

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, May 26th, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

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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- WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT
- KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT
- MARK MCANDREW
- JESSICA ROTHCHILD
- THOMAS SCHUSTER

- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2
3 MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing
4 for a moment of silent reflection for our
5 service men and women throughout the world and
6 also for those who have passed away in our
7 community.

8 Let us keep all of our law
9 enforcement officials in our thoughts and
10 prayers tonight who are currently attempting to
11 locate a dangerous criminal wanted for two
12 murders in Connecticut was recently spotted in
13 our area in the Poconos.

14 Let us also take a special moment of
15 silence tonight as we have for the last few
16 months for all the people in our community and
17 throughout the world who are suffering or who
18 have tragically passed away from the
19 Coronavirus. Let us think about them and their
20 families at this time that they may find peace.

21 Let us think also about the doctors,
22 nurses, researchers and all medical
23 professionals and first responders who seek to
24 heal and help those affected and who put
25 themselves at risk in the process.

1 May they find protection and peace.
2 Whether we are here at home or abroad,
3 surrounded by many people suffering from this
4 illness or only a few, let us stick together,
5 endure together, mourn together, persist and
6 prepare together. And in place of our anxiety,
7 let us continue to hope and to find peace.
8 Thank you. Miss Carrera, roll call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

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. Thank you, Miss
19 Carrera. There will be a motion to move Item
20 5-B to Sixth and Seventh Orders for a final
21 vote based on the attached emergency
22 certificate. Mrs. Reed, can you please
23 dispense with the reading of the minutes?

24 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

25 3-A. RESUMES OF CITY OF SCRANTON

1 DIRECTORS OF HUMAN RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF
2 PUBLIC WORKS AND OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND
3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MAYORAL APPOINTEES.

4 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
5 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED MAY 14, 2020
6 REGARDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF
7 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPOINTMENT.

8 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
9 CITY TREASURER DATED MAY 8, 12 & 13, 2020
10 REGARDING NO TAX/REFUSE DELINQUENCIES FOR
11 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS.

12 3-D. MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM
13 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
14 APRIL 15, 2020.

15 3-E. MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE
16 PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL 15,
17 2020.

18 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORM
19 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
20 MAY 20, 2020.

21 3-G. FUEL CARD ANALYSIS RECEIVED
22 FROM OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER
23 DATED APRIL 23, 2020.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
25 Are there any comments on any of the Third

1 Order items?

2 MR. MCANDREW: I have a quick one.
3 3-G, the fuel card analysis from December
4 through April, I'm glad to see that the usage
5 has gone down considerably.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mr.
7 McAndrew. Anyone else on Third Order items?
8 Okay. If not, received and filed. Do any
9 Council members have any announcements at this
10 time?

11 MR. DONAHUE: I have one. The Salad
12 Shop which is located at 316 Penn Avenue will
13 have their grand opening tomorrow, May 27th.
14 Due to COVID-19, they will be initially be
15 operating on limited hours. It will be open
16 Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for
17 takeout, curbside pickup and online ordering.

18 They have also partnered with
19 Grubhub for delivery service. So I'd just like
20 to encourage everyone to check it out and to
21 also keep supporting our City's small
22 businesses in any way they can during this
23 difficult time. Thank you.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
25 else have any announcements?

1 MR. MCANDREW: Yes. I have two.
2 The Wright Center for the Community Health in
3 conjunction with the Lackawanna County
4 Commissioners are hosting two blood drives for
5 the American Red Cross on Friday, June 12th
6 from 11 to 4; and Friday, July 31st from 12 to
7 5.

8 This will be at the Wright Center's
9 new facility at 501 South Washington Avenue.
10 Please sign up today. Appointments are being
11 given in 15-minute intervals. You may register
12 online or by calling the Red Cross of NEPA.
13 They're telling us that this is a -- there is a
14 critical need for blood right now.

15 Also, Friends of the Poor, Family to
16 Family and the Weinberg Food Bank is having
17 another COVID-19 emergency drive through food
18 giveaway which is tomorrow Wednesday, May 27th.
19 It's from 2:30 to 5:30 at the PNC Field in
20 Moosic.

21 All attendants must remain in their
22 cars as usual. And food bags will be placed
23 directly into their cars. This is open to the
24 public. What's required now, I guess, to have
25 your zip code, number of children, adults,

1 elderly in your household is now required.

2 That is all I have. Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
4 McAndrew. Anyone else? Any announcements?

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes. I have an
6 announcement. I was going to mention the Salad
7 Shop grand opening tomorrow too. I'm pretty
8 excited about that. I've been wanting a salad
9 place in Scranton for a while now.

10 Over in Wilkes-Barre they have a few
11 good places that I like to go to. And now I'm
12 happy that we'll have one here that I will be
13 able to visit. But there was something else
14 that I wanted to bring up that I was made aware
15 of today.

16 So this past year there were --
17 there was a TEDx event that was started here in
18 Scranton. And if anyone's ever heard of the
19 Ted Talks, it's similar to that. So TEDx is a
20 program of local self organized events that
21 bring people together to share Ted-like
22 experience. At a TEDx event, Ted talks video
23 and live speakers combine to spark deep
24 discussion and connection in a small group.

25 And this year they've been approved

1 to have an event specifically for women called
2 TEDx Scranton Women. So they are inviting
3 women to apply to be speakers for the event.

4 It wouldn't take place until
5 November 29th. So applications are open until
6 June 6th for anyone interested to apply to be a
7 speaker for TEDx Scranton Women.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Great. Thank you. If
9 you see me looking to my left my -- we have a
10 gate in my kitchen. And my daughter Mauve is
11 currently haunting me like a ghost here yelling
12 things out. I just have a few announcements.

13 The first one is Council's regularly
14 scheduled meeting as I mentioned in the caucus
15 for next Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020 has been
16 rescheduled to Thursday, June 4th, 2020 due to
17 Election Day. So we're going to move it from
18 Tuesday to Thursday.

19 If anyone would like to comment on
20 agenda items or City business, please send
21 those comments in writing to our City Clerk,
22 Lori Reed by e-mailing LReed@scrantonpa.gov.

23 We will accept public comment until
24 the day of our meeting which next week will be
25 Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Public comment is

1 reviewed by the Council prior to our meeting
2 and is placed on the official record and in the
3 minutes of our meetings.

4 Council's agenda is being posted for
5 public review the Friday before our Tuesday
6 meeting. Our agenda and minutes can be
7 accessed by going to www.scrantonpa.gov and
8 clicking on the City Council page.

9 Also I wanted to wish a happy
10 birthday to my good friend and a lot of
11 people's friend in our community, Charlotte
12 Ledbetter, a great person who does a lot for
13 the people of the Hill Section, really all over
14 the City of Scranton.

