

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

1 C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

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

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

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

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

8 Let us also take a special moment
9 tonight of silence for all of the people in our
10 community, country and world who had passed
11 away from the coronavirus. This pandemic has
12 turned our world upside down. But we must
13 remain hopeful and strong.

14 We continue to pray for the
15 doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical
16 professionals who seek to heal and help those
17 affected and who put themselves at risk in the
18 process. May they have protection and peace.

19 Whether we are home or abroad,
20 surrounded by many people suffering from this
21 illness or only a few, let us stick together,
22 endure together, mourn together and in place of
23 our anxiety, let us have hope and peace.

24 Thank you. Miss Carrera, roll call, please.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

4 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

7 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you, Miss
10 Carrera. I just want to take a second before
11 we get started with our meeting tonight. I
12 have a proclamation to read in honor of Charles
13 Tansits, Jr., who turned 100 years old.

14 And I just want to -- before I read
15 the proclamation, I just want to say a few
16 things. I had the pleasure -- I had the honor
17 of reading this proclamation in front of
18 Mr. Tansits on top of East Mountain Road on
19 Saturday in honor of his 100th birthday.

20 And there was group there of his
21 family and his friends and neighbors from East
22 Mountain. And I just want to say a few things
23 because it was, you know, one of -- it was just
24 a really great event. Tom Brokaw a number of
25 years coined the phrase "The greatest

1 generation."

2 And it was those men and women who
3 grew up during the great depression and fought
4 in World War II that were a part of that
5 greatest generation that Tom Brokaw talked
6 about. And members of that generation like Mr.
7 Tansits were known for their work ethic, their
8 sacrifice and their honor.

9 And they knew personal
10 responsibility. They as President Kennedy once
11 put it, ask not what their country could do for
12 them but what they could do for their country.
13 And it was an absolute honor to meet Mr.
14 Tansits, to meet his family, some of who I knew
15 before I met Mr. Tansits this past weekend.

16 And as I stood at the top of East
17 Mountain Road and watched Mr. Tansits, who by
18 the way if anybody saw him on Newswatch 16, he
19 is in phenomenal shape for 100 years old. He
20 had me fooled. He was surrounded by his family
21 and his friends.

22 And I really thought of the great
23 challenges that we face as a country, as a city
24 right now in the midst of this pandemic and the
25 political chaos that's engulfing our democracy.

1 As I heard, you know, heard Mr.
2 Tansits talk and talking with his family, I
3 thought that we really could learn something
4 from Mr. Tansits and that greatest generation,
5 those very few people who are still left from
6 that generation.

7 And one of the things we could learn
8 is, you know, if you get knocked down you get
9 back up. You keep moving. You stay positive.
10 You help people. And that's really Mr. Tansits
11 to a T. He was telling us while we were up
12 there that he was one of the first people, one
13 of the first families on East Mountain I think
14 when he was five years old.

15 He's been up there for 95 years.
16 And it was just a really, really great event.
17 I was so happy and I'm so glad that this
18 Council is taking a moment here and a second to
19 honor him with this proclamation and wish him
20 the best and wish his family the best. So I'll
21 take a second now and read this proclamation
22 into the record:

23 **WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
24 **SCRANTON** is desirous of honoring "**CHARLES J.**
25 **TANSITS, JR.**" as he celebrates his 100th

1 Birthday; and

2 **WHEREAS, "CHARLES"** was born in
3 Scranton on October 11, 1920 above a tailor
4 shop on Cedar Avenue; and

5 **WHEREAS, "CHARLES"** attended St.
6 Mary's Grade School and St. Mary's High School,
7 graduating in 1939; and

8 **WHEREAS, "CHARLES"** was drafted
9 during World War II and proudly served with the
10 United States Army's 80th Division, 305th
11 Medical Battalion. His tour of duty took him
12 through Europe and the Battle of the Bulge; and

13 **WHEREAS, "CHARLES"** was married to Eleanor
14 Osborne Tansits from February 1947 until her
15 passing in January 2007. Charles and Eleanor
16 raised five wonderful children: Mariellen Kaeb,
17 Gloria Wenze, Thomas Tansits, Ronald Tansits
18 and Charles Tansits III; and

19 **WHEREAS, "CHARLES"** worked as an
20 upholsterer for a few years then had a long,
21 successful career in the printing industry,
22 having retired thirty-seven years ago in
23 October.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that
25 on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020,** Scranton City

1 Council wishes to congratulate "CHARLES J.
2 TANSITS, JR." on his 100th birthday and wish
3 him good health and happiness on reaching this
4 milestone.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
6 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
7 Record of this Council, as lasting tribute to
8 "CHARLES J. TANSITS, JR."

