

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
Reorganization Meeting

HELD:

Monday, January 6th, 2020

LOCATION:

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

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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

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3 WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT

4 KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT

5 PATRICK ROGAN

6 MARK MCANDREW

7 JESSICA ROTHCHILD

8

9 LORI REED, CITY CLERK

10 KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

11 KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

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1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2 invocation by Father Cyril Edwards.)

3 MS. REED: In accordance with the
4 Home Rule Charter of the City of Scranton
5 designating the first Monday of January as the
6 date for City Council to reorganize, I hereby
7 call this 2020 Reorganization Meeting to order.
8 Roll call, please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

13 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

19 MS. REED: At this time I ask that
20 as you are called to be sworn, will the judges
21 and elected officials please sign the documents
22 when you are finished.

23 I have before me the Certificate of
24 Election for Mr. John Murray, City Controller.
25 Will the Council adopt a motion to the effect

1 that the certificate be received and ordered
2 filed and made part of the minutes.

3 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

5 MS. REED: All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

12 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have
13 it and so moved.

14 I will now ask Judge Terrence Nealon
15 to come forward and administer the Oath of
16 Office to Mr. Murray for the elected office of
17 City Controller.

18
19 (Judge Terrence Nealon administers
20 the Oath of Office.)

21
22 MS. REED: I have before me the
23 Certificate of Election for Dr. Jessica
24 Rothchild and Mr. Mark McAndrew as City Council
25 persons. Will the Council adopt a motion to

1 the effect that the certificate be received and
2 ordered filed and made a part of the minutes?

3 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

5 MS. REED: On the question?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

7 I just want to congratulate Dr. Rothchild and
8 Councilman McAndrew. They're going to be great
9 additions to the City Council. I've had the
10 opportunity now to get to know Dr. Rothchild
11 over the last few months. And she is extremely
12 intelligent, compassionate and she is a driven
13 person who is committed to turning this City
14 around.

15 Councilman McAndrew has a reputation
16 as an independent leader who stood his ground
17 and fought for the people on the Scranton
18 School Board. And I'm excited to get to work
19 with both of them. And I want to personally
20 congratulate them. Thank you.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Thank you.

22 MS. REED: All those in favor
23 signify by saying aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have
5 it and so moved.

6 I will now ask Judge Julia Munley to
7 come forward and administer the Oath of Office
8 to Dr. Jessica Rothchild for the elected office
9 of City Council.

10

11 (Judge Julia Munley administers the
12 Oath of Office.)

13

14 MS. REED: I will now ask Judge
15 Terrence Gallagher to administer the Oath of
16 Office to Mr. McAndrew for the elected office
17 of City Council.

18

19 (Judge Terrence Nealon, Judge Julia
20 Munley and Judge Thomas Munley administer the
21 Oath of Office.)

22

23 MS. REED: I will now accept
24 nominations for temporary Chairperson. What is
25 your pleasure?

1 MR. DONAHUE: I move that Mr. Rogan
2 be appointed temporary Chairperson.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Second.

4 MS. REED: On the question? All
5 those in favor signify by saying aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

11 MS. REED: Opposed? The ayes have
12 it and so moved. Mr. Rogan, will you please
13 take over as temporary Chairperson?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I will now call
15 for a nomination for a permanent President of
16 Council for ensuing two years.

17 MR. DONAHUE: I nominate Bill
18 Gaughan as President of City Council.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

20 MR. ROGAN: On the question? Roll
21 call, please.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Abstain.

7 MR. ROGAN: The motion is adopted
8 and I hereby declare Councilman Bill Gaughan
9 dually and legally elected President of the
10 City Council.

11 I will now call for a nomination of
12 Vice President of Council for the ensuing two
13 years.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: I nominate Kyle
15 Donahue as Vice President of City Council.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Abstain.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

4 MR. ROGAN: The motion is adopted
5 and I hereby declare Councilman Kyle Donahue
6 legally and elected Vice President of City
7 Council.

8 I will now ask for nominations for
9 City Clerk.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: I nominate Lori Reed
11 City Clerk.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

13 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
15 I've had the opportunity to work along side
16 Mrs. Reed now for the past six years. She is
17 one of the most dedicated and respected public
18 servants in the City of Scranton.

19 There's not a day that goes by where
20 she isn't helping a resident of the City with
21 an issue or working out a problem within City
22 Hall. Every quality that you would want in a
23 City Clerk, compassion, integrity,
24 trustworthiness, dedication, honesty, Mrs. Reed
25 has.

1 It's been a true honor to have her
2 lead this Council the past six years. And I'm
3 looking forward to working with her and driving
4 her crazy over the next two years. Thank you.

5 MR. DONAHUE: I'd like to second
6 those comments and just say that this wouldn't
7 be possible without the assistance of Miss Reed
8 and we appreciate it.

9 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

20 MR. ROGAN: The motion is adopted
21 and I hereby declare Mrs. Lori Reed dually and
22 legally elected City Clerk.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I would
24 like to make a motion that City Council appoint
25 Attorney Kevin Hayes to the position of City

1 Council Solicitor.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

3 MR. ROGAN: On the question?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

5 I want to thank Attorney Hayes for submitting
6 his name for this position. His resume was
7 very impressive. And I have no doubt that he
8 will be able to guide this Council through some
9 of the unique and challenging legal issues that
10 the City faces.

11 MR. ROGAN: Roll call, please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

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

24 I will now ask Councilman Gaughan to
25 come forward to be sworn in as City Council

1 President by Judge Thomas Munley.

2

3 (Judge Thomas Munley administers the
4 Oath of Office.)

5

6 MR. ROGAN: I will now ask
7 Councilman Donahue to come forward to be sworn
8 in as City Council Vice President by Judge
9 Terry Nealon.

10

11 (Judge Terrence Nealon administers
12 Oath of Office.)

13

14 MR. ROGAN: I will now ask Mrs. Reed
15 to come forward to be sworn in as City Clerk by
16 Judge Paul Ware.

17

18 (Judge Paul Ware administers the
19 Oath of Office.)

20

21 MR. ROGAN: I will now ask that
22 Councilman Gaughan take over permanent Chairman
23 and President of Scranton City Council.

24

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. We are now
ready to consider the Rules of Procedure by

1 which this Council will be governed during the
2 next two years. What is your pleasure?

3 MR. DONAHUE: I move that the Rules
4 of Council be adopted by Resolution No. 1, 2020
5 as required by the Home Rule Charter.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed, would you
8 please read Resolution No. 1, 2020?

9 MS. REED: RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2020,
10 ADOPTING THE RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE
11 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
13 those in favor signify by saying aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
19 eyes have it and so moved.

20 The following will be the committee
21 chairpersons for the next two years. I will be
22 Chairperson for the Committee on Rules.

23 Mr. Rogan will be the Chairperson
24 for the Committee on Finance.

25 Mr. Donahue will be the Chairperson

1 for the Committee on Public Works.

2 Mr. McAndrew will be the Chairperson
3 for the Committee on Public Safety.

4 And Dr. Rothchild will be the
5 Chairwoman of the Community Development
6 Committee.

7 The chairpersons for the
8 subcommittees will be as follows:

9 I will be the Chairperson of Pension
10 Review and Administration.

11 Mr. Rogan will be in charge of
12 Revenue and Taxes.

13 Mr. Donahue will be in charge of
14 intergovernmental relations.

15 Mr. McAndrew will be in charge of
16 Boards, Commissions, and Shared Services.

17 And Dr. Rothchild will be in charge
18 of Economic Development.

19 I will now call on each Council
20 member for a few brief remarks. Councilman
21 Rogan, do you have any remarks at this time?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes, briefly. I'd like
23 to just congratulate our new members, Mr.
24 McAndrew, Dr. Rothchild. You both ran very
25 impressive campaigns, especially Dr. Rothchild

1 being from -- not born in Scranton and being
2 the top vote getter in the election.

3 You certainly ran a great campaign,
4 the both of you. Looking forward to working
5 with you and we have a lot of work ahead of us.
6 But I'm sure as a body working with the new
7 Mayor, we'll be able to accomplish a lot of
8 great things for the City. Thank you.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Mr. Donahue, do you
10 have any remarks at this time?

11 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just briefly.
12 I'd also like to just congratulate Mr. McAndrew
13 and Dr. Rothchild. I've known Mark for about
14 six years now. We served on City Council
15 together. I look forward to working with
16 him -- or school board together. I look
17 forward to working with you on City Council
18 now.

19 And, Jess, welcome. I got to know
20 Jess pretty well over the last few years. I
21 think she'll be a great asset to this Council.
22 And it's time to get to work. That's all I
23 have.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
25 Donahue. Dr. Rothchild, do you have any

1 remarks at this time?

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I do have a few
3 remarks. My first time I'm giving remarks
4 here. I'm honored to do so and to be up here
5 with you all. First, I'd like to thank the
6 voters for putting their faith in me. I am
7 happy to serve. I will work hard. I will
8 listen to your concerns. And I'm just ready to
9 get to work.

10 And there is a few other people that
11 I'd like to thank too. Thank you to Tim Perry
12 and Mary Walsh Dempsey for their service on
13 City Council for their time and dedication.
14 Thank you to Mayor Wayne Evans or at least for
15 another half an hour as he told me and for his
16 time on Council and as Mayor of the City for
17 taking the helm and helping us in our time of
18 need.

19 And I'd really like to thank
20 especially my wonderful wife Bridget who I met
21 eight years ago who kept me here in Scranton so
22 that we could live this amazing life. And I'm
23 so happy to be here. So thank you all.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
25 Rothchild. Mr. McAndrew, do you have any

1 remarks at this time?

2 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, I do. Thank
3 you. First of all, I'd like to thank my
4 beautiful family that's sitting here. Running
5 for election and holding public office is hard.
6 But it's harder on one's family. So without
7 their love and support I wouldn't be sitting
8 here right now. Their love and support has
9 been my biggest motivation.

10 I'd also like to thank everybody
11 sitting in this room. I know that you're
12 either here supporting somebody on the dais but
13 I know you're all here to support our great
14 City. So thank you for that.

15 I'd like to congratulate Dr.
16 Rothchild. I look forward to working with her.
17 I would like to congratulate President Gaughan
18 and Vice President Donahue for being elected
19 that today. I'd like to thank Pat for your
20 previous service and your continued service. I
21 look forward to working with you.

22 And I would like to thank Mayor
23 Evans and Mr. Perry who just, you know, for
24 their service that just finished up today. So
25 once again, I just want to thank all of you and

1 I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to
2 work. Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mr.
4 McAndrew. Good morning, everyone. I want to
5 thank all of you for coming this morning. I
6 was talking to Councilman Donahue before.
7 There's quite a buzz in the air here, and it's
8 very good to see.

9 I appreciate Judge Munley for
10 swearing me in. He has sworn me in every time
11 I've been elected to Council. And he's been a
12 great friend over the years to me. And I want
13 to thank him for all that he's done for our
14 community. Thank you so much.

15 I want to recognize our new City
16 Controller John Murray who was sworn in earlier
17 this morning. I'm very confident that John
18 will do a great job as Controller. And I want
19 to thank him for taking on this challenge and
20 serving the public. I also want to thank --
21 personally thank as I did at the Sine Die
22 meeting earlier this morning, a good friend
23 Mayor Wayne Evans.

24 Wayne Evans, you will not find a
25 more dedicated individual to this City. You

1 will not find a more compassionate individual.
2 He took on some enormous challenges. He was
3 able to hold the ship steady. And I really
4 appreciate all that he did for our City. So
5 thank you again, Mayor Wayne Evans.

6 I also want to recognize -- I saw
7 Mayor Gene Peters here this morning. It's
8 interesting. I was talking to his son. Fifty
9 years ago yesterday, Gene Peters was sworn in
10 as our Mayor. And I personally want to thank
11 him for being here and for all of his service
12 and the beautiful wonderful family that he has.

13 I also want to thank a great friend
14 of mine, I think a great friend to everyone in
15 the City of Scranton, a fellow Minookian,
16 Mayor Jim Connors. Give Mayor Jim Connors a
17 hand.

18 I also want to recognize State
19 Senator John Blake who's here today, State
20 Representative Marty Flynn, State
21 Representative Kyle Mullins, State
22 Representative Bridget Kosierowski, School
23 Board President Katie Gilmartin, School Board
24 Vice President Tom Schuster. And I also want
25 to thank again City Councilman John Pocius for

1 all of his guidance that he's provided. Thank
2 you.

3 The first person that I have to
4 thank is my beautiful wife Kellie who is here
5 today someplace -- oh, there she is up in the
6 balcony -- for her support and her love. I'm
7 so proud of her for so many different reasons.
8 She's a wonderful mother to our three children.
9 And she is an outstanding wife.

10 We just found out last week that we
11 are having a baby girl in May. So we're very
12 excited. Our house will be even more chaotic,
13 although I don't if that's possible. My
14 children, Jack, Murphy, and Mave who were here
15 today, they're very excited that they are
16 getting a baby sister.

17 And Jack and Murphy did a wonderful
18 job holding the bible. So you'll get an Oreo
19 cookie after the ceremony today. I want to say
20 how much I love them and how very proud I am of
21 them. Kellie and I actually decided it might
22 be a good idea for me to take the gavel and
23 maybe use it at home. So we'll see how that
24 works out.

25 I want to thank my parents who are

1 here today, Jack and Marie. They are my
2 biggest supporters in everything that I do. I
3 am so very proud of them. My dad -- I'm so
4 proud of him for, number one, being a great
5 father and a United States Marine and my mom
6 for being the most compassionate, understanding
7 person that I've ever met.

8 I want to thank my brother Lenny and
9 Katie for being here and all of their support.
10 I also have to thank my father and
11 mother-in-law Jim and Mari Wright who are here.
12 I want to thank the amazing aunts and uncles
13 that I have who have always been there for me.

14 As you know, I mentioned on this
15 Council my Uncle Billy and my and Uncle John
16 were going through a great battle with cancer.
17 And the community stepped up for them as the
18 community does for everyone who is going
19 through great challenges like that.

20 I could remember each time I ran for
21 office my Uncle John accompanied me. We had
22 some great times walking the streets of
23 Scranton. And I just appreciate everything
24 that my aunts and uncles have done for me.

25 I also today am thinking of my

1 grandparents, Bill and Elizabeth Gaughan and
2 Helen and Edward Trently. I'm thinking of my
3 wife's grandmother, Mary McLane. They were all
4 involved in one way or another in politics.
5 And they all loved this City.

6 And I think that they would be
7 thrilled today to see all of these great people
8 here, a new Mayor in Paige Cagnetti and our
9 willingness to work together to make this City
10 the greatest City, not only in northeastern
11 Pennsylvania but in the country.

12 I want to thank my colleagues for
13 putting their faith in me to lead this Council
14 as President over the next two years. Mr.
15 McAndrew, Dr. Rothchild, congratulations on
16 your victory. I want to thank Councilman Rogan
17 for his leadership as President over the last
18 two years and his friendship and also
19 Councilman Donahue for his friendship and
20 leadership over the last two years.

21 I promise to do my duties as Council
22 President with honesty and integrity. We're
23 always putting the people first. This past
24 year as all of you in this room have known, has
25 been a very difficult time for our City.

1 The people of Scranton were dealt a
2 devastating blow that shook their faith and
3 confidence in government and elected officials
4 to its absolute core. People in Scranton and
5 in this region are physically and mentally
6 exhausted from corruption.

7 I'm here to say that today is a new
8 day. Today is our chance to put all of this
9 behind us and to begin to write a new chapter
10 for the City of Scranton, a chapter that is
11 built on a foundation of openness,
12 transparency, accountability, and honesty.

13 We currently face many challenges
14 that at some times may seem insurmountable.
15 But it's my belief that with great challenges
16 comes great opportunity. Now is not the time
17 to shy away from being in public service.

18 Now is not the time to say leave it
19 up to somebody else, one person can't make a
20 difference. There's no hope and the job is too
21 hard. From the School Board to Council to our
22 new County Commissioners, a new generation of
23 leaders must stand up and fight for the City
24 that we all love so much.

25 Senator Robert F. Kennedy made a

1 speech in South Africa in 1966 where he said,
2 "First is the danger of futility; the belief
3 that there is nothing one man or one woman can
4 do against the enormous array of the world's
5 ills - against misery, ignorance, injustice and
6 violence.

7 Yet many of the world's great
8 movements, of thought and action, have flowed
9 from the work of a single man or woman. A
10 young monk began the Protestant reformation, a
11 young general extended an empire from Macedonia
12 to the borders of the earth, and a young woman
13 reclaimed the territory of France.

14 It was a young Italian explorer who
15 discovered the New World, and 32-year-old
16 Thomas Jefferson who proclaimed that all men
17 are created equal. "Give me a place to stand,"
18 said Archimedes, "and I will move the world."
19 These men moved the world, and so can we all.

20 We have a special opportunity that
21 starts today to chart a new course for the City
22 of Scranton. In my six years on Council I have
23 never been more hopeful that we could overcome
24 our challenges by working together with our new
25 Mayor Paige Cagnetti.

1 In the past, these reorganization
2 meetings have amounted to nothing more than lip
3 service. Everyone pledges to work together and
4 solve issues in January and a few months go by
5 and it seems like we're stuck in neutral. At
6 least that's been my experience in the past.

7 We cannot fall into this trap again.
8 We stand at a critical moment in the City's
9 history where we can actually make a difference
10 or we can maintain the status quo. We must
11 work closely with Mayor Cagnetti and her
12 administration while maintaining Council's role
13 as a check and balance and understanding that
14 dissent, disagreement and debate should not be
15 looked down upon but appreciated and encouraged
16 as long as it's done in a respectful manner
17 with the best interest of the City in mind.

18 I pledge to all of you today that
19 this Council is willing and ready to get to
20 work, be open and honest with the people of the
21 City and begin to write the City's next
22 chapter. Thank you and God bless the City of
23 Scranton.

24 Now I ask Father Edwards to come
25 forward once again to offer the benediction.

1 (Benediction by Father Edwards.)

2
3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Father
4 Edwards. The next regularly scheduled meeting
5 of Council will be held on Tuesday, January
6 14th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. If there is no further
7 business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting is
10 adjourned. Thank you for coming, everyone.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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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21 (The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not
22 apply to any reproduction of the same by any means
23 unless under the direct control and/or supervision of
24 the certifying reporter.)
25