15 And I don't know if anybody saw it
16 on WNEP, but they had a big birthday parade for
17 Charlotte. I was going to be a part of that
18 but then something came up. I felt badly about
19 that. But I did want to wish her a happy
20 birthday. Mrs. Reed?

21 MS. REED: Thank you. FOURTH ORDER.
22 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Will
24 someone please make a motion to accept public
25 comment from the following individuals: Bill

1 Letwinsky, Ann Cammerota, Marie Schumacher, Fay
2 Franus, Norma Jeffries, and Derek Raines.

3 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
5 the question, I just want to say a couple
6 things. So first of all, I appreciate Mr.
7 Letwinsky, Mrs. Cammerota, Mrs. Schumacher,
8 Miss Franus, Miss Jeffries and Mr. Raines for
9 submitting public comment.

10 I want to reiterate once again that
11 we really appreciate, especially in this time
12 where we can't physically see people in our
13 meetings except for the other Council members.

14 And we do appreciate the comments we
15 get from the public. And we do take them
16 seriously. We take them into consideration.
17 And any questions that we receive, we are doing
18 our best to get those to the proper departments
19 to be answered.

20 I did have an opportunity to speak
21 to the Mayor today late this afternoon briefly.
22 And she reiterated to me that any of the
23 questions that they have received they are in
24 the process of answering them. Now, in saying
25 that as I mentioned I think two or three weeks

1 ago, I hope that people could understand that
2 we're not as quick in getting answers back
3 because of everything that's going on.

4 Many people have been furloughed.
5 So trying to get information sometimes can take
6 a little bit longer than we're used to. Some
7 of the questions though that came up in the
8 comments that I reviewed, I just want to touch
9 on briefly.

10 So Mrs. Cammerota submitted public
11 comment to all of us about the flooding on
12 North Merrifield Avenue. And this is an issue
13 that I am keenly aware of over the last few
14 years.

15 This is an issue that has just been
16 constant. Every time we get a large rainstorm,
17 either Mr. Srebro or someone from that area
18 will contact one of us. And it's just a
19 recurring issue. And I have met with these
20 residents on numerous occasions.

21 But this comment here is concerning.
22 So, Mrs. Reed, if you could please forward this
23 to the appropriate departments, I would think
24 our City Engineer, DPW, Mr. King our City
25 Planner and if you could copy the Mayor on it.

1 The long and short of it is, a
2 vacant property that was once owned by the City
3 and designated as a no build area was sold to a
4 company a few years back. That property was
5 sold to another party and now that party is
6 going to build a home there.

7 So the neighbors here are I think
8 concerned that this is going to add to the
9 water runoff. And it is really, really severe
10 in that area. So, Mrs. Reed, if you could
11 forward that out to the appropriate department.

12 Miss Schumacher asked several
13 questions. Offhand I don't have the
14 information in front of me. Several of them we
15 will once again forward those to the
16 appropriate departments.

17 The one question that she had posed
18 on why was the 2020 real estate tax levy only
19 on land and not improvements. That was done
20 per Mr. Bulzoni's request, the former business
21 administrator because it would have a less
22 punitive affect on property owners throughout
23 the City.

24 I'll have additional information on
25 that. I have to go through my records and some

1 of the comments that were made during the
2 budget process last year. But I know that that
3 was the case.

4 We also received a comment from
5 Mr. Raines, Mrs. Reed, if we can forward that
6 off to the fire department. It had something
7 to do with fire protection programs for rental
8 departments in the City.

9 And we received some other comments
10 here regarding the waiver and other issues that
11 we'll get to the appropriate department.
12 Again, appreciate everybody taking their time
13 out to send their concerns to Council.
14 Anybody else on the question?

15 MR. SCHUSTER: I'd also like to say,
16 Bill, I'm glad that you commented on some of
17 those because I do have some notes regarding
18 Mr. Camerotta's request. Mrs. Schumacher had a
19 lot of good questions. And I think some of you
20 passed them off to the proper channels.

21 One of them that we might be able to
22 get was she asked that the letter from the
23 county about the voter -- the polling wards be
24 added to Third Order. Is that something that
25 we can move to Third Order?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah. We normally --
2 Mrs. Reed, correct me if I'm wrong, we can do
3 that because I do think it's -- I don't know if
4 we were copied on it or if we were sent that.
5 Usually what we put in Third Order is anything
6 that was sent directly to Council or if we were
7 copied on it and, you know, it's a matter of
8 public interest.

9 But I think in that case, I think
10 you're right, Councilman Schuster, that that is
11 important. So we can, Mrs. Reed, if you could
12 include that for next week in Third Order I
13 would appreciate it.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: In regards to that
15 stormwater, I know that we had the study and
16 the analysis that's being done right now and
17 they're looking into Keyser Creek. But I don't
18 know -- and I'm sure that watershed area there
19 is being taken into consideration because it
20 comes down through the Keyser Valley Community
21 Center, which I feel the piece of property next
22 to that, wasn't that sold by the land bank?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: I can't remember off
24 the top of my head. I do know that at one
25 time the Keyser Valley Community Center I

1 believe Mrs. Reed -- Mrs. Reed may have a
2 better memory on this than I do.

3 But they were -- either they
4 received grant money or they were supposed to
5 receive grant money to redo the parking lot
6 because as everybody here knows who's from that
7 area especially every time it rains it gets
8 flooded.

9 In terms of the property you're
10 speaking of, I can't remember off the top of my
11 head. But I do know that before the last
12 administration went out, there was discussions
13 about conducting an overall study of that area
14 to see what else can be done in terms of
15 alleviating the flooding issues. So we may
16 want to circle back and see where we're at with
17 that.

18 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, that's right --
19 Keyser Valley, the Community Center
20 specifically turns into a lake at this point in
21 time. And I was under the impression there was
22 somebody that was going to be used to do some
23 kind of water mitigation there along the -- if
24 you're looking at the front of the building to
25 the right-hand side of it.

1 And I know maybe after the
2 substation was put up there, houses on Newton
3 Road were flooded which weren't flooded in the
4 past.

5 But that comes right down there from
6 the top of Jackson Street and Price Street
7 coming down into the Community Center and then
8 going -- there's pump houses also in between
9 there, one I think on Keyser Avenue and then
10 that property that Mrs. Camerotta is speaking
11 about is directly between those two.

12 And there's another house that sits
13 in the lowest section there. So, I mean,
14 that's -- the way the water drains is right
15 down there, Newton Road, Jackson Street, Keyser
16 Valley Community Center into that property that
17 she's talking about on 121 Merrifield.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, and we may want
19 to touch base again and the gentleman that
20 worked for the flood control department in the
21 City are really knowledgeable about that area
22 as well because they've been dealing with it
23 for so long.

24 I know there was improvements to the
25 pumping station down there. There was money

1 put aside in the budget I believe last year and
2 the year -- last year or the year before,
3 significant upgrades from what I remember for
4 the pumping station.

