

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, June 8, 2017

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here.

14 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a  
15 motion to take from the table resolution no.  
16 159-2017.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

19 This resolution pertains to the request for  
20 outdoor seating at Posh Restaurant and will  
21 be placed in Seventh Order for a final vote.  
22 Anyone who wishes to speak on this piece of  
23 legislation may do so during Fourth Order,  
24 citizens' participation.

25 All those in favor signify by saying

1 aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

8 Dispense with the reading of the  
9 minutes.

10 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. SINGLE  
11 TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON  
12 REPORT 2016-2017 YEAR TO DATE MAY 31, 2017.

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

15 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE  
16 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD  
17 JUNE 14, 2017.

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

20 MS. REED: 3.C TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT  
21 FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD JUNE 21,  
22 2017.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-D MINUTES OF THE

1                   REGULAR MEETING OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
2                   LAND BANK HELD MAY 12, 2017.

3                   MR. WECHSLER: Are there any  
4                   comments? If not, received and filed. Do  
5                   any council members have announcements at  
6                   this time? The electronic recycling program  
7                   will begin on Monday, June 12 and extend  
8                   through June 26. Your items should be  
9                   placed curbside for the DPW to collect.  
10                  Each household will be allowed one  
11                  television and one computer monitor. Please  
12                  be aware that pick up of these items may  
13                  occur at any time not necessarily on your  
14                  scheduled garbage day. Please be prepared  
15                  to have your items ready and placed curbside  
16                  for this Monday, June the 12th.

17                  Next Thursday, June 15, Colts is  
18                  once again offering free rides all day on  
19                  all routes in promotion of dump the pump  
20                  day. Colts encourages you to leave your car  
21                  at home and experience public transit on  
22                  this dump the pump day.

23                  MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
24                  PARTICIPATION.

25                  MR. WECHSLER: Roseann Davitt.

1 MS. DAVITT: Good evening,  
2 gentlemen. I'm Roseann Davitt from 2409  
3 Rockwell Avenue in Scranton. This request  
4 is made to be incorporated in all areas of  
5 Scranton not just my area of the town. I  
6 reside in North Scranton area of the city  
7 and I have lived in my house since I was  
8 very young. I live right across from McLane  
9 Park, which is also known as Rockwell Avenue  
10 playground or the park. During my lifetime,  
11 I have run across that Rockwell Avenue many  
12 times to play at the playground. I have  
13 taught my children how to cross that street,  
14 I have taught my grandchildren, and I also  
15 crossed many children who had no idea to  
16 look up both ways just to make sure that  
17 they were safe.

18 I have also seen many people almost  
19 get hit there he Rockwell Avenue and Gilbert  
20 Street crossing because it's basically known  
21 as a drag strip. There are stop signs, but  
22 they don't look at them. For the past five  
23 years we have had a break in that threat  
24 because the bridge was closed and thank you  
25 very much, first of all, I appreciate the

1 fact that the bridge is open again, I'm  
2 thrilled for it, but the traffic pattern had  
3 changed in those five years and there is a  
4 couple of things that happened at that time.  
5 The good of it was that the drivers weren't  
6 traveling as fast up that road and the kids  
7 could cross more safe, and the noise level  
8 was much less, but the bad was that the  
9 emergency vehicles could not get to our area  
10 as quickly, which thank God has been  
11 changed. Winter snow removal was not as  
12 adequate as it should have been, and also  
13 the children became much more lax in looking  
14 both ways and taking their time to cross the  
15 street.

16 Now that the bridge is open again I  
17 really feel we are going to have a problem  
18 with that because I have already seen it  
19 happen that a lot of people are just running  
20 that stop sign again. In fact, I have two  
21 instances where it was kind of funny, a  
22 couple of weeks ago my son was at the house  
23 and he is a state trooper and we were  
24 outside next to the house and a car came  
25 right down and he said, "Mom, isn't there

1 still a stop sign there?"

2 And I said, "Yeah, there is, Chris."

3 And he goes, "Oh, my God."

4 Well, just three days ago I was  
5 building a raised garden for my daughter's  
6 birthday and I was by my house, well, I live  
7 right on the corner and one of our  
8 neighbors, who was going to make the turn to  
9 go up Gilbert Street came that way and he  
10 was sitting at the stop sign waiting to make  
11 the turn, another car comes barreling down  
12 and he yelled at the top of his lungs,  
13 "There's a stop sign."

14 Well, the guy didn't care, but it  
15 happens all of the time. We have so many  
16 people that are on that road that go across  
17 there all the time at the playground. We  
18 really need to make sure that these people  
19 are safe.

20 I'm making this request for all of  
21 the parks of Scranton not just for McLane  
22 Park. We need to make sure that our kids  
23 and our residents are safe, whether they are  
24 driving or walking because also when you go  
25 down Gilbert Street there is stop sign on



1           Gilbert so the people that are going down  
2           from Gilbert coming up or down on Rockwell  
3           can get creamed. We have almost been hit  
4           ourselves and we just live around the corner  
5           with the park next to the house.

6                     I have attached a few pictures of  
7           signs to be used to make sure that this  
8           doesn't happen, but there are other things  
9           that could be done as well. One of the  
10          things that I thought might be helpful is a  
11          rumble strip across in front of the park,  
12          you know, on the street. I don't know if  
13          that's possible. I don't know if it's  
14          legal.

15                    Also, one of the speed indicators  
16          that could be used to show what the speed is  
17          and maybe the police could be -- it could be  
18          put into the police department and then the  
19          police could come up and monitor it. I know  
20          they can't put a cop there, a guy there all  
21          the time, I know that. And, also, we could  
22          also go ahead and install 15-mile-an-hour  
23          zones for every city playground. I remember  
24          know it's expensive to put those new signs  
25          up, but, I'm sorry, our kids' safety is much

1 more important. Our residents' safety is  
2 much more important and if we did the signs  
3 we could also do like a reduced speed ahead  
4 and that could help it as well. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Ms. Davitt, can you  
7 leave that information with Ms. Carrera and  
8 we'll forward that Director Gallagher and  
9 we'll make sure that that request gets taken  
10 care.

11 MS. DAVITT: Sure, not a problem.

12 MR. WECHSLER: Pat Lendowski.

13 MS. LENDOWSKI: Good evening. Thank  
14 you very much for hearing. I live in South  
15 Side, 1501 South Irving Avenue, and I don't  
16 know if you know South Side, but our street  
17 is a split street. South Irving Avenue runs  
18 here and I have a small street that runs up,  
19 we have like five houses on the street it  
20 comes up and then comes back down. Well,  
21 the street is falling apart up there and  
22 there is a bank that comes down onto the  
23 lower part of South Irving Avenue. I have  
24 some pictures here I will give you.

25 MR. PERRY: Excuse me. I'm sorry,

1 up here. No, the other way. Facing you.  
2 The mic is just a little off center and I'm  
3 having a hard time.

4 MS. LENDOWSKI: Down a little  
5 further?

6 MR. PERRY: Yeah. Perfect. Thank  
7 you.

8 MS. LENDOWSKI: This last winter has  
9 been the worst for it and, of course, it was  
10 the heavy storm that came and they had to  
11 bring a backhoe in to clean this street  
12 because nothing else would fit up there. We  
13 had to take all of the cars off the street  
14 and they brought a backhoe. Well, it dug  
15 right into the macadam, pulled it off and  
16 dropped it across the street with all of the  
17 snow so you will see in the pictures there  
18 are holes and there is a divot in the street  
19 that I can stand in.

20 Now, the garbage truck is afraid to  
21 come up there because he ends up doing this  
22 (indicating) when he gets to the bottom of  
23 the street as he is goes down the hill to  
24 come back onto South Irving and Fig Street.  
25 The mailman doesn't want to come anymore

1           because all the little pebbles and the  
2           little rocks have come up through it, and  
3           I've fallen myself three times, but I didn't  
4           get hurt, thank goodness. I don't know if  
5           anything can be done about this because as I  
6           said the bank is starting to wear away, you  
7           can't cut the grass down wherein this part  
8           of the bank which overflows, now you can't  
9           see the cars coming up the street either  
10          because the grass is this high. I used to  
11          stand on the bank and go over it with the  
12          weedwhacker like this, I can't do it anymore  
13          because there is no bank to get on.

14                        I'm afraid it's going to be a  
15          liability soon because somebody is  
16          definitely going to get hurt either somebody  
17          is going to fall there and sue the city or a  
18          car is going to fall off there down onto the  
19          lower road. We have the kids coming from  
20          Valley View down that street all school  
21          time. They are going to get hurt some day.  
22          The whole bank is full of rock and debris  
23          now because anybody throws anything out of  
24          the car window that's where it lands, all of  
25          these little rocks and pebbles that have

1           come there, that's where they are gone down  
2           into now so you can't even clean it out or  
3           weed whack it because you are picking up  
4           rocks and throwing it if you try to use a  
5           weedwhacker on it. I have asked numerous  
6           times, I have called. They did come out  
7           twice and put down, like, cold patch I guess  
8           you call it and packed it down, but that  
9           only pulls up, too.

10           MR. PERRY: Yeah, I'm familiar with  
11           the road and it's well beyond cold patch. I  
12           believe we sent South Irving in as a request  
13           to have that paved over the last couple of  
14           months and, Ms. Reed, could we find out if  
15           that was added to the pave list?

16           MS. LENDOWSKI: No, it was taken off  
17           again.

18           MR. PERRY: And that might be just  
19           because of the condition of, the road might  
20           need to be striped and rebuilt.

21           MS. LENDOWSKI: Well, I will tell  
22           you something, my husband is gone 12 years  
23           now and 12 years ago they wrote in the  
24           middle of the road, "pave". The city came  
25           up and the gentlemen had a white can of

1 paint and he wrote "pave" on our end of the  
2 street and on the other end of the street.  
3 You will see picture, the "pave" is still  
4 there but there is no pave.

5 MR. EVANS: You are in the 1500  
6 block; right?

7 MS. LENDOWSKI: Yes, I am. 1501.  
8 I'm on the corner.

9 MR. EVANS: And the issue is also in  
10 the 1400 block as well; right?

11 MS. LENDOWSKI: It is. The other  
12 end of block, the other end of the 1400  
13 block is just as bad at the end of the  
14 block. I mean, I'm more afraid of somebody  
15 getting hurt there than I am anything else  
16 because I don't have sidewalks. We don't  
17 have sidewalks up there. When I walk out my  
18 front steps to go down to the street I am in  
19 the street and all it is is rock and holes  
20 and how do I get from my house to my car? I  
21 can't park up there any longer, it's  
22 impossible. If I put my car there the  
23 garbage truck is never getting up there.  
24 There is not just room because of the bank  
25 is gone.

1 MR. EVANS: I mean, it is the only  
2 street like that I'm aware of in the city  
3 that's like that with the island in the  
4 middle and the grass in the middle and  
5 basically split in two.

6 MS. LENDOWSKI: It's that and the  
7 1400 block.

8 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

9 MS. LENDOWSKI: And I just don't  
10 what else to do because there is no way for  
11 anybody to get up there. Like I said, when  
12 the mailman doesn't want to come that's  
13 pretty bad. When the garbage men don't want  
14 to come, that's pretty bad. They are  
15 afraid.

16 MR. PERRY: No, I know it's  
17 treacherous.

18 MR. EVANS: They both need to be  
19 reconstructed and redesigned. No doubt  
20 about that.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Now, the list that's  
22 out there that you may have seen that's a  
23 tentative list.

24 MS. LENDOWSKI: Okay.

25 MR. WECHSLER: That list has not

1           been submitted officially to council yet so  
2           we still have the opportunity to request the  
3           administration to work on it.

4                   MS. LENDOWSKI:  If they would just  
5           come up and look at it I think you will  
6           see --

7                   MR. WECHSLER:  We have all been --  
8           I'm on council four years, Mr. Rogan is on  
9           here longer than me and it's been a problem.

10                   MS. LENDOWSKI:  I think if you would  
11           come up and see you can see what I'm talking  
12           about.  Would you want if I can leave my  
13           camera with her for now?

14                   MR. WECHSLER:  Yeah.

15                   MS. LENDOWSKI:  So you can take a  
16           look at it?

17                   MR. WECHSLER:  Yes.  But we will  
18           submit it again to the administration to  
19           take a look at it.

20                   MS. LENDOWSKI:  If you would,  
21           please.

22                   MS. PERRY:  Mrs. Reed, would you  
23           also include the city engineer on that  
24           because he might be in the loop it hasn't  
25           gotten paved because there is paving



1 construction on the books for it already, so  
2 just so we have a heads up and a calendar on  
3 the events.

