

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, September 15th, 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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3 WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT

4 KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT

5 MARK MCANDREW

6 JESSICA ROTHCHILD

7 THOMAS SCHUSTER

8

9 LORI REED, CITY CLERK

10 KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

11 KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

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1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

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3 MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing
4 for a moment of silent reflection for our
5 service men and women throughout the world and
6 also for all those who have passed away
7 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 world who are suffering or who
11 have passed away from the coronavirus. May
12 those who are sick receive the proper treatment
13 and recover. And may their caregivers,
14 families and neighbors be shielded from the
15 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 everyone. Okay, Miss Carrera, roll call,
8 please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

13 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you, Miss
19 Carrera. Mrs. Reed, can you please dispense
20 with the reading of the minutes?

21 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

22 3-A. MEMORANDUM RECEIVED FROM CITY
23 COUNCIL SOLICITOR KEVIN HAYES, ESQUIRE, DATED
24 SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 REGARDING REVISIONS TO
25 AGREEMENT ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A" TO FILE OF

1 THE COUNCIL NO. 21, 2020.

2 3-B. FUEL CARD ANALYSIS RECEIVED
3 FROM OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER
4 FOR THE PERIOD JULY 24 THROUGH AUGUST 23, 2020.

5 3-C. MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL
6 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD MEETING
7 HELD JULY 9, 2020.

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

13 MR. MCANDREW: I do. Okay, Friends
14 of the Poor, Family to Family and Weinberg Food
15 Bank will be doing another COVID-19 emergency
16 drive through food giveaway. This will be
17 Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020, 2:30 to 5:30
18 at Scranton High, 63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA.

19 As always, all attendees must remain
20 in their vehicle. Food bags will be placed
21 directly in their vehicle. Zip code, number of
22 children, adults, elderly in household is
23 required. I just want to say again, these
24 three organizations have been a Godsend to many
25 during this pandemic since March. That is all

1 I have. Thank you.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Any other
3 announcements?

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: I just wanted to --
5 I didn't say it last week but last week we had
6 Chief Carl Graziano retire from our Scranton
7 Police Department. And I wanted to thank him
8 for his service, the great work that he's done
9 with the police department over many years.
10 And that's it. Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
12 Anyone else? Okay, I have two announcements.
13 The first, there are two openings on the Ethics
14 Board. So we are going to accept letters of
15 interest and resumes of those residents who are
16 interested in seeking an appointment to fill
17 the two vacant seats on the Ethics Board.

18 There are -- the first opening
19 expires on August 31st, 2002. So you will fill
20 the remainder of that term until August 31st,
21 2022, excuse me. And the second seat for those
22 who are interested, you'll fill the remainder
23 of the term which will expire on August 31st,
24 2021.

25 Members shall be a citizen of the

1 United States, shall have been a resident of
2 the City for at least one year prior to the
3 appointment, shall be at least of minimum
4 voting age at the time of appointment and shall
5 reside in the City of Scranton throughout the
6 term of service as a board member.

7 Letters of interest and resumes must
8 be received in the Office of the City Clerk no
9 later than Monday, September 21st, 2020 at 4:30
10 p.m., by e-mailing lreed@scrantonpa.gov or by
11 U.S. mail to the Office of the City Clerk,
12 Municipal Building, 340 North Washington
13 Avenue, Second Floor, Scranton, Pennsylvania
14 18503. So you have until Monday, September
15 21st at 4:30 p.m.

16 I want to thank Mr. Reddick. And I
17 know we thanked Mrs. Sheridan for their service
18 on the board. There still remains a lot of
19 work to be done on the Ethics Board. I am
20 pleased that we have gotten as far as we've
21 gotten. As anybody knows, in dealing with
22 government and boards it sometimes is difficult
23 to get things up and running.

24 We're not where we want to be but we
25 made some progress. We do need two members on

1 and Rita DeAngelo. They would do anything for
2 anyone in the community. And they're good
3 friends of mine. I haven't seen them in a long
4 time because of the pandemic. But I just
5 wanted to wish them a happy 70th wedding
6 anniversary. And that's all I have.

7 Mrs. Reed?

8 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
9 PARTICIPATION.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
11 Would someone please make a motion to accept
12 public comment from the following citizens:

13 Thomas Coyne, Bev DeBaros, Patricia
14 Nestor, Norma Jeffries, Fay Franus and Marie
15 Schumacher.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make a motion to
17 accept public comment.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: We have a motion on
19 the floor. On the question -- or I'm sorry,
20 is there a second?

21 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a second.
23 On the question? On the question, I'm going to
24 ask now our City Clerk to read those comments
25 received from members of the public into the

1 record. Mrs. Reed?

2 MS. REED: Thank you. The first
3 comment is from Mr. Tom Coyne.

4 We are looking at making the trash
5 fee, that is not a tax, be collected as a tax.
6 Interesting.

7 The reason it was not a tax is
8 because it was supposed to be only for payment
9 of trash collection, and as of May, the city
10 has replied to me it has no idea of the costs
11 to collect trash, as it does not have the DPW
12 data. Maybe if the Trash Fee was put into a
13 separate fund, isolated from the general
14 revenue, and used only pay for the DPW
15 services, this isolated fund from the general
16 fund would show the numbers better.

17 From the newspaper "U.S. District
18 Judge Malachy Mannion agreed with federal
19 prosecutors that Courtright should be held
20 responsible for more than \$2.9 million in
21 profits the former Northeast Revenue Service
22 earned from its city contract to collect
23 delinquent property and garbage fees."
24 "Ultimately, Mannion decided Courtright is on
25 the hook for the gross profits Northeast

1 Revenue Service made between 2015 through June
2 30, 2019, \$2.9 million citing prior court
3 rulings.”

4 So the residents were charged 2.9
5 million in extra fees. Any plans on looking at
6 how to make the citizens whole? I expect not
7 because the city fraudulent contract, based on
8 a bribe, will be enforced, because it is too
9 bothersome to recover non city funds.

10 We are now looking to transfer the
11 trash fee (not a tax) to the county and instead
12 of a 15% on delinquent fees, getting charged a
13 5% fee on everything.

14 Why is the city incapable of
15 conducting business itself?

16 On a 7.8 million trash fee, 5%...
17 is handing over 380,000 to the county vs. Just
18 delinquent trash fees to former Northeast
19 Revenue.

20 Is there not a way the city could
21 hire and collect it's own trash fees? Just the
22 5% or 380,000 a year, would fund that action
23 alone.

24 As for landlords who are not
25 registered and not paying trash fees, why

1 not... instead of not collecting the trash,
2 have License and Inspection record the number
3 of bags placed outside and target and collect
4 it as illegal dumping. The City is not
5 required to collect trash from homes than have
6 not paid trash fees. Fine them for every bag
7 "dumped" and have the trash collected as usual.

8 I would restrict this rollout to
9 people who are in a multi unit home, and have
10 at least 2 years delinquent. The \$600 + late
11 fee and the number of bags would cover the
12 costs of a L&E person doing targeted
13 enforcement.

14 The collecting protects the health
15 and safety. The fine provides a tool beyond
16 just collecting an overdue fee that can just be
17 paid late. This allows a second penalty, a
18 continuing and compounding fine for dumping,
19 shows the landlords non compliance and further
20 civil action by unpaid dumping fines.

21 Violation of Section 360-11 dumping
22 allows a \$25.00 fine per occurrence. Section
23 360-9 even allows the city to visit the house
24 the day prior and it is considered a violation
25 each day the violation continues.

1 Section 360-12 puts the real teeth
2 in if ignored. "upon conviction before the
3 Magisterial District Judge, be ordered to pay a
4 fine of not less than \$150, and not more than
5 \$1,000 on each offense, or be imprisoned no
6 more than 90 days, or both."

7 Onto 5.D on the agenda. The License
8 Plate reader.

9 I find it disingenuous that the
10 application calls for specific information and
11 metrics that has been intentionally not
12 supplied. In the form questions are asked for
13 supplying information.

14 What are the benefits/downside (no
15 answer)

16 - How does it relate to city
17 mission/priority?

18 - Initial cost is clear but no
19 statement of benefits (initial and ongoing)

20 As the city has 2 in use already, we
21 should have yearly metrics of number of scans,
22 number of hits, revenue collected, type of hit
23 (criminal activity or just a fine collecting
24 tool) data shows in other states that hits are
25 in the 0.01% range, (mostly emissions and

1 registration violations) so 99.99% of data
2 collected is tracking and surveillance of
3 innocent people.