5 But, yeah, the employees in the
6 Flood Control Program have great knowledge of
7 that as well. So, you know, we'll circle back
8 with them and see where we are with that.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else?

11 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, one quick
12 thing. What I do remember and it might have
13 been February that this issue came up, probably
14 in February and that the City engineer was
15 supposed to do an assessment. And I don't know
16 where we're at with that --

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, I think -- I
18 don't know if it was the City engineer or if it
19 was -- I think they were going to -- they were
20 looking for grant money or they had grant
21 money. I can't remember off the top of my head
22 now.

23 But, yeah, it was something along
24 those lines so you're correct. Yeah, we'll
25 circle back. I mean, everybody here knows

1 every year that is a major issue over there.

2 So thank you. Anybody else on the question?

3 MR. DONAHUE: Just real quick, one
4 of Miss Schumacher's questions is when will the
5 City join all other municipalities in the
6 county and pay property taxes on a single
7 assessed property value. And that's in regard
8 to the separation of land and then structure.

9 So, I mean, the short answer to that
10 one is when the county performs a reassessment.
11 It's easier to, you know, put that into one
12 rate based on current values, not on value, you
13 know, from 50 years ago.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Good point. Anybody
15 else? All those in favor of the motion
16 signify by saying aye.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23

24 (Public Comment)

25 (Bill Letwinsky)

1 Questioning residency is ok,
2 however, misters Donahue, McAndrew and Schuster
3 are disingenuous in their denial. "The mayor
4 failed to justify it", they said.

5 As a tax payer represented by these
6 individuals, I WONT to know the specifics that
7 these individuals believe (not feel) make ms
8 Cipriani's appointment unjustified. I would
9 appreciate a response at the next council
10 meeting.

11 PS, an e-mail response would help
12 alleviate my concerns that ulterior motives are
13 at work. Thank you. Bill Letwinsky.

14
15 (Ann Cammerota)

16
17 Dear Council Members,

18 As you know, the families living in
19 the 100 and 200 blocks of N. Merrifield Avenue
20 have been subject to severe flooding in recent
21 years. This flooding has been attributed to
22 improper control of runoff water coming from
23 new construction in the higher elevations.

24 Representatives from our
25 neighborhood have attended numerous meetings to

1 address this problem. We live in fear whenever
2 heavy rains are predicted.

3 To add insult to injury, a vacant
4 property adjacent to 121 N. Merrifield Avenue
5 once owned by the city and designated as a "no
6 build" area was sold to a company a few years
7 back. Subsequently, this property was sold to
8 another party who intends to build a home
9 there.

10 Our fears are mounting. This
11 property, which for years absorbed at least
12 some of the water runoff, will no longer be
13 able to do its job. We anticipate that this
14 new construction will add to our flooding woes.

15 The last flood brought several feet
16 of water to many of our homes. Any additional
17 water sent our way may very well bring the
18 depth even higher.

19 We implore you to help stop this new
20 construction, so that we may keep our homes
21 safe.

22 Thank you in advance for your
23 attention to this matter.

24

25 Sincerely,

1 Ann Cammerota
2 208 N. Merrifield Avenue
3 Scranton, PA 18504
4

5 PS: Please see that each council member
6 receives a copy of this letter for their
7 review. Thank you.
8

9 (Marie Schumacher)
10

11 Compelled to comment that the
12 Scranton Parking Authority and, I believe the
13 Pension Board Meeting, allowed questions from
14 non-members (the public) listening in.
15 Something you might want to consider as it
16 would have the potential to have more citizens
17 participate.

18 How many LERTA applications have
19 been received since the 10 Year City-Wide
20 Program was approved in February 2019
21 o What percent of the Trash bills have been
22 paid to date? Please provide this information
23 each week.

24 When will those of us "saving" our
25 commingled (blue container) for recycling

1 rather than the Keystone Trash mountain be
2 relieved of our collection? What is the holdup
3 and who is responsible for resolving the issue?

4 When will the City join all of the
5 other municipalities in the County and base the
6 property taxes on a single assessed property
7 value?

8 Why was the 2020 real estate tax
9 levy only on land and not improvements?

10 Last week Mr. Schuster spoke of
11 direction the Scranton School District has
12 received regarding utilization of municipal
13 buildings; especially for accommodating
14 voting. Please obtain this communication and
15 make it available in Third Order.

16 While I have seen a Legal Notice
17 regarding getting kicked out of our Firehouse
18 and reassigned to another location, not
19 everyone reads the paper and not all who do
20 read the paper read the Legal Notices on a
21 regular basis.

22 As this last minute botch could
23 confuse voters and affect turnout I would like
24 to know if all registered voters in these
25 precincts will be advised by the City by mail

1 as it is the City that caused the need for the
2 changed polling place.

3
4
5 (Fay Franus)

6 Council

7 Attorney Hayes must most kind in
8 sending me the Pilchesky lawsuits against Dave
9 Bulzoni--I am enclosing some of this law case--
10 it is very conflicting--so I will narrow my
11 statements regrading this.

12 I want to first thank council
13 persons Donahue Schuster and McAndrew for doing
14 THEIR job to serve the people. I would like to
15 hear their reasons for not seconding this
16 motion to grant Ms Ciprianni a waiver though.
17 I am curious to know their thoughts. But the
18 bottom line is this-- even though it is an
19 ordinance to give a person a waiver to live
20 outside the city while working in the city--it
21 means NOTHING!!

22 The Mayor is the only one who can
23 hire or fire a person in the executive branch
24 of government. So now since there was no
25 motion to second Ciprianni's waiver she must

1 move back into the city to live within six
2 months or get terminated. Which is just a dog
3 and pony show.

4 The council has never enforced this
5 law. On December 31st 2015 Dave Bulzoni was to
6 be terminated after his six month waiver--what
7 did the council do? They ignored it and gave
8 him a waiver to work in Scranton without moving
9 back for as long as he worked in the city.
10 Nice huh? So the people in this city know the
11 games council plays.

12 When Council president Weschler
13 stated he would be fired by December 31st if he
14 did not move back, I like many fools believed
15 him. Having further investigated council can
16 not fire anyone. Of course Weschler never
17 mentioned that.

18 Another matter I find quite
19 interesting, at this time Bill Gaughan was in
20 favor of people who worked in Scranton must
21 live in Scranton period! Better yet I will
22 quote him here from the newspaper:

23 Gaughan said he again opposes the
24 residency waiver on principal because it's
25 "unfair to every taxpayer in Scranton." He

1 said every other city employee has to live in
2 the city. He noted that Bulzoni's annual city
3 salary is \$90,000. I sure would like to know
4 what changed Bill Gaughan's mind.

5 I agree with Bill from his past
6 statement above. You do know council has NO
7 POWERS! So come six months down the line when
8 Eileen Ciprianni still lives in West Wyoming
9 are you going to say she must move to Scranton
10 when in reality she does not have to because
11 Mayor Cagnetti will NEVER fire her?