4 MS. REED: Certainly.

5 MR. PERRY: Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

7 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,  
8 city resident and taxpayer. For those of  
9 you who disgraced yourselves by not  
10 attending Swingin' on Vine the last Friday  
11 in May, and you know who you are, you can  
12 redeem yourselves by coming to the Friends  
13 of the Scranton Public Library book sale  
14 which is ongoing at Marketplace at Steamtown  
15 on the second floor in front of the Crusher  
16 gym. It's going on from now until Sunday.  
17 The hours today and tomorrow are 10 a.m. to  
18 8 p.m. Saturday it's 10 to 5, and Sunday  
19 it's one 11 to 5, and one thing new this  
20 time around we have hundreds and hundreds  
21 and hundreds of talking books for those of  
22 you who like to put a little cassette or a  
23 tape in while you are driving, we have --  
24 they are good titles so come on down.

25 I assume that the Knowel's insurance

1 list is still making it's way through  
2 bureaucratic labyrinth to be birthed next  
3 week? Like April's draft, we have like a  
4 video camera, okay?

5 Do you realize it has been 447 days  
6 since the mayor announced the appointment of  
7 a third party administrator for the pension  
8 plans on March 18, 2016? What is the status  
9 of that RFP? When they have one bidder,  
10 Access Medical Evaluations out of Michigan.

11 MR. EVANS: My understanding is they  
12 are going to streamline the RFP a little bit  
13 and put it back out to bid and hopefully it  
14 will get several bids this time.

15 MS. HODOWANITZ: We never had the  
16 question answered as to --

17 MR. EVANS: No, we didn't.

18 MS. HODOWANITZ: -- how he was  
19 advertising it.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: He claimed this  
22 would be a nationally recognized  
23 administrator. This group that they got was  
24 formed in 2005, have a staff of three people  
25 and make revenue, a annual revenue of

1           \$119,100. That's not profit, that's  
2           revenue. God knows what their costs are.

3                   MR. EVANS: Well, they're out for  
4           now.

5                   MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I hope you  
6           know about 447 days so does that mean that  
7           we are going to have to wait 447 days for  
8           the fabled town hall meeting?

9                   MR. EVANS: Well, that will be a  
10          problem, won't it?

11                   MS. HODOWANITZ: Yes.

12                   MR. EVANS: To go back to the other  
13          issue, the third party administrator has to  
14          be in place prior to any trust agreement and  
15          pension reforms.

16                   MS. HODOWANITZ: So that then is  
17          stalemate.

18                   MR. EVANS: And money put into the  
19          pension.

20                   MS. HODOWANITZ: So it's stalemate.

21                   MR. EVANS: It has to happen.

22                   MS. HODOWANITZ: Let's see, we are  
23          coming out of distressed status in three  
24          years, the school district is swirling  
25          around the drain and we are still maiden on

1                   this problem, have I got that right? Okay.  
2                   Yeah, but the town hall meeting, when and  
3                   where? I'm ready.

4                   MR. WECHSLER: I spoke to the mayor  
5                   on Tuesday, they are still making plans to  
6                   have everyone altogether.

7                   MS. HODOWANITZ: I told you, there's  
8                   a stadium right on Providence Road.

9                   MR. WECHSLER: It's the participants  
10                  in the meeting.

11                  MS. HODOWANITZ: What, the mayor and  
12                  city residents and taxpayers. Who else  
13                  needs to come?

14                  MR. GAUGHAN: The lawyers.

15                  MS. HODOWANITZ: Oh, the 50 lawyers.

16                  MR. EVANS: You have to have room  
17                  for 50 lawyers, that's a big table.

18                  MS. HODOWANITZ: I'm telling you,  
19                  this is a stall tactic, plain and simple.

20                  MR. WECHSLER: No. Well, it may be  
21                  but the meeting is going to occur within a  
22                  short time.

23                  MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay.

24                  MR. WECHSLER: It is going to occur  
25                  in around a short time.

1 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okey-dokey.  
2 Speaking of stall tactics, what is the  
3 status of the request to the State Attorney  
4 General to come down here and look at that  
5 sewer sale transaction?

6 MR. WECHSLER: It was submitted to  
7 them electronically on Monday.

8 MS. HODOWANITZ: Because I remember  
9 he made a comment in the newspaper, I  
10 haven't seen anything from city council yet.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Their comment was  
12 made probably 9 a.m. on Friday, we got out  
13 of here at 8:30 on Friday. We started our  
14 own business for next week's meeting. The  
15 letter was written on Monday and submitted  
16 on Monday, so it's in there.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: When  
18 electronically, electronic comments go at  
19 the speed of light so hopefully he is coming  
20 back. I would like to see a story in the  
21 Times-Tribune.

22 MR. WECHSLER: That's why we made  
23 the submission.

24 MS. HODOWANITZ: Get his little  
25 hiney down here, tell him we need him. What

1 about the Nay Aug tree house, are they  
2 still, you know, contemplating their navel  
3 on how much that's going to cost?

4 MR. WECHSLER: I wouldn't say they  
5 are contemplating their navels, they are  
6 assessing the fact that the tree house is  
7 safe. I wouldn't minimize the study that  
8 they are doing. There is -- that tree house  
9 is used quite a bit and I agree with the  
10 decision to review it properly and make sure  
11 that it's not --

12 MS. HODOWANITZ: But it's probably  
13 going to be out of play for the rest of the  
14 summer, I would imagine.

15 MR. WECHSLER: I would rather have  
16 it be safe than hurry it.

17 MS. HODOWANITZ: All right. See you  
18 next week.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Bill Jackowitz.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Scranton City  
21 Council, Kathy, stenographer, Lori, Amil,  
22 good evening to all of you.

23 Joan stole my thunder in the town  
24 hall meeting, I still say and I'll stick to  
25 my saying from last week that it's the town

1 hall meeting will probably be held after the  
2 election and I'll be surprised if it's held  
3 before then or it might be the week before  
4 the election, but I'll be surprised and if  
5 I'm wrong I'll admit I'm wrong, but it's  
6 been a week, a week gone by and no action  
7 whatsoever with the town hall meeting.

8 MR. EVANS: You were right, Bill, on  
9 the Sewer Authority Board voting so maybe  
10 you are.

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, I'm going to  
12 be right on the town hall meeting, too,  
13 because all that's going to happen is the  
14 mayor is going to come in with a couple of  
15 his associates and they are going to sit  
16 there and they are going to stonewall every  
17 question that's given to them and they are  
18 not going to give any answers that you need.  
19 If they were going to actually seriously  
20 give you the answers, they would have  
21 already give you the answers by now because  
22 it's been what six months now, seven months  
23 now and they stonewalled you each and every  
24 time. Well, they might be able to stonewall  
25 city council, but they ain't going to be

1           able to stonewall the residents much longer  
2           because we want answers and we want answers  
3           fast, not months down the road or weeks down  
4           the road we want answers now and we want  
5           serious answers and correct answers.

6                     Okay, I understand that the city is  
7           going to be in distress for another three  
8           years; is that correct?

9                     MR. EVANS: Yes, that's how the exit  
10          plan works.

11                    MR. JACKOWITZ: You know that's  
12          going to put us over 10,000 days? We are  
13          going be distressed over 10,000 days, we're  
14          coming up on 9,000 right now, add another  
15          two years of that we are going to be  
16          distressed for 10,000 days, 28 years. Don't  
17          you think enough is enough? Don't you think  
18          the citizens have suffered enough? We came  
19          here this year, everybody pat everybody on  
20          the back saying how we were going to be out  
21          of distressed city this year. What  
22          happened? What fell apart?

23                    MR. EVANS: Nothing. That's the  
24          process. The state dictates the process of  
25          getting out and that's the process. We have



1 to declare it --

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Then why was  
3 everybody saying we're going to be out of it  
4 this year?

5 MR. EVANS: I never said that. I'm  
6 not sure who said that though.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: It was said. Okay,  
8 storm water management, what's going on with  
9 storm water maintenance? Are we making any  
10 progress with it? Is the administration and  
11 the city council working on the problem, how  
12 we are going to solve it, how we're going to  
13 come up with the money to solve this problem  
14 and work it out? Are we working on the  
15 problem? I guess no answer means no.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: There is an analysis  
17 being done by Arcadis Engineering and I  
18 think the study is supposed to be done  
19 October or November according to the  
20 administration.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: And are we going to  
22 have the finances available to pay for it?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know that.

24 MR. EVANS: The study is being paid  
25 for. The study is paid for already so --

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: Pardon me?

2 MR. EVANS: The study is already  
3 paid for.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Some of it is  
5 already paid for.

6 MR. EVANS: The study already is  
7 paid for, yeah.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right, but I'm  
9 talking about the whole kitten caboodle.

10 MR. EVANS: Well, that's yet to be  
11 seen. We'll have to see.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: They're out of debt,  
13 completely out of debt, don't anybody any  
14 money on the storm water, that's what I'm  
15 talking about.

16 MR. EVANS: We're going to find out.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, the sale of  
18 the Sewer Authority was a fast money maker  
19 so how much profit did we make on the sale  
20 of the Sewer Authority? What was the profit  
21 to the City of Scranton. We told it so fast  
22 because we needed money so desperately, the  
23 same reason why we sold the parking lots the  
24 way we did, we needed the money so  
25 desperately so what's our profit?

1 MR. WECHSLER: The parking lots were  
2 leased, the parking lots were not sold, they  
3 were leased.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Leased, same thing.  
5 Sold. Leased.

6 MR. WECHSLER: It's not the same  
7 thing.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, we don't have  
9 control over them. We don't have control  
10 them.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, but it's not  
12 the same thing.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: We don't have  
14 control over them anymore and they are not  
15 paying us for the lease, they paid us some  
16 money up front but now they're not paying us  
17 anymore.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Well, when the lease  
19 is paid --

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: So it's basically  
21 the same thing, it's just a play on words.

22 MR. WECHSLER: You say it's the same  
23 thing but it's not.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: It's just a play on  
25 words, that's all.

1 MR. WECHSLER: It's not.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: We're not getting no  
3 money out of it, we're getting no profit,  
4 we're getting no revenue, the taxpayers have  
5 to foot the bill for everything.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Well, we eliminated  
7 all of the debt for there and the management  
8 issues.

9 MR. JACKOWITZ: Like I said before,  
10 who created that debt?

11 MR. WECHSLER: The Authority.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: And who appointed  
13 the Authority?

14 MR. WECHSLER: The mayor did.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: And he's an elected  
16 official, and who appointed the appointments  
17 of the Authority?

18 MR. WECHSLER: They'll serve at the  
19 pleasure of the mayor.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: They are at the  
21 pleasure of the mayor, but they also go  
22 through city council because you require a  
23 resume on each and every appointment that  
24 comes through so if you don't -- if your  
25 appointment doesn't mean anything why do you

1           require a resume?

2                   MR. WECHSLER: It's a courtesy.

3                   MR. JACKOWITZ: Oh, okay. Again,  
4           it's just nothing but spin, that's all we  
5           get.

6                   MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

7                   MR. ELLMAN: Well, gentlemen.

8                   MR. EVANS: You are back.

9                   MR. ELLMAN: After Marie's  
10          impassioned plea for my return a couple of  
11          weeks ago, I had to leave my death bed to be  
12          here tonight so please show me some  
13          leniency. As far as the sewer fiasco goes,  
14          we are never going to get any money back.  
15          Nothing is ever going to be done about it.  
16          It's time just to make plans to go on if you  
17          ask me. The graphic corruption of this  
18          administration after two years planning is  
19          what we got. This is shameful. Shameful.  
20          It's just time to replace in administration.  
21          Do you realize what Mayor Bill's very  
22          first -- the first thing he did in office  
23          was break a law, the law not to hire people  
24          outside of the city and nobody objected. He  
25          broke this law and we didn't get somebody

1 good, we got a third rate person that lied  
2 repeatedly about his residency.

3 You know the first thing Mr. Bulzoni  
4 did? He asked for a consultant to help him  
5 with paving? This city has just gone to pot  
6 the last three years with no leadership  
7 whatsoever. It's the people of this fair  
8 city that suffer while this administration  
9 they just stand by the side lines and watch  
10 our neighborhoods and our -- the city is  
11 deteriorated in my opinion.

12 A couple of months ago when I was up  
13 here and I complained about something or  
14 rather as usual a lawyer told me, I have it  
15 written down here, I copied it from a piece  
16 of paper, he said we need a forced, now get  
17 this, he used the forced to subsidize  
18 downtown from the rest of the city. He told  
19 me there is less than 500 apartments rented.  
20 There is no income for these people that owe  
21 God knows how much money. I looked in the  
22 paper from last week, just 8 or 10 of them  
23 owe 300, 350 thousand dollars. Where are  
24 you going to go with nothing being done  
25 about this? This 134 Wyoming was in the

1 paper, they owe \$77,800. Now, how can that  
2 be? Why is it allowed to go on? This other  
3 245 Wyoming owes \$41,900. This little  
4 sanctuary downtown that the friends of the  
5 mayor that's who Bulzoni wants to give tax  
6 money to and they are not paying taxes. It  
7 doesn't make sense what's going on and  
8 nobody is protesting it for God's sake.

9 You know, I remember a few months  
10 ago there was an article praising Cedar  
11 Avenue, they owed like three, 350,000  
12 dollars, eight or ten developers and  
13 realtors. No wonder the street looks so  
14 nice. Can you imagine what West Side or  
15 South Side would look like if nobody paid  
16 taxes? All the houses would be paid and  
17 remodeled, but you got 99 percent of the  
18 city, I guess, subsidizing this little  
19 sanctuary area around the mall. It's got to  
20 stop somehow. Why aren't these -- I know  
21 you guys seen it, why aren't at least  
22 something done about all of these people  
23 that owe so much money? You know, there was  
24 one guy last year, Scranton -- oh, give me a  
25 second to find it, Scranton investors last

1 year in the paper they owed \$484,000 in I  
2 think it was that pages and pages with the  
3 6,000, 400 -- it's not in the paper this  
4 year, what happened to that money? Why  
5 isn't it still trying to be collected? What  
6 happened to it? What happened to the  
7 Pennswood I think owed \$53,000 when they  
8 folded up, what happened to that tax money?  
9 It wasn't paid. They are allowed to --  
10 somebody else is allowed to have the  
11 building. This tax base can't survive like  
12 it is. There is just no way we can keep  
13 subsidizing downtown and it's nothing but a  
14 sanctuary of tax cheats. Friends of the  
15 mayor, that's all that it is. It's friends  
16 of the mayor. LLC you don't have to pay  
17 taxes, you're a developer you don't have to  
18 pay taxes.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Ellman.

21 MR. ELLMAN: Pardon?

22 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

23 MR. ELLMAN: Let me say just one  
24 thing on another --

25 MR. WECHSLER: I'm sorry, you had



1 six minutes. That's more than enough, more  
2 than anyone else gets. Thank you.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you for your  
4 leniency.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Thanks for coming  
6 back. Come back again next week.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Sorry?

8 MR. WECHSLER: Come back again next  
9 week. Thank you. John Foley.

10 MR. FOLEY: Gentlemen, you are  
11 better guys than I am. You are clearly more  
12 patient. I have two matters. First, it  
13 appears that this obsession with the legal  
14 fees is a mass distraction from what you  
15 should be looking at. I said initially, and  
16 I continue to believe, you should evaluate  
17 the legal fees after you totally understand  
18 the deal, you have a complete explanation as  
19 to what's happened.

20 Now, I have heard a number of  
21 people, including newspaper articles, of  
22 late trash Tom Cummings. I'm sitting in the  
23 back saying Dunmore is 20 percent of the  
24 deal, Scranton is 80. If I look at Tom's  
25 fees and I look at the aggregate of all of

1 the lawyers on the Scranton side, I'm saying  
2 Dunmore got a value. That's simple using it  
3 as a benchmark.

4 I reviewed the invoices, the second  
5 round of invoices. I see an awful lot, but,  
6 frankly, I'm a bit biased because I have  
7 always believed that professional fees are  
8 reasonable and should be paid on time, but  
9 if you would like I would be more than happy  
10 after everything else has been settled to  
11 look at legal fees.

12 Now, second issue. You attended the  
13 Sewer Authority meeting. I brought up a  
14 matter, I sent each one of you a letter  
15 today, it was addressed to Mr. Wechsler.  
16 There is a section of the Municipality Act  
17 that 56-12-1A, and my interpretation of that  
18 is that the Authority was prohibited from  
19 transferring any money to the City of  
20 Scranton. I met with Jason Shrive  
21 yesterday. I discussed the matter with him.  
22 He said that there is probably legal cases  
23 out there but, frankly, not being a lawyer  
24 my recommendation is that the Attorney  
25 General's Office needs to look at this

1           because if my interpretation is correct the  
2           city has to give the \$28 million back with  
3           interest. That puts an enormous hole. The  
4           three years to get out of distressed status,  
5           never, ever going to happen so I implore  
6           you, if you would like send my letter to the  
7           Attorney General's Office. It's a matter of  
8           state law, not any city ordinances. I don't  
9           expect you to respond to it, everything I  
10          give to you is for informational purposes.  
11          What you so chose to do with it is up to  
12          you, but you do have the responsibility.  
13          This single issue holds in balance the  
14          finances of the City of Scranton.

15                 So with that, gentlemen, you have a  
16          great evening.

17                         MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Kara  
18          Seitzinger.

19                         MS. SEITZINGER: Good evening,  
20          Council. Kara Seitzinger, City of Scranton  
21          resident, member of the Greenridge  
22          Neighborhood Association. I'd like to take  
23          this opportunity to invite all of you, as  
24          well as all city residents, to our  
25          Greenridge neighborhood meeting on Tuesday

1 the 12th at 7:00 p.m. We meet at 625 Deacon  
2 Street. The purpose of the meeting, a  
3 cursory review here, is the preservation of  
4 the Castle house that has been in the  
5 newspaper, and predominantly the Sewer  
6 Authority sale and the Attorney General  
7 intervention in the same. We have found in  
8 the past year that the neighborhood groups  
9 are better united than separated. We  
10 exchange information, texts, e-mails, phone  
11 calls, it's been a real blowup in the past  
12 year but it's a benefit to all city  
13 residents so we certainly invite everybody  
14 to attend.

15 Mr. Perry, I hope that you had a  
16 chance to review the legal bills, and I did  
17 a quick review because I had my daughters'  
18 graduation and I have been ill. A couple of  
19 highlights on those legal bills. On  
20 7-22-2015 Luke Capital, the Harvard Club, a  
21 dinner, for meetings. Planes, automobiles,  
22 Uber rides, it goes on and on. On  
23 10-26-2012, Attorney Carl Greco began  
24 research on the power to sell Sewer  
25 Authority and all of it's assets. That's a

1 long time, before most of you gentlemen were  
2 here as councilmen. Six hours at \$840 that  
3 day, and if you look those bills and the  
4 days following it was a full court press  
5 effort.

6 On 12-13-15, on Jeff Belardi's  
7 bills, review the outline for memorandum of  
8 understanding, in parentheses, Carl G,  
9 secret project. Mr. Belardi spent two hours  
10 on that matter. He also notes on that he  
11 also reviewed an outline from Steve  
12 Goldstein -- or Goldsmith, I'm sorry, memos  
13 from Greco, Stone, and then, "And probably  
14 sent to me by accident."

15 That takes me to the next issue  
16 which is, again, with Jeff Belardi, and I  
17 don't want to talk too much about this  
18 because the Greenridge 10-29-15, a phone  
19 call with Chris Krezlowski about the odor in  
20 Greenridge. As we all know what had  
21 happened from that point, the concerning  
22 part is that it is not referenced in any  
23 Sewer Authority meeting minutes. There is  
24 no resolution and it's not on any other  
25 attorney bills.

1 I'm going to present to you some  
2 questions we have regarding the project  
3 that's been ongoing on Glenn Street. The  
4 Greenridge Neighborhood Association has been  
5 inundated with questions regarding this  
6 project that has been under construction and  
7 the accompanying road closures on Glenn, Von  
8 Storch and Albright since December of 2016.  
9 Since early of August of 2016, there have  
10 rumors circulating that this is to be an  
11 alternate leachate storage pond. As such,  
12 we formally requested -- we are requesting  
13 that council provide answers to the  
14 following questions so that we can verify  
15 the exact nature of the project. Mark  
16 Seitzinger, Greenridge Neighborhood  
17 president, did request the information from  
18 the city last fall and winter and has yet to  
19 receive any response and the lack of the  
20 transparency tends to cause residents to  
21 surmise the worst and we are not indicating  
22 that that is what's going on here.

23 I have in my possession the notice  
24 of the condemnation documents that were  
25 prepared and filed by Attorney Carl Greco

1 with the Lackawanna County Recorder of Deeds  
2 on March 15, of 2016, these documents are  
3 executed by Jimmy Barrett on March 10 and  
4 given by brief knowledge of condemnation  
5 actions taken on behalf of the city for the  
6 flood control project years back, I simply  
7 cannot imagine a project of this magnitude  
8 commence without Don King, city planner, or  
9 the city engineer reviewing it. So here are  
10 the following questions:

11 What entity is doing this work?  
12 What is the scope of work? And will you  
13 please provide copies of the contracts,  
14 change orders and specs for the work? What  
15 city, county or state officials have  
16 reviewed the work and dates of same? Is  
17 this work impacting progress on the Lace  
18 Works factory the city has already dedicated  
19 money towards? Was council aware that this  
20 project was underway when you awarded OECD  
21 grant money to the Lace Works project? When  
22 did the work commence and what is the  
23 expected end date? Who is paying for this  
24 work and the total amount of expenditures  
25 thus far, as well as future expenditures,

1 including upkeep. Any and all documentation  
2 relative to this project including consent  
3 decree as referenced hereby a PAWC forwarded  
4 via e-mail to Mark Seitzinger and posted to  
5 the Greenridge neighborhood page by Mark.  
6 The official statement from PAWC -- one more  
7 second -- "The following involving Glenn  
8 street is one of the long-term control  
9 project required by the consent decree to  
10 help control overflows in the combined waste  
11 water system and it includes the plan  
12 separation of storm water and waste water.  
13 Unfortunately, the project has been delayed  
14 due to easement."

15 And I'm only bringing that up  
16 because when I bring it up on Google maps  
17 Meadow Brook runs through there, and I  
18 understand we have still the money that  
19 needs state approval and city approval, so  
20 it's a big project and rather than people  
21 continuing to guess let's just get the  
22 answers. Thank you.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone  
24 else?

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.



1 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxes and fees paid.  
2 On that issue that was moved up to Seventh,  
3 like I said last week, please no vote. You  
4 don't need to exclude the sidewalk.

5 Now, on the Sewer Authority, one  
6 point of curiosity, mine, was the \$13  
7 million outstanding, and it was a few years  
8 back about two years ago or so somebody was  
9 all worked up that they got a call from the  
10 Sewer Authority and they owed \$700 in sewer  
11 fees for the house and they had to pay it,  
12 and to be quite frank, the person that  
13 stated that had a problem buying lottery  
14 tickets as far as I'm concerned, so I also  
15 had an idea on our Parking Authority with  
16 the -- so I'm wonder that's not an  
17 outstanding accounts or something. I mean,  
18 \$13 million is a lot of money, especially to  
19 us.

20 The Parking Authority with their  
21 broken elevators, as you notice, I have a  
22 cracked ankle and I have to hike up and down  
23 those steps so and pay \$7 if I stay for the  
24 whole meeting. Luckily I can catch it on TV  
25 later. However, how about free parking

1           until they fix that damn elevator. That  
2           would be a great idea.

3                         And we had our first sale with the  
4           land bank and I also would wish that people  
5           that buy land in land bank pay their city  
6           taxes and fees. A certain name was in the  
7           paper for considerable amount of money and,  
8           as I said before, there was \$7.5 million  
9           owed in back trash fees. Now, if somebody  
10          doesn't have the money we don't want their  
11          trash laying around, however, all Mayor  
12          Doherty had to say about it was, "I'll put a  
13          lien against them," and no liens were ever  
14          put against anybody that I know of anyway.

15                        And last week I mentioned about an  
16          illegal dump and a DA's Office that really  
17          didn't seem to be too concerned because I  
18          worked with some of the people that were  
19          from that neighborhood and he was also  
20          possibly from somewhere near there. The  
21          three dens of inequity were rock and roll  
22          bars that used to have a bunch of young  
23          people up there and they put mostly local  
24          bands and they were paid quite well and, of  
25          course, they fell by the wayside probably

1 for the DUI laws and stuff, but they were  
2 dens of inequity while a toxic landfill was  
3 just budding and growing and I once again  
4 mentioned that I would have to abandoned my  
5 house if they ever uncapped that and have  
6 some guys in space suits come in and clean  
7 up. I live about five miles away as the  
8 crow flies, so getting down to it, once  
9 again, I'm seriously opposed to any pay for  
10 trash. All I expect for pay to throw is  
11 that people that feel they don't have money  
12 to throw and pay will deposit on somebody  
13 else's back and, by the way, oh, you got a  
14 city inspector up there. Oh, well you have  
15 to get rid of this, Mr. Dobrzyn. Well, here  
16 is your citation under the quality of life  
17 ordinance and oh, by the way, there's  
18 recycling in those bags. You didn't  
19 recycle, Mr. Dobrzyn.

20 So what if there is Pampers and  
21 everything else and we have no babies in the  
22 house and never did. So what's the answer  
23 to all of this? Once again, you could write  
24 in Dubcheck (phonetic) for dictator. Enough  
25 of this dumb atrocity here, and I thought of

1 my new party, a launch for my party as I  
2 want to get a death head symbol, but wait,  
3 wear it upside down that I'm against  
4 Holocausts and ethnic cleansing and all of  
5 that nasty stuff. So don't forget, write in  
6 Dubchck for dictator. Have a good night.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
8 Marie Schumacher. I notice in the back up,  
9 the 3-A, we are about a quarter of a million  
10 dollars behind on the property taxes and  
11 about \$200,000 on the business privilege and  
12 mercantile tax. If any of you have any  
13 ideas why I wish you would share them in  
14 Fitch Order.

15 5-B, the addition of the Serrenti  
16 property has that been added to the list and  
17 I would like to know how much that has added  
18 to our property tax -- to our bill for  
19 insurance on the property as we got the  
20 decrement for taking off the two library  
21 structures, so if you could provide that  
22 next week that would be helpful.

23 Mr. Evans, is being in Act 47 a  
24 requirement to impose the triple LST tax?

25 MR. EVANS: As far as I know, yes.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: So we get an exit  
2 plan that takes us out to three years and  
3 then drops off the cliff, we drop off the  
4 cliff.

5 MR. EVANS: Well, that part does,  
6 yes.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

8 MR. EVANS: It reverts back to a  
9 single.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. Okay, last  
11 week Mrs. Franus asked about the refuse fee  
12 cost study and you were going to do some  
13 research, can you share with me what you  
14 would have shared with her?

15 MR. EVANS: I apologize, I didn't  
16 get a chance to find out where we are with  
17 that. I know it was ongoing, but I don't  
18 know exactly where we are on that.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who is actually  
20 performing the study?

21 MR. EVANS: I'll find out for you.  
22 The state is actually in charge of that  
23 study so we'll find out who they have  
24 assigned to it.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, it's

1 getting bad. I did a Right-to-Know to come  
2 in and review the contract and it took five  
3 days --

4 MR. EVANS: Do you have any idea?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, and then I got  
6 a contact that was the last thing for  
7 Mrs. Joyce, what's her name, Hatala? It was  
8 on the recycling. It was totally just --

9 MR. EVANS: That's not it.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Fish, dead fish,  
11 yeah. So I would like to know who is  
12 actually doing that study and when the  
13 contract was issued myself.

14 Mr. Wechsler, when is a next NDC  
15 meeting?

16 MR. WECHSLER: There is not one  
17 scheduled right now.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: When was the last  
19 one?

20 MR. WECHSLER: A few months ago. I  
21 don't know the exact date.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Are we paying or is  
23 NDC paying the lease payments for the spaces  
24 that we have procured or leased from  
25 Steamtown Mall?

1 MR. WECHSLER: I'm not aware.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, it just  
3 seems crazy that here we are almost at the  
4 first year and we are paying the annual --  
5 or the monthly fee and they are not getting  
6 any revenue that doesn't seem too smart, so  
7 I'll have more on that whole deal shortly.

8 Mr. Gaughan, I noticed the street  
9 cleaning, East Mountain is third from the  
10 bottom of the list and will not be -- the  
11 street sweeping will not occur between the  
12 10th to the 14 of July. Can you tell me  
13 what criteria was used to determine that  
14 order?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know, but I  
16 can find out.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, it just seems  
18 ludicrous to me that it's just common sense  
19 that most of the stuff was dumped where it's  
20 hilly and they go on the bottom of the list.  
21 I think the last one is in West Mountain and  
22 so we got all of that stuff going into the  
23 storm drains and we are going to pay a price  
24 for it and it's not really -- should not  
25 have been necessary.

1                   What do you expect from the third  
2 party administrator? I know you put a lot  
3 of -- first of all, did any of you look at  
4 the statement of work for the RFP that was  
5 let?

6                   MR. EVANS: Yeah. I think we going  
7 to have to change my expectations are really  
8 to go after the disability pensions and  
9 basically be that person on all disability  
10 pension issues.

11                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Going forward.

12                  MR. EVANS: Going forward. Yeah. I  
13 don't like to go the back roads, you know, I  
14 don't think that's possible.

15                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Have you  
16 heard as of a couple of days ago the Law  
17 Department had not decided whether or not.

18                  MR. EVANS: As of today, they will  
19 be doing a new RFP.

20                  MS. SCHUMACHER: They are?

21                  MR. EVANS: They will.

22                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. When they  
23 estimating that's going to be publicized?

24                  MR. EVANS: Hopefully soon because  
25 they understood that we will not do -- put



1           any money into the pensions until that  
2           person is hired and the trust agreement has  
3           been set before council.

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, yeah, I hope  
5           it's soon and I hope they are doing.

6                   MR. EVANS: So do I.

7                   MS. SCHUMACHER: On zip recruiter or  
8           some other electronic board that might get  
9           us some good responses not a single. And  
10          then, if I may, the paving program where are  
11          these streets that are in there and how are  
12          they going to be -- how is that program  
13          being financed?

14                   MR. GAUGHAN: I believe it's through  
15          the liquid fuels money and we have a loan  
16          from -- a PIB loan from the state.

17                   MS. SCHUMACHER: For the 2017?

18                   MR. GAUGHAN: Where is the list?  
19          Your Honor, it's within the back up in the  
20          legislation. It's a tentative list at this  
21          point.

22                   MS. SCHUMACHER: It's in the backup  
23          this week?

24                   MR. GAUGHAN: Um-hum.

25                   MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll check it.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

3 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

4 MR. SEITZINGER: Good evening. Mark  
5 Seitzinger, city of Scranton, president of  
6 the Greenridge Neighborhood Association.  
7 All five of you gentlemen should have  
8 received an e-mail from me regarding 1120  
9 Columbia Street that was brought up by the  
10 new owner last week at counsel. When you  
11 get an opportunity, if you haven't driven by  
12 the property yet and take a good look at the  
13 property, open your e-mails and took at the  
14 pictures, okay? The property is condemned,  
15 obviously. It's a wood-sided building with  
16 gutters falling off, water damage, an  
17 exterior wall that is starting to collapse  
18 towards the other property, so to say that  
19 we just want the outside cleaned up and the  
20 property cleaned up was absolutely false.

21 I spent a lot of time on the phone  
22 yesterday with the new owner, have spent  
23 time on the phone for the past I'd say two  
24 weeks or so on the phone with the new owner,  
25 pretty much reiterated to her that it is

1 important for her to allow the city to do an  
2 inspection on the property. She is adamant  
3 that she doesn't want them to because she  
4 doesn't want to pay the fee. It's important  
5 as a condemned property that the new owner  
6 allow them to do the inspection so that she  
7 knows exactly what needs to be done to  
8 rehabilitate the structure. We want the  
9 property rehabilitated. We want a new  
10 neighbor in the neighborhood. We want  
11 somebody to raise their family there. We  
12 are not against that, but we want it done  
13 right. We don't want somebody to just kind  
14 of fall by the wayside, she just wants power  
15 and this and that, we want the property done  
16 right, just anybody else in the City of  
17 Scranton so when you get a chance open up  
18 the e-mails and take a look at those photos.  
19 I actually sent them while I was sitting  
20 here.

21 MR. PERRY: Yeah, actually I'm  
22 looking at them right now, Mr. Seitzinger.  
23 Speaking with Mr. Hinton this week --

24 MR. SEITZINGER: You are luckier  
25 than I am because he doesn't talk to me.

1 MR. PERRY: The property is in  
2 appeal right now, that's the process it's in  
3 and, you know, it's going to go through  
4 appeals and that's I think right now best  
5 process for it.

6 MR. SEITZINGER: Right, and I'm  
7 pretty sure, it's my understanding, the  
8 property is under appeal because she doesn't  
9 want it demolished and, again, if the  
10 property is going to be rehabilitated  
11 fantastic, we are all for it, but if it's  
12 not going to be rehabilitated it can't stay  
13 in the condition that it's in. Now, today  
14 he did cut the grass again. Going back to  
15 when the grass was cut, DPW never cut the  
16 grass at that property, so let's get that  
17 clear right now. She did hire somebody to  
18 cut the grass at her property. She did have  
19 a trapper set traps at that property where  
20 they took a skunk, a feral cat and a possum  
21 from that property.

22 So, I mean, she has done some  
23 things, but just cutting the grass and  
24 setting some traps isn't going to solve the  
25 problems of the property really is. We are

1 all for the rehabilitation, we support her  
2 in that, and we think it would be great if  
3 she does rehabilitate the structure and move  
4 in the neighborhood we would welcome her  
5 with open arms. So when you get an  
6 opportunity if you haven't driven by take a  
7 look at those and you will see.

8 The other one is Ridgemont Street,  
9 otherwise known as the Castle House. That  
10 building was built with the same stone that  
11 was built with this building. All that  
12 stone is it from West Mountain quarry. That  
13 building is probably the most structurally  
14 sound building in the City of Scranton. To  
15 tear that down would be a crime. To tear it  
16 down, I don't know how the City of Scranton  
17 is going to afford to tear it down because  
18 the dumping costs alone are going to be  
19 exorbitant. You are probably talking close  
20 to \$200,000 for demolition of that property  
21 and I don't believe they can use OECD funds.  
22 It's not a low to moderate income  
23 neighborhood, so where are we going to get  
24 that money from? Maybe we'll get it from  
25 the sewer sale, I don't know, but they can't

1           afford to tear that building down. There  
2           are people that are interested in that  
3           property and purchasing it and  
4           rehabilitating it and living there. Maybe  
5           the city needs to look at possible eminent  
6           domain status on that property. Take it  
7           over and look to get into somebody's hands  
8           instead of just putting it on the demolition  
9           list and knocking down a structure that's  
10          probably one of the properties in the City  
11          of Scranton that people identify Scranton  
12          with and identify Greenridge with. To tear  
13          that down would be an absolute crime.

14                        So that being said, those are my  
15          only two things. As my wife said, our  
16          meeting is Tuesday night. As I say to  
17          everybody, everybody is welcome to come.  
18          7:00 at the American Legion Post, we welcome  
19          everybody and if you are free, please come  
20          down and see what we have to say. Thank  
21          you.

22                        MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone  
23          else?

24                        MR. CASEY: Hi. Paul Casey, South  
25          Side, Scranton. I'm here about South Irving

1 Avenue again. I have pictures because I'm  
2 not confident that any one of you have taken  
3 the time to come up and actually see the  
4 roads or speak to any of the neighbors about  
5 the conditions of the roads. The pictures  
6 will show you how bad the erosion is. It  
7 will show how bad the pavement is. It will  
8 show you cobblestones exposed in the middle  
9 of the road. When was the last time  
10 Scranton drove on cobblestones and the 1400  
11 block of South Irving Avenue gets to. There  
12 is lifting in the pavement. The road is  
13 naturally pitched, but there still is a  
14 sudden inch or two difference along a large  
15 crack in th 1400 block. Again, there is  
16 loose pavement at the end of the 1500 block  
17 on the Fig Street side. It makes stopping  
18 very difficult in the summer. In the  
19 winter, it's terrible because we don't get  
20 plowed. The loose pavement leads to falls.  
21 It's slippery to walk on. I understand that  
22 are mailman doesn't like coming up our road  
23 is so bad.

24 Now, I did see a tentative list of  
25 paved streets and I noticed our streets

1           aren't on it. I noticed the part where it  
2           said subject to change. I would like our  
3           two blocks to be put on it. All we've  
4           really gotten was lip service in an election  
5           year. That's all we ever seem to get. Two  
6           years ago we got a little bit of painting.  
7           Mrs. Evans and her campaign had people paint  
8           "pave" along either intersection of our  
9           street. That might have gotten her a couple  
10          of votes, it didn't get us paved.

11                        I mean, we don't what else to do.  
12           Is it going to take an accident at that  
13           street to get some action done? Is it going  
14           to take someone to fall and break a hip or  
15           worse on that street to get someone to come  
16           up and take care of it? So, if I can, I'd  
17           like to leave you with pictures. I know  
18           Mrs. Lendowski loaned you her Kindle, these  
19           you can keep. I have the circles and the  
20           arrows, there is no paragraph on the back,  
21           but it shows you how bad our road is until  
22           someone wants to take the time to come up  
23           and take a look and speak to the residence.

24                        MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. You can  
25           leave them with Kathy. Thank you very much.



1           Anyone else?

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

3           MOTIONS.

4                   MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

5                   MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you. I have  
6           a couple of things today. First, we had a  
7           caucus today with the CEO of Smart City  
8           Media and it was a great presentation. I  
9           know Councilman Gaughan has been working on  
10          this for some time and I was thrilled. I  
11          was blown away with the presentation of  
12          what's hopefully to come. This is based on  
13          the agenda tonight 5-D.

