

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

Monday, March 4, 2019

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

TIM PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

KYLE DONAHUE

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Here. At this time I
14 would like to invite Bernie McGurl and any
15 guests he wishes to have come up with him to
16 receive his proclamation. As I mentioned,
17 our microphones are off so --

18 MR. PERRY: They're good to go.

19 MR. ROGAN: Our microphones are
20 working now so just in time so we would like
21 to invite Bernie up.

22 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "BERNARD
24 (BERNIE) MCGURL" for his years of
25 outstanding service, dedication and

1 commitment to improving the health and
2 quality of the Lackawanna River, its
3 watershed and in the creation of a network
4 of rail-trails along the river; and

5 WHEREAS, "BERNIE MCGURL" in 1007,
6 was a founding member of the Lackawanna
7 River Corridor Association and since 1991,
8 has been the Executive Director of the
9 Lackawanna River Conservation Association
10 (LCRA) and also serves as the Executive
11 Director of the Lackawanna Valley
12 Conservancy (LVC); and

13 WHEREAS, "BERNIE" is best known
14 locally as the Lackawanna's greatest
15 champion for his ongoing efforts to clean
16 and maintain the Lackawanna River, its 350
17 square-mile watershed and for raising public
18 awareness about environmental issues; and

19 WHEREAS, "BERNIE" has also played
20 key roles in establishment of the Lackawanna
21 Heritage Valley Authority which resulted in
22 acquisition of 40 miles of D&H rail bed that
23 was developed, thereby contributing to the
24 creation of Heritage Trail; and

25 WHEREAS, "BERNIE" is a proud

1 fourth-generation descendent of Irish
2 immigrant coal miners, grew up in Dunmore,
3 was educated in Dunmore schools and attended
4 Johnson College, Keystone College and the
5 University of Scranton; and

6 WHEREAS, "BERNIE" is a supporter of
7 the arts and is a founding member of the
8 Mulberry Poets and Writers Association.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
10 on MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019, Scranton City
11 Council wishes to congratulate "BERNIE
12 MCGURL" for being the driving force in the
13 transformation of the Lackawanna River into
14 a viable fishery with world-class trout,
15 while also raising public awareness on such
16 vital topics of land and water conservation,
17 water pollution and watershed preservation.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
19 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
20 Record of this Council, as lasting tribute
21 to "BERNIE MCGURL."

22 Mr. MCGURL: Thank you.

23 MR. ROGAN: You wish to say a couple
24 of words?

25 MR. MCGURL: I will, thank you. I

1 won't be long, but I'm sort of speechless.
2 Wow, that was -- I'm really honored. You
3 get up a few years, you stick around here
4 long enough and you sort of get something
5 done and we have -- I'm proud of the
6 accomplishments our community has made along
7 our river and it's really -- I have been
8 proud and honored to play a part in that and
9 it's conversation with friends, it's
10 building community, it's building consensus
11 and bringing people together that have been
12 keynotes of our success both with the River
13 Conservation Association and with the
14 Heritage Valley program, creating
15 partnerships with the Rail Trail Council,
16 with our new conservancy, Lackawanna Valley
17 Conservancy that is helping actually to
18 acquire some of the land, working with
19 groups like the rail trail council of
20 Northeast Pennsylvania all the way in the
21 headwaters region of the watershed. Working
22 with countryside conservancy on our next
23 door watershed to Tunkhannock, and working
24 with community groups and neighborhood
25 associations up and down our watershed.

1 We still have a lot more work to do.
2 I invite you all to continue working with
3 us. We are going to be back talking storm
4 water in a couple of weeks and we are really
5 excited about the progress that Scranton is
6 making in assessing what the best methods
7 are going to be to manage our storm water
8 situation going forward and we are looking
9 and we are very hopeful that we can start to
10 share that progress with some of the other
11 municipalities in the community, so there is
12 a lot on the agenda. I'm getting courage to
13 retire because I have kids and grand kids
14 out in California that I don't get to see
15 often enough, but we are going to stick
16 around and continue to do as much work as we
17 can and we recently -- LRCA has recently
18 acquired by charitable gift the former First
19 Christian Church up on North Main Avenue at
20 2043 North Main Avenue so I invite all to
21 come and drop by and give us a visit. We
22 are hopefully going to turn the church into
23 a state of the art environmental and
24 conservation learning center and start to
25 have programs and activities there and our

1 offices are located in the rectory at 2043
2 North Main.

3 So we welcome everybody's
4 participation in our work and I really from
5 the bottom of my heart thank you, council,
6 for this wonderful proclamation. I'm really
7 honored. Thank you very much.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you for everything
9 you do.

