

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, September 1st, 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: If everyone would
4 please remain standing for a moment of silent
5 reflection for our service men and women
6 throughout the world and also for all those who
7 have passed away recently in our community.

8 Let us also take a special moment of
9 silence tonight for people in our community and
10 throughout the United States and the world who
11 are suffering or who have passed away from the
12 coronavirus. May those who are sick receive
13 the proper treatment and recover. And may
14 their caregivers, families and neighbors be
15 shielded from the onslaught of this virus.

16 Let us give solace to those who
17 grieve the loss of their loved ones. Let us
18 thank the doctors, nurses, researchers and all
19 medical professionals and first responders who
20 seek to heal and help those affected and who
21 put themselves at risk in the process.

22 We continue to hope that their work
23 may conquer this disease and restore
24 communities to wholeness and health.

25 Whether we are home or abroad,

1 surrounded by many people suffering from this
2 illness or only a few, let us stick together,
3 endure together, mourn together, persist and
4 prepare together.

5 And in place of our anxiety, let us
6 continue to hope and find peace. Thank you.
7 Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

12 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Please dispense
18 with the reading of the minutes.

19 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

20 3-A. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
21 LACKAWANNA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
22 AUTHORITY DATED JULY 28, 2020 REGARDING
23 AGREEMENT WITH LACKAWANNA RECYCLING, INC.

24 3-B. SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS
25 DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT

1 2019-2020 YEAR TO DATE JULY 31, 2020.

2 3-C. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
3 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD
4 JULY 8, 2020.

5 3-D. MINUTES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE
6 COMMISSION MEETING HELD JULY 16, 2020.

7 3-E. FUEL CARD ANALYSIS RECEIVED
8 FROM OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER
9 FOR THE PERIOD MAY 24 THROUGH JUNE 23, 2020.

10 3-F. CHECK RECEIVED FROM COMCAST IN
11 THE AMOUNT OF \$259,866.75 FOR QUARTERLY
12 FRANCHISE FEE.

13 3-G. CORRESPONDENCE DATED AUGUST
14 14, 2020 FROM THOMAS J. ANDERSON &
15 ASSOCIATES REGARDING THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT
16 AND MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION (MMO) FOR THE
17 CITY OF SCRANTON'S PENSION PLAN FOR 2021.

18 3-H. CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR MONTH
19 ENDING JULY 31, 2020.

20 3-I. MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM
21 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
22 JULY 15, 2020.

23 3-J. AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORM
24 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
25 AUGUST 19, 2020.

1 3-K. MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON
2 LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE AUTHORITY
3 MEETING HELD JANUARY 16, 2020.

4 3-L. FUEL CARD ANALYSIS RECEIVED
5 FROM OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER FOR THE
6 PERIOD JUNE 24 THROUGH JULY 23, 2020.

7 3-M. MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE
8 PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD JULY 15, 2020.

9 3.N. AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING
10 BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 2, 2020.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
12 Are there any comments on any of the Third
13 Order items? If not, received and filed. Do
14 any Council members have any announcements at
15 this time?

16 MR. MCANDREW: I have one. Our
17 friends at Friends of the Poor of Scranton
18 wanted me to let everybody know that our food
19 pantries in West Scranton and South Side are
20 open during the week, West Side, Jackson
21 Terrace at 148 Meridian Avenue is open Mondays,
22 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to
23 1:30. Wednesday they're closed in support of
24 offsite food distributions.

25 Over in South Side, Valley View

1 Terrace building nine, food pantry is open.
2 It's on 950 Pear Street, open Monday through
3 Friday 9:30 a.m., to 12:30 p.m. All other
4 pantry locations in the City are closed.
5 That's all I have. Thank you.

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

8 MR. SCHUSTER: I would like to
9 extend congratulations to the graduates of this
10 school year and also to extend condolences to
11 the family of Judith Hadley. Thank you.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
13 Schuster. Anyone else?

14 I have three announcements. First,
15 I just wanted to say that Scranton Police Chief
16 Carl Graziano is retiring as everyone saw
17 recently from the announcement and in the
18 newspaper effective September 11th to take a
19 position as Lackawanna College's Director of
20 Public Safety.

21 As I said to the newspaper, I really
22 think that there's big shoes to fill there.
23 Chief Graziano has done a great job and has
24 been an outstanding leader in the police
25 department. So I want to thank him for his

1 service.

2 He became a patrolman in October,
3 1992 and then became acting Police Chief in
4 2012. And he's done an absolutely fantastic
5 job.

6 The next announcement I'd like to
7 make is the Scranton Together Neighborhood
8 Initiatives will continue through September.
9 The events will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at
10 the following locations:

11 Wednesday, September 2nd, Connell
12 Park; Friday, September 4th, City Hall;
13 Wednesday, September 9th, Weston Field; Friday,
14 September 11th, Fellows Park; Monday, September
15 14th at Tripp Park; Wednesday, September 16th
16 at Billy Barrett Park; Friday, September 18th
17 at Nay Aug Park; Monday, September 21st in Pine
18 Brook; Wednesday, September 23rd in Keyser
19 Valley.

20 There was just recently a
21 neighborhood initiative the other day at the
22 park in my neighborhood. And I could tell you
23 that the turnout was great. I think this is a
24 fantastic initiative bringing City Hall to the
25 neighborhoods. And I've heard nothing but good

1 things from neighbors. And I think we should
2 continue -- the administration should continue
3 to do more things like this. It really is
4 helpful.

5 And last announcement from me, next
6 Monday, September 7th, the Labor Day holiday
7 will be observed. City Hall will be closed and
8 DPW will be off this day. Refuse and recycling
9 will be one day behind next week, the week of
10 September 7th. And that's all I have.

11 Mrs. Reed?

12 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
15 Will someone please make a motion to accept
16 public comment from the following citizens,
17 Thomas Coyne and Fay Franus.

18 MR. DONAHUE: I make the motion to
19 accept public comment.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll second.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
22 the question, we did receive and review Mr.
23 Coyne's comments. I don't believe there was
24 any questions -- any questions there from Mr.
25 Coyne.

1 Miss Franus also submitted I believe
2 six questions that we will get answered. Some
3 of them had to do with ECTV and the Comcast
4 franchise money that was in Third Order
5 tonight.

6 So there's some specific questions
7 there. And then there are two questions
8 about -- or two questions about Scranton
9 Tomorrow and a question about the University of
10 Scranton.

11 So we will get those questions
12 answered. And we'll get back to Miss Franus on
13 that. Anyone else on the question? Also, I
14 failed to mention as well, public comment is
15 placed into the official record and our
16 official minutes.

17 The minutes can be accessed by going
18 to www.scrantonpa.gov and going to Council's
19 webpage. Any questions that were posed to
20 Council that would be better served to the
21 administration, we get that to the correct
22 department.

23 If anyone would like to view the
24 comments that have been submitted, please go to
25 the webpage and review the minutes. They are

1 there. All those in favor of the motion
2 signify by saying aye.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

4 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
8 eyes have it and so moved.

9 Mayor Cagnetti, thanks for sticking
10 around. We -- one item that we did not get to
11 in the caucus which I think is extremely
12 important and something that I've been pushing
13 for since 2015, is the transfer of the
14 delinquent tax collection, real estate tax
15 collection from NRS the private company to the
16 Tax Claim Bureau -- County Tax Claim Bureau
17 which is a no-brainer in my opinion.

18 So if you just want to talk about
19 that, maybe what the next steps are, what the
20 transition looks like and anything else you
21 might want to add.

22 MAYOR COGNETTI: Sure. So last time
23 we had a caucus about six weeks ago I know we
24 had talked about NRS. And I was not ready to
25 state unequivocally that we would be done with

1 the contract by the end of December.

2 There was still some -- some legal
3 study and discussion that needed to happen.
4 But I am absolutely ready to say that we will
5 be done with that -- that contract at the end
6 of December this year. So I wanted to make
7 sure that we studied every angle -- it was new
8 to Solicitor O'Brien, new to me coming in.

9 And there was a long history there
10 that dates back I believe since 2011. There's
11 a lot there that we wanted to make sure that we
12 were making our decisions based on all the
13 information that we could gather and the
14 conversations that needed to have.

15 Now I could say we will absolutely
16 be done by the end of December which is I think
17 it's -- I think I agree with you. It's great
18 news and it will really -- really move us
19 forward. So we're pleased to put in front of
20 you an intergovernmental agreement where we
21 would work with the county which I do think
22 makes the most sense for a variety of reasons.

23 We talked earlier about technology.
24 And we've been talking about processes and our
25 systems. There's so much of real estate. We

1 with an RFP for delinquent fees going forward.
2 It might be that we would package those
3 together. So we're still looking at that,
4 excited to have Wayne and Mary Jo working on
5 that right now. But keep that in mind as you
6 review this that what's right in front of you
7 right now is the real estate piece.

8 And then that refuse will come to
9 you either in the form of an RFP where we've
10 selected somebody or potentially -- potentially
11 would also be with the county. But I'm not
12 sure. I'm not sure that the county would have
13 (inaudible) with the refuse fees for a City of
14 our size is definitely a large -- a large scale
15 project. But we're making those assessments
16 right now.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Does
18 anybody have any questions on this agenda item
19 for Mayor Cagnetti?

20 MR. MCANDREW: I don't have a
21 question. I just have a comment. I think it's
22 wonderful that we're going to partner with the
23 county for the collection of these fees, you
24 know, intergovernmentally. We've been talking
25 about intergovernmental and shared services

1 for, you know, a year now between the School
2 Board and us and the county.

3 So this is a very good first step
4 with regards to, you know, teaming up and
5 partnering in some of these situations. That's
6 all I have. Thanks.

7 MAYOR COGNETTI: Thank you,
8 Councilman McAndrew. I wanted to make sure
9 that you guys know there was, you know, there
10 was news about 10 days ago coming out of the
11 federal courthouse that detailed that the
12 county had offered this in -- many years ago
13 predating I believe all of us on this.

14 Even, Councilman Gaughan, I think it
15 might have even been before you took office.
16 The offer was 5 percent commission. Next week
17 Solicitor O'Brien will come and detail the
18 agreement more. He could give you more of the
19 detail.

20 But that 5 percent is -- remained.
21 It's baked into the intergovernmental agreement
22 the county would take 5 percent commission
23 versus the 15 percent that NRS got through the
24 means they did. So I just wanted you guys to
25 know that the five -- when you see it in the

1 document before you. But I wanted to know --
2 that was my first question was I want to make
3 sure this agreement is the same level that it
4 would have been.

5 So we're getting back to where the
6 City should be in terms of paying for the
7 service.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Any questions for
9 Mayor Cognetti?

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: I'm assuming that
11 commission fee, would that go towards perhaps,
12 like their staffing needs in order to allocate
13 the time to go through the taxes. Is that --

14 MAYOR COGNETTI: That's my
15 understanding. I won't speak for the county.
16 But that's -- it's for their operation is my
17 guess. But in my mind it would be similar to
18 OECD. We charge an administrative fee in OECD.
19 That's to help with our staff time that we
20 spend evaluating projects and things like that.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Okay.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe the 5
23 percent is statutory right, Kevin? It's --

24 ATTY. HAYES: It is.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: -- it's set by the

1 state law.

2 ATTY. HAYES: So if you don't see it
3 in the intergovernmental agreement it may not
4 say 5 percent, but statutorily it's the cap the
5 county could charge for administrative fees.
6 So it's a saving for us.

7 MAYOR COGNETTI: Absolutely.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Big time.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you.

10 MR. MCANDREW: I have one more quick
11 point.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, sure. Go ahead,
13 Mark.

14 MR. MCANDREW: So if we're talking
15 about the collecting the fees and so next year
16 I know it was too late this year. You know,
17 the garbage fee itself and it's August. So,
18 you know, actually it's September.

19 So I know it was too late last year.
20 I'd just like to know what thoughts are --
21 what's being at least discussed because believe
22 it or not, people are still left with that
23 question. They come to me all the time saying,
24 well, Mark, I thought we were going to do this
25 or I thought -- and so I think, you know, it

1 relates to this what we're talking about. So
2 I'm just throwing it out there to see if there
3 is any discussion or plans.

4 MAYOR COGNETTI: That's absolutely
5 what we're -- that's the goal. And Mary Jo and
6 Wayne are working on seeing what the
7 feasibility is with that for next year.

8 ATTY. HAYES: Mark, we -- the issue
9 with the refuse fees is the reason they
10 couldn't be included in this agreement is
11 because it would have to have been printed on
12 the tax bills. So the earliest we could do
13 that is 2022 with the county -- not saying that
14 that's the direction that the City -- that's
15 going to be up to the administration and
16 Council to decide.

17 But we couldn't do it before 2022.
18 So the -- as the Mayor indicated and as
19 Solicitor O'Brien and I have been in
20 discussions, the thought would be to have an
21 RFP for the collection of the refuse at least
22 for 2021.

23 MR. MCANDREW: I don't mean the
24 collection of delinquents. I'm talking about
25 how are we going to collect the fee itself

1 moving forward, whether it's, you know, it's a
2 fee or is it part -- is it rolled into the
3 taxes like this was discussed?

4 ATTY. HAYES: Okay.

5 MR. MCANDREW: My question was more
6 regarding towards that.

7 MAYOR COGNETTI: Okay. Yeah,
8 we're the -- we're studying to see if that
9 could happen. That would be ideal for a range
10 of reasons, whether or not it can happen for
11 next year, we'll see.

12 With Scranton, we have two
13 Treasurers working on it right now which is
14 nice. It would be nice if we could have that
15 for a while. But it's only for a few --

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Good. Any other
17 questions? All right. Mayor Cognetti, thank
18 you for coming. We appreciate it.

19 MAYOR COGNETTI: Yep. Thank you all
20 very much.

21

22 PUBLIC COMMENT

23

24 (The following are e-mails submitted to Council
25 for Public Comment.)

1 (Thomas Coyne)

2
3 Greetings members of City Council,

4
5 Last week's entry seems to have been
6 confusing due to my laptop needing a new
7 keyboard, as it is also activating my touch
8 mouse and moving comments all over the place.
9 The parts that were moved improperly are added
10 here.

11 Correction -Fireworks.

12 Smoke producing Item and the
13 category of fireworks listed as Silent
14 fireworks/noiseless fireworks. I also believe
15 that firecrackers should be allowed with
16 parental permission or someone over 21
17 supervising. Though they do produce reduced
18 noise they are effective for small groups and
19 use with music accompaniment. For large
20 displays they are not practical. Cities have
21 adopted them due to pets, PTSD, and younger
22 kids who are trying to sleep.

23
24 ** Should have the highlighted moved to the
25 end.

1 Smoke producing Item and the
2 category of fireworks listed as Silent
3 fireworks/noiseless fireworks. Though they do
4 produce reduced noise, they are effective for
5 small groups and use with music accompaniment.
6 For large displays they are not practical.
7 Cities have adopted them due to pets, PTSD, and
8 younger kids who are trying to sleep. I also
9 believe that firecrackers should be allowed
10 with parental permission or someone over 21
11 supervising.

12
13 Onto New issues --

14 PEL expects a 2.3 million shortfall,
15 the city expects a 6-8 million shortfall, if
16 the act 511 appeal fails, the City would be
17 looking at a shortfall estimate of - 12.3 for
18 PEL and 16-18 mil based on random un-backed
19 City guesses.

20 I am of the ideal that one should
21 always plan for the worst and hope for the
22 better.

23 I understand the Act 47 financially
24 distressed status is important for getting
25 banks who avoid taxes to pay up, by changing

1 from business privilege mercantile tax to a
2 payroll tax. Part of that is a tax increase
3 from a flat 0.1% to 0.286%. One of the things
4 it corrects is banking and certain
5 manufacturing businesses from avoiding taxes,
6 but secondary it promotes Scranton job loss, by
7 incentivizing remote work as work outside the
8 city is not subject to payroll tax.

9 In relation to taxes and public
10 utilities, has anyone acquired a list of
11 utility **Contract carriers** ?? A legal entity
12 providing for-hire transportation or goods to
13 its customers on a **contract** basis. Confirmed In
14 Commonwealth v. Lafferty
15 **426 Pa. 541 (1967)**
16 Commonwealth v. Lafferty, Appellant.
17 **Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.**
18 Argued May 25, 1967. September 26, 1967.

19 Contract Carriers are subject to
20 taxation and are not excluded under the Public
21 Utility.

22 "Public utilities shall not exclude
23 from their tax base receipts derived from sales
24 of appliances, equipment, advertising, etc. A
25 contract carrier is not a public utility."

1 So any contract workers for the
2 utilities should be taxed, are we sure we are
3 capturing this revenue?

4 Taxation -- University of Scranton.
5 Though excluded from the tax base and giving
6 funds in lieu of taxes, (though well under what
7 it should) has anyone asked or reviewed
8 improvements to University of Scranton
9 Property? Though the U of S is under the
10 shield of non taxation, all contract work on
11 the buildings is taxable. So Unless the U of S
12 uses ONLY internal staff for cleaning, repair,
13 maintenance, furniture moving, and apartment
14 management. The City may be owed taxes that may
15 have been excluded as purchased under a tax
16 free entity.

17 - 24. CONTRACTORS WHO REPAIR, ALTER,
18 AND IMPROVE TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY a.
19 Persons engaged in business in the Taxing
20 District as contractors who repair, alter, and
21 improve tangible personal property for the
22 account of others are subject to tax under the
23 provisions of this ordinance. When contractors
24 perform labor or services on articles of
25 tangible personal property furnished by the

1 other party to the contract, such contractors
2 are required to report only the amount due them
3 for labor or services rendered.

4
5 There is a lot that can be
6 improved...

7 Improved tax collection. I am also
8 in favor of when and if you get any information
9 from Northeast Revenue Service, it would be
10 reasonable in this time of economic struggle
11 and COVID-19 to institute total tax amnesty for
12 a period of time. A council member stated
13 publicly in session, that you are not even sure
14 what may be beyond the statute of limitations
15 to collect at this point. I would not address
16 this issue as it opens up more problems, unless
17 challenged in a case by case basis.

18 The most reasonable for the City is
19 to offer amnesty without evaluation of this
20 question. It would be the responsibility of the
21 homeowner if they are delinquent for 4 years,
22 and of those 3 of the 4 are expected to be
23 beyond collectable, to pay and direct payment
24 to a specific tax year on the check/payment
25 form and challenge the other years. So if 2

1 years were owed in 2013 a 2014 and there is a 7
2 year limit.. if they fail to mark a payment to
3 the 2014 tax year, you are free to apply it on
4 any outstanding debt from oldest to newest, as
5 long as no statement is made on liability vs
6 outstanding balance.

7 The Amnesty is a great way to
8 increase recovery of debt and can include all
9 debt owed when not challenged. People can
10 always pay bills that are no longer collectable
11 and by doing so, extend the validity on those
12 owed numbers.

13 You save people fines and penalties,
14 and recover funds to use now... and may
15 capture funds that may have been lost in total.

16 This is a minor computer scanning
17 irritation for me. The PDF submissions to
18 council should be scanned as searchable not as
19 an image. Options below. This includes things
20 like the controllers report/financials and
21 budget.

22 - **Searchable Image (Exact)** to make the
23 text in the PDF document searchable but not
24 editable (this is the default setting). Use
25 this setting if you're processing a document

1 that needs to be searchable but should never be
2 edited in any way, such as an executed
3 contract.

4 - **Searchable Image (Compact)** to make the
5 text in the PDF document searchable but not
6 editable and to compress its graphics. Select
7 this setting if you're processing a document
8 whose text requires searching without editing
9 and that also contains a fair number of graphic
10 images that need compressing. When you select
11 this setting, Paper Capture applies JPEG
12 compression to color images and ZIP compression
13 to black-and-white images.

14 - The yelling "Get off my lawn"... when
15 we as kids enjoyed no such restrictions, and
16 now expect kids to act differently, is not
17 exactly reasonable.

18 Last, for my starting comment last
19 week, I hope it did not offend. It was put in
20 to show aggravation at something of a moral
21 imperative that I held as a kid in Scranton. As
22 an adult I can't ignore my opinion I had as
23 that kid, as it is valid and even now. I do
24 not forget what being a kid is like and in
25 understanding that, have to temper my adult

1 view to respect what kids now may think as
2 well. As for th comment, it's a common
3 statement on a TV comedy, as an Irish man who
4 tends to always be aggravated, refers to
5 everyone in those terms. For laughs and
6 understanding, and if you like British humor
7 and computer geek/office humor, even if off
8 colored (as brit sit-coms can be) take a watch
9 of the show "The IT Crowd." Because in these
10 times we all need to find a few laughs wherever
11 we can.

12 Happy Vacation!

13 Respectfully.

14 Thomas Coyne

15
16 Additional note.

17 Just reviewed the 2021 budget and I
18 see IT has a major overhaul planned.

19 The budget states that a replacement of the
20 City operating system is required due to
21 Technical Support ending in 2021.

22 The only Operating System that ended support I
23 can think of was Windows 7 in 2020.

24 Internet Explorer ends at
25 12/31/2021, but that is not hardware, just

1 installing another browser.

2 Windows 7 ended its security
3 patching as of **January 14, 2020, but..**
4 Extended Security Updates (ESU) are available
5 for a fee for continued operation and patches
6 thru 2023.

7 I support upgrades and security, but
8 it has to be done in a reasonable long term
9 manor.

10 A Unified master data (what people
11 have been making as an access database since
12 1992.) May sound good but Having a database for
13 all departments and service partners, gives
14 external access to privileged information to
15 outside sources.

16 Service partners should not have the
17 access to a full database.

18 The need is ever present to have an
19 access controlled intranet (internal) that can
20 be protected and secured by VPN and credentials
21 to specific remote machines running software to
22 connect to city resources. Intranet and
23 internet need to be separated and non linked.

24 If I was running IT, I would back up
25 financial and any critical data using a ZFS

1 system.

2 Tom Coyne

3
4 (Fay Franus)

5
6 Council here are my questions and comments
7 for September 1 2020:

8
9 1. I want to know how much money the city gave
10 ECTV from the Comcast franchise money that the
11 city gets?

12
13 2. When is the last time EVTC received money
14 from Comcast franchise money if ever?

15
16 3. I want to know exactly how Scranton Tomorrow
17 has spent or will spend the money they received
18 from the city and the University of Scranton.
19 Grant money given to them as well as any other
20 money they may have received from the city?

21
22 4. Did money from the Comcast franchise go to
23 Scranton Tomorrow? If so how much and why?

24
25 5. When the University of Scranton gives the

1 city money in lieu of taxes next time I want to
2 know if you as council and the Mayor will allow
3 the University of Scranton to dictate tho the
4 city as to how this money will be spent?
5 Example they wanted their last contribution of
6 money in lieu of taxes to go to the fire
7 department and Scranton Tomorrow.

8
9 Comment on question 5: I do NOT believe at all
10 that the University of Scranton has a right to
11 tell the city how to spend money they give in
12 lieu of taxes. That money should go into the
13 operating budget not special interest of
14 theirs.

15
16 6. I want to know why each council person feels
17 the questions and comments that people send it
18 for the meetings are NOT read aloud and the
19 replies read aloud during the meeting?

20
21 Comment about question 6: I already know what
22 Bill Gaughn feels he told me on the phone but I
23 have not heard from Kyle Donahur, Jessica
24 Rothchild, Mark McAndrew and Mr. Schuster. I
25 want to hear from each one of them directly.

1 also another comment regarding question 6: The
2 Scranton school board allows people to call in
3 while their meeting is going on live.

4 The County commissioners read questions sent in
5 during their meeting and their answers. So I
6 see NO reason whatsoever why Scranton city
7 Council does not allow transparency. What you
8 are doing needs to stop.

9
10 **7. When will council start having council**
11 **meetings in council chambers?**

12
13 **8 Since the treasury sales allowed people to**
14 **attend their sale on September 1st in council**
15 **chambers why are people not being allowed to**
16 **attend meetings in council chambers?**

17
18 **Fay Franus**

19
20 (End of Public Comment.)

21
22 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Okay.

23 Mrs. Reed?

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

25 MOTIONS.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Schuster,
2 do you have any motions or comments?

3 MR. SCHUSTER: None at this time.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman
5 Schuster. Councilman McAndrew, any motions or
6 comments?

7 MR. MCANDREW: I do have a comment.
8 And it's an -- inquiring for a couple residents
9 and myself included. So it's been brought to
10 my attention -- I know this happens. It's
11 happened to me recently where say the night
12 before a garbage collection -- over here in
13 West Side it's Friday -- that some people come
14 from, you know, other parts of the area that
15 don't live here and bring bags of garbage and
16 drop it and run or an instance where I have a
17 tire laying against the back of my garage in
18 the alley, you know, someone that doesn't want
19 to dispose of it by themselves.

20 I don't know if that is from out of
21 the area but -- or someone dumped behind my
22 garage a big branch, you know, part of a tree
23 that was taken down. But with regards to that,
24 what is the ordinance with regards to that?
25 And my understanding is, I mean, there is a

1 fine out there.

2 I just want some clarity. Maybe we
3 can reach out to the City and have an
4 understanding. This was also brought to my
5 attention by Marty Flynn also that he's seen
6 this and has heard about it, our State Rep.

7 But I guess it occurs more than we
8 realize because now it's being brought to my
9 attention. And, you know, places like say on
10 Main Avenue, like, you know, what is maybe
11 11:00 at night people are putting bags of
12 garbage that don't live here just because they
13 don't want to pay the per bag or wherever they
14 live.

15 So I guess -- and my understanding
16 is the police know about it. I don't know if
17 there's a fine. I don't know if we can stiffen
18 that fine or at least take a look into it and
19 see where we're at with that so it doesn't get
20 any -- you know, so we can prevent -- have some
21 type of deterrent from this continue to happen.
22 If Mrs. Reed -- if anyone could speak to that
23 who already knows, that would be fine too.

24 ATTY. HAYES: Councilman, I know
25 that there is a -- there is an ordinance on the

1 books for dumping -- in other words, you can't
2 dump without, you know, in public or in private
3 receptacles without the owner's permission by
4 any -- you know, so in other words, it's
5 considered -- it's declared a nuisance and it's
6 prohibited.

7 I could get additional information.
8 But I know that there is at least one ordinance
9 on the book that would prohibit that.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Okay. Thank you.
11 Maybe we could just get a copy of that --

12 ATTY. HAYES: Sure.

13 MR. MCANDREW: -- in the mail.

14 ATTY. HAYES: You got it.

15 MR. MCANDREW: People that are
16 inquiring, I could provide them with this
17 information. Thank you very much.

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

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I do have one
22 comment. For the past month since we were off,
23 I've continued to receive complaints like we
24 usually would and e-mails from people living in
25 Scranton.

1 A lot of the complaints, a majority
2 of them are about like overgrown weed and grass
3 this time of year at various properties
4 throughout the City.

5 So I just want to let people know
6 that I have forwarded those along to, you know,
7 whatever appropriate department that it should
8 go to. I don't always get a response as to
9 whether or not something is completed. And I'm
10 working with the administration right now to be
11 able to have better communication and to close
12 those communication loops so that I do have an
13 understanding if something was completed or
14 not.

15 But I usually haven't updated people
16 unless I've received a response from that
17 department. So if there's something you're
18 still having an issue with, feel free to reach
19 back out to me. But I do have a -- I keep a
20 list of all those and I have been checking in
21 on all those different requests and complaints
22 from people. Thank you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you very
24 much. Councilman Donahue, do you have any
25 motions or comments? Sorry, I couldn't hear

1 you. Any motions or comments?

2 MR. DONAHUE: I have nothing at this
3 time.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. I
5 have a few comments that I want to go over
6 briefly. So I hope everybody is doing well.
7 You know, pandemic still rages in Lackawanna
8 County and throughout the country and the
9 world. So I just want to take a moment to say
10 how sorry I am to all those people in our
11 community and throughout the country and
12 throughout the world who are suffering from
13 this.

14 This is such an unbelievable time to
15 live through. And as I mentioned I think in
16 June and July, if anyone is suffering in our
17 City from the effects of dealing with this
18 pandemic, you can call 211. That's a line
19 where you could get social services or help
20 with food, anything like that.

21 And if you do have access to a
22 computer just go to scrantonpa.gov and there
23 are a ton of resources on there to help people
24 out. There's a few things that I just wanted
25 to check through since we're just coming back

1 from the August recess that I would like to
2 have an update on.

3 And this is something that I've
4 asked about in the past. And I'm just curious
5 to see if, first of all, if it's complete and
6 second of all, if it is complete if we did
7 identify any savings and that was a utility
8 bill audit.

9 The City hired a company I think
10 last year to conduct an audit of our utilities
11 to see if we could find any savings. And I
12 remember looking through that legislation. And
13 they provided some examples of other cities.
14 And there was a significant amount of savings
15 that they were able to find.

16 So I am very interested to see what
17 the status of that is. So, Mrs. Reed, if you
18 could just send that to the administration and
19 ask them to provide Council an update.

20 The other thing, Mrs. Reed -- and I
21 know that she's been in contact with the Law
22 Department. I'm just curious as to when we'll
23 be receiving legislation approving -- I think
24 we have to approve the appointment of John
25 Judge as the acting Fire Chief and at this

1 point I think Mary Jo Sheridan. So if you
2 could just double-check on that.

3 Also, the Act 47 recommendations I
4 think I asked last month and we did send a
5 friendly reminder to the administration. And I
6 think it is important particularly before the
7 end of the year to find out where we are as a
8 City in meeting some of those recommendations
9 that were given by the Pennsylvania Economy
10 League in our Act 47 Exit Plan.

11 We were extended for a period of
12 time in Act 47. There are several
13 recommendations that have just kind of
14 languished out there since I've been on Council
15 under the previous administrations. So I am
16 interested to see what the status of those are.

17 Also, the Mayor touched on it
18 briefly with the sale of receivables. I would
19 like to get clarification from the
20 administration on when the RFP will go out. I
21 know they're talking about some time hopefully
22 in the next few weeks. I just want to state
23 for the record my concern again.

24 And I stated this to the Mayor and
25 to the Business Administrator about cutting it

1 close with this thing. The sale of receivables
2 is a line item in the budget under sale of
3 assets. And it was pegged for a million and a
4 half, about roughly a million half dollars. So
5 if that somehow falls through and we're in
6 September now, these things as everybody knows
7 takes time.

8 My concern would be that that
9 obviously we would have a significant hole in
10 the budget. So I would like to just ask, you
11 know, first of all, when is this RFP going to
12 go out and what is the alternative plan if this
13 ends up falling through? In other words, where
14 are we going to get a million and a half
15 dollars?

16 The next thing was the Street Sign
17 Program. A few years ago the City entered into
18 a contract with a company that basically
19 modernized technology in the DPW in order for
20 us to better track street signs throughout the
21 City. It's a complaint that I get often about
22 street signs. I think we've made -- faded
23 street signs and street signs that just don't
24 exist.

25 The City has made I think

1 significant progress in moving through some
2 neighborhoods. I still think that there's a
3 lot of work to be done. So I would like an
4 update, Mrs. Reed, if we could from the DPW
5 on -- since this program has been in place and
6 we've been able to really track it, how many
7 street signs have been replaced, where have
8 they been replaced, and what is kind of the
9 plan on moving forward on what neighborhoods
10 they're going to attack to replace street
11 signs?

