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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD

Thursday, March 16, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

MARK WOZNIAK

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 (The Pledge of Allegiance was
2 recited and a moment of silence was
3 observed.)

4 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

5 MS. REED: Mr. Perry?

6 MR. PERRY: Here.

7 MS. REED: Mr. Rogan?

8 MR. ROGAN: Here.

9 MS. REED: Mr. Evans?

10 MR. EVANS: Here.

11 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

13 MS. REED: Mr. Wechsler?

14 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a
16 motion to table item 7D.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
19 of those in favor 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 eyes have it. So moved. Dispense with the

1 reading of the minutes.

2 MS. REED: Third order, 3A, tax
3 assessor's results report for hearing date
4 held March 1, 2017.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
6 comments? If not, received and filed.

7 MS. REED: 3B, check received in the
8 amount of \$90,669.74. That represents
9 reimbursement for fire department SAFER
10 grant expenditures.

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

13 MS. REED: 3C, minutes of the
14 regular meetings of the members of Scranton
15 Housing Authority held January 9 and
16 February 6, 2017.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any
18 comments? If not, received and filed. Do
19 any counsel members have announcements at
20 this time? I have a statement that was
21 provided to me by the mayor this afternoon
22 in regards to the snow removal in the city.

23 "Please be advised the city of
24 Scranton is utilizing all available
25 resources to plow its streets and conduct

1 snow removal. The city will complete snow
2 removal in the downtown area this evening.
3 All parking garages in the downtown area
4 will continue to offer reduced rates of \$5
5 for parking until tomorrow at 5 p.m. We ask
6 that those parked downtown this evening move
7 their cars into the parking garages.

8 Beginning Friday morning, the city
9 will be deploying front-end loaders and
10 tri-axles to its neighborhoods for further
11 snow removal. The city appreciates your
12 patience and cooperation throughout the
13 cleanup of this record snowfall."

14 MS. REED: Fourth order, citizens
15 participation.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz?

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
18 city resident and taxpayer. First, the
19 snowstorm. I live downtown, so I can only
20 comment on the downtown cleanup, and I must
21 say that I think, considering we had 22
22 inches of snow, it's just an incredible feat
23 to even get a handle on it. I think DPW's
24 done quite a good job so far.

25 This morning -- well, last night I

1 watched as all the trucks came and they
2 piled the snow in and they were trucking it
3 out, and they did that all night long.

4 This morning, when I went to mass at
5 6:00, unfortunately all the little paths
6 that we had dug to be able to cross the
7 street from, you know, those big mounds of
8 snow, they had all been plowed in. So
9 clambered little hills and went down the
10 side, and coming back from mass, the corner
11 of Linden and Penn what do you see but a DPW
12 truck with a couple guys and they're digging
13 out the fire hydrants. Okay? Which is
14 something I remind everybody whether you're
15 downtown or in the neighborhoods. You need
16 to dig out your fire hydrants. God forbid
17 there should be a fire and you can't find
18 them as quickly. So my compliments to DPW.

19 However, having said that, most of
20 the taxpayers do not live downtown, like I
21 do, they live in the neighborhoods, and they
22 need to get their roads and their
23 intersections and their alleys and their
24 courts cleaned so they can get out and go to
25 the store and go to the doctor and go to

1 work. That's where your taxpayers actually
2 live. So keep that in mind.

3 Also, just keep in mind that as the
4 storm -- as the snow melts and goes into our
5 storm water system, I hope our antiquated
6 infrastructure can take the influx.

7 I went to the March 10th work
8 session that the city had on its plan for
9 the use of sewer sale proceeds, and, of
10 course, the members of the public did not
11 have the opportunity to comment or to ask
12 questions, although I appreciate being given
13 a copy of the slides at the end. But a lot
14 of issues came up.

15 I saw in today's paper and on the
16 agenda that \$710,000 in debt service savings
17 are going to be used for road paving. I was
18 surprised that that did not come up as an
19 item of discussion last Friday because I
20 think you need to look hard at how you want
21 to spend that windfall that you're getting
22 on debt savings, especially if you've got a
23 half-million dollar or higher bill for the
24 snowstorm. There may be other things you
25 may need to apportion it differently. That

1 needs to be discussed with the
2 administration.

3 Also, I saw no mention of the other
4 nine municipalities and their coordination
5 with storm water management issues. That
6 issue didn't come up at the meeting.

7 Something that's never been
8 addressed at all -- and I think it's time --
9 Scranton may be coming out of distressed
10 status in the next three years and it may be
11 on the road to financial stability in a
12 certain sense, but what happens if the
13 school district goes belly up? What's the
14 impact on the city and its financial
15 stability? It's still one city. It may be
16 a separate taxing authority, but what kind
17 of impact is that going to have on your
18 recovery?

19 MR. EVANS: A lot.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Nobody said
21 anything about that.

22 MR. EVANS: A lot.

23 MS. HODOWANITZ: Someone please
24 address that motion, what you think is going
25 to happen, and explain this sentence from

1 the slides: "Solution is to establish a
2 trust fund to hold the money using an escrow
3 agent to release funds only after
4 satisfactory reforms are made and continuing
5 compliance with agreed upon reforms are
6 demonstrated." This is in regards to the
7 pension plans.

8 Somebody tell me what are the
9 satisfactory reforms that have to be made
10 and what are the agreed upon reforms? I'm
11 still not clear because I haven't seen any
12 legislation come down on pension reforms.

13 Mentioning the pensions, whatever
14 happened to the RFP for the third-party
15 administrator? Is that still in the
16 pipeline or did that go down the storm water
17 system?

18 MR. WECHSLER: No, it's still in the
19 pipeline and very important.

20 MS. HODOWANITZ: Well, I'm hope --
21 I'm waiting with bated breath. Just to let
22 you know, the January controller's report
23 has not yet been posted to the website.
24 It's been four weeks. Please get that done.

25 Kudos to the Times-Tribune for their

1 Sunday special on outlook 2017, Rebirth of
2 the Downtown, but a series like that should
3 prompt a dialog between the city leadership
4 and the citizens about how you balance the
5 needs of the downtown and the neighborhoods.
6 I remind you that most of the taxpayers live
7 in the neighborhoods and nobody's listening
8 to their needs, that I can see. Thank you.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Gerard Hetman?

10 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
11 Gerard Hetman from Lackawanna County
12 Commissioners Office. I'll begin this
13 evening with a few storm-related notes.

14 First, the County of Lackawanna
15 Transit System, otherwise know as COLTS,
16 will be operating on a limited schedule for
17 Friday, Saturday and Monday, March 17, 18
18 and 20. The list of route changes and
19 modifications is extensive. Please visit at
20 www.coltsbus.com, call 570-346-2061 or visit
21 COLTS Bus on Facebook for more detailed
22 information on route changes.

23 Of particular note, the shared ride
24 service will only be servicing dialysis
25 patients until Monday, March 20th. Service

1 will resume when road conditions permit.
2 Shared ride users can check the status of
3 their rides by calling 570-963-6795.

4 Second, with snow on the ground we
5 have our hill at McDade Park open for sleigh
6 riding. The park is open from dawn till
7 dusk seven days a week. Of particular note,
8 we'd like to make sure everybody drives
9 safely and the only attempts to reach the
10 park by traveling when road conditions are
11 safe wherever they're coming from. Please
12 take your time and, again, don't travel to
13 McDade if the roads aren't good wherever
14 you're coming from.

15 We ask that visitors obey all posted
16 park rules and regulations and for them to
17 bring their own sleigh or toboggan or saucer
18 or whatever they use to go down the sledding
19 hill.

20 This is the third year we've had it
21 open there. It's engineered to be safe for
22 everyone sledding. A lot of folks used that
23 sledding hill in the past when it was
24 against park rules. We're happy to have it
25 open now with good snow on the ground.

1 Third, the Lackawanna County
2 Conservation District has its seedling sale
3 open for orders. There are 12 different
4 tree and plant seedlings available. You can
5 contact Lackawanna County Conservation
6 District at 570-382-3086 for more
7 information and a full list of seedling
8 types. The deadline for orders is Friday,
9 April 7th.

10 And last, speaking of good downtown
11 development and events, the Lackawanna
12 County Commissioners' spring blood drive
13 will take place at the Lackawanna County
14 Government Center at the Globe, in the
15 lobby, on Friday, April 21st from 11 a.m. to
16 4 p.m. To make an appointment please call
17 1-800-RED-CROS or visit
18 www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an
19 appointment. If there's any questions on
20 the blood drive you can call me, I'm the
21 staff person who is in charge of
22 coordinating the blood drive, at
23 570-963-6743, extension 1872.

24 Many folks who donated at our blood
25 drive in the fall asked us to do a spring

1 blood drive, and the Red Cross typically
2 follows up when they do one with the host
3 agency to see if they'd like to do one in
4 about six months to accommodate people who
5 like to follow up. So we're happy to have
6 another blood drive coming to the Globe in
7 downtown Scranton.

8 That's all we have for this month.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Lee
11 Morgan?

12 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
13 Lee Morgan. The first thing I have here
14 tonight is, you know, I'd like to say that I
15 do appreciate what DPW has done with the
16 city streets, but I have to be very honest
17 and say that they really don't have the
18 equipment they need. Driving around with a
19 ton and a half four-wheel drive, little tiny
20 dump truck, trying to plow city streets is
21 beyond ridiculous, and whoever came up with
22 that plan, I mean, it's really troubling, to
23 be honest. I've driven heavy trucks all my
24 life, so that's, I don't know, close to 40
25 years, and I just know that they're not

1 prepared to do the job. And for any city to
2 invest money in those, if you're living in
3 the neighborhoods and you're wondering why
4 you've got a little trail going down your
5 street, it's because the people you have
6 elected haven't bought the right equipment
7 to do the job.

8 And in regards to the city's
9 distressed status, I think the residents
10 really need to wake up. You know, last week
11 I talked about the Lace Curtain Irish and
12 the Shanty Irish, and that terminology
13 really sticks here, and some people are
14 going to be home tonight saying not Irish.
15 Doesn't really matter what nationality you
16 are. We have a government that's so
17 disconnected from reality.

18 And, you know, when we talk about
19 leaving distressed status with the pensions
20 in the shape they're in it's almost
21 laughable, and what's happened to the
22 proceeds from the Scranton Sewer Authority
23 sale is extremely troubling. If you watched
24 last week's meeting, I believe the gentleman
25 who stood at this podium was an attorney who

1 spoke about the deal, and if you spend a
2 little time to listen to what he said it was
3 beyond troubling.

4 So, you know, when people talk about
5 what's going to happen if the Scranton
6 School District goes upside down, believe
7 me, that's not realistic because in my
8 opinion the city and the school district are
9 going to go down.

10 I just think that for 80 years the
11 residents of this city have picked failed
12 leaders who made a lot of promises and it's
13 all coming to a head, and now we're
14 pretending like the downtown is the
15 salvation of the city and that's not what's
16 occurred here.

17 What has occurred in the downtown is
18 it wasn't a viable place to do business so
19 they turned it into residential development
20 and they were moving money here. A lot of
21 it was grant money, in my opinion, and a lot
22 of backroom deals were done.

23 Now, you take a look at the plaza
24 across the street where the city's a conduit
25 for \$3 million to Lackawanna College,

1 another troubling development, because we
2 continue to erode the tax base, and the
3 citizens are barely hanging on.

4 And me speaking for myself, I'm
5 fairly disgusted in paying \$700 a week in
6 taxes to my government and not having
7 anything to show for it but a mound of debt.
8 I think that President Trump is on the right
9 road when he's talking about ending a lot of
10 the funding that's going into a lot of
11 different places for economic development
12 and a lot of other things because it's just
13 walking around money for the politicians to
14 spend and spend.

15 And a lot of the people we elect to
16 our counsel and our mayor, they're not
17 fighting for us, they're fighting for
18 themselves, their own political survival,
19 and we're just caught in the crossfires of
20 what's left. And there's not much left in
21 this city I because everything's been sold
22 and the city's in very, very serious
23 financial trouble, and I think that the
24 greatest thing that can happen is that we'd
25 wake up the day after election day and find

1 out that non-aligned people did a right-in
2 and won the council seats to begin to turn
3 this city around.