14                   Basically what this is this company  
15          operates in 71 different cities,  
16          universities, transit systems. They are  
17          little kiosks that are set up strategically  
18          in high walk areas throughout the city and  
19          it connects all types of things,  
20          entertainment, police, fire, it can even do  
21          bus routes. It ties everything together and  
22          it just -- it's very communal. And what  
23          have on tap right now was they suggested  
24          about 40 different units spread out through  
25          the city with most of them in the start

1 starting off downtown and then 20 -- or,  
2 sorry, 200 mobile wi-fi boosters so these  
3 will all work off wi-fi, your phone will  
4 work off these wi-fi signals. There will be  
5 an app to join this.

6 I don't want to get too into it  
7 because I know -- I'm sure other councilmen  
8 want to talk about this as well, but I was  
9 just floored with it, and the best part is  
10 the cost. You know, this is the second best  
11 thing about this is it costs the zero. The  
12 best thing about this is there actually  
13 revenue that would come into the city from  
14 advertising on these different kiosks, and  
15 based on the models they ran in similar  
16 cities with similar demographics they would  
17 expect a pre-projection about \$900,000, that  
18 would just be free and clear to the city  
19 based on these units, so I'm very excited  
20 about this and excited to learn more, but  
21 I'll let some other councilmen get into some  
22 more details about that.

23 Also, on the agenda is 5-C some  
24 parking permit changes. I wasn't too sure  
25 on the original laws that were written on

1           this and I made some phone calls to see what  
2           the actual amendments were and they were  
3           very minor. Most of it was just drops in  
4           fees from \$15 to \$5 and some other things,  
5           minor changes in the legal writing was just  
6           where to place it in the car and what angle  
7           of the window just so we have some kind of a  
8           consistency when searching for permit  
9           parking. So nothing major and definitely no  
10          pricing increases in there, which I was  
11          happy to hear.

12                        As far as, Rose, your situation  
13          could we also copy chief Graziano with  
14          Mr. Gaughan's letter to Director Gallagher.  
15          In my opinion, this is just my opinion, when  
16          you have a road closed for five years we are  
17          going to have to reintroduce the normal  
18          traffic patterns and that's going to take  
19          some getting use to and how many drivers got  
20          their license in that area that never had  
21          one when Rockwell Bridge was open, so there  
22          is -- we need to retrain, I guess for lack  
23          of a better word and to these traffic  
24          patterns and I'm sure that the chief and the  
25          city engineer has some ideas as well how to

1 do this, whether it's a stop sign with a  
2 flashing light on it, you know, we could do  
3 temporary police presence, but that's only a  
4 limited time and how often is that  
5 effective? But we need to educate the  
6 drivers on how to operate because it's just  
7 been too long, and I think someone on this  
8 board actually mentioned that, I don't know  
9 if it was you, Councilman Rogan, who said  
10 that, you know, that was one of the fears  
11 that once the bridge opens that's going to  
12 open that again to possible speeders. So I  
13 want to get, like you do, ahead of this  
14 before something actually does happen. So  
15 thank you, Mrs. Reed, for that.

16 Also, can we send letter out to  
17 Mr. Bulzoni surrounding the Serrenti  
18 building and if there has been any talks or  
19 primary discussions on the insurance impact  
20 that's going to be to the city. I'm sure he  
21 has done forecasting for it, but just so we  
22 have an idea on some costs on that.

23 And I believe that's it. I don't  
24 think I had anything else as of tonight so  
25 that's all I have tonight.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Perry.  
2 Mr. Rogan?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just one very brief  
4 item and I'll hold my other comments for  
5 agenda items. Linda Aebli, director of OECD  
6 asked to announce that on Monday, June 12,  
7 will be the open period for Scranton's 2018  
8 Action Plan for our CDBG HOME and ESG  
9 funding. Eligible organizations can submit  
10 applications beginning Monday on the 12th  
11 and they have to submit it no later than  
12 Friday, August 4, at 3 p.m. Applications are  
13 available at the city's website  
14 [www.Scrantonpa.gov](http://www.Scrantonpa.gov) and the projected  
15 allocations for the Scranton money for 2018  
16 is \$2.2 million for the CDBG allotment,  
17 \$350,000 for the HOME program, and \$240,000  
18 for the emergency shelter grants. So for  
19 all the organizations out there that apply  
20 or will consider applying the project will  
21 be -- bids will be opened up on Monday, not  
22 opened, but the application period opens up  
23 on Monday and it will commence on August 4.  
24 And that is all. Thank you.

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

1 Mr. Evans?

2 MR. EVANS: Thank you. I'm going to  
3 take a slight detour from my usual format  
4 and discuss what could be viewed as maybe a  
5 typical week for a city councilman, and I'm  
6 sure my colleagues will be familiar with  
7 some of the comments that I make. I'm going  
8 to discuss both city business as well as  
9 things that have happened in the community  
10 that I had some involvement with in the past  
11 week and some worthy organizations that I  
12 hope to give a shout out to along the way  
13 for the fine work they do.

14 So I'm going to start with Friday,  
15 last Friday. I had an early meeting at city  
16 hall to discuss the NRN Task Force and their  
17 Phase II proposal of numerous stakeholders.  
18 That process is moving along and there  
19 should be a report on the final  
20 recommendations and goals relatively soon.

21 On Friday evening, I spent some time  
22 downtown during First Friday and I will say  
23 that downtown was jammed with people and if  
24 you haven't had a chance to experience a  
25 First Friday please make the effort to do

1 so. I would like to recognize the hard work  
2 of the First Friday committee and for all of  
3 that they do for our city.

4 Early Sunday afternoon, I spent  
5 several hours in the rain with my wife and  
6 other volunteers planting flowers in the  
7 large planters through the downtown. This  
8 is annual project by Scranton Tomorrow and  
9 the Penn State Extension. This year the  
10 50,000 flowers planted is part of the  
11 program so I would like to firstly thank  
12 again all of the people involved with the  
13 project that have been beautifying downtown  
14 Scranton for years and years.

15 Early Monday afternoon I attended  
16 the weekly PEL meeting, among other things  
17 we discussed the Act 47 exit plan. As many  
18 of you might know, there will be a public  
19 meeting in these chambers on June 21st at  
20 6:00 p.m. At that time, public comment will  
21 be accepted. I plan on attending and  
22 offering my comments as well.

23 Later Monday afternoon, along with  
24 all of the members of city council, I  
25 attended a graffiti work session in the

1 Governor's Room in city hall. We had over  
2 20 stakeholders there and the meeting was I  
3 thought very productive. Some of the  
4 outcomes were: One, city council will be  
5 reviewing and adopting a revised graffiti  
6 ordinance. The original ordinance from 1996  
7 simply is not as comprehensive as it needs  
8 to be for today's world. Number two, Mari  
9 Walsh from the Juvenile Probation Office  
10 offered to help in working with -- will be  
11 work with her and the individuals that need  
12 to fulfill community service and they will  
13 be helping us remove and clean up graffiti.  
14 This will be downtown and into the  
15 neighborhoods.

16 Three of the First Friday Committee  
17 and Scranton Tomorrow have committed to  
18 include the painting of a new design of the  
19 graffiti covered traffic control box in the  
20 200 block of Wyoming Avenue as part of the  
21 mural project they are currently working on.

22 Four, I have also asked Scranton  
23 Tomorrow to do an inventory of graffiti tags  
24 in downtowns and they have agreed to do  
25 that.



1                   Five, Brian Fallon, from the City's  
2                   Parks and Recreation, has committed to  
3                   removing graffiti on parks' buildings within  
4                   48 hours after they are tagged.

5                   Six, several neighborhood leaders  
6                   have committed volunteer time to removing  
7                   graffiti in their neighborhoods. Chief  
8                   Graziano committed that his department will  
9                   continue to be vigilant as it relates to the  
10                  graffiti issue.

11                  And eight, Councilman Gaughan  
12                  brought up the idea of an app for reporting  
13                  graffiti and that is something that would be  
14                  exploring further prior to our next meeting.  
15                  So we have a follow-up meeting in a few  
16                  weeks and we are going to see where  
17                  everybody is at that time and hopefully  
18                  we'll make more progress on that front.

19                  Early Wednesday afternoon, I  
20                  attended Scranton Tomorrow Economic Task  
21                  Force meeting and based on my attendance  
22                  from the past meetings, I'm expecting some  
23                  great things and exciting things from that  
24                  organization over the next few months so  
25                  I'll keep you posted on that.

1                   Wednesday evening, on a lighter  
2                   note, my wife and I had dinner at the Greek  
3                   festival at the Greek Church at the corner  
4                   of Vine Street and North Washington Avenue  
5                   so when we arrived about 5:15 we are able to  
6                   get right into the lower hall and get in  
7                   line at that point. By the time that we got  
8                   our food and walked back out, the line was  
9                   around the block. So I urge anybody that  
10                  hasn't experienced the greek festival and  
11                  the food to take the time and do it. It's a  
12                  great atmosphere and a great event for the  
13                  city.

14                  Later Wednesday evening I went to  
15                  the Marketplace at Steamtown and purchased a  
16                  bag full of children's books at the Scranton  
17                  public library book sale. I plan on  
18                  donating the books to the little library at  
19                  Connors Park in South Side so it's an  
20                  opportunity to help two great organizations  
21                  at once and, for the record, I did attend  
22                  Swingin' on Vine --

23                  MS. HODOWANITZ: I saw you there.

24                  MR. EVANS: -- last week.

25                  MS. HODOWANITZ: Unlike those two.

1                   MR. EVANS: Finally, Thursday, this  
2 morning, I attended a meeting with Council  
3 Solicitor Minora and the City Solicitor  
4 Jessica Boyles to discuss amendments to the  
5 rental registration ordinance that we have  
6 been working on that was sort of a misstep  
7 and we are going to take care of that, and  
8 the refuse fee related to the 10 percent  
9 discount and the policy issue we are having  
10 with collection of that.

11                   So there you have it, somewhat of a  
12 typical week for a council person, and  
13 doesn't take into account, as we all know is  
14 the dozens of e-mails and dozens of phone  
15 calls and our phone calls to the city  
16 employees and city leaders to try and get  
17 things done during the week. I'm not  
18 complaining about it, that's we signed up  
19 for, but I just want to get some perspective  
20 of how a week can go for a city council  
21 person.

22                   And as I said many times, you know,  
23 and we all have said this, there are many  
24 things that are happening outside of this  
25 meeting. This is not all the city council

1 does. In fact, most of our work is done  
2 outside of this meeting. So with that said,  
3 that's my comments for Thursday June 8,  
4 2017.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Are you tired?

6 MR. EVANS: I'm exhausted.

7 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I woke up Friday  
9 morning and I had bowl of cereal -- kidding.

10 MR. EVANS: So did I, by the way.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Just a few things.

12 First of all, Solicitor Minora, can you just  
13 give us an update, Mr. Evans mentioned the  
14 meeting you with the administration, a lot  
15 of questions about the 10 percent discount  
16 that I brought up last week, can you just  
17 give us an update on where we are with that?

18 MR. MINORA: Yes, Councilman Evans  
19 and I met with city solicitor today and the  
20 two issues we were discussing was the 10  
21 percent discount on the refuse fee and the  
22 rental registration. I think there was a  
23 pretty bad breakdown of communications. I  
24 think our thought going in was that the  
25 administration had taken a completely

1 ridiculous position on the matter and, in  
2 fact, the amendments that we sent up to them  
3 they were perfectly okay with and I think we  
4 were unaware of some of the administrative  
5 problems that they were undergoing. They  
6 varied from both of those two issues, but  
7 there were administrative problems in terms  
8 of the creation of the bills, the collection  
9 of fees, and at this point returning the  
10 fees I don't want to say near impossible,  
11 but the effort to do so would require an  
12 expenditure of time and money and labor that  
13 would take up most of the rest of the year  
14 in the Treasurer's Office.

15 But they were perfectly -- "they"  
16 being Mr. Beck was there from the  
17 Treasurer's Office and Ms. Boyle had  
18 absolutely no objection to the amendments  
19 that we proposed and were perfectly willing  
20 to complete those, but they felt it would be  
21 administratively next to impossible to make  
22 it retroactive to the beginning of this  
23 year, but we can make it effective beginning  
24 2018.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much,

1 appreciate it. The Scranton Parking  
2 Authority was brought up tonight actually I  
3 think it would be a good idea if we asked  
4 for an update on the transition to NDC and  
5 ABM, possibly have a public caucus so that  
6 they can give us an update on that whole  
7 transition, what capital improvement  
8 projects have taken place, will take place,  
9 so I will ask that my colleagues consider  
10 setting that up for some time in the future.

11 I have quite a few citizens'  
12 requests for this week. The 35 hundred  
13 block of the ham Court. The 500 block of  
14 Hamm court. There is an issue with a  
15 residence there. Clippings, hedges, and a  
16 lot of other stuff is being dumped in the  
17 front yard. The neighbors are afraid that  
18 it's going to catch fire, so I would ask  
19 that we send something to Licensing and  
20 Inspections. The property is in general  
21 disrepair. The neighbors are upset with  
22 that.

23 The 800 block of Phylo Street the  
24 road is partially washed away onto the  
25 bricks and the sloped wall is starting to

1 crack. We will ask to send that to the DPW.  
2 Also, the 400 block of Oakford Court. I  
3 will ask the DPW to fill potholes in that  
4 area. Residents are complaining. There are  
5 two one-way signs that need to be replaced  
6 at the corner of North Hyde Park Avenue and  
7 Pettibone Street in West Scranton. The  
8 one-way sign on North Hyde Park and  
9 Pettibone is faded out and there is graffiti  
10 on it, and the one-way sign on Pettibone  
11 Street and North Hyde Park is also rusted  
12 out.

13 We did receive several complaints  
14 this week about Olive Street at Mineral  
15 Avenue and Barrett Court becoming overgrown.  
16 It's impeding pedestrian traffic. The other  
17 growth is actually pushing students out onto  
18 the street under the bridge which is  
19 creating a very dangerous situation so we  
20 actually did send that to the DPW and  
21 Licensing and Inspections.

22 Several complaints about the 500  
23 block of Birch Street in Minooka. Very  
24 large potholes that need patching. 900 and  
25 1000 blocks of Wintermantle Avenue are

1           becoming very narrow and dangerous also need  
2           work in that area.

3                       I did receive an e-mail from the  
4           Licensing and Inspections director,  
5           Mr. Hinton, regarding 524 North Rebecca  
6           Avenue. He did say that the property is  
7           being given property for demolition but  
8           there are others in worst shape. I would  
9           respectfully disagree with that. This house  
10          is literally falling down. I just spoke to  
11          the neighbor the other day. The back porch  
12          is collapsed, the grass is about six feet  
13          high so I would ask that, again, and I am  
14          hopeful that this will be taken down very  
15          soon because it has turned into a public  
16          safety hazard.

17                      Also, several complaints about  
18          streetlights have been out, one on Froud  
19          Avenue on East Mountain, we reported this as  
20          well. We did receive a report on the street  
21          lighting improvement project, there have  
22          been several outages that have been  
23          reported. They continue to be documented,  
24          tracked and fixed as soon as possible so  
25          they are staying up on that.



1 Little Oram Street, intersection of  
2 Powderly Court off of Main Avenue in West  
3 Scranton. That road needs patching and also  
4 needs consideration to be put on the paving  
5 list.

6 Ms. Jefferies, who is in the  
7 audience tonight, asked if the brush and  
8 overgrowth from Weston Park along Stanley  
9 Place can be trimmed back, and also be  
10 sprayed for poison ivy and oak. Also,  
11 received some other complaints about the  
12 front entrance to the park on Hollister  
13 Avenue being overgrown. I believe that was  
14 being taken care of this week. Mrs. Reed  
15 was in touch with Mr. Fallon that issue.

16 Also, the two residents who were  
17 here tonight in regards to the 1400 block of  
18 South Irving Avenue, I would ask my  
19 colleagues to strongly consider making an  
20 amendment to the paving list here if that is  
21 possible and giving consideration to put the  
22 1400 block of South Irving Avenue on the  
23 list to be paved. Since I have been on  
24 council now for nearly four years, this is  
25 an issue that continually comes up and,

1           again, this has turned into a public safety  
2           issue so I would ask if that can be taken  
3           care of.

4                       On the issue of the Sewer Authority,  
5           you know, the mayor announced a few weeks  
6           ago that there was a going to be a town hall  
7           meeting. There is only one problem with  
8           that, we do not have a date or location yet  
9           and this is turning now I think a joke. If  
10          you announce that there is going to be a  
11          town hall meeting, you should have already  
12          prepared a place and a time for that  
13          meeting. Again, I have to ask what is this  
14          administration, what is this mayor hiding?  
15          The letter was sent, as was mentioned to the  
16          Attorney General by fax and by mail Monday  
17          of this week, so I'm hopeful that we will  
18          get a response from the Attorney General on  
19          that matter. I would like copies of all  
20          engagement letters between any law firm or  
21          consultant hired in relation to the Sewer  
22          Authority sale to Pennsylvania American  
23          Water. I have asked for this previously. I  
24          will resubmit this request. I would like to  
25          know who negotiated the terms of their

1 compensation. I'd also like to ask if there  
2 was every any breach of a contract between  
3 Pennsylvania American Water and the Scranton  
4 Sewer authority before the vote to dissolve  
5 the Authority took place back in 2016.

6 Obviously, we still have outstanding  
7 questions about the \$12 million. Again, I  
8 ask why the mayor did not inform this  
9 council of the unexpected drop in proceeds.  
10 He could have done in an executive session  
11 prior to the vote to dissolve the authority.  
12 Again, I have asked all of those questions  
13 for the last six months, we still have no  
14 answers.

15 I'd also ask that we consider, this  
16 council consider, to invite Mr. Gene  
17 Barrett, the former executive director of  
18 the Scranton Sewer Authority, to a public  
19 caucus to explain the invoices that he  
20 signed off on and answer questions related  
21 to the sale of the Scranton Sewer Authority  
22 and maybe he can shed some light on some of  
23 the concerns and some of the questions that  
24 we have had for the past several months.

25 We also still have no detailed

1 accounting of what Abrahamsen, Conaboy and  
2 Abrahamsen, Ned Abrahamsen was the city  
3 special counsel, what exactly he did for the  
4 \$200,000 payment that he earned on the Sewer  
5 Authority deal, but we have the invoices,  
6 but, again, there is nothing there.

7 Also, explanation on Mr. Cummings'  
8 bills which was reported on in the media.  
9 There is still several invoices that say,  
10 "Detailed bill available upon request," so I  
11 would like to request the detail on those  
12 invoices and I would remind people that  
13 roughly 81 percent of the money used to pay  
14 all of these attorneys, including  
15 Mr. Cummings, who represented Dunmore, comes  
16 from the City of Scranton ratepayers.

17 And I would also like to ask if  
18 there was a duplication of services here  
19 between all of these lawyers. It seems like  
20 a lot of them were doing the same thing.

21 So the bottom line is here, and I  
22 hate to keep belaboring the point, but it  
23 seems to me, and I'm still reviewing the  
24 invoices, that everybody here had their hand  
25 in the cookie jar, yet we are still sitting

1 here six months later with little to no  
2 answers and a mayor and administration who  
3 promised a town hall meeting, yet still ask  
4 not produce a meeting date or a meeting  
5 place. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,  
7 Mr. Gaughan. One of the events that  
8 Mr. Evans missed on Saturday was the Arts on  
9 Fire event that was held at the Iron  
10 Furnaces in Scranton. Missed a good one  
11 there.

12 MR. EVANS: I know.

13 MR. WECHSLER: You were taking a  
14 rest. If you are unaware, the iron furnaces  
15 really are the cradle of the industrial  
16 revolution in our country. That started  
17 right here in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and I  
18 congratulate the people that are involved in  
19 that, keeping that tradition alive and  
20 informing the residents of our historical  
21 part in our nation's history.

22 The this evening, one of the  
23 speakers mentioned Dave Bulzoni. One thing  
24 that I have no problem about is defending  
25 Mr. Bulzoni. Mr. Bulzoni is responsible for

1 the -- whether you agree or disagree with  
2 it, a lot of the progress that has happened  
3 in the City of Scranton directly related to  
4 Mr. Bulzoni. Mr. Bulzoni was issued a  
5 waiver by this council so there was nothing  
6 illegal about Mr. Bulzoni's residence. He  
7 has granted a waiver of that.

8 Mr. Bulzoni goes above and beyond  
9 the normal role of a city business  
10 administrator. As presented tonight,  
11 Mr. Bulzoni brought the presentation tonight  
12 about city scape. Mr. Bulzoni also was the  
13 one that's working on trying to get a  
14 resolution to the emergency situation out on  
15 Wyoming Avenue with the Young family. I  
16 find it very difficult for me to hold my  
17 tongue when people accuse Mr. Bulzoni of  
18 being a problem with the city. Mr. Bulzoni  
19 is not problem with the city, Mr. Bulzoni is  
20 responsible for much of the improved  
21 conditions and operations of city hall  
22 management and I think criticism of him is  
23 really unfounded.

24 The paving list that came out that  
25 we were provided is a tentative list. We

1           have been contacting the administration  
2           about including the blocks of South Irving  
3           Avenue, we have done it every year. We will  
4           increase our efforts again with this. The  
5           situation exists and I think from last year  
6           it costs approximately \$27,000 to do a good  
7           block, a block that is not in as bad of a  
8           condition as your blocks are so that's going  
9           to need tremendous repair. So I'm actually  
10          considering if your blocks don't make it to  
11          that paving list I think we need a special  
12          project for that situation back there. I  
13          think there may be more engineering involved  
14          than is really provided in this ordinance  
15          this evening so we will forward your request  
16          again. We'll emphasize, again, all five  
17          council people here I believe that you are  
18          correct, I believe that you should be taken  
19          care of. We agree with you 1,000 percent.  
20          The bottom line is thought the  
21          administration makes the list so besides  
22          coming here and pressuring us, I do  
23          encourage you to also pressure Mayor  
24          Courtright. Mayor Courtright, the engineers  
25          and Mr. Gallagher, the DPW director, have

1 final say on this list. City council does  
2 not. We have input on it, we can make  
3 recommendations. We can say how important  
4 we believe it is for you, but if you look at  
5 the list the people that are on that list  
6 also think their street is the most  
7 important thing, also.

8 So Mr. Gaughan mentioned changing  
9 the list, the reality is if we add your two  
10 blocks to that list, two other streets are  
11 going to come off. We have to find a way to  
12 make that possible to add your streets to  
13 that list and if we add your streets then  
14 someone here or someone else. Very, very  
15 difficult to get this paving done. It's our  
16 responsibility to do it, we have talked  
17 about somehow a list has to be developed  
18 that every five years every street gets  
19 paved, we are not there yet but this is the  
20 second year that we're running into the  
21 paving. Previous to last year, there was no  
22 paving outside of the low to moderate income  
23 areas.

24 So we are making progress on it, not  
25 fast enough for you people, I agree, but we



1 will effort to try to come to some solution  
2 this year. We will try that.

3 MR. PERRY: Mr. Wechsler, just from  
4 knowing that area as we all do, it's  
5 probably beyond paving at this point. We  
6 are probably best waiting to hear from the  
7 city engineer. It's almost like from the  
8 ground up restructure.

9 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, but what I'm  
10 considering is this evening we are actually  
11 bidding out the engineering services, if we  
12 can perhaps just get an idea from them on  
13 what your situation is, what has to happen  
14 back there in terms of repair and get an  
15 idea on how much it's going to cost and  
16 start that process, I know that's not a good  
17 answer, I feel terrible about it. I joke  
18 that it was better when we didn't pave any  
19 roads because we just told everybody no and  
20 now we are paving roads and everybody wants  
21 their road paved and they are right, they  
22 should be paid. You pay taxes, you want  
23 services, I understand that, so let us try  
24 that's all.

25 MS. LENDOWSKI: Okay, but it's not

1           just the 1400 block --

2                   MR. WECHSLER: Right.

3                   MS. LENDOWSKI: It's the 14 and 15.

4                   MR. WECHSLER: Correct. Yeah. The  
5           last thing I have this evening is I want to  
6           send a congratulations and a thank you to  
7           Parks Director Fallon. Parks Director  
8           Fallon has been up at Robinson Park on his  
9           own and cutting come grass. Tomorrow  
10          actually they are looking for volunteers.  
11          They are going to deliver mulch. I believe  
12          they are delivering mulch tomorrow and they  
13          are looking for volunteers to help spread  
14          the playground mulch at Robinson Park on  
15          Saturday. The park gets a lot of use. A  
16          lot of different families are up there and I  
17          think this is an opportunity for them to  
18          step up and really help us out. It should  
19          be an hour or so and work will be done.

20                   The last thing I have this evening  
21          is something that I have been working on  
22          council since I got here, it is the  
23          historical Doughboy statue in South  
24          Scranton. I have a statement here from the  
25          Steamtown Historic Site. Steamtown National

1 Historic Site invites the public to help  
2 kick off it's centennial commemoration of  
3 America's participation of the First World  
4 War by joining us for Flag Day rededication  
5 of Scranton's World War I Doughboy statute.  
6 The ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. on  
7 Wednesday evening, June 14, 2017, in the  
8 park's museum complex. This is a free  
9 evening. It will conclude with a 7:00 p.m.  
10 showing of the classic World War I feature  
11 film in the site's theatre.

12 The statue was originally dedicated  
13 in Scranton's Duffy Park on Harrison Avenue  
14 in 1940 by Rabiaga-Gorgol veterans of  
15 Foreign War Post 3451. It was placed in  
16 storage due to the construction of the new  
17 Harrison Avenue bridge. The statute and  
18 park honored Lieutenant Colonel Frank Duffy  
19 and other Scrantonians who died while  
20 serving during World War I. Lieutenant  
21 Colonel Duffy worked for the Delaware,  
22 Lackawanna and Western Railroad in Scranton  
23 before the war and undoubtedly walked the  
24 D&LW railroad complex which now comprises  
25 Steamtown National Historic Site.

