last year you know  
5 what it states? The second time Bulzoni  
6 promised to move here, sell his property.  
7 That just shows how much credibility that  
8 man has that you guys are supporting. His  
9 credibility is in the basement. It's in the  
10 toilet.

11 These people, all we read about now  
12 you've just forgotten about our  
13 neighborhoods, now it's all about shoring up  
14 downtown again. Mr. Durkin's jumped in,  
15 shore up downtown. I guess they want to  
16 make sure that that millionaire bragger  
17 doesn't lose his shirt on the white elephant  
18 he bought, and I'm not against that place, I  
19 was there the other day. It just doesn't  
20 look like it's going to catch on. It's all  
21 nice and clean and lights, but there wasn't  
22 any people.

23 I just want to talk to me friends  
24 out there, not you people. April 1, I want  
25 you people out there to remember April 1

1           you're allowed to go down to the Tax  
2           Assessor's Office and ask for tax reduction  
3           if you have just cause. That means if you  
4           have some lowlife in your neighborhood  
5           bringing down your house values or some good  
6           reason you can ask for a tax reduction you  
7           still have to pay your taxes. I went  
8           through this last year and I didn't follow  
9           through. This year I will, but as long as  
10          your case is pending the city doesn't get a  
11          dime of your money. It might be a year or  
12          two or three maybe that would break the bank  
13          on some of what's going on against the  
14          taxpayers of this city. I just want you all  
15          to remember anybody can go down there and  
16          show just cause and have your taxes paid up  
17          to present time they will consider.

18                        I had a young man Sunday night, I  
19                        was at Aldi's, he brought something to my  
20                        attention with the thousands of houses for  
21                        sale in this city there is a little law on  
22                        our 50-year-old city code that charges for  
23                        signs, like, "No Parking" signs on buildings  
24                        and so forth, he told me it's ashame that  
25                        banks and the real estate companies don't

1           have to pay ten or 15 dollars a months or  
2           all of the "For Sale" signs in this city  
3           because just think of the thousands of  
4           dollars that would be brought in because  
5           there is thousands of houses for sale and  
6           rent. You know, like, last week you people  
7           can tell me to shut up and sit down all you  
8           want, but I'm not the problem. I'm nowhere  
9           near the problem this city has got. You are  
10          the problem. Two weeks Mr. Perry turned his  
11          back on the city, I heard that from six or  
12          eight people. That's all took.

13                        The support Mr. Bulzoni one more  
14          time he has beat the city, he is beating you  
15          people, he has beaten me, he beat these  
16          people out of thousands of dollars of taxes  
17          for the school system and the property  
18          taxes, then you want more of him. Shame on  
19          you. That's a disgust. Just shame on you  
20          for thinking that.

21                        MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else  
22          who would like to address council?

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

24                        MOTIONS.

25                        MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?



1 MR. PERRY: Yeah, just a couple of  
2 things. You know, we have some speakers,  
3 and I don't if it's common thought out there  
4 of what we are working on, but I know since  
5 I have been here there are two things that I  
6 think are really important that we have been  
7 working on, and one of the things is to make  
8 the city more business friendly. If we can  
9 make the city more business friendly, that's  
10 going to draw more businesses in which  
11 create more jobs which creates a bigger  
12 income tax and which is going to create more  
13 potential vacant homes to be filled up with  
14 home ownership, and I believe it starts with  
15 making the city business friendly.

16 And the second thing that we are  
17 working on right now is our tax abatement  
18 legislation for new construction in the  
19 city. Both of these things we have taken  
20 our time on. We haven't rushed any step of  
21 this. We want to make sure that both of  
22 these come out as not only crystal clear as  
23 possible, but we get more bodies on board  
24 and we make it beneficial. So these are  
25 things that are going to make an impact on

1           our city which is going to make an impact on  
2           our neighborhoods. I don't think there is  
3           anyone in here that doesn't live in a  
4           neighborhood. I know I do and I value my  
5           neighborhood. It's near and dear to my  
6           heart, it's right next to my family.

7                     And the second thing is the ongoing  
8           audit saga. From the information that I  
9           got, we should expect to have our 2014 audit  
10          and the end of the month, which is  
11          absolutely 100 percent unacceptable. We  
12          can't continue as a city expecting our audit  
13          to come this late. Something that I would  
14          like to do is to arrange meeting with  
15          myself, Mr. Bulzoni and the company that's  
16          holding the audit because I do not want to  
17          see this going on in 2015. If we are  
18          sitting here next year still looking for the  
19          2015 audit we have a serious, serious issue.  
20          That's all I have.

