

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Monday, June 3rd, 2019

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

1 C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

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3 PATRICK ROGAN, PRESIDENT

4 TIMOTHY PERRY, VICE PRESIDENT

5 WAYNE EVANS

6 WILLIAM GAUGHAN

7 KYLE DONAHUE - absent

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10 LORI REED, CITY CLERK

11 KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

12 AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

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

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4 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

6 MR. PERRY: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Here. Please dispense
14 with the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD
17 JUNE 5, 2019.

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

20 MS. REED: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE BOARD
21 OF ZONING APPEALS MEETING TO BE HELD JUNE
22 12, 2019.

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

25 MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY

1 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD MAY 29, 2019.

2 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. REED: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S

5 RESULTS REPORT TO BE HELD JUNE 12, 2019.

6 MR. ROGAN: Are there any comments?

7 If not, received and filed. Do any Council

8 members have announcements at this time?

9 MR. PERRY: Yes, I have one short
10 announcement. This is about Operation Carvet.

11 It's a car and bike show. It's going to be

12 held at the Circle Drive-in theater on July

13 20th. It's going to take place 11 a.m. to 7

14 p.m.

15 Registration starts at 11 a.m. And

16 this is just to give a little summation. This

17 will be a family-friendly car and bike show.

18 Car and bike registration is only \$10. General

19 admission is a voluntary suggested donation of

20 \$5. All proceeds benefit the American Legion

21 Post 568 and Veteran's Promise of NEPA.

22 There will be multiple classes will

23 be judged and awarded including best in show,

24 top 20 best in show. And this is going to be a

25 rain or shine event. If you would like more

1 information on this, please give a call to 570-
2 892-2060. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: I have one as well.
4 This came from Tom Welby, Chief of Staff for
5 Representative Marty Flynn. It's regarding
6 electronics recycling. Bedrock Technologies is
7 hosting an electronic recycling event including
8 TVs and monitors this Saturday, June 8th from 9
9 a.m. to 12 noon.

10 It's at the TekRidge Center, 50
11 Alberigi Drive in Jessup. The cost for
12 electronic recycling is \$20 for a carload, \$40
13 for a trailerload or \$100 for a business. And
14 this is open to the public. Residents can team
15 up and take a couple of TVs in one car and pay
16 \$20 for the carload versus paying \$1.85 per
17 pound at the Recycling Center.

18 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
19 PARTICIPATION.

20 The following speakers offered
21 public comment as follows:

22 Les Spindler spoke on matters of
23 general concern.

24 Bob Bolus spoke on matters of
25 general concern.

1 Scott Thomas spoke on agenda items
2 and matters of general concern.

3 Joan Hodowanitz spoke on agenda
4 items and matters of general concern.

5 Norma Jeffries spoke on matters of
6 general concern.

7 Ron Ellman spoke on matters of genal
8 concern.

9 Lee Morgan spoke on matters of
10 general concern.

11 Joann Williams spoke on matters of
12 general concern.

13 Dave Dobrzyn spoke on matters of
14 general concern.

15 Marie Schumacher spoke on agenda
16 items and matters of general concern.

17 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
18 MOTIONS.

19 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Perry, any motions
20 or comments?

21 MR. PERRY: I just have -- I have a
22 couple quick ones. I was looking at -- I mean,
23 we had the one issue about safety at Maple and
24 Pittston. Pittston's just when it's high
25 traffic time, Pittston is just very difficult,

1 especially with parking on both sides of the
2 streets. It gets very blind. I know we talked
3 about Orchard Street. I know Hickory even and
4 we talked about Maple.

5 I did take a quick peek at the
6 street view. There is some marked crossing
7 lanes. But they are pretty faded, especially
8 the ones where the high traffic is on the
9 Pittston side as opposed to the Maple side.
10 It's not an end-all be-all fix.

11 But if we can have something sent to
12 PennDOT to have that area repainted and maybe
13 even highlighted a little bit better, make sure
14 there's a school sign there with South
15 Intermediate four blocks away. That's a busy
16 road.

17 The parallel street down from that
18 is Cedar. There is a light at that
19 intersection which is inducive of safety. But
20 the one there on Pittston Avenue and Maple,
21 that does not -- that just features a faded
22 crosswalk right now. So we could definitely
23 use some extra signage and have that paint
24 freshened up. That could be done quite easily
25 I think.

1 Secondly, there's -- I've been
2 dealing and talking with an owner of an
3 establishment about possibly having an issue
4 with their occupancy permit. And they have
5 been going back and forth with the Licensing
6 and Inspection Department. And they haven't
7 really gotten too many answers that have eased
8 their minds yet.

9 So I told them I would help them be
10 a liaison. So if we could send a letter to the
11 LIPS Department. The occupancy permit in
12 question is the business at 3025 Pittston
13 Avenue. It's called Vape Shop. They had an
14 inspector in there. And they said there was an
15 issue with their occupancy license, which I was
16 there.

17 It's hanging on the wall. It's
18 within date. I didn't see any issue with it.
19 But they were confused on what the issue could
20 possibly be. So I told them to ease their mind
21 we can get an answer sent to us so we can kind
22 of explain that back to them.

23 But they were very concerned because
24 as far as they're concerned they have done
25 everything right and correctly. And they have

1 been operating there without issue for quite
2 some time now. And we don't want to see that
3 relationship sour or end with the community or
4 the city. So if we can do that, send that out
5 to Mr. Hinton and get the answers back for
6 them.

7 The only other think I have is, I
8 got an e-mail with some pictures of a broken
9 street light. The street light is at the
10 intersection of Kirst Court and Kane if we can
11 send something out to the Department of Public
12 Works. I will send you -- also forward on the
13 pictures, Lori, to kind of describe it.

14 It looks like the housing where the
15 wire is, the box fell. It detached. And maybe
16 the elements got to it. And that's why the
17 bulb is out. But as of today, the street light
18 is still out. I did do a followup to see if
19 maybe it triggered some kind of alert to have
20 them fix it. But it is not fixed.

21 So if we can get someone on site
22 there. It looks like to me it's going to be
23 just more of a bulb replacement. There might
24 have to be some wiring that needs to be taken
25 care of as well and the housing reestablished.

1 That's all I have for today. Thank you.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Evans.

3 MR. EVANS: A couple of things. I
4 was approached by several residents over the
5 last few weeks to specifically tell me what an
6 excellent job the DPW did during the recent
7 storms, many times working late into the night
8 helping residents throughout the city. So
9 that's always very encouraging to hear that
10 they are out there doing a great job.

11 A speaker made a comment about one
12 of the Council candidates. I'm sort of still
13 shaking my head about that. But I happen to
14 think that change is good. And different
15 viewpoints should be encouraged and fostered
16 and listened to, especially in the government
17 sector. So that's all I'll say about that.

18 Stormwater was brought up. The
19 County Commissioners passed a resolution last
20 week that they are against any and all
21 stormwater fees that they will not support what
22 some politicians now like to call the Rain Tax.

23 Of course, the term Rain Tax is now
24 the fashionable political sound bite for
25 stormwater fees. So as I stated before many

1 times addressing stormwater management for the
2 municipalities that have been identified as
3 being mandated to address this issue is
4 something that will have to be done.

5 For many cities and towns up and
6 down the valley, letters and resolutions saying
7 you don't want to do it does not allow you to
8 opt out. It doesn't allow you to ignore the
9 reality of your situation. That is why I
10 continue to favor a regional approach to this
11 issue to reduce the cost, not only for
12 municipalities themselves, but ultimately to
13 the individual property owners as well.

14 But if elected officials want to
15 continue to feel good about themselves by
16 railing against this unfounded mandate, then
17 that's on them. But dealing with this problem
18 is the law of the land. And just because some
19 want to walk away from an opportunity to lead,
20 should not mean that we should have to buy into
21 what they are selling.

22 We will never have the local
23 government. We will never have the state
24 government. We will never have the federal
25 government that we want or deserve until

1 elected officials stop making decisions based
2 on the political ramifications of those
3 decisions.

4 This latest example continues to
5 point to the fact that so many of our elected
6 officials continue to view their decision
7 making processes through a political prism and
8 somehow and some way that has to stop. As my
9 custom weekly and finally, every day is your
10 chance to make this city a little better. And
11 that's all I have for tonight.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Mr. Gaughan,
13 any motions or comments?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. The
15 first comment I would like to make is regarding
16 913-915 Eynon Street. I had the opportunity
17 last week to meet with multiple neighbors of
18 this area, of this block. And this property at
19 913-915 Eynon Street is in my opinion one of
20 the worst that I've seen in person anyways in
21 my five years now on Council.

22 The interesting thing about the 900
23 block of Eynon Street that I did not realize is
24 that this house at 913-915 is condemned. There
25 is I think in total four or five condemned

1 homes on this one block. So, you know, the
2 neighbors and I -- one neighbor joked that it's
3 literally nightmare on Eynon Street, similar to
4 the movie Nightmare on Elm.

5 The neighbors are literally being
6 held hostage by this one home. The doors have
7 fallen off. One of the doors was boarded up.
8 That has fallen off. I had just been able to
9 peek inside of the home. And it is in total
10 disrepair. I'm not an engineer. But it looks
11 to me like it's beyond rehab and beyond any
12 repair.

13 According to one of the neighbors,
14 there was an oil spill at one point in the
15 basement. The city condemned it because of
16 that and told the homeowners they had to have
17 it professionally cleaned up. DEP at some
18 point I think was called in. So we're still
19 not sure what happened there.

20 There are holes in the roof. There
21 are rodents, garbage, extensive damage on the
22 outside and the inside. So I had inquired with
23 Mr. Hinton. I would like to note that this
24 property in question has been a problem since
25 at least 2007.

1 So it predates even this
2 administration. Mr. Hinton did reply quickly,
3 which I really appreciate. He said and I
4 quote, "This property has been tied up in
5 litigation with the courts for years. The
6 property is currently condemned and the city
7 will be going back to the court to ask for
8 relief from the last order so we may proceed
9 with enforcement action. The property was
10 never slated for demolition at least yet."

11 So I had asked Mrs. Reed which she
12 did and I appreciate to send a followup to the
13 Law Department of when exactly the City will be
14 going back to court, what this process looks
15 like, what the timeline is.

16 One neighbor when I was out there
17 last week was told that Judge Munley at one
18 point gave the owners three months to rehab the
19 property. That never happened.

20 We would also like to know have the
21 owners ever been in front of the Housing
22 Appeals Board? There is a rumor that they put
23 a bond, a \$10,000 bond up to stave off the
24 condemnation. If so, I would like to request a
25 copy of those minutes from the Housing Appeals

1 Board.

2 So at this time I would like to make
3 a motion to send a letter to Mayor Courtright,
4 Licensing and Inspection's Director, Pat
5 Hinton, and the Law Department, Solicitor Eskra
6 asking that the property at 913-915 Eynon
7 Street be put on the demolition list as soon as
8 possible.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. ROGAN: On the question.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

12 This in my opinion after, you know, going out
13 and touring the property and the area. This is
14 now a public safety emergency. God forbid this
15 house ever goes up in flames. The proximity to
16 other homes on this block is very close.

17 As I mentioned, apparently there's
18 an oil leak in the basement. It's a fire
19 hazard. There have been rodents. And the
20 people that own the home are from Flushing, New
21 York. And apparently they're seen
22 sporadically, you know, to cut the grass once
23 in a blue moon.

24 In fact, some of the neighbors were
25 actually taking care of the property in the

1 back and cutting the grass, which is sad in it
2 of itself.

3 So this motion basically is to ask
4 the City Administration when they can when we
5 find out what has to happen through the courts,
6 to put this on a demolition list as soon as
7 possible because the neighbors should not be
8 held hostage any longer.

9 MR. EVANS: On the question. I'm
10 just going to touch on something I talked about
11 in caucus. I've been asking for the
12 Administration to do top down review of LIPS
13 for probably years.

14 And my recent conversation with the
15 BA is that we're going to get this done. The
16 RP should be going out shortly to hire a
17 consultant to look at License and Inspection
18 for policy issues, fees, fines, the operation
19 itself.

20 And I think what Councilman Gaughan
21 just described is symptomatic of a bigger
22 issue. And a bigger issue is, you know, let's
23 get this right. Let's get a department that is
24 functioning at high level. I'm not blaming
25 anyone that is there now.

1 I just think there is a lot of
2 procedures and policies that need to be
3 addressed and need to be taken care of. And we
4 need to have professionals come in here and
5 look at it from the top down and then move on.
6 So that's my only comment.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: And the neighbors when
8 I was speaking with them last week would like
9 to invite -- and I said in the caucus I would
10 provide the contact information -- invite any
11 Council members and any public officials in the
12 city to come out and view this block and tour
13 this block because it is really unbelievable.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so
25 ordered.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. I received
2 a request from residents in the 200 block of
3 South Hyde Park Avenue. There is a storm drain
4 completely filled with dirt. It is the only
5 one that works on that side of the street.
6 Every time it rains, the water comes all the
7 way up to the sidewalks.

8 So we contact DPW and they
9 quickly responded that Pennsylvania American
10 Water Company will send someone out to take
11 care of that issue.

12 Two requests, Mrs. Reed, to put the
13 1300 block of Smith Place, if possible, in West
14 Scranton on the paving list. And also
15 Mrs. Jefferies requested that East Mountain
16 Road, if that's possible as well.

17 We actually received good news. We
18 received an e-mail from the Business
19 Administrator that the city received a
20 significant savings from the Commonwealth
21 Discount Card that was used for the city's
22 health insurance.

23 By utilizing the Performance Health
24 Discount Card, the city saved nearly half a
25 million dollars in healthcare costs from May

1 1st, 2018 to March 30th, 2019. So kudos to the
2 Mayor and the Administration for going through
3 with that program. Obviously, we've seen a
4 huge benefit from that.

5 Mr. Evans had brought up the meeting
6 that we're going to have with PEL which we've
7 been having now for the last few years. I
8 think that's really important just to get an
9 update on our progress toward exiting Act 47
10 which is coming relatively soon.

11 We did receive as I mentioned
12 earlier proposals for engineering services for
13 the paving project that were open Friday, May
14 17th. There were several companies that bid.
15 And we are waiting on a decision from the
16 administration.

17 I wasn't here last week because I
18 was ill. But I do want to take an opportunity
19 to thank our District Attorney, Mark Powell and
20 our Chief of Police, Carl Graziano for taking
21 the necessary steps and working together to
22 temporarily shut down the Castle Club on North
23 Main Avenue in North Scranton.

24 Council sent a letter to that effect
25 May 14th. And the District Attorney and the

1 Chief of Police quickly acted on that and I
2 really appreciate it.

3 We also followed up with our
4 solicitor on possible legislation to have clubs
5 that are BYOB, bring your own beer to close
6 down at 2 a.m., even if, you know, they don't
7 have a license through the LCB. So we are
8 working on that.

9 Solicitor Minora is continuing to
10 take a look at it. And there will be hopefully
11 a meeting held soon between Solicitor Minora
12 and the City Solicitor, Jessica Eskra. I would
13 like to thank them for the quick action on
14 that. And that's all I have this week. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just two
17 brief items. And I have to double-check. I
18 know East Mount Road was brought up a couple
19 times. I'm almost positive I saw that road on
20 a list -- one of the lists regarding paving.
21 And I do know a lot of the roads up there are
22 going to be paved by the water company, Moltke.

23 There's a few others that there's
24 work going on that will be paved this year as
25 well. I know we inquired on that a couple

1 times.

2 Just one item that I wanted to bring
3 up. We did receive a letter from Northeast
4 Revenue Service. This was on May 29th. It was
5 addressed to the Mayor and Council was copied
6 on it.

7 I'm not going to read the whole
8 letter. But this is just regarding the
9 delinquent garbage bills that have been a hot
10 topic for quite some time now. I'm very
11 encouraged with one of the items that was
12 mentioned in this letter. And I'll read this
13 part.

14 It says, "While we will continue to
15 aggressive pursue delinquent accounts through
16 filing liens and our collection procedures, we
17 recommend the Lackawanna County Sheriff's
18 Office conduct Sheriff Sales of habitual
19 delinquent properties." And then there's an
20 attachment that goes through and gives the
21 breakdown on how this will be handled.

22 They're proposing moving the top 10
23 delinquent properties to the Sheriff Sale. And
24 they're saying that they will pay all the costs
25 associated with moving those properties to the

1 Sheriff Sale.

2 I did have a discussion -- this was
3 following the caucus that I wasn't able to
4 attend with a representative from Northeast
5 Revenue. And we did discuss this a little bit.
6 I mentioned at the time and I still believe
7 this is a very good idea.

8 If we start with the largest
9 offenders with the Sheriff Sales, keep working
10 our way through, I think it will finally be
11 able to put, you know, put this issue to rest
12 and get people to pay their bills.

13 Unfortunately, this is property
14 specific. So I know some out-of-town landlords
15 that owe very large sums on multiple properties
16 have come through. My understanding is that
17 this will be property by property. So if
18 somebody owes \$20,000 on 10 properties, they
19 probably wouldn't be on the top 10 list yet.

20 But somebody who ones, maybe a
21 four-unit multi that hasn't paid their garbage
22 bill ever would probably be one of the top
23 offenders. So I think getting this over to,
24 you know, to the Sheriff Sale and look at some
25 other ideas is a good step. And I hope that

1 the Mayor will take this recommendation and run
2 with it.

3 I know I fully support it. And
4 there is a number of other items that we
5 discussed in our caucus. We don't agree on all
6 of them, but I think we're having a good
7 conversation on a lot of different items that
8 we can do to receive the money that's owed to
9 us and come up with a better system in the
10 long-term because this current system just
11 doesn't work.

12 You see the people that just don't
13 want to pay aren't paying. And it's not
14 acceptable. And I think this is a good step.
15 But there's much more that we can be doing.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I just add one
17 thing? I'm sorry. Because this subject is of
18 great public interest, would we be able to --
19 and I'll make a motion if I have to to put
20 these -- we have two letters from Northeast
21 Revenue Services with a great deal of
22 information in them.

23 So I would like to make a motion to
24 put the two letters -- letter from Northeast
25 Revenue Services to the Mayor, May 22nd and a

1 letter from Elliott Greenleaf regarding
2 Northeast Revenue Service to our solicitor in
3 Third Order for next week.

4 MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

5 MR. EVANS: I'll second it.

6 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
9 signify by saying aye.

10 MR. PERRY: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MR. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so
16 ordered.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: And I would also like
18 to ask -- I'd like to make a motion that we
19 put -- the Mayor sent a letter -- somehow I
20 missed it and I apologize, May 6th to Council
21 in response to a letter that I had sent. I
22 would like to make a motion that we also put
23 that in Third Order for next week.

24 MR. ROGAN: Is there a second?

25 MR. EVANS: Can we talk on the

1 question or do I have to second it? I'll
2 second it.

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question.

4 MR. EVANS: The only thing on the
5 question, I'm not sure if a letter directed to
6 a Councilman should be on. I don't know.
7 That's up for discussion.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: No, I --

9 MR. EVANS: The others were directed
10 to Council. So I didn't know if that was a
11 personal letter to you or not.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: No. This was to the
13 Council. The only reason I bring that up is
14 because in Third Order it does say reports and
15 communications from Mayor and heads of
16 department and interested parties and city
17 clerks.

18 MR. EVANS: Okay.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: And just to reference
20 the letter as well, we had asked about the
21 delinquent refuse collection. And I had asked
22 that the Mayor would be interested in
23 reevaluating the contract with NRS taking a
24 look at different options and different
25 solutions whether we take out the middleman and

1 bring in inhouse if that was an option that
2 they would be willing to look at.

3 And we did receive a response. It
4 says, "With regard to your inquiry on
5 reevaluating and rebidding the city's contract
6 with NRS, the Business Administrator and
7 Treasurer are contemplating this issue further.
8 And the City Solicitor is reviewing the
9 contract.

10 With regard to your question on
11 taking a more aggressive approach to collecting
12 delinquent refuse bills, the Business
13 Administrator and Solicitor are evaluating all
14 available options. I understand what you're
15 saying if it's like a simple e-mail we don't
16 have to put it in Third Order.

17 MR. EVANS: Not only that, I was
18 more concerned it was a personal letter back to
19 you. It's not. It's to Council.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: It's to the Council,
21 right. And I think maybe we could discuss just
22 making this a matter of practice if we receive
23 a letter from a department head or from the
24 Mayor to the Council that we can put it --
25 automatically put it in Third Order.

1 MR. ROGAN: I don't see a need for
2 that. They're all public records anyway. So
3 Third Order would be 100 items if we put every
4 letter that we receive.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: No, what I'm saying is
6 just from the Mayor. We usually, you know,
7 rarely do we receive correspondence directly
8 from the Mayor's Office. And if we do, I think
9 it's usually important. So just as a matter of
10 practice just my own personal preference just
11 to put it in Third Order. But we can have that
12 discussion.

13 MR. ROGAN: And I'm for the motion.
14 They are public documents anyways. Putting
15 them in Third Order really serves no purpose.
16 But putting them on there isn't a problem.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: The only purpose that
18 I see in it is then it becomes a part of the
19 agenda and then people can view it on line.
20 That would be the only thing.

21 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

22 (No response.)

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

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so
6 ordered.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
9 NO. 9, 2010 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING FILE OF THE
10 COUNCIL NO. 95, 2009 (AS AMENDED) AN ORDINANCE,
11 ENTITLED "SIGNIFYING THE INTENTION AND DESIRE
12 OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
13 ORGANIZE AN AUTHORITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE
14 SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY UNDER
15 PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF THE GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY, KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPALITY AUTHORITIES
17 ACT, 53 PA.C.S.A. 56; SETTING FORTH AND
18 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ARTICLES OF
19 INCORPORATION; APPOINTING AND FIXING THE TERMS
20 OF THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUCH
21 AUTHORITY; AND UPON ORGANIZATION CONVEYING
22 TITLE TO THE AUTHORITY FOR THE PROPERTIES ON
23 WHICH THE ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY, THE GREEN
24 RIDGE LIBRARY AND THE SILKMAN HOUSE ARE
25 LOCATED; AUTHORIZING ALL OTHER NECESSARY

1 ACTION; AND REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT
2 ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS
3 OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS" TO REVIVE THE SCRANTON
4 PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY.

5 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
6 entertain a motion that item 5-B be introduced
7 into it's proper committee.

8 MR. PERRY: So moved.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. ROGAN: On the question.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. As was
12 mentioned, this legislation simply rectifies
13 and corrects the dissolution of the Authority
14 or when they tried to dissolve the Authority on
15 the city's books. As Mr. Thomas had mentioned,
16 the Authority continues to operate.

17 It holds the deeds to the properties
18 referenced in the ordinance. And they seek it
19 and obtain grants. The Authority was never
20 terminated with the state, still registered as
21 an authority. So this is mostly to clean the
22 legislation up.

23 And I do want to take this
24 opportunity to thank you for coming to Council,
25 you know, and giving us an update on what this

1 legislation actually entailed. And thank you
2 for the great work that you do and also thank
3 Mr. Finnerty for coming, did a great job as the
4 Executive Director as well. Thank you.

5 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

9 MR. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so
13 moved.

14 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
15 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
16 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY
17 OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN
18 AGREEMENT WITH URBAN DESIGN VENTURES,
19 LLC. 212 EAST SEVENTH AVENUE, HOMESTEAD,
20 PENNSYLVANIA 15120 TO PERFORM A FIVE YEAR
21 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR YEARS 2020-2024,
22 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR 2020 AND AN ANALYSIS OF
23 IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE FOR THE CITY
24 OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

25 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that item 5-C be introduced
2 into its proper committee.

3 MR. PERRY: So moved.

4 MR. EVANS: Second.

5 MR. ROGAN: On the question.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question. I
7 had requested additional documentation from the
8 second bidder or from OECD on the second bidder
9 for this legislation. I did receive it from
10 the Director of OECD. So I talked about this
11 in the caucus.

12 What I would like to see from the
13 Director of OECD is more of an explanation on
14 why they chose this company only because Urban
15 Design Ventures in their proposal, they're
16 charging -- or they're willing to negotiate a
17 lump sum not to exceed an amount for three
18 tasks.

19 These are suggested costs that are
20 subject to the final scope of work. But for
21 the 2022 to 2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan,
22 they're going to charge \$23,750 or that's their
23 suggested cost.

24 For the Annual Action Plan, they're
25 charging \$8,500. And for the 2020 Analysis of

1 Impediments, they are charging \$18,000.
2 Technical Assistance they have several people
3 here listed with hourly rates.

4 The second bid which was not in the
5 backup documentation but which I had requested,
6 the other company that bid is only charging
7 \$19,000 total. Nine thousand for the
8 completion of the Five Year Consolidated Plan,
9 3,500 for the action plan, and 6,500 for the
10 analysis of Fair Housing Impediment.

11 So I understand that you don't
12 always choose the lowest bidder. But since the
13 amount is so great in this case in my opinion,
14 I would like to see more of an explanation on
15 why they chose the higher bidder. Thank you.

16 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
19 signify by saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so

1 moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF
4 MICHAEL BURKE, 74 SNOOK STREET, SCRANTON,
5 PENNSYLVANIA 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSING
6 APPEALS REVIEW BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5)
7 YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE MAY 16, 2019. MR.
8 BURKE'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED NOVEMBER 24, 2018
9 AND WAS HELD OVER UNTIL MAY 16, 2019. HIS NEW
10 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2023.

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

14 MR. PERRY: So moved.

15 MR. EVANS: Second.

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

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

22 (No response.)

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

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

1 A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF
2 GERALD SMURL, 300 PROSPECT AVENUE, SCRANTON,
3 PENNSYLVANIA 18505. AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSING
4 APPEALS REVIEW BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5)
5 YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE MAY 16, 2019. MR.
6 SMURL'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED ON NOVEMBER 24, 2018
7 AND WAS HELD OVER TO MAY 16, 2019. HIS NEW
8 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2023.

9 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
10 entertain a motion that item 5-E be introduced
11 into its proper committee.

12 MR. PERRY: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

22 (No response.)

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

25 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION –

1 A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF
2 ROBERT KEIPER, 406 ROANOKE LANE, SCRANTON,
3 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO THE CIVIL SERVICE
4 COMMISSION. MR. KEIPER’S EFFECTIVE DATE
5 WILL BE MAY 16, 2019. MR. KEIPER WILL BE
6 REPLACING JEFF MACKIE WHO RESIGNED EFFECTIVE
7 MAY 14, 2019. MR. KEIPER’S TERM WILL EXPIRE
8 WITH THE TERM OF MAYOR WILLIAM L. COURTRIGHT.

9 MR. ROGAN: At this time I’ll
10 entertain a motion that item 5-F be introduced
11 into its proper committee.

12 MR. PERRY: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MR. PERRY: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

22 (No response.)

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

25 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION –

1 A RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF
2 ROBERT SHUMAKER, 617 COLFAX AVENUE, SCRANTON,
3 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER OF THE
4 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY
5 EFFECTIVE MAY 16, 2019. MR. SHUMAKER WILL BE
6 REPLACING EMANUEL JOHNSON WHO RESIGNED MAY 8,
7 2019. MR. SHUMAKER WILL FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED
8 TERM OF MR. JOHNSON WHOSE TERM IS SCHEDULED TO
9 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2022.

10 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'll
11 entertain a motion that item 5-G be introduced
12 into its proper committee.

13 MR. PERRY: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. ROGAN: All those in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 MR. PERRY: Aye.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

21 MR. EVANS: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye. Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and so
25 moved.

1 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A, no
2 business at this time.

3 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
4 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR
5 ADOPTION - 3 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 63, 2019-
6 APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR
7 LICENSE OWNED BY RDRM, INC., HC 2, BOX 177,
8 THORNHURST TOWNSHIP, THORNHURST, PA 18424-0177
9 LICENSE NO. R-16828 TO GIANT FOOD STORES, LLC
10 FOR USE AT 1600 NAY AUG AVENUE, LACKAWANNA
11 COUNTY, SCRANTON, PA 18509 AS REQUIRED BY
12 THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

16 MR. PERRY: Second.

17 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

21 MR. PERRY: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

23 MR. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

4 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 64, 2019 - AUTHORIZING
7 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
8 TO ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
9 THIS QUITCLAIM DEED CONVEYING TITLE TO THE
10 CITY OF SCRANTON, THE PROPERTY FORMERLY OWNED
11 BY THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY LAND BANK KNOWN AS 100
12 BLOCK KEYSER AVENUE, SCRANTON,
13 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN
14 EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART
15 HEREOF.

16 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
18 of Item 7-B.

19 MR. PERRY: Second.

20 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
22 Two weeks ago I had asked about -- for more
23 information and kind of a background on this
24 piece of legislation. So I just want to read
25 from what the City Solicitor had sent.

1 The city -- so this project is to
2 fix where the Keyser Valley Community Center
3 is, they're going to pave, grade, and correct
4 the pitch of the parking area to correct poor
5 drainage and remediate current -- the current
6 situation during rainfall of water pooling and
7 running into the entrance area and kitchen area
8 of the building.

9 They received some sort of grant
10 money. And I know everyone on Council and for
11 the past five years this has been a sore spot
12 with the residents in that area. The city is
13 not involved in the actual grant. It was
14 obtained by the county.

15 The city has no involvement and is
16 not providing any funds. The purpose of this
17 legislation, the land where the community
18 center is located is actually owned by the
19 city. In review of the plans it was discovered
20 that a small portion of the land was owned by
21 another person.

22 This piece was on the repository
23 through the Tax Claim Bureau Judicial Tax Sale.
24 The county has tax title. The property was
25 removed from their repository and actually was

1 transferred to the land bank where the city
2 then acquired the land. There was no cost.

3 The city taking this parcel of land
4 is its only involvement. And obviously the
5 project and the grant will address the
6 stormwater issues and will provide a fix of
7 some of the problems there as well. So thank
8 you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

21 MS. REED: 7 C. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
23 RESOLUTION NO. 115, 2019 - RE-APPOINTMENT OF
24 DAVID J. WENZEL, 7 PHILLIPS DRIVE, SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A MEMBER OF

1 THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL
2 FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2019.
3 MR. WENZEL'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED ON
4 OCTOBER 29, 2018 AND WAS HELD OVER TO APRIL 24,
5 2019. HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 29,
6 2023.

7 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage of
9 Item 7-C.

10 MR. PERRY: Second.

11 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
13 I would like to thank all the people who are
14 being appointed tonight or reappointed for
15 their commitment to public service and taking
16 the time out of their busy schedule to serve on
17 boards, especially former Mayor Wenzel.

18 Mayor Wenzel is an absolute -- he's
19 an unbelievable person number one for all that
20 he's done for the city and his service to our
21 country; and number two, for his expertise in
22 the fact that he takes the time out of his
23 schedule and dedicates it to the Shade Tree
24 Commission, which actually in the last few
25 years has done an awful lot in addition to Mr.

1 Santoli in the city. So I want to thank him
2 for that. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: Anyone else?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

7 MR. PERRY: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I hereby declare
14 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

15 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
16 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR ADOPTION –
17 RESOLUTION NO. 116, 2019 – RE-APPOINTMENT OF
18 JOSEPH A. RICCARDO, JR., 1002 FROUDE AVENUE,
19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A MEMBER OF
20 THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL
21 FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2019.
22 MR. RICCARDO'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER
23 7, 2018 AND WAS HELD OVER UNTIL APRIL 24, 2019.
24 HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 7, 2023.

25 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the

1 Committee on Rules I recommend final passage of
2 Item 7-D.

3 MR. PERRY: Second.

4 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

8 MR. PERRY: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

16 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY – FOR
18 ADOPTION – RESOLUTION NO. 117, 2019 –
19 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
20 PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
21 SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
22 TRANSPORTATION (“PENNDOT”) APPLICATION FOR
23 TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR TRAFFIC
24 SIGNAL PERMIT NO. 6357 FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL
25 REPLACEMENT AT GREEN RIDGE STREET (SR 6011) AND

1 WYOMING AVENUE (SR 3025.)

2 MR. ROGAN: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Public Safety?

5 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the
6 Committee of Public Safety, I recommend final
7 passage of Item 7-E.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

13 MR. PERRY: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

15 MR. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

21 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR ADOPTION –
23 RESOLUTION NO. 118, 2019 – AUTHORIZING THE
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
25 GRANT A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO CROCUS

1 CAFÉ TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR CAFÉ AT 323 NORTH
2 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

6 MR. PERRY: Second.

7 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

11 MR. PERRY: 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-F legally and lawfully adopted.

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

21 MR. PERRY: Motion to adjourn.

22 MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

8
9
10 _____
11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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