1                   This is the part I'm very excited  
2                   about, with such a powerful connection to  
3                   the past, Steamtown National Historic Site  
4                   is honored to partner with VFW Post 3451 in  
5                   displaying the doughboy statute until  
6                   November 11, 2018, which represents the  
7                   100th anniversary of the signing of the  
8                   Armistice that ended hostilities to end the  
9                   war to end all wars.

10                   We are very grateful to the  
11                   Steamtown Historic site for getting Colonel  
12                   Duffy out of his box. He has been locked up  
13                   for quite while, I hate to say prisoner of  
14                   war, but he is a prisoner of construction.  
15                   Colonel Duffy will be on display at the  
16                   Steamtown site, which does have a lot of  
17                   traffic annually, and while he is down there  
18                   efforts will be continued to get Colonel  
19                   Duffy repaired and perhaps make a replica  
20                   statue that can go up into the new Harrison  
21                   Duffy Park. Unfortunately, Colonel Duffy  
22                   has served his time and can no longer be  
23                   outside so his repair will -- after repair  
24                   he will go somewhere permanently inside  
25                   somewhere and hopefully we can get a replica

1 to be at Duffy's Park so all of the kids  
2 like myself when I was a youth so many years  
3 ago always thought that Colonel Duffy was  
4 our grandpop and served in World War I so we  
5 would like to bring that tradition back to  
6 South Scranton, and I appreciate Steamtown's  
7 help and Rabiega VFW Post. Thank you.  
8 That's a lot for me.

9 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
11 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT  
12 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON THIS  
13 QUITCLAIM DEED CONVEYING TITLE TO THE CITY  
14 OF SCRANTON, THE FORMER CSM SAMUEL P.  
15 SERRENTI U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER (USARC)  
16 LOCATED AT 1801 PINE STREET, SCRANTON,  
17 LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA 18510 AS  
18 MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED  
19 HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.  
2 I will be voting "no" tonight on this  
3 legislation for a few different reasons and  
4 I've opposed this from the very beginning if  
5 you go back I think about a year and a half.  
6 We still have not received analysis on how  
7 much it will cost the city to maintain the  
8 Serrenti Center over the next five to ten  
9 years. I have asked repeatedly what will  
10 the impact of acquiring and maintaining this  
11 building and property have on future  
12 operating and capital budgets? Has it been  
13 determined whether or not the city has the  
14 fiscal resources to maintain a building and  
15 a property like this? I still have not  
16 received the environmental analysis that  
17 apparently been done on this site insuring  
18 that there is it no ground contamination,  
19 which we will now be responsible for since  
20 we are acquiring the building and the  
21 property.

22 If you look at the back up  
23 legislation, there are several environmental  
24 portions of it, environmental protection  
25 provisions. There is asbestos, obviously,

1 in the building. There is notice of a  
2 presence of a lead base paint and there is a  
3 section in here on post-transfer discovery  
4 of contamination.

5 My fear is that this is going to be  
6 a money pit. I fully understand the police  
7 department's desire to use this as a  
8 facility for an emergency center and I think  
9 their efforts are commendable and I think  
10 they're honorable, but I continue to be  
11 concerned as I have for the last year and a  
12 half about the city's ability to maintain a  
13 building and property of this size as we  
14 move into the future.

15 I don't believe that this is a wise  
16 choice being that we are a financially  
17 distressed city and we have serious trouble  
18 maintaining what we already own so I don't  
19 see an immediate emergency with this  
20 property or a need for it at this time so I  
21 will once again be voting "no" on this  
22 legislation. Thank you.

23 MR. ROGAN: We have discussed this  
24 at length, this is our third vote on  
25 legislation regarding this Serrenti building

1 and I'd just like to reiterate my support  
2 for this proposal. One thing Mr. Gaughan  
3 didn't mention is there is a number of  
4 pieces of equipment that the city owns that  
5 they are storing in this facility and Chief  
6 Graziano did do an analysis of acquiring  
7 this property free of charge or building  
8 just a storage shed, a pole barn to store  
9 that equipment, and some of the equipment  
10 that particularly the bomb unit has up there  
11 it's pretty amazing and very high tech stuff  
12 and certainly needs to be kept indoors and  
13 kept safe.

14 I'd like to commend chief Graziano  
15 for moving forward with this proposal when  
16 in past years previous chiefs or previous  
17 administrators may have chose to build new  
18 construction when in this case we are  
19 actually able to acquire the facility free  
20 of charge.

21 And I did speak to many residents in  
22 the Hill Section that fully support this  
23 proposal as well because they do want to see  
24 -- one, they don't want to see the building  
25 sit there vacant, which it has for a number



1 of years; and, secondly, and increased  
2 police presence in the Hill Section will  
3 certainly help the public safety in that  
4 area.

5 As I said before, if Chief Graziano  
6 believes this is the best way to run the  
7 police department and to keep the residents  
8 of Scranton safe, I'm fully in support of  
9 the proposal.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question,  
11 one of -- I know back in the fall, I believe  
12 it was, Councilman Rogan and myself toured  
13 the building and I think we're all in  
14 agreement how the condition of the building  
15 how impressed we were for the age of it and  
16 kind of maybe our expectations were low  
17 going in, but the building itself is in good  
18 shape, and the one question that did arise  
19 during that time was ground contaminants. I  
20 spent some time today on the phone with the  
21 solicitor going through the back page on  
22 this and I think it was subsection 4-A and B  
23 in regards to that and our liability  
24 because, as you know, the type of the title  
25 this is it's almost like an as-is title so I

1 want to be cautious proceeding this.

2 With that said, at the time in the  
3 fall Chief Graziano had testing done. There  
4 was nothing -- there was no ground  
5 contaminants, but I want to follow up with  
6 the chief this week and I'd just like to  
7 know when the tests were done and who  
8 performed them and just be asking that to  
9 put our mind at ease. But, yeah, no, I'm  
10 definitely for this project. It's a great  
11 building and in good condition and it's  
12 housing a lot of assets for the city.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd just like one  
14 additional comment, on the environmental  
15 analysis, I would be interested to see it  
16 because when we voted on this the last time  
17 I specifically requested to see the report  
18 and we were told that there was one, but I  
19 never received an answer. This would be a  
20 great project if we weren't a financially  
21 distressed city. And, again, as I mentioned  
22 earlier, I think it's commendable and I  
23 think it's honorable the idea behind it, but  
24 I would only point to our own three-year  
25 exit plan. One of the recommendations in

1           this three-year exit plan is for the city to  
2           develop a capital improvement financing plan  
3           and part of at that within this it says that  
4           the city should identify the timing of  
5           project expenditures and their impact on  
6           future operating and capital budgets,  
7           evaluate the impact of projects on the  
8           amount and timing of bonds to be issued,  
9           debt service requirement, outstanding debt,  
10          and debt burden. In developing the capital  
11          improvement financing plan, the BA's Office  
12          shall determine whether the plan financings  
13          conform with policy targets related to the  
14          magnitude and composition of the city's  
15          indebtedness and the fiscal resources of the  
16          city to support such indebtedness during  
17          this capital improvement financing plan.

18                        So, again, my fear is that we still  
19                        haven't seen an analysis on how or what kind  
20                        of the impact acquiring a property of this  
21                        magnitude will have on future city budgets.  
22                        How much is it going to cost to maintain  
23                        this building? How much is it going to cost  
24                        to heat it? How much is it going to cost to  
25                        make it ADA accessible? These are all costs

1 even though we have a grant to fund some of  
2 them, eventually in the future this is going  
3 to have strain in some form or fashion on  
4 our budget.

5 Again, look at this building right  
6 here. There are a number of capital  
7 improvements that need to happen right in  
8 city hall. We have been unable to make them  
9 because we don't have any money, so why  
10 would we acquire another building. I  
11 understand the reason behind it but, again,  
12 for a financially distressed city I think we  
13 should proceed with more caution than we  
14 have been, especially in this situation.

15 MR. PERRY: Just to add to that, the  
16 reason we are going to -- looking to acquire  
17 this is because plan A was way, way, way out  
18 of the question. The pole born was going to  
19 cost millions and millions of dollars right  
20 off the bat and was only a 20-year lifespan  
21 of a pole barn, so to go with new  
22 construction at millions of dollars for a  
23 20-year lifespan was absolutely not the way  
24 to go so there was definitely more feasible  
25 and financially responsible.

1 MR. EVANS: On the question, as you  
2 know, I was previously very much on the  
3 fence on this project and so much so that I  
4 probably would have voted "no" until I did  
5 take the tour, and I have tell you I was  
6 impressed with the building. The building  
7 is much better than I anticipated and I  
8 think the uses are going to be something I  
9 think that we could all be proud of as far  
10 the police department is concerned.

11 I did recommend previously and I  
12 have discussed that the Ash Street firehouse  
13 be sold and the money from that be put into  
14 a special account to offset recurrent costs  
15 at the Serrenti building for the five to ten  
16 years until we get a handle on some of the  
17 costs up there. I'm not as concerned with  
18 the environmental issues, number one, the  
19 lead base paint issue, every building built  
20 before 1978 required a lead base paint  
21 disclosure. That's all that's happening  
22 there. Most of the asbestos I think is on  
23 the pipes, on the old steam pipes, again,  
24 easily removed or encapsulated so I'm not as  
25 concerned about the environmental issues

1           that maybe Councilman Gaughan is, but I  
2           don't want to minimize that because you  
3           never know what you're going to get into,  
4           but my experience in the old buildings like  
5           this is it's something that can be easily  
6           resolved.

7                         So, again, before I was not fully  
8           endorsing this project, but after taking the  
9           time to go in the building and hearing the  
10          chief and other officers what exactly their  
11          plans are for the building, I think it's a  
12          good thing.

13                        MR. WECHSLER: Yeah. The reality is  
14          that right now we have a cost to protect the  
15          equipment that's stored in the Serrenti  
16          building. That equipment is going to have  
17          cost associated to it whether it's at  
18          Serrenti or wherever it's going to be so I'm  
19          not as concerned about future costs because  
20          the costs exist currently. I think we would  
21          be irresponsible to not protect those assets  
22          that are in the Serrenti Center. Sometimes  
23          it's better to worry about the present than  
24          the future, and I think our responsibility  
25          right now is to protect the equipment that's

1 in that building.

2 I also feel that if we the  
3 opportunity to protect the neighbors that  
4 live around that Serrenti Center, if the  
5 city is able to take over that building and  
6 some grants are available the city owes  
7 those neighbors the opportunity to become an  
8 anchor to that neighborhood. If the city  
9 does not take advantage of the opportunity  
10 to move into that building that will just  
11 become another abandoned building in that  
12 area leading to more blight in that area.  
13 So I do appreciate the fact that this  
14 building will be anchor for those neighbors  
15 and I do support this proposal.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

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

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

1 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
2 CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON CHAPTER 439  
3 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, ARTICLE VI:  
4 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM, BY  
5 MAKING CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO SECTIONS  
6 439-68. PERMIT APPLICATION, SECTION 439-69.  
7 RESPONSIBILITY OF PERMIT HOLDER, SECTION  
8 439-70. DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, FEE,  
9 AND SECTION 439-71. VIOLATIONS AND  
10 PENALTIES, IN ORDER TO BRING THE CODE UP TO  
11 DATE.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
19 I have several concerns about this  
20 legislation as well and a few questions.  
21 Number one, why in 439-68, permit  
22 application Section B, I'd like to know why  
23 the motor vehicle's registration, operators  
24 license is required to be presented at the  
25 time of making application in order to



1           verify the contents thereof at the  
2           discretion of the administrator. My  
3           specific question to that is what would  
4           trigger this presentment of a person making  
5           application and is this clause too  
6           subjective, so I'd like to find out.

7                     My other concern with this, within  
8           the legislation, is that, number one, I  
9           think it's going to be a bureaucratic  
10          nightmare. It's involved, complicated and  
11          some of it is unnecessary, and I think that  
12          this legislation is an additional burden  
13          that is going to be put on contractors  
14          within the City of Scranton.

15                    Even though the fee is only \$5, I  
16          think that it is ridiculous to continue to  
17          make contractors in the city jump through  
18          hoops to make a living. For example, if a  
19          contractor is working in an area where there  
20          is residential permit parking, he not only  
21          has to come up to the Licensing and  
22          Inspections Department and pull his permit,  
23          then he has to now go down to the Police  
24          Department and pull another permit in order  
25          to park in front of the house in which he is

1 working on. We continuously drive people  
2 out of this city because of things like this  
3 bureaucratic nightmares, this is just  
4 another example. Why not include a  
5 temporary parking permit to the contractor  
6 when he pulls his permit upstairs free of  
7 charge? He is already doing his work in the  
8 city. Why should the contractor have to go  
9 to the Licensing and Inspections Department  
10 on the fourth floor and then travel all the  
11 way down to the Police Department to pull  
12 yet another permit to fill out another  
13 stupid form? To me this makes absolutely no  
14 sense.