21                    MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

22                    MR. ROGAN: Yes, just two very brief  
23          items. First, we had a caucus prior to the  
24          meeting with Pat Hinton from Licensing and  
25          Inspections, and the main item we talked

1 about was licensing and regulation of the  
2 contractors within the City of Scranton, and  
3 there is not a lot of people out there that  
4 may think it doesn't effect them, but it  
5 does. We have gotten a lot of complaints  
6 over the years from contractors that want to  
7 do business in the city but can't because of  
8 either the high cost of getting a permit in  
9 the City of Scranton to do this work or they  
10 couldn't take the test that needs to be  
11 passed in order to do construction work  
12 within the City of Scranton.

13 I know many residents have reported  
14 to me that when they needed repairs done on  
15 their home they would go in the phonebook or  
16 go on the internet an call a contractor and  
17 they would say, "I'm sorry, we don't do work  
18 in the City of Scranton."

19 And the effect of that, there is two  
20 negative effects, one is that we have  
21 contractors that are looking for work within  
22 the city that feel that it's not worthwhile  
23 and we definitely want to have more people  
24 working in the city, and the other part that  
25 effects every single homeowner in the City

1 of Scranton is when you have a smaller pool  
2 of contractors that are willing to do work  
3 in the city the costs are going to be much  
4 higher. So the legislation that is being  
5 proposed, at least how it was explained,  
6 there is quite a bit to look through here,  
7 it will make the process of becoming a  
8 licensed contractor in the City of Scranton  
9 much more streamlined. It will be an easier  
10 process. My hope is that once this  
11 legislation becomes law it will encourage  
12 contractors who are currently not working in  
13 the city to do business in Scranton, and the  
14 big benefit of that will be to the residents  
15 that when they want to have improvements  
16 done on their home that, one, they have more  
17 options to chose from; and two, they should  
18 be able to get a lower price because there  
19 will be more competition, and that is likely  
20 how the free market works so hopefully that  
21 will make the city much more business  
22 friendly.

23 A number of items were brought up  
24 that council has been working on for quite a  
25 long time, just one that I want to speak to

1 is the rental registration. I know myself  
2 and Councilmen Evans have been mentioning  
3 this for quite a long time, too long to be  
4 honest. We feel that we are very close to  
5 what we want to see. Obviously, that's  
6 going to have to be reconciled with the  
7 administration and they are looking forward  
8 as well, but we feel that we are very, very  
9 close to having a firm, concrete rental  
10 registration that will work. Just last week  
11 we met with Attorney Minora to go over some  
12 of the points and some exemptions and  
13 changes that we want to put in additionally,  
14 and although it is taking a long time, it  
15 needs to be done right. The rental  
16 registration ordinance has been I'd say an  
17 every three or four years cycle has been  
18 revised and each time it hasn't worked, so  
19 this time it has to be done right.  
20 Obviously, there is a lawsuit, money is  
21 being placed into escrow, that can't go on  
22 any longer and there are many people that  
23 won't buy investment properties in the City  
24 of Scranton because of the rental  
25 registration and of what it entails.

1                    Obviously, we need good landlords in  
2                    the City of Scranton not people from New  
3                    York and New Jersey that are just going to  
4                    come in and try to manage the properties  
5                    from 100 miles away. So a rental  
6                    registration ordinance is needed, but it  
7                    needs to be a balance between protecting the  
8                    property rights of property owners, and most  
9                    importantly, protecting the neighborhoods,  
10                   and I think what we are very close to  
11                   finishing will do that, and also provide  
12                   some good exemptions for family-to-family  
13                   rentals and a few other items, so that's  
14                   something that we are hoping to have on the  
15                   agenda very shortly. Thank you.

16                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
17                   Mr. Evans?

18                   MR. EVANS: Thank you. To touch on  
19                   the rental registration ordinance while we  
20                   are talking about it, I come from the  
21                   premise of we don't have an inspection  
22                   problem we have a registration problem so  
23                   that was the premise that we started when we  
24                   tried to revise the ordinance and that's  
25                   where we are headed. So we are in a draft

1 form right now. As Councilman Rogan said,  
2 we are very, very close to getting this  
3 ready for prime time and hopefully within  
4 the next two or three weeks we will have it  
5 on the agenda for us to vote on.

6 And after that, our feelings always  
7 were to tackle the condemnation policy after  
8 the rental registration policy was taken  
9 care of so that will be next on the agenda  
10 as far as we are concerned.

11 I'd like to touch on one of the  
12 speakers mentioned that they would like the  
13 city to get involved with the reassessment  
14 of the mall. Well, I'm not looking at  
15 picking winners or losers in this, I want to  
16 reassess everybody and I've gone on record  
17 to say that. The county has to step up to  
18 the plate and do a countywide reassessment  
19 and if they did not do it soon then the city  
20 has to step up to the plate take the county  
21 to court and force the reassessment once and  
22 for all. It's the right thing to do for all  
23 of our taxpayers and we finally have to get  
24 that done.

25 Councilmen Wechsler and myself had

1 the opportunity this weekend to have a  
2 conversation with the Auditor General about  
3 pension reform of all things, and the  
4 Auditor General confirmed much of what we  
5 have already known and we have been saying  
6 for quite some time that we need pension  
7 reform if we ever expect to become  
8 financially solvent for the long term, and  
9 we must have pension reform both on a local  
10 and state level.

11 Additionally, he had echoed my  
12 comments as well as comments made by Council  
13 President Wechsler that we cannot put one  
14 dime into our severely distressed pensions  
15 without real pension reform and he could not  
16 have been made it any clearer on the  
17 subject, and I hope I have been, too, so any  
18 thoughts of using the proceeds from the  
19 proposed Sewer Authority sale, if that  
20 actually happens, to super fund the pensions  
21 cannot happen, I repeat cannot happen, until  
22 substantial pension reform takes place  
23 first.

24 I'd also like to reinforce some of  
25 the positions I have taken on the issue and



1           some expectations that I have for the mayor  
2           and the administration. On the Court  
3           settlement, I agree that we have to finally  
4           pay this and remove this albatross from the  
5           back of the city taxpayers. Those effected  
6           deserve to get their award, however, I have  
7           said repeatedly that the interest payments  
8           that have accrued should not be part of the  
9           award and should instead be directed into  
10          their underfunded pensions. Currently, this  
11          is estimate somewhere in the vicinity of \$3  
12          million plus.

13                        Additionally, there should be some  
14          concessions on pension reform as an  
15          additional good faith effort by all of those  
16          involved as part of the final settlement and  
17          disbursement of the award. Also, I have  
18          asked the mayor on several occasions to show  
19          his commitment to pension reform and give a  
20          transition to a new way of doing business by  
21          requiring cabinet members and all new hires  
22          that are non-union personnel on a going  
23          forward basis to switch to a 403-B or a  
24          401-K style defined contribution plan. It  
25          will be a positive message to send to the

1 financial community as well as to the  
2 taxpaying public as we continue to sort  
3 through the larger issues related to real  
4 long-term pension reform. That's all I have  
5 tonight. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.  
9 First, a prebid meeting will be held  
10 February 10th for the 2016 city paving  
11 program and bids will be opened on February  
12 19. The street list has stayed the same  
13 from last summer when the project was  
14 delayed. There will be roughly 40 streets  
15 that will be paved in eight sections of the  
16 city, and I will continue to update everyone  
17 as this 2016 paving program moves along.

18 I would like, with the support of my  
19 colleagues, for council to send a letter to  
20 the mayor and the administration to find out  
21 what the delay is in implementing the  
22 foreclosure registration program. The  
23 company, Community Champion, was awarded the  
24 contract back in November of last year.  
25 There was an e-mail from representatives of

1 the company who stated that they still need  
2 legislation from the administration  
3 authorizing the program. From what I could  
4 glean from the e-mail, there has been a  
5 total lack of communication between the  
6 administration and this company, and I'm not  
7 exactly sure why, so I would like to find  
8 that out this week.

9 We received a facilities assessment  
10 from Highland Associates this week for the  
11 Serenity building on 1801 Pine Street, the  
12 former Army Reserve Center that the mayor  
13 and the administration would like to  
14 acquire. After reviewing the assessment,  
15 it's clear that this building needs major  
16 work and major repairs. One of the major  
17 issues is that it needs to be brought up  
18 fully to ADA accessible standards.

19 I would just continue to caution the  
20 mayor and the administration on acquiring  
21 this property. I think it is a mistake if  
22 they go through with it and it's going to  
23 end up being a money pit. And that is all I  
24 have this week. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Gaughan. Just a few things, I did  
2 contact Chief Graziano concerning some  
3 speeding issues in Oakmont. Oakmont  
4 neighborhood. Chief Graziano is going to  
5 send a traffic control officer up to see if  
6 more signage can be put up.

7 I also received a call a little late  
8 after the horse was out of the barn about  
9 bus service on East Mountain. We had  
10 brought this up earlier towards the end of  
11 last year when service was being cancelled  
12 on the opposite side of the mountain.

13 And, finally, someone called me that  
14 is being effected by that so right now if  
15 there is anyone else that has that problem  
16 please contact me or Lori Reed if you are  
17 having a problem with the bus service.  
18 Right now for one person I don't see Colt's  
19 making any changes from that.

20 Tonight Pat Hinton came to our  
21 caucus to talk about the new contractor  
22 registration. This contract registration is  
23 one of the items that council decided not to  
24 introduce last year. What we wanted to do  
25 is make sure that we all had input on it so

1 a few weeks ago I met with Mr. Hinton, Mr.  
2 Hinton provided me a copy of both the new  
3 registration and the old, we went over both  
4 comparing each to each. We also sent copies  
5 to all of the council members and we also  
6 sent it out to various contractors in and  
7 developers in the area. What we want to do  
8 is we want to be very proactive in these new  
9 ordinance that were passed. We want to make  
10 the city business friendly as Pat had  
11 mentioned and this is another reason how we  
12 can start to make Scranton more business  
13 friendly. And that's all I have this  
14 evening.

15 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF GENE P.  
17 TESEROVITCH, 1541 THACKERY STREET, SCRANTON,  
18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD  
19 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
20 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 26, 2016. MR. TESEROVITCH  
21 WILL BE REPLACING TIMOTHY PERRY WHO RESIGNED  
22 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 18, 2015. MR.  
23 TESEROVITCH WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF  
24 MR. PERRY WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE  
25 ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
14 ayes have it and so moved.

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

17 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
18 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY  
19 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE  
20 COUNCIL NO. 8, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
21 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY  
22 OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO  
23 SUBMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
24 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) THE  
25 2015-2019 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR

1 HOUSING CHOICE FOR SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

2 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
4 Committee on Community Development?

5 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
6 Committee on Community Development, I  
7 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
21 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully  
22 adopted.

23 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -  
25 RESOLUTION NO. 6, 2016 - APPOINTMENT OF

1 KEVIN WHELAN, 1111 DELAWARE STREET,  
2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF  
3 THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY  
4 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 20, 2016. MR. WHELAN WILL  
5 BE REPLACING THOMAS J. STONE WHO RESIGNED  
6 JANUARY 15, 2016. MR. WHELAN WILL FILL THE  
7 UNEXPIRED TERM OF THOMAS J. STONE, WHOSE  
8 TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31,  
9 2016.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby



1 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully  
2 adopted.

3 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
4 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -  
5 RESOLUTION NO. 7, 2016 - AMENDING RESOLUTION  
6 NO. 122, 2015 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED  
7 "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
8 CITY OFFICIALS TO WAIVE THE RESIDENCY  
9 REQUIREMENTS FOR DAVID BULZONI, CITY OF  
10 SCRANTON BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR" BY  
11 EXTENDING THE RESIDENCY WAIVER OF CITY OF  
12 SCRANTON BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, DAVID  
13 BULZONI, INDEFINITELY.

14 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
15 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
16 Committee on Finance?

17 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
18 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
19 passage of Item 7-C.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

24 MR. PERRY: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
8 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully  
9 adopted.  
10 yes.

11 Before I adjourn I just have one  
12 announcement, next Thursday's council  
13 meeting will be held at 5 p.m instead of  
14 6:30, so next Thursday the regularly  
15 scheduled meeting of council will take place  
16 at 5 p.m. instead of 6:30.

17 MR. UNGVARSKY: Why?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Motion to adjourn.

19 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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