4 I think there needs to be an
5 investigation into how the city spent its
6 money for the last 30 years, to try to get
7 your mind around, I don't know, the pool
8 house at Nay Aug, the greenhouse, the
9 bridge, the tree house. You know, instead
10 of worrying about the city's bridges and
11 infrastructure, all the money was wasted on
12 the sale of the golf course. Just, you
13 know, the South Side sports complex. It's
14 just amazing, you know, that they treated us
15 like Shanty Irish because we've allowed it
16 to happen. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

18 MS. REED: Fifth Order, 5A, motions.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

20 MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you. What a
21 week. All right. Well, I didn't know how
22 to start this but I guess we'll go in order.
23 Let's start with Friday. Friday we had a
24 meeting on how the administration -- they
25 finally gave council their plan, how they're

1 going to allocating the funds from the sale
2 of the sewer authority. Overall, I was very
3 happy with how the meeting turned out, the
4 form of meeting and the information. It was
5 a very good give and take. I got a lot more
6 information than I had going into it.

7 That being said, it was a beginning
8 and that's all it is. It's a beginning of a
9 huge step for our city. There's going to be
10 many more questions that we're going to have
11 than were answered on Friday, and for me to
12 tell you right now that I'm an absolute
13 expert of everything that we heard on Friday
14 would definitely not be true.

15 But what I want to tell you right
16 now is I want to go over a couple key
17 highlights of what was there in case you
18 didn't read the paper or you weren't able to
19 attend the meeting.

20 The allocation of the money is going
21 to go as follows per the initial plan, which
22 is fluid at best. Nothing is -- absolutely
23 nothing is set in stone. As a matter of
24 fact, many of my colleagues started -- that
25 day, after the meeting, started to talk

1 about things we want to do a little
2 differently and making some amendments and
3 putting some really strong markers in there
4 that we felt important.

5 Twenty-seven point nine million was
6 going to be used for debt reduction. That's
7 already been taken care of. That was
8 written into the 2017 budget.

9 There was also going to be \$13.4
10 million used to further reduce high interest
11 rate debts, which as you can see there's
12 something on the agenda right now that it's
13 already paying dividends. We already have
14 \$700,000 to use. As it is right now it's
15 allocated for paving, but again, it's a
16 fluid environment and maybe all \$700,000
17 isn't the best use for that. But that will
18 be up for us to decide and talk over the
19 next couple weeks.

20 We also have \$24.8 million allocated
21 to the pension, \$4.6 million of that -- and
22 this, I believe, is one of the more
23 important parts of the plan -- is going to
24 be allocated to use to lower the return
25 assumption on the rate for our pension

1 plans. For too long we were under the
2 assumption that the plan was going to return
3 eight percent. The plans haven't returned
4 eight percent in a long, long time.

5 Everybody knows the state of the market and
6 what happens and how that negatively affects
7 us. When we overshot our assumption rate,
8 our return rate, that negatively affects our
9 MMO at the end of the year. Now we have
10 to -- we owe more money into that that we
11 didn't anticipate and didn't have money set
12 aside for. So that \$4.6 million is going to
13 buy back some of that anticipated return
14 rate and bring that back down.

15 The initial goal is to get it from 8
16 percent to 7.75 percent, and I know a lot of
17 my colleagues and I want, if not all, want
18 to get that even down further. We want to
19 get that down to more of a national average
20 of 7.5 to 7.25, and that's something we can
21 talk about how we want to do that going
22 forward.

23 There's going to be some, also,
24 money set aside, \$2 million, for capital
25 improvements, \$500,000 for economic

1 development, and \$500,000 for storm water
2 funding.

3 Now, I know storm water funding is
4 an absolute hot topic, and that's something
5 that we talked about over and over. Is that
6 enough money to be put in? Honestly, I
7 don't know who has the answer to that
8 because we -- as I believe Councilman Evans
9 said in caucus, we're on the bleeding edge
10 of storm water management and what that
11 entails and what that's going to cost.

12 But these are discussions that we
13 started and we continue to start, and I know
14 this board has nothing but the best
15 intentions to keep everybody informed on a
16 step by step basis what we have going on.

17 We had a very, very, very cold
18 parade weekend. I was happy to see as many
19 people come out as they did but, my
20 goodness, I can't remember it being that
21 cold. We got, I think, a day break. Monday
22 was nice, and then Stella hit us. Let me
23 tell you, I haven't shoveled so much snow, I
24 don't think, in my life, as all you guys
25 did. What a heartache it was on our city.

1 And I want to tell you, between DPW, the
2 police and fire being out there on endless
3 hours, little to no sleep and not seeing
4 their families, they put it to it. They
5 really did. They gave it hell.

6 I've been speaking with officials
7 from Wilkes-Barre, and as you guys may or my
8 not know, I spend a lot of time at work in
9 Hazleton and I speak to Hazleton officials
10 quite often, and one of the things that they
11 were very impressed and, dare I say, jealous
12 of was our ability to have a co-op program
13 with ABM with the \$5 parking. What a
14 Godsend that was. If anybody's been around
15 the square in Wilkes-Barre, downtown
16 Hazleton, they cannot get anything going on
17 right now. They just did not have anywhere
18 to put their cars. And it's just -- for as
19 bad as we may think we have it, we
20 definitely are looked upon to the region as
21 taking care of business.

22 Now, are there streets that are just
23 impassable? Absolutely. It took me an
24 extra 20 minutes to get the last 15 feet
25 into my house last night when I pulled into

1 my side street. You know, what are you
2 going to do? It's the biggest storm that
3 we've had on record since the turn of the
4 last century. Not this past one that just
5 happened. So there's going to be those
6 pains. When I tell you that they've done
7 absolutely everything they could to make it
8 easiest for us as they could, I honestly
9 mean that.

10 Now, again, if you're frustrated
11 with the condition, that's okay. That's
12 acceptable. But we're not done. We're out
13 there, we're working every day. When I say
14 we, I don't me. I mean the DPW workers.

15 I think Mr. Morgan brought up a very
16 good point about the equipment. They didn't
17 have the equipment they needed. How could
18 we anticipate having a storm of 130 years
19 occur? It's just not -- it's not logical to
20 anticipate that happening. But they did the
21 best they could with the equipment they have
22 and I just want to thank them.

23 I believe that's all I have for
24 tonight. Thank you.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.

1 Mr. Rogan?

2 MR. ROGAN: I'd like to start off by
3 wishing everyone a happy Saint Patrick's Day
4 tomorrow. I forgot to wear my green
5 tonight. I only own one green shirt, so I
6 actually didn't forget. It's cued up for
7 tomorrow.

8 I also want to wish my mom a happy
9 birthday. Her birthday is Saint Patrick's
10 Day. So I want to wish her a happy birthday
11 tomorrow.

12 Mr. Perry touched on a lot of the
13 things I want to talk about as well. Our
14 meeting last Friday was very informative
15 but, as was mentioned, we still have a lot
16 to learn about this plan. As far as the
17 actual hard allocation numbers are, you
18 know, I don't have a problem with how the
19 money is being allocated. My concern is
20 that actually it's used for those purposes
21 and nothing else. I know speakers bring up
22 and lots of residents bring up the golf
23 course sale under Mayor Doherty that was
24 supposed to be earmarked for certain
25 projects and programs, which was not. It

1 was chipped away at, chipped away at and the
2 money was gone.

3 I think our first priority is to
4 make sure that that doesn't happen with any
5 of these funds. That whatever Council
6 decides is the best way to move forward,
7 that that's set in stone and that a future
8 council or a future mayor can't come in and
9 decide they want to use it for a pet project
10 or for something other than, you know, the
11 long-term health of the city.

12 A couple of the concerns I do have
13 about the plan, the biggest one is regarding
14 the pensions, and I know my colleagues have
15 spoken at length about reforming pensions,
16 and obviously there are numerous changes
17 that need to be made and they've been
18 discussed at length.

19 But one of the concerns that I have
20 is that the money that's allocated to go
21 into the pension fund, it needs to actually
22 go into the pension fund. I understand
23 there were a number of reforms that were
24 negotiated and that are in the works and
25 they have to happen. There's no question

1 about that. But this money, there can't be
2 any outs. They can't decide in two years
3 well, we're not going to put this money in
4 the pension fund. We're going to use it for
5 road paving, which I love road paving, but
6 the pension funds need to get shored up. So
7 that's one of my top priorities, making sure
8 each one of these allocations that we
9 approve is completely ironclad and cannot be
10 changed in the future because the money
11 needs to be used in a way that's going to
12 benefit the city in the long term.

13 As was mentioned, paying off the
14 debt from 2006 on is a huge plus, and it's
15 something I spoke about numerous times on
16 how I wanted to see the money utilized. I
17 did ask at the meeting, because some of this
18 debt does have dedicated millage,
19 court-imposed millage, I did ask at the
20 meeting if that millage would sunset.
21 Unfortunately, PEL said no. That was my
22 concern when it was passed in the first
23 place. I was on council when that was
24 approved. I voted against it, and that was
25 the exact reason why.

1 I said when the debt's paid off we'd
2 almost guarantee the millage doesn't sunset,
3 which it's supposed to. That's one major
4 concern I have, that that millage should go
5 away when the debt goes away. That's why it
6 was approved.

7 Regarding infrastructure, there's no
8 question that money needs to be put into
9 infrastructure in the city, particularly our
10 roads. There's no question that the roads
11 in the city of Scranton are in bad shape.
12 They've gotten much better over the last few
13 years, we've allocated more and more money,
14 but we still have a long way to go.

15 And storm water as well,
16 particularly areas on East Mountain and West
17 Mountain and areas that have large hills
18 into a valley. You can pave that road, but
19 if there's a storm water problem it makes no
20 sense to pave it because the water's just
21 going to erode the pavement that all that
22 money was spent on.

23 So we definitely do need to focus on
24 the long term with all this money and that's
25 my priority, is to dispense it the way that

1 gets the most bang for the buck for the
2 taxpayers not only today but tomorrow and
3 for decades to come.

4 Regarding the snow storm, I want to
5 first start off by thanking our DPW, police,
6 fire, PennDOT, EMS, everyone that was
7 essential personnel, the state police that
8 were out in our neighborhoods and working in
9 terrible conditions while the majority of us
10 were snowed in our house and trying to plow
11 out and shovel our way out. So I want to
12 thank them for all their hard work. I know
13 some of our guys at the DPW have worked
14 extremely long shifts and I can't imagine
15 how tired they are.

16 But I will say that in the last two
17 days I probably had more calls, e-mails and
18 Facebook messages than any two-day period
19 that I've been on city council. Requests
20 particularly from residents in West Scranton
21 and South Scranton that were very upset.
22 They were snowed in, not able to get out to
23 get to work. And that's certainly no fault
24 of our DPW. They were out there working as
25 hard as they can.

1 There are equipment issues which
2 were mentioned. From talking to the mayor
3 earlier today, one of the problems that the
4 city ran into is we have two sets of plows.
5 We have the larger plows that are obviously
6 more powerful and can handle this kind of
7 snowstorm, and the smaller plows which can't
8 handle two feet of snow. The larger plows
9 were operational and fine in the areas where
10 they could go, but on narrow streets and
11 courts those larger plows simply can't fit.
12 They're too wide. So that's where a lot of
13 the problems were and still are in the city.

14 As Councilman Wechsler mentioned,
15 teams will be going out into the
16 neighborhoods, I believe starting tonight or
17 tomorrow, to clear up a lot of these narrow
18 roads and courts, and I believe the way
19 they're going to do it is using heavy
20 equipment and going through and then at the
21 end having trucks to scoop the snow and haul
22 off for lot of these courts and smaller
23 streets.

24 I know I was talking on Facebook
25 with a number of people today that had to

1 miss work for a third straight day. I had
2 to miss work for two days. Luckily I was
3 able to get out this morning. But the
4 improvement in my neighborhood from this
5 morning to this afternoon was quite
6 dramatic. I can tell our crews are out
7 there working hard where they can work with
8 the equipment.

9 But I do think following this storm,
10 obviously not this week or next week, that
11 we do need to have a meeting regarding our
12 plans. I know Councilman Gaughan mentioned
13 alternate side parking before regarding
14 snowstorms. That's been mentioned by a lot
15 of people in the public. There needs to be
16 a better plan in place.

17 I understand this is a hundred-year
18 storm and I don't know if you can plan for a
19 hundred-year storm fully, but we need to do
20 a better job in the future. I know a lot of
21 people lost a lot of money and had to use
22 sick days, had to use personal days, and
23 some employees that work hourly weren't able
24 to even do that. So we need to make sure
25 we're doing the best job we possibly can for

1 the residents.

2 That is all for now. Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
4 Mr. Evans?

5 MR. EVANS: Thank you. On our
6 meeting last week relative to the sewer
7 proceeds, I do generally concur with what
8 was discussed last Friday as relates to the
9 spending of the sewer proceeds. I was
10 pleased to hear that even more debt was
11 targeted to be paid off. As I said at the
12 meeting relative to debt, during any
13 discussions on this issue I have been
14 consistently a debt reduction hawk. So that
15 was a very pleasant surprise, to see more
16 debt being paid off. I've been telegraphing
17 that to anyone as well as my opinion on
18 pension reform, and it was nice that
19 actually some of the people in charge were
20 paying attention.

21 The most important aspect now is to
22 ensure those reforms are discussed -- that
23 we discussed are guaranteed and part of any
24 legislation that is passed by this body. We
25 can't give in an inch on that requirement.

1 So we're going to continue to discuss more
2 reforms, the reforms that were discussed at
3 the meeting. Some were discussed earlier by
4 Councilman Perry.

5 The very important one is the
6 reduction in the rate of return. We're
7 talking about getting it down to 7.75
8 initially and getting more money back from
9 escrow money and getting it down to 7.50.
10 That's our goal and we shouldn't stop there.
11 If we have an opportunity -- if we
12 overachieve and over perform we can get some
13 more money to go even lower in the future,
14 which would basically be a positive,
15 positive thing for our long term projections
16 on the pension.

17 On the snow removal, I sort of don't
18 want to touch this with a ten-foot pole, but
19 I'll be very, very brief. When I look at
20 snow removal -- because I try to -- if I was
21 going to rate it I would put it in three
22 categories: planning, implementation and
23 effort. We weren't really privy to the
24 plans. It was hard to make a comment on the
25 plan and how it was implemented, so I'm

1 going to leave that alone for now. Make it
2 an incomplete.

3 I do agree with Councilman Rogan. I
4 think we need to do a postmortem on this,
5 talk about it when it's all done and come up
6 with an ironclad plan for the downtown and
7 the neighborhoods so some of the situations
8 that happened don't repeat themselves. But
9 we all understand how devastating this storm
10 was.

11 But I will say on effort, many
12 people worked long hours. Again, the DPW,
13 the police, the fire, the contractors,
14 numerous city officials. Even though the
15 results may not totally show, the effort was
16 there. So I'll give all those involved an A
17 for effort because they really, really did
18 work hard. I give them all the credit for
19 that.

20 For now, that's about all I have.

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

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. First
24 of all, just an update. Proposals are going
25 to be opened in city council chambers

1 Monday, April 3rd at 10 a.m. for the city of
2 Scranton telecommunications review. The
3 city is seeking proposals to select a
4 company to complete a review of the city's
5 existing communication systems, reviewing
6 the local long distance data and cellular
7 communications, and identifying cost-saving
8 opportunities and overall short and long
9 term communication strategies from a carrier
10 standpoint. I do believe this is a good
11 effort on the administration's part. I
12 think there are a number of different
13 savings to be had there.

14 Also, the bids were received and a
15 contract was awarded the Marvin-Dutch Gap
16 Little League improvement project. I know a
17 lot of people in that area were curious
18 about that. So good news there.

19 We've been talking a lot about
20 updating our zoning ordinances here in the
21 city for a number of different reasons, and
22 we did receive a letter from Mary Liz
23 Donato, the regional planning manager for
24 the Lackawanna County Department of Planning
25 and Economic Development. She is offering

1 technical assistance to the Scranton
2 Abingtons Planning Association for the
3 implementation of the SAPA Regional Plan and
4 updating the local zoning ordinances.
5 They're going to spearhead an effort to
6 assist the communities with the preparation
7 of a funding application to the Pennsylvania
8 Department of Community and Economic
9 Development for those communities who choose
10 to update their zoning ordinances.
11 Obviously the city of Scranton is going to
12 be one of those communities.

13 Each community is going to control
14 its own local zoning ordinances and make its
15 own decisions throughout the updating
16 process. So this won't be something that
17 SAPA will be in charge of. There is going
18 to be a meeting with all of these players
19 sometime in April. So we'll give you an
20 update on that after the meeting has taken
21 place.

22 On my weekly quest to receive
23 information from the Scranton Sewer
24 Authority and the fees from the Scranton
25 Sewer Authority deal, I still have not

1 received any answers on the questions that
2 I've posed. I'm not sure how long this is
3 going to take, but this information should
4 be readily available. These documents
5 should be readily available for any
6 councilman to look at and anyone from the
7 public. I'm not sure why it's taking this
8 long. I have requested invoices, what the
9 hourly rates were for the line of attorney's
10 that have made out, quite frankly, like
11 bandits on this deal, and I'm still waiting
12 for answers. Hopefully I will get those by
13 next week.

14 Also, as a gentleman had mentioned
15 last week -- and he made a good point about
16 requesting that the attorney-client
17 privilege be waived -- I had asked back on
18 January 10th for copies for all
19 correspondence between the Scranton Sewer
20 Authority and the law firms and consultants
21 who worked on the deal, and I was told by
22 the Scranton Sewer Authority executive
23 director that they cannot do that because of
24 the attorney-client privilege. So I will be
25 making a request this week that that

1 attorney-client privilege be waived.

2 Regard the meeting last Friday about
3 how we're going to spend the proceeds from
4 the sale of the Scranton Sewer Authority, I
5 was disappointed during the meeting when I
6 asked where they came up with putting aside
7 \$500,000 for storm water management. I
8 asked how they came up with that figure --
9 do they use a formula, is it an estimate --
10 and I got a bunch blank looks on everybody's
11 faces. I think they pulled that number from
12 the sky.

13 What I've been saying all along is
14 that this whole thing has been done
15 backwards. The mayor and his administration
16 and the sewer authority sold off our last
17 asset without first knowing what storm water
18 management was going to cost us. Why they
19 did that, I still have no clue. It makes no
20 sense. So without the city of Scranton
21 knowing how much storm water management is
22 going to cost, how do we know if \$500,000 is
23 going to be enough?

24 Eventually, from everything that I
25 can see, that people who are going to bear

1 the burden of the rest of this cost,
2 whatever it may be, are the taxpayers and
3 the ratepayers of this city. So something
4 that we have on our agenda tonight is taking
5 \$700,000 and putting it into paving that's
6 leftover money from when we paid off some
7 debt.

8 I would ask my colleagues -- I know
9 this is going to be going on for three
10 readings -- that we look into putting some
11 of that money into storm water management
12 because I don't think \$500,000 is going to
13 be enough. To me, that is the most
14 financially responsible thing to do at this
15 point.

16 That's all I have. Thank you.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
18 Mr. Gaughan. As Mr. Perry stated, it was
19 quite a week. From two weeks before having
20 a tornado to freezing at the Saint Patrick's
21 Day Parade to having the record blizzard,
22 record snowfall that anyone could remember.

23 I would like to congratulate also
24 the Department of Public Works, our EMS and
25 fire and police, and everyone that was out

1 there trying to make the best of a bad
2 situation.

3 I'd also like to congratulate the
4 neighbors and the people who make our
5 neighborhoods so strong. I read many
6 instances where people came together and
7 worked together to clean up sidewalks, to
8 help the elderly, to help the disabled. A
9 lot of people came to rescue -- there was a
10 lot of unsung heros out there.

11 As we talk about this storm, the one
12 thing you have to realize -- and we talked a
13 little bit about this in caucus -- my son is
14 30 years old and he never saw a storm like
15 this. Not that he had to work in, anyway.
16 We have a lot of younger residents in our
17 city. We have a lot of newer residents to
18 our city who have never seen any snowfall
19 before, let alone 22 inches. As we talked
20 about, we are going to have to come up with
21 some type of education plan to let people
22 know that this is a possibility in our area.
23 Going around I heard a lot of people didn't
24 have snow shovels, they didn't have Quik-Jo,
25 they just were not prepared for this storm,

1 and it is something that we are going to
2 have to take a look at. We all heard
3 complaints about one section in the city of
4 Scranton where all the blocks were plowed
5 except one. It makes no sense. It's very,
6 very frustrating for someone to look across
7 the street and see the street was plowed and
8 your street's not plowed. And I can
9 understand that frustration. I can't
10 address it. I don't know why that happened.

11 One thing we have to remember when
12 we talk about equipment, our DPW equipment
13 is used year-round. We have very little
14 specific snow removal equipment. The
15 smaller pickups are used during the summer
16 at the parks and other things like that. So
17 as we go through this we may want to look at
18 specific -- either renting or contracting
19 out specific snowplowing equipment. It is
20 something that we're going to have to take a
21 look at.

22 When I was a kid we had snow
23 emergency routes posted all over the city.
24 I live on East Mountain, and there always
25 was a sign. But when I was a kid it snowed

1 all the time. And I sound like I'm a
2 hundred yeas old, but we had snowstorms from
3 November until the end of March, beginning
4 of April. People were more accustomed to
5 dealing with snow back in the '70s. Putting
6 chains on their cars, buying snow tires,
7 having ashes to put out. That's not our
8 society right now. We don't handle snow
9 well. We're not prepared for snow. We
10 don't see it that much. So it is something
11 that we're going to have to address as
12 education, just like we do with a lot of
13 other things in our city.

14 But I do want to congratulate
15 everyone who came out and helped their
16 neighbors, helped their family. My
17 neighbors are awesome. I appreciate what
18 they did for me. It only cost me fruitcake
19 and a kolachi to get the snowplowing done
20 around my house. So that was very good.

21 In regards to the garbage, there
22 will not be any more garbage pick up this
23 week. So there won't be any recycling or
24 any garbage pick up. We're not sure what
25 recycling the DPW is going to start off on

1 Monday. I would suggest that they start off
2 with the blue cans again because that's what
3 everybody had ready and seems what causes
4 the most problems for people in terms of you
5 can hold paper a little longer than you can
6 the plastic recyclables. So we'll ask Mrs.
7 Reed to check with Director Gallagher
8 tomorrow and see what the plan is as far as
9 recycling startup.

10 So if you haven't put your garbage
11 out, don't put your garbage out. It's only
12 going to get blown away. I've seen some
13 cans in the street right now. If you have
14 it out, bring it back in and put it out on
15 your normal day next week.

16 Just to touch base a little bit on
17 our meeting last week, as everyone said we
18 did get a lot of information, but also as
19 was said, it is just the introduction
20 release of information from the
21 administration and it's something for us to
22 digest. Tonight we were scheduled to hear
23 from attorney Larry Durkin, who is the
24 solicitor for the pension boards, and also
25 from members of the pension boards with some

1 ideas on what reforms they would like to
2 see. So this is going to have to be a give
3 and take amongst all the interested parties.

4 I think the one thing that we seem
5 to be forgetting, though, is that the sale
6 of the sewer authority was part of our
7 recovery plan, and part of the recovery
8 plan, main leg of the recovery plan, was
9 funding for pensions, limiting debt and
10 funding the pensions.

11 As we talked about before, as we
12 look at the money and how it's allotted, the
13 bottom line is at this time right now before
14 the escrows come back there's about \$3
15 million that are available to do capital
16 improvements, economic development and storm
17 water management studies. So as we talked
18 about here, we really only have \$3 million
19 to do anything with. So if we put more
20 money into storm water, that will either
21 have to come out of economic development or
22 out of the capital program. That's at this
23 time. So we kind of have to massage where
24 we want to go with the money. But it is
25 very important to remember that the proceeds

1 from this sale, basically most of it was
2 intended to ease the pension debt. We are
3 going to put some constraints on that and
4 some plans on how to spend the money to make
5 sure that we don't fall back into a bad
6 situation like we are in now, but overall
7 the amount -- how much money we have is kind
8 of set and it's getting narrowed down to
9 where it can go. The question is when can
10 it go there.

11 I do want to congratulate the
12 organizers of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade
13 on Saturday. They could have made it a
14 little warmer. I feel bad. They put so
15 much work into it. But there weren't a lot
16 of people turned out. People really do
17 enjoy the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. It
18 was the fastest that I ever walked it, it
19 was very quick through the city, and I hope
20 they have better luck next year.

21 I also would like to congratulate
22 the Society of Irish Women, who are having
23 their dinner tomorrow evening. They work
24 very hard and they are going to have Hillary
25 Clinton come to this meeting. If you say

1 anything about Mrs. Clinton, she does get an
2 opinion out of everyone. We're happy to
3 have her here. I congratulate the Society
4 of Irish Women for having somebody like that
5 come to our meeting. That's all I have.

6 MS. REED: 5B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS to
9 REALLOCATE A PORTION OF DEBT SERVICES MONEY
10 TO BE USED FOR PAVING ONLY AS SAID MONEY HAS
11 BEEN REFUNDED TO THE CITY AND IS NO LONGER
12 NEEDED FOR PAYMENT OF THE MARCH INSTALLMENT
13 DUE ON THE 2012 SERIES A AND B BONDS DUE TO
14 THE DEFEASANCE OF SAID BONDS WITH SEWER
15 PROCEEDS.

16 MR. WECHSLER: At this time I'll
17 entertain a motion item 5B be introduced
18 into its proper committee.

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, just
23 as I mentioned in my comments, I'm going to
24 ask that we take a closer look at spending
25 these funds all on paving. Obviously

1 everybody knows that we can use millions and
2 millions of dollars in paving. However, I
3 am concerned about storm water management
4 that is coming down the pike very soon.
5 Quite frankly, it is poor planning on the
6 city's part in regards to storm water
7 management. We just got a timeline of the
8 storm water meeting that happened last week
9 and there's a lot of things in here that
10 concern me. The city currently has little
11 capacity to do any storm water system
12 maintenance work. Where putting \$500,000
13 aside out of 40-some-odd million dollars and
14 we don't know how much it cost. So it just
15 makes no sense to me.

16 So I think we need to take a closer
17 look at this and maybe take a portion of
18 this \$700,000 and put it aside for storm
19 water management.

20 That is all I have. Thank you.

21 MR. EVANS: On the question, as we
22 discussed in caucus, I also believe that
23 there may be funds used for the storm that
24 we just had, and I think that's something we
25 need to discuss. So I think over the next

1 three weeks we have an opportunity to talk
2 to the administration, B.A. Bulzoni, to see
3 what his thoughts are, because obviously
4 when this legislation was written the storm
5 that we just had was not part of it and it's
6 going to be very costly to pay for the snow
7 removal and all the plowing that's been done
8 and yet to be done, as well as the storm
9 water issue. I think that obviously always
10 should be top on our list of things we have
11 to deal with.

12 So I'm looking forward to a nice
13 conversation with the administration and
14 B.A. Bulzoni and see if we can come to some
15 resolution, see if paving is the right way
16 to go or if there's some other options with
17 this money.

18 MR. ROGAN: I would agree with
19 Councilman Evans' point regarding the storm.
20 At this point we still don't know what the
21 total cost of the cleanup is. It's
22 obviously going to be much higher than was
23 budgeted. Nobody expected to get close to
24 30 inches of snow. So I agree on checking
25 with the business administrator if this

1 money is needed to be held back for the
2 unexpected snow removal. If it is not
3 needed for that, though, I would prefer to
4 leave it in for paving. As I stated
5 earlier, we have a long way to go as far as
6 paving our roads go and, again, this would
7 be another small step in the right
8 direction.

9 MR. WECHSLER: I have to agree with
10 Councilman Rogan. The beauty of this type
11 of money as applies to paving is it can be
12 used in neighborhoods that aren't normally
13 able to get paving. We saw this last year
14 that we paved streets. For lack of a better
15 word, people who aren't poor neighborhoods.
16 We've been able to pave in those departments
17 and those areas. For me, the timeline of
18 this money in terms of the paving, this
19 might be available to us before we're
20 finished with the storm water management
21 study.

22 As we go through the city we just
23 hear so many people my road hasn't been
24 touched, my road hasn't been paved, and the
25 \$700,000 would go a long way for those

1 people who pay their taxes, pay high taxes,
2 and this would be something that they would
3 get an immediate impact. I know storm water
4 is going to affect everyone, but I think
5 maybe in this instance that would take a
6 look at how the cost of the snow removal is
7 and balance it out with storm water
8 management requirements.

9 But I think this is a quick push, a
10 quick influx of paving to areas that haven't
11 seen it in many, many years.

12 MR. PERRY: On the question, and as
13 it states, this is just going to be added to
14 money that's already allocated for road
15 paving. So, you know, I do think that we do
16 have to do our due diligence to make sure we
17 don't drain any extra money out of the
18 general fund from this massive storm and
19 this cleanup. I do understand that with the
20 state of emergency that was declared there
21 could be some possible monies coming back to
22 us for costs that we incurred during the
23 storm, but that hasn't been guaranteed yet.
24 So I do think it would be prudent for us
25 just to do our due diligence and research

1 this with the business administrator, among
2 others, to make sure that this money isn't
3 needed for storm cleanup before we go ahead
4 and allocate the whole thing to paving,
5 because then that's just going to come out
6 of our general fund later and do detriment
7 to us.

8 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
9 introduction signify by saying aye.

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
15 eyes have it. So moved.

16 MS. REED: 5C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
17 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
18 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
19 EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION AND, IF
20 SUCCESSFUL, TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT
21 AND ACCEPT FUNDING THROUGH THE KEYSTONE
22 HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING GRANT FROM
23 THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM
24 COMMISSION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 TO
25 COMPLETE A FACILITY ASSESSMENT ON THE

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SCRANTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

MR. WECHSLER: At this time we'll entertain a motion that item 5C be introduced into its proper committee.

MR. ROGAN: So moved

MR. EVANS: Second.

MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, the grant amount for this is \$25,000, and the city is going to have to provide a match of \$32,000. So, Mrs. Reed, if we can find out before next week what line item that \$32,000 is coming out of. I'm assuming it's capital expenditures and the Bureau of Building budget, but I just want to double check on that. Thank you.

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

MR. PERRY: Aye.

MR. ROGAN: Aye.

MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

MR. EVANS: Aye.

MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The ayes have it. So moved.

MS. REED: 5D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A

1 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
2 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
3 EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION AND, IF
4 SUCCESSFUL, TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT
5 AND ACCEPT THE FUNDING THROUGH THE
6 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
7 LOCAL STORM WATER BMP IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM
8 AWARDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$197,325 TO ADDRESS
9 THE WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH
10 URBAN STORM WATER RUNOFF IN THE LACKAWANNA
11 RIVER.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5E. FOR INTRODUCTION - a
2 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J.
3 PALMITESSA, 730 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE,
4 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504 AS A MEMBER OF
5 THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF
6 SCRANTON. MR. PALMITESSA WILL FILL THE
7 UNEXPIRED TERM OF STEVEN KOCHIS, WHO
8 RESIGNED ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017.
9 Mr. PALMITESSA'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JULY
10 15, 2019.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So move.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: I'd just like to say I'm
18 pleased to be able to vote in the
19 affirmative for Mr. Palmitessa. He's a
20 neighbor of mine. He lives about a block
21 and a half away. He's a great guy and he's
22 a great asset to the zoning board.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Actually Mr.
24 Palmitessa really has been serving in this
25 role since the absence of Mr. Kochis and

1 he's done a good job there and I
2 congratulate him.

3 All those in favor signify by saying
4 aye.

5 MR. PERRY: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
10 eyes have it. So moved.

11 MS. REED: Sixth order. 6A -
12 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 93,
13 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
14 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
15 EXECUTE A DEED OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY
16 GRANTING TO THE PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER
17 COMPANY THE EASEMENT, RIGHT-OF-WAY AND
18 RIGHTS AS ARE SET FORTH BELOW WITH RESPECT
19 TO THE PROPERTY, WHICH DEED OF EASEMENT AND
20 RIGHT-OF-WAY SHALL BE IN THE FORM AS
21 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT 1.

22 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
23 by title of item 6A. What is your pleasure?

24 MR. ROGAN: I move that item 6A pass
25 reading by title.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. EVANS: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it. So moved.

10 MS. REED: Seventh order- 7A FOR
11 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
12 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 124,
13 2017 - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
14 SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION by THE
15 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR
16 FUNDING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
17 SECURITY PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000
18 AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPT AND DISBURSE THE
19 GRANT FUNDS TO ENABLE THE SCRANTON POLICE
20 DEPARTMENT TO PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO
21 COMPLEX COORDINATED TERRORIST ATTACKS.

22 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
23 recommendation of the chairperson for the
24 committee on public safety?

25 MR. PERRY: As chairperson for the

1 committee on public safety I recommend final
2 passage of item 7A.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

5 Roll call, please.

6 MS. REED: Mr. Perry?

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. REED; Mr. Rogan?

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. REED: Mr. Evans?

11 MR. EVANS: Yes.

12 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

14 MS. REED: Mr. Wechsler?

15 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

16 declare item 7A legally and lawfully

17 adopted.

18 MS. REED: 7B FOR CONSIDERATION BY
19 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
20 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 125, 2017 -
21 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
22 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A LOAN TO GRANT
23 AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN/GRANT FROM the
24 CITY OF SCRANTON BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
25 LOAN/GRANT PROGRAM FOR PROJECT NO. AS NOTED

1 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000 TO
2 ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT, LLC, (DBA AV
3 RESTAURANT) TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

4 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
5 recommendation of the chairperson of the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. ROGAN: As chair for the
8 Committee on Community Development I
9 recommend final passage of item 7B.

10 MR. EVANS: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

12 MR. EVANS: On the question, I tend
13 to chastise our OECD department occasionally
14 because they don't focus enough, in my
15 opinion, on economic development. This is a
16 win. This is a great restaurant in Moosic
17 that's moving to Scranton. They're going to
18 be highly successful on Penn Avenue in
19 downtown, and this is what -- the type of
20 stuff we need to be doing more of.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

22 MS. REED: Mr. Perry?

23 MR. PERRY: Yes

24 MS. REED: Mr. Rogan?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. REED: Mr. Evans?

2 MR. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

5 MS. REED: Mr. Wechsler?

6 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

7 declare item 7B legally and lawfully

8 adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7C FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
11 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 126, 2017 -
12 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
13 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A
14 GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
15 CAPITAL PROGRAM THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
16 PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET IN THE
17 AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION (\$3,000,000)
18 DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE GRANT
19 IF THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND
20 COORDINATE THE USE OF GRANT FUNDS WITH
21 LACKAWANNA COLLEGE LOCATED AT 501 VINE
22 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18509, FOR
23 THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED "COMMONS AT 409"
24 LOCATED AT 409 ADAMS AVENUE, SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA 18510.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: As chair for the
5 Committee on Community Development I
6 recommend final passage of item 7C.

7 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

10 MS. REED: Mr. Perry?

11 MR. PERRY: Yes.

12 MS. REED: Mr. Rogan?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. REED: Mr. Evans?

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. REED: Mr. Gaughan?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. REED: Mr. Wechsler?

19 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
20 declare item 7C legally and lawfully
21 adopted.

22 MS REED: 7D. This item has been
23 tabled.

24 MR. WECHSLER: If there's no further
25 business I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

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MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

MR. WECHSLER: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I attended the foregoing proceeding, took stenographic notes of the same, that the foregoing, consisting of 60 pages, is a true and correct copy, done to the best of my ability, of same and the whole thereof.

Mark Wozniak
Official Court Reporter