15 Another question I have is how is  
16 this going to be enforced? And my final  
17 question is what happened to common sense?  
18 So I have several questions about this  
19 legislation. I'm going to be voting "no" on  
20 this tonight and hopefully there will be  
21 some kind of amendment made that we can  
22 eliminate the \$4 fee. Again, I know it's  
23 only \$5, but it's just the principal of the  
24 thing that someone who is working in the  
25 City of Scranton now has to make several

1           trips for no reason. Thank you.

2                   MR. EVANS: On the question. I  
3 think everyone knows that I hate fees, I  
4 hate all fees, without exception, and most  
5 of this legislation, by the way, is already  
6 existing. The only thing that's jumping out  
7 as something new is the contractor permits.

8                   I had conversations with Chief  
9 Graziano prior to this and the original  
10 intent was to make it \$15 charge and I said  
11 to him it made no sense to be \$15 because  
12 you can get a guest permit for five so why  
13 would you even pay \$15 when you get \$5 so he  
14 agreed to reduce it to \$5. I'm not thrilled  
15 with the fee.

16                   The concept of getting something  
17 when you get your permit is probably the  
18 right thing to do, however, I think it's  
19 more of a logistical thing with LIPS doing  
20 one thing and the Police Department doing  
21 another. So I think -- but I think we  
22 should discuss it. I think we should have a  
23 conversation about this between now and the  
24 final passage so I'll vote for it to move  
25 along.

1                   One of the other issues that came up  
2                   was contractor parking in the permit parking  
3                   area and they didn't have a permit and they  
4                   were getting ticketed, and I think whatever  
5                   it is 20 or \$25 fine. So some contractors  
6                   actually approached me saying they were  
7                   prefer this because for \$5 they can avoid a  
8                   \$25 ticket even though it's a little bit of  
9                   hassle, and it's good for 30 days and a  
10                  30-day period. It is a little convoluted,  
11                  the language, but -- a little complicated,  
12                  but for contractors I think it might be a  
13                  good thing, so I'm interested to hear from  
14                  more contractors to see if they think this  
15                  is a good idea or not because it could work  
16                  to their benefit, especially contractors  
17                  that don't have their names all over, you  
18                  know, the truck and it's just a white van or  
19                  park in front of the house doing some work  
20                  they are going to get a ticket because the  
21                  people that are doing the -- the civilian  
22                  enforcement people are all over the permit  
23                  parking areas. For years and years and  
24                  years it was never enforced, they are there  
25                  every single day, so I hate to see them get

1           those kind of tickets as well.

2                       So I think it's all up for  
3           discussion. I think we should continue to  
4           talk about this and see if there is another  
5           way to do it and see where we are by the  
6           time we get to Third Order.

7                       MR. ROGAN: I'd echo much of what  
8           my colleagues mentioned. When initially  
9           reading this it makes no sense to have a \$5  
10          fee, it's not going to bring any meaningful  
11          revenue into the city and if the contractor  
12          is already pulling permits they are already  
13          paying the fee. That being said, I did,  
14          because Councilman Evans has taken a lead on  
15          a number of these nuisance fees, we did have  
16          a good conversation today and I also want to  
17          hear from more contractors to see how it  
18          effects them.

19                       The intent of the legislation I  
20          think is a good intent because contractors  
21          were receiving tickets when they were doing  
22          work in permit parking zones, homes in those  
23          zones. I think the solution may be  
24          something a little more simple as printing a  
25          copy of the permit and putting that in the

1 dash if that's something that can be done.  
2 I don't think there should be an additional  
3 fee, but I agree with Councilman Evans and I  
4 will vote to introduce this legislation as  
5 well and I am interested in hearing from  
6 more contractors, particularly those that do  
7 a lot of work in the Hill Section where  
8 there is a lot of permit parking areas.

9 MR. WECHSLER: I also have the same  
10 idea as Councilman Rogan, just perhaps a  
11 copy of the permit in the vehicle would  
12 suffice. I think that would make much more  
13 since. This seems very complicated to me.

14 All those in favor of introduction  
15 signify by saying 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: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
23 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
24 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
25 AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN

1 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
2 ("SCRANTON") AND SMART CITY MEDIA, LLC OF 54  
3 WEST 40TH ST., NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10018  
4 ("SCM") BY USING ITS PROPRIETARY SMART MEDIA  
5 PLATFORM TO DELIVER HELPFUL LOCATION-BASED  
6 INFORMATION.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. EVANS: Second.

12 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

14 This is a project that I have been working  
15 on with the City Administration,  
16 Mr. Bulzoni, now for a few months. I was  
17 very pleased with the presentation tonight  
18 and I think that this is going to put  
19 Scranton the map in the area of technology  
20 and really being one of the first smart  
21 cities in Pennsylvania.

22 What this does is it enables  
23 communities to be better connected so it  
24 will enable our government to better connect  
25 with our citizens. The platform that we'll

1 be using will be through information kiosks  
2 that create a better connected Scranton  
3 where citizens can easily events, programs,  
4 deals, and other relevant and important  
5 information as they walk down the street.  
6 The system also from a public safety  
7 perspective will allow officials to not only  
8 see and assess emergency situations and we  
9 didn't have enough time to get into that  
10 tonight, but it also broadcasts alerts and  
11 provides mobile updates to residents in  
12 targeted locations. I think, and I have  
13 thought for the last four years, that we  
14 need to change the way that our citizens  
15 connect with the City of Scranton. If you  
16 look across the United States, other cities  
17 are moving very rapidly in the areas of  
18 technology. It's been my feeling for quite  
19 some time that we can be on that side with  
20 cutting edge technology.

21 One of the other things that this  
22 program offers is free public wi-fi and I  
23 think that's important. If you go to any  
24 progressive city up and down the east coast  
25 and across the United States, they have free



1 public wi-fi in their downtown so I think  
2 that is very important.

3 So basically to sum this up, it's a  
4 community bulletin board for the City of  
5 Scranton. We can model this and anybody who  
6 is interested in looking at other cities who  
7 have been successful with it, Kansas City  
8 just unveiled their Smart City Media  
9 platform, Washington D.C, New York City, and  
10 some other larger cities across the United  
11 States. I think this program is going to be  
12 important to tourists that come into the  
13 City of Scranton, to businesses, small  
14 businesses from an economic development  
15 standpoint and to our citizens, again, to be  
16 better connected with their government.

17 One of the major pluses to this  
18 program is that this project is going to  
19 serve as a significant revenue generation  
20 opportunity for the City of Scranton. We  
21 can generate nearly a million dollars during  
22 the term of this project, which is five  
23 years. We can then use that money to put  
24 back in the neighborhoods and put back into  
25 economic development projects though the

1 city.

2 So, again, I'd like to thank the  
3 administration for partnering with me on  
4 this project. I'd like to thank my  
5 colleagues for being very supportive, and I  
6 look forward to getting this project off the  
7 ground and making Scranton a smart city.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. EVANS: On the question, I don't  
10 have much more to add because that was a  
11 very in-depth report and it's nice to  
12 actually be ahead of the curve for a change  
13 and to be associated with being a smart city  
14 is actually a good thing, so it's been a  
15 long time since anybody called us a smart  
16 city so that's a very positive tag to have  
17 on the City of Scranton so I'm looking  
18 forward to it. It's really going to put us  
19 in the forefront of technology and it will  
20 really be a valuable service for all of  
21 citizens and enhance the downtown corridor  
22 as much as anything we have done, so I'm all  
23 for it.

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

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The  
6 ayes have it and so moved.

7 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
8 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
9 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
10 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
11 REUTHER+BOWEN, PC TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING  
12 SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON 2017  
13 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

20 MS. GAUGHAN: On the question. I  
21 would like my colleagues to consider next  
22 week, I know this is only on the agenda for  
23 two weeks, to see if we could make an  
24 amendment to this legislation to add in the  
25 1400 and 1500 blocks of South Irving Avenue

1 so that at least we can get a idea of how  
2 much it could cost from an engineering  
3 perspective to pave those two blocks, so I  
4 will discuss this again this week with my  
5 colleagues and our solicitor to see if that  
6 is possible and we'll plan on making the  
7 amendment next week after we discuss that.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. EVANS: On the question, it's  
10 also possible, too, if we get a favorable  
11 bid we'd be able to do more streets so  
12 that's not out of the question. It happened  
13 last time, we waited to put the bid out  
14 until the fall and we got a favorable bid  
15 and were able to add streets to it so -- and  
16 I don't think the pavers are as busy as they  
17 were the last time we made these efforts a  
18 real possibility.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I would just add that  
20 I have been up to that area, my Uncle lives  
21 right on Cherry Street there, and I think  
22 this is almost a special exception because  
23 it is a very dangerous situation especially  
24 with the bank and there really is no street  
25 left up there, so I would just add that as a

1 final note. Thank you.

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

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

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

11 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
12 103, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING ONE  
13 (1) R6-IL HORIZONTAL LEFT ONE-WAY SIGN AND  
14 ONE (1) R6-IR HORIZONTAL RIGHT ONE-WAY SIGN  
15 BE INSTALLED BACK TO BACK AT THE EASTERLY  
16 CORNER OF VINE STREET AND MONROE AVENUE AND  
17 THE EXISTING DO NOT ENTER SIGN AT THE  
18 WESTERLY CORNER OF MONROE AVENUE AND VINE  
19 STREET BE PLUMBED TO A VERTICAL POSITION.

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

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

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
9 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
10 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 162,  
11 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
12 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND  
13 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JIM WILLIAMS  
14 D/B/A JIM WILLIAMS SURPLUS FOR GRASS CUTTING  
15 AT THE TAYLOR LANDFILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR  
16 2017 CONTRACT TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 30, 2017  
17 FOR A LUMP SUM BID OF \$8,949.00.

18 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
19 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
20 Committee on Public Works?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
22 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
23 passage of Item 7-A.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,  
2 I did receive a few questions about this  
3 legislation this week and I mentioned this  
4 last week but I just want to reiterate that  
5 the city is mandated by the Environmental  
6 Protection Agency to provide maintenance to  
7 the fence on this property and to also cut  
8 the grass at the landfill. The city was  
9 assigned permanent maintenance of that site  
10 which actually was an old city landfill and  
11 we are, again, obligated through that  
12 settlement agreement with the EPA to award  
13 an annual contract to cut the grass at the  
14 Taylor Landfill so we are mandated by the  
15 EPA and we have no choice but to enter into  
16 a contract. Thank you. Roll call, please?

17 Roll call, please?

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

19 MR. PERRY: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR  
7 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 163, 2017 -  
8 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
9 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
10 CONTRACT WITH DUNBAR'S EVERGREEN  
11 LANDSCAPING, INC. FOR FLOOD PROJECT LEVEE  
12 CUTTING OF SOUTH SCRANTON, ALBRIGHT, PLOT  
13 AND GREEN RIDGE LEVEES FOR A TWO (2) YEAR  
14 SEASONAL PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 15, 2017  
15 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2017 AND MAY 15, 2018  
16 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2018 FOR A TOTAL BID  
17 PRICE OF \$29,000.00.

18 MR. WECHSLER: What is the  
19 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
20 Committee on Public Works?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the  
22 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
23 passage of Item 7-B.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?



1 Roll call, please?

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

3 MR. PERRY: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

14 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
16 RESOLUTION NO. 164, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE  
17 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
18 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN  
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE SCRANTON SCHOOL  
20 DISTRICT WITH JOSEPH M. ALU AND ASSOCIATES  
21 TO PERFORM THE SCRANTON SINGLE TAX OFFICE  
22 INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING  
23 DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND DECEMBER 31, 2016.

24 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
25 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-C.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 Roll call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby

15 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully

16 adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7-D. PREVIOUSLY TABLED -

18 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

19 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 159 2017 -

20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

21 CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A SPECIAL

22 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO POSH AT THE SCRANTON

23 CLUB TO OPERATE OUTDOOR SEATING AT 404 N.

24 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

25 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend

1 Item 7-D per the following: Amendment  
2 Exhibit A, Item No. 4, to allow seating for  
3 16 by the way of eight, two-top tables with  
4 seating across from each other and parallel  
5 the curb to provide additional space and  
6 eliminate congestion.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MR. WECHSLER: There's a motion on  
9 the floor and a second, on the question?  
10 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

11 MR. PERRY: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

17 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for  
18 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
19 passage of Item 7-D, as amended.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 Roll call, please?

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

24 MR. PERRY: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

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

10 If there is no further business,  
11 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

12 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER