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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, May 19, 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 MR. WECHSLER: I'd like to thank the  
2 members of the VFW for honoring us with  
3 their presence here this evening and leading  
4 us in th Pledge of Allegiance. We thank all  
5 members of the military for their services  
6 to our country.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and  
8 moment of reflection observed.)

9 MR. WECHSLER: While members of the  
10 VFW are here, I'd like to encourage everyone  
11 to please attend the Armed Forces Day parade  
12 on Saturday.

13 VFW MEMBER: Please, we'd like to  
14 see you all at the parade for Armed Forces  
15 Day. Thank you for everything.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Dispense with the  
17 reading of the minutes, please.

18 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
19 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD  
20 MEETING HELD APRIL 13, 2016.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
22 comments? If not, received and filed.

23 MS. REED: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
24 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETINGS  
25 HELD FEBRUARY 17, MARCH 16 AND APRIL 13,

1 2016.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
3 comments? If not, received and filed.

4 MS. REED: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
5 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
6 HELD APRIL 13, 2016.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
8 comments? If not, received and filed.

9 MS. REED: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE  
10 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING  
11 HELD MAY 11, 2016.

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

14 MS. REED: 3-E. LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
15 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND  
16 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION REPORTS REVIEWED  
17 APRIL 26 AND MAY 6, 2016.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-F. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
21 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD JUNE 8,  
22 2016.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-G. CONTROLLER'S REPORT

1 FOR MONTH ENDING APRIL 30, 2016.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
3 comments? If not, received and filed. Do  
4 any council members have an announcements at  
5 this time?

6 MR. EVANS: I have one. Friends of  
7 Connors Park at 515 Orchard Street will hold  
8 their first annual chicken barbecue Sunday,  
9 June 5, between noon and 4 p.m. All  
10 proceeds will go to the installation of a  
11 handicap accessible play equipment. For  
12 tickets you can call 570-561-7584. The  
13 donation is \$10. Tickets must be purchased  
14 in advance. That's all for right now.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? The  
16 Council would like to recognize and  
17 congratulate Mrs. Sally Locker, confidential  
18 secretary to the city solicitor who is the  
19 2016 recipient of the Harold Miller award  
20 for her dedication and support to the legal  
21 profession. Sally began her career in the  
22 city in 1998 and has served under three  
23 mayor and eight city solicitors. Council's  
24 office and the city law department work very  
25 closely together and we can't thank her

1           enough for all she does on a daily basis.  
2           Congratulations and best wishes to Sally and  
3           her family and I know Sally is --or maybe  
4           she is watching so I'd like to give her a  
5           big round of applause, and this is a very  
6           prestigious award and I have been informed  
7           that Sally is the first municipal employee  
8           to ever win this award so it is a great  
9           honor to her and the work that she has done  
10          for the city so congratulations.

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

13                   MR. WECHSLER:   Joan Hodowanitz.

14                   MS. HODOWANITZ:   Joan Hodowanitz,  
15                   city resident and taxpayer.   With regard to  
16                   Item 5-D, the nomination of Steven  
17                   Prendergast to Midas, was that put on the  
18                   agenda in error?

19                   MR. WECHSLER:   Not that I'm aware  
20                   of.

21                   MS. HODOWANITZ:   All right.   Well, a  
22                   quick check of the Treasurer's database  
23                   shows that Steven J. Prendergast, 122 South  
24                   Hyde Park Avenue, let's see, he has a  
25                   delinquent tax bill or tax bill of \$964.23

1 for 122 South Hyde Park Avenue, and the  
2 delinquent real estate taxes of \$476 for 124  
3 south Hyde Park Avenue, and delinquent  
4 refuse bill for \$124 South Hyde Park Avenue  
5 of \$406.32. Now, either these are an error  
6 on the city's database, in which case they  
7 need to be cleaned up before his name comes  
8 forward or he owes the money, he should pay  
9 it like the rest of us taxpayers. So I hope  
10 that you table that item and send it back to  
11 the mayor for appropriate action.

12 With regard to Item 5-H, the  
13 extended loan for United Neighborhood  
14 Centers, I looked at the background on that  
15 and it appears that the loan is going to be  
16 extended for 69 months, it was a \$300,000  
17 loan and instead of getting 4 percent  
18 interest we are going to allow it to go  
19 interest free. I would like to know during  
20 motions exactly how much interest money we  
21 are going to loss if that passes.

22 I saw a very interesting article in  
23 the newspaper on the 18th, "Senate Takes Up  
24 Municipal Pensions Again," and according to  
25 Robert Swift Senator Blake is against a Bill

1 that's just making it's way through the  
2 Senate, he voted "no" because he does not  
3 want to see the damaging effects on  
4 Scranton's finances. He says that  
5 transferring the pensions to the  
6 Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System  
7 would result in the lower assumed rate of  
8 investment return for the fund. Well, that  
9 means that we no longer will see an 8  
10 percent interest rate, which is ridiculous,  
11 and that the City's unfunded pension debt  
12 will go from \$194 million to \$251 million  
13 dollars. It's a quarter of a billion  
14 dollars. He says it's all unfair to the  
15 police and firefighters because they don't  
16 collect social security when they retire.  
17 Well, had they paid FICA tax like the rest  
18 of us did they would be able to collect  
19 social security so that was an error on  
20 their part.

21 2014 audit has not been posted to  
22 the City's website, it's been over two  
23 months, that's a disgrace. Are we ever  
24 going to see any status on the 2015 audit  
25 from SB & Company or is it going to be nil



1 heard until it surfaces next year?

2 MR. EVANS: I'm working on that.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: I went to the  
4 mayor's office and asked the secretary when  
5 we will get the 2016 state of the city  
6 address from the mayor she said, "What  
7 address? I don't know nothing about no  
8 address."

9 Tomorrow, May 20, is when they will  
10 open the bids or the RFP for the pension  
11 trustee and fund manager. The city of  
12 Mellon is the winner again and see if there  
13 is any progress on our RFP for the third  
14 party administrator, which we badly need.

15 I'm also awaiting to see if the  
16 mayor is ever going to appoint someone to  
17 the Firefighters' Pension Board so that they  
18 will a quorum and can handle the requests  
19 for pensions. That's a disgrace.

20 With regard to items 5-B and 5-C,  
21 during motions would you please explain what  
22 the cost of each one of those items is so  
23 that the taxpayer has an idea of what we are  
24 being asked to pay. And I'll take your  
25 answers during motions. Thank you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Les  
2 Spindler.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
4 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and  
5 homeowner and taxpayer. Last week there was  
6 an article in the paper about city employees  
7 supposedly didn't pay their garbage fees and  
8 council looking into whether the wages could  
9 be garnished. I want to read a quote here  
10 by Councilman Gaughan, and I quote, "If the  
11 allegations are true, then this is an  
12 absolutely disgrace."

13 Well, what's an absolute disgrace is  
14 a video I saw on Facebook last week of a  
15 councilman drunk in a bar --

16 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Spindler --

17 MR. SPINDLER: -- acting  
18 inappropriately.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Spindler?

20 MR. SPINDLER: What?

21 MR. WECHSLER: That is your opinion.

22 MR. SPINDLER: It's a lot of  
23 people's opinion. Videos don't lie.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Well, I would ask you  
25 not to state that that's certainly someone.

1 MR. SPINDLER: I think that's an  
2 absolute disgrace for an elected official --

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I have no idea  
4 what you are talking about.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Go to Lackawanna and  
6 Beyond.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: And what is Lackawanna  
8 and Beyond? What is it?

9 MR. SPINDLER: Just go on Facebook  
10 and put that in and you will see.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: But what is it? What  
12 is Lackawanna and Beyond?

13 MR. SPINDLER: Go on it. This is my  
14 time.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Do you run it?

16 MR. SPINDLER: Do I run it?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Are you in charge of  
18 it?

19 MR. SPINDLER: No, I am not.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, okay.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Now, for quite awhile  
22 I'm talking about Luzerne Street, and there  
23 was a speaker here two weeks saying it was  
24 paved, well, it wasn't. Today it was. I  
25 went down today and got caught in the

1 traffic, but I wasn't complaining because I  
2 was glad to see that it was finally being  
3 paved. I just hope it wasn't the city that  
4 paid for that, I hope it was the utility  
5 that dug it up and was the cause of that.

6 And speaking about paving, Spruce  
7 Street from like Washington Avenue down to  
8 Meridian driving on that avoiding the  
9 potholes and the rest looks like a washboard  
10 that's terrible. Also, Penn Avenue, so I  
11 hope those two streets are on the paving  
12 list.

13 Moving on to the garbage fee again,  
14 I'm going to keep talking about this until  
15 it gone away, and as I said two weeks ago,  
16 the reason it was put in was to pay off the  
17 tipping fees, which we'll be paying off the  
18 end of this year so there is no more reason  
19 for the garbage fee to be in there. We pay  
20 our taxes for that, and that's all. The  
21 only thing we should have to pay is our  
22 taxes, not an extra fee.

23 Lastly, the smoking ban in the  
24 parks. I'm glad to see that, but I don't  
25 know why the ban isn't at Nay Aug. Just

1           because it's under the Recreation Authority,  
2           I said for years the Recreation Authority  
3           should be disbanded. They are no use to the  
4           city at all. The city should take over Nay  
5           Aug and put the smoking ban in.

6                     That's all I have to say tonight.  
7           Thank you for your time.

8                     MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Gerard  
9           Hetman.

10                    MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
11           Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County  
12           Community Relations Department. To begin  
13           this evening, on behalf of the Lackawanna  
14           County Commissioners I'd like to thank the  
15           Scranton Police Department for assisting  
16           with our recent Bike Safety Fair. Officer  
17           Namiotka and Officer Buzone complete with  
18           his bike and bike patrol gear were present  
19           at the PNC Field last Saturday, May 14, for  
20           our Bike Safety Fair. The two officers gave  
21           a bike safety talk to just over 100 children  
22           along with accompanying adults in  
23           attendance, so we can thank them again for  
24           their cooperation. We have had the Scranton  
25           police along with several local and state

1 police agencies come out in the past, but  
2 this year none of the other agencies could  
3 make it so their cooperation was more  
4 important than ever. Again, we thank  
5 Lieutenant Namiotka and Officer Buzone and  
6 Chief Graziano and all of the good work that  
7 Scranton Police do every day, including our  
8 Bike Safety Fair.

9 Second, regarding the meeting that  
10 we discussed before on the sale of the Globe  
11 Store to Lackawanna County, earlier this  
12 week the Commissioner's Office forwarded  
13 estimated figures on the financial impact of  
14 this transaction on the City of Scranton and  
15 the Scranton School District. Through  
16 Council's office as well as the Office of  
17 the Mayor, the Business Administrator and  
18 those equivalent offices in Scranton School  
19 Districts. Our office took this approach  
20 because we wanted city and school district  
21 officials to have a complete picture from  
22 the County's perspective of this transaction  
23 for a meeting. That way you can come in and  
24 see everything that we have to present  
25 before the meeting and come in fully

1 prepared to ask any questions or give any  
2 feedback on the sale before meeting with  
3 county officials. Our office will be  
4 reaching out in the next couple of days to  
5 set up a meeting to discuss this  
6 transaction. Ms. Reed will probably hear  
7 from Tracy Hart, she is the assistant to our  
8 Chief of Staff, Mr. Andrew Wallace, and  
9 we'll be in touch probably within the next  
10 week to set that up, and we look forward to  
11 any feedback from council or, again, the  
12 Business Administrator's Office or the  
13 Mayor's Office and the school district on  
14 this transaction, which will come up soon.

15 Third, our Parks and Reaction camps  
16 and clinics are now open for registration  
17 for the summer programs that we run in our  
18 park system. This includes our youth  
19 basketball clinic series, our adult tennis  
20 league, our youth tennis league and our  
21 youth basketball clinic series -- excuse me,  
22 our gymnastic clinic was the last one on  
23 there, I said basketball twice.

24 We also need lifeguards for all of  
25 other county parks. Each of our four parks

1 has water amenities, either a pool or lake  
2 to swim in. We want to try and get them all  
3 open this year so if you know anybody who  
4 wants to be a lifeguard they can apply by  
5 calling our Parks and Recreation Office at  
6 570-963-6764, and it seems to be, I don't  
7 want to call it a dying profession for  
8 summer work, but we struggle it seems like  
9 every year to find a full compliment of  
10 lifeguards, so if anyone is interested,  
11 college students, others home on summer  
12 break or who may be visiting the area for  
13 the summer, we encourage them to check it  
14 out and apply.

15 And lastly, the topic of no smoking  
16 policies and ordinances. We were informed  
17 earlier this week in the Commissioner's  
18 Office that earlier in the week the Colt's  
19 Board of Directors of the County of  
20 Lackawanna Transit System voted to ban  
21 smoking on the Intermodal Center property  
22 earlier this week. They expect the smoking  
23 ban at the Intermodal Center to go into  
24 effect around June 1. They are just waiting  
25 for proper signage to come in and Colts is



1 also doing their own press release and media  
2 blitz to let people know about this. I'll  
3 also pass out information and make sure  
4 riders are aware that smoking will not be  
5 permitted anymore on the Intermodal Center  
6 property. This ban follows, of course, the  
7 steps taken by city council to ban smoking  
8 at city parks, and also in April applying to  
9 county parks in Wilkes-Barre city council  
10 and the city government there banned smoking  
11 at the Intermodal Center in downtown  
12 Wilkes-Barre so this is a trend we see now  
13 and we just want people to know this was  
14 sent to the Commissioner's Office and then  
15 Colt's, again, will be publicizing it just  
16 as a heads up probably on or at shortly  
17 after June 1 there will be no smoking at the  
18 Intermodal Center property, also.

19 That's all we have for this week  
20 and, again, we look forward to talking with  
21 council and other city offices regarding the  
22 Globe Store sale in the near future. Thank  
23 you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Ron  
25 Ellman.

1 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.  
2 Firstly, several people asked where in the  
3 world I have been for awhile, I just gave up  
4 on you all and council and the city, it's  
5 coming down here to me is like beating your  
6 head on a stone wall, you don't listen or  
7 nothing. And, secondly, I went to Memphis  
8 for a week for our golf and meeting that we  
9 have once a year. There is still ten or 12  
10 of us left that have been together over 60  
11 years. One boy came from Paris and another  
12 from Rome just for the week. In fact, Rosie  
13 and me went Saturday to spend an hour and a  
14 half, two hours with a boy in Philadelphia  
15 from Hawaii that was passing through. This  
16 closeness is something that you don't see no  
17 more. Well, I just thought I'd throw that  
18 in there.

19 I think that this idea for the Globe  
20 Store, because I haven't been here and I  
21 don't what you all say, is a good idea, but  
22 none of us would live long enough for it to  
23 pay for itself. You are talking about all  
24 of these millions of dollars that we don't  
25 have and I feel the same way about that

1           reserve. It would be wonderful for the city  
2           to have that but there is no money. Right  
3           here you are talking about asking for a  
4           grant on one page and loaning money to a  
5           someone on the next page. That's what's  
6           wrong with this city. People call for  
7           reassessment by your own words a third would  
8           go up a little bit. You are going to spend  
9           eight, ten million dollars, it would take  
10          50, 75 years to overcome that expenditure.  
11          I just don't see how -- you people just  
12          don't think things through for the next  
13          couple of generations it seems to me. I  
14          hear this once in awhile. You are not  
15          thinking of your children and your  
16          grandchildren that, unfortunately, for them  
17          will be stuck here. You know, one of your  
18          obligations you are supposed to be serving  
19          and protecting the people. You are not  
20          supposed to put future generations in these  
21          kind of situations.

22                   I'd like to thank Mr. Courtright for  
23                   coming to Ozzie Quinn's dinner Thursday  
24                   night. We are still on speaking terms  
25                   believe it or not. I know everyone

1 appreciated seeing him there.

2 And lastly, I want to unequivocally  
3 say how much I agree with Mrs. Cummings on  
4 her thoughts about this bathroom and gym  
5 situation. This is terrible for our school  
6 system to have to have something like this  
7 arise. I guarantee you, President Obama  
8 wouldn't subject his two girls to a  
9 situation like that and I never would  
10 believe that Hillary would subject her  
11 daughter to a situation like this, but it's  
12 a double standard out of Washington. To me,  
13 what's good for the goose is good for the  
14 gander. The school system, everybody should  
15 fight something like this. Thank you.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

17 MR. ELLMAN: And I don't think I  
18 need any sensitivity training about it.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan.

20 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
21 Anything?

22 MR. WECHSLER: It's your time,  
23 Mr. Morgan.

24 MR. MORGAN: Okay. I just don't  
25 want, you know, to deny anybody the

1 opportunity to express their thoughts and  
2 their feelings from that side for any  
3 reasons. I'd like to go back to a couple of  
4 issues that are being discussed, Ron just  
5 brought one you, okay, and you know what's  
6 happening in this country, we are discussing  
7 none issues because we can't discuss the  
8 real ones. We are talking about a nation  
9 that's so driven into debt by a lack of  
10 leadership that it may not be possible for  
11 the young people sitting in this room today  
12 to satisfy that debt. Now, these council --  
13 you as a council, to be bluntly honest with  
14 you, don't decide very much of anything  
15 because the money either comes from  
16 Harrisburg or Washington, and they tell you  
17 spend it and do what you have to do, and  
18 when you take a look at where this money is  
19 being spent it really benefits very few  
20 people and not only does it benefit very few  
21 people, but if they look to see how much  
22 that money was actually spent in the project  
23 and how much evaporated into the thin air,  
24 and I think it's time for people to realize  
25 that as long as you stand idly by and allow

1 your government to walk all over you they  
2 are going to do it.

3 Now, my thoughts come from Free  
4 Constitution America when we were part of  
5 the crown, the British Crown, and the people  
6 stood up a couple of times, but at the last  
7 time they were successful, and I think it  
8 would do a lot of good for people to  
9 understand the amount of people on the  
10 British side and the American side that were  
11 assassinated, murdered in cold blood. I  
12 mean, even George Washington who himself was  
13 almost kidnapped, and sooner or later it's  
14 going to come to place in this country  
15 where, and I think that time has already  
16 come, where the average person feels like  
17 they are not being served by their  
18 government at all, and just from looking at  
19 just a mountain of things that this council  
20 has done it's all in contradictions to the  
21 best interest of the citizens of this city,  
22 and it's not just the Scranton Sewer  
23 Authority sale, it's just -- it's just so  
24 many things that it's impossible to talk  
25 about all of them here, but they are

1           expressed many times in many different  
2           viewpoints, but they are still very valid.

3                     You know, this city may be a billion  
4           dollars in debt, not a half a billion, and  
5           when you take a look at 70,000 people  
6           wrestling with that and you watch the utter  
7           silliness that's taking place not just with  
8           this council but previous councils, when the  
9           council locked the front doors and put a  
10          metal detector at the back door, and brought  
11          police up here and, of course, they borrowed  
12          tons of money, too, and they had great ideas  
13          and then they didn't want speakers to speak  
14          and, you know, free speech isn't free, but  
15          at a time people need to find their voice  
16          and sometimes they have to step behind their  
17          voice. The people who freed us did it  
18          honestly by pushing the British out of here  
19          and killing enough of them until they left.

20                    MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Morgan, could you  
21          refrain from talking about killing and  
22          shooting.

23                    MR. MORGAN: I'm talking about  
24          history.

25                    MR. WECHSLER: I understand that.

1 MR. MORGAN: Okay? And I'm talking  
2 about this nation being created --

3 MR. WECHSLER: But if you could do  
4 that --

5 MR. MORGAN: Well, I can't refrain  
6 from that because honestly those are my  
7 ideas and my opinions, and I'm not talking  
8 about shooting you, I'm talking about  
9 history and how this nation was created and  
10 you may not appreciate that --

11 MR. WECHSLER: I appreciate history  
12 quite a bit, but I would just like to keep  
13 the focus off of violence, from violence --

14 MR. MORGAN: I'm not talking about  
15 that, I'm talking about reality, and if you  
16 feel infringed on --

17 MR. WECHSLER: Reality is not  
18 violence.

19 MR. MORGAN: Well, isn't it? You  
20 don't think they killed the British and  
21 threw them out of this country?

22 MR. WECHSLER: That's what I'm --

23 MR. MORGAN: Well, that's what I'm  
24 asking you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: I'm asking you to



1 please refrain from your comments about  
2 violence.

3 MR. MORGAN: Well, that's my freedom  
4 of speech and that's my opinion. I don't  
5 want to waste my time arguing with you  
6 because your viewpoint really doesn't mean  
7 very much to me --

8 MR. WECHSLER: You can continue, I'm  
9 just asking you to try and refrain --

10 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I just think the  
11 longer the people in this country rely on a  
12 government that has no respect for their  
13 rights sooner or later it's going to come to  
14 that and it's going to be tragic and, you  
15 know, it shouldn't come to that, and this  
16 council is selling the Sewer Authority, it  
17 shouldn't come to that either, okay? And  
18 it's just this government is a mess, and you  
19 know what hiding in the back room and not  
20 having public discussions is a problem, and  
21 hiding everything and piling people with  
22 debt that they just can't pay anymore is a  
23 problem and just keep borrowing and  
24 borrowing and borrowing. That's my point.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. There is

1 a signature on here that I'm having a hard  
2 time reading, is there a Matt who wants to  
3 speak? Matt, could you just state your last  
4 name when you get up to the podium?

5 MR. SOLIMAN: You want me to spell  
6 it for you?

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, please.

8 MR. SOLIMAN: S-O-L-I-M-A-N.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 MR. SOLIMAN: Good evening. First  
11 thing I have a question about is the parking  
12 enforcement cars that have been going around  
13 in Scranton and particularly in the  
14 residential areas in Greenridge. I was  
15 wondering if there could be any kind of  
16 motion for a handicapped person to be able  
17 to park facing the, like, the other way of  
18 the street even though that is opposing  
19 traffic I know that's against a law if they  
20 have a concrete slab in-between the sidewalk  
21 and the street because that would be what  
22 they put down.

23 MR. ROGAN: I can answer that for  
24 you, I actually looked into that situation  
25 with our attorney when this parking

1 enforcement first took over, there were  
2 residents in South Scranton on a hill  
3 handicapped who had the same issue.  
4 Although, we would love to do something like  
5 that within the city, our attorney did  
6 research it and it is a state law. It's not  
7 even a city law, and I don't know if  
8 Attorney Minora or you want to speak to that  
9 a little bit more, it's something, you know,  
10 it's a common sense thing that we would like  
11 to do. Our hands are tied when the state  
12 laws prohibits us from doing so.

13 MR. SOLIMAN: All right, thank you  
14 very much. The next thing, I thought the  
15 purchase of the Globe Store was -- that was  
16 a good purchase and I was wondering what  
17 will be done with the building I think it's  
18 on Spruce Street and North Washington on the  
19 corner there. I don't know if that's owned  
20 by Scranton? I was wondering if that --

21 MR. EVANS: No, that's Lackawanna  
22 County.

23 MR. SOLIMAN: Oh, so do you guys not  
24 deal with that?

25 MR. EVANS: No.

1 MR. SOLIMAN: Oh, okay. And I just  
2 wanted to mention about the potholes, there  
3 are a ton in Greenridge that have not been  
4 fixed for awhile, just thought I'd put that  
5 out there. Thank you very much.

6 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Thanks for  
7 coming.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else  
9 who would like to address council?

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia.  
11 Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
12 up for final passage on your 7-E, that  
13 contract you are going to give out, could  
14 you tell me how much they are going to get  
15 the information if not from our Scranton tax  
16 collector? I mean, how are you going to go  
17 around and say to the people who is paying  
18 the mercantile tax, I mean, this is  
19 pertaining to the mercantile tax without  
20 going to the Scranton Tax Office that really  
21 should have the records of it? They should  
22 be able to tell you who is paying and who is  
23 not paying. They claim there is 2,500 that  
24 aren't paying that tax, and I don't see how  
25 you can even consider it, considering that

1           you are asking certain people who pay more  
2           and certain people to pay less, plus it's  
3           open to a lot of figures, I mean,  
4           bookkeeping. That's magical bookkeeping.  
5           That's the best way to describe it. You  
6           have no way of telling you if a guy has got  
7           an employee working underneath the table or  
8           not, but yet you are going to tax somebody  
9           maybe that has 500 employees or 200  
10          employees and force them to move out. Why  
11          do you think the brewery moved out that used  
12          to be in town that we have the truck rental  
13          place there now, that moved to Old Forge  
14          because of our tax situation and you are not  
15          helping anybody with this tax like you  
16          probably do. Mr. Evans says he is going to  
17          pay less, that means somebody has to make up  
18          his difference, somebody has to pay more.  
19          You are asking people to pay more and other  
20          people to pay less with very little in  
21          return other than the fact that people are  
22          paying the most is going to get out of the  
23          city, and I don't blame them if you are  
24          starting to tax more than they are paying  
25          now because you claim that this is going to

1 give more money. How do you assume it's  
2 going to give them more money is beyond me  
3 being the tax itself is close to being  
4 neutral, and don't tell me people are going  
5 to flock in here with businesses and we are  
6 going to have this huge hiring. That's a  
7 dream. That's a dream that's long since  
8 gone.

9 That's the problem with council, you  
10 got to look at things as they are. You are  
11 going to buy a lot of trucks. Did you know  
12 years ago we actually went to New York to  
13 buy the used trucks to try and save money?  
14 I wish they had followed through to find out  
15 if we actually did save money, but we bought  
16 our trucks in New York at one point. This  
17 is how we try to save money, but this  
18 administration has no intention to save  
19 money. I really think you are going to loot  
20 all of the assets and in the end declare  
21 bankruptcy anyway, but in the mean time  
22 people are going to make a bundle, but not  
23 the citizens. They are going to be struck  
24 with such a huge hole the only way they can  
25 get out of it is by getting get back to the

1 mines and hope to flow up the water  
2 somewhere else in the Chesapeake, I guess.  
3 I mean, it's ridiculous the things you do.  
4 Common sense tells you we are looking for  
5 money from a grant. A grant. We got our  
6 hands out for money. Now, true, we should  
7 always stick our hands for any kind of free  
8 money but it's not really free, it comes  
9 from somebody else. Unfortunately, the only  
10 people that makes money is the Treasury, and  
11 they are not giving a lot of that away. But  
12 somewhere along the way we got to get fiscal  
13 responsibility beyond that. You should have  
14 already had that. You should already said  
15 don't spend a penny without absolutely being  
16 necessary. Dire need, but not the way the  
17 city works. We look for ways to increase  
18 fines.

19 Now, the smoking is ridiculous.  
20 Some of the parks have no children. All  
21 they are is a place for some old guy who  
22 sits and smokes his pipe. Now, how you can  
23 figure that's a danger to the city beyond  
24 me, but it pays 25 bucks if you catch them  
25 and that's the danger, you may catch them

1 smoking his pipe.

2 MR. EVANS: It depends on what's in  
3 the pipe.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: I mean, this is how  
5 this city goes. Thank you. I'm glad I'm  
6 getting old.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
9 Council, Marie Schumacher. First a little  
10 bit of a housekeeping. I have been meaning  
11 to bring this up since the tree project for  
12 the 150th anniversary of the city came  
13 about. I know you are all aware of the work  
14 that Tony Santoli, has done for this city  
15 free of charge, puts hours and hours in,  
16 probably has saved us some injuries because  
17 of the trees that have come down, and I  
18 think it would be appropriate for the  
19 council tonight or soon to make a motion and  
20 buy one of those 150 trees and make it --  
21 put it up at Nay Aug where he has done so  
22 much and make it in his honor so that's my  
23 housekeeping issue.

24 Next, following up on some questions  
25 from last week, I already saw Mr. Gaughan.



1 Mr. Evans, what is the projected 2017 MMO  
2 should the funding reach the 50 percent  
3 level?

4 MR. EVANS: I don't have that yet,  
5 but I have some other information.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Still don't have  
7 that, okay. Now to the agenda items. First  
8 of all, since it's in Seventh Order the  
9 Turnkey, I believe that's the one that's in  
10 Seventh Order. First of all, the business  
11 privilege tax how much did we collect? It  
12 was due on April 15, how much did the  
13 collect this year to date?

14 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I don't know to  
15 date. I don't know what -- as of that date  
16 is, but it was estimated at point five for  
17 both business privilege and mercantile.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. I think that  
19 this should be tabled until we have more  
20 information. I think we need to know why  
21 the school district managed to collect \$6  
22 million while the city collected \$2.6  
23 million for those two taxes?

24 MR. EVANS: Because the rate is much  
25 higher, it's three times higher than the

1 city rate.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and today's  
3 paper says we are allowed to do this because  
4 of the switch under the Act 47. If Act 47  
5 goes away, will we no longer be able to do  
6 this wage tax and have to go back again?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

8 MR. EVANS: No.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: If you can keep the  
10 payroll tax.

11 MR. EVANS: If you do it in that  
12 time frame, yeah. After you exit you can do  
13 it.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Now, what we may  
15 collect more we will also lose some, for  
16 instance, rental property owners will no  
17 longer be paying so there is some money  
18 taken away. I do agree the business  
19 privilege tax is an evil tax. The business  
20 owner provides the capital, the labor, pays  
21 all the bills and the government comes in  
22 and takes the first cut, I think that's  
23 obscene and I don't like it. However, we  
24 already have a wage tax that's been tripled  
25 over most of the other -- it's tripled most

1 of the other municipalities around us and I  
2 don't know how we can go back and take more  
3 on wages without having more companies leave  
4 this area rather than come into the City of  
5 Scranton and we certainly need them.

6 On 5-H, I, too, was -- scanned the  
7 backup on that, that loan and it's for  
8 contracting. We are supposed to collect  
9 interest and we didn't collect the interest  
10 and apparently the recipient of the grant  
11 did not have a very good contract  
12 administrator either, and I don't believe in  
13 rewarding incompetence. I think that that's  
14 no excuse and then to reward the  
15 organization that benefited from the mistake  
16 is just ludicrous in my mind and I don't  
17 know why they need an extra 69 months. We  
18 have been very generous with that  
19 organization.

20 On "H" -- on "I", I would like to  
21 know the fifth whereas in that says that it  
22 is in the best interest of the City of  
23 Scranton to enter into that MOU. I would  
24 like somebody during Fifth Order to explain  
25 why that's in our interest. To me, it's

1 another report that's going to be put on the  
2 shelf to collect dust. We know what we've  
3 got to do if we want to encourage people to  
4 come here and that's get our taxes down,  
5 especially our nuisance fees and all of  
6 those. Okay, I'll be back next week. Thank  
7 you.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
9 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. I have a  
10 question on this mercantile taxes and so  
11 forth, why is this such a collection  
12 problem? I mean, it's like taxes that don't  
13 get collected, trash fees don't get  
14 collected, people obviously wind up paying  
15 extra on the trash fee because 22 percent of  
16 people just seem that it's not pertinent and  
17 in my opinion we have a lot of favorite sons  
18 in town, and they take the bill and they are  
19 entitled to throw it in the garbage or they  
20 are never even counted on a bill for years  
21 this has gone on. This is not just your  
22 issue. It's like last week I mentioned  
23 somebody, four, five or six rental units and  
24 they owe \$15,000 in back tipping fees and  
25 probably not collectable, and it's just we

1           have to get a better system going here. I  
2           think we really need to do an intensive  
3           study on what's going on because it's not  
4           fair and if you do cover trash with taxes  
5           the people with the upscale houses, whether  
6           they can afford them or not, are going to be  
7           stuck with the bigger portion of the bill by  
8           millage. So, you know, if you live in upper  
9           Greenridge there or on East Mountain or  
10          something like that you are definitely going  
11          to pay -- you might pay \$1,000 a year more  
12          so I agree that since they are we really  
13          have to start collecting on the people that  
14          we are not collecting. If they don't have  
15          -- actually have the money to pay, it's like  
16          I said, it would be great if we could carry  
17          over a lien until it becomes a Medicaid  
18          house or something like that.

19                   And with the mercantile tax, last  
20                   year in South Side, last 2015 to be exact, I  
21                   brought up the subject of recycling not  
22                   being collected and this was every week for  
23                   seven or eight weeks that recycling wasn't  
24                   collected. I left my cans and bottles down  
25                   in front of the program, but then the papers

1           would have been a frozen pile of mush so I  
2           got struck carrying them back and forth and  
3           hopefully in the merchants appreciate the  
4           fact that what we are put through some of  
5           the taxes might be warranted as far as  
6           mercantile tax and special sales taxes to  
7           take care of these snow removal and overtime  
8           can be required, any reasonable amount, so  
9           it could just be an instance where the city  
10          doesn't feel rich enough to pay or whatever,  
11          but that's been established for years, union  
12          or non-union, reasonable amounts of overtime  
13          can be required.

14                        Now, once again we seem to have  
15          people that can't -- they are more worried  
16          about what somebody else is doing than what  
17          their own personal lives are about. I guess  
18          they have a lot of extra time or something,  
19          but I don't see any point. I read finally  
20          the no smoking ordinance and it's crazy and,  
21          furthermore, a lot of money gets sunk into  
22          these parks and if some old geezer wants to  
23          sit on a bench of puff his peace pipe,  
24          provided that it has the correct legal  
25          tobacco in it, I don't see anything wrong

1 with it and it's really egregious with the  
2 money that got spent on those parks, 30  
3 different parks, that people are just going  
4 to get fined. And, furthermore, I think we  
5 owe the police department enough money  
6 already that we don't have to have them  
7 chasing a wayward cigarette smoker around.  
8 It's entirely ridiculous. I don't know what  
9 that was all about. My daddy didn't love me  
10 enough to quit smoking from the Lung  
11 Association or whatever, but or a new parent  
12 neurosis I don't know, but it's silly. I am  
13 entirely interested and tired of  
14 unlibertarian issues being passed by city  
15 councils and states.

16 Okay, well, we'll consider it next  
17 week. Oh, Joe, that is Wechsler; right?

18 MR. WECHSLER: Correct.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: You know how you could  
20 tell whether people were poor in the old  
21 country? If they didn't have money to buy a  
22 vowel.

23 MR. WECHSLER: That's it. Anyone  
24 else?

25 MR. YOUNG: Good evening, Council.

1 Albert Young. As you all have noticed, I  
2 gave you the estimate some time today, it  
3 came in late last night, so I am of the  
4 opinion that you can look it over at your  
5 leisure and proceed from there. I  
6 understand, also, that everything has been  
7 forwarded to Harrisburg and around for the  
8 powers to be to look at it, also.

9 I did have a call from the mayor  
10 today and it was the same rhetoric as last  
11 week, apparently our senator is not in tune  
12 with what we here are in tune with the  
13 emergency program, he is more interested in  
14 the overall state of repair on that  
15 situation.

16 If there are any questions on the  
17 estimate, feel free to call. I will not be  
18 available next week so you have my phone  
19 numbers, again, feel free to call.

20 MR. WECHSLER: We appreciate the  
21 information that you provided us and we are  
22 diligently working on repair.

23 MR. YOUNG: I know you are  
24 diligently working on it, I have had calls  
25 from a couple of the council members and Tom



1 Welby has been in touch with me, also, so  
2 it's not a sleeping dog at this point, it's  
3 an ongoing project and, again, I thank you  
4 for working on this as feverishly as you  
5 have.

6 MR. WECHSLER: I also followed up  
7 with the mayor today, also.

8 MR. YOUNG: Well, okay. All I know  
9 is that I had a call from him and it just  
10 seems like it was the same rhetoric, but  
11 whether he was in tune with Senator Blake or  
12 not I don't know, but thank you again.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Young?

14 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: And we spoke on the  
16 phone about -- my understanding is that the  
17 administration is looking or was in talks  
18 with DEP and supposedly they are trying to  
19 get emergency funding. The city would have  
20 to design the plans, DEP would have to  
21 approve them and then I believe they are  
22 trying to look in different escrow accounts  
23 from the flood -- former flood projects to  
24 try and allocate money to take care of this  
25 situation.

1 MR. YOUNG: That's what I  
2 understand, also, but this outfit is the  
3 contractor that was recommended through Pace  
4 to me and they are DEP acclaimed and  
5 registered so there is no problem with this  
6 outfit.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: We should be a step  
8 ahead of the game.

9 MR. YOUNG: We should be a step  
10 ahead of the program at this point. I don't  
11 know whether we are or not, but again, if  
12 you there are any further questions please  
13 call. Thank you again.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

15 MR. PERRY: Mr. Young, I know you  
16 have been working on this for over four  
17 years and, you know, it's been your tenacity  
18 that's kept this moving, you know. We are  
19 happy to do whatever we could possibly could  
20 do, sometimes we are limited on what we  
21 could do, but it's been your tenacity on  
22 this subject that this -- to where we are at  
23 today so I applaud you.

24 MR. YOUNG: Well, thank you. Thank  
25 you.

1 MR. PERRY: You're welcome.

2 MR. YOUNG: 47 years of work, I told  
3 the mayor's office today that this file goes  
4 back to Senator Kanjorski so you now how  
5 long I have been battling it. If it was Dan  
6 Flood it probably would have been taking  
7 care of, but unfortunately not. Good night.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone  
9 else?

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

11 MOTIONS.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry, do you  
13 have any motions?

14 MR. PERRY: I just have a couple.  
15 First, I'd like to thank the VFW tonight for  
16 leading the Pledge of Allegiance, that was  
17 very nice. Although, I did not serve myself  
18 a lot of family members of mine did serve,  
19 father, grandfathers, uncles, you know, the  
20 list is pretty massive and, you know, also  
21 we have the parade on Saturday, I'd like to  
22 see as many people get out there as  
23 possible, rain or shine it goes on. If you  
24 are working we understand, if you are not,  
25 you know, stop by down town and support our

1 veterans and our current military.

2 There was a comment about 5-B and  
3 5-C, I will look into the cost of both of  
4 those and get an answer for you on the fire  
5 equipment, and also from the police so I'll  
6 get that for you hopefully we'll have the  
7 answer next Thursday.

8 Also, something was brought up about  
9 collection rates within the city, I would  
10 like to know, I mean, there is no such thing  
11 as 100 percent collection rate, there is  
12 probably nothing close to 95 percent, but I  
13 would like to personally ask around and just  
14 see what our collection rate in various  
15 areas of fees and taxes how does that  
16 measure up with local municipalities are we  
17 the ballpark, are we not in the ballpark and  
18 that's going to kind of help us know where  
19 to go. Are we deficient in that or are we  
20 where we need to be and are we happy with  
21 that so I think that was a good comment that  
22 was brought up today.

23 And also, lastly, the Young Lungs  
24 was brought up by two different speakers  
25 and, unfortunately, I think that, you know,

1           this program has really gotten off on the  
2           wrong foot. It was never the intentions to  
3           fine anyone or to have police officers  
4           hiding behind trees to catch anybody  
5           smoking. The sole intent of that  
6           legislation was just to protect, as it says,  
7           young lungs of children at play.  
8           Sometimes you need a sign to state the  
9           obvious, not to spoke when there is children  
10          playing.

11                         Now, I think we used the reference  
12          of the old man on the bench with a pipe  
13          smoking a cigarette, our intention is not to  
14          walk up to this guy and give this person a  
15          fine, it's just the intention of the  
16          self-police department and hopefully make  
17          people more aware, you know, there are  
18          children playing, let's give them a break,  
19          let's walk somewhere else and do something  
20          else, this is their time, we had our time.  
21          And that's it. I don't anticipate a special  
22          police force walking around parks giving out  
23          fines. I certainly hope that's not the  
24          case, but that's all I have to say about  
25          that.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

2 Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would also like  
4 to thank our VFW vets for coming and leading  
5 us in the Pledge of Allegiance today and  
6 thank all the veterans in our community for  
7 serving us and keeping us safe.

8 I'll comment on agenda items as they  
9 come up, I do want to mention, I know  
10 luckily it hasn't been brought up in a  
11 while, but the rental registration. This  
12 week Councilman Evans and myself did meet  
13 with City Solicitor Jason Shrive and Pat  
14 Hinton from the Department of Licensing and  
15 Inspections to try and hammer out  
16 differences between what Councilman Evans  
17 and myself have been putting together and  
18 with the administration believes it's the  
19 right way to go forward with rental  
20 registration and it was a very productive  
21 meeting, I think we were very close to an  
22 agreement that it can work for everyone and  
23 avoid future litigation.

24 We obviously need to be more  
25 business friendly with this ordinance,

1           that's what landed us in Court, it needs to  
2           be fair for landlords and also needs to be  
3           fair for those in the neighborhoods as well  
4           so that's the balance we are trying to  
5           strike and looking forward to have a  
6           finished product shortly. That's all.  
7           Thank you.

8                         MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans?

9                         MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm sorry  
10           Mr. Young left, I want to circle back to our  
11           weekly conversation about the hole in  
12           Greenridge. I did visit Mr. and  
13           Mrs. Young's property last Friday and I had  
14           several takeaways from that visit. First of  
15           all, you can't fully appreciate what this  
16           family and the neighbors have been going  
17           through without seeing what is actually  
18           there, but with said I also was struck by  
19           what I viewed as a very doable project to  
20           correct. We just need to find the  
21           commitments from those who can help and we  
22           just have to make it possible, but what we  
23           have seen, indeed, is years of government  
24           paralysis by analysis and it's time for  
25           action. I'm really tired of kicking the can

1 down the road on these type of things when  
2 you have a property owner and neighbors that  
3 have been there for 50 years asking for our  
4 help and they are no getting it.

5 With that said, you know, fresh from  
6 that meeting and that visit at the Young  
7 home I had a spirited and productive  
8 conversation with Business Administrator  
9 Bulzoni on Monday afternoon and as a result  
10 of that I feel there is a sound strategy,  
11 and I think Councilman Gaughan touched on  
12 some of the key components of that strategy  
13 and I think that in the very short time if  
14 everybody does what they need to do we can  
15 get this resolved for him finally, and him  
16 and his family and the neighbors can move on  
17 the way we should have done quite awhile  
18 ago.

19 Some speakers tonight want to play  
20 gotcha politics and I think this is not the  
21 place for that. We are here to talk about  
22 city business and we are here to talk about  
23 agenda items. We are not here to talk about  
24 nonsense. That's all I have for now.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan?



1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Thank you. Just  
2 a few items. Last week I brought up the  
3 issue on Greenridge. I attend the  
4 Greenridge Neighborhood meeting last week  
5 and a couple of the residents up there were  
6 concerned about homes being used as bed and  
7 breakfasts. We did receive a response from  
8 the Director of Licensing and Inspection,  
9 Pat Hinton, and he did attach a letter sent  
10 out by the zoning officer Jack Sweeney, so  
11 they are, as Councilman Evans mentioned last  
12 week, they are aware of the issue, they have  
13 been working on resolving it, and just to  
14 answer some other questions that I have  
15 gotten in the past week, bread and breakfast  
16 is not a permitted use in an R-1 zone, so  
17 the Licensing and Inspection Department is  
18 aware of it and they are taking steps to  
19 correct that issue.

20 MR. EVANS: Can I interrupt one  
21 second?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

23 MR. EVANS: I got some information  
24 on that I can forward it to you as well from  
25 the operator of that particular house and I

1 think it's a good idea to try and get their  
2 side of what's going on along with the  
3 City's side and try to come to some positive  
4 conclusion, but I think nationally and  
5 internationally AirBnB, Virgo, Ahoy, these  
6 are positive things and are good for the  
7 city and if we manage them properly and  
8 regulate them properly it's something that I  
9 think we should encourage with keeping in  
10 mind, you know, what happened with neighbors  
11 next door to one, but there are regulations  
12 already in place from different cities so I  
13 hope that we have a -- instead of having a  
14 one-sided conversation we have actually a  
15 dialogue with a lot of different people on  
16 this matter. That's all.

17 MR. ROGAN: Just to add on that, and  
18 I also apologize for cutting in on your  
19 time, John Stossel, if anyone watches, he  
20 did a piece on these issues AirBnB and in  
21 particular and in New York I guess it was a  
22 big issue as well, and I agree with what  
23 Councilman Evans mentioned that we have to  
24 walk a fine line on not trampling on  
25 somebody's right to use their property as

1           they wish, but also keep the neighbors in  
2           mind, and I think that's the same balance we  
3           are working towards on the rental  
4           registration, kind of falls in the same vein  
5           so there is a lot to discuss on this issue.

6                   MR. GAUGHAN: Right, and when I did  
7           speak to the residents at the neighborhood  
8           meeting their concern is the degradation of  
9           the neighborhood. You know, they don't know  
10          who these people are that are coming in from  
11          out of town, North Carolina, New York,  
12          Pennsylvania, they also have young children  
13          are playing in the neighborhood, it's 22 to  
14          30 dollars a night to stay, so I do  
15          understand their concerns so I'm glad that  
16          this issue is coming up and we are  
17          discussing it.

18                   I spoke to a resident the other day  
19          who has complaints about the condition of  
20          White Birch Drive and Oakwood Drive. The  
21          roads are a mess and there are serious  
22          drainage problems when it rains so we are  
23          going to forward that issue to the DEP to  
24          see if they can take a look at it and try to  
25          rectify that situation. 3030 Division

1 Street there is a storm sewer that has been  
2 overflowing and causing water issues in this  
3 area. We have just paved Division Street,  
4 so I would ask if we can send something out  
5 to the DPW. The gentlemen said he called  
6 the Sewer Authority and they told him to  
7 call the DPW so hopefully they can get out  
8 and try to rectify that issue.

9 I have been speaking to some  
10 residents in the Minooka area lately about  
11 the unsafe conditions of the two-lane  
12 stretch of Birney Avenue that goes up into  
13 Davis Street. The street is a speedway and  
14 becomes very narrow with cars parking on  
15 both sides of the street. In the past,  
16 there were conversations and plans of making  
17 this into a one-lane road. I did send  
18 correspondence to Representative Flynn's  
19 Office to see if we can get that  
20 conversation started again and to see if we  
21 can get the state to improve the safety of  
22 this area of Minooka. This highway runs  
23 through a residential area and I would like  
24 them to take a look again at the makeup of  
25 this area and how traffic is regulated

1           because there have been many accidents in  
2           the past couple of years and, as I said,  
3           there are children that play in that area  
4           and it has been become a major issue.

5                       Also, last week we talked about city  
6           employees who possibly owed garbage fees and  
7           other things and we did have our solicitor  
8           work into possible garnishment of wages if  
9           the employees did not come up into a paving  
10          plan and if Solicitor Minora could give us  
11          an update on that issue.

12                      MR. MINORA: I will. I spoke to the  
13          city solicitor's office in Philadelphia and  
14          they have a collection method, it is not  
15          garnishment. Garnishment is not allowed,  
16          however, in the first class city code, which  
17          only includes Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,  
18          the controller is allowed to direct the  
19          Treasurer to withhold a certain percentage  
20          of municipal employee's pay to go towards  
21          payment of back taxes or service fees so  
22          they are able to do that.

23                      I looked into Class 2 Code which  
24          includes Class 2A, which is what Scranton  
25          is, and we do not have that authority so

1           it's statutory that Philadelphia can, it's  
2           statutory that we cannot do it that way so  
3           employees here who fall behind would fall  
4           into the same category as any other citizen  
5           of city.

6                   MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you for  
7           the update. One final thing, I received  
8           actually just today, I received an update on  
9           the recycling program in the city from the  
10          Business Administrator so I hope we all  
11          received it. I will be reviewing that and  
12          hopefully we will be able to update  
13          everybody on that next week. That's all I  
14          have thank you.

15                   MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Just a  
16          follow-up about the Armed Forces parade, the  
17          Armed Forces Day parade will take place this  
18          Saturday, May 21, starting at 11 a.m. at the  
19          Gino Merli Center. The parade will travel  
20          on Penn Avenue toward Lackawanna Avenue and  
21          Lackawanna Avenue to Linden Street. And as  
22          always, when there is a parade downtown  
23          please expect traffic delays due to road  
24          closures.

25                   To follow-up on the discussions that

1 we just had about the municipal employees,  
2 as we discussed before, right now the option  
3 that the city has available to it is to  
4 pursue the lien process for anyone that  
5 doesn't pay their garbage fee, and currently  
6 that is what we are doing as a council. We  
7 are working towards fine tuning the  
8 ordinance and our next step will be to  
9 evaluate the lien process because right now  
10 this the only option available to us to make  
11 people take responsibility for what they  
12 owe. And that's all I have for now I'll  
13 have some more in motions. Thank you.

14 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
16 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
17 AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION  
18 CONTRACT BETWEEN COMMUNITY FIRST NATIONAL  
19 BANK (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
20 PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE PURCHASE OF  
21 FOUR (4) FORD F-550 DUMP/PLOW TRUCKS, ONE  
22 (1) 2016 FORD F-250 XL TRUCK AND ONE (1)  
23 FORD ESCAPE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
24 WORKS AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

25 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

7 There was a couple of questions about how  
8 much this costs and I did have a couple of  
9 questions for the business administrator. E  
10 the contract payment will be \$53,925.24.  
11 They are annual payments over seven years.  
12 Originally, the trucks were a shift in the  
13 capital expenditure budget, DPW Bureau of  
14 Highways, the city budgeted \$125,000 for the  
15 acquisition of the one truck. When the  
16 business administrator viewed the cost of  
17 acquiring the vehicles via the lease at the  
18 present interest rates, which were very  
19 favorable, including the two fire vehicles,  
20 one of which was a service truck, it made  
21 more sense to deploy any of the funds needed  
22 for the lease in the 2016 budget, and it  
23 happens that the initial lease payment is  
24 not due until 2017 and the city is only  
25 required to provide a \$40,000 down payment,



1 so we are getting a good deal on this, we  
2 need equipment and I'll be voting in favor  
3 of introducing it.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, on the question,  
5 tonight it was mentioned that perhaps we  
6 should be going out and purchasing used  
7 equipment. I know this winter we were very  
8 fortunate there was not a lot of snow  
9 removal that was required, but the winter  
10 previous we had a lot of down time because  
11 our vehicles weren't functioning properly.  
12 I believe that for the crews that we have we  
13 need to buy them the best equipment and  
14 provide them with the means best to serve us  
15 and I don't necessarily think comparing old  
16 equipment to new equipment, I think we have  
17 to purchase the best equipment for all of  
18 our employees.

19 All those in favor of introduction  
20 signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1           eyes have it and so moved.

2                   MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
3           A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
4           OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
5           AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION  
6           CONTRACT BETWEEN FIRST REPUBLIC NATIONAL  
7           CORPORATION (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF  
8           SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE  
9           PURCHASE OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX (136)  
10          SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR THE FIRE  
11          DEPARTMENT.

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

15                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16                   MR. EVANS: Second.

17                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

18                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question  
19          just because there was a question on this,  
20          also. The turnout gear lease was budgeted  
21          under nondepartmental expenditures with an  
22          amount of \$160,765.36. This will be an  
23          \$80,000 payment for two years and it is  
24          contractual with the fire department. Thank  
25          you.

1 MR. WECHSLER: And, once again, this  
2 is a case where we need to provide the best  
3 equipment that we have. These things are  
4 shelf-life items. They do expire as usable  
5 life so we have to make sure that we outfit  
6 the men and women who service us properly.

7 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. This is the  
8 gear that the firemen wear when they  
9 actually go out to a tire so it's not stuff  
10 that's sitting around in the firehouse.

11 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
12 introduction signify by saying aye.

13 MR. PERRY: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
20 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN J.  
21 PRENDERGAST, 122 SOUTH HYDE PARK AVENUE,  
22 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER  
23 OF THE MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
24 AUTHORITY (MIDAS), EFFECTIVE MAY 9, 2016.  
25 MR. PRENDERGAST IS BEING APPOINTED TO A TWO

1 (2) YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON MAY 9,  
2 2018.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

8 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
10 I'll be voting to introduce this tonight,  
11 however, I do think it should be, as we  
12 talked about last week, a standard practice  
13 and maybe something that we'll have to pass  
14 ordinance wise to vet the people that are  
15 appointed to boards to make sure that they  
16 are up-to-date on all of their payments to  
17 the city.

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

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT SEGUIN,  
3 1216 PHILO STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
4 18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL  
5 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDAS),  
6 EFFECTIVE MAY 11, 2016. MR. SEGUIN IS BEING  
7 APPOINTED TO A ONE (1) YEAR TERM THAT WILL  
8 EXPIRE ON MAY 11, 2017.

9 MR. WECHSLER: 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. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I'd just like  
16 congratulate Mr. Seguin on his appointment.  
17 I have known him for a very long time and he  
18 is a very level headed and civic minded  
19 individual who will do very well on this  
20 board.

21 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
22 introduction signify by saying aye.

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
5 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF  
6 SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
7 THROUGH THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS  
8 ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A  
9 GRANT THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
10 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A COMMUNITY  
12 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT(CDBG) GRANT FOR  
13 FINANCIAL AID UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
14 MUNICIPALITIES FINANCIAL RECOVERY ACT, ACT  
15 47 OF 1987, AS AMENDED AND IF THE GRANT  
16 APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, AUTHORIZE THE  
17 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
18 TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY  
19 TO ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE GRANT FUNDS.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. EVANS: On the question, as we  
2 know, a competent of this grant is for a  
3 storm water study, that's why I'll be voting  
4 to move this forward. This council has been  
5 pressing for some sort of study and plans on  
6 storm water for months and I'd like to think  
7 that this legislation is partially our  
8 responsibility because we have been pressing  
9 so hard for this, and in all fairness, I'd  
10 like to recognize that Marie Schumacher from  
11 day one has been instrumental in bringing  
12 this issue to our attention. Even though we  
13 would have got there anyway, it was brought  
14 to our attention much earlier than I think  
15 we probably would have reviewed it. So  
16 contrary to popular belief, we do listen to  
17 our speakers. That's all I have on that  
18 right now.

19 MR. ROGAN: I have mixed feelings on  
20 this piece of legislation. I will be voting  
21 to introduce it. I will continue to read a  
22 little bit further and research it a little  
23 more as to some of the other aspects before  
24 casting a final vote.

25 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of

1 introduction -- I'm sorry.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: That's all right.

3 Yes, on the question, I am taking Mr.

4 Bulzoni's comments into consideration. I

5 also understand that the storm water study is  
6 a mandate and we have to get that done.

7 Also, the acquisition of a server for the

8 Police Department I can also understand

9 that. The one part of the grant where I am

10 having a little bit of difficulty is the

11 salary increases. While I would agree with

12 Mr. Bulzoni that all of the people that are

13 getting the salary increases deserve them,

14 you know, the root of my concern with a

15 grant like this is that it's like buying

16 something on a credit card so we don't have

17 to pay it today, but down the road the bill

18 is eventually going to come due and while it

19 may not be a large percentage of the overall

20 budget, when you are a financially

21 distressed city every penny counts, so

22 that's my initial concern after looking at

23 some of the increases, but I will be voting

24 to introduce and send it along for a final

25 vote next week.



1 MR. ROGAN: I agree, and they are  
2 the same concerns that I have as well where  
3 there is two components to the grant, well,  
4 actually multiple components, the salary  
5 component and the everything else component.  
6 Obviously, the other items all need to be  
7 done one way or another. And the salary  
8 items, although the vast majority of the  
9 people on that list certainly deserve a  
10 salary increase I, too, have a problem with  
11 giving those increases at a time when taxes  
12 are increasing.

13 Last year, many department heads  
14 contacted all of us on council and pled  
15 their case for salary increases and we had  
16 to tell them that, you know, now was not the  
17 time. I still don't believe now is the  
18 time, but obviously there is more than that  
19 component here so I will continue to hear  
20 the business administrator and  
21 administration out and research this  
22 legislation.

23 MR. EVANS: On the question, I might  
24 as well weigh in on this salary issue as  
25 well. I'll be honest with you, I think our

1 salaries for our cabinet members and some of  
2 our leadership people are a disgrace and I  
3 think they are an embarrassment. They are  
4 way too low. They have waited since 2011  
5 for any kind of increase. It was a mistake  
6 when they were rolled back the first time  
7 and I think that -- I don't think that the  
8 salaries that are being proposed, especially  
9 with a grant, are going to have one effect,  
10 little effect at all on the budget going  
11 forward especially in relationship to a tax  
12 increase. It just doesn't match up so I may  
13 be taking an opposite viewpoint of popular  
14 position on this issue, but I really think  
15 that we get what we pay for and we have good  
16 people, we deserve to pay them an  
17 appropriate salary and the salary they are  
18 receiving right now as compared to the  
19 private sector is just no match up. So,  
20 again, I'll be voting to move this forward.

21 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question,  
22 and I fall on the same side of the fence  
23 with Mr. Evans on this, when you have a  
24 group of employees that are the heart and  
25 soul and put in the time to run their office

1 and their end of the business it's very  
2 difficult to replace that. I'll give you an  
3 example of the audit department. When we  
4 lost some very, very key people in the audit  
5 department what happened with the 2014  
6 audit, what happened, what's going to happen  
7 with the 2015 audit? We really fell behind  
8 when we had some turnover in that department  
9 and we can't afford to have that type of  
10 turnover.

11 Now, I do also see the sides of  
12 Mr. Gaughan and Mr. Rogan where taking on  
13 extra salary at a time when we are in Act 47  
14 is the easiest pill to swallow, but I think  
15 what this does for us with the grants it  
16 give us no increase in 2016, it only gives  
17 us a 33 percent increase in 2017, and a 66  
18 percent increase in the salary in 2018, and  
19 that gives us three years of planning to  
20 figure out what we are going to do with this  
21 extra salary, and the extra salary is not --  
22 it's not we are dealing with \$100 million,  
23 but it's nothing that -- and if it did and  
24 if the taxpayers they were going to feel a  
25 pinch because of it I would absolutely not

1 be for it because I wouldn't want to pay the  
2 extra, but this is something that I believe  
3 is the right thing to do. That's all I  
4 have.

5 MR. WECHSLER: I agree with all my  
6 colleagues that we do need to do some review  
7 on this in terms of a cost benefit analysis.  
8 I don't think we can automatically be  
9 against paying increases because the city's  
10 budget is tight. I work in a business where  
11 we evaluate salaries all the time and  
12 sometimes we need to pay more to get more  
13 productivity and also to get more of a  
14 better candidate, and this case necessarily  
15 I think we have the candidates on hand, and  
16 we are asking people to do more work. We  
17 are starting to see the benefit of the first  
18 round of grants that we applied for and  
19 received in the Business Administrator's  
20 Office. We can see there has been benefit  
21 to that cost. Our reports are being filed  
22 on time, we are getting more respect in the  
23 financial community, so we are starting to  
24 see some of that dividend from those first  
25 grants that we applied for so it is very

1           difficult to increase salaries, but  
2           sometimes we say we want to look at the city  
3           as a business, in business sometimes you do  
4           have to increase salaries. It's just a  
5           requirement to get the most out of your  
6           business and of your people so I will be  
7           also voting to introduce this evening and  
8           proceed from there.

9           All those in favor of introduction  
10          signify by saying aye.

11          MR. PERRY: Aye.

12          MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13          MR. EVANS: Aye.

14          MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

17          MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18          A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
19          OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
20          AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH EVERGREEN  
21          LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR GRASS CUTTING AT THE  
22          TAYLOR LANDFILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016  
23          CONTRACT TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 30, 2016 FOR A  
24          LUMP SUM BID OF \$10,460.00.

25          MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

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

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

6 Today we just double checked again on why we  
7 have to do this since it's the Taylor  
8 Landfill, this was a decree from the EPA  
9 many years ago that Scranton is required to  
10 maintain the property at the Taylor Landfill  
11 so it just involves cutting of the grass.  
12 There are certain specifications that have  
13 be met so it's more than just cutting the  
14 grass, there is a specific job that has to  
15 be performed and that's why there is a cost  
16 to it.

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

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
2 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE  
3 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED  
4 LOAN AGREEMENT WITH UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD  
5 CENTERS OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC.  
6 FORMERLY UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF  
7 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, INC. TO ASSIST AN  
8 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

17 MR. PERRY: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION - A  
24 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF  
25 THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD

1 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
2 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN COMPANY,  
3 1979 SCRANTON/CARBONDALE HIGHWAY, BLAKELY,  
4 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE  
5 LOCATED ON THE LEFT-SIDE FACADE, A BOARD  
6 SIGN, ORANGE AND BLACK COLOR SCHEME WITH  
7 DIMENSION OF 120"H X 36"W AND AN AWNING  
8 PANEL, ORANGE AND BLACK COLOR SCHEME WITH  
9 DIMENSION OF 10"H X 84"W AT 414 SPRUCE  
10 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

11 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll  
12 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be  
13 introduced into its proper committee.

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
17 those in favor of introduction signify by  
18 saying aye.

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

25 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION - A



1           RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
2           APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
3           ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
4           (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE  
5           NATIONAL RESOURCE NETWORK TO ASSIST IN THE  
6           CITY'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND TO EXPEND THE  
7           SUM OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED  
8           SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$18,375.00) PURSUANT  
9           TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE  
10          MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE CITY'S  
11          TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) OF THE COST OF  
12          THIS INITIATIVE.

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

16                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17                   MR. EVANS: Second.

18                   MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All  
19                   those in favor of introduction signify by  
20                   saying aye.

21                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

22                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

24                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

3 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
4 27, 2016 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
5 THE COUNCIL NO. 5, 2016 ENTITLED "AN  
6 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
7 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)  
8 AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY  
9 OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
10 COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING  
11 REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
12 COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF  
13 SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY  
14 IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE  
15 OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016 AND THE  
16 SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT  
17 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER" BY IMPOSING INTEREST AT  
18 THE RATE OF TEN PERCENT (10%) PER ANNUM ON  
19 THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE.

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

22 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
23 pass reading by title.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All

1           those in favor signify by saying aye.

2                   MR. PERRY: Aye.

3                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4                   MR. EVANS: Aye.

5                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
7           eyes have it and so moved.

8                   MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
9           CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR  
10          ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 26, 2016  
11          - ADOPTING AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE  
12          ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE  
13          SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE  
14          AUTHORITY, AS PROPOSED BY RESOLUTION OF THE  
15          BOARD OF THE AUTHORITY; SETTING FORTH THE  
16          PROPOSED AMENDMENT; AUTHORIZING SAID  
17          AUTHORITY AND PROPER OFFICERS THEREOF TO  
18          EXECUTE, VERIFY AND FILE APPROPRIATE  
19          ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT; AND REPEALING ALL  
20          ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES  
21          INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.

22                   MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
23          the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
24          passage of Item 7-A.

25                   MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

2 Roll call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

4 MR. PERRY: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

8 MR. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
13 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully  
14 adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
16 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
17 - RESOLUTION NO. 27, 2016 AUTHORIZING THE  
18 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
19 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
20 MAIN POOL AND CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC. FOR  
21 SEASONAL CHEMICALS FOR SWIMMING POOLS  
22 EXCLUDING NAY AUG POOL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR  
23 2016.

24 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
25 recommendation of the Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Public Works?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
3 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
4 passage of Item 7-B.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

7 Roll call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
18 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully  
19 adopted.

20 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
21 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
22 - RESOLUTION NO. 28, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
23 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
24 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
25 WALSH ELECTRICAL, INC. TO PERFORM

1 MAINTENANCE OF STREET LIGHTS FOR A TWELVE  
2 (12) MONTH PERIOD FROM MAY 1, 2016 THROUGH  
3 APRIL 30, 2017.

4 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
5 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
6 Committee on Public Works?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
8 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
9 passage of Item 7-C.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?  
12 Roll call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
23 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully  
24 adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR  
2 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 29, 2016 -  
3 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
4 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
5 LEASE AGREEMENT WITH HORSEPOWER HARLEY  
6 DAVIDSON, INC. TO LEASE FIVE (5) POLICE  
7 PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
8 POLICE DEPARTMENT.

9 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
10 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
11 Committee on Public Safety?

12 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the  
13 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
14 final passage of Item 7-D.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
3 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully  
4 adopted.

5 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
6 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION -  
7 RESOLUTION NO. 30, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
8 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
9 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
10 TURNKEY TAXES, INC. TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF  
11 SCRANTON AUDIT DISCOVERY SERVICES FOR ACT  
12 511 TAXES INCLUDING BUSINESS PRIVILEGE AND  
13 MERCANTILE TAXES TO THE END OF 2017 WITH A  
14 POSSIBLE ONE (1) YEAR EXTENSION PROVISION  
15 THROUGH THE END OF 2018 IN THE EVENT THE  
16 TRANSITION TO A PAYROLL TAX HAS NOT BEEN  
17 COMPLETED.

18 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
19 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
20 passage of Item 7-E.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

22 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

23 MR. EVANS: On the question, I will  
24 be voting "yes" for this legislation. I  
25 have always believed that the payroll



1 preparation tax is a broader, fairer tax by  
2 all standards then the mercantile and  
3 business privilege tax we presently have,  
4 and also primarily because the legislation  
5 now gives a deadline for the implementation  
6 and conversion to the payroll tax. There is  
7 now a commitment to a changeover that I  
8 didn't feel existed with the previous  
9 legislation.

10 Additionally, Senator Blake's  
11 further commitment to work on legislation at  
12 the state level to have the Scranton School  
13 District included in this we can see in the  
14 foreseeable future we can become a city that  
15 is finally free of the mercantile and  
16 business privilege tax once and for all.

17 It should be noted, none of these  
18 things would have happened if this council  
19 did not reject the original legislation. I  
20 want to thank Mr. Bulzoni for making the  
21 necessary changes to the original  
22 legislation that allowed this come back for  
23 a vote and moving this forward. Finding  
24 ways to compromise is something that rarely  
25 is on display in government these days but

1           it is today. That's all I have.

2                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
3           I would agree with Councilman Evans. I'll  
4           be voting for final passage of this  
5           legislation. We did reach a compromise with  
6           Mr. Bulzoni and the administration after  
7           much discussion. I am okay with this  
8           contract, and just so people understand this  
9           is a complimentary program. This is not  
10          designed to replace any efforts on behalf of  
11          the Single Tax Office so I will be looking  
12          closely at the results of this program and  
13          in three years we will be able to look back  
14          and see what kind of progress we have made.  
15          Thank you.

16                   MR. ROGAN: I voted against -- well,  
17          as we all voted against this legislation  
18          last time around and I'm still not convinced  
19          for a number of reasons and I strongly agree  
20          with what Councilman Evans said regarding  
21          the mercantile tax business privilege being  
22          a noose around the necks of businesses in  
23          the City of Scranton, but the city portion  
24          is one-quarter of your total bill.  
25          Obviously, we need to do our part.

1 My concern is that this legislation  
2 will be used to ramp up collections on these  
3 taxes and they will never go away. As well  
4 as I also have concerns that much of the tax  
5 collection and in this case audit discovery  
6 services can be outsourced in a more  
7 efficient manner than in a piecemeal manner  
8 by having a third party do one portion and  
9 have a government agency do another. My  
10 fear is that we are paying twice for some of  
11 the same services.

12 MR. PERRY: On the question,  
13 anything that gets rid of the business  
14 privilege and mercantile tax I'm certainly  
15 in favor for it. You know, we did vote this  
16 down but it did come back with enough  
17 amendments this time around to satisfy me  
18 for a "yes" vote and that's, as Mr. Evans  
19 said, he gave us an end date where I was not  
20 comfortable with a three-year run running  
21 contract with this company because what if  
22 we didn't get what we wanted and we are  
23 stuck with them for three years and it's  
24 just more money we are just throwing away,  
25 so I liked the fact that we changed it that

1           they have a one shot deal one year with the  
2           ability if we want to engage in other year  
3           and the fact that we now have a hard  
4           commitment that study will turn into a  
5           payroll prep tax which will get rid of the  
6           business privilege and mercantile tax. So  
7           for those amendments and for that reason I  
8           will be voting yes for this.

9           MR. WECHSLER: Yes, our goal was to  
10          get closer to the payroll prep tax and I  
11          believe that through compromise we have  
12          accomplished this. I'm also anxious to see  
13          what is discovered. My opinion is that I  
14          personally don't believe that we have this  
15          many companies that pay this tax, but I  
16          would be happy to be proven wrong or sad to  
17          be proven wrong one way or the other, but I  
18          just don't see that many companies being  
19          able to avoid this for this long a period,  
20          but perhaps I may be wrong with that, but  
21          we'll see. Roll call, please?

22          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

23          MR. PERRY: Yes.

24          MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25          MR. ROGAN: No.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
7 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully  
8 adopted. If there is no further business --

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I make one more  
10 comment, I forgot to mention at the  
11 beginning of the meeting? There is a  
12 fundraiser for Elijah Sabo at the Vault on  
13 Main Avenue in West Side from 3 p.m. to 10  
14 p.m. this Saturday. Elijah is a five-year  
15 old boy with a stage four neuroblastoma so  
16 if anybody can make it out to support this  
17 young man it would be appreciated. Thank  
18 you.

19 MR. WECHSLER: All right, if there  
20 is no further business, I'll entertain a  
21 motion to adjourn.

22 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting 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