4 - Data retention policy.

5 § How long it is stored? (Some
6 states store it for 48 hours, others
7 indefinitely)

8 § Is the data like some other states,
9 scrubbed removing the plates of all non
10 hit/target plates?

11 - Is the City is required as part
12 of the grant, to upload/share the data, and
13 even if not required, does the city upload the
14 data to other parties outside the Scranton
15 Police Department (including other agencies)

16 - If the funds require data
17 sharing, can and will the local government,
18 scrub the data prior to upload or are they
19 required to supply the untouched files.

20 First I am always disturbed by mass
21 surveillance of citizens without cause. License
22 plate readers have exploited a loophole in the
23 law, since the plate is visible in public it is
24 not private and most police and government have
25 been moving to third party purchasing of data,

1 to avoid the issue of government surveillance
2 and illegal tracking. The same spurious
3 argument applied elsewhere, used in a similar
4 context, is the equal of defending stalking as
5 you are visible in public, so I have a right to
6 follow you everywhere you go and record
7 everything you do. (This is not by a single
8 drive by but collected aggregate data)

9 Automatic license plate readers have
10 the potential to create permanent records of
11 virtually everywhere any of us has driven,
12 radically transforming the consequences of
13 leaving home to pursue private life, and
14 opening up many opportunities for abuse. The
15 tracking of people's location constitutes a
16 significant invasion of privacy, which can
17 reveal many things about their lives, such as
18 what friends, doctors, protests, political
19 events, or churches a person may visit.

20 In our society, it is a core
21 principle that the government does not invade
22 people's privacy and collect information about
23 citizens' innocent activities just in case they
24 do something wrong. Clear regulations must be
25 put in place to keep the government from

1 tracking our movements on a massive scale.

2 I recommend reviewing the following
3 ACLU PDF, prior to considering approval and
4 holding off on this until a proper public forum
5 (not online) can be done to review the desires
6 of the community.

7 [Ps://www.aclu.org/files/assets/
8 071613-aclu-alprreport-opt-v05.pdf.](https://www.aclu.org/files/assets/071613-aclu-alprreport-opt-v05.pdf)

9 Data collections without regulation
10 is not ethical, it is unwarranted. To install
11 a GPS on a car, police have to obtain a warrant
12 and have reasonable cause; this is a cash grab
13 and building a database to collect information
14 without warrant on people's movements. (GPS
15 without warrant)

16 The quote "Those who would give
17 up essential Liberty, to purchase a
18 little temporary Safety, deserve neither
19 Liberty nor Safety." Was said by Ben Franklin
20 and still applies today. What you may not know
21 is this quote was spoken, in the Pennsylvania
22 General Assembly.

23 Thank you Mr. Thomas Coyne.

24

25 Additional comment submitted by Mr.

1 Thomas Coyne:

2 Last week it was stated that I had
3 no questions on my submissions. This was not
4 correct.

5 Let me put forth this in just a
6 question format.

7 Amanda Hallock was hired as
8 information technology manager. I stated the
9 importance of IT management and function. This
10 included operations and planning and security.

11 The IT Management is just as
12 important as the Fire and Police Chief
13 position. The IT head should be the interface
14 between departments, data security and
15 integrity, moving forward direction, and
16 finances.

17 1. What are the qualifications and
18 skills Amanda Hallock brings to the office of
19 IT Management?

20 2. Why is this position not vetted
21 by city council?

22 3. In review of the public postings
23 from Amanda Hallock, the main experience is
24 public policy and community development.

25 a. What specific work has she

1 performed in an IT infrastructure?

2 b. In the month she has been in
3 place, what has she identified as areas of
4 weakness?

5 c. Does she have experience in both
6 firewall security, penetration testing, data
7 recovery and storage, multiple operating
8 systems, Security control skills to craft and
9 push out policy restrictions on City owned
10 equipment, and if a policy control based VPN is
11 set up for the city workers?

12 d. Instead of buying and licensing
13 more third party apps and software, does she or
14 her department have the ability to craft a
15 access database or hire/evaluate a third party
16 application builder to instead of getting
17 locked into licensing and systems that will
18 have support expire, crafting a in house
19 solution owned by the city to resolve the
20 interconnection going forward?

21 e. Is it reasonable to purchase
22 surface pro pad/computers at 3 times the cost
23 of smaller laptop systems that are able to have
24 better security controls installed? I
25 understand for L&I, having a pen type pad

1 system may be reasonable but for general use is
2 triple the cost reasonable?

3 In December of 2019, I put forth the
4 risks to the City of Scranton, Specifically the
5 risks of Ransomware and Data backup.

6 One of the exiting Council Members
7 took this seriously, and inquired. No feedback
8 was ever provided and it was pushed off as even
9 talking about it may risk the city security. I
10 let that go as it was being "looked into." The
11 fact is, Penetration testing, data backup and
12 retention, policy and procedure, when devoid of
13 specific code details.. offers a place to
14 review and discuss security measures, but not a
15 breaching point. When someone wants to hit you
16 with malware, ransomware, data incursion.. they
17 do not ask.. they scan and test
18 vulnerabilities. They use social engineering
19 and zero day exploits, even if patched,
20 expecting people to be lazy and slow in
21 updating systems.

22 My question from 9/1 is based on my
23 December 2019 interaction with Council.

24 1. What has Scranton done since
25 December 2019 to mitigate risks, as it was

1 warned of ransomware and Operating System end
2 of support issues, a full 9 months prior?

3 2. Why was a Third Party required?

4 3. Does the Scranton IT staff have
5 the skills to monitor and prevent incursions
6 without a third party?

7 4. What is the cost for the third
8 party evaluation and support?

9 5. If there is going to be an
10 interactive link between County taxing services
11 and City Services? And since County
12 employee/IT/ security policy is beyond the
13 scope of the City, how is the City planning on
14 connecting but isolating the data systems?

15 I asked back in December or January
16 of 2020, what was the cost for both Recycling
17 and trash disposal per ton. I was given a reply
18 from Council after reviewing contracts it was
19 something around \$47 a ton for trash/landfill
20 and \$0.00 for all recycling.

21 In the last meeting in July, there
22 was a statement by the city that even in
23 getting charged \$40/ton for comingled recycling
24 is cheaper then disposing it in the landfill. I
25 believe a statement was made we are paying

1 around \$67/ton for Landfill fees.

2 1. When did the landfill fee
3 increase? Or did I hear things?

4 2. What are the other
5 cities/county/municipalities paying, as the
6 landfill contract requires Scranton to be
7 provided the lowest per ton fee based on ALL
8 other contracted Municipalities?

9 In the Year of 2020 as COVID-19 hit
10 and prior, it was clear that the budget was not
11 reasonable. With the pending litigation, just
12 adding to the risks.

13 1. What has City Council Identified
14 in the 2020 budget that can be removed?

15 2. Is there a plan to put a hold on
16 future funding for Scranton Tomorrow, at least
17 until budget and disruptions are resolved?

18 We have already supplied \$100,000 in
19 April when Scranton employees were furloughed.
20 Scranton Tomorrow has listed \$500,000 in
21 revenue surplus, and it has an employee cost a
22 year of \$100,000. Will City Council and the
23 Mayor's office suspend the remaining \$125,000
24 payment this year and next years \$225,000 until
25 the city is under a better footing as Scranton

1 Tomorrow is not in need at this point? Or at
2 least reduce the contribution by the city, only
3 paying ½ the Scranton Tomorrow payroll in 2021.
4 (\$50,000)

5 3. The Tree program is a nice feel
6 good, but is it reasonable to put out money to
7 trees when we are scrambling for essential
8 services funding?

9 4. Both Fire and Police bargaining
10 contracts end in the end of December 2020. As
11 it also hits during Budget.

12 a. What has been done for upcoming
13 contract negotiations?

14 b. Do you plan to change the way
15 benefits, including pensions going forward are
16 handled under the contract, as PEL and I have
17 stated, the Benefits and pension now exceed
18 100% of payroll and are growing at 4-7% a year
19 alone, independent of pay increases?

20 c. Has the Mayors office and City
21 Council been reviewing the former bargaining
22 agreement? And if so, when did the evaluation
23 of the pending of the collective bargaining
24 agreement start?

25 Last in closing, the start of the

1 budget reflects purchases including for DPW
2 trucks. The Standard truck as listed at
3 \$225,000 price tag is all well and good, But as
4 I have noted, new technology has been on the
5 market including trucks with regenerative
6 hybrid braking systems.

7 Though it may not seem a lot it
8 increases fuel efficiency from 4 mpg to about 6
9 mpg. The Second Benefit is Trash Trucks go
10 through brake pads and disks/drums on an
11 average of every 60-90 days. A regenerative
12 hybrid braking systems, due to its functions,
13 requires a brake/disk change every 4 years or
14 so. In 4 years, the new system requires one
15 brake maintenance and materials, and the non
16 requires 5 a year average or 20 service/brake
17 pads/disk/drums.

18 The cost increases from \$225,000 to
19 about \$450,000 a truck but the city can recoup
20 about 50% from Federal grants including the
21 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

22 1. In purchasing new large item
23 equipment, such as DPW trucks, had anyone
24 evaluated new types of vehicles and
25 grants/money available based on them to reduce

1 costs?

2 2. What is the cost of maintenance,
3 downtime, and its impact on having extra trucks
4 to cover for ones out of service?

5 Thank you.

6 Thomas Coyne

7

8 The second submission is from Miss
9 Bev DeBaros.

10 Dear Council ~ will all of our
11 polling places be ready for in person voting?
12 Will that info be available well before
13 election day?

14 That was really inconvenient to be
15 told we had to go to the Globe Building.
16 About recycling plastics ~

17 Which numbered items, indicated in
18 the triangle, are we supposed to recycle?
19 Thank you, Bev DeBaros.

20

21 Number three submitted by Patricia
22 Nestor regarding the Mayor's volunteer Corp.

23 - Cleaning up parks.

24 - Helping people.

25 - Doing things in an organized

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manner.

- Park ambassadors.

- Making this political with the mayor's branding on everything.

- She's not well liked and people are not going to give her free advertising.

- Change the name to "Scranton Volunteer Corp."

- Better yet would be to work through already established neighborhood associations.

- The "park ambassadors" could stop at parks in their neighborhood before monthly meetings for assessment and take pictures to be included in group meetings.

- Increase and strengthen neighborhood associations.

- Each neighborhood association should have a Facebook/social media group with information about where/when meetings.

- Meeting minutes and videos available for people who can't make it to

1 meetings. That would be me. ?? My
2 disabilities keep me from going, but I am still
3 interested. Other people can't go because of
4 work, kids, etc.

5 That's all. I'm bring this up
6 because our mayor loves marketing, playing with
7 hashtags, graphics, branding. My son is 22 and
8 has no problem spending a nice day indoors. I
9 wouldn't unplug him and send him to the park
10 wearing a t-shirt with her branding and give
11 her free political advertisement. Nope. Nope.
12 Nope. This is about cleaning up the parks. This
13 is about cleaning up Scranton. This isn't about
14 her. Remove her branding, please.

15
16 Additional comment by Patricia

17 Nestor:

18 Does anyone watch Colombo on MeTv,
19 Sunday nights? I feel like him, "Oh yeah, one
20 more thing...."

21 The mayor did city hall pop ups all
22 over the city. I haven't been to any, but the
23 LIP's were involved. They should give out
24 applications for people to license their dogs
25 since they are out at parks and places dogs go

1 walking.

2 If the whole process was online,
3 they could do it right there with a
4 credit/debit card. Online you can print out an
5 application and send in the mail, but you can't
6 just do the process online. A lot of people
7 don't have printers or are perpetually out of
8 ink. You're missing out on revenue!

9 I think \$35 per dog a year is way
10 too high though. Areas around Scranton are
11 \$5-\$10. People would be more willing to pay
12 that instead of being a scofflaw.

13 Have a good night.

14 Patricia Nestor

15
16 The number four comment is from
17 Norma Jeffries regarding NDC presentation in
18 January 2020 parking at Kiosk System.

19 On page 12 of the presentation made
20 by NDC/ABM it list the following features of
21 the Smart Meter Parking System:

22 State of the art technology.

23 Touch screen capability.

24 **Coins, credit cards and mobile**
25 **payment.**

1 . Ease to use and maintain. (Guess
2 it should be Ease of use and maintain)

3 □ Enhanced enforcement (pay be plate)
4 (Guess that should read pay by plate)

5 My concerns:

6 1) I received a meter violation
7 which cost me \$35 which is the new rate for
8 2020. However, why the \$3.00 processing fee.
9 On page 16, Under column 2020 New Rate for
10 Meter Overtime, it states \$35.00. No mention
11 is made of the processing fee. Shouldn't the
12 processing fee be the cost of doing business
13 and why should we be charged that additional
14 fee?

15 2) As listed above, Page 12 states
16 that coins can be used in the meters. That has
17 not been the case with me. The meters on
18 Washington Ave, require the use of a credit
19 card. It would not take my quarters. Again on
20 page 16 under On Street Parking, the fee is
21 \$1.50 for up to an hour, which seems excessive
22 when you are just going into a facility to pick
23 up lunch!

24 Hopefully an adjustment can be made
25 to these rates since so many restaurants in the

1 city offer curbside pickup.

2

3 Respectfully Submitted

4 Norma Jeffries

5

6 Comment number five submitted by Fay

7 Franus.

8

9 1. Mr. Gaughan last weeks meeting
10 you stated that ECTV received money from
11 Comcast but that was a grant not money given to
12 ECTV from the Comcast Franchise Fee that comes
13 into the city four times a year, which is a
14 considerable amount. Have you gone back to the
15 controller and asked him to tell you how much
16 money ECTV has received from the Comcast
17 Franchise Fee each year? If so what did he
18 say? If you did not ask will you do so this
19 week for sure?

20 2. Mr. Gaughan have you asked
21 anyone WHY Scranton Tomorrow has received money
22 from the Comcast Franchise Fee and how much
23 have they received?

24 3. Could council please get an
25 accounting of how Scranton Tomorrow spends all
of the thousands of dollars the city has given

1 them plus any money they received from the
2 Comcast Franchise Fee and the money the
3 University of Scranton has directed to them in
4 lieu of taxes.

5 Comment on question three, It is
6 quite possible that when money is given to a
7 city in lieu of taxes it MUST go into the
8 operating budget not be dictated to the city as
9 to where they want their money to go as did the
10 University of Scranton when they stated half of
11 their money they gave was to go to Scranton
12 Tomorrow.

13 So I suggest you check with your
14 lawyers to examine that law and make sure if
15 and when the University gives money again in
16 lieu of taxes it goes into the operating
17 budget. I know I have addressed these questions
18 previously but I have not received any replies
19 to any of them -thus I must ask again?

20 Also if council decides to have
21 people come into a caucus to go over the rules
22 on collecting rental registration fees and what
23 happens to the buildings if they do not pay
24 please make sure you ask them to answers to
25 questions you can present to them before they

1 come in. This way it won't be another time
2 when they say "We will check into that and get
3 back to you" We need to know state laws in
4 regards to many questions you may ask.

5 Submitted by Fay Franus

6 And the last comment was submitted
7 by Marie Schumacher as follows:

8 - Does the City have a policy on use
9 of gas cars?

10 - Did the City check with all
11 City-based institutions of higher learning to
12 inquire whether or not they required students
13 and those accompanying them on moving in to
14 prove they were COVID-19 negative within five
15 days of going on campus? If so, what were the
16 answers?

17 - Soon we will return to Council
18 Chamber for Meetings, 2021 Budget Hearings and
19 Other Special Events. Has Council replaced the
20 podium and Visitor Table microphones so all may
21 hear? If not, please get this done before the
22 Budget Hearings begin. Thank you.

23 - Cold Chain (Gress went from a PA
24 company to a Delaware Corporation. Does this
25 impact the City revenue in any way?

1 - I hope you read Joan Hodowanitz's
2 letter-to-the-editor in last Sunday's Times and
3 will ensure City's labor contracts are put on
4 the website.

5 - Boscov's will be holding their
6 Friends Helping Friends next month (14 & 15
7 October). Please encourage non-profits to
8 register and come out to shop and save on their
9 purchases and raise funds for the non-profit
10 they mention during check out.

11 Again submitted by Marie Schumacher.

12
13 And that concludes the submitted
14 comments, Councilman Gaughan.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. I
16 just want to check through really quick. Some
17 of the answers to these that I know offhand and
18 then the rest we'll submit to the
19 administration to get answered hopefully prior
20 to next week.

21 So the first from Mr. Coyne, he
22 asked about agenda Item 5-D, the license plate
23 reader legislation. What are the benefits and
24 the downside? There is a pretty extensive
25 program there that I'm not going to go through

1 the whole thing that explains the purpose for
2 the police department going through this
3 legislation. So I think that would answer what
4 are the benefits to that program.

5 There's -- Mr. Coyne raises other
6 issues and points here and questions about how
7 the City would be able to upload and share the
8 data and data sharing regarding this program.
9 I don't know the answers to those. But
10 certainly inquire with the police department.

11 Bev DeBaros submitted a couple
12 questions, will all of our polling places be
13 ready for in-person voting? I believe that
14 they will be. But that would be a question for
15 the Lackawanna County Department of Elections.
16 I think there was an issue for the primary --
17 one or two issues. I think they've been taken
18 care of.

19 The question about the recycling,
20 which numbered items indicated in the triangle
21 are we supposed to recycle? Kyle, do you know
22 that off the top of your head? I can't -- I'm
23 drawing a blank.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, actually I was
25 searching for it when I saw that come in today.

1 I have it somewhere. I just don't know exactly
2 which ones they are. I believe it's one
3 through three. But I'm not positive.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. So we'll follow
5 up for Bev DeBaros on that.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Mr. Gaughan --

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: I did send an e-mail
9 over to Mrs. DeBaros before the meeting of the
10 polling places and the changes in location.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, okay. Great.
12 Thank you. Okay, that takes care of that.
13 Patricia Nestor, there's really no questions in
14 here just comments. But the one comment about
15 making the meeting minutes and videos available
16 for people who can't make it to the -- I'm
17 assuming to the Council meetings.

18 Our meeting are posted on YouTube.
19 So if you go to YouTube and type in ECTV
20 Scranton, you could find I think every Council
21 meeting going back to at least 2016 or 2015.
22 And they're also televised live on YouTube and
23 then live on ECTV.

24 The minutes are located on
25 Scrantonpa.gov and all of the public comments

1 are entered into the official record.

2 Miss Franus's questions. So the
3 question about ECTV receiving money from
4 Comcast, so I did send the -- I believe I sent
5 the franchise agreement that was passed I
6 believe back in 2015 to Miss Franus. ECTV does
7 receive grant money from that agreement.

8 They do not -- they don't receive
9 anything else but that. So the question about
10 that was grant money not given to ECTV from the
11 Comcast franchise fee that comes into the City
12 four times a year. If you look at the
13 agreement, it's delineated right there what
14 money ECTV gets and the disbursements.

15 So I might have misspoke a week or
16 two ago. And Controller Murray sent me further
17 information. The payment -- the last payment
18 to ECTV from the Comcast grant and the Comcast
19 agreement was actually February 10th, 2020.
20 And that's listed as the third disbursement.

21 She also asked why anyone -- can
22 anyone answer why Scranton Tomorrow has
23 received money from the Comcast franchise fee
24 and how much have they received? They do not
25 receive any money from the Comcast franchise

1 fee agreement. It's only ECTV. Scranton
2 Tomorrow does not receive any funding.

3 Could we get an accounting of how
4 Scranton Tomorrow spends all the thousands of
5 dollars the City's given them? That is
6 detailed in the budget. So any time that the
7 City, as far as I know, gave any money or
8 allocated any money to Scranton Tomorrow, that
9 was detailed in the budget narrative.

10 We can follow up with Leslie Collins
11 from Scranton Tomorrow for a more detailed
12 accounting of that. But I think the details
13 are in the budget. And again, they don't
14 receive any money from the Comcast franchise
15 fee.

16 Then there's another question from
17 Miss Franus about the pilot payments so the
18 money that the City gets, for example, from the
19 University of Scranton in lieu of taxes and
20 that it must go into the operating budget, not
21 to be dictated to the City by the University of
22 Scranton.

23 A few years ago was actually -- I
24 think this was a good idea. Instead of the
25 University just giving the City a blank

1 check -- or not a blank check, but giving the
2 City a check in lieu of taxes to go into the
3 operating budget, it was decided between the
4 City and the university here's what we're going
5 to spend that money on.

6 So if you're giving us a check for
7 \$250,000 in lieu of taxes, rather than it just
8 go into the budget, we're going to spend it on
9 parks. We're going to spend it on -- I can't
10 remember off the top of my head what it's been
11 spent on. But it's for a specific use. So it
12 doesn't just go into the operating budget.
13 There's a rhyme and a reason for that.

14 And I think I answered most of the
15 questions there. And Mrs. Jeffries's
16 questions, I don't know off the top of my head.
17 But we'll follow up with NDC and ABM to take
18 care of that.

19 And Miss Schumacher, does the City
20 have a policy on use of gas cars? I think it's
21 gas cards, not gas cars. I don't know for sure
22 if that's a typo. But there is a policy for
23 that. There was one created by Mayor Evans.
24 And I think it was tweaked by this
25 administration. And we can get Miss Schumacher

1 a copy of that policy.

2 Also, asked a question about when we
3 eventually return to Council Chambers, did we
4 replace the podium and visitor table
5 microphones so all may hear. We were looking
6 at the acoustics of Council Chambers. As
7 everyone knows, it's a little awkward in there
8 when you're listening to somebody at the
9 podium.

10 Once the pandemic happened, that
11 project had stalled. So we did not take that
12 up again yet. But we will hopefully prior to
13 getting back into Council Chambers. But
14 Mrs. Reed and I and the rest of Council will
15 have a conversation about that.

16 Then there's other questions here
17 I'm not positive of the answer. So we'll
18 follow up. Anybody else on the question? All
19 those in favor of accepting public comment,
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 the motion to accept public
2 comment passes. Mrs. Reed?

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

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Schuster,
6 any motions or comments tonight?

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Nothing at this time.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Councilman
9 McAndrew, any motions or comments?

10 MR. MCANDREW: I do. As Chairman of
11 the Public Safety Committee, I would like to
12 wish Sergeant Steve Marino of the Scranton
13 Police Department, wish him, you know, best
14 wishes on his retirement from law enforcement
15 for a total of 39 years. That's awesome.
16 Thank you, sir, for your service.

17 I would also like to wish again
18 Chief Carl Graziano, you know, a class act of
19 the City on his endeavors. I know he's not
20 quite retiring yet. But I'd like to thank him
21 for his devoted service to the City.

22 I would also like to congratulate
23 interim Chief Namiotka -- I hope I'm
24 pronouncing his name correctly on his new
25 position and looking forward to working with

1 him and best of luck. That is all I have.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Dr.
4 Rothchild, do you have any motions or comments?

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I just want to
6 make one comment on a piece of legislation that
7 we have on our agenda for tonight and that's
8 5-E, which will designate a loading and
9 unloading zone in front of the postal service
10 office that's on Lackawanna Avenue at the
11 Steamtown building.

12 And that was something that started
13 back in July. One of the workers came to me
14 and explained that they were having an issue --
15 an issue of safety where they did have -- they
16 were supposed to have a loading zone but people
17 were often parking in it and so then they were
18 forced to have to double park in order to, you
19 know, make their deliveries to that office or
20 pickups.

21 And there is three different times
22 of day that you'll see there in that
23 legislation that's when they have their loading
24 and unloading times. So the sign would be a
25 bit more specific and detailed and hopefully

1 more obvious to people so that they avoid
2 parking during those times to make their jobs
3 and lives a little bit easier at the post
4 office.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
6 Rothchild. Councilman Donahue, any motions or
7 comments?

8 MR. DONAHUE: I just have two
9 comments just to -- really just two questions
10 for the administration if Mrs. Reed could pass
11 them along. One is, could we get a -- from the
12 administration a timeline on when the McLane
13 and Associates Park Assessment will be
14 completed?

15 And also, would we be able to ask
16 the administration for the update on their
17 internal assessment of LIPS Department that was
18 supposed to be done in place of Barry Isett and
19 Associates coming in and doing the LIPS
20 assessment? And that's all I have.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you,
22 Councilman Donahue. All right. Thank you,
23 everyone. I just have a few comments. As I
24 mentioned in the caucus if anybody was here for
25 that, the RFP that many people are interested

1 in for the deal with the -- really take a look
2 from an engineering perspective at the Keyser
3 Valley stormwater runoff issues.

4 That is going to be coming out soon
5 from what I understand in talking with the DPW
6 Director and the Law Department.

7 I did meet with the DPW Director out
8 in Fawnwood with neighbors who live on
9 Whitetail Drive about some flooding issues. So
10 that is an issue that is being looked at and
11 hopefully will be addressed soon because
12 there's a lot of issues out there with that and
13 people's homes who are getting damaged.

14 The second thing I wanted to mention
15 was just in terms of requests that I received,
16 528 Birch Street, this is a vacant lot that's
17 been overgrown now for quite some time.
18 Neighbors have complained to me. There's been
19 no action just yet as far as I could see.

20 So we did send that into the
21 Licensing and Inspections Department. Also
22 several issues in South Side from a resident,
23 1603 Pittston Avenue, a roof collapsed next to
24 430 Pittston Avenue; 2208 Pittston Avenue
25 there's issues and the 2900 block of Cedar

1 Avenue. So we did send that -- I think this is
2 the second time that we sent those to the
3 Licensing and Inspections Department.

4 I also met this weekend with several
5 residents in 900 block of Prescott Avenue.
6 They're having issues with the blight and
7 issues with the Hindu temple up at 933 Prescott
8 Avenue.

9 So I did take down notes about the
10 situation and forwarded those to the Mayor and
11 requested a meeting with the License and
12 Inspections Director and the City Planner. I
13 won't go through all the issues because there
14 is just too many to go through tonight. But I
15 did put those in writing.

16 And hopefully we'll get that meeting
17 soon and the residents can move forward with
18 their lives because it's being interrupted
19 daily because of those issues.

20 Also, Mrs. Reed, I'd like to know if
21 we could get from the administration a status
22 of the Novembrino Pool Complex Project. I'd
23 like to see at this point a total cost of the
24 project to date verse what the original budget
25 was for that project. I'd also like to know

1 how many change orders have been issued by the
2 contractor and what the total amount of the
3 change orders were. So I'd like details on
4 that.

5 Also, I do know that the
6 administration has an internship program in the
7 City which I think is fantastic. I would like
8 to know if the City is fronting the cost at all
9 or any costs associated with the internship
10 program.

11 It's my understanding that most of
12 the cost is being covered by I think the state
13 but I'm not positive. So if we can forward
14 that question onto the Mayor just on how that
15 program works and how it's funded.

16 We have been asking for an update on
17 the sale of receivables and when that RFP will
18 go out. That is roughly a million and a half
19 dollars at stake in the budget. Councilman
20 Donahue and I have been told that that is going
21 out hopefully soon.

22 I just still want to say for the
23 record that I'm concerned to say the least. I
24 hope that this works out, but I feel like we
25 may have waited too long. I hope that I'm

1 wrong on that. But I think that we're cutting
2 it really, really close.

3 If somehow the deal falls through,
4 the RFP doesn't go out or it goes out and it
5 doesn't materialize for whatever reason, that's
6 a million and half hole in the budget along
7 with the other issues that we have. So that's
8 a concern of mine.

9 Also, I asked within the last few
10 weeks for an update on the Sign Program. A few
11 years ago Council had approved a contract with
12 KS Engineering. And I know Mrs. Jeffries is
13 always interested in this. So hopefully she's
14 watching.

15 And at that time the rationale
16 behind entering into a contract with this
17 company was so that they would go around the
18 City and they would create a database of all of
19 the signs in the City, stop signs, children at
20 play signs, street signs, so on and so forth.

21 They have the technology to do it.
22 So we really bought that technology. And I had
23 asked for an update on the data that we had
24 received so far from that program, how many
25 signs have been replaced, how many signs are

1 still outstanding that need to be replaced.
2 And Director Preambo sent me that data today.

3 I looked through it. It's the
4 latest data -- field data that was recorded
5 from the DPW staff. So I just wanted to update
6 everyone. Currently since this program was
7 launched, 337 existing signs have been replaced
8 throughout the City, 12 existing signs were
9 removed, 2000 -- there are 2,040 signs that are
10 considered in poor condition that need to be
11 replaced.

12 So these are stop signs, street
13 signs and other signs throughout the City. So
14 there remains a lot of work to be done.
15 Director Preambo reported to me that the DPW is
16 proceeding with a multimodal transportation
17 grant opportunity through DCED to secure
18 funding to contract the remaining signs
19 requiring replacement.

20 So at this point they're exploring
21 funding avenues while the department maintains
22 the in-house initiative to reduce the balance
23 that's remaining. And just so everyone knows,
24 we only have two employees in that sign
25 department.

1 And they do a very, very good job.
2 And they have made a dent in this on top of
3 everything else that they do and that are
4 responsible for. But there does remain the
5 issue that there are quite a few signs in
6 neighborhoods throughout the City which are
7 faded, which are, you know, poor, which are not
8 reflective at night.

9 So those do have to be replaced.
10 And I was happy to hear that there's a process
11 and program in place to do that. And that's
12 all I have this week. Mrs. Reed?

13 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
14 INTRODUCTION – AN ORDINANCE – AMENDING FILE OF
15 THE COUNCIL NO. 4, 2020, ENTITLED “AUTHORIZING
16 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
17 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
18 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
19 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
20 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER
21 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
22 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
23 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
24 PROGRAM FOR THE FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
25 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE,

1 AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
2 JANUARY 1, 2020." BY AMENDING THE 2020 ACTION
3 PLAN BY PROGRAMMING \$1,649,621 IN CDBG-CV FUNDS
4 MADE AVAILABLE BY THE CARES ACT AND PROGRAMMING
5 \$1,435,629 (ROUND #1 \$813,478 AND ROUND #2
6 \$622,150) IN ESG-CV FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY THE
7 CARES ACT.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
9 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
10 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. On
14 the question? On the question, this is
15 obviously very important funding that the City
16 is receiving from the federal government
17 through the CARES Act.

18 I went through and looked at this
19 legislation, and there was a few things that I
20 just want to point out. Exhibit A in the
21 legislation, it looks like it's missing a
22 second page. It's hard to tell but the two
23 pages don't jibe together.

24 Then there's another letter where it
25 doesn't look like the first and second page

1 match up. So it's probably just an error, a
2 clerical error on the administration's part.
3 But I just wanted to try clear that up.

4 The figures in the spreadsheet, we
5 received this before for whatever reason and
6 maybe it was a scanning issue. I don't know.
7 I'm going to discuss this with Mrs. Reed. It's
8 very hard to read some of the figures and some
9 of the words and statements on the spreadsheet.

10 So I would ask before final passage
11 that we receive a spreadsheet that is legible
12 that we could read. I also wanted to know if
13 there's a deadline on when this money has to be
14 spent. So is there a timing -- because in the
15 past, I know there's been timeliness issues
16 with different funding. So I'm wondering if
17 there is any timeline on this.

18 And also, I would like to know who's
19 in charge of administering the ESG Program at
20 this point. I have to say that I'm a little
21 concerned. I do know in talking with the
22 administration in the past few months that for
23 whatever reason they eliminated position of
24 emergency solutions grant public service
25 specialist in OECD.

1 And it's my understanding that that
2 person was in charge of administering programs
3 that you would see on your spreadsheet. Now
4 that we're getting a very large amount of money
5 from the federal government, what individual in
6 OECD is going to be administering this program?
7 That would be a concern of mine since the ESG
8 and public service specialist position has been
9 eliminated.

10 And I'd also like to get a further
11 explanation as to, you know, now that employees
12 are back in City Hall or working from home or
13 whatever on why exactly that position was
14 eliminated and who is going to be taking up
15 this work now. And that's all I have on 5-B.
16 Anyone else on the question? All those in
17 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-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL

1 NO. 4, 2020, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
2 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
3 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
4 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
5 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO
6 BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
7 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
8 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
9 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE FIVE
10 YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS
11 TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE, AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
12 FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020." BY
13 AMENDING THE 2020 ACTION PLAN BY UTILIZING
14 EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$80,000.00) UNDER
15 CDBG.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
17 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
18 5-C be introduced into its proper committee.

19 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm sorry, was there a
22 second?

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. On the
25 question? On the question, this was a request

1 from UNC to move this money from the Project
2 Hope, the camp that they have which is an
3 outstanding program; but unfortunately, because
4 of the pandemic they had to cancel that this
5 year.

6 So they're going to move this money
7 to UNC Certified Housing Counsellor which makes
8 sense to me. The only comment that I would
9 have on this is that just like in 5-B, the
10 spreadsheets that were provided were very
11 difficult to read.

12 So before final passage, Mrs. Reed,
13 if we could get spreadsheets that are legible,
14 I would appreciate that. Anyone else on the
15 question?

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, on the
17 question, Bill, can we add to your request
18 about is there a counsellor already present or
19 will they be hiring a counsellor? And then
20 this money, will that be funding that position
21 for one year?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe that this is
23 just for the -- I think it's just for the
24 program. But we can double-check on that. I'm
25 not positive. But I think it's just to fund

1 the Housing Counselling Program but --

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, that was a
3 little unclear there from the information that
4 came along with that.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay, yeah, we can
6 double-check before next week. Thank you.
7 Anyone else on the question? Okay. All those
8 in favor of introduction 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-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
17 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
18 AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND, IF SUCCESSFUL,
20 A GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPT FUNDS RELATED
21 THERETO THROUGH THE BJA FY 18 EDWARD BYRNE
22 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM-LOCAL
23 SOLICITATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,638.00 TO
24 PURCHASE AN AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER
25 (ALPR).

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

4 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

7 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I
8 think Mr. Coyne had a couple of good questions
9 about this including some of the, you know, the
10 past usages of this device and whether -- I
11 know this is grant money here. But maybe
12 purchases were made in the past.

13 And does the usage of this type of
14 machine, I guess, pay for itself? Is it worth
15 the purchase I guess is what I'm trying to say.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: I believe it is just
17 because if you look at two things. We already
18 have two that the police department uses. And
19 I think any time that you can multiply manpower
20 with a, you know, with a data gathering tool
21 like this in terms of the license plate reader,
22 I think that's a good thing.

23 In the backup it states that the
24 license plate reader will be used in
25 investigation, location of suspects, wanted

1 persons and to me, most importantly amber
2 alerts.

3 I think Mr. Coyne's questions we can
4 definitely inquire with the police department.
5 But I'm going to be in favor of this
6 legislation. I think again, any time you can
7 multiply -- put a multiplier out there in
8 terms of eyes on the street with some of the
9 things that we have going on in the City, I
10 think that's a good thing. Anyone else on the
11 question?

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I'd just like
13 to add, like you said, we do already have two
14 of these. This would just be an additional, a
15 third one. In my past conversations with SPD,
16 it seems like this has been a really helpful
17 and effective tool for them and a way that
18 they've been able to find suspects, you know.
19 I don't believe it's being used for any other
20 type of invasion of privacy.

21 If I did, I would not be in favor of
22 this. But I do feel comfortable because the
23 use has been beneficial to date. So I think a
24 third one will enable them to do even more.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.

1 Anyone else on the question? All those in
2 favor of introduction 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 ayes have it and so moved.

9 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF
11 SCRANTON TO ESTABLISH PARKING RESTRICTIONS FOR
12 A LOADING/UNLOADING ZONE FROM 9:15-9:45 AM;
13 1:00PM-1:30PM AND 6:30PM-7:00PM ALONG 300
14 LACKAWANNA AVENUE BETWEEN PENN AVENUE
15 AND WYOMING AVENUE FOR THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
16 SERVICE.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
18 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
19 5-E be introduced into its proper committee.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

21 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

23 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. On the
25 question?

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: On the question, I
2 just want to add to what I had mentioned
3 earlier. I wanted to thank the people coming
4 together for this. So it was first sent to
5 SPD and then the City Engineer also checked out
6 the situation. And from there it went to the
7 Law Department. And we were trying to get it
8 on our agenda prior to the legislative break in
9 August.

10 And I think I might have mentioned
11 that in the past and it didn't happen. So I'm
12 glad that now we have received this legislation
13 and that we can get it introduced tonight.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
16 else on the question? All those in favor of
17 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 ayes have it and so moved.

24 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL

1 NO. 27, 2018, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
2 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
3 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL
4 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
5 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
6 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER
7 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
8 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
9 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
10 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
11 2019" BY AMENDING THE 2019 ACTION PLAN BY
12 UTILIZING FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000)
13 UNDER THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
14 (HOME) FOR HOMEOWNER HOUSING REHABILITATION
15 PROGRAM.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
17 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
18 5-F be introduced into its proper committee.

19 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
22 the question, I have two questions about this.
23 So the Emergency Repair Housing Rehab Program
24 was originally funded for \$75,000 in the 2018
25 Action Plan and then 40,000 in the 2019 Action

1 Plan. But it was never established.

2 And now this legislation is
3 authorizing it to be transferred to the
4 Homeowner Rehab Program. So two questions, why
5 wasn't the Emergency Repair Housing Rehab
6 Program ever established, so what was the
7 reason that it never came to fruition?

8 And are there any other programs
9 that were funded in the past five years that
10 were -- that got funding in the Action Plan but
11 were never established or the funds have not
12 been spent yet?

13 Anyone else on the question? All
14 those in favor of introduction -- all those in
15 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
24 NO. 20, 2018, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
25 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

1 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL
2 NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
3 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
4 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER
5 THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
6 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
7 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)
8 PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
9 2018" BY AMENDING THE 2018 ACTION PLAN BY
10 UTILIZING SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS
11 (\$75,000) UNDER THE EMERGENCY REPAIR HOUSING
12 REHABILITATION HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
13 PROGRAM (HOME) FOR HOMEOWNER HOUSING
14 REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
16 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
17 5-G be introduced into its proper committee.

18 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All
21 those in favor of introduction signify by
22 saying aye.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
7 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON, UPON THE OFFER OF CONDITIONAL
9 EMPLOYMENT TO THE SCRANTON POLICE
10 DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION IN THE ACT
11 120 PROGRAM, APPLICANTS WHO ACCEPT SAID OFFER
12 WILL REIMBURSE THE CITY OF SCRANTON ON A
13 PRO-RATA BASIS IF THE EMPLOYEE TERMINATES
14 EMPLOYMENT WITH THE CITY OF SCRANTON PRIOR TO
15 THREE YEARS.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
17 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
18 5-H be introduced into its proper committee.

19 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
23 the question, this was a suggestion made by
24 Councilman McAndrew and myself to the Mayor
25 when we had first heard the news that the City

1 was going to be picking up the cost of
2 training -- Act 120 training for potential
3 incoming police officers.

4 So Councilman McAndrew and I had
5 asked several questions of the Mayor. I just
6 want to check through some of them. So one of
7 the questions was, was there enough money in
8 the police department budget to afford taking
9 this cost on. And we did receive a response
10 from the administration.

11 They said that we -- yes, as we have
12 been and currently are budgeted for 147 police
13 officers in which any new hires regardless of
14 whether they're the police academy or not would
15 count towards the authorized 147.

16 In addition, the City will be
17 reimbursed from the state 45 percent of the new
18 officer's salary while he or she is attending
19 919 hours of training at the police academy.
20 There could potentially be overtime accrued
21 while an officer is in training instead of
22 being on the road.

23 However, that cost depends upon
24 several factors to include the time of year and
25 how many non-Act 120 certified officers are

1 hired and in training at the same time.

2 They do not believe that any
3 overtime would exceed 45 percent of each of the
4 new officer's salaries while he or she is in
5 the academy. We also asked what the cost --
6 total cost would be per individual to include
7 the class, books, exam, etc.

8 The current police academy tuition
9 is \$8,500. This includes tuition, supplies,
10 and books. The City will -- would be
11 reimbursed \$6,375 of that tuition for each new
12 officer attending the academy.

13 This difference could marginally add
14 to the police training budget absent a mass
15 exodus from the department and considering that
16 Act 120 certified officers could possibly also
17 be hired at the same time as noncertified
18 officers. It is not expected that the City
19 would send more than a few officers to the
20 police academy each year.

21 You know, I'm going to be in favor
22 of this because of that. According to the
23 administration, most of the cost of this would
24 be picked up by the state -- I believe by the
25 state. So 45 percent of the new officers'

1 salary while she's or he's attending the
2 training at the police academy and most of the
3 cost of the tuition, the books, the class.

4 So I do think that this makes sense
5 in terms of expanding our base and expanding
6 the opportunity to get more qualified
7 applicants into the police department.

8 And I want to thank Councilman
9 McAndrew for helping me with this and making
10 that suggestion that if we're going to pay for
11 someone to take the classes and pay for their
12 books and their tuition that they're not going
13 to turn around -- get hired by the City and
14 then turn around in a year, take a job offer
15 someplace else.

16 If they do that according to this
17 legislation, they're going to have to pay the
18 City back fully within the first year and then
19 it's on a decreasing scale from then on out.
20 So anyone else on the question?

21 MR. DONAHUE: So I just have one, I
22 guess, question on that. So they don't
23 technically become City employees until they
24 actually graduate from the academy, correct?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: I think they're -- I

1 think they're City employees as -- I think
2 they're hired. You could hire the employee and
3 then they could take the class. That's my
4 understanding of it. Solicitor Hayes, would
5 you know that off the top of your head?

6 ATTY. HAYES: Typically the way it
7 normally -- I previously served as the
8 Solicitor to the Civil Service Commission. And
9 the way it was traditionally arranged that was
10 a new entry level patrol applicant couldn't
11 even apply unless they had the Act 120
12 certification.

13 So in other words, you weren't
14 eligible unless you had the Act 120
15 certification. This changes that. And I don't
16 know for certain as to when -- as to when they
17 would become employees. But I could get
18 between now and next week, I will try to get
19 clarification on that issue.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you because, I
21 mean, I agree with the, you know, thought
22 behind this 100 percent. My only concern is,
23 you know, if they become employees and they get
24 hurt at the academy, would they qualify for a
25 disability pension?

1 ATTY. HAYES: I know for the
2 firefighters to go to the fire training at
3 Harrisburg Area Community College, my
4 understanding is that they are employees when
5 they go there and that is if they get injured,
6 they are covered by available programs for
7 employees, injured employees. So I will
8 research that issue and report back to you
9 certainly before next week.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Good question. Anyone
12 else?

13 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, my
14 understanding is they are hired first. The way
15 I read it they're hired first. And then they
16 receive the certification: I'll be a yes for
17 this only because our concerns and questions
18 were addressed. And they were incorporated
19 into the process.

20 Along with President Gaughan we
21 really, you know, talked about this and made
22 sure that this is done right and the City
23 benefits instead of losing. Thanks.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.
25 Anyone else? All right. All those in favor of

1 introduction signify by saying aye.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
11 AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
12 SCRANTON TO THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
13 CAPITAL PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,895,260.00
14 TO REPAIR THE ROOF AND FAÇADE OF CITY HALL.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
16 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
17 5-I be introduced into its proper committee.

18 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
21 the question, just looking through this, I did
22 have one question. It says that the City would
23 be using the value of the building as a match
24 for the project. And the building as it's
25 appraised, the value is 3 million dollars.

1 Just curious to know how this
2 exactly -- how that works. I've never seen
3 that done before. So I'll be looking for an
4 explanation on that. And then I believe that
5 Miss Schumacher had question on the RACP
6 process as well. So we'll get those answered.
7 Anyone else on the question? All those in
8 favor of introduction 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-J. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
16 RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE
17 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT
18 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
19 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CENTER FOR BUSINESS
21 FINANCING - GRANTS OFFICE, FOR A MULTIMODAL
22 TRANSPORTATION FUNDS GRANT TO BE UTILIZED FOR
23 THE CEDAR IRON DISTRICT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
24 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,546,449.00.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.

1 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
2 5-J be introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
6 the question, just looking through this
7 legislation the Cedar Avenue -- what has taken
8 place on Cedar Avenue over the last of decade
9 or so in terms of the redevelopment there has
10 been really outstanding.

11 This project will connect the Cedar
12 Avenue corridor with our downtown. Right now
13 if you're, you know, walking or biking or
14 running as we see more and more throughout the
15 City, you try to get from South Side to
16 downtown or any other part of the City, at
17 times it's difficult.

18 If you look in the backup or anyone
19 is interested in the public in looking at some
20 of the drawings and the graphics that what
21 they're planning on doing, this project would
22 transform that whole area down by the Iron
23 Works, Cedar Avenue to downtown. It would make
24 such a huge difference in my opinion.

25 And as I was talking to somebody the

1 other day, we're seeing more and more because
2 of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley authorities
3 who work on the trail, more biking, more
4 running, more walking especially with pandemic
5 it seems like everyone is out that the weather
6 is nice.

7 So this program would be a huge
8 benefit to the businesses downtown, the
9 businesses in that Cedar Avenue corridor, the
10 people living in South Side and in the
11 downtown, overall it's a great project. Anyone
12 else on the question? All those in favor of
13 introduction signify by saying aye.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

20 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
23 AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE
24 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND
25 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GREENWAY TRAILS AND 4

1 RECREATION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,903.15
2 TO BE USED FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE DAVIS
3 TRAIL LOCATED IN NAY AUG PARK, SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2)
5 WOODEN OBSERVATION DECKS AND REPAIRS TO SAFETY
6 RAILS.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
8 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
9 5-K be introduced into its proper committee.

10 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm sorry, was there a
13 second?

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Second. On the
16 question? On question, I just want to say
17 briefly that as everybody knows, Nay Aug Park
18 is a major asset that we have in the City. And
19 I have to give another plug to the Scranton
20 Recreation Board, to our Parks and Recreation
21 Department for the work -- all the work that
22 they've done up at Nay Aug Park.

23 I'm up there quite often with my
24 children and my wife just, you know, walking
25 through the park using the playground when the

1 weather is nice, using the Davis trail quite
2 often as well.

3 These wooden observation decks and
4 the safety rails are in desperate need of
5 repair. So I'm glad to see that the
6 administration and the Recreation Authority
7 Board by providing a match here is really being
8 proactive in trying to keep this park where it
9 needs to be.

10 And there is so many other
11 improvements going on up there. It's really
12 nice to see that we're keeping our assets and
13 our parks up to where they need to be. Anyone
14 else on the question? All those in favor of
15 introduction signify by saying aye.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-L. FOR INTRODUCTION -
23 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
24 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
25 AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
2 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BLIGHT
3 REMEDIATION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF
4 \$297,219.84 TO IMPLEMENT A TWO (2) PHASE BLIGHT
5 REMEDIATION PROJECT INCLUDING DEMOLITION
6 OF CITY-OWNED STRUCTURES IN PUBLIC PARKS AND
7 DEMOLITION OF PRIVATELY-OWNED STRUCTURES THAT
8 HAVE BEEN DEEMED HAZARDOUS.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
10 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
11 5-L be introduced into its proper committee.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

13 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
16 the question, I have a few questions about this
17 one as well. So this legislation we're
18 demolishing the City properties first, so
19 Weston Field bathhouse, Penn Ridge Pool Complex
20 and Connell Park bathhouse, the concession
21 stand and the announcer tower.

22 So what I would like to know is --
23 and I'm sorry if I missed this because I gave
24 this a quick glance, what is the plan moving
25 forward now since we're demolishing the

1 bathhouse at Connell Park, the concession
2 stand, the announcer tower, is there anything
3 going up in place of that after we demolish it?
4 What's the plan there?

5 On page 15, I believe in looking at
6 it that the timeline is off. It says the
7 demolition will begin in June of 2020. I'm
8 assuming that's 2021. I don't know. But the
9 timeline seems to be way off there. I did talk
10 to Mrs. Reed about that if we can get an
11 updated timeline.

12 And the other question I had, the
13 private properties on here, I'll use one as an
14 example that I've gotten so many calls about is
15 2939 Birney Avenue. That is a property that --
16 like all the other ones listed that has to come
17 down as soon as possible.

18 So I understand and I agree with
19 them going for this grant money, but a question
20 I have is, why can't we use the money that's
21 already been budgeted for demolition? I
22 checked with Controller Murray, there is
23 \$145,000 that we already have in the 2020
24 budget for demolition at least for the private
25 contract properties on here.

1 I know that might not cover all of
2 them. But we can pick off maybe some of the
3 ones that are in worse condition to try to get
4 that done this year right away with 2939 Birney
5 Avenue being one of those that I think should
6 come down immediately.

7 So, two questions, do we plan on
8 using this funding? How much money do we have
9 total in our demolition budget even from years
10 prior?

11 I know this is a question that's
12 come up -- came up before in terms of, you
13 know, having money that's been left over even
14 in the OECD budget. So I'd like those
15 questions answered prior to final passage of
16 this legislation. Anyone else on the question?
17 All those in favor of introduction signify by
18 saying aye.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

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

1 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
2 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
3 AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
5 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FLOOD
6 MITIGATION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$322,569.00
7 TO ASSIST IN THE ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION OF
8 THREE (3) PROPERTIES IN SCRANTON'S WESTSIDE:
9 2404 JACKSON STREET, SCRANTON, PA 18504;
10 120 N. MERRIFIELD AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA 18504;
11 AND 122 N. MERRIFIELD AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA
12 18504.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
14 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item
15 5-M be introduced into its proper committee.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

19 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question,
20 these three properties here, I would imagine
21 that the homeowners are in favor of this. Do
22 we know if there's -- well, can we request
23 information to see if there is any other
24 properties or structures that are in the
25 floodplain in that area?

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, certainly.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: And then if there is
3 any future plans to, you know, spread this out
4 into a larger area or if it's just going to be
5 contained within those properties.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Good questions.
7 Anyone else? I just had two questions on this.
8 It says in the legislation that eventually it's
9 the City's goal to rebuild the floodplain and
10 an adequate pump station for this area. So my
11 question there would be, you know, what does
12 this look like? What would the plan for that
13 be? What does that entail besides going for
14 the grant money which I agree with and
15 acquiring and demolishing these properties?

16 So I know from a few years ago the
17 administration answered this question but it's
18 escaping me. We did have money in either the
19 2018 or 2019 budget for the Keyser Valley
20 Pumping Station. So my question is, what -- I
21 know there's been money spent there. I believe
22 there's been money put in there.

23 What else has to be done to bring
24 that pumping station into an adequate status,
25 you know, what is that going to cost? And what

1 is the -- do they have a timeline yet for that?
2 Those are the questions that I would have. And
3 I'd like those answered along with Councilman
4 Schuster's before final passage. Anyone else
5 on the question? All those in favor of
6 introduction signify by saying aye.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MS. REED: 5-N. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
15 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR
16 AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF
17 SCRANTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
18 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BLIGHT
19 REMEDIATION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73,225.00
20 ON BEHALF OF WEST SCRANTON COMMUNITY
21 DEVELOPMENT, INC. TO REPAIR THE ROOF
22 AND PARKING AREA OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 310
23 N. MAIN AVENUE, AS WELL AS THE CLOSING COSTS TO
24 FINALIZE THE PURCHASE OF THIS BUILDING THAT
25 WILL BE USED BY WEST SCRANTON COMMUNITY

1 DEVELOPMENT, INC.

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

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
8 the question, I just have to thank all of the
9 board -- the directors and board members of
10 this group, the West Scranton Community
11 Development Incorporated.

12 If you look through this
13 legislation, first of all, the work that
14 they've already done for the youth in our
15 community is really -- it's just outstanding
16 that they would put in their own time, their
17 own effort, take away from their own families
18 to go out and provide an area for the youth of
19 West Scranton and our City to have a place to
20 go and play basketball, to have a place to go
21 after school to do educational activities, help
22 with homework, a game room, things like that.

23 There's really not a lot of areas
24 for children to do that like there used to be
25 years and years ago in the City. So I support

1 this legislation.

2 And again, I want to thank all of
3 the members who made this happen. And I wish
4 them the best of luck. And again, I want to
5 thank them. Anyone else on the question? All
6 those in favor of introduction signify by
7 saying aye.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
13 eyes have it and so moved.

14 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No
15 business at this time.

16 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
17 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR
18 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 21, 2020 -
19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON
20 TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
21 WITH THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA AND THE COUNTY OF
22 LACKAWANNA TAX CLAIM BUREAU, WHEREBY THE
23 RESPONSIBILITY AND RIGHT TO COLLECT
24 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES FROM THE CITY OF
25 SCRANTON SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY TAX CLAIM
2 BUREAU.

3 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
4 amend --

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Sorry, I jumped the
6 gun.

7 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
8 amend Item 7-A to incorporate the revisions to
9 the proposed intergovernmental agreement
10 attached as Exhibit A to the ordinances
11 outlined by Council Solicitor in his September
12 10th, 2020 memorandum to Council which is
13 included in Third Order of the agenda for
14 tonight's meeting.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
17 the question, Solicitor Hayes, can you just
18 speak to the -- what we're doing here by
19 amending this agreement?

20 ATTY. HAYES: Sure. It's minor
21 revisions to the proposed intergovernmental
22 agreement which we've originally received a few
23 weeks ago from the administration. Essentially
24 we're changing the dates to reflect the
25 commencement of the services that will be

1 provided by the Tax Claim Bureau.

2 And in addition, we are allowing for
3 additional time for transition in the event
4 that the parties determined that we were going
5 to terminate this agreement. Specifically,
6 there was a 30-day notice proposed. Council
7 went back and asked for 60 days. And that was
8 agreed to by the parties.

9 So again, the revisions are outlined
10 in the memo that is in Third Order, very, very
11 minor changes.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Good. Thank you.
13 Anyone else on the question? All those in
14 favor of the motion to amend Item 7-A signify
15 by saying aye.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

22 As Chairperson for the Committee on
23 Rules, I recommend final passage of Item 7-A as
24 amended.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
2 the question, bottom line, I've talked about
3 this now for the past two weeks and the past
4 few years. This is a good deal for the City of
5 Scranton and the taxpayers in the City of
6 Scranton.

7 I think last week I mentioned in
8 working with NRS, the City got I think 85 cents
9 on every dollar that was collected. With the
10 county, I think it works out to like 95 cents
11 for every dollar that's collected. So it's
12 clear that this is a good deal.

13 The other thing that I'm really
14 hopeful for in having a meeting today with
15 members of the administration, Solicitor Hayes,
16 and the county is that we're eventually
17 going -- hopefully be able to have the county
18 collect our delinquent refuse fees. Again, it
19 will end up being a savings, an overall savings
20 for the taxpayers and more revenue in our
21 coffers, which is sorely needed.

22 And we won't have to reply hopefully
23 on a private company like we have in the past.
24 Anyone else on the question?

25 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, this is great

1 that Tax Claim Bureau is going to replace NRS,
2 first of all. I'm with you, Billy. This is
3 long overdue. I'm also thrilled to hear
4 tonight that everybody seems to keep working
5 towards this goal quicker than we might have
6 thought maybe a week or two ago.

7 So I agree with Solicitor Hayes and
8 thank him for being part of this process. And,
9 you know, I agree with him that, you know, this
10 is a very viable option that I want to see
11 sooner than later. That's all I have.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
13 else on the question? Roll call, please, Miss
14 Carrera.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
25 Item 7-A as amended legally and lawfully

1 adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
4 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 60, 2020 -
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
6 CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATION
7 AGREEMENT WITH LACKAWANNA COUNTY FOR
8 REIMBURSEMENT FOR COVID-19 RELATED EXPENSES
9 UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC
10 SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT), PUBLIC LAW
11 116-136, AND MORE PARTICULARLY, GRANT MONIES
12 MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE COVID-19 COUNTY
13 RELIEF BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
16 Committee on Community Development?

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chairperson for
18 the Committee on Community Development, I
19 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
22 call, please.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

1 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
10 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
11 RESOLUTION NO. 61, 2020 - APPROVING, IN
12 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 147(f) OF THE INTERNAL
13 REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED, A PLAN
14 OF FINANCING OF THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH
15 AND WELFARE AUTHORITY AND DECLARING THAT IT IS
16 DESIRABLE FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF
17 THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR
18 THE SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
19 AUTHORITY TO UNDERTAKE A PROJECT FOR SCRANTON
20 PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
22 What is recommendation of the Chairperson for
23 the Committee on Finance?

24 MR. SCHUSTER: As Chairperson for
25 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-C.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
4 call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

16 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
18 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 62, 2020 -
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
20 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
21 CONTRACT WITH BARRY ISETT & ASSOCIATES, INC. TO
22 PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON 2020 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
25 What is the recommendation of the Chairperson

1 for the Committee on Public Works?

2 MR. DONAHUE: As Chairman for the
3 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
4 passage of Item 7-D.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
7 the question, last week I asked for a -- if
8 there was a street list available of streets to
9 be paved in the City for this project. The DPW
10 Director did get back to me and the City Clerk,
11 Lori Reed and reported that that process
12 remains in development. So they're not ready
13 yet to make that public. Anyone else on the
14 question? Roll call, please.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare
25 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. If

1 there is no further business, I'll entertain a
2 motion to adjourn.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Motion to adjourn.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, everyone.

5 This meeting is adjourned. See everyone next
6 week.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Have a good night.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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