12 This city is a complete joke. Why
13 don't you have a long discussion on why you
14 never ever enforce laws.

15 Example the garbage fee ordinance
16 where DPW workers do NOT have to pick up
17 garbage if the person has not paid their bill
18 or the garbage can lid bill where every person
19 must have lids on their garbage cans no bags
20 loose or the truck ban law I got created in
21 1995 banning all trucks over 10 ton from
22 traveling on all of Bellevue streets.

23 I still never heard if Lawyer Eskra
24 still gets her #12,00 raise Wayne Evans gave
25 her last year for doing extra work in her 8

1 hour work day.

2 So tonight IF you discuss this
3 waiver why don't you just simply tell the
4 people the whole truth--YOU AS A COUNCIL HAVE
5 NO POWER TO FIRE ANYONE if by chance Ciprianni
6 does NOT move to Scranton it does not make any
7 difference because if the mayor wants her to
8 stay working she will and you can't do a damn
9 thing about it--case closed--

10 Two days ago I helped rescue a loose
11 Pit Bull who was a sweetheart. He was lost and
12 roaming around. I brought him food and played
13 with him with a ball until Griffon Pond shelter
14 showed up--My dog Emerson played with him which
15 also tells you that Pit Bulls can play nicely
16 with other dogs. So lay off laws against pit
17 bulls and if you make any laws make them
18 against the owners.

19 Read below the law that I enclosed
20 about waivers for people who live outside the
21 city:

22 Fay Franus-- (scroll down to read)

23

24 If the Mayor decides to seek a waiver of these
25 residency requirements for a potential

1 candidate or candidates for employment by the
2 City, then such an appointment to any and all
3 employment positions within the City shall not
4 be made unless the advice and consent of
5 Council is secured prior to employment of the
6 potential candidates for employment in the same
7 manner as cabinet departmental heads and
8 solicitors are confirmed.

9
10 City of Scranton Admin. Code, ch. 6, art. III,
11 § 6:6-1(4) (emphasis added).

12
13 Second, the Code also provides, in relevant
14 part:

15 On or after March 1, 1980, any new employee of
16 the City of Scranton who is not a resident of
17 the City of Scranton at the time of the
18 commencement of employment shall have six
19 months from the time of commencement of
20 employment to acquire a bona fide residence
21 within the corporate limits of the City.

22
23 Such residence must be maintained during
24 continuous employment by the City or be a cause
25 for immediate termination of the employment

1 relationship between the City of Scranton and
2 the new employee.

3 Id. At § 6:6-1(2).
4

5 Additionally, the parties agree on all material
6 issues of fact. Specifically, shortly after he
7 assumed office in January of 2014,

8 Mayor Courtright neither sought nor obtained a
9 residency waiver from City Council prior to his
10 appointment of Bulzoni, a nonresident of
11 Scranton, as the City's Business Manager.

12 Mayor Courtright eventually did obtain a
13 residency waiver for Bulzoni, still a
14 nonresident of Scranton, on February 2, 2015,
15 approximately one year after his appointment.

16 The waiver expired on December 31, 2015, and
17 Mayor Courtright obtained a second residency
18 waiver for Bulzoni, still a nonresident of
19 Scranton, on February 4, 2016. This second
20 residency waiver expires only when Bulzoni's
21 term as Business Manager ends.

22
23 The parties disagree on the interpretation of
24 and interplay between Section 6:6-1(4) and
25 Section 6:6-1(2) of the Administrative

1 Code. Defendants argue that the language of
2 Section 6:6-1(4) does not require that the
3 Mayor obtain a residency waiver for a
4 potential nonresident employee prior to the
5 potential nonresident employee's appointment.
6

7 Rather, they assert that the Mayor
8 need only secure the advice and consent of City
9 Council prior to making such an appointment.
10 Defendants do not challenge the plain language
11 of Section 6:6-1(2), and they concede that
12 Bulzoni has not established a bona fide
13 residence within the City to this date.

14 Conversely, Pilchesky contends that
15 Section 6:6-1(4) mandates that the Mayor secure
16 a residency waiver for a potential
17 nonresident employee prior to that potential
18 nonresident employee's appointment. A plain
19 reading of Section 6:6-1(4) indicates
20 as much, but fails to account for the six-month
21 grace period provided to newly appointed,
22 nonresident employees by Section 6:6-1(2).
23

24 Specifically, Section 6:6-1(2) allows
25 nonresident employees "six months from the time

1 of commencement of employment to acquire a bona
2 fide residence within the corporate limits of
3 the City." City of Scranton Admin. Code, ch. 6,
4 art.

5
6 III, § 6:6-1(2). Furthermore, and relying on
7 the subject language of the Administrative
8 Code, it can be argued that once Bulzoni
9 was appointed Business Administrator under §
10 6:6-1(2), Bulzoni was no longer a "potential
11 candidate for employment," making § 6:6-1(4)
12 inapplicable. Though there is no dispute that
13 Mayor Courtright did not acquire a residency
14 waiver for Bulzoni either before his
15 appointment or at any point during the six
16 months from the time that Bulzoni's employment
17 had commenced, we cannot definitively conclude
18 that the Mayor was required to obtain the
19 waiver prior to his appointment of Bulzoni.

20
21 (Norma Jeffries)

22
23 Re: Appointment of Eileen Cipriani
24 to the position of Executive Director OECD.

25 During the last few months it has

1 been a challenge to gather all the points that
2 are discussed at the Caucus and the Council
3 meetings without going back to rerun the
4 meetings.

5 At the previous meeting, it was
6 great to hear Eileen Cipriani lay out her
7 vision for the future of Scranton. With the
8 anticipated loss of revenue for the city, this
9 is a time, more than ever, to look at the
10 **qualifications vs where someone lives.**

11 Looking at the background of Eileen,
12 I certainly feel she is more than qualified to
13 accept the duties of the position. Why hold
14 her back because of her residency.

15 This is the 2nd time within the last 3 years
16 that this question of residency has been an
17 issue of concern. If someone is bringing to
18 the table those skills and experience that will
19 greatly benefit the city, it is time for a
20 change. If I am reading the Home Rule Charter
21 correctly, it became effective January, 1976.
22 Maybe there is an update to the Home Rule
23 Charter that I did not see on the City Website.

24 We are in uncharted territory
25 because of the issues resulting from Covid 19.

1 No way was it even a thought that we would have
2 revenues in jeopardy because of a virus.

3 Therefore, it seems time to take a
4 look at the Home Rule Charter. This residency
5 issue is not going to go away.

6 Just to say "no" that a person
7 cannot have the position because they do not
8 live in the city, seems obsolete and not
9 keeping up with the times.

10 Let's get our Home Rule Charter
11 updated on the residency issue.!!!

12

13 (Derek Raines)

14

15 City of Scranton, City Council,

16 With the recent increases of fires
17 in multi family homes, is it time for the city
18 of Scranton to upgrade it's fire protection
19 programs for rental apartments. Especially now
20 with the increase of illegal fireworks usage in
21 the city. This would include fire
22 extinguishers and smoke detectors.

23 Ultimately the property owner is
24 responsible for the safety of the inspector.

25 These requirements are clearly

1 specified in the National Fire Protection
2 Association NFPA 101 life safety.

3 Can these fire safety requirements
4 be looked at by the city Fire Inspectorate?

5

6 Derek Raines

7 Certified occupational safety and health

8 specialist

9 United States Army retired

10

11 (End of Public Comment)

12

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Mrs. Reed?

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

15 MOTIONS.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
17 Councilman Schuster, do you have any motions or
18 comments tonight?

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I'd like to
20 make a comment. I had several but we covered
21 some of those already on the question with the
22 last -- and also in caucus. Last week during
23 Fifth Order I think I spoke about drafting
24 correspondence with the Mayor regarding the
25 appointment of Mrs. Cipriani.

1 Two of the things in specific were
2 payment of taxes in the City, the IT tax as
3 well as having her tenure coincide with that of
4 the Mayor's. I did speak with the solicitor.
5 And I know he spoke with the administration.
6 He was looking at drafting some kind of
7 legislation there with new wording.

8 With that, I think Mr. Hayes might
9 be able to speak on that a little bit more.
10 But with that, I think I'd feel more
11 comfortable if that came from the Mayor per se
12 to reintroduce that rather than ourselves.

13 ATTY. HAYES: Councilman Schuster,
14 per our discussion, I drafted what will be
15 revised language for the resolution that would
16 grant a waiver from the residency requirement
17 which would contain two conditions.

18 The first condition would be that
19 Miss Cipriani be required -- or the City rather
20 would withhold and pay the earned income tax
21 for Miss Cipriani's salary at the same rate as
22 is withheld and paid for employees who are
23 residents of the City.

24 And the second condition would be
25 that the waiver that expires on January 3,

1 2022 which is the end of the current term for
2 the Mayor and the current administration. So I
3 did draft language and circulated it for your
4 review and comment.

5 But it certainly could originate
6 from the administration if that's where you --
7 obviously they would have to get on board with
8 whatever we propose in terms of that
9 resolution.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: From my perspective I
11 think I would feel more comfortable with it
12 coming from them.

13 ATTY. HAYES: Okay. So if you sign
14 off on what was -- what I drafted I could send
15 that to them or I could ask them to propose
16 their own language, whichever you would prefer.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Anyone else on that?
18 Anybody else want to weigh in?

19 MR. MCANDREW: I'm okay with that
20 because it initially came from administration.
21 So I'm okay with that.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I would agree
24 with that.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: I'm fine with that

1 too as long as I'm hoping that it's brought
2 back here in some way. I'm glad to see that
3 those conversations are had and that hopefully
4 we can move forward with it. So that's great
5 if it comes from the administration with those
6 changes.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anything else,
8 Councilman Schuster?

9 MR. SCHUSTER: No, that's all.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
11 Councilman McAndrew, any motions or comments?

12 MR. MCANDREW: I have a quick one.
13 I just want to report out, I mean, it was -- we
14 discussed it in caucus that after five weeks I
15 finally got some type of correspondence from
16 the labor firm regarding the hours being
17 generated I guess right now.

18 That's the correspondence we got
19 generated in the form of an invoice. So I just
20 want to report out to everybody that, you know,
21 we should hear soon, I guess. That's all I
22 have.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
24 McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild, do you have any
25 motions or comments?

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I do. I have a
2 few today. They're all pretty much regarding
3 the same issue. A resident had come to me last
4 week and asked if I could stop by their
5 property on Sanderson Avenue to take a look at
6 some neighboring properties that have become a
7 problem for that neighborhood.

8 And I was happy to do that. And I
9 went by to see what the issues were. And there
10 were plenty that are quite a concern. So I
11 wanted to send a few correspondences to the
12 LIPS Department.

13 First of all, there is a property at
14 1358 Sanderson Avenue that was condemned about
15 a year ago. So I just wanted an update
16 regarding that property and if there are
17 demolitions planned and, if so, for when to let
18 the neighbors know.

19 And then there are two other
20 properties on that street that are both owned
21 by the same person. And those people also own
22 two other properties in Scranton on another
23 section of town, so four properties total.

24 And I'll just describe a few of the
25 complaints regarding the property at 1352-1354

1 Sanderson Avenue. It had previously been
2 rented out but it hasn't been occupied since
3 January. When those tenants left at that time,
4 there was a lot of garbage put out in the front
5 as happens when renters leave properties.

6 However, there is still litter and
7 trash around from when they left including a
8 like a wet cement bag and other things that are
9 just needlessly in the way and not attractive
10 to the street.

11 The property has had an issue with
12 rats. There is a broken window. I think a
13 broken door as well in the backyard. There is
14 just a stove sitting out there -- a kitchen
15 stove in the backyard. Everything is overgrown
16 with the grass in the backyard and the front
17 yard. It looks like nothing has been done with
18 the property in a long time.

19 And these are issues that I think
20 the neighbors have had for quite a long time
21 with this property. And they've asked the LIPS
22 Department about it several times and they have
23 not received responses on what is going on, if
24 there's been fines to the owner.

25 And to top it off, they also have

1 another property on Sanderson that is also in
2 disrepair. And they owe money on taxes and
3 refuse bills. It looks like -- let's see
4 from -- for that one property at 1352-1354 from
5 years 2007 to 2019, the refuse bills have not
6 been paid.

7 So they owe over \$12,000 just on
8 that property alone. And then the other
9 property that they have on Sanderson Avenue at
10 1360 Sanderson, there's \$9,600 overdue in
11 refuse bills spanning from 2003 to 2019. So
12 these are not responsible property owners.

13 And I'm well aware that this is a
14 widespread problem throughout our City and
15 something that we have not solved that I am
16 very interested in working on because we need
17 to have pride in our City. We need to make
18 sure that property owners, especially ones that
19 are renting out to other people are
20 responsible.

21 Not only that, but I think they also
22 said the renters previously told -- the tenants
23 previously told them that they had paid a fee
24 for garbage to the owners but then the owners
25 didn't pay the garbage fees. So how that

1 works, I have no idea.

2 And it's just frustrating to see,
3 you know, a lot of neighbors, a lot of people
4 trying to maintain their properties and to have
5 this going on in streets. And I want to make
6 sure that something is done about it.

7 So I would like if Mrs. Reed could
8 send correspondences, one for 1358 Sanderson
9 Avenue as I mentioned earlier asking if that
10 condemned property is planned for demolition
11 and for any updates regarding it and then
12 updates on 1348 -- or, I'm sorry, 1352 and 1354
13 Sanderson Avenue if there is anything going on
14 with those properties.

15 And this also brings to mind the
16 assessment that we hired Barry Isett for the
17 LIPS Department and I would like to make a
18 motion to request an update from both LIPS and
19 from Barry Isett regarding the department
20 review and where we were with that.

21 We did have a holdup with the
22 contracts being signed that I remember. There
23 was a delay from when the new Mayoral
24 administration took over. And those were
25 signed and were supposed to be started on as of

1 March 2nd. And 3 months or 12 weeks from March
2 2nd was yesterday.

3 So I think we've had enough time.
4 And although a lot has happened in March and
5 April with COVID-19, I don't think that that
6 should have prevented any work on this review.
7 So I would like to see an update on that. And
8 I'd also like there to be a deadline included
9 in that request for one week from today which
10 will be the second of June.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. We have a
12 motion on the floor. Is there a second?

13 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, Councilman
15 Donahue seconded it. On the question?

16 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, would
17 we just be able to add to that request too if
18 just to see if, you know, the current pandemic
19 has affected the deliverable on that contract
20 at all meaning the timetable of it?

21 And because I think a part of that
22 was supposed to be for them to send in people
23 anonymously to go through different processes
24 within LIPS to assess it that way.

25 And I don't know how the deliverable

1 has been affected by that. So that would be my
2 only addition to that request is just, you
3 know, has their timeline changed at all, you
4 know, due to the pandemic.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anyone else on
6 the question? All those in favor of the motion
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. No? Or Opposed?
13 The ayes have it and so moved.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you. That's
15 all for my comments and motions.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you, Dr.
17 Rothchild. Councilman Donahue, do you have any
18 motions or comments tonight?

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just a few. Just
20 to followup -- just a couple followups on some
21 of my requests from last week. I want to thank
22 Chief Graziano for getting back to me with an
23 update on the status of the Serrenti Center.

24 He responded that to date, the roof
25 has been replaced and the exterior of the

1 building has been sealed and some mortar repair
2 completed. Currently the plumbers are
3 completing the new water service in the
4 building which should be completed this week.

5 There is a signed contract in place
6 for interior work which involves painting, new
7 ceiling tiles, floor refinishing, trim work,
8 etc. So far all the above costs are covered by
9 grants and the final portion of the project is
10 the heating and air conditioning upgrades for
11 the office area.

12 There was already heat in the open
13 bay area. This is supposed to be covered by
14 the City Energy Project Funding which the Chief
15 understands has been delayed. In the meantime,
16 we, meaning the police and fire department are
17 currently utilizing the building for our
18 specialty equipment storage and for some
19 training purposes.

20 Even though there's a signed
21 contract and funding in place for the interior
22 work, that work ideally would not be completed
23 until after the heating and air conditioning
24 work is completed.

25 However, right now we're waiting on

1 the funding for that specific work before we
2 can be 100 percent complete. Please let me
3 know if there's anything that's needed.
4 Mrs. Reed, would we just be able to see what
5 the delay is in the City Energy Project
6 Funding?

7 MS. REED: Sure. Yes, Councilman
8 Donahue.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you. And then
10 just another followup from last week. I know
11 we haven't received a response regarding the
12 status of Northeast Revenue. But I would just
13 like to reiterate my position that it's
14 completely unconscionable that a company is
15 still under contract with the City, a company
16 that was named in multiple federal indictments
17 regarding political corruption and pay to play
18 schemes.

19 I know this Council requested that
20 they be terminated immediately about nine
21 months ago and we're still here today. And
22 they're still under contract as far as we know.

23 A couple questions I have that I
24 hope Mrs. Reed could pass along to the Fire
25 Chief, the first is in an article that appeared

1 in the May 17th edition of the Sunday Times
2 regarding sick time request for City police
3 and firefighters staying flat despite the
4 current pandemic. There was a paragraph in the
5 article that stated City firefighters are
6 restricted to the fire station that they were
7 assigned to at the time the March 13th plan
8 went into effect.

9 But the administration is -- also
10 been browning out Truck 4 on North Main Avenue
11 or shutting that station down on days when
12 there is not enough firefighters to meet the
13 minimum manning requirements.

14 And those are usually filled by
15 calling someone in for overtime. And I think
16 that's why they are being browned out because
17 they're trying to control the overtime fund.
18 On days when Truck 4 is shut down, it's my
19 understanding that the remaining firefighters
20 are all assigned to different firehouses
21 throughout the City.

22 So just to me, those two things sort
23 of contradict one another. So I would just
24 like to send a request to the Fire Chief asking
25 to clarify how that's being handled. Also

1 another one for the Fire Chief, for over two
2 years I requested time and again a copy of the
3 City's Emergency Management Plan without any
4 response only to find out at the end of last
5 year that the City didn't actually have an
6 Emergency Management Plan.

7 This is not the fault of the current
8 administration or the current Fire Chief. But
9 it was my understanding that the new
10 administration was going to begin the process
11 of developing a plan. So I would just like to
12 request a progress report from the Fire Chief
13 on where we're at in regards to the development
14 of that plan.

15 I'm only asking because responding
16 to any sort of natural disaster presents its
17 own set of challenges and normal times. But
18 those challenges will be dramatically increased
19 if God forbid, you know, the City would have
20 any sort of natural disaster and have to
21 respond to that in the middle of a pandemic.
22 So I just want to make sure that we're prepared
23 on that front.

24 And then finally, since the City is
25 still in Act 47, every year the City has to

1 petition the Court of Common Pleas for approval
2 to triple the LST Tax. A hearing was set -- or
3 originally set on the City's petition for March
4 19th. But that hearing has been delayed a few
5 times because the Courts have been closed
6 because of the current pandemic.

7 The problem with that then becomes
8 the City is technically not authorized to
9 collect the LST starting May 1st which goes
10 into one-third of the year. So you're
11 collecting that one-third you're initially
12 authorized to collect, but then we still have
13 to get the permission to collect the other
14 two-thirds.

15 So it's my understanding I believe
16 that the administration was putting the funds
17 collected since May 1st into an escrow account
18 until a hearing is held. So I'd just like to
19 request from the administration a balance of
20 that account to date and also regular updates
21 on that account balance until that petition is
22 heard and a hearing is scheduled. And that's
23 all I have for tonight. Thank you.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
25 Donahue. I just have a few comments. The

1 first is good news that Council received. We
2 had a resident of the Hill Section who wrote to
3 Council to express her gratitude and offered
4 accommodation to the tree removal crew and the
5 workers of the Scranton DPW from May 11th to
6 May 13th.

7 The removed a dying center rotted
8 tree which threatened this woman's home and
9 vehicles for 23 and a half years. She states
10 in her letter that the workers were courteous,
11 friendly, professional, punctual and funny is
12 always good.

13 She writes please extend
14 appreciation, accommodation, kudos in
15 recognition for the lovely job they did with
16 such kindness and grace. She would like us to
17 recognize these men, Supervisor Chris Jenkins,
18 Crew Chief Kevin Eiden, the crew, Max Sensi --
19 I hope I'm pronouncing his last name right,
20 Bruce Fenton, Judd Roth, Ryan Benjamin, and
21 Justin Krukowski.

22 And she states, in this type of
23 shutdown and pandemic, they truly stood up and
24 did a phenomenal job. So I also want to thank
25 them. That's always good to hear. And they do

1 a wonderful job.

2 I also want to say that my thoughts
3 and my prayers really go out to the family that
4 lost their home in the plot to that tragic
5 fire. Thank God that no lives were lost. But
6 from what I understand, it was a close call on
7 several fronts.

8 So again, my thoughts go out to that
9 family and all those families in that area who
10 were affected and who had damage to their home.
11 And I would like to thank the fire department
12 who did a wonderful job and the neighbors who
13 stepped up to help out other neighbors.

14 I have a few quality of life
15 concerns that I received from residents that
16 I'll pass along to Mrs. Reed. Resident of East
17 Mountain is concerned about the catch basins
18 covered with debris. So we'll send that along
19 to DPW.

20 358 Ferdinand Street, I received
21 multiple calls about quality of life issues at
22 that property. One of the things that I did
23 want to mention that I think we should keep in
24 mind -- and I know I was talking to Dr.
25 Rothchild earlier today about this is once the

1 warm weather starts, Council gets numerous
2 requests from the public in terms of quality of
3 life issues.

4 And I had a conversation with Tom
5 Oleski who is the Director of Licensing and
6 Inspections. And the one thing that I would
7 like people to remember out there is they're
8 taking all the concerns that are coming their
9 way and they are prioritizing them. But
10 they're -- since staff was furloughed, they're
11 not at full capacity.

12 So they're being inundated with
13 requests and they are trying to get to them as
14 expeditiously as possible. But that is taking,
15 you know, somewhat longer than they would like.

16 Also 1452 West Locust Street, if we
17 can just check in with DPW to see if the issues
18 there have been taken care of yet. I also want
19 to just once again talk very briefly about the
20 pandemic and the coronavirus. One hundred
21 fifty-five people in our community in our
22 county have tragically passed away from this
23 virus.

24 And even though it seems the cases
25 are going down and we are moving, I guess, into

1 the yellow phase relatively soon from the red
2 phase, this is still a very serious issue. The
3 one thing that I want to say to people that may
4 be watching this meeting tonight and may be
5 listening to it is that there are agencies and
6 there are people out there who are willing to
7 help you.

8 One of the tragedies of this virus
9 along with the death and economic destruction
10 it's caused, is the destruction it caused on
11 people who don't have other family members with
12 them or to take care of them. Reading the
13 paper today really broke my heart.

14 Some of the tragic stories of people
15 who are, you know, dying alone without anyone
16 around them, whether it's from the coronavirus
17 or just of natural causes or another disease.

18 We may not see it as Council
19 members. We may not see it because, you know,
20 I live with my wife and my children. I'm able
21 to communicate with people and my neighbors and
22 being outside. But there are an awful lot of
23 elderly people who live alone who don't have
24 the ability to communicate as often as they
25 would like.

1 And that really is one of the great
2 tragedies of what's gone on here because
3 they're alone. But what I would like to tell
4 people is that there is help out there for
5 them. And they don't have to be alone. If
6 they're hungry or they need help, they need
7 some kind of support, there are several
8 resources and I want to mention them.

9 And this has driven home to me today
10 because I got a call from a very lovely woman
11 who lives in Mulberry Towers who watches ECTV
12 and watches the Council meetings and gets a lot
13 of information from these meetings.

14 So if you are in need of any sort of
15 social service, if you are out there and you're
16 watching and you don't have somebody to talk
17 to, you're lonely, you're sick, whatever the
18 case may be, you need food, you need help with
19 something, you could pick up your phone and
20 dial 211.

21 And that will get you to someone to
22 help you. You could also call 570-348-4101.
23 That's the Mayor's office. The Mayor's office
24 is taking any and all requests and will kind of
25 funnel you to the right place if you need help.

1 Also, if you do have access to a computer, you
2 could e-mail Scranton 311@scrantonpa.gov.

3 I do have to say that the Mayor and
4 her administration has been very responsive to
5 people who have e-mailed me the address there
6 and needed help in whatever form or fashion.
7 And if you do have a computer and you could get
8 to our City website www.scrantonpa.gov, there
9 are a number of resources there.

10 There's a whole resource guide for
11 people. There's a whole section on food
12 resources, resources for your utilities. So
13 again, I know that the numbers may be going
14 down and we're moving from one phase to
15 another, but there are still people who need
16 help.

17 And I know that in my neighborhood
18 and in other neighborhoods throughout the City,
19 you know, people are checking on those who are
20 elderly in their neighborhood who may not have
21 the resources that we all have.

22 So, you know, I'm really pleased
23 with what I've been seeing as a community in
24 terms of us sticking together and trying to
25 ride this one out.

1 And finally, yesterday as everybody
2 knows was Memorial Day. I want to thank all of
3 our veterans for their service and sacrifice,
4 especially my dad who served in the United
5 States Marine Corps. So Semper Fi to him. And
6 that's all I have. Mrs. Reed?

7 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B.

8 FOR INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE -
9 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
10 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
11 CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
12 UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
13 TO ALLOW THE CITY TO ENTER THE PROPERTY TO
14 REMOVE, REPLACE, AND MAINTAIN A TRAFFIC LIGHT,
15 THE FOUNDATION AND BASE OF WHICH ARE LOCATED ON
16 THE PROPERTY AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE
17 CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT ATTACHED HERETO AS
18 EXHIBIT "A". (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

22 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
25 the question, for those of you who may have

1 been watching the caucus tonight, I just want
2 to take a brief second to explain what this
3 legislation is.

4 There's a traffic light at the
5 corner of Jefferson Avenue and Linden Street.
6 This legislation is authorizing the City to be
7 able to go on the property of the University of
8 Scranton to replace and maintain that traffic
9 light and to move the traffic light back so
10 that it's not in the way of traffic, which has
11 over the last few years cars have actually
12 driven into this pole and caused some real
13 destruction there and some safety issues.

14 So this is a busy intersection.
15 This issue is a major hazard. So the plan is
16 to place the light set back further from the
17 roadway as quickly as possible to protect our
18 citizens. Anyone else on the question? All
19 those in favor of introduction signify by
20 saying aye.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
3 suspend the rules and have -- to move Item 5-B
4 to Sixth and Seventh Orders based on the
5 attached emergency certificate.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

8 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, I
9 would just like to request to the
10 administration maybe try to get some of these
11 resolutions down quicker without the emergency
12 certificate attached.

