

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Thursday, June 4th, 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

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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. GAUGHAN: I'd ask that everyone remain standing for a moment of silent reflection for our service men and women throughout the world and also for those who have passed away in our community.

Let us take a special moment of silence tonight for people in our community throughout the world who are suffering or who have passed away from the coronavirus. Let us think about them and their families at this time that they may find peace.

Let us think now about the doctors, the nurses, the researchers and all medical professionals and first responders who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process, may they find protection and peace.

Whether we are here at home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, let us stick together, endure together, mourn together, persist and prepare together. And in place of our anxiety, let us continue to hope and to

1 find peace. Thank you. Miss Carrera, roll
2 call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

7 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue. Mr.
10 Donahue? Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. And I don't
12 know if you could hear Councilman Donahue but
13 he is here as well. Thank you, Miss Carrera.
14 There will be a motion to move Item 5-B to
15 Sixth and Seventh Orders for a final vote based
16 on the attached emergency certificate.

17 There will be a motion to move items
18 5-C and 5-D to Seventh Order as well for a
19 final vote based on the attached emergency
20 certificates. Mrs. Reed, would you please
21 dispense with the reading of the minutes?

22 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

23 3-A. RELOCATION OF LACKAWANNA
24 COUNTY VOTING PRECINCTS FOR THE JUNE 2, 2020
25 PRIMARY ELECTION.

1 3-B. SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS
2 DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT 2019-2020 YEAR TO
3 DATE MAY 31, 2020.

4 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
5 JESSICA ESKRA, ESQUIRE, DATED MAY 22, 2020
6 REGARDING CONTRACT BETWEEN NORTHEAST REVENUE
7 SERVICE, LLC AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

8 3-D. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
9 DONALD J. FREDERICKSON, JR., ESQUIRE, GENERAL
10 COUNSEL FOR LACKAWANNA COUNTY, DATED MAY 19,
11 2020 REGARDING SCRANTON POLLING PLACES 2-1 AND
12 12-3.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
14 Are there any comments on any of the Third
15 Order items? I just have one comment. On the
16 Single Tax Office report that we received, I
17 was in contact with the Tax Collector, Mr. Fox.
18 There was a typographical error. They did fix
19 that.

20 So we will be getting the amended
21 report. And it will be on our agenda for next
22 week. The error had to do with the third
23 column in the total -- or the second column
24 rather. So all of the numbers when they were
25 added up they were -- the numbers were off.

1 So they had fixed that. It should
2 be 27 million dollars-some odd dollars. So
3 that will be amended. And we'll have that in
4 Third Order next week. Anyone else -- comments
5 on any of the Third Order items?

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I think --
7 well, I had some comments on some other things,
8 but I think we covered them in caucus regarding
9 Northeast Revenue. But, yeah, in regard to the
10 Single Tax Office piece, I guess when we take a
11 look at this -- and maybe this is something
12 Mayor Cagnetti can touch on when she talks in
13 public comment.

14 But the 2019 to 2020 differences,
15 are we chalking that up to strictly COVID as
16 the reason for the difference in revenues?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah. So -- yeah,
18 I'll let Mayor Cagnetti wants to touch on that
19 in Fourth Order. And I do know that I had
20 asked the Mayor to have Mr. Sheridan come, but
21 obviously he could not tonight. But that was
22 the plan for him to kind of touch on the Single
23 Tax Office report.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, it's a
25 possibility. It may be or it may not.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
2 Anyone else on the Third Order items? Okay.
3 If not, received and filed. Do any Council
4 members have any announcements at this time?

5 MR. MCANDREW: I do. I have two.
6 The Salvation Army on South Washington Avenue
7 is giving away food boxes. So in order to get
8 them, you have to call them at 570-969-6399.
9 You have to provide your last name, the last
10 four digits of your Social Security and the
11 number of people in your family.

12 When you do that, you will get an
13 appointment that day or the next day as when
14 you could come and pick up the food. And the
15 food, there's quite a bit of it, I guess.
16 They'll have a box of meat, a box of canned
17 goods, a boxes of dry goods, you know,
18 starches, rice, pasta, fresh fruits and fresh
19 vegetables.

20 So my understanding is they still
21 have quite a bit of this. I think people
22 should take advantage of this.

23 And also, this Sunday, June 7th at
24 St. Lucy's parish in West Side, they are
25 hosting something called a Heat and Eat

1 Drivethrough Only, which is they said it's a
2 spaghetti bowl giveaway from 1 p.m. until they
3 are out of product. That's all I have.

4 Thanks.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
6 McAndrew. Anyone else have any announcements?

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I have two.
8 First off, there is the Arc of Northeast
9 Pennsylvania. They are having a little parade
10 over at Nay Aug Park. It's going to be
11 Tuesday, June 16th. So it's not for another
12 week and a half or so.

13 But it's going to be June 16th at 6
14 p.m. And usually their clients will have a
15 bowling banquet. They serve clients with
16 disabilities. And so they are adult clients
17 that participate in bowling throughout the
18 year.

19 They usually have a banquet around
20 this time. And they are all really
21 disappointed that that banquet is cancelled.
22 And so in order to show support, they're going
23 to be at the park with trophies and awards.

24 And so they are asking that if
25 people are interested in attending, it's going

1 to be like a parade with vehicles. So the
2 vehicles can line up around 5:30 to drive past
3 the clients of the Arc that will be there. So
4 I think that will be a really nice way to
5 celebrate with them and to show support for
6 them.

7 And then the other announcement that
8 I had, I just wanted to wish everyone a happy
9 Pride Month. City Hall raised the Pride flag
10 for the third year now. And I'm really proud
11 that we've been able to do that and we continue
12 to do that.

13 For those those who don't know,
14 Pride Month has started in commemoration of the
15 Stonewall riots that happened in 1969. And
16 last year I think was the 50th year celebration
17 of Pride Month and the Pride parade.

18 And a lot of those celebrations we
19 can't have this year. But it's still really
20 important that we recognize this month that's
21 so important to the LGBTQ community that
22 continues to fight for equality.

23 And they come a long way, but
24 there's still a lot more work to do. So I just
25 wanted to as I said wish everyone a happy Pride

1 Month. Thank you.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
3 else? Okay. Mrs. Reed?

4 MS. REED: Thank you. FOURTH ORDER.
5 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
7 I'd like to ask if somebody would please make a
8 motion to accept public comment from the
9 following individuals, Marie Schumacher, Fay
10 Franus and Patricia Nestor.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make a motion to
12 accept.

13 MS. REED: Excuse me.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion. Is
15 there a second?

16 MS. REED: Councilman Gaughan?
17 Councilman Gaughan, I did send a late e-mail, I
18 apologize. There was a fourth person who did.
19 I was able to confirm that she does reside in
20 the City. So we can add her name.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure. What was her
22 name, Mrs. Reed?

23 MS. REED: Her name was Simone
24 Daniel.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Okay, so we'll

1 add Simone Daniel's into the official record as
2 well. Thank you, Mrs. Reed. Okay. There's
3 been a motion made. Was there a second? I'm
4 sorry.

5 MR. MCANDREW: I'll second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
7 the question, just a few things. So we
8 received comments from Miss Schumacher,
9 Mrs. Franus, and Patricia Nestor. Several of
10 Miss Schumacher's questions about the agenda
11 items would be answered by the program guidance
12 that the Mayor provided.

13 We'll put that in Third Order next
14 week. And it will be, I'm sure, on the
15 website. And the public will be able to view
16 that. That should take care of most of the
17 questions here.

18 The one question from Mrs. Nestor,
19 the Mayor declared that the City pools would
20 not be open this summer. Can the Council
21 override her and open the pools? Why wasn't
22 this is a joint decision? Who on Council is
23 for or against opening the pools. I want this
24 on record for the next election.

25 I can answer that question. No, the

1 Council cannot override the Mayor on that
2 decision. That decision is up to the Mayor and
3 the Recreation Authority. And that decision
4 was made -- and maybe the Mayor can speak to
5 this is in Fourth Order. But there's a
6 pandemic going on where you're supposed to be
7 social distancing.

8 So it would not make any sense to
9 have, you know, dozens and dozens of children
10 swimming around next to each other in a pool.
11 So I don't think it was -- you know, it was a
12 decision really that was made by the CDC and
13 the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

14 It's not who's for or against
15 opening pools. I'm sure everybody wants to
16 open the pools. But we also don't want young
17 people and anyone for that matter to get the
18 coronavirus.

19 Does anybody else have comments on
20 the motion? Okay. All those in favor signify
21 by saying aye.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved. And, Mayor, I'll
3 turn it over to you now if you want to continue
4 where we left off.

5 MAYOR COGNETTI: Sure. Thank you
6 all for having me again this evening. So I can
7 address a couple of those things that just came
8 up on the public comment.

9 So on the pools, this is not a
10 decision that the administration takes lightly
11 at all. I -- it's not something that we want
12 to do by any stretch of the imagination.

13 But we do find ourselves in this
14 position as we have been for these past months
15 where in order to make sure that we're keeping
16 our community safe and providing a safe
17 environment where our kids are able to be
18 socially distant -- the families that come with
19 those kids are able to be socially distant.

20 You know, we think about a pool,
21 it's not just being in the water. I know I get
22 I'm sure you all get some comments too, well,
23 they determined it's safe to be in a pool. You
24 can't transmit the virus through the pool
25 water.

1 That's not the issue here. The
2 issue is, is the environment around the pool
3 where you have people -- a lot of people. Our
4 pools are wonderful. And they get so many
5 people every day.

6 It would be very, very difficult,
7 really impossible for us to make sure that
8 everybody is maintaining social distancing
9 standards, making sure that we're sanitizing
10 all of the bathrooms constantly in order to
11 keep everyone safe.

12 It's the same with the play
13 equipment. I hate that we have the yellow tape
14 around the play equipment. I want to rip it
15 off myself. But we have new sanitation
16 equipment that we're able to get. We'll get
17 reimbursed for that with FEMA money.

18 And we'll be cleaning and sanitizing
19 that as much as we can in the future. But we
20 cannot -- we cannot open those things right now
21 because we won't be able to keep up with that.
22 And we don't want to put our families in
23 Scranton in a dangerous position. So it's not
24 fun. And I'm sorry that we had to make this
25 decision.

1 If there's a way for us to move
2 forward and open the pools at some point
3 this -- we are continuing to look at that. I
4 certainly would love to be able to do that. If
5 there's a way for us to do that, that makes
6 sense for the City as we go from yellow phase
7 tomorrow into green phase. And as we look at
8 our operations, if there's a way for us to open
9 some of the pools we will try.

10 But we want to manage expectations.
11 And at this point, those expectations, you
12 know, we need to set them based on the pandemic
13 that we are facing right now.

14 While we're on the subject of parks,
15 I want to let you all know, I'm sure you've
16 heard that on Sunday we had -- the City had yet
17 another fatality at the Nay Aug gorge. We had
18 already been having meetings -- Zoom meetings
19 about the gorge and what we can do to deter
20 people from going up there from jumping, from
21 swimming.

22 So we had -- we already had signs.
23 We already had fines for that. What we've done
24 in the past week is we've added cameras. There
25 are now three cameras up there that the SPD are

1 monitoring. And they've already in these past
2 couple of days been able to take that -- get
3 that information and send a patrol car up there
4 to ask people to leave.

5 So the cameras are there. We added
6 more signage this week that's more -- even more
7 specific. And we are thinking about the
8 possibility of increasing the fine for swimming
9 in the gorge. It's something that we can all
10 discuss.

11 And I'm open -- we are very open to
12 any ideas that you on Council or you in the
13 community have for how we can further deter
14 people from going up to the gorge. And we all
15 know all too well how that ends sometimes.

16 So that's the update on that. I
17 appreciate my administration acting so quickly
18 to get those cameras up. That was -- that was
19 tremendous.

20 On the Single Tax Office question,
21 Mr. Schuster, the discrepancy that you would
22 see from 2019 into 2020, we definitely -- we
23 definitely know that the pandemic is a huge
24 piece of that, the closures of businesses, the
25 closures of organizations, the layoffs that

1 have hit everyone in every sector definitely
2 will have an impact on those tax collections.

3 So we continue to monitor all of
4 those pieces. And Pat Sheridan our Business
5 Administrator is going to be at the caucus on
6 Tuesday to further go through that with you.
7 He wasn't able to join tonight for family
8 reasons.

9 So to take that to the next Business
10 Administrator topic, I let you know via memo
11 today that we have a new Business
12 Administrator, Carl Deeley who began the job on
13 Monday. Pat Sheridan and Carl Deeley have
14 generously offered to share the position for
15 the month of June. So they are splitting the
16 salary and benefits.

17 It's no extra cost to the City.
18 They are splitting those down the middle. And
19 I'm very grateful for their generosity and
20 (audio interruption.)

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, Mayor, I think you
22 muted. You're muted by accident.

23 MAYOR COGNETTI: Sorry.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: That's okay.

25 MAYOR COGNETTI: Did I leave -- did

1 I talk about Carl and Pat sharing the job?

2 MR. GAUGHAN: I think you just got
3 cut off when that started.

4 MAYOR COGNETTI: Okay. So Mr.
5 Deeley started on Monday. And Mr. Sheridan is
6 still with us this month. And they are sharing
7 the role, which is tremendous. So it's
8 split -- split the salary, split the benefits.
9 It's not an extra cost to the City. We're able
10 to get this transition where, you know, Mr.
11 Sheridan's working -- been working on a slew of
12 things.

13 And Mr. Deeley is coming in. And
14 they'll probably be working together for the
15 month to be able to make that warm handoff,
16 which is very, very, very helpful for a lot of
17 reasons.

18 So we haven't said good-bye to Mr.
19 Sheridan yet. So we'll do that at some point.
20 And hopefully we might be able to find a way to
21 still be able to get his guidance. As we look
22 at these tax issues, for example, some of the
23 audit processes are something that Mr.
24 Sheridan's been working on and looking at the
25 Treasury Department and see how it can work

1 better.

2 So back to what we talked about on
3 the caucus, how do we collect taxes? How do we
4 go over the delinquent taxes? This is kind of
5 Mr. Sheridan's bread and butter. So we might
6 be coming to you with a proposal of how to
7 essentially keep working with him in some
8 manner but not as a full-time employee.

9 You'll see Mr. Deeley's appointment
10 letter I believe on your June 16th agenda. But
11 I included his bio in that memo to you all. We
12 also have another attorney that's joined us,
13 Mr. Joe O'Brien is now on the team in the legal
14 department. We're very, very grateful for
15 his -- him signing on to help the City.

16 He has a very strong background in
17 public sector law and will be a great asset to
18 all of us. The other pieces that I just wanted
19 to touch on, so, you know, we -- the issues
20 that are going across the country right now we
21 sent to you -- it was late this afternoon. But
22 I wanted to make sure I got it to you before
23 this.

24 I sent you a letter cosigned by
25 Chief Graziano and myself that goes through --

1 restates what we've said before what the Chief
2 has said that we at the City have a
3 responsibility to create an environment where
4 all of our City feels safe (inaudible) feel
5 safe, also safe to express their views.

6 So we welcome people to rally and
7 make their voices heard. And we have a
8 responsibility to listen. So I'm very
9 privileged -- we all are very privileged that
10 Chief Graziano has been the Police Chief in
11 Scranton for so many years because he is
12 already -- already employs progressive
13 policies, implements progressive training.

14 And detailed -- he detailed for us
15 many of these things in this document that I
16 sent you. You're welcome to share this with
17 citizens that reach out to you. And we'll be
18 doing the same from here at the City.

19 So some of the things that it
20 details are -- there's a new advocacy movement
21 called Eight Can't Wait. So it's eight policy
22 reforms that people are asking people to ask
23 their Mayors and their police chiefs to
24 address.

25 So we specifically go through each

1 of the eight. And essentially the Scranton
2 Police Department in its policies already has
3 elements of all eight there. And you could --
4 you could see there how we -- how we are
5 address -- well, how we -- the Chief already
6 has addressed these things.

7 But we can certainly improve upon
8 them. We're -- would absolutely, you know, we
9 will look at these. There is a policy review
10 committee at the police department that
11 continues -- continually looks at policy. And
12 he and I will continue to work on listening and
13 seeing what we can do better.

14 But we're so fortunate -- and to
15 Council members Gaughan and Donahue who were I
16 think on Council when the police officers got
17 the body cams, that's a huge piece of what we
18 can be really proud of in Scranton. They're
19 really the proactive steps that the police
20 department has taken to have transparency in
21 the police department. And you'll see in
22 there, you know, there's a duty to intervene
23 policy.

24 There's de-escalation training,
25 incident review. The police policies prohibit

1 any use of neck restraints as we all
2 unfortunately have seen that video from
3 Minneapolis last week. So please go through
4 that.

5 I'm sure the Chief would be happy to
6 go through it in more detail and the time. But
7 I wanted to make sure to get that to you all
8 tonight as (inaudible) as you get questions.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mayor.
10 Does anybody have any questions for Mayor
11 Cognetti?

12 Mayor, I just have one. It's a
13 little off topic. But Councilman Donahue and I
14 have been talking about this. And I know
15 Councilman Donahue had asked previously, can
16 you give us any update on the paving project
17 for this year? I know that's on everybody's
18 mind throughout the City.

19 MAYOR COGNETTI: Yes. So I -- the
20 RFP was supposed to go out today.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Great. Thank you so
22 much. That's good news.

23 MR. DONAHUE: That's the RFP for the
24 engineering, correct?

25 MAYOR COGNETTI: I believe so.

1 MR. DONAHUE: I believe the -- yeah,
2 because the engineering has to go out first, I
3 believe. And then you put out for the actual
4 paving I believe is the process there.

5 MAYOR COGNETTI: Yeah, that's -- I
6 believe so. I don't have it right in front of
7 me.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah.

9 MAYOR COGNETTI: Yeah.

10 MR. DONAHUE: And I was going to --
11 I was also going to mention Nay Aug, the gorge.
12 So I'm happy that, you know, there's already
13 steps being taken. And, you know, I'll be
14 reaching out too just with a couple other
15 suggestions.

16 MAYOR COGNETTI: Yeah, please,
17 really because it's one of these things that
18 we, you know, just -- you can't -- you can't
19 ever guarantee these things. But anything that
20 we can do, let's do it.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, I mean, there's
22 been a problem up there for, you know,
23 generations. So it's just, you know,
24 continuing to adapt.

25 MAYOR COGNETTI: Right, yeah, any --

1 please, any suggestions are welcome.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else have any
3 questions for the Mayor? Mayor, we always
4 appreciate you taking the time out of your busy
5 life and being the Mayor and everything else
6 that you have going on.

7 So we really appreciate it and
8 appreciate you coming and answering our
9 questions and being transparent, you know, with
10 your administration. So we appreciate it very
11 much. Thank you.

12 MAYOR COGNETTI: Thank you. Thanks
13 all very much. And tomorrow, yellow phase,
14 we'll get -- we'll keep getting that guidance
15 out as much as we can.

16 As I said in the caucus, we're
17 hoping to launch that new site very, very soon
18 to be able to have members, especially business
19 owners and organization owners who are opening
20 their doors for the first time in the next days
21 and weeks, get you -- get you more specific
22 resources, make sure that you know what you
23 need to do to be able to reopen.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.
25 Have a good night, Mayor. Thank you.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you.

3

4 (Public comment letters submitted to
5 Council)

6

7 (Marie Schumacher)

8

9 First, a few comments:

10 - I am very disappointed that the
11 City denied use of a Municipal Building (Engine
12 10 Fire Station) **after** the County had published
13 the final listing and then did not have the
14 decency to send letters to the affected
15 registered voters.

16 - I would like to know why calls
17 made to department(s) at City Hall were (a) not
18 answered and message boxes were saturated. I
19 would think someone should have been
20 responsible for taking messages and keeping the
21 message box clear.

22 0 Moving on to Agenda Items:

23 5B I question this Item both for
24 safety and equality reasons. This would seem
25 feasible primarily in the downtown area where

1 the distance between curb and structure is
2 deeper than in the rest of the City. There are
3 many downtown residents who are elderly and
4 need to use walking aids which could become a
5 safety issue if walking space is reduced to the
6 minimum five feet.

7 5C & 5D There are contractual
8 documents provided but I could find no
9 application which should be a public document
10 with justification. Also for fairness, there
11 should be a cut off date for submittal of
12 applications so they may be prioritized by need
13 should the available funding be expired.

14 5E I am a firm believer that best
15 decisions are made by those who will have to
16 abide by/be affected the action(s) of the
17 decision maker. While I know Council will
18 rubber stamp this I think this employee should
19 at minimum be required to pay both EIT and LST
20 since property taxes will automatically be
21 nullified.

22 Moving on to General Issues which I
23 will limit until next week when I trust we will
24 be back in the Municipal Building:

25 - Please explain what differentiate

1 the Treasurer's Sale from the County Property
2 Sales.

3

4 (Fay Franus)

5

6 Council,

7

8 Perhaps you have heard this
9 statement during these protest across the
10 country. It pretty much sums up how I feel
11 about our city government.

12

13

14 " I AM SICK AND TIRED OF BEING SICK
15 AND TIRES."

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26 I want to address yet again and
27 again what are you as council members and the
28 Mayor doing for the people in regards to the
29 garbage fee? I say this because many of these
30 delinquent fee properties have liens placed on
31 their homes. That does NOT help the 75% of us
32 who are paying for those who do not pay!!!!

33

34

35

36 Many many of these properties will
37 not have to deal with these liens for maybe
38 forty years, twenty years--when they move or
39 die-- so putting liens is not helping any of us
40 who pay.

41 I want to know when are you going to

1 do something to go after these people OTHER
2 THAN LIENS? You know you have a city law
3 stating the DPW does NOT have to pick up
4 anyone's garbage if their fee is not paid/ Also
5 a law saying all cans must have lids on them
6 thus no bags to cause a health hazard, BUT you
7 do nothing-not only do you do nothing you
8 should be screaming at the tip of your lungs
9 about the mayor allowing Courtright's
10 collection agency to continue to collect the
11 fees until Dec 31 2020.

12 The Mayor has had plenty of time to
13 seek out other avenues to get these fees
14 paid--NOTHING was done!

15 Those people should be arrested for
16 paying bribes--oh no-- what do we do in
17 Scranton--we reward them by allowing them to
18 continue working for us. Disgraceful.

19 When Bill Courtright never responded
20 to Bill Gaughan's questions he mentioned it
21 every week-- NOT NOW! No mention of answers
22 not being given to council by Paige Cagnetti
23 and God knows Marie Schumacher has asked many
24 important questions. Many are working from
25 home BUT they are still working--so where are

1 the answer?

2 They are all getting full pay--but
3 for what I ask? Jessica Eskra even has \$10,000
4 more in her paycheck that Mayor Evans gave her
5 that YOU allowed her to keep in the budget even
6 though she doesn't do HR work anymore--which
7 was the reason she got that nice raise. While
8 people are losing their homes to high
9 taxes--but you must take care of your crony
10 workers while we suffer.

11 Are you proud you allowed these
12 raises Mayor Evans gave out to continue? Which
13 were many. You did it! Own it! When are you
14 going to hold the Mayor's feet to the fire?
15 When? Ever?

16 Listen to me here next year do not
17 even consider doing what Mayor Evans tried to
18 do-- put fees in the property taxes--meaning
19 the way he was going to do it--he wanted
20 landlords to only pay for one apartment and all
21 the others do not have to pay the \$300 fee--
22 that would be thousands and thousands of
23 dollars the city would be not getting, when
24 they surely could.

25 Every apartment MUST pay their \$300

1 fee --each and every one--NOT just one. That
2 is a kick in the teeth yet again for those of
3 us who do pay.

4 Still waiting for answers to my
5 questions-- one being is the garbage fee money
6 coming in paying city bills as well versus just
7 DPW expenses? Do you even know? Have you
8 checked? That is what was going on for years.
9 You need to know if the money is being
10 separated and I want to know. SOON!

11 Why don't you take these people to
12 court somehow-- there has to be a way not just
13 liens. We are fed up. When will you work for
14 us? We pay you to --

15 My neighbor owes \$4193.83 in
16 delinquent garbage fees I've sent you photos of
17 what she puts out every week--here is last
18 weeks-- she also added a gas grill after this
19 photo was taken. And it fell all over my
20 sidewalk. I had to pick it up and move it
21 back-- this is last weeks garbage --Tawanda
22 Ballard 325 Railroad Avenue.

23 (Picture was attached.)

24 Please find a way to go after
25 individual properties who never pay their

1 garbage bills for years! Six in my block
2 alone. How many times do I need to address
3 this -it is YEARS NOW YEARS and nothing is done
4 LIENS do NOT help us or the city. Stop picking
5 up their garbage you have the law behind you
6 Enforce it!

7 Fay Franus.

8
9 **(Patricia Nestor)**

10
11 The mayor declared that the city
12 pools would not open this summer. Can the
13 council override her and open the pools? Why
14 wasn't this a joint decision? Who on council
15 is for or against opening the pools? I want
16 this on record for the next election.

17 Also, it's National Scoliosis
18 Awareness Month. What is being done to bring
19 awareness of this disease? An early diagnosis
20 gives the patient more treatment options.

21
22 Patricia Nestor

23
24 **(Simone Daniel)**

25 My name is Simone Daniel and I ask

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, Mrs. Reed.
2 Fifth Order.

3 MS. REED: Thank you. FIFTH ORDER.
4 5-A. MOTIONS.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Schuster,
6 do you have any motions or comments?

7 MR. SCHUSTER: No, not at this time.
8 I think actually in the previous portions of
9 the meeting, all of the things have been --
10 have been addressed. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much,
12 Councilman Schuster. Councilman McAndrew, do
13 you have any motions or comments at this time?

14 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, just a couple.
15 So two concerned citizens -- I already
16 forwarded these questions to Mrs. Reed. And
17 they just asked a couple questions. One was
18 how many tickets have been given out for
19 texting while driving. So please, Miss Reed,
20 send that forward.

21 And also another citizen came to me
22 and is concerned or wants to know how does one
23 get a speed bump study started. So, Mrs. Reed,
24 if you could also pass that along and to see
25 how we do that.

1 I want to touch a little bit on what
2 Mayor Cagnetti just said with regards to that
3 act Eight Can't Wait. So I know that I
4 received a few e-mails. I know that fellow
5 council members received some e-mails. And
6 it's regarding the, you know, police violence.

7 And it contained a link to the
8 website called Eight Can't Wait that
9 recommends, you know, eight policy reforms to
10 protect black citizens. So I also had the
11 opportunity to speak and converse with Chief
12 Graziano. And I'm happy and proud to say that
13 we pretty much satisfy all eight.

14 And I'm just going to touch on them
15 real quick because I asked him to send items to
16 me in bullet form. So banning chokeholds and
17 strangleholds, already a policy. Require
18 de-escalation, already a policy. There's
19 ongoing and continuous training for this.

20 Require warning before shooting.
21 Our policy states all possible officers shall
22 first give a verbal warning. Exhaust all other
23 means before shooting. This is already a
24 policy, okay.

25 Duty to intervene, this is inherent

1 as in a crime is not to stop or report
2 excessive force, our officers will be held
3 criminally liable. So, you know, this is a
4 policy that's in place. Ban shooting of a
5 vehicle. Police can't completely ban shooting
6 of vehicles.

7 And, you know, I don't want to go
8 through the whole thing. But an instance is,
9 you know, if police are being shot at from a
10 vehicle, of course, they could shoot at a
11 vehicle. All right.

12 Require use of force continuum.
13 This is also a policy and require comprehensive
14 reporting. This is already a policy.