9
10 Again, I want to thank Mr. Tansits
11 and his family. It was a wonderful event on
12 Saturday. And, you know, for somebody who is
13 100 years old who fought in World War II, the
14 Battle of the Bulge in the medical battalion,
15 again, he still walks if not all, most of Lake
16 Scranton and knows everybody up on East
17 Mountain and has a lot of friends and a lot
18 good family. So again, I want to congratulate
19 Mr. Tansits and wish him the best of health.

20 Mrs. Reed, please dispense with the
21 reading of the minutes.

22 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

23 3-A. MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON
24 MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
25 OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD OCTOBER 1, 2020.

1 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE FROM BUSINESS
2 ADMINISTRATOR TO CITY SOLICITOR DATED SEPTEMBER
3 22, 2020 REGARDING RFQ FOR CONSULTANT/BENEFITS
4 BROKER.

5 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
6 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED OCTOBER 6, 2020
7 REGARDING COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENTS.

8 3-D. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
9 MAYOR PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED OCTOBER 6, 2020
10 REGARDING UPDATED LETTER ATTACHED TO RESOLUTION
11 NO. 73, 2020.

12 3-E. CITY OF SCRANTON ESTIMATE OF
13 2020 BUDGET IMPACT FROM COVID-19 AS OF
14 SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 RECEIVED OCTOBER 6, 2020.

15 3-F. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
16 OF THE SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD
17 SEPTEMBER 2, 2020.

18 3-G. FUEL CARD ANALYSIS RECEIVED
19 FROM OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER FOR THE
20 PERIOD AUGUST 24 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2020.

21 3-H. MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL
22 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD MEETING HELD
23 SEPTEMBER 10, 2020.

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

1 Order items?

2 I have two. First, as I mentioned
3 in the caucus and I'll mention at our regular
4 meeting, 3-A, the minutes of the Scranton
5 Municipal Recreation Authority, I was concerned
6 when I originally had read these minutes about
7 item number two on park playgrounds on page
8 number two of the minutes about the lower
9 playground which is located near the Kanjorski
10 Bridge according to these minutes is going to
11 be demolished.

12 It says that most of the playground
13 equipment is in disrepair. I was concerned
14 about that because I do spend a significant
15 amount of time down there with my children. I
16 don't think that the playground is in total
17 disrepair. I was just there two or three weeks
18 ago.

19 And I still think it's in pretty
20 good shape. There are parts of it that
21 certainly need to be upgraded. I did speak to
22 Mr. Gattens who is the Chairman of the
23 Authority who I think does a wonderful job as
24 do all the board members. And he informed me
25 that the playground is not going to be

1 demolished.

2 They are looking for upgrades.

3 There may be certain parts that get taken out
4 and hopefully replaced with some upgrades. So
5 I was really pleased to hear that. And also,
6 if you look in the minutes too, I was pleased
7 to see that there's going to be a new
8 playground that's put a butterfly -- next to
9 the butterfly garden which I think is next to
10 the zoo. And it will be named the Butterfly
11 Playground, which I think is very good.

12 The second thing I wanted to mention
13 we talked about in the caucus which is 3-D.
14 And that is a memo that we received from the
15 Mayor. It was an update to the September 14th,
16 2020 letter to replace a July 21st, 2020 letter
17 attached to Resolution No. 73 of 2020 which was
18 passed by this Council on September 29th, 2020.

19 And it basically updated the Acting
20 Fire Chief salary to \$95,808.75. When this was
21 on our agenda and we passed it September 29th,
22 2020, the salary that was in the original memo
23 attached to the legislation was for 84
24 thousand-some odd dollars, which is what it is
25 budgeted at -- the position of Fire Chief is

1 budgeted at in the 2020 operating budget.

2 I did -- as I mentioned in the
3 caucus, I did speak to the Mayor today and, you
4 know, told her that I do not agree with this.
5 Again, the Mayor's position on it according to
6 what she told me today was that the precedent
7 has already been set because Al Lucas received
8 this amount when he was the Fire Chief.

9 At that time as Solicitor Hayes
10 reminded me in the caucus the reasoning then
11 was that there was an unexpended balance in the
12 fire department budget. And that's the reason
13 that they could have increased it -- or not
14 increased it but kept Al Lucas at \$95,808.75,
15 which I believe he was making as a Captain in
16 the fire department.

17 I don't know what Mr. Judge was
18 making. But I don't agree with this. I didn't
19 agree with it back then. I do think that when
20 you have a budget you have to stick with what
21 is budgeted. You have to live within your
22 budget. And I know, you know, if -- whether a
23 precedent's been set or not, we passed
24 legislation in the summer of 2020 that stated
25 very clearly that if there was going to be an

1 increase in any salary, that that would have to
2 come before the Council.

3 So I would like a letter to be sent
4 to the Mayor asking for clarification on this
5 matter, asking for a detail of where -- if
6 there is an unexpended balance if it still
7 exists and where, what line item is that coming
8 out of.

9 And then I really think we need to
10 talk about looking at when we get those
11 answers, looking at whether or not that
12 legislation that we passed was violated. The
13 simple fix here I think is to have this salary
14 be what it should be which is 84,000 and
15 some-odd dollars, which was in the 2020 budget.

16 So that's my stance on it. And
17 we'll ask for further information from Mayor
18 Cognetti. So, Kevin, if could you draft that
19 and we'll get together if you need any further
20 clarification.

21 ATTY. HAYES: Sure. No problem.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: And that's all I have
23 on the Third Order items. Does anyone else
24 have anything on the Third Order items? Very
25 good. If not, received and filed. Do any

1 Council members have any announcements at this
2 time?

3 MR. MCANDREW: I have two of them --
4 actually two worthwhile fundraisers for this
5 week. So tomorrow and Thursday from 9 a.m. to
6 9 p.m., Boscov's is holding its annual Friends
7 helping Friends shopping days.

8 Customers receive 20 percent off
9 purchases and 5 percent of their purchases go
10 to a participating charity or organization of
11 their choice. So this year they have about 150
12 groups participating including the Scranton
13 Police Department. So that was worth
14 mentioning.

15 Also, there's going to be a flea
16 market this Saturday, October 17th, 9 a.m. to
17 12 p.m. This flea market will benefit our
18 friends at the Friends of the Poor. It's going
19 to be at 240 Elm Street, Scranton, PA. It's
20 going to be outdoors at the Scranton Sheet
21 Metal parking lot behind Dunkin. That's all I
22 have. Thank you.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Any other
24 announcements?

25 MR. SCHUSTER: I'd just like to say

1 congratulations to Mr. Tansits and his family.
2 I know several members of the family and they
3 are all great people.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Any other
5 announcements? Okay, I have a few. NDC will
6 attend our caucus next Tuesday, October 20th at
7 5:45 p.m., to provide their third quarter
8 parking update. So they will give us a
9 presentation on what their budget looks like to
10 date, what it looks like they're projecting
11 towards the end of the year and then any
12 updates to the parking garages in the City.

13 Scranton Tomorrow is scheduled for a
14 public caucus at 5:45 on October 27th. There
15 were several questions about Scranton Tomorrow.
16 So I know that they'll come prepared to answer
17 those questions and give us an update on their
18 activities.

19 We also have a caucus scheduled with
20 Herbert, Rowland and Grubic for Tuesday,
21 November 10th, 5:45 p.m., to discuss the City's
22 approach to stormwater management, specifically
23 the progress that has occurred with this
24 company working with the City on the pollution
25 reduction plan and complying with the pollution

1 reduction requirements by the Environmental
2 Protection Agency.

3 Also, they'll give us an update on
4 what has been accomplished in terms of best
5 management practices the City should implement
6 to maintain its MS4 Permit and the exploration
7 of the feasibility and benefits of managing
8 stormwater on a regional basis.

9 This is something that we all --
10 Council has dealt with in the last few years,
11 prior administrations. It's a problem that did
12 not go away even though we've -- we're facing a
13 pandemic. It's something that is going to be a
14 strain on future budgets I think and a strain
15 on our DPW and a strain on our community
16 because of the requirements that were put down
17 on municipalities throughout the State of
18 Pennsylvania from the EPA.

19 So I look forward to meeting with
20 HRG to learn more about this. And, Mrs. Reed,
21 if we could actually extend the invitation to
22 the Mayor and see if any members of her
23 administration would like to join the caucus as
24 well. That might be helpful since I know HRG
25 has been working closely with them.

1 Also a paper copy of Council's
2 weekly agenda, including a copy of all
3 legislation and backup is available to review
4 in the City Treasurer's office, the first floor
5 of City Hall.

6 The Treasurer has graciously agreed
7 to the weekly agenda being placed in her office
8 for public inspection and review in the event
9 that they do not have internet access, which
10 many of our elderly citizens do not.

11 The agenda is posted also to
12 Council's webpage on the City's website each
13 week if do you have internet access. And it
14 will continue to be posted there.

15 The paper copy is just another
16 option and a means of striving for full
17 transparency with regard to legislative
18 matters. And on top of that, our legal notice
19 is placed weekly in the Sunday edition of the
20 Scranton Times detailing Council's agenda for
21 the next meeting.

22 I also wanted to make an
23 announcement about the Ethics Board. The ad
24 will be placed in the paper this week. You
25 should see it in the Scranton Times on

1 Thursday.

2 Council will be accepting letters of
3 interest and resumes until Thursday, October
4 22nd. This would be to fill Bruce Reddick's
5 seat who recently resigned. It's a one-year
6 term until August, 2000 and -- or the term goes
7 until August, 2021.

8 All that we would ask is that any
9 members of the public who are interested in
10 filling this seat, please review the
11 requirements located in the City's Ethics Code.
12 And you could access that by going to
13 www.scrantonpa.gov.

14 And you could send those letters of
15 interest and resumes to Lreed@scrantonpa.gov
16 or you could send it to the City Clerk, Lori
17 Reed, 340 North Washington Avenue, City Hall.

18 Also, I was informed earlier today
19 that all collective bargaining agreements have
20 been posted on the City's website under the
21 Human Resources Department. That's been a
22 request that's been made in the past of the
23 administration and they have posted those.

24 Mrs. Reed?

25 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS

1 PARTICIPATION.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Would someone please
3 make a motion to accept public comment from the
4 following individuals: Marie Schumacher and
5 Patricia Nestor.

6 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
7 accept public comment.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion
10 to accept public comment and a second. On the
11 question? I'll ask Mrs. Reed now to please
12 read the public comment into the record.

13 MS. REED: Thank you. The first
14 submission by Marie Schumacher as follows:

15 0 Effective storm water management
16 portends to be a principal initiative in 2019
17 regardless of the impact on the operating
18 budget." This is a quote from the 2019 budget;
19 have you digested the end of the sentence
20 REGARDLESS OF THE IMPACT ON THE OPERATING
21 BUDGET." Did it happen? Of course not.

22 Worse last week the Council
23 President said Storm Water wasn't going to
24 happen this year. The treatment of the
25 property owners having serious stormwater

1 issues is something that should keep any
2 elected official awake nights.

3 I don't know whether the next action should be
4 elevation to DEP or Court.

5 0 I was pleased with the 2021
6 budget approach of establishing a doable
7 revenue projection and then making the expenses
8 fit within that projection. However in my eyes
9 both the Administration and Council lost
10 credibility as it does appear we did not need
11 to extend the Exit Plan and the grab for
12 Federal funds based on a six million dollar
13 deficit due to the China virus.

14 0 Several weeks ago you tabled the
15 Capital Budget until answers to the questions
16 were received. Two weeks ago you said the
17 answers would be available "next week." Not
18 only were they not available last week, they
19 are not in Third Order this week. Why?
20 o How much have we paid Stevens and Lee to date
21 for the LST court issue?

22 0 Last year Council authorized a
23 rather unusual Contract, in that is for three
24 years (through September 2022 with Speck and
25 Associations and Barry Isett and Associates.

1 How much money have we spent to date, are there
2 any progress reports (say annually) scheduled
3 and what Department is administering this
4 Contract?

5 0 Earlier this year I provided
6 Council with an article from the Times-Tribune
7 noting that "Contracts designed to ensure
8 officers receive fair wages and benefits have
9 spilled over into public policy." It was a few
10 years back when we learned a Scranton police
11 officer had done something and was punished by
12 the Chief; however, we were not allowed
13 information on the incident because of a
14 Contract clause which I verified. This is
15 wrong.

16 I call on Council to ensure this
17 clause is not included in the next Contract
18 which you should be receiving soon.

19 0 When do you expect to receive the
20 2019 Audit and what is holding up this action?
21 o When may we expect a presentation on the
22 Serrenti property plans and cost over the next
23 five years?

24 0 Finally, how many open court
25 issues against the City are there.

1 The second submission is from
2 Patricia Nestor as follows:

3 Remember the other day I sent an
4 e-mail asking if the Scranton police department
5 could do gun safety classes with the public?

6 I have another good reason why this
7 should be done. Breona Taylor. I was reading
8 comments on a Facebook post and someone said
9 that before the police fired, her boyfriend
10 first fired a "non lethal warning shot."

11 There is no such thing. All bullets
12 are lethal and you do not discharge a weapon
13 without intent to kill. Missing a target is bad
14 aim and shows lack of control. If you want to
15 warn people, get an alarm, not a gun!

16 Firing "warning shots" at police is
17 a good way to get killed. Fire arm safety
18 education is badly needed in this Scranton and
19 the country. My brother said years ago
20 *before* he got his hunting license he had to
21 pass a safety course. There's no requirements
22 for buying a gun for self defense.