13 I mean, if it's about, you know,
14 responding to the current pandemic, I have no
15 problem with it. But I don't want to get --
16 Council to get in the habit of approving these
17 things with an emergency certificate.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
19 question? Okay. All those in favor signify by
20 saying aye.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The

1 eyes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING SECTION 13 (AS
4 AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 29, 1994 AND ORDINANCE
5 NO. 195, 2003) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
6 ENTITLED "APPROPRIATION" IN ORDER TO
7 REQUIRE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL PRIOR TO THE
8 TRANSFER OF AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF AN
9 APPROPRIATION ITEM TO FUND A NEW JOB
10 CLASSIFICATION OR INCREASE THE BUDGETED SALARY
11 OF A JOB CLASSIFICATION.

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

15 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
18 the question, this legislation as I mentioned
19 in the caucus tonight is simply amending the
20 Administrative Code to require City Council's
21 approval prior to the transfer of any
22 unexpended balance of a line item in the
23 budget, whether it's to fund a new job
24 classification or to increase the budgeted
25 salary of a job classification.

1 And there's really two goals here.
2 Number one, it's very important to me that this
3 Council and any future Councils -- so those who
4 will come after us here to maintain our role as
5 a check and a balance to the Mayor and
6 administration so any future -- this Mayor and
7 administration and future Mayors and their
8 administration.

9 It's also very important that the
10 public have a say in the changes that are going
11 to be made in terms of increasing salaries and
12 adding positions outside of the budgetary
13 approval process that we all go through in
14 November.

15 So this legislation accomplishes
16 both of those goals. And I want to thank
17 Solicitor Hayes for drafting it. And I'm
18 please to be voting for it tonight. Anyone
19 else on the question?

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes, I would like to
21 mirror your comments and agree with all of them
22 and thank Mr. Hayes for the work he's done on
23 this and thank Council for pushing this through
24 and thank Mr. Hayes for the other work that
25 he's doing for us as well.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else?

2 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I mean, I like
3 the fact that we'll have the power or maybe I
4 shouldn't say power. But, you know, when
5 there's money left over or there's extra money,
6 why does it have to go to a salary or create a
7 position? Why can't we just have some saving
8 for once -- realize these savings instead of
9 trying to give it to someone. I'm very happy
10 with this. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. All those
12 in favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

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

20 FORMALLY 5-B - READING BY TITLE FILED OF THE
21 COUNCIL NUMBER 8 2020 - AN ORDINANCE -
22 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
23 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
24 CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
25 UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON

1 TO ALLOW THE CITY TO ENTER THE PROPERTY TO
2 REMOVE, REPLACE, AND MAINTAIN A TRAFFIC LIGHT,
3 THE FOUNDATION AND BASE OF WHICH ARE LOCATED ON
4 THE PROPERTY AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE
5 CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT ATTACHED HERETO AS
6 EXHIBIT "A". (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. You've
8 heard reading by title of Item 6-A. What is
9 your pleasure?

10 MR. DONAHUE: Mr. Chairman, I move
11 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

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

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
22 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR
23 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 31, 2020 -
24 APPOINTMENT OF AMBER VIOLA, 1512 ROSS
25 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 TO THE

1 POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
2 EFFECTIVE MAY 18, 2020.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
5 of Item 7-A. Is there a second?

6 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: I was getting a little
9 nervous there. On the question? Okay. On the
10 question, I just want to welcome Miss Viola to
11 the position of HR Director. She certainly has
12 her work cut out for her. But I think she's up
13 to the task. And I wish her the best of luck
14 in this position. Anyone else on the question?
15 Roll call, please. Sorry, I have to unmute
16 Miss Carrera. Roll call, please. Sorry.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

18 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

3 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
5 RESOLUTION NO. 32, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS
6 A. PREAMBO, 510 DEAN STREET, SCRANTON,
7 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 TO THE POSITION OF
8 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
9 EFFECTIVE MAY 25, 2020.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
12 of Item 7-B.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
15 the question, again, I just want to wish
16 Mr. Preambo the best of luck. I'm certain he's
17 going to do a wonderful job as well. And I
18 want to thank Director Gallagher. And I want
19 to thank Mauve for standing at the gate here
20 tonight -- thank Director Gallagher for his
21 service over the past few years. Anyone else
22 on the question? Roll call, please?

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

1 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
8 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
10 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
11 RESOLUTION NO. 33, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF EILEEN
12 CIPRIANI, 117 WASHINGTON AVENUE, WEST WYOMING,
13 PENNSYLVANIA, 18644 TO THE POSITION OF
14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
15 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
16 EFFECTIVE MAY 18, 2020. MS. CIPRIANI WILL BE
17 REPLACING MARY-PAT WARD WHO WAS SERVING AS
18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
20 As Chairperson for the Committee on Rules, I
21 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Yes,
24 on the question, I want to welcome Miss
25 Cipriani. I think she's going to do an

1 outstanding job. I also want to thank Mary-Pat
2 Ward for her work as OECD Director. She was
3 always very open with Council and willing to
4 respond to any of our requests. And I thought
5 she did a very nice job. Anyone else on the
6 question? Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
17 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. REED: 7-D. Formally 6-A - FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
20 FOR ADOPTION - FILED OF THE COUNCIL NUMBER 8
21 2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
23 ENTER INTO A CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AGREEMENT
24 BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON AND THE CITY
25 OF SCRANTON TO ALLOW THE CITY TO ENTER THE

1 PROPERTY TO REMOVE, REPLACE, AND MAINTAIN A
2 TRAFFIC LIGHT, THE FOUNDATION AND BASE OF WHICH
3 ARE LOCATED ON THE PROPERTY AS MORE FULLY
4 DESCRIBED IN THE CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT ATTACHED
5 HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A". (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
6 ATTACHED).

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
8 What is the recommendation of the Chairperson
9 for the Committee on Public Works?

10 MR. MCANDREW: As Chair for the
11 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-D.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
16 call, please, Miss Carrera.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

18 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
2 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. If
3 there's no further business, I'll entertain a
4 motion to adjourn.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Mr. Gaughan, can I
6 say one thing before we end?

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Sorry for the
9 lateness of this.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: That's okay.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: I did get an
12 announcement that came in late. The Scranton
13 Cultural Center is going to host a community
14 blood drive by the American Red Cross. And the
15 drive is set for May 27th and 28th from 11 a.m.
16 to 4 p.m. in the grand ballroom.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank
18 you. Yeah, that's really important. Anyone
19 else? Okay. If there is no further business,
20 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Motion to adjourn.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thanks
23 everybody. We'll see you next Thursday. Stay
24 safe and stay healthy.

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
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