10 MR. EVANS: I would like to make a
11 motion to take from the table File of the
12 Council No. 52 2019.

13 MR. PERRY: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question, this
15 piece of legislation pertains to
16 establishing a "No Parking" zone along
17 Lackawanna and Jefferson Avenue at the area
18 of the Kressler Court. Approval of this
19 piece is a requirement in order for PennDOT
20 to issue the highway occupancy permit needed
21 for the proposed Jefferson Commons project.
22 This piece is being taken from the table and
23 placed into Seventh Order for a final vote.
24 Anyone who wishes to speak on this
25 particular piece of legislation may do so

1 during Fourth Order, Citizens'
2 participation. All those in favor signify
3 by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

8 MR. DONAHUE: No.

9 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so
10 moved.

11 MR. ROGAN: Do any council members
12 have announcements at this time?

13 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have two
14 announcements. Hopefully this is the last
15 time that I do a Code Blue for the year,
16 hopefully we are just about out of that, but
17 there is Lackawanna County commissioners did
18 declare another Code Blue, which is a frigid
19 weather alert. It starts 7 a.m. on Monday,
20 which we are in the midst of right now, and
21 it's going to end 9 a.m. on Friday, March 8,
22 so it's a quite lengthy one. A Code Blue
23 alert is issued with forecasted temperatures
24 in Lackawanna County expected to reach 20
25 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. The goal of

1 this notification is to make people aware of
2 the extremely cold conditions and provide
3 information related to health and wellness
4 in cold weather and publicize locations of
5 the emergency homeless shelters.

6 During Code Blue alert homeless
7 individuals can assess an emergency shelter
8 at the following locations: St. Anthony's
9 Haven, 409 Olive Street, Scranton. The
10 hours there are 7:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. And the
11 Community Intervention Center, 445 North
12 Sixth Avenue, Scranton. Hours 8 a.m. to 6
13 p.m.

14 I also have one more announcement,
15 this one comes from my old alma matter,
16 Lackawanna College. Lackawanna College
17 student run restaurant is opening to the
18 public. Reservations are required. It's
19 name the 409 on Adams. The restaurant is
20 located on the first floor of the new
21 culinary center on 409 Adams Avenue, aptly
22 named. Students who work there will learn
23 all aspects of the restaurant kitchen
24 enabling them to be job market ready when
25 they graduate.

1 This student run restaurant is the
2 first of a kind in our community. The
3 students will be preparing and serving
4 creative cuisines. Also, please know that
5 all tips for service go directly back into
6 this program to fund scholarship
7 opportunities. To make a reservation and
8 inquire about days and hours of operation
9 please call 955 -- or 570-955-1548 and ask
10 for Susan. Good luck to these guys. I have
11 been in the restaurant business all my life
12 and hopefully I see some of these guys apply
13 and I work with some day once they are out
14 of school. That's all I have for today.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Does anyone else have
17 any announcements? I have a few. This year
18 St. Patrick's parade will be held this
19 Saturday, March 9, in downtown Scranton.
20 The parade begins at 11:45 p.m. at Mulberry
21 Street and Wyoming Avenue, heading towards
22 Linden Street and Lackawanna Avenue, turning
23 onto Jefferson and then Spruce. The parade
24 ends at the corner of North Washington and
25 Vine. Please be mindful of road closures as

1 well as the many attendees and children that
2 will be in our downtown if you happen to be
3 traveling in the area on Saturday.

4 This coming Sunday, March 10, begins
5 daylight savings time. When we turn our
6 clocks ahead please remember to check the
7 batteries in your smoke alarms.

8 Next Monday, March 11, at 5:15 p.m.
9 we will have a public informational session
10 from Arcadis to present their preliminary
11 storm water analysis, and on Monday, March
12 18, at 5:45 p.m. we will hold a public
13 hearing on Item 5-B on tonight's agenda,
14 two-hour parking restrictions at 934 Beech
15 Street.

16 Please dispense with the reading of
17 the minutes.

18 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
19 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY
20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD DECEMBER 27,
21 2018.

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

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

1 (The following speakers offered
2 public comment as follows: Fay Franus spoke
3 on city business. Joan Hodowanitz spoke on
4 city business. Norma Jefferies spoke on
5 city business. Bob Bolus spoke on city
6 business and matters of general concern.
7 John Litwinsky spoke on city business and
8 matters of general concern. Kevin O'Boyle
9 spoke on city business and matters of
10 general concern. Mike Buzi spoke on matters
11 of general concern. June Eiden spoke on
12 matters of general concern. Stanley Wilkens
13 spoke on matters of general concern. Marie
14 Schumacher spoke on city business. Jay
15 Walsh spoke on matters of general concern.
16 Josephine O'Boyle spoke on matters of
17 general concern. Tony Cantafio spoke on
18 matters of general concern. Jeff Sick spoke
19 on matters of general concern. Dave Dobrzyn
20 spoke on matters of general concern.)

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

22 MOTIONS.

23 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, any motions
24 or comments?

25 MR. PERRY: A couple of comments.

1 A passionate meeting tonight, I liked
2 hearing from everybody. This is really the
3 true spirit of what a city council meeting
4 should be, I believe. It's dual parts.
5 It's one part public participation, which
6 drives a lot of the meeting and then it's
7 also our fifth, sixth and seventh motions.

8 To get back to a couple of earlier
9 things, it seemed like a meeting ago, Mrs.
10 Jefferies, I believe you spoke about that
11 little spot on our website where we can kind
12 of put ongoing projects and up-to-date
13 projects, I know even like the Novembrino
14 project I get asked on a regular basis where
15 are we on this, and a lot of times, and not
16 just with governmental projects, but with
17 business projects, private sector projects,
18 things start, stop, when they weren't really
19 supposed to, but in the private sector we
20 seem to do a better job communicating that
21 than we do in the governmental sector, so I
22 think we can also do a better job in that.

23 Sometimes I'm sending out e-mails
24 and having Lori chase down some leads for me
25 on why the construction stopped when we were

1 giving out dates, and once we give out those
2 dates, you know, those are our dates now.
3 Now I own that date, so I feel the need to
4 live up to that and I have to go back and
5 find -- so I think that's a good idea and
6 that's a lesson I learned probably a year
7 into council, I have a big binder. I'd
8 bring it to council but it got too big with
9 different projects and different things that
10 people would bring up. You know, remember
11 six months ago when we started this? Where
12 are with that? And a lot of times we move
13 onto different projects and different
14 things, it's not that things get put in the
15 back burner, we just put more effort into
16 what's currently on our agenda and if we
17 don't get the follow up that we were
18 supposed to sometimes it gets lost in the
19 sauce then we have to go back on it, so I
20 think that's a good idea that we can get it
21 going and get that trying to hook it up on
22 the website.

23 The bigger issue -- one of the
24 bigger issues tonight was Chief Graziano and
25 D.A. Powell coming in. I was very happy to

1 hear that they wanted to come in, that they
2 wanted -- we got them out here, which I
3 thought was a good idea. It's unfortunate
4 that ECTV was having some technical problems
5 so I honestly don't know what is going to be
6 televised and what's not going to be
7 televised. You know, I hope for our
8 residents that it's all televised, but we'll
9 have to wait and see. But I want to start
10 the question of the decriminalization
11 process because I am not the all knower.
12 That's what -- I know that I don't know
13 everything, so I like to get answers from a
14 lot of different parts so that's why we had
15 the judicial system in and we had the law
16 enforcement sector in and, you know, this
17 conversation just started, it didn't end.

18 I know the state is doing their
19 thing and it seems like the federal
20 government is actually moving the slowest on
21 this, but I like the fact that the state is
22 now full steam ahead with their medical
23 marijuana, which I'm 100 percent for, I have
24 spoke on that many times. I have seen it
25 work firsthand, and I've see when it wasn't

1 available and I've seen my father fall into
2 a bad state because he had to depend on
3 opioids instead of having that other option
4 so I have lived both sides of the tale and
5 I'm very happy to talk in favor of that.
6 So, again, this is just a start, this isn't
7 the end of that. We'll be sourcing out for
8 mor information and keep the communication
9 open and keep that dialogue moving and get
10 us to where we think we need to be as a
11 city, county, state.

12 Now, let's talk a little bit about
13 the Keystone Mission house. This is
14 something that I believe Mr. Rogan brought
15 to our attention the middle of December of
16 last year. Obviously, for these residents
17 it's been going on a heck of a lot longer.
18 We have known about it since December and
19 that day we sent correspondence out to two
20 different sets of entities. We sent one out
21 to Licensing, Inspections and Permits to see
22 if everything was up-to-date on the
23 Mission's house and the other correspondence
24 was sent out to the Scranton Police
25 Department to make sure there is no illegal

1 activity happening there and if there is
2 please take it out, it should not be there.

3 I've been kept up-to-date with Chief
4 Graziano, I still have all the reports he
5 sends me on a monthly basis on incidents
6 that happen in an around that area,
7 sometimes it's just a stop sign violation,
8 but if it happens within that vicinity he
9 updates us on what's going on. That has
10 really tailed off. It's not the 120
11 incidences as it used to be, it's a lot
12 less. Now, there's two sides to that. What
13 does that mean? Does that mean that the
14 criminal activity has really stopped or does
15 that mean that, unfortunately, people in
16 that area have come so complacent, so
17 frustrated that maybe they are not reporting
18 it as they used to or things become common
19 ground. There's that guy again. Maybe he
20 was caught and released on a misdemeanor and
21 now he is back because, you know, what else
22 does he have to lose? He doesn't have to
23 lose. So if you are going to arrest
24 somebody on a \$30 fine, give him that fine,
25 release him, he has to go back to that same

1 place if he has no place else to go. Is he
2 going to pay that fine? Probably not. But
3 is he going to continue that type of
4 behavior? Probably. So I think that's the
5 cycle that they are stuck into right now.

6 Now, the other question that we
7 asked about the licensing department we
8 never got an answer from. We have sent out
9 numerous letters to the director, Pat
10 Hinton, and we haven't gotten back to see
11 what is the status of that mission house.
12 Are they operating to the laws and
13 regulations that they should be because, you
14 know, on paper the mission house should
15 serve the community. It should give
16 benefits to the community. It gives people
17 with nothing else, no other options, no
18 place to go a place to go because they are
19 part of our community and they do deserve
20 the warmth that we have to offer them when
21 we could, but they have to operate within
22 the guidelines of the city and they have to
23 be good for their community and they have to
24 be a good neighbor.

25 Right now just hearing all the

1 testimony and all of the comments from the
2 speakers today for almost 45 minutes, you
3 know, it's hard for me to believe they are
4 being a good neighbor. It's hard for me to
5 believe that that mission house is putting
6 more benefit into that community than it's
7 actually taking out and that's kind of where
8 I feel right now. So I can't wait to get
9 down there and meet with those neighbors and
10 meet with the management of the mission
11 house to see what is actually going on there
12 because it seems awful one-sided to me.

13 Now, speaking to the chief there is
14 the long-term solution, which is the
15 relocation and the rezoning of that area.
16 They'll move and it will be rezoned, it will
17 not be able to be used for that type of
18 property again. Short-term solution, and I
19 know it's difficult, but it's to report any
20 illegal activity to the police and it's to
21 report any quality of life issue to the
22 quality of life officers because it sounds
23 like there is a lot going on, but right now
24 knowing what I know from the police reports
25 from the last year or so and hearing the

1 testimony I think, and this is from my mind,
2 I think the city should move to close down
3 the Keystone Mission House. I think the
4 steps need to start, I think that process
5 needs to start, I don't think they are good
6 for our community not the way they are
7 operating right now. I wouldn't want that
8 problem moved somewhere else, across the
9 street, down the road. I think they are
10 running this very poorly and it's affecting
11 that neighborhood for sure and that's my
12 stance on it. I don't want to speak for
13 anybody else on this council, we all have
14 our opinions on it, but I think the city
15 should start the process of closing that
16 down, it doesn't seem like it's a good fit
17 where it is right now and the management
18 team there definitely doesn't seem like it
19 should be doing what it should be doing.

20 So I'm going to leave it right
21 there, Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Perry.
23 Mr. Donahue, any motions or comments?

24 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just to touch on
25 the Keystone Mission. Like Mr. Perry said,

1 I don't believe it's something that, you
2 know, necessarily the police chief I think
3 they are doing what they need to do down
4 there. I think it's a licensing and
5 inspection problem and it comes from the
6 fact that there is no proactive leadership
7 out of that department because now we are
8 getting into the time of year where we start
9 getting calls everyday with the licensing --
10 with problems with the licensing and
11 inspections department, so moving forward to
12 sort of fix the problem myself and Mr. Evans
13 set down the members of the administration
14 last year and we are going to be putting out
15 a -- he said he is going to be putting out
16 an RFQ for someone to come in and do a
17 full-blown analysis of the operations of
18 that office. Meaning they will come in,
19 they'll put somebody in the office every day
20 to see what every person in that office does
21 to make sure they are being as effective
22 with their time as the possibly can. So
23 until that happens, I mean, I don't know --
24 and we can't go up and just make them do
25 their jobs up there, and I'm not saying that

1 there is bad people that work in that office
2 it's just a lack of leadership, and that's
3 all I have for tonight. Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Donahue.
5 Mr. Evans, any motions or comments?

6 MR. EVANS: Just a couple of brief
7 comments. First of all, I'd like to thank
8 D.A. Powell and Chief Graziano for coming in
9 tonight to talk about three important
10 topics, homelessness, decriminalization of
11 marijuana and the opioid crises. The
12 homeless problem is happening all over the
13 country but that does not excuse us from
14 allowing that situation to continue, but I
15 will applaud the residents for showing the
16 passion and caring they have for their
17 neighborhood and that tells us a lot about
18 the citizens of Scranton and how they feel
19 about their homes and their neighborhoods
20 and their blocks so hopefully we will do our
21 very, very best to try to help them solve
22 that problem.

23 Again, as was mentioned earlier, the
24 long-term solution is to move them, rezone
25 the area so it doesn't happen again, but we

1 really have to do right by them now as best
2 we can.

3 And as far as D.A. Powell and Chief
4 Graziano, it's important -- I think those
5 meetings that we had tonight are very, very
6 important, not only for the public, but for
7 us to have that dialogue with the law
8 enforcement officials of the city and
9 county. The decriminalization of marijuana
10 is something I think that we all have shown
11 interest in. Not necessary for or against,
12 but trying to find out what the right course
13 of action is. Clearly, our local law
14 enforcement officials feel the answer is on
15 the state level so we are going to take our
16 cues from them and I think we should press,
17 as was stated tonight, press our state
18 officials to move this forward in whatever
19 manner is appropriate but they have to take
20 some sort of action and bring to a head.
21 Too many people are being hurt on both sides
22 of this issue so hopefully that can be
23 resolved. The opioid we have all been
24 impacted by it by either family members or
25 somebody we know or a friend. I'm not sure

1 what the answer is, I don't think anybody
2 does, but we have to do everything we can to
3 bring awareness to help, to console, to
4 litigate, to have people have arrested for
5 these type of issues when they cause a
6 death, it is just -- it's a national tragedy
7 and epidemic and it's something we have
8 absolutely have to get our hands on.

9 On a brighter note, last Friday was
10 March 1, St. David's Day honoring the patron
11 saint of Wales to all my Welsh family and
12 friends as well to everyone else viewing
13 that has a Welsh dissent, cymru am byth,
14 which means Wales Forever, and that's all I
15 have for tonight.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,
17 any motions or comments?

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. I
19 don't know how I missed this, but in early
20 February we received an e-mail or was
21 copied on an e-mail from Mr. Bulzoni about
22 his recommendation to renew the contract
23 with Joyce Hatala, the recycling consultant
24 that we've had for the past few years, so he
25 did attach a memorandum for that. I don't

1 know for sure if we are going to vote on
2 this because the cost of her services and
3 her proposal is \$10,000 for 18 months, but
4 regardless of that, if we could ask Mrs.
5 Hatala to come in and give us an update on
6 the progress that's been made over the first
7 few months of her contract, if everybody
8 would be okay with that in the next few
9 weeks I would appreciate that.

10 Also, Mrs. Reed, if you could get in
11 touch with Mr. Gallagher and just get an
12 update on the sign project that was brought
13 up tonight I would appreciate that.

14 Also, as I mentioned last week, Mrs.
15 Reed and I have a meeting with the
16 University of Scranton with the internship
17 program that we are trying to get off the
18 ground so I'll report on that next week.
19 I'd also like to thank the DPW, there was a
20 family that -- actually the neighbors have
21 been complaining about a light that's been
22 out on the 1200 block of Blair Avenue and
23 the DPW did fix that so I want to thank
24 them.

25 And just to touch on the Keystone

1 Mission on Olive Street, you know, I saw the
2 video clip that the one gentleman provided,
3 saw all of the police reports and all of the
4 pictures, to say that it's unacceptable is
5 an understatement and after listening to
6 everybody, I have been down there, I run on
7 the trail, I have been to Mr. O'Boyle's
8 house quite a few times for different issues
9 there is only one -- I think there is only
10 one solution and that's to either condemn
11 the place, shut it down or have them move
12 out. I don't think the city should be
13 worried about helping them move out of the
14 area and the reason I don't think that is
15 because it's obvious that the people that
16 are associated with this place have no
17 respect for the city and they have no
18 respect for the residents who have lived
19 there for generations.

20 After sitting here for 45 minutes to
21 an hour and listening to all the neighbors,
22 it's clear that this is a recurring problem
23 year in and year out and, you know, we
24 condemn houses in the city for far less than
25 people defecating in the neighborhood,

1 urinating the neighborhood, doing drugs in
2 the neighborhood, so on and so forth.

3 So I think that the Keystone Mission
4 has lost the opportunity to have the respect
5 of city officials in the city and so I think
6 there is only one solution, condemn the
7 place, find a way to condemn it and get them
8 out of that neighborhood because they are
9 quite literally ruining people's lives,
10 especially the elderly that have lived there
11 for their whole entire lives. And that's
12 all I have. Thank you.

13 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Very briefly
14 regarding the Keystone Mission, I guess
15 we'll start there, I know Councilman Perry
16 suggested shutting it down. It seems that
17 Councilman Gaughan agrees as well. I'm not
18 so sure if I would go quite that far yet,
19 but I understand where my colleagues are
20 coming from. As I mentioned during the
21 caucus, which unfortunately some people may
22 not have heard, there is a need for social
23 services. I'm more a proponent of helping
24 people help themselves. You know, you give
25 them a hand up and not a hand out, but I do

1 think that, you know, something has to be
2 done as far as relocation goes. I want to
3 thank the District Attorney and our police
4 chief for coming in to speak about those
5 issues. And, again, there is much more that
6 is going to come from this. I know we are
7 sending out some correspondence as well to
8 look into zoning, to look into some other
9 items, but I want to thank them, thank my
10 colleagues for all their hard work. I know
11 Councilman Perry has been in touch with the
12 police chief a lot about this issue and it's
13 -- what we saw tonight was what we have been
14 getting for awhile from all of the
15 residents. You know, I know we have all
16 talked to them, it just seems tonight
17 everything kind of came to a head, so it is
18 something we have been working on as a
19 council, but tonight it certainly got a lot
20 more attention than it has in weeks past.

21 Again, we had the District Attorney
22 and the chief in also about
23 decriminalization of marijuana. One thing I
24 do want to and I don't know because the
25 audio system wasn't working, the comment was

1 made regarding selective enforcement or
2 something of that nature. The chief's
3 comment was if we do decriminalize at that
4 point the officers it would e at their
5 discretion to choose whether the are going
6 to follow state law, which has not
7 decriminalized or city law which has, so
8 that's the conflict that he was speaking
9 about was if we do go in that direction.
10 Currently the city law and state law are in
11 sync regarding that issue.

12 I agree with the position of our
13 police chief and our district attorney. I
14 am a staunch support of medical marijuana.
15 I think there is a lot of value, it could
16 help a lot of people. Recreational
17 marijuana I do not support, but if the state
18 or federal government were to change that,
19 obviously, we would have to comply with the
20 state or the federal laws, so I do want to
21 thank -- really thank our district attorney
22 and our police chief again for coming in and
23 I did mention this during the meeting, but I
24 want to mention it publically, I also want
25 to thank District Attorney Powell for his

1 action regarding Rocky's bar. I know this
2 has been reported quite a bit in the media
3 but this was a nuisance bar where there was
4 multiple shootings it seems, shootings,
5 stabbings, all kinds of issues so I think
6 his action to shut it down was the right
7 action, and hopefully if and when it does
8 reopen it will be under new management or
9 the current owners will get things
10 straightened out at that property. And that
11 is all, thank you.

12 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
13 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION
14 OF TWO (2) "TWO HOUR PARKING ONLY"
15 RESTRICTIONS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF 934 BEECH
16 STREET ZALESKI'S CLUBHOUSE CAFÉ.

17 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
18 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
19 introduced into its proper committee.

20 MR. PERRY: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

22 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
23 those in favor of introduction signify by
24 saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
5 have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF
8 PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN, CHRISTOPHER JENKINS TO
9 ACT AS AGENT FOR CITY OF SCRANTON FOR
10 EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RELIEF PURSUANT TO
11 THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND
12 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT, AND AUTHORIZING
13 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE DESIGNATION
14 OF AGENT AND THE PEMA PUBLIC DISASTER
15 ASSISTANCE APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR
16 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

17 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
18 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
19 introduced into its proper committee.

20 MR. PERRY: So moved.

21 MR. EVANS: Second.

22 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
23 those in favor of introduction signify by
24 saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
5 have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
7 RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM JOHN
8 F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE
9 AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY (\$250.00)
10 DOLLARS TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
11 DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SCRANTON POLICE SRO
12 SUMMER CAMP.

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

16 MR. PERRY: So moved.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

19 MR. PERRY: Yes, just quickly on the
20 question. It's not often I can talk about
21 two alma maters in the same night, but I did
22 go to Kennedy School and it's a fantastic
23 facility. I know Principal Barrett and the
24 whole faculty and staff do a great job and
25 this is much appreciate, thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
2 in favor signify by saying aye.

3 MR. PERRY: Aye.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

5 MR. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
11 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
12 AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATION AGREEMENT
13 BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
14 CITY OF SCRANTON FOR REHABILITATION OF
15 NON-FEDERAL FLOOD CONTROL WORK IN SCRANTON,
16 PENNSYLVANIA ON SCRANTON STAFFORD MEADOW
17 BROOK.

18 MR. ROGAN: At this time, I'll
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
20 introduced into its proper committee.

21 MR. PERRY: So moved.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
25 Back in August of last year, 2018, we had a

1 major storm, flooding all over the city and
2 our Meadowbrook flood protection project was
3 seriously damaged. So what this legislation
4 is doing is having the city enter into an
5 agreement, a cooperation agreement with the
6 federal government and they are going to
7 provide most of the cost for rehabilitation.
8 The city is on the hook for \$75,386. The
9 federal government is estimating
10 rehabilitation efforts at \$376,929 so the
11 city is picking up 20 percent of the cost
12 there. I would like to ask, I've already
13 asked Mrs. Reed this, if we could request
14 before final passage of this legislation the
15 report that is mentioned in this legislation
16 entitled, "Rehabilitation of Damage Flood
17 Damage Reduction Work Scranton-Stafford
18 Meadowbrook Non-Federal Flood Protection
19 Project" which was prepared by the district
20 engineer, U.S. Army Engineer, District
21 Baltimore, approved by the division engineer
22 on January 2, 2019. Thank you.

23 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else? All those
24 in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
5 have it and so moved.

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

7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
8 57, 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
9 THE COUNCIL NO. 50, 2018, AN ORDINANCE
10 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 22, 2016
11 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "DEFINING AND
12 AUTHORIZING TAX EXEMPTIONS FROM REAL
13 PROPERTY TAX IN ORDER TO STIMULATE
14 RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER BUSINESS
15 ACTIVITY IN CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON, ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPTION SCHEDULE
17 AND PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING EXEMPTIONS,
18 PROVIDING FOR NON-PERMISSIBLE EXEMPTIONS AND
19 LIMITING AMENDMENT THERETO" IN ORDER TO
20 EXPAND THE ELIGIBLE AREAS, INCREASE THE
21 DURATION OF EACH EXEMPTION, AND TO LIFT THE
22 CAP ON EACH EXEMPTION" BY DELETING SECTION 7
23 NON-PERMISSIBLE IN ITS ENTIRETY DUE TO A
24 CLERICAL ERROR.

25 MR. ROGAN: You've heard reading by

1 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

2 MR. PERRY: I move that Item 6-A
3 pass reading by title.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. ROGAN: On the question? All
6 those in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
12 have it and so moved.

13 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
15 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
16 NO. 56, 2019 - AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF
17 NO PARKING SIGNS ALONG THE NORTHERLY AND
18 SOUTHERLY SIDES OF BROADWAY STREET ALONG THE
19 BICYCLE LANES IN THE VICINITY OF THE TRAIL
20 CROSSINGS NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
21 SPORTS COMPLEX THAT WERE INSTALLED IN
22 CONJUNCTION WITH THE LHVA SCRANTON SAFETY
23 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

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

1 Committee on Public Works?

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

5 MR. PERRY: Second.

6 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
7 call, please?

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

9 MR. PERRY: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

13 MR. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
18 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

19 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
21 RESOLUTION NO. 103, 2019 - APPOINTMENT OF
22 WAYNE BECK, 105 YESU DRIVE, SCRANTON,
23 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF
24 THE LAND BANK EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 9, 2019.
25 MR. BECK IS BEING APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5)

1 YEAR TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 9,
2 2024.

3 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
5 passage of Item 7-B.

6 MR. PERRY: Second.

7 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
8 call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

20 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
22 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 104, 2019 -
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
24 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
25 BEAUTIFUL BLOCKS PROGRAM PROPOSAL BY AND

1 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
2 NEIGHBORWORKS NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TO
3 ENCOURAGE GROUPS OF NEIGHBORS TO IMPROVE
4 THEIR HOMES BY PROVIDING MATCHING GRANTS FOR
5 EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS.

6 MR. ROGAN: What is the
7 recommendation of the Chair for the
8 Committee on Community Development?

9 MR. DONAHUE: As Chair for the
10 Committee on Community Development, I
11 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

12 MR. PERRY: Second.

13 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

14 MR. EVANS: On the question. First
15 of all, I'd like to thank Councilman Gaughan
16 for his comments last week on this
17 legislation. For me, this is another game
18 changer for our residents and for our
19 neighborhoods. I'd like to add to those
20 comments from last week. In Oswego, New
21 York, where a similar program has been very
22 successful, they have seen first-hand the
23 benefits of their entire cities, where
24 residents enjoin with the Oswego residents
25 Association begin to transform Oswego.

1 Grants totalling approximately \$575,000 have
2 been invested through the program and the
3 \$2.5 million in private investment has been
4 leverage into the neighborhoods of Oswego.

5 While the city has provided the seed
6 money this year as well as a donation from
7 the University of Scranton, we view this as
8 an opportunity for foundations, for
9 nonprofits, for banks using community
10 reinvestment dollars and almost anyone else
11 that would like to invest in our city and
12 our neighborhoods to be our partners along
13 with our program partner Neighbor Works who
14 is a vital role in this great program. So
15 we want to strengthen one of our greatest
16 assets, our neighborhoods, by helping
17 another of our greatest assets, our
18 residents and our homeowners who stuck by
19 this city when others have chosen to walk
20 away.

21 We want to make our strong
22 neighborhoods stronger as well as improving
23 our stable neighborhoods and also by helping
24 our at risk blocks where we can. I think
25 this program is going to make an amazing

1 difference in the City of Scranton and I
2 just can't wait to get started. That's all
3 I have on that.

4 MR. ROGAN: I wasn't here last week,
5 I want to thank Councilman Evans for his
6 work on this, I know you mentioned this to
7 us about a year or so ago and this is,
8 again, another great incentive for residents
9 in our city to get together and make their
10 blocks and their neighborhoods much better
11 to live in so I want to thank Councilman
12 Evans and Neighbor Works, they have been a
13 great partner of the cities and this is
14 certainly we are certainly looking forward
15 to. Anyone else? Roll call, please?

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

17 MR. PERRY: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-D - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -
3 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
4 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
5 NO. 52, 2019 - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A
6 "NO PARKING" ZONE ALONG THE SOUTHERLY SIDE
7 OF LACKAWANNA AND JEFFERSON AVENUE
8 (S.R.3018) FROM SEGMENT 0010 OFFSET 0300
9 (KRESSLER COURT INTERSECTION) EXTENDING
10 NORTH TO A DRIVEWAY, AT SEGMENT 0010 OFFSET
11 0630.

12 MR. ROGAN: What is the
13 recommendation of the Chair for the
14 Committee on Public Works?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
16 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
17 passage of Item 7-D.

18 MR. PERRY: Second.

19 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, on the question,
21 I'm going to be voting against this
22 resolution for two reasons: One, we never
23 got a response back from PennDOT; and, two,
24 I don't believe that the zoning board should
25 ever have gave a variance for this project.

1 It's just another example of us just doing
2 something just to do it instead of being
3 part of a long-term plan.

4 MR. EVANS: On the question. I,
5 too, am extremely disappointed that several
6 weeks since we had our meeting to table
7 PennDOT did not respond to our request. The
8 fact that PennDOT can invoke their myriad of
9 rules and regulations on state roads in our
10 city without the input of elected officials
11 or without giving us the opportunity to have
12 a conversation with them and possibly
13 improving our downtown and our city for
14 pedestrians as well as motor vehicles, motor
15 vehicle traffic, is just plain wrong.

16 I voted to bring this off the table
17 and for a vote tonight because a developer
18 should not be penalized because they are
19 subject to the archaic rules and regulations
20 of the DOT, through no fault of their own,
21 so I will be asking our colleagues hopefully
22 during the week that we can schedule a
23 meeting with PennDOT and have a real
24 conversation on how this process works and
25 in many cases does not work. We have to

1 find some common ground rooted in common
2 sense and not just based on more rules and
3 more regulations that do not solve the
4 problem.

5 MR. ROGAN: I, too, am upset about
6 the lack of reply back from PennDOT, but I
7 think the Councilman Evans hit the nail on
8 the head we certainly don't want to penalize
9 the developer who is looking to spend
10 millions of dollars in our city because
11 another branch of government did not reply.
12 I do think we need to continue this
13 conversation when there are parking issues
14 and I do not like the fact that we are going
15 to lose some spots in the downtown, but I
16 think the benefit of having new development
17 on a vacant piece of land far outweighs the
18 couple of parking spots.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm voting for this
20 just for the pure fact that, you know, this
21 legislation does not say anything about the
22 project that's going up near Kildaire's. We
23 are voting on requirements that are mandated
24 by PennDOT. I mean, whether you agree with
25 this project or disagree with it that's not

1 what we are voting on. So, I mean, you
2 know, you could certainly debate the zoning
3 board's decision but it passed and it passed
4 the planning commission as well, so my
5 concern is if, you know, we start voting
6 pieces of legislation like this down because
7 we don't like the projects, we in essence,
8 you know, almost become a second zoning
9 board, which is not -- I don't believe is
10 our role and I also believe that it may open
11 us up to legal challenges. That just is my
12 opinion, so I'm voting yes because we are
13 simply voting on requirements that are
14 mandated by PennDOT and because this is the
15 process that you go through. So thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

17 MR. EVANS: On the question, I want
18 to just touch on it a little bit. I'm
19 already on the record of how I felt about
20 that zoning board decision that approved
21 this project. They were wrong then and they
22 are wrong today. However, I totally
23 understand what Councilman Gaughan is saying
24 and my vote is based on the DOT action and
25 the lack thereof by coming to us and having

1 a conversation. I do not want to penalize
2 the developers, that's why I brought it off
3 the table to allow for a vote tonight.

4 MR. PERRY: Yes, finally, on the
5 question, I think Mr. Gaughan hit the nail
6 on the head, really all we can do is vote on
7 the black and white in front of us and
8 that's what I'm doing. This reminds me a
9 lot about the past year Sheetz project where
10 we had before us PennDOT lanes that needed
11 to be adjusted and fixed for traffic flow
12 and, you know, it had nothing to do with
13 that actual Sheetz project, it was just
14 something that had to come across our desk
15 to approve our planning on the streets.
16 This is very similar to that.

17 So to go any deeper than that I
18 don't feel it's right, but I do agree with
19 the fact that, you know, PennDOT should have
20 gave us the time of day to give us a
21 response back to our question. We did table
22 it and we did hold up this developer for a
23 couple of weeks because of this because want
24 to do our due diligence but I don't think we
25 should do this any longer, but I am in

1 agreeance of meeting with the Department of
2 Transportation so we can have a better
3 communication going forward and getting to
4 this crossroad before we get to a point of
5 no return like kind of where we are now.
6 So, you know, on in legislation here I'll be
7 for this as it speaks.

8 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

10 MR. PERRY: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

12 MR. DONAHUE: No.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

14 MR. EVANS: No.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
19 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

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

22 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

23 MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER