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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 20, 2020 -- AN
ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE CITY OF
SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2021
PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME RULE
CHARTER.

DATE: September 15th, 2020

TIME: 5:45 p.m.

LOCATION: 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

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10 LORI REED, CITY CLERK

11 KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

12 KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

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1 MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to call this
2 public hearing to order. Roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

7 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you.

13 Mrs. Reed?

14 MS. REED: The purpose of said
15 public hearing is to hear testimony and discuss
16 the following:

17 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 20, 2020 --
18 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE CITY
19 OF SCRANTON CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2021
20 PURSUANT TO SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME RULE
21 CHARTER.

22 THE COURT: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
23 Our City Clerk, Lori Reed will now read into
24 the record comment for this public hearing on
25 the Capital budget from the following

1 residents:

2 Thomas Coyne, Norma Jeffries, Fay
3 Franus and Marie Schumacher. Mrs. Reed?

4 MS. REED: Thank you. The first
5 comment is from Mr. Tom Coyne regarding the
6 capital budget.

7 Just reviewed the 2021 budget and I
8 see IT has a major overhaul planned.
9 The budget states that a replacement of the
10 City operating system is required due to
11 Technical Support ending in 2021.

12 The only Operating System that ended
13 support I can think of was Windows 7 in 2020.
14 Internet Explorer ends at 12/31/2021, but that
15 is not hardware, just installing another
16 browser.

17 Windows 7 ended its security
18 patching as of **January 14, 2020, but..**
19 Extended Security Updates (ESU) are available
20 for a fee for continued operation and patches
21 thru 2023.

22 I support upgrades and security, but
23 it has to be done in a reasonable long term
24 manor. A Unified master data (what people have
25 been making as an access database since 1992.)

1 May sound good but having a database for all
2 departments and service partners, gives
3 external access to privileged information to
4 outside sources. Service partners should not
5 have the access to a full database.

6 The need is ever present to have an
7 access controlled intranet (internal) that can
8 be protected and secured by VPN and credentials
9 to specific remote machines running software to
10 connect to city resources. Intranet and
11 internet need to be separated and non linked.

12 If I was running IT, I would back up
13 financial and any critical data using a ZFS
14 system.

15
16 The next comment from Mrs. Norma
17 Jeffries.

18 Information Technology

19 Projected Costs: \$936,000. Does
20 this cost include someone on the city payroll
21 to oversee the project? This is a big
22 undertaking.

23 Technical Support for the city's
24 current operating system will cease at the end
25 of 2021. Will this technical support be bought

1 in house? Will the city have its own IT Team
2 that will oversee the upgrade and maintenance
3 of the City Operating Platform?

4 Line Item #65 -- City Operating
5 Platform upgrade \$300,000. What services will
6 be covered in this upgrade? It is my
7 understanding that when an Operating Platform
8 is upgraded, each desktop, laptop, etc must
9 also be upgraded to the new operating system.

10 The \$936,000 seems reasonable,
11 however, not sure what the \$300,000 referenced
12 online item #65 covers.

13 Training of personnel will be
14 included in the General Operating Budget.
15 Therefore, it appears that the cost associated
16 with the training is not included in the
17 \$936,000.

18 Department of Public Works,
19 Department of Engineering -- Bridges
20 Last line: Roads and sidewalks will be
21 included in the DPW General Operating Budget as
22 a maintenance item unless new construction.
23 Are the Street Signs and Stop Signs also
24 included in the DPW General Operating Budget?

25 The next comment is from Fay Franus.

1 Number one, Has the RACP Grant
2 request been submitted for the City Hall
3 roof/spire and (a) when will we know if
4 received in the full amount, and (b) how will
5 any expenses not covered by the Grant be
6 covered?

7 Number two, The Serrenti Conversion
8 seems to be moving beyond that approved by
9 Council in 2017. Council will be giving a
10 de facto approval to this change by approving
11 the Capital budget and I am concerned the City
12 is biting off more than the taxpayers can
13 afford.

14 Number three, How many riding mowers
15 are being procured in 2021?

16 Number four, DPW engineering
17 department includes a no funding for Merrifield
18 until 2023, and this is purely unacceptable.
19 These residents have been getting flooded for
20 decades and need help NOW not off into the
21 future.

22 Number five, Again the DPW
23 engineering department has the word "design" in
24 the second column of the Keyser Valley -
25 Merrifield line item. Why?

1 The fourth comment submitted by
2 Marie Schumacher.

3 May I say I was disappointed, very
4 disappointed. Had I been Council I would have
5 sent it back with a Copy of Section 904 of the
6 Home Rule Charter and requested an Input that
7 met the Charter.

8 First the Charter says it should be
9 for five fiscal years, not three, next with the
10 probable exception of City Hall the **necessity**
11 was not clear. Estimated costs appear to be
12 grabbed out of the air; probably the worst
13 example was budgeting \$600,000 for Parks with
14 only a still-to-be-delivered Contractor
15 recommendation.

16 Estimated costs of operating and
17 maintaining the facilities were not provided;
18 just the utility costs for the Emergency
19 Service Center concerns me. The required
20 schedule is extremely vague.

21 However, given that you have
22 accepted the hodgepodge I will share a few more
23 specific thoughts: To Are vehicles being
24 replaced, traded in and are the proceeds
25 offsetting the cost of replacement?

1 - An asphalt Paving and small roller
2 is requested, but I see no request for
3 equipment to tar around pave patches; without
4 the tar water gets between the old and new
5 asphalt and the pothole is back.

6 - brush tractor and mower new or
7 replacement? The roadside brush along East
8 Mountain Road and Route 307 between Rt. 81 and
9 Lynwood Avenue was not trimmed back this year
10 as it has been in years past. Also, Land Bank
11 vacant properties need to be maintained.

12 - I see two (separate line items I might
13 add and question) for Leaf Vacuum Trucks but no
14 Street Sweepers. Is our street sweeper
15 inventory sufficient to keep sediment
16 stormwater out of the stormwater drains?

17 - The DPW vehicle narrative states
18 vehicles in need of replacement and fleet
19 additions and then provides a list but fails to
20 distinguish between which are replacement and
21 which are additions.

22 - There is no estimate for
23 implementing a vehicle GPS system in 2021
24 despite the fact that a Trial will be performed
25 in the 4th Quarter of this year.

1 - The Flood Control section states
2 escrow accounts will be used for funding.
3 Please identify the available escrow accounts
4 and the balance in each and answer why this
5 available funding has not been used to fix the
6 Dewey-Jackson St issue?

7 - It is stated the City will
8 continue to access funding for parks such as
9 the pocket park. Does this mean the City plans
10 to invest more funds into the pocket park or if
11 the pocket park is being used as an example?

12 - \$600,000 a year for three
13 successive years is a significant amount
14 without any backup other than McLane is "doing
15 a study." When will McLane deliver their
16 recommendations? Based on the condition of the
17 parks at this time, how does DPW access the
18 parks needing to be addressed in 2021.

19
20 And that concludes the comments.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.
22 We will make sure that all of these questions
23 are answered prior to final passage of the
24 Capital Budget. And if there is no further
25 business with the public hearing, I'll

1 entertain a motion to adjourn the public
2 hearing.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Mr. Gaughan, I wanted
4 to request a piece of information. But I don't
5 know if it's appropriate at this time that the
6 2017 Serrenti piece that was approved by
7 Council, can I get a copy of that?

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, we can do that.
9 Sure.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Motion to adjourn the
12 public hearing?

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Motion to adjourn.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. The public
15 hearing is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

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