

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

Elizabeth V. Kedrick, 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

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

1 MR. WECHSLER: Pledge of Allegiance,  
2 please?

3 (Pledge recited.)

4 MR. WECHSLER: Please remain  
5 standing for a moment of silent reflection  
6 for our service men and women throughout the  
7 world and also for those who have passed  
8 away in our community?

9 (Moment of silence observed.)

10 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

12 MR. PERRY: Here.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Here.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

16 MR. EVANS: Here.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

20 MR. WECHSLER: Here. I have a few  
21 announcements. City Hall will be closed on  
22 Monday, May 30th in observance of the  
23 Memorial Day Holiday. DPW workers are also  
24 off that day, refuse and recycling will be  
25 one day behind next week. In addition,

1 Colts buses will not be running on Monday  
2 May 30th. Buses will begin running again at  
3 normal time on Tuesday, May 31st. A couple  
4 announcements on agenda items. There will  
5 be a motion to amend Item 7A to include a 10  
6 percent discount on refuse bills. There  
7 will be a motion to table Item 7D. We have  
8 received correspondence from the appointee  
9 who has requested that his name be withdrawn  
10 from consideration. And finally, there will  
11 be a motion to table Item 7F to determine if  
12 any changes that may be made to it may  
13 impact the application. Dispense with  
14 reading of the minutes?

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3A. AGENDA  
16 FOR THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
17 HELD MAY 25, 2016.

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

20 MS. REED: 3B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
21 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD MAY 25, 2016.

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

24 MS. REED: 3C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
25 RESULTS REPORT FOR HEARING DATE HELD MAY 11,

1 2016.

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

4 MS. REED: 3D. MINUTES OF THE  
5 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE  
6 AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL  
7 21, 2016.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
9 comments? If not, received and filed. I  
10 have one more announcement that I  
11 overlooked. An executive session was held  
12 this evening to discuss personnel matters  
13 and salary matters. Do this council members  
14 have any comments at this time?

15 MR. PERRY: I do, I have one  
16 announcement. I just want to let everybody  
17 know that Swinging on Vine is going to be  
18 taking place May 27th between 5 and 8 p.m.  
19 It's going to be located outside the  
20 Albright Memorial Library, 500 Vine Street  
21 right across from my alma matter, Scranton  
22 Central, if that doesn't age me too much.  
23 And then, just a little descriptor of what's  
24 going to be taking place, it's the 7th  
25 annual Swinging on Vine for the Albright

1 Memorial Library. There's a block party  
2 that takes place in front of the library.  
3 There will be music from Paul LaBelle and  
4 the Exact Change; beer, wine, margaritas,  
5 raffle and food from local businesses and  
6 restaurants. This is a 21 and over event  
7 and all proceeds benefit the library. For  
8 tickets or information, you can call or go  
9 to their website. Phone number is  
10 570-348-3013. And the website is  
11 [lclshome.org/swingingonvine](http://lclshome.org/swingingonvine). That's all I  
12 have.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? Just a  
14 reminder this Monday is Memorial Day and if  
15 you have the opportunity, there are several  
16 memorial services planned throughout the  
17 city and you should take some time to join  
18 one if you can. I believe there's one at  
19 the Cathedral Cemetery and one at Keyser  
20 Valley Community Center. Also, one at Nay  
21 Aug and also I believe at 1 p.m. in Conners  
22 Park there will also be a military service  
23 for our veterans.

24 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS  
25 PARTICIPATION.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodawanitz?

2 MS. HODAWANITZ: Joan Hodawanitz,  
3 citizen and taxpayer. Also, a board member  
4 of the Friends of Scranton Public Library.  
5 And I want to announce our quarterly used  
6 book sale which will be going on from  
7 Tuesday, May 31st through Sunday, June 5th  
8 at the Library Express. That's on the  
9 second story of the Steamtown Mall. And we  
10 sell fiction, non-fiction, DVD's, CD's,  
11 paperback, hardcover. All our books are  
12 used, but they're in good to excellent  
13 condition. And we sell them for the  
14 outrageous price of \$1 or \$2 a piece. On  
15 Sunday and Sunday only, if you buy our tote  
16 bag, Friends tote bag for \$5, you can fill  
17 it with all the books you can stuff in there  
18 and the books will be free. So, come. I  
19 hear a lot of statements made every year  
20 about how difficult it is to get funding for  
21 the children to swim free at Nay Aug. We at  
22 the Friends are using our efforts to support  
23 the children's programs of the Lackawanna  
24 County Library System. And in case you  
25 don't know, we offer, for those who need it,

1 free lunches from June 20th to August 12th.  
2 We have a summer reading club for children  
3 from birth, listening to me Billy? From  
4 birth through age 12, they get all kinds of  
5 goodies. And there's even a Kosher option  
6 for those who are Jewish. And just about  
7 everyday, there is something for the  
8 children. So whether we go here on Vine  
9 Street or the Nancy Kay Holmes Library in  
10 Greenridge. So please take advantage of  
11 this. This is a win-win for the city and  
12 for us. I was pleased to see that you're  
13 tabling item 7D, Mr. Prendergast's  
14 nomination to MIDAS. He's still delinquent  
15 in his garbage fees and property taxes. And  
16 I would expect if the Mayor sends forth a  
17 nomination for an authority or a board of  
18 someone who is delinquent without good  
19 cause, there really isn't much good cause,  
20 that you would not give him a rubber stamp  
21 of approval. Even though he can appoint  
22 anybody he wants, don't give him your  
23 support on that. Everybody that gets  
24 appointed should be a citizen in good  
25 standing. I was looking at the city's



1 website this afternoon and I fell to my  
2 knees in shock. This afternoon on the  
3 business administrator's web page is the  
4 2014 audit finally posted today dated March  
5 11th. It took over two months. Speaking of  
6 the audit, how did the teleconferencing go  
7 on May 23rd?

8 MR. WECHSLER: It was very good.  
9 Mr. Evans and Mr. Bulzoni and myself  
10 attended. It was the first one that we have  
11 done like that. And it kind of set the  
12 ground for how we're going to handle it in  
13 the future.

14 MS. HODAWANITZ: Will SB and Company  
15 be giving us updates on the 2015 audit as it  
16 goes along since they didn't last year?

17 MR. WECHSLER: They are going to  
18 provide updates to us as we move along, yes.

19 MR. HODAWANITZ: Okay and when will  
20 we see a summary of fiscal affairs published  
21 in the local newspaper.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Mrs. Reed and Mr.  
23 Bulzoni are working on that to meet the  
24 requirements of the charter.

25 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okay, you know that

1 the charter says that the 2015 summary is  
2 due next Tuesday. But, we'll worry about  
3 that later.

4 MR. WECHSLER: That won't happen.

5 MS. HODAWANITZ: I didn't think it  
6 would. The parking garages, what's the  
7 status? I haven't heard a whole lot about  
8 it recently.

9 MR. WECHSLER: We're actually  
10 getting an update next week.

11 MS. HODAWANITZ: Okay, do you recall  
12 two years ago in 2014, you gave a contract  
13 to PFM and they're supposed to be paid in  
14 2015 on the assumption that this would be  
15 completed in 2015. Have we got any idea how  
16 much money we owe those people?

17 MR. WECHSLER: Not until the deals  
18 are complete.

19 MS. HODAWANITZ: I have a feeling  
20 it's not going to be a happy surprise.  
21 Because they can give us any number of  
22 billable hours they want. And this pension  
23 bill that's been discussed in the newspaper  
24 about moving the city's pension funds  
25 underneath the state, anybody have a firm

1 handle on that? I wish we would discuss  
2 that during 5B. I'd like to know what's  
3 going on there, how are the unions taking  
4 it? And do the unions have a vote on this?  
5 Or if the state says do it, they're going to  
6 do it. So if you could give us some  
7 information on that, that would be much  
8 appreciated. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

10 MS. HODAWANITZ: And come to our  
11 book sale, Billy.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Sherry Skramstad?

13 MS. SKRAMSTAD: Good evening, Ladies  
14 and Gentlemen, my name is Sherry Skramstad.  
15 I now reside in Morgan Manor Apartment  
16 Complex on the Morgan Highway. This is my  
17 second address to this body regarding the  
18 same issue. When I was here several months  
19 ago, I reported that when Clover Management  
20 testified before you in a public hearing in  
21 order to received a permit to build and  
22 operate a senior apartment complex in this  
23 city, it was not adhering to what they  
24 testified. I was assured by their secretary  
25 that each of you would receive a copy of

1           what I told this body at that time. In  
2           spite of that, I've had no response from  
3           even one of you. In the interim, I visited  
4           a welcoming friend at that apartment complex  
5           from which I was refused a renewal of my  
6           lease and forced to move yet again. When I  
7           was asked by management to leave the  
8           property, I declined to do so having had no  
9           order of protection issued against me and  
10          having never threatened anyone at the  
11          complex nor destroyed anything there or ever  
12          threatened to destroy anything there. In  
13          spite of this, three Scranton Police  
14          Officers arrived at the complex to arrest me  
15          for trespassing. My only alternative was to  
16          be escorted to my car by the police and  
17          observed driving off the property if I chose  
18          not to be arrested. I did not know if this  
19          action taken by Clover Management at the  
20          complex was legal. And so I contacted an  
21          attorney who told me that this City Council  
22          is responsible for seeing that what the  
23          corporation testified to before you in a  
24          public hearing was adhered to. When Clover  
25          Management substantially raised the rents on

1 each unit in the complex every year since  
2 they've been open in opposition to what they  
3 told this council, I mistakenly believed it  
4 was because the taxes in Scranton had  
5 increased so much. But since my last visit,  
6 I have come to learn that Clover Management  
7 received a 10 year tax abatement from this  
8 body. They testified that they would build  
9 affordable, quote unquote, senior apartments  
10 in this city. But I maintain that \$1,035  
11 per unit for seniors on a fixed income is  
12 far from affordable. Before moving into  
13 that complex, many future residents were  
14 told there would not be an increase in rents  
15 at the end of each yearly lease. And that,  
16 when the rent was raised, it would be only  
17 \$10 to \$15 a month according to the cost of  
18 living adjustment. That is hardly the truth  
19 at this time. I understand that another  
20 city resident addressed this council  
21 regarding this issue and asked what you had  
22 done about it since my last visit. When the  
23 response was nothing, I believe he also  
24 warned you that you were responsible for  
25 enforcing what Clover Management had

1 testified to before you. I am here to issue  
2 the same message. Either you will take  
3 action to see that the council can be  
4 trusted to enforce what is publicly recorded  
5 when it issues permits and demonstrate that  
6 you do care about the lives of the residents  
7 of this city, especially the elderly, or I  
8 will be forced to organize a class action  
9 suit against the council. Thank you. May I  
10 give you people a copy?

11 MR. WECHSLER: Give them to the  
12 secretary.

13 MS. SKRAMSTAD: I just want to make  
14 sure you get them so that you can't say you  
15 didn't see what I left.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman?

17 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, council. I saw  
18 in Sunday's paper, it was 25 years ago I  
19 voted for Charlie Spano for a--when he ran  
20 for council. Isn't it amazing how fast time  
21 goes by when you're having fun? I'd like to  
22 talk about some of our friends and  
23 neighbors, some that I've met that sort of  
24 been unfortunate these 20, 25 years and had  
25 their houses foreclosed on. It's a great

1           sadness that I imagine some of you have been  
2           involved with someone like that. Most of  
3           these people are just gone, I guess. But  
4           whose replacing them? Last week's paper  
5           said our population's increasing. It  
6           doesn't seem to be increasing for the  
7           better. It doesn't seem to be increasing  
8           tax wise to help anybody. I think we're  
9           increasing with a bunch of undesirables like  
10          Hazleton. People that aren't contributing  
11          nothing to society. People that take our  
12          social services, our schools, medical, take  
13          grants, they take and take and they don't  
14          give. They don't contribute nothing.  
15          That's who seems to be taking over Scranton.  
16          Some bleeding hearts society gives them a  
17          house, it becomes the worst one in the  
18          neighborhood almost immediately. I hear  
19          this continuously, once a week, twice a  
20          week, I hear about some family or some group  
21          that's been given a house and just ruined  
22          the whole neighborhood because they don't  
23          have an investment like you people or like I  
24          do or like these people out here. What do  
25          they have to lose? They'll get another

1 house. It seems like undesirables seem to  
2 circle in the downtown area. That seems  
3 like as soon as you leave the center part of  
4 a city, the next row around it is low income  
5 and a poor neighborhood. I remember St.  
6 Louis spent a fortune fixing up the downtown  
7 section for tourists and the crime was so  
8 bad it folded up. I don't know if anybody  
9 was ever there, it was beautiful. Atlanta  
10 had the underground, the same thing. It was  
11 something to see. They couldn't keep it  
12 open. Two weeks ago, when I was in Memphis,  
13 Beale Street is a wonderful attraction. You  
14 can't go there at night. You can't be seen  
15 anywhere in the area at night. You need a  
16 machine gun or something to protect  
17 yourself. Nobody wanted to go down there  
18 with me to get barbecue or anything. And  
19 they live there, they know what's going on.  
20 I think if you keep wanting to shore up  
21 downtown, you guys ought to spend your own  
22 money on it and leave the taxpayers out of  
23 it. Downtown's had its chance. Let what  
24 happens to it. You know, people in  
25 Scranton, you're being betrayed by hope.



1           Hope that never comes. Never will come in  
2           our lifetime. Council's hope is very  
3           comforting. It's very commendable. What do  
4           you want? But it's not realistic. It's,  
5           you don't thrive on facts like I do.  
6           You--you're--I know I get mad at you guys,  
7           but I know that you want the best for the  
8           city and the people. But it doesn't work  
9           out that way. I don't know the answers or I  
10          might be sitting up there. Let me tell you  
11          a real quick story that these people--these  
12          young guys out here remind me of last week  
13          and this week. When I was 18, my father got  
14          a hold of me one day, dragged me down  
15          someplace. He said, Little Ellman, I got  
16          you a job on the Fire Department. I said a  
17          fireman? I don't want to be a fireman. He  
18          said, in 20 years, you'll be a chief. And  
19          my father was--my father was wired  
20          politically, much more than anybody that you  
21          people know. He just was up there in  
22          Tennessee politics. I said in 20 years,  
23          I'll be an old man. Yeah, I'll be 38. So I  
24          went onto to be a jack off.

25                           MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.

1 Ellman. That's enough now. Thank you.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. ELLMAN: I guess it should be,  
4 make your sons be a fireman.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.

6 Ellman.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Lee Morgan?

9 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, council,  
10 Lee Morgan. Well, I think the first thing  
11 that should be discussed here is, you know,  
12 I appreciate the young people that came here  
13 today. And I think that they should realize  
14 that before they were born, this city was  
15 probably in distress under Act 47. And it's  
16 my opinion at this time that the city is  
17 further in debt than when it started into  
18 Act 47. And after almost a quarter century  
19 of elected officials committing the most  
20 atrocious votes possible, creating the most  
21 damage that can possibly be done to a city  
22 and its residents, this has been multiplied  
23 over and over. Not just here, but across  
24 this country as America has become a country  
25 in very serious debt by elected Democrat and

1 Republican officials on multiple levels.  
2 And as the city has declined and gone into  
3 debt, it's spun and sold every asset  
4 imaginable from a city park to South Side  
5 Sports Complex to the Municipal Golf Course,  
6 to the parking meters. Soon, to sell the  
7 Scranton Sewer Authority and trap the  
8 residents and quite possibly \$500 million of  
9 additional debt by trying to bring the storm  
10 collection systems up to where they need to  
11 be because they've been neglected for so  
12 long. Now, when you take a look at all  
13 these things and you see what this council  
14 has done, and not just here, but everywhere.  
15 And with the Scranton School District  
16 talking about potential bankruptcy and money  
17 being sucked out of the classrooms, you have  
18 to ask yourself, what are we leaving the  
19 young adults that are in this room? Some of  
20 them today may laugh and find it very  
21 humorous what's taking place here today.  
22 Because let us not forget that for the 20  
23 years ago, residents in the city thought  
24 this was the greatest comedy show they ever  
25 saw as it's elected officials looted the

1 city and gave out contracts that were just  
2 mind boggling. So, when we look around and  
3 we see how dysfunctional our government is,  
4 is it any wonder why the people have no  
5 faith and they're pushing Mr. Trump so far  
6 up in the polls? But the question is that  
7 if Mr. Trump can't deliver, what will the  
8 American people do next? I think the people  
9 need to go back into the 1960s and notice  
10 the racial unrest that took place in America  
11 and take a look at the Black Panthers  
12 movement across this country and what  
13 happened there. I think it's very important  
14 to realize that a power hungry incompetent  
15 government that does nothing but continually  
16 disrespect its voters and its residents,  
17 that's what happens. I mean, when you take  
18 a look at this City Sheriff's sale'ing  
19 people's property because the elected  
20 government has looted the city. And then,  
21 you have to ask yourself, well, if we went  
22 into Act 47, why didn't the House of  
23 Representatives and the State Senate hold  
24 the City of Scranton responsible and  
25 sanction them and take the city over? And

1           then, you have to ask yourself another  
2           question, what happened to the U.S. Congress  
3           and U.S. Senate? But every level in  
4           government has been stealing and  
5           self-serving themselves for probably a very  
6           long time. Because the national government  
7           is in so much debt that it makes Greece look  
8           good. The only thing that's really taking  
9           place in this country is people still have  
10          some slight semblance of faith in the  
11          American dollar. But it is absolutely  
12          useless. It has no real buying power. And  
13          we have to ask ourselves, where is the  
14          District Attorney's Office? Where is the  
15          state prosecutors? Where are the judges?  
16          Where are the elected officials on every  
17          other level of government that could have  
18          came in here and helped the residents of  
19          this city? Nowhere in sight. Is it  
20          possible that the Democratic and Republican  
21          parties are so broke that all they've done  
22          is enslave the American people and make a  
23          mockery of representative government in  
24          America? You know, I'm sitting here today  
25          looking at the Rules of Council and a Judge

1 has already ruled that most of the things on  
2 this paper are totally meaningless. So that  
3 if someone was to try to use these, you  
4 would be in direct violation of a court  
5 order that already exists. So maybe you  
6 should talk to your solicitor. Thank you.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Morgan. Is there anyone else who would like  
9 to address council?

10 MR. SBAGLIA: Andy Sbraglia, City  
11 of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I too look  
12 at your Rules of Council. Some things make  
13 sense. Others don't. You use the word, any  
14 person authorized. That sounds like a  
15 dictatorship. Or you used to say anybody  
16 wishing to address council? Why would you  
17 use the word authorized like as if you have  
18 to say you can't speak or you can speak.  
19 That's not quite right there.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Sbraglia, really  
21 council is meant for the citizens of  
22 Scranton to speak. That's what the term--

23 MR. SBAGLIA: Well, I assume I'm a  
24 citizen of Scranton longer than any of you's  
25 up there.

1 MR. WECHSLER: You asked the  
2 question, that's the answer. Not everyone  
3 is authorized.

4 MR. SBAGLIA: Why don't you change  
5 from authorize to wishing to speak. Like  
6 when you call up and you say anybody wishing  
7 to speak before council.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Because not everyone  
9 is allowed to. If you're not a resident of  
10 the city, you're really not supposed to  
11 speak.

12 MR. SBAGLIA: Very few people come  
13 before you that are not a resident of the  
14 city except sometimes people that are  
15 associated with the university. And  
16 they--technically they aren't residents of  
17 the city. Even though, they're not having  
18 residence other than a dorm. But anyway, I  
19 don't like the word authorization. That's  
20 not--I think you should change that wording.  
21 Another thing is, your record is open to  
22 comment whether it's 20 years records, 50  
23 years records or anything. Anything you  
24 vote on up there is open to be commented on.  
25 Whether you consider it an insult or not an

1 insult, that's not right. The records show  
2 how you voted. And if somebody disagrees  
3 with the way you voted, they have a right to  
4 comment on it. Now, when you think a  
5 personal attack, comment on your record is  
6 not a personal attack. That is not. That  
7 is the American way of doing things.  
8 Because like I pointed out to you many times  
9 before, your weapon is your vote. If you  
10 don't wish to use your vote, then that leads  
11 to a different way of doing things and we  
12 really don't want to go that way. So, when  
13 people come before you and criticize your  
14 vote or criticizing the vote of Mr. Pocius  
15 or any of them. Or even our county, I guess  
16 you would say he's, well, that's what's  
17 wrong with getting old, words sometimes  
18 don't come to you. But anyway, a person  
19 that cost the city to lose a million  
20 dollars, Gary Dibileo cost the city to lose  
21 over a million dollars in 108 loans. Is  
22 that right to comment on that? Well, it  
23 certainly is. Now, what I told you before,  
24 when they came before you, that's a story  
25 that we really--we hit. These people don't



1 even know it. But anyway, it went to the  
2 county. The county with the loan outside of  
3 Philadelphia down that way. They got the  
4 paperwork all up. They wanted us to support  
5 our million--I think it was one million  
6 point four that we had on there, we had a  
7 loan there we were supporting it, number  
8 one. So they asked us to take that away.  
9 Gary Dibileo went that way. As soon as we  
10 went that way, they declared bankruptcy and  
11 we lost it. Now, was that smart? That's  
12 why you hear me talk about insubordinate  
13 diplomas. You've got to be ridiculous.  
14 You're here to watch every penny of the city  
15 whether it's 100 years down the road or  
16 current. You must do that. Where we are is  
17 because you weren't watching your pennies.  
18 We don't do anything in-house anymore. I  
19 don't know why you just don't lay off the  
20 whole city staff and just render out the  
21 different things, give contracts to other  
22 people to run the whole city. Because  
23 certainly the way it's going down now,  
24 you're doing it anyway and you're still  
25 paying city staff. And that's not right

1           either. You've got to have the people that  
2           you paid do what they're supposed to do. I  
3           mean, to have a contract out for someone to  
4           go down to the single tax office and say,  
5           hey, are these people paying this, owing  
6           that and there's where the records are.  
7           They really don't have subpoena power. You  
8           didn't give that contract with subpoena  
9           power to them people that they can go and  
10          check your book records here, there or  
11          wherever. So that means you have to take  
12          the word of the single tax office. Okay,  
13          there's no sense in me speaking.

14                   MR. DOBRYZN: Good evening, council,  
15          Dave Dobryzn, resident, taxpayer, about to  
16          pay my fees tomorrow after I withdrew money  
17          from my retirement system. Last week--and  
18          this is the last time I actually intend to  
19          ever bring this up. But I'd like to  
20          establish a fact. You passed an ordinance  
21          and there's a penalty for it, irregardless  
22          of whether it's a solution in search of a  
23          problem, irregardless of whether we did  
24          listen to suggestions that we keep smoking  
25          out of the playgrounds and out of the

1 swimming pool area and out of the eating  
2 areas which I consider reasonable. It's  
3 illegal. And if you don't want to be  
4 speaking to one of Scranton's finest in a  
5 negative situation and you don't want to be  
6 asked to produce ID and you don't want to be  
7 potentially stopped and frisked or who only  
8 knows what else, not being insulting to the  
9 police officer, that's his job. Then, plan  
10 not to light a cigarette in 29 parks. And  
11 my suggestion to the young people in the  
12 back room is if you don't smoke now, don't  
13 bother trying it. Because when you're  
14 50-years-old, you might be wishing you  
15 didn't. Illegal is illegal. And I have  
16 problems with politics that start to  
17 restrict social and citizens rights. I just  
18 have a problem with it. We've had all kinds  
19 of government ordinances. From what I can  
20 see here, back ordinances, if you sell an  
21 adult magazine in Scranton, you very  
22 possibly have to read it a little further,  
23 you could get 90 days in jail. Well, all of  
24 this stuff, a teen curfew, all of this stuff  
25 gets decided in the Supreme Court. And

1           then, we turn around and rewrite the laws,  
2           and ordinances and state laws and whatever  
3           next week. We turn right around and do the  
4           same old thing. And, you know, Einstein  
5           said, well, it's a sign of being crazy to  
6           keep trying to do the same thing over and  
7           over, insanity. But I'll add to that.  
8           Either it's ineptness or personal--some kind  
9           of personal alternative. But now, I'd like  
10          to get onto the other things, but I  
11          established that fact. 29 parks,  
12          irregardless of whether it's a problem,  
13          smoking is illegal. And that's it. Unless  
14          you repeal it. Now, on this fees owed and  
15          taxes owed, some people have good reason and  
16          maybe they got into an accident, maybe  
17          they're just too poor to pay it. And I  
18          suggested that. But no more, please don't  
19          ever bring somebody before council and you  
20          guys shouldn't have to vote on this  
21          yourselves. I'm glad to see that you're  
22          putting that aside. So that's my  
23          compliment, because we have too many  
24          uncollected taxes and fees by people with  
25          the means to pay it. And they just want

1           their--they might have to forego a motor  
2           boat full of gas at Lake Wamkapui or  
3           something like that for the weekend. So  
4           I'll just let my fees go or whatever. A lot  
5           of upper middle glass families actually  
6           spend way too much. And I'd also like to  
7           point out that I sat down and did some math.  
8           Social security and Medicare, local taxes,  
9           municipal taxes, state taxes and the 1.1  
10          percent on minimum wage tax is 15 percent.  
11          It adds up to 15 percent. So before these  
12          people pay any property taxes at minimum  
13          wage or a low wage and before they even pay  
14          their federal income taxes, they are paying  
15          15 percent tax out of their paycheck. Now,  
16          out of \$15,000, it's probably at least 2 or  
17          3, closer to 3. And it's really getting to  
18          a point where we can't levy anymore taxes on  
19          the average person. Especially to make up  
20          for people that wouldn't want to pay their  
21          fees so that he can go to Wamkapui this  
22          weekend. Thank you. Have a good weekend.

23                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie  
24                   Schumacher.

25                   MR. WECHSLER: Good evening.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Before I start  
2 asking questions which I had intended to ask  
3 at the Scranton Sewer Authority, however, it  
4 was conveniently not held because of the  
5 lack of a quorum. But you guys have had  
6 that asset purchase agreement for about six  
7 weeks now. So before I waste time asking  
8 the questions, has everybody read it?

9 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Uh-huh.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, then maybe  
12 you could-- I'm sure you have the same  
13 questions I had. And you have the ability  
14 to seek answers, so I will ask you guys  
15 them. Does the 1.9 percent increase per  
16 year apply only to the current customer  
17 charge and consumption charge thereby  
18 allowing for the immediate application of  
19 the Buyers Prevailing Waste Water Tariff?  
20 Anybody know?

21 MR. ROGAN: What was that second  
22 part, a waste water?

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: A Buyers Prevailing  
24 Waste Water Tariff? Okay, I'll try another  
25 one. The buyer shall not propose or

1           implement a distribution improvement system  
2           charge for the service area waste water  
3           customers before January 1st, 2019. Is it  
4           possible the distribution improvement system  
5           charge may be applied after the first of  
6           January 2019? And if so, would this charge  
7           be exclusive of the 1.9 percent 10 year gap?

8           MR. EVANS: I don't think--the 1.9  
9           is supposed to be a fixed locked fee. So I  
10          don't expect any additional charges beyond  
11          1.9.

12          MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I didn't  
13          either. But if you read the document, it  
14          certainly leaves it up in the air. So I  
15          would like some hard answers. The Mayor  
16          won't answer. The Sewer Authority, you  
17          can't get them.

18          MR. ROGAN: 1.9 is average of 1.9, I  
19          believe. It's not actually going to be 1.9.

20          MS. SCHUMACHER: That's not what  
21          they said at the public hearing, but that's  
22          your understanding. A couple more.  
23          Regarding the scope of the work for the  
24          city's MS-4 obligation, I did get the backup  
25          for what they were proposing and what they

1           went to was what was done in Prince Georges  
2           County, Maryland. And down there, they had  
3           two taxes, two additional taxes, they had an  
4           ad valorem for a capital projects and then  
5           they had a fee for individual properties.  
6           Is that what you are envisioning for the  
7           City of Scranton storm water?

8                   MR. EVANS: Well, that's why we--the  
9           grant that we applied for is going to look  
10          into the storm water system itself and the  
11          fee itself. I envision just for properties.  
12          I don't envision the second part of that.

13                   MS. SCHUMACHER: When will that be  
14          available?

15                   MR. EVANS: That's what we're trying  
16          to find out ourselves. So the grant  
17          application--

18                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Why by yourself? I  
19          didn't understand.

20                   MR. EVANS: Yeah, you're talking  
21          about the grant and the study or?

22                   MS. SCHUMACHER: No, I'm talking  
23          about what they actually intend to do.

24                   MR. EVANS: I'd like to know as  
25          well.



1 MS. SCHUMACHER: They had a whole  
2 proposal as backup to the asset.

3 MR. EVANS: I have several questions  
4 about that as well. And there's some  
5 language in there that talks about  
6 Pennsylvania American taking over the system  
7 for a while or at least maintaining it. But  
8 the date is not defined. I'm trying to find  
9 out what the date would be and how long  
10 they're willing to do that.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay and there's  
12 others, if you should run into the Mayor  
13 someplace, would you ask him to please  
14 respond to my letter?

15 MR. EVANS: Uh-huh.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: And maybe somebody  
17 can refresh my memory on the pensions for  
18 the fire and police post February 15 and for  
19 new hires and for the current employees.  
20 Are they going into 401 K's?

21 MR. EVANS: No.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: What is the  
23 difference between a new hire and someone  
24 who is on the pay roll?

25 MR. EVANS: I'd have to check the

1 contract again. But I think they are paying  
2 a higher amount into their pension.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's the sum  
4 total.

5 MR. EVANS: Well, I think there's  
6 more to it than that. But I'll verify that.  
7 I'll have to pull the contract out and see  
8 what it is. No, I definitely wanted to see  
9 a 401 K type plan, but that didn't happen.

10 MR. WECHSLER: It's prohibited by  
11 the state.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: The service line  
13 warranty, this is the second mailing I got.

14 MR. EVANS: It's legitimate.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Exactly same  
16 postage envelope as I get rejections from  
17 the city for and some fulfillments. So are  
18 they--did we pay for the postage of this?  
19 Or how do they get to use our return  
20 address, our logo?

21 MR. ROGAN: No and I brought this up  
22 a couple weeks ago because a lot of people  
23 did think they were sent something from the  
24 city.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Gee, imagine that.

1 MR. ROGAN: It's really just  
2 deceptive advertising on the part of these  
3 firms. Because when you read those letters,  
4 it looks like it came from the city.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Are we pursuing  
6 something letting them know or--

7 MR. GAUGHAN: No, this was agreed to  
8 in the contract. In other words, when we  
9 passed the contract, we gave--

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Woah, which  
11 contract?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: A couple months ago,  
13 whenever we passed the contract with the  
14 service line warrant company, we gave them  
15 the right to use the city's logo when they  
16 sent out the letters.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I'll be back  
18 with the rest next week good Lord willing.  
19 Thank you.

20 MR. UNGVARSKY: City Council, I'm  
21 Tom Ungvarsky.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Good evening.

23 MR. UNGVARSKY: A little while ago,  
24 a woman came up here and she asked you a  
25 question on what you did to help her with a

1           rent problem she had. I noticed nobody  
2           answered her. Did anyone help her?

3           Silence.

4                       MR. ROGAN: I'll answer it. There's  
5           nothing that City Council could do because a  
6           landlord refuses to rent to a tenant as long  
7           as they stay within the federal guidelines  
8           as far as not discriminating. And even in  
9           that case, it wouldn't be City Council to  
10          take it up, it would be HUD.

11                      MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay, this  
12          corporation, when they came here asking for  
13          a LERTA, they promised that the rents would  
14          start at \$800. City Council gave them a  
15          LERTA. The LERTA reduced their tax burden.  
16          As such, that would give City Council the  
17          right to look into it and see what can be  
18          done.

19                      MS. SKRAMSTAD: Amen.

20                      MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm sorry, I didn't  
21          hear that.

22                      MS. SKRAMSTAD: I said amen.

23                      MR. UNGVARSKY: Yes, City Council  
24          just like everything else always has the  
25          answer, our hands are tied, we can't do

1 anything, we don't have any power. Why are  
2 you sitting up there if you have no power?  
3 There must be something you can do to help  
4 the people besides impose more taxes on  
5 them. Once again, I get silence. It seems  
6 like the only thing that this council can do  
7 anymore is argue with the speakers. It is  
8 going back to the days of Judy Gatelli when  
9 everything was attacked and you weren't  
10 allowed to say anything. In fact, last week  
11 somebody says that we should limit the  
12 speakers to just what is to city residents.  
13 I'm sure there's people that come here from  
14 out of the city that would like to address  
15 City Council. But City Council, they meet  
16 for an hour and fifteen minutes or an hour  
17 and a half a week and that's it. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

19 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5A.

20 MOTIONS.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

22 MR. PERRY: Just two quick things.

23 With this weekend being Memorial Day, I just  
24 want everybody to enjoy your weekend. Enjoy  
25 time off if you're fortunate enough to have

1           it. And also, remember why we have the  
2           time, for the fallen, for the men and women  
3           who didn't come back home. And also instill  
4           that into the next generation, the younger  
5           generation, your children. You know, it's  
6           okay to have a good time because that's what  
7           the fallen men and women, that's what they  
8           fought and that's what they died for, for  
9           the right for the rest of us to have our  
10          freedoms and to have our enjoyment. But  
11          let's pass on what Memorial Day really means  
12          and let's honor them correctly. And  
13          secondly, I want to thank the students back  
14          there from Scranton Prep. You guys have  
15          been outstanding with your attendance at our  
16          meetings. We've had class after class come  
17          in. And it's really heartening to know that  
18          the younger generation of high school kids  
19          are taking advantage and taking part of our  
20          city government because it's really  
21          important. And in many ways, the local  
22          government, the city government has a  
23          greater impact on your day-to-day life than  
24          state government and even the federal  
25          government. So I just want to commend you

1           guys for being a part of our meetings week  
2           after week. And enjoy your summer vacation.  
3           Hopefully, some of you guys have jobs. Pump  
4           some money into our economy, please. And  
5           hey, don't be afraid to find a job in the  
6           city afterwards. You don't have to go.  
7           Alright, guys, that's all I have. Thank  
8           you.

9                         MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.  
10           Rogan?

11                        MR. ROGAN: Yes, comments, but first  
12           a motion, I would like to make a motion to  
13           table Item 7F?

14                        MR. EVANS: Second.

15                        MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

16                        MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
17           A couple things. First, I'll be voting to  
18           table this. I guess the reason that we're  
19           tabling this is to figure out why the  
20           administration wants to add a position  
21           that's going to get a \$5,000 raise. They're  
22           lowering positions and increasing one, the  
23           Licensing and Inspections Director by  
24           \$5,000. So I'm confused by this whole  
25           thing, to be honest with you. I don't think

1           that it was well thought out by Mayor  
2           Courtright. And, you know, I just am  
3           confused by the whole thing. There's  
4           nothing that is attached to this motion to  
5           amend from the administration explaining,  
6           you know, why all of these salaries now from  
7           last week are being decreased. So I would  
8           like to see an explanation and someone tell  
9           me what is going on with this grant  
10          application in the next week.

11                 MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question, I  
12           was in favor last week to introduce 7F with  
13           the salaries as is. And there was a  
14           compromise made--there's been a reduction in  
15           salaries by 35 percent. I believe it went  
16           from \$66,000 a year increase to \$43,000 a  
17           year increase. And, you know, that's a part  
18           of government is the compromise. But what I  
19           have a question which is what that's going  
20           to do to the integrity of our grant that we  
21           filed. And there's some storm water  
22           management funds in there that we need and  
23           we need now. So, although I am in favor of  
24           the increases at a reduced rate and, you  
25           know, later on in the budget I'll fight and



1           make my case for getting them back to where  
2           they were originally. You know, I am in  
3           favor of tabling this until next week just  
4           to make sure that we have our grant is going  
5           to go forward because I don't want to put  
6           that in jeopardy.

7                       MR. ROGAN: And speaking for myself,  
8           I've voiced a number of concerns regarding  
9           this both in public and to the Mayor, I  
10          think the increases that were put in are far  
11          too high. I certainly wouldn't support the  
12          legislation in its current form. I  
13          definitely wouldn't vote to give a \$10,000  
14          raise to the head of the IT Department while  
15          we leave out increases for other departments  
16          such as the Law Department and Licensing and  
17          Inspections who are also doing a good job on  
18          very little funds. Additionally, there are  
19          increases in here as far \$5,000 for  
20          secretaries. I do believe that increases  
21          for department heads probably are needed,  
22          but not at this high of a level. I'm  
23          hopeful that a compromise can be met where,  
24          you know, reductions on the current proposal  
25          that was in front of us are made well in

1           keeping with the integrity of the grant  
2           regarding the much more important issue of  
3           the storm water management grant. So that's  
4           why I'm hopeful over the next week, the five  
5           of us can come to an agreement that we all  
6           can support on this legislation.

7                     MR. WECHSLER: Well, I was going to  
8           summarize, so if you want?

9                     MR. EVANS: Alright, my issue with,  
10          again, and I'll concur with what Councilman  
11          Perry said, we sent a grant down and it's  
12          under review at the state. So we don't know  
13          what the impact of this change will be. And  
14          we just got it tonight. It's been a little  
15          bit of a mess to be perfectly honest with  
16          you. So we're trying to sort it all out and  
17          deliver a decision which way to proceed  
18          based on information that we can get between  
19          now and our next meeting. Because I'm not  
20          prepared to vote on something I have no idea  
21          why it was changed, for what point. So  
22          that's my opinion at this point. We'll see  
23          what happens during the week.

24                     MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, really, just to  
25          summarize after last week's meeting, there

1 was some concerns about the amount of the  
2 increase and the sustainability of those  
3 increases as they become more dependent upon  
4 city finances and not the grants. So we did  
5 have some discussions about that. But the  
6 main goal of this grant and our priority is  
7 to get the grant submitted and approved that  
8 we can move forward with the storm water  
9 management study and also the technology  
10 services that are required for the police to  
11 begin operating their body cams. So the  
12 main goal at large is, we do not want to  
13 jeopardize the grant. We're kind of  
14 balancing our desire to move forward with  
15 the grant and what we need. And also,  
16 balance that with the requirements that we  
17 don't want to put any heavier burden on our  
18 budget in the future. So we're just trying  
19 to get this right and I think within a week,  
20 we should be able to do that in full.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm going to just make  
22 one more comment about the question about  
23 sustainability. If this had been well  
24 thought out by Mayor Courtright, that would  
25 have been already taken care of which is why

1 I'm totally befuddled why this amendment was  
2 sent down to add a raise in and lower other  
3 raises. So I don't get that. There was  
4 nothing that accompanied this proposed  
5 amendment from Mayor Courtright. And the  
6 only person that's jeopardizing the grant is  
7 Mayor Courtright by now after the fact  
8 trying to change the raise and lowering  
9 things and raising things. So, I think over  
10 the next week, we need an explanation by the  
11 Mayor on what exactly is going on here. And  
12 again, I think we're under a timeline for  
13 the storm water study and other things. So  
14 this whole thing has me kind of befuddled.  
15 But we'll see what happens next week.

16 MR. ROGAN: On the reduction, I'll  
17 take the credit for the blame for the  
18 reductions. I voiced those concern as to  
19 what numbers were picked. Again, that's  
20 something we need to work out between all of  
21 us.

22 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor  
23 signify by saying aye?

24 MR. PERRY: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
4 ayes have it, so moved.

5 MR. ROGAN: Thank you and just one  
6 other brief comment. Last weekend, myself,  
7 Mr. Evans and Mr. Wechsler had the privilege  
8 of walking in the Armed Forces Parade. The  
9 attendance wasn't what we would have like to  
10 see, but those that did come out, we thank  
11 them. And especially thank our vets and all  
12 those who were out there. The weather  
13 wasn't the best. But it was very nice to  
14 see veterans, even veterans from World War  
15 II which unfortunately there's very few left  
16 these days. So a big thank you to all our  
17 vets and especially with Memorial Day coming  
18 up, to the families of all those who gave  
19 the ultimate sacrifice. And that is all.  
20 Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans?

22 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Council  
23 President Wechsler and myself met with SB  
24 and Company. Well, it really wasn't a  
25 meeting, it was a conference call along with

1 Dave Bulzoni. One of the take aways was  
2 that we requested and they committed to a  
3 work session when we have a draft audit. So  
4 that should take place someplace late third  
5 quarter or early fourth quarter this year.  
6 Something that's never been done before. I  
7 think it's an opportunity for the public to  
8 hear from them as well and us to ask  
9 questions and really get into the root of  
10 the audit and take it apart and put it back  
11 together again. So I think it will be a  
12 very, very informative session. Also, a  
13 question was asked about the pension  
14 proposal that is being bantered around at  
15 the state level. Basically, what they're  
16 looking at is taking Act 47 cities and  
17 putting them into a separate pension plan  
18 that would be run by the state. The reason  
19 for that is if we went into the state plan,  
20 we'd immediately have a rate of return at  
21 5.5 percent. That would totally blow up the  
22 plan. So what this would do is allow the  
23 ability to lower it incrementally over time  
24 and allow it to work. The likelihood of  
25 success is probably very little because

1           there's other things within the bills or  
2           talking about the bills which is a hybrid  
3           plan or a 401K type plan for new hires. The  
4           FOP is all over this and they're going make  
5           sure that their senators and legislators,  
6           people they work with will vote this down  
7           and probably never get out of committee.  
8           It's sad, but it's something that needs to  
9           be done, it needs to be addressed. But  
10          again, I don't think it's not going to make  
11          it out. And I don't think our governor will  
12          have an appetite for pension reform to be  
13          perfectly honest with you. Also, on the  
14          pensions, there was some question on the  
15          impact of the MMO if the pensions were  
16          funding through the proceeds of the sewer  
17          dealing. Currently, all three pensions are  
18          at differing levels of funding. But all  
19          three are classified as severely distressed.  
20          If they are funded to a level of 50 percent,  
21          that would take them barely to the  
22          classification of moderately distressed.  
23          While I'm not convinced that using as large  
24          a portion of the proceeds of the sale to  
25          fund pensions without even more dramatic

1 pension reforms even makes sense, it should  
2 be part of any part of the modelling efforts  
3 to determine the most significant use of any  
4 monetary infusion. With that said, it's  
5 generally understood that for every \$20  
6 million put into the pensions, the MMO would  
7 be reduced by approximately \$1.5 million.  
8 So a \$60 million infusion would get a  
9 savings of approximately \$4.5 million  
10 annually in the MMO. But the question is,  
11 are there other scenarios that are more  
12 beneficial to the bottom line of the city  
13 that's yet to be determined. Personally, my  
14 thoughts on what I think should be more  
15 important or would be more important and  
16 we'll express those ideas to move forward.  
17 I'm totally not convinced that large  
18 infusions into the pensions are the way to  
19 go. But we will find out soon enough.  
20 That's all I have for now.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr.  
22 Gaughan?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I'd  
24 like to provide an update on the citywide  
25 paving project that's going on. The company



1 is milling Greenbush, Rockwell and Reese and  
2 Lake Scranton streets and they plan on  
3 paving those streets May 31st, June 1st and  
4 June 2nd. So they are moving at a pretty  
5 good pace and I'll continue to update  
6 everyone each week. As I mentioned last  
7 week, we received an update on the recycling  
8 program in the city from our business  
9 administrator and I'd like to brief my  
10 colleagues and the public as to some of the  
11 highlights. The thrust of the effort was to  
12 significantly increase the reporting tonnage  
13 associated with the City 904 Performance  
14 Grant. The city's 2014 grant application  
15 incorporated 45 individual commercial  
16 reports. That number has increased this  
17 year to 99 reports as of May 19th. The  
18 increase in tonnage will be achieved by  
19 mailing efforts, calls and site visits. The  
20 initial mailing was partly attributable to  
21 the increase in business participation. A  
22 recycling brochure was created for  
23 distribution and the brochure will likely be  
24 mailed with the next refuse bill. And a  
25 revised recycling ordinance is being

1 prepared for adoption which will assist with  
2 community outreach and efforts to improve  
3 reportable commercial tonnage. And the city  
4 has also applied for a technical assistance  
5 grant from DEP. So it seems like the  
6 assistant we got from the recycling  
7 consultant is working. And we will continue  
8 to monitor that program. I received a few  
9 complaints this past week, crosswalks are  
10 faded in the area of the Robert Morris  
11 School. They need to be painted.  
12 Pedestrian signs are worn out. They also  
13 need to be replaced on Electric Street. And  
14 the neighbors in that area would like to see  
15 crosswalk and pedestrian signs put up in all  
16 directions at Greenridge corners to cut down  
17 on speeding. And we did send that request  
18 along to the DPW. We also all received an  
19 email about some dangerous issues on Third  
20 Avenue that we sent along to the DPW. I had  
21 a few concerned calls about the paving that  
22 is going to be done on North Washington  
23 Avenue. Utility companies have been in the  
24 area and are going to fix a gas leak and  
25 this will all be done before the paving by

1 the city occurs. We did receive, as was  
2 mentioned in the caucus, an update on the  
3 Young property on Wyoming Avenue. Our city  
4 engineer is going to provide design work to  
5 the Department of Environmental Protection  
6 for review. DEP will schedule a site  
7 inspection and there will be three onsite  
8 emergency bids. And I think this problem is  
9 finally going to be taken care of. And that  
10 is all I have this week. Thank you.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Gaughan. Just have a few items. This week  
13 in the paper, we saw that in court there are  
14 going to be some questions asked of some of  
15 the officials who were in charge of the city  
16 during the pension. I have been a strong  
17 supporter of following that route to get  
18 answers to these questions. I'm not in  
19 favor of City Council at this time becoming  
20 involved in that investigation. I would  
21 rather leave it to the professionals. I  
22 believe that right now the people that have  
23 been lined up to be questioned and the  
24 questions will go pretty much similar to the  
25 questions--any questions that City Council

1 would be asking. So I'm happy to see that  
2 that's going to be proceeding in the legal  
3 fashion that I think it's best suited for.  
4 This week, I did have a meeting with the NRS  
5 the Northeast Revenue Collection Service to  
6 discuss the garbage fees. This week, we are  
7 going to pass the final legislation changing  
8 some of the fees. With that in place, the  
9 lien process will begin sometime soon after.  
10 Things will begin to be filed within the  
11 next few weeks. So as we stated, City  
12 Council has been very aggressive in assuring  
13 that all fees are collected. Because we  
14 don't feel that it's fair that some people  
15 pay and some people don't pay. So we're  
16 very happy to have a process to finally  
17 start to collect fees. These liens will  
18 only go back to 2011. That's the contract  
19 period that the company is responsible for.  
20 The liens that have a balance prior to 2011  
21 are subject to some conjecture because the  
22 city's record keeping was lacking. So we  
23 are going to have quite an effort collecting  
24 those bills that were due prior to 2011.  
25 Just to echo what Mr. Gaughan had said about

1 the Wyoming Avenue Project, when people ask  
2 us what City Council does, I would say we  
3 did that. Mr. Young came here to City  
4 Council. He's been, I think by his  
5 recollection, 30 years trying to get this  
6 problem fixed. And I would say the last few  
7 weeks, the focus of itself, the focus of the  
8 Times, the focus of the City Council and the  
9 Mayor and the other state representatives  
10 really came together because of that podium.  
11 And the fact that City Council became an  
12 active participant in that, I think that  
13 would answer the question of what does City  
14 Council do. And I wish this job was an hour  
15 and a half long. I wish it was, but it's  
16 not. It's almost a full-time job. Everyday  
17 each one of us does something for City  
18 Council. So to say that we only work an  
19 hour and a half, that really shows lack of  
20 understanding of what we're doing up here.  
21 That's all I have.

22 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION - AN  
23 ORDINANCE- AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A  
24 R7-302 NO PARKING SYMBOL/ARROW SIGN (LEFT)  
25 (12" X 18") 20 FEET AHEAD OF CROSSWALK ON

1 THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF SANDERSON AVENUE  
2 AND DEACON STREET; R7-302 NO PARKING  
3 SYMBOL/ARROW SIGNS (12" X 18") ALONG THE  
4 SOUTHERLY SIDE OF DEACON STREET FROM  
5 SANDERSON AVENUE TO BOULEVARD AVENUE WHICH  
6 WILL DESIGNATE THIS SIDE FOR "NO PARKING"  
7 AND MAINTAIN TWO-WAY TRAFFIC IN THE 700  
8 BLOCK DEACON STREET.

9 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll  
10 entertain a motion that Item 5B 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: 5C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING  
25 SPECIAL CITY ESCROW ACCOUNT NO. 02.229619

1 ENTITLED "2016 AWARD BONDS" TO ACCEPT FUNDS  
2 RECEIVED FROM A LEASE AGREEMENT REFUNDING  
3 THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S VARIABLE RATE  
4 DEMAND LEASE REVENUE BONDS, SERIES OF 2008  
5 AND TO DISBURSE THE FUNDS RECEIVED FOR  
6 PAYMENT OF THE POLICE AND FIRE AWARD  
7 SETTLEMENTS.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
23 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A  
24 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY  
25 WILLIAM F. RINALDI T/A PASTA GRILL LICENSE

1 NO. R-13201 TO PHOENIX THEATRES  
2 ENTERTAINMENT, LLC FOR USE AT 301 LACKAWANNA  
3 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA AS REQUIRED  
4 BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

11 MR. PERRY: On the question, I just  
12 want to say thank you to the Phoenix Theater  
13 for bringing a movie theater back to the  
14 city. And I wish them luck and I really  
15 can't wait to go see a movie there. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of  
18 introduction 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6A. NO



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

20 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend  
21 Item 7A for the following. In Section 3,  
22 fees, insert sub-part 5, if the annual waste  
23 disposal fee that is \$300 is paid in full by  
24 May 1st of the year in which the fee is due,  
25 the payor may take a 10 percent discount

1 from the annual fee.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on  
4 the floor and a second. On the question?

5 MR. EVANS: While we're waiting on  
6 the study for the garbage disposal fee as  
7 well as a plan for increased curb side  
8 recycling, this amendment is an opportunity  
9 to act sooner rather than later. It  
10 provides the necessary relief to our  
11 property owners who have taken the brunt of  
12 taxes and fees over the years. As has been  
13 customary, most government enterprises and  
14 of course seems to be true with this one,  
15 there's a tendency to prefer the big stick  
16 versus the carrot in attempts to collect  
17 fees. The problem with that policy is that  
18 many times after the fee is delinquent, the  
19 inability to pay is still real in adding  
20 additional penalties only turns an inability  
21 to pay to almost a near impossibility. So  
22 by taking a carrot approach from the change  
23 in the beginning to make a shift from a  
24 failed philosophy, rewarding citizens for  
25 paying early and paying on time, I feel we

1 will see an increase in the overall  
2 collection rate of the fee and a dramatic  
3 uptick in cash flow in the April timeframe  
4 leading up to May 1st. This is a long  
5 overdue action. And I'm hopeful that my  
6 colleagues agree and help me pass this  
7 tonight.

8 MR. ROGAN: I was just going to  
9 thank Councilman Evans for putting forth  
10 this idea. And I echo what he said that for  
11 far too long, the city constantly focuses on  
12 punishing those who don't pay. Those who  
13 can't afford to pay and are paying should  
14 not be punished. But there should also be a  
15 benefit for those who pay early. The  
16 garbage fee currently is allowed to be paid  
17 in two parts. Next year, if you pay it in  
18 full, you will receive a 10 percent discount  
19 which equates to \$30. While I'm still  
20 opposed to a \$300 fee for garbage, I would  
21 prefer a different method, this does provide  
22 a little bit of relief for those who can  
23 afford to pay in full. So I'm very happy to  
24 support this.

25 MR. WECHSLER: In addition to this,

1 we are also going to begin a pilot program  
2 for the use of credit cards for the payment  
3 of garbage fees. We are working out the  
4 details of this, but to me it would also add  
5 the ability to pay in full with a credit  
6 card or actually with an electronic funds  
7 transfer. We are reviewing the fees that  
8 would be associated with using a credit  
9 card. The fees would be paid by the person  
10 paying the bill. The fee would not be paid  
11 by the city. But one of the advantages that  
12 we do understand is if you pay with an  
13 electronic fund transfer, there would not be  
14 a charge on that. So we're optimistic that  
15 if we get the bills out early enough, we are  
16 going to be in contact with the company that  
17 does the mailing. We want to make sure that  
18 we get the bills out early enough in the  
19 spring time so they're in homes before May  
20 1st so that we can take advantage of the  
21 discount. So I'm very happy with progress  
22 of this and would like to commend Mr. Evans  
23 and also Business Administrator Bulzoni who  
24 also we had a meeting with him Monday. He  
25 picked up the ball that we threw him and he

1 met it. So I'm very optimistic about this  
2 program. And if your credit card program  
3 seems to work out, we may be able to add it  
4 to other features of the city government.  
5 So I think it's a good idea.

6 MR. PERRY: And also, on the  
7 question, I just want to go on the record  
8 thanking Mr. Evans as well for spearheading  
9 this. Since my first day on Council, he  
10 said only that he wants to make it more easy  
11 and give someone an easy out on this \$300  
12 garbage bill. I know we kicked around a  
13 couple different ideas. And this is really,  
14 you know, something to be commended. I  
15 really thank you Mr. Evans for spearheading  
16 this. I believe this is going to generate  
17 more collection which is going to generate  
18 more cash flow. And you know as we all  
19 know, cash flow is the lifeblood of  
20 government. And you know, I believe this is  
21 going to be a win-win.

22 MR. EVANS: Thank you and I think  
23 what we're seeing too is an evolution of  
24 philosophy with a lot of everyone sitting up  
25 on City Council. We're looking at ways to

1           again have more people paying less instead  
2           of less people paying more. So it's  
3           something that I think we're going to  
4           continue to go down that road and make  
5           things better for all our citizens.

6                       MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor?  
7           All those in favor of the motion to amend  
8           Item 7A, signify by 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           eyes have it and so moved. What is the  
15           recommendation of the Chairperson from the  
16           Committee on Finance?

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

20                      MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

23                      MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

24                      MR. PERRY: Yes.

25                      MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

7 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
8 declare Item 7A as amended legally and  
9 lawfully adopted.

10 MS. REED: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
11 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR ADOPTION  
12 - RESOLUTION NO. 31, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE  
13 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
14 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT  
15 OBLIGATION CONTRACT BETWEEN COMMUNITY FIRST  
16 NATIONAL BANK (OBLIGEE) AND THE CITY OF  
17 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR) FOR THE  
18 PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) FORD F-550 DUMP/PLOW  
19 TRUCKS, ONE (1) 2016 FORD F-250 XL TRUCK AND  
20 ONE (1) FORD ESCAPE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF  
21 PUBLIC WORKS AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

25 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the

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

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 Roll call, please?

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

16 declare Item 7B legally and lawfully

17 adopted.

18 MS. REED: 7C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

19 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR

20 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 32, 2016 -

21 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

22 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

23 GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION CONTRACT BETWEEN FIRST

24 REPUBLIC NATIONAL CORPORATION (OBLIGEE) AND

25 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA (OBLIGOR)



1 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX  
2 (136) SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR THE FIRE  
3 DEPARTMENT.

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

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

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

25 MS. REED: 7D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

1 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
2 RESOLUTION NO. 33, 2016 - APPOINTMENT OF  
3 STEPHEN J. PRENDERGAST, 122 SOUTH HYDE PARK  
4 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A  
5 MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL  
6 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDAS), EFFECTIVE MAY  
7 9, 2016. MR. PRENDERGAST IS BEING APPOINTED  
8 TO A TWO (2) YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE ON  
9 MAY 9, 2018.

10 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to table  
11 Item 7D.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on  
14 the floor and a second to table Item 7D. On  
15 the question? All those in favor, signify  
16 by 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: 7E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
24 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
25 RESOLUTION NO. 34, 2016 - APPOINTMENT OF

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

7 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
8 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
9 passage of Item 7E.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

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

25 MS. REED: 7F HAS BEEN TABLED. 7G

1 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
2 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 36,  
3 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
5 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH EVERGREEN  
6 LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR GRASS CUTTING AT THE  
7 TAYLOR LANDFILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016  
8 CONTRACT TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 30, 2016 FOR A  
9 LUMP SUM BID OF \$10,460.00.

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

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

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

20 MR. PERRY: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

3 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
4 declare Item 7G legally and lawfully  
5 adopted.

6 MS. REED: 7H. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
7 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR  
8 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 37, 2016 -  
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
10 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
11 ENTER INTO AN AMENDED LOAN AGREEMENT WITH  
12 UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF NORTHEASTERN  
13 PENNSYLVANIA, INC. FORMERLY UNITED  
14 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY,  
15 INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

16 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
17 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
18 Committee on Community Development?

19 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
20 Committee on Community Development, I  
21 recommend final passage of Item 7H.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

1 MR. PERRY: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
10 declare Item 7H legally and lawfully  
11 adopted.

12 MS. REED: 7I. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
13 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – FOR  
14 ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO. 38, 2016 -  
15 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
16 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
17 (“HARB”) AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
18 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN COMPANY,  
19 1979 SCRANTON/CARBONDALE HIGHWAY, BLAKELY,  
20 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE  
21 LOCATED ON THE LEFT-SIDE FACADE, A BOARD  
22 SIGN, ORANGE AND BLACK COLOR SCHEME WITH  
23 DIMENSION OF 120"H X 36"W AND AN AWNING  
24 PANEL, ORANGE AND BLACK COLOR SCHEME WITH  
25 DIMENSION OF 10"H X 84"W AT 414 SPRUCE

1 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

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

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

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

23 MS. REED: 7J. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
24 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
25 RESOLUTION NO. 39, 2016 - AUTHORIZING THE

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

13 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
14 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
15 passage of Item 7J.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

19 I will be voting against this contract  
20 tonight for a few different reasons. First  
21 of all, I don't see the need for Mayor  
22 Courtright to hire another consultant to  
23 tell us what the problems are in the  
24 downtown. Consultants, in my opinion, are  
25 the type of people who borrow your watch to



1 tell you what time it is. We need  
2 leadership and accountability from the  
3 Mayor's Office. I don't really understand  
4 why we can't utilize what we already have,  
5 our Office of Economic and Community  
6 Development, specifically for a project like  
7 this. What else do they exist for as a  
8 department? Much of the information that I  
9 read that was compiled and presented by the  
10 National Resource Network in their report  
11 was done already two years ago by Henry  
12 Amoroso, another consultant that was hired  
13 through the Chamber of Commerce. This  
14 company is going to get paid nearly \$20,000  
15 to get stakeholders together and develop a  
16 plan for the downtown. I believe that this  
17 is Mayor Courtright's job. That's what he  
18 gets paid to do. I also believe that while  
19 the downtown is important and we've  
20 certainly seem some outstanding  
21 revitalization with the mall, we need to  
22 shift some of the focus to our  
23 neighborhoods. We need to strategic vision  
24 to revitalize the heart of our city. We  
25 don't need consultants to do that. We need

1 leadership. So that's why I'll be voting  
2 no. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Perry?

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Evans?

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Gaughan?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Wechsler?

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby  
14 declare Item 7J legally and lawfully  
15 adopted. If there is no further business,  
16 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

17 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting is adjourned.

19 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings  
20 concluded.)  
21  
22  
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25

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA

I, Elizabeth V Kedrick, Notary Public, in and for the County of Wayne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify:

That said testimony was taken down by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting, and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, nor in anyway interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

-----  
Elizabeth V Kedrick,  
Notary Public,  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Honesdale Borough, Wayne County  
My commission expires 11/14/19

(The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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