15 So I'm glad to say again, that we're
16 already satisfying the, you know, the Eight
17 Can't Wait initiatives. So I know we should
18 share that with a few people that reached out
19 to us. That's all I have. Thank you.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much
21 for that, Councilman McAndrew. Dr. Rothchild,
22 do you have any motions or comments at this
23 time?

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I have a couple
25 of comments. First off, I'd like to comment on

1 two of our pieces of legislation tonight, 5-C
2 and 5-D. I mentioned these things in caucus.
3 But I just wanted to bring them up during the
4 meeting that I'm really happy that we were able
5 to find these funds to be able to utilize for
6 small business grants and loans at this time.

7 I know that businesses are really
8 hurting, especially your small businesses. I
9 would hate to see more businesses close result
10 of this pandemic. And I believe these funds
11 are going to be really helpful on getting some
12 businesses back up on their feet, help them to
13 purchase PPE. And perhaps I know that some
14 businesses have not qualified for the plans
15 that are out there.

16 Maybe they've had too little
17 employees or for whatever reason and so they
18 might then be appropriate and qualify for the
19 ones that we would be offering now.

20 So I want to thank OECD and its new
21 Director Miss Cipriani for getting creative
22 with our funds. That's what we need more of
23 quite frankly to find ways to help out
24 businesses, to help out our community with what
25 we have.

1 So the next thing that I wanted to
2 address, I just wanted to mention a few things
3 with regards to what's going on in our country
4 right now and to just address racism and
5 police brutality I feel like has not been
6 addressed enough.

7 And obviously we do not have any
8 people of color here on our council or on
9 (inaudible.) But I would like to think that I
10 could help be a voice for people and that I can
11 be here to support the black and brown
12 community and whatever their needs are.

13 I did attend the protest that
14 happened downtown last weekend. I think I was
15 the only elected official there. I'm really
16 happy to say that it was very peaceful and
17 respectful. I'm really proud of our city and
18 that, you know, there has not been problems
19 like looting or rioting that we've seen in a
20 lot of other cities throughout our country
21 right now.

22 So I just think -- feel like I need
23 to say that black lives matter and that we see
24 you. And we need to be doing more. For far
25 too long black people have been treated less

1 than. And it's about time that they become
2 equal like the rest of us.

3 So we have a problem with systemic
4 institutionalized racism in our country. We're
5 not immune to this in our city. It happens
6 everywhere. And I want to make sure that we do
7 everything possible to prevent what happened to
8 George Floyd and to many others from happening
9 here in Scranton.

10 So I appreciate that many of us have
11 already been on top of addressing the many
12 e-mails that we received from citizens. I've
13 had a lot of conversations with people about
14 what can be done here in our City to take steps
15 to address these issues and thank you to Mark
16 for explain -- or Councilman McAndrew for
17 explaining the things that Chief Graziano sent
18 over.

19 I have the utmost respect for Chief
20 Graziano and our police department. And I know
21 that they have really done a good job of
22 already adding to the policies that they have.
23 I believe that we always can do better. And
24 I'm interested at looking at ways that we can
25 do that.

1 One of the suggestions that we've
2 had from a few citizens has been to have a
3 citizens review board, which we don't have in
4 Scranton. I'm not really sure how many cities
5 in Pennsylvania do if they're larger cities or
6 the effectiveness to those boards.

7 But I'm certainly interested in
8 exploring that as a possible option. I would
9 be concerned about funding, of course, for
10 something of that nature. But, you know, I
11 would be happy to have suggestions and I'll
12 certainly do more research on those review
13 boards to see if that's something that we need.

14 In the meantime, continue to provide
15 us with your input and what you feel like the
16 black and brown community needs. And I'm here
17 to listen. Thank you.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
19 Rothchild. Councilman Donahue, do you have any
20 motions or comments?

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, just briefly.
22 First, I would like to thank Fire Chief Lucas's
23 quick response to my inquiries last week
24 regarding the Emergency Management Plan and
25 also the way that they're dealing with the

1 firehouses.

2 I haven't gotten -- there was a lot
3 of documents that came through. So I haven't
4 gotten completely through them. So I'll touch
5 more on that at our next meeting on Tuesday.
6 So I just want to thank him for his quick reply
7 to those inquiries.

8 Just a couple requests I have for
9 this week. The blue bin recycling, it's still
10 being collected as recycling but is
11 unfortunately being taken up to the landfill.
12 And the reason we got to that about two months
13 ago was not knowing how COVID-19 would -- how
14 long it stays on surfaces and with concerns
15 with the spread happening there, so would we be
16 able, Miss Reed, would we be able to send a
17 request to the county to see where we're at and
18 what the plan is for restarting bringing blue
19 bin recycling back to the Recycling Center?

20 And also, I would like to request
21 for the administration an update on all the
22 issues involving the 700 block of Wyoming
23 Avenue. I believe there's a couple different
24 lawsuits over there involving, you know,
25 Mr. Young and Kennedy.

1 There's a couple other families now
2 involved in that so just to see if we can get
3 an update on the whole situation over there.

4 And I also talked to the City
5 Engineer John Pocius today about some of the
6 issues in Keyser Valley with the flooding. He
7 did say that the previous administration had
8 put together bid specs for a hydraulic study to
9 be performed.

10 In looking at some of the options
11 over there, they came across some grant funding
12 that's available. But the grant funding is
13 only available if you already have a project on
14 the shelf ready to go. So the first part to
15 getting to that point to be even be able to
16 apply for the grant is to do this legwork up
17 front.

18 So would we be able to also ask the
19 administration because it's my understanding
20 that it's all ready to go. It just needs to be
21 sent out to do this hydraulic study. And that
22 would basically just determine how the water
23 flows, how you get the water to the pump
24 station and how much volume the pump station
25 could handle then going out.

1 And then I do also have a meeting
2 scheduled with the new DPW Director to go over
3 some initiatives. So hopefully I could update
4 everyone at the next meeting regarding that.
5 That's all I have for Fifth Order tonight.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
7 Donahue. I just have two things. First, I
8 want to just state that I agree with Councilman
9 Donahue I'd also like an update on the Meadow
10 Brook Creek Project in the 700 block of Wyoming
11 Avenue. That's been an issue now for the last
12 few years. And I know Al Young and his family
13 are affected. And there's several other
14 families affected by that.

15 And that's just not an issue that is
16 gone away even though it has not been discussed
17 here in a little while because it's in
18 litigation. But it would be good for us to get
19 an update on the overall project.

20 I also want to thank the Mayor and
21 Miss Cipriani for coming to our caucus tonight.
22 I do just want to note that I think it's good
23 that we're in a pattern now that these are
24 regular occurrences where in the past, you
25 know, we may see someone from the

1 administration once, you know, it was like once
2 every few years.

3 Now any time I've requested the
4 Mayor come to caucus with one of her cabinet
5 members, they have always had no problem doing
6 that. So I do want to thank them for that.
7 Again, since I've been on Council I thought
8 that should just be a regular occurrence.