12 Also, Mary Jo Sheridan who was the
13 Chairwoman of the Ethics Board resigned and
14 will become City Treasurer, which I think is
15 great news. Mary Jo did a great job on the
16 Ethics Board. And I think she'll do a great
17 job as City Treasurer.

18 That does mean that there will be an
19 opening for -- on the Ethics Board that Council
20 will have to appoint. So I have been talking
21 with Mrs. Reed. And we are going to put out an
22 advertisement in the newspaper to solicit
23 resumes and letters of interest from people who
24 would be interested in serving on that Board.

25 There still remains work to be done

1 in getting that Board up and running. It has
2 not gone as smoothly as I think everyone would
3 have liked. But the members of the Ethics
4 Board have really done a good job in trying
5 their best.

6 I know that they are currently
7 working hard with the administration and the
8 Ethics Board Solicitor to get -- I think a
9 website up and running on the City's website
10 and doing some different things. So we'll see
11 if we can get a very good qualified person for
12 that Board.

13 I did want to report on a meeting
14 that I had with several neighbors up on
15 Whitetail Drive this past week or last week
16 rather. They just had pointed out to me some
17 flooding issues, water runoff issues. So I did
18 send something over to the DPW Director and
19 hopefully can get a meeting with him on that
20 this week to see if there is anything we can do
21 to mitigate those issues.

22 I also wanted to get an update,
23 Mrs. Reed, on the 2019 audit. I believe that
24 we received an update at the end of June or
25 July. So if you can get in touch with Kohanski

1 Company to get an update on that, that would be
2 great.

3 Also, in terms of financial
4 projections moving forward because of the
5 pandemic as everyone knows, there was concern
6 about -- major concern about the effect that it
7 would have on our budget. We did receive an
8 update from the former Business Administrator
9 Pat Sheridan on June 10th, 2020.

10 And he put together a pretty
11 comprehensive report on the way things were
12 looking. And then we were told that at the end
13 of July and September, beginning of September
14 we would have a better idea where we stood
15 financially and what people could expect
16 towards the end of the year.

17 So, Mrs. Reed, if we could just send
18 something to the administration and asking them
19 to come to Council and give us an update on
20 where those projections stand and certainly I
21 know they probably changed so where they --
22 and how they have changed.

23 And the last thing that I just
24 wanted to mention was something that I have
25 been working with the Director of Parks and

1 Recreation, Brian Fallon on and the Mayor. And
2 that is a new program that I would like the
3 City to unveil. And I think in speaking with
4 Director Fallon and the Mayor that this is
5 going to become a reality hopefully for next
6 year.

7 It is a Park Ambassador Program. I
8 was looking at what other cities do in terms of
9 the engagement between their community and our
10 park system. As everyone knows, we have
11 beautiful parks throughout the City; McClain
12 Park near my house, Crowley Park, Fellows Park.
13 We have a beautiful park in every neighborhood.

14 One of the issues that I see -- and
15 I talked to Director Fallon and the Mayor about
16 is the fact that we don't have enough employees
17 in the Park and Recs Department to cover every
18 single park. And they do an outstanding job
19 with the resources that they have and really
20 the lack of manpower that they have.

21 So this Park Ambassador Program
22 would be engaging the community to have people
23 in those neighborhoods near those parks be
24 another set of eyes. And there's people
25 throughout our neighborhoods that do this

1 already. This would formalize the process and
2 would actually make it a program.

3 So I won't go through every single
4 objective here and all that the volunteers
5 would be expected to do. And I will send that
6 out to the rest of Council. But the objective,
7 the overall objective here would basically be
8 to bridge the line of communication between our
9 Parks and Recreation Department and our
10 neighborhoods and to have these volunteers
11 assist the City with the general maintenance,
12 upkeep of the parks and close observation of
13 the parks which will enhance not only safety
14 for park visitors but provide an additional
15 presence to deter crime and vandalism.

16 And I think the most beneficial
17 thing here is that it would encourage the
18 community to take a really proactive approach
19 and maintaining the integrity and intended use
20 of parks and green space throughout the City.

21 The other thing on top of this
22 program that I would like to see the
23 administration engage in in the spring and the
24 summer of next year is the potential program
25 where there would be actual activities in the

1 parks. I know years ago with I think CETA
2 workers, there was a CETA Program where they
3 would have activities, baseball games, football
4 games.

5 I don't know exactly what that would
6 look like yet. But it's something that I've
7 spoken to the Mayor about. I think it's just
8 another way to get our kids in our
9 neighborhoods and our adults engaged in our
10 park system.

11 As I go through the City on a -- I
12 think I mentioned here before all of you were
13 on Council, because of the pandemic I've had an
14 opportunity now to just to drive around the
15 City because there was really nothing else to
16 do and to take my children to the different
17 parks throughout the City.

18 And our park system is second to
19 none. And we have to do everything that we can
20 to keep it up, to keep it safe, to keep it
21 clean and to work with our Parks and Recreation
22 Department. And I've been very impressed over
23 the last few weeks with Director Fallon and all
24 the things that he's been able to do and with
25 our employees in our Parks and Recs Department.

1 So I think this Park Ambassador
2 Program will serve to help them, to help our
3 City to engage our neighbors in our community.
4 And I'm hopeful that by next spring that will
5 become a reality. And that's all I have.
6 Mrs. Reed?

7 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
8 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING AND
9 ACCEPTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET
10 FOR THE YEAR 2021 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF
11 THE CITY'S HOME RULE CHARTER.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
13 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
14 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

15 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
18 the question, some of the questions that came
19 up during the caucus tonight -- and, first of
20 all, I just want to say I appreciate the Mayor,
21 the Business Administrator the acting Fire
22 Chief and the DPW Director for coming and
23 presenting their views and their ideas on this
24 capital budget.

25 That is a breath of fresh air in the

1 City of Scranton. Some of the questions that
2 came up I think were really valid from my
3 colleagues on Council. And there was two or
4 three questions that I raised that I'd like
5 answers to prior to final passage of the
6 budget.

7 So I'll get those to you, Mrs. Reed,
8 if we can send those out. And that's all I
9 have. Anyone else on the question? Okay. All
10 those in favor of introduction signify by
11 saying aye.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

18 MR. SCHUSTER: I'd like to make a
19 motion to authorize the City Clerk to place the
20 legal notice in the newspaper to summarize the
21 proposed capital budget and to include
22 locations where the copies of the capital
23 budget can be viewed by the public.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion on

1 the floor and a second to place a legal notice
2 in the newspaper for the capital budget.
3 Anyone on the question? All those in favor of
4 introduction signify by saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
10 ayes have it and so moved.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: I'd also like to make
12 another motion that we schedule a public
13 hearing for the capital budget to be held on
14 Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 at 5:45 p.m.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: There's a motion on
17 the floor and a second to schedule a public
18 hearing on the capital budget. On the
19 question?

20 Yes, on the question I would ask
21 that if anyone would like to comment at this
22 public hearing to please get your comments in
23 writing to our City Clerk, Lori Reed. Her
24 e-mail address is Lreed@scrantonpa.gov. She
25 will be taking public comment for this specific

1 agenda item and the capital budget until 4:30
2 the end of business on Tuesday, the day of our
3 Council meeting.

4 If you don't have a computer and you
5 can't e-mail, you could send it via U.S. mail
6 to 340 North Washington, second floor, City
7 Hall, City Clerk's Office. And as long as that
8 gets to us before Tuesday, we will include that
9 as part of the record for the public hearing.

10 And I personally, you know, would
11 like if people have a chance to go through this
12 and they have any ideas on what they might like
13 to see included on this wish list or areas that
14 they wish or that they want to see improved
15 throughout the City that they include that as
16 well.

17 We do like to hear from the public
18 on these matters. Anyone else on the question?
19 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 AN ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
3 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN
4 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF
5 LACKAWANNA AND THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA TAX
6 CLAIM BUREAU, WHEREBY THE RESPONSIBILITY AND
7 RIGHT TO COLLECT DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES
8 FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON SHALL BE
9 TRANSFERRED FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE
10 LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX CLAIM BUREAU.

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

14 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

15 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
18 the question, the first thing I'd like to say
19 about this is finally. This is a long, long
20 time coming. It's a long time in the making.
21 I've been pushing for this since 2015. I was
22 dumbfounded back then when the previous
23 administration just would not entertain this.

24 And recent reports about the
25 corruption in that administration proved to me

1 or would give us a good idea on why that the
2 previous administration, the previous Mayor
3 would not want to go through with something
4 that literally would save the taxpayers a
5 significant amount of money now that the Tax
6 Claim Bureau would finally be collecting these
7 delinquencies and not a private company.

8 For example, every dollar that the
9 county collects, the City gets roughly 95
10 cents. Under the agreement with NRS, it was
11 every dollar that they collected the City got
12 85 cents. You could do the math and find out
13 that if you have the two of them, it's a
14 no-brainer to go with the county to collect the
15 delinquent taxes.

16 The one thing that I want to point
17 out here that I think is really important is
18 when we enter into this agreement, we fall
19 under the umbrella of a program that the county
20 has that I think is really great and that's the
21 Elderly Extension and Deferral Program.

22 The Elderly Extension and Deferral
23 Program basically helps our elderly residents
24 in the City of Scranton and throughout
25 Lackawanna County, anyone over 65 years of age

1 or older has an opportunity to extend or defer
2 the period of time to pay their taxes. So the
3 goal of this program was to prevent our
4 hardworking elderly people, those who have
5 worked their whole entire lives from losing
6 their residences and/or the equity in their
7 homes as a result of unpaid real estate taxes.

8 In fact, it was just coincidental
9 that I was on the phone with a woman the other
10 day who was very concerned about not being able
11 to pay her property taxes for 2020 -- or 2021
12 as we continue to move forward.

13 So I think this will give people,
14 our senior citizens piece of mind to know that,
15 you know, a private company is not going to
16 come after them and try to kick them out of
17 their homes now. It's going to be the county
18 that has this program that's willing to work
19 with them under certain circumstances.

20 And I think that is very important.
21 In reviewing this legislation, there was a few
22 things that I noticed that will probably have
23 to be changed and amended. And I sent that off
24 to Solicitor Hayes to review. We do have two
25 weeks now before, you know, we'll present any

1 amendments.

2 But I want to point out two things.
3 Number one, in Section 3.1 under Certification
4 and Transmission of Existing Delinquent Real
5 Estate Taxes, I believe -- I know that it
6 should say which are currently due and owing to
7 the City for tax years 2020 and prior no later
8 than January 31st, 2021.

9 So the years were just wrong there.
10 They need to be changed. Same thing in Section
11 3.2, annual returns of delinquent real estate
12 taxes. The year listed should be 2020. There
13 is some other minor things that I noticed that
14 I pointed out to Solicitor Hayes to get his
15 opinion on.

16 The other thing that I mentioned and
17 that we might want to consider is to extend the
18 termination notice if, in fact, at some point
19 in the future this ends up passing, the City or
20 the county want to back out of it that we
21 extend it from 30 days to 60 days advanced
22 written notice.

23 Thirty days I don't think is enough
24 time, especially if there is a judicial sale or
25 an upset sale occurring or about to occur. And

1 we also discussed whether or not we would
2 consider maybe adding a clause that allows the
3 City to reserve the right to engage the county
4 to collect delinquent garbage fees in the
5 future.

6 So we're talking about whether or
7 not that would make sense and what that
8 language would look like. So overall, this
9 makes total sense. It made sense a few years
10 ago. But there was roadblocks in place that
11 did not allow the City to move forward. I
12 think the county will be a good partner here.

13 And it's an overall benefit for the
14 taxpayers. And it's an overall benefit for the
15 senior citizens. Anyone else on the question?
16 All those in favor of introduction signify by
17 saying aye.

18 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

24 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MARY BETH

1 MIKOLAYCZAK, 413 ARTHUR AVENUE, SCRANTON,
2 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON
3 MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY. MS.

4 MIKOLAYCZAK WILL BE REPLACING KATHLEEN
5 GALLAGHER WHO RESIGNED JUNE 18, 2020. MS.
6 MIKOLAYCZAK WILL BE APPOINTED TO A FIVE (5)
7 YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE JULY 9, 2020 AND WILL
8 EXPIRE ON JUNE 18, 2025.

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

12 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? I
15 just want to take a minute and I'll just do
16 this for this legislation so I'm not commenting
17 on every single one. I want to thank all the
18 people that are being appointed for giving
19 their time, taking time out of their schedules
20 to be a part of a City Board or a City
21 Commission.

22 I also want to thank those people
23 like Mrs. Gallagher or Miss Gallagher who took
24 the time out of their schedule and who helped
25 the City immensely over the past few years with

1 their service on these boards. The board that
2 we're speaking about now, the Municipal
3 Recreation Authority is an extremely important
4 board in the City.

5 And they're a very active board. So
6 I know that Kathleen Gallagher did an
7 outstanding job over the last few years. And
8 I'm confident that all of these new board
9 members will as well. Anyone else on the
10 question?

11 MR. SCHUSTER: I would also like to
12 extend the same, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr.
13 Tesorovitch, I had the pleasure of working with
14 Mr. Galella and also with Mr. Murphy who I see
15 is coming back to the Planning Commission. So
16 it's great to see him coming back. They've all
17 done a great job.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
19 question? All those in favor of introduction
20 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 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL
4 HANLEY, 800 WOODLAWN STREET, SCRANTON,
5 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF
6 THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
7 FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE JULY 10,
8 2020. MR. HANLEY WILL BE REPLACING GENE
9 TESEROVITCH WHOSE TERM EXPIRED FEBRUARY
10 4, 2020. MR. HANLEY'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON
11 FEBRUARY 4, 2025.

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

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

18 All those in favor of introduction signify by
19 saying aye.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM KING,
3 1310 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
4 18505 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON CITY PLANNING
5 COMMISSION FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE
6 JULY 13, 2020. WILLIAM KING WILL BE
7 REPLACING THOMAS J. GALELLA, JR. WHOSE TERM
8 EXPIRED. WILLIAM KING'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON
9 DECEMBER 31, 2024.

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

13 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question.

16 MR. MCANDREW: I'd like to say
17 something on the question.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. Go
19 ahead.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Two great guys here.
21 Tom Galella leaving, great guy (audio
22 interruption.)

23 MR. GAUGHAN: I think you're cutting
24 out. Can anyone else hear Councilman McAndrew?
25 No.

1 MR. MCANDREW: I don't know if that
2 was my connection or yours.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. We can hear you
4 now.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Well, I just want to
6 congratulate both of them. I don't know if you
7 heard what I had to say. But two great guys,
8 one leaving, one coming in. And, you know,
9 he'll do a great job. He's involved with
10 Steamtown Marathon. I wish both of them well.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
13 else on the question? All those in favor of
14 introduction 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: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 A RESOLUTION - RE-APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH A.
23 MURPHY, 610 DEPOT STREET, SCRANTON,
24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON
25 CITY PLANNING COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 14,

1 2020. MR. MURPHY'S PRIOR TERM EXPIRED ON
2 DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND WAS HELD OVER FOR A FULL
3 FOUR (4) YEAR TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2019.
4 HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31,
5 2023.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Bill, you're muted.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry about that. At
8 this time I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-G
9 be introduced into its proper committee.

10 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
13 those in favor of introduction signify by
14 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 eyes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
22 RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF NORMA
23 JEFFRIES, 619 COLFAX AVENUE, SCRANTON,
24 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON
25 MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE

1 JULY 21, 2020. MS. JEFFRIES WILL BE REPLACING
2 PAUL DEANTONA WHO RESIGNED JULY 2, 2020. MS.
3 JEFFRIES WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF PAUL
4 DEANTONA WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE JUNE 17,
5 2024.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be introduced
8 into its proper committee.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

12 MR. MCANDREW: I would just like to
13 congratulate Mrs. Jeffries on this appointment.
14 You know, she comes to our meetings. You know,
15 she very involved. She cares about the City.
16 I just think it's great and I wish her well on
17 this appointment.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: I'd like to add to
19 that, on the question, I've also known
20 Mrs. Jeffries for some time now. And I know
21 she's very involved and engaged. She has a lot
22 of experience with Nay Aug Park and utilizes it
23 often. And I think it will be a great addition
24 to the Authority.

25 So I look forward to having her on

1 there. And I appreciate all the appointments
2 that we've had so far that we're going through
3 today. I think we have a lot of great people
4 to add to these commissions and authorities.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I agree. She
6 will be great. Anyone else on the question?
7 All those in favor of introduction signify by
8 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 eyes have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JANE RISSE,
17 1707 EAST GIBSON STREET, SCRANTON,
18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY
19 PLANNING COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 29, 2020
20 FOR A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM. MS. RISSE WILL BE
21 REPLACING JAMES THOMAS WHOSE TERM EXPIRED.
22 JANE RISSE'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31,
23 2024.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be introduced

1 into its proper committee.

2 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

5 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: On the question, I
8 just wanted to add that Mrs. Risse is also a
9 neighbor of mine. And she runs the Greenhouse
10 Project. And she does some amazing work over
11 there. And she's just another really engaged
12 community member who I think will be great on
13 the Civil Service Commission.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you.

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

18 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
23 eyes have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
2 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH URBAN ELECTRICAL
3 CONTRACTORS, INC. TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE OF
4 STREET LIGHTS FOR A TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTH
5 PERIOD.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-J be introduced
8 into its proper committee.

9 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

11 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

13 MR. MCANDREW: I have something on
14 the question. So, you know, this bid, first of
15 all, I'm not understanding if this was the
16 lowest bid. And I'm not understanding how many
17 people bid. Before I vote on this and if they
18 aren't the lowest bidder, I want to know why
19 because I own my vote.

20 And I like to vote, you know, with
21 all the information. I don't have that
22 information now. But I'm just hearing things.
23 So if we can get that information or at least
24 for myself before I vote on this for final
25 passage, I'd appreciate that. Thank you.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree. The -- Joyce
2 Electric was the lowest bidder. But according
3 to the memo, Councilman McAndrew, that was in
4 the backup they were disqualified due to past
5 performance and concerns.

6 I agree with you though we should
7 request more information on that what past
8 performance and concerns there were. I think
9 we need, you know, more detail there. I asked
10 Mrs. Reed for the bids of each company.

11 So, Mrs. Reed, if you could just
12 send that out to everybody so they could take a
13 look, I think if you tallied it up as I did,
14 Joyce's bid -- Joyce Electric's bid was about
15 \$25.75 less an hour. I don't know if I added
16 that up right. So I think we should request
17 some more information there before final vote.
18 I agree.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Thank you.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
21 question? All those in favor signify by saying
22 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 so moved.

4 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
6 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
7 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A&M ELECTRICAL
8 CONSTRUCTION INC. TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE OF
9 TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON
10 FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD.

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

14 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
17 the question, this company was -- I believe
18 there was only one bidder here, yeah. They
19 were the only bidder on this project. All
20 those in favor 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 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No
3 business at this time.

4 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. No business at
5 this time.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: If there is no further
7 business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting is
10 adjourned. Thank you everyone. See you next
11 week.

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