9 So I'm glad to see that when Council
10 has questions and we ask them to come, they do
11 show up and they do answer questions. And the
12 last thing that I wanted to say was that the
13 Mayor touched on this a little bit.

14 But we are moving to the yellow
15 phase in Lackawanna County. You know, I've
16 seen a lot of things on social media about
17 moving to the yellow phase. I just want to
18 remind people that this doesn't mean that the
19 coronavirus has magically disappeared.

20 It's still here. It is still
21 spreading although at a much slower rate.
22 There were 13 new cases today in Lackawanna
23 County. But my message is that we still need
24 to remain vigilant and continue to practice
25 social distancing when possible and wear masks.

1 It does not make any sense to give
2 up at this point and just think that, you know,
3 this virus has gone away or that because we're
4 in the yellow phase we can just go out and do
5 whatever we want. I think it is important for
6 our economy to start opening back up. And that
7 is going to happen.

8 I think some of the things on our
9 agenda tonight will help the small businesses
10 and will help that along. But I don't think we
11 can, you know, just give up at this point in
12 terms of some of the measures that we've taken
13 over the last few months.

14 So I would ask people, you know, not
15 to be selfish, to wear masks in public to
16 follow those guidelines as we have been and
17 think of other people when you're out and about
18 as we move into the yellow phase. And that's
19 all I have. Mrs. Reed?

20 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
21 INTRODUCTION – AN ORDINANCE – AUTHORIZING THE
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
23 GRANT A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO CITY
24 RETAIL BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS TO OPERATE ON
25 CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE

1 ATTACHED).

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
3 At this time, I'll entertain a motion that Item
4 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? And
9 would someone like to make an amendment to this
10 at this time, Councilman Donahue?

11 ATTY. HAYES: We'll do that in
12 Seventh Order.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Sorry.
14 I couldn't hear what you guys just said.

15 ATTY. HAYES: That will be done in
16 Seventh Order.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, Seventh Order, I'm
18 sorry. I'm jumping the gun here. Okay. On
19 the question? All those in favor of
20 introduction signify by 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 to move Item 5-B to Sixth and
4 Seventh Orders based on the attached emergency
5 certificate.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
18 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO LOAN AGREEMENTS AND MAKE
19 LOANS FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
20 ADMINISTRATION-REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, BETWEEN
21 THREE THOUSAND (\$3,000.00) DOLLARS AND TWENTY
22 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00) TO VARIOUS SMALL
23 BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ASSIST
24 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND TO OFFSET THE FINANCIAL
25 IMPACT COVID-19 HAS HAD ON BUSINESSES, AS PART

1 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF
2 LOAN PROGRAM. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
3 ATTACHED).

4 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time, I will
5 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be introduced
6 into its proper committee.

7 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
11 the question, I just want to say two things,
12 number one, we're all aware that the pandemic
13 has had really a devastating affect on our
14 citizens and on our economy. We need to do
15 everything that we can as elected officials and
16 as a city to help our citizens and to help our
17 economy and our businesses.

18 I'm hoping that this piece and 5-D's
19 will be a shot in the arm to our local economy.
20 We live in very challenging times. But we
21 can't let them define who we are. We need to
22 continue to be creative and come up with
23 solutions to the problems we face. And this is
24 really a great first step in that.

25 And I was pleased to hear from Miss

1 Cipriani tonight on some of the ideas even
2 moving forward with the loan program because I
3 think that, you know, this is the first step.
4 But we're going to need to do other things in
5 moving forward as the economy continues to
6 change and the pandemic continues to progress
7 and hopefully at some point goes away. Anyone
8 else on the question? All those in favor
9 signify by saying aye.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
15 eyes have it and so moved.

16 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
17 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
18 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY
19 OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO GRANT AGREEMENTS AND
20 MAKE GRANTS FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
21 ENTERPRISE ZONE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00
22 TO VARIOUS SMALL BUSINESS THROUGHOUT THE CITY
23 OF SCRANTON AS PART OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
24 SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM DUE TO THE
25 Covid-19 PANDEMIC. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE

1 ATTACHED).

2 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
3 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced
4 into its proper committee.

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

8 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question. I'm
9 sorry about that.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: That's okay.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: This is something I
12 should have asked in caucus while we had Mrs.
13 Cipriani and the Mayor on -- did they work with
14 like some of the local businesses to define the
15 \$2,500? Do we know that?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, that's a good
17 question. I don't know the exact answer to
18 that. But I'm pretty sure that the reason that
19 they did that was to kind of -- with the money
20 that they had to spread it out to as many
21 businesses as possible. That's my guess, Tom,
22 but I don't know for sure.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I know in the
24 county, I mean, there was a large influx of
25 people that were applying for those. And they

1 went fast. I'm sure the same thing here. I'm
2 wondering if they don't go as fast as the
3 county if there's something left over, larger
4 grants could be awarded.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, that's a good
6 idea.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, President
8 Gaughan, you're correct. They did want to
9 spread it out so that they could give as much
10 as they could to -- businesses as they could.
11 I believe it's the amount for 110 businesses.
12 You know, it might be -- I'm sure it's
13 something that they can revise if for some
14 reason it doesn't go as quickly.

15 Yeah, I would think with the immense
16 need right now that it -- that will be used up
17 pretty quickly.

18 MR. SCHUSTER: So that was part of
19 the discussion -- the initial discussion.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Good
21 question. Anyone else on the question? Okay.
22 All those in favor of introduction signify by
23 saying aye.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
4 ayes have it and so moved.

5 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
6 suspend the rules to move Items 5-C and 5-D to
7 Seventh Order based on the attached emergency
8 certificate.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
12 those in favor 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: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
20 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
21 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO WAIVE THE
22 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR EILEEN CIPRIANI IN
23 HER CAPACITY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
24 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
25 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON SUBJECT TO CERTAIN

1 CONDITIONS.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
3 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be introduced
4 into its proper committee.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Somebody's got to
7 say --

8 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

9 MR. MCANDREW: I did second.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. And then
11 Councilman McAndrew gave a second. On the
12 question?

13 MR. MCANDREW: I have something on
14 the question. All right. So my vote for this
15 will be one of principle. This is not personal
16 or political as I've been accused. I voted yes
17 to appoint Mrs. Cipriani because of her
18 qualifications which are not in question.

19 So my first reason is the City
20 actually has a policy that states employees
21 must reside in the City. So that's number one.
22 Number two, I've always been about being fair
23 and equitable for all, okay?

24 Number three, I live here. And I
25 have to look in the eyes of a hundred plus

1 firefighters, a hundred plus police officers,
2 almost a hundred DPW workers and 40 plus
3 furloughed clerks that just lost their benefits
4 with uncertainty of even getting their jobs
5 back.

6 They have to live here. They pay
7 taxes here. They have skin in the game. I
8 know the Mayor, a couple colleagues on Council,
9 and a few others that disagree with me. And
10 that's okay. I mean, my wife and I have
11 disagreements every day and we're still married
12 for 32 years.

13 So when on School Board and on
14 Council, I've always owned my vote. And at the
15 end of the day I have to live with my vote. I
16 could live with this one. Thank you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
18 question?

19 MR. DONAHUE: I would also just -- I
20 agree with, you know, everything Mr. McAndrew
21 said. But it's about fairness and equity. And
22 no matter if you're the employee at the bottom
23 end of the pay scale or the top end of the pay
24 scale, we should all be treated the same way.

25 We should all follow the same rules.

1 That's not to say that I don't think that, you
2 know, a waiver shouldn't be used in any way. I
3 would (audio interrupted.)

4 MR. GAUGHAN: I think we lost you,
5 Kyle. Can anyone else hear Kyle?

6 ATTY. HAYES: No.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: You're still breaking
8 up a little bit.

9 MR. DONAHUE: How about now? You
10 got me now?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yep. Now I can hear
12 you better.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Just I think it's
14 about fairness and equity and whether at the
15 top end of the pay scale or the bottom end of
16 the pay scale everyone should be treated
17 equally (audio interrupted.)

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Now you're frozen and
19 muted, Kyle. We'll give him a minute to
20 unfreeze himself. It's happened to the best of
21 us so I understand. Okay, while Kyle is coming
22 back to us, does anyone else want to add onto
23 the question?

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, so on the
25 question, according to City Code what it stated

1 with this waiver was that what was best for the
2 City. And at that time we did have a little
3 bit of negotiations there that some of the
4 stipulations that we had weren't met.

5 So although it was unconditional the
6 way that we negotiated, I think in the end we
7 realized that communication helps with things
8 like this. So there were a lot of criticisms
9 that came out there.

10 But I think what occurred with this
11 waiver ended up being the best for the City.
12 So I think that is by the code. So I do think
13 it was a better deal for the City. And I do
14 think it's fair that Mrs, Cipriani will --
15 although not living in the City pay what every
16 other citizen pays.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
18 question? The only thing I want to add is just
19 a few things. First of all, I understand both
20 sides of the argument here. I just kind of
21 want to reiterate what I said two or three
22 weeks ago.

23 It does say in the Home Rule Charter
24 that it shall be within the sole discretion of
25 the Mayor in evaluating the circumstances of

1 each candidate for employment to determine
2 whether or not to seek a waiver of the
3 residency requirements contain herein.

4 So the Mayor does have that right if
5 she, you know, deems that person to be
6 qualified and to be in the best interest of the
7 City that that person then would or she would
8 submit a waiver to Council.

9 I agree with my colleagues that in a
10 perfect world, I would like to see everyone
11 that works for the City live in the City. As I
12 mentioned two or three weeks ago, we're in the
13 midst of a pandemic that has rocked the United
14 States. It's rocked the world.

15 And it has totally thrown our
16 economy into a complete upheaval of epic
17 proportions by anyone's account. We -- as I
18 mentioned two weeks ago, we may be entering
19 into one of the worst recessions since the
20 great depression in the 1930s.

21 So as Councilman Schuster said, what
22 I have to balance as a Councilman is what --
23 literally is what is best for the City. And I
24 do think that Miss Cipriani is the best person
25 at this time for the City to take that

1 position.

2 If anyone watched the caucus tonight
3 who's out there watching this meeting, you saw
4 that Miss Cipriani, number one, came prepared;
5 and number two, basically paid for herself and
6 some with the money that she found lying in an
7 account that was there since 1999.

8 Now we have 500 and -- a half a
9 million dollar loan and grant program that is
10 going to be on its way as soon as we pass it in
11 Seventh Order tonight. I think that's
12 important to note.

13 Our small businesses need help. Our
14 citizens need help. So I think at this point
15 you really -- and my vote is just because I
16 think you have to do what's right for the City.

17 The other thing I want to point out
18 too is qualifications-wise, she has a master's
19 degree in organizational management, a degree
20 in leadership development and project
21 management. She's the former Deputy Secretary
22 for Workforce Development for the Pennsylvania
23 Department of Labor and Industry.

24 She was the Director of the State
25 Workers Insurance Fund and the special

1 assistant for strategic initiatives in the
2 Department of Labor and Industry. So I think
3 that most citizens would say, jeez, do I want
4 this person to be in charge of the federal
5 programs and the federal -- the millions of
6 dollars that come in from the federal
7 government and how they're going to be spent?

8 And do I want somebody that has this
9 kind of background to be in charge of that? I
10 would hope that people would say yes. Again, I
11 understand the other argument. You know, I
12 really do. But in this -- this is such a
13 unique situation that we find ourselves in that
14 I feel we would be doing the City a disservice,
15 you know, not to try to push this -- pass this
16 through. So again, I'll be voting yes. And,
17 Kyle, I'm sorry. You froze on us.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, I apologize.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: That's okay. I don't
20 know if you want to finish your comments.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Where -- I mean, do
22 you know where I left off?

23 MR. GAUGHAN: I can't remember. We
24 heard most of it. But --

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, and just to

1 reiterate, you know, this has nothing to do
2 with the qualifications. But we also have
3 75,000 people in this City. The fact that
4 we're saying that we can't find one that lives
5 in the City that's qualified to take this job,
6 I just -- I'll take those odds any day.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, I understand
8 what you're saying. The only thing is I would
9 bet -- I'm not a betting man. But I would bet
10 that it would be very hard to find someone who
11 has a master's degree in organizational
12 management, who was the former Deputy Secretary
13 for Workforce Development for the Pennsylvania
14 Department of Labor and Industry.

15 It just -- all these things add up.
16 And to me when you put that in front and you
17 say, hey, we're in the middle of a pandemic,
18 we're in the middle of the worst economic
19 recession at least since the 1930s, that's what
20 is swaying my decision. But I do understand
21 the other side of it. So anyone else on the
22 question?

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes. I don't want
24 to stay silent. I know I made several comments
25 on this over the weeks. But, of course, I echo

1 President Gaughan's comments regarding her
2 qualifications and the situation that we're in
3 during this pandemic and how it's unique.

4 I know that some of our fellow
5 Council members had expressed that they didn't
6 feel that it was justified. But I don't really
7 understand what circumstances would then
8 justify a waiver because I feel like this
9 completely does.

10 I also just personally, you know,
11 feel that this code -- this piece of the code
12 is antiquated, something that's not used in a
13 lot of cities. And while I do agree that I
14 think our employees should be from this City,
15 you know, I was very impressed with the
16 qualifications she had.

17 And it just doesn't make sense to me
18 as to why we would vote for the appointment and
19 then vote against the waiver. So do we expect
20 in six months to change the OECD Director and
21 have turnover in that office? I don't think
22 that that is really a healthy decision for our
23 City either.

24 So I am still supportive of this
25 piece of legislation. I appreciate the changes

1 that have been made to it and the items that
2 Miss Cipriani has now agreed to. And I'll be
3 voting yes on it tonight. So that was all that
4 I wanted to say. Thank you.

5 MR. DONAHUE: I just -- Bill, sorry,
6 if I could add because I think when I got off
7 before I was explaining too, you know, the
8 circumstances in which I would consider a
9 waiver.

10 And that's I believe the waiver
11 system should be used as an extension to the
12 six months. So if you have every intention to
13 move into the City within six months but then,
14 you know, any sort of circumstances that go
15 with buying, selling homes and relocating your
16 family and whatnot, you know, should be taken
17 into consideration to give some sort of
18 extension.

19 But I don't think that extension
20 should ever exceed, you know, another six
21 months. And I think that's -- I just want to
22 clarify that because I think I got cut off when
23 I was mentioning that before.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: I would also like to
25 add to that. When looking at this, I mean, the

1 salary isn't astronomical. So I could
2 understand maybe a possibility of not moving.
3 And because it's a department head within a
4 Mayor's cabinet, I mean, the possibility that
5 this -- the tenure could only last two years is
6 something that I took into consideration.

7 If we take a city like New York
8 City, which I would say is one of the more
9 progressive cities in the country, if you could
10 get a job in that city, you do have to move
11 into the city. And I think you have to stay
12 there for two to three years before you're
13 allowed to move into like an adjacent county.

14 So to say that this is something
15 that's antiquated is one thing, but I think
16 with the circumstances here having her pay
17 taxes in the City I think is a very good
18 compromise from some of the arguments that
19 Mr. Gaughan had with the past administration.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree. Thank you.
21 Anyone else on the question? Okay. All those
22 in favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed?

1 MR. MCANDREW: No.

2 MR. DONAHUE: No.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. The ayes have
4 it three to two. Mrs. Reed.

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

6 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 9,
7 2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING SECTION 13 (AS
8 AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 29, 1994 AND ORDINANCE
9 NO. 195, 2003) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
10 CODE ENTITLED "APPROPRIATION" IN ORDER TO
11 REQUIRE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL PRIOR TO THE
12 TRANSFER OF AN UNEXPENDED BALANCE OF AN
13 APPROPRIATION ITEM TO FUND A NEW JOB
14 CLASSIFICATION OR INCREASE THE BUDGETED SALARY
15 OF A JOB CLASSIFICATION.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading
17 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?
18 Hello out there. Anybody?

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Mr. Chairman, I move
20 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Is there a
22 second?

23 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

7 MS. REED: 6-B FORMALLY 5-B -
8 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 10,
9 2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
11 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO CITY RETAIL
12 BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS TO OPERATE ON CITY
13 RIGHT-OF-WAYS. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
14 ATTACHED).

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
16 You've heard reading by title of Item 6-B.
17 What is your pleasure?

18 MR. DONAHUE: I move that Item 6-B
19 pass reading by title and is referred to its
20 proper committee.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
4 ayes have it and so moved.

5 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A
6 FORMALLY 6-B - FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
7 COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE
8 COUNCIL NO. 10, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
9 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
10 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO CITY RETAIL
11 BUSINESSES AND RESTAURANTS TO OPERATE ON CITY
12 RIGHT-OF-WAYS. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
13 ATTACHED).

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

17 MS. REED: Excuse me, Councilman
18 Gaughan, we need a motion here.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm
20 jumping the gun again. Thank you, Mrs. Reed.

21 MR. DONAHUE: I'll make a motion to
22 amend Item 7-A to add the following section,
23 Section 6, this ordinance will become null and
24 void and the suspension of the processes
25 provided herein will expire upon rescindment or

1 expiration of the operational restrictions
2 placed on businesses and restaurants in
3 Lackawanna County by the Governor of
4 Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Secretary of
5 Health, which relates to the coronavirus known
6 as COVID-19.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. There's
8 been a motion. Is there a second?

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion
11 and a second. On the question. On the
12 question, Solicitor Hayes, can you just kind of
13 explain what that amendment is?

14 ATTY. HAYES: Certainly. Thank you,
15 Councilman Gaughan. The proposed resolution
16 that was passed -- or that was sent down to us
17 by the Law Department asked for a suspension of
18 certain processes and to allow encroachment
19 permits to go through without getting the
20 normal approvals.

21 I think the general consensus I
22 received from Council was that was an
23 appropriate step while these restrictions are
24 in place because of the coronavirus. However,
25 the way it was written, it was completely

1 open-ended.

2 So what we did was amend it to make
3 it expire when all restrictions that are
4 currently in place because of the coronavirus
5 are lifted.

6 So we'll go back to normal order
7 after this whole pandemic has passed and all
8 restrictions that are placed on our businesses
9 have been lifted.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you so
11 much. Anyone else on the question?

12 MR. DONAHUE: Just on the question,
13 I just want to thank Kevin for putting this
14 together because that was going to be one of my
15 questions that I came up with that I was going
16 to bring up in caucus tonight. But we had
17 gotten this, you know, right before our caucus.
18 So thank you, Kevin, for putting that together.

19 ATTY. HAYES: No problem.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
21 else on the question? All those in favor of
22 the motion to amend Item 7-A please say aye.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

24 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
3 ayes have it and the motion passes.
4 Mrs. Reed? Oh, I'm sorry. See, I can't see
5 Mrs. Reed. Usually she'd be sending a glare at
6 me right now to tell me I'm not doing this the
7 right way. Okay, I'm going to get this right.
8 There should be a roll call on this, correct?

9 MS. REED: Yes.

10 ATTY. HAYES: (Audio interruption)
11 Committee on Rules, Mr. Gaughan, you make a
12 recommendation.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, okay, as
14 Chairperson for the Committee on Rules, I
15 recommend final passage of Item 7-A as amended.
16 Is there a second?

17 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
19 call, please, Miss Carrera.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
5 Item 7-A as amended legally and lawfully
6 adopted.

7 MS. REED: 7-B FORMALLY 5-C - FOR
8 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
9 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO 34,
10 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
11 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
12 TO ENTER INTO LOAN AGREEMENTS AND MAKE LOANS
13 FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
14 ADMINISTRATION-REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, BETWEEN
15 THREE THOUSAND (\$3,000.00) DOLLARS AND TWENTY
16 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000.00) TO VARIOUS SMALL
17 BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ASSIST
18 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND TO OFFSET THE FINANCIAL
19 IMPACT COVID-19 HAS HAD ON BUSINESSES, AS PART
20 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF
21 LOAN PROGRAM. (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE
22 ATTACHED).

23 ATTY. HAYES: Bill, you're muted.

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

1 Committee on Community Development?

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chairperson for
3 the Committee on Community Development, I
4 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

19 MS. REED: 7-C FORMALLY 5-D - FOR
20 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
21 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 35,
22 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
23 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
24 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO GRANT AGREEMENTS AND
25 MAKE GRANTS FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S

1 ENTERPRISE ZONE FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.00
2 TO VARIOUS SMALL BUSINESS THROUGHOUT THE CITY
3 OF SCRANTON AS PART OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
4 SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM
5 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. (EMERGENCY
6 CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

7 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
8 recommendation of Chairperson for the Committee
9 on Community Development?

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chairperson for
11 the Committee on Community Development, I
12 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
15 call, please.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare

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Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted. If there's no further business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Motion to adjourn.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you everyone.

This meeting is adjourned. Stay safe. Stay healthy. See everybody next Tuesday. Bye-bye.

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.

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