23 Please have SPD and city hall start
24 a gun safety campaign. Crime has been going up
25 and people are buying guns out of fear. Fear is

1 a terrible teacher.

2 (This concludes letters as submitted
3 to Council for public comment.)
4

5 MS. REED: That is all, Councilman
6 Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you very much.
8 I just want to take a minute -- well, I'll --
9 does anyone have anything on the question for
10 public comment before I go through some of the
11 answers that we received?

12 ATTY. HAYES: Councilman Gaughan,
13 with regard to Miss Schumacher's question on
14 the number of court cases, if she could be more
15 specific perhaps we could give her a response.
16 I don't know what she means by the number of
17 court filings.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Mrs. Reed, if
19 you could e-mail Miss Schumacher and ask her if
20 she could provide clarification on that. Okay,
21 so a couple things for Miss Schumacher.

22 The first about last week I said
23 stormwater wasn't going to happen this year. I
24 don't believe I said that. If I did say that,
25 that statement doesn't even really make sense.

1 And I don't know what that actually means
2 stormwater is not going to happen this year.

3 We're meeting with the company that
4 worked with the City on coming up with a plan
5 to manage stormwater on a regional basis
6 November 10th. I've been pushing for that
7 update for the last few months. And we're
8 finally I think going to get some action on
9 that.

10 I've always said that we have major
11 stormwater problems throughout the City. And
12 I'm hoping that the administration in working
13 with HRG is going to work to identify and
14 resolve a lot of those issues.

15 As for the second comment here --
16 usually I wouldn't comment on a comment, but
17 that the administration and Council lost
18 credibility as it does not appear -- as it does
19 appear we did not need to extend the Exit Plan
20 and the grab for federal funds based on a 6
21 million dollar deficit due to the China virus.

22 Just two comments there. If anyone
23 was paying attention when that whole
24 conversation went on, the main crux of the
25 extension of the Exit Plan was due to the fact

1 that without it, we could not transition from
2 the Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax which
3 is old and outdated and there's a lot of issues
4 with it to the Payroll Preparation Tax.

5 So that was the main reason that was
6 given for extending the Exit Plan. And also at
7 that time, we weren't really sure what the
8 impact was going to be of the pandemic. And
9 things obviously could change. We don't know
10 that.

11 As for the use of China virus, I
12 just -- it's COVID-19. I wouldn't blame it on
13 a specific country. That doesn't make sense to
14 me at all. About the capital budget, I am
15 going to go through some of the questions that
16 we received. There will be information next
17 week in Third Order.

18 We did not receive all of the
19 answers yet to the questions. But we will
20 receive them. I talked to the Mayor and
21 Business Administrator today. I think we're
22 waiting on some answers from the Department of
23 Public Works.

24 But they have been more than
25 responsive to our requests. How much have we

1 paid Stevens and Lee to date? Solicitor Hayes
2 e-mailed the Council today to let us know that
3 as of -- and we did receive an update in July
4 that as of July we -- the City has spent
5 \$175,858 to Stevens and Lee on the LST court
6 issue -- the Act 511 issue I believe it was.

7 And, Solicitor Hayes, I think you
8 were going to reach out to the Law Department
9 to see how much we've incurred from July to
10 October? Oh, sorry, you're muted Kevin.

11 ATTY. HAYES: Sorry about that.
12 Yes, I have reached out to the City Solicitor
13 and asked him to give me an update on any
14 additional invoices that have been submitted or
15 paid since July to Stevens and Lee in
16 connection with the Act 511 appeal.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Great. Thank
18 you. And Miss Schumacher posed some other
19 questions here that we'll get to the
20 appropriate department. I don't know the
21 answer to I think the last three off the top of
22 my head. So we will take care of that.

23 A couple other things -- and I think
24 it's important just to bring up that there was
25 several questions raised over the last few

1 weeks, a lot to do with the capital budget. So
2 I just want to take a minute in Fourth Order
3 now and go through those.

4 One of the questions was on
5 prearrest drug program that the former Police
6 Chief, Carl Graziano kind championed I think
7 last year or the year before.

8 We received a detailed PowerPoint
9 from Chief Namiotka -- Acting Chief Namiotka
10 and a program description that is a few dozen
11 pages that kind of details the whole program.
12 So we are going to send that I believe it was
13 Miss Schumacher that asked that. We'll send
14 that out to her.

15 And then, Mrs. Reed, just because I
16 think this is a great program, I voted for it
17 when it came up on our agenda last year or the
18 year before. So, Mrs. Reed, if we can put this
19 in Third Order I think if anybody wants to take
20 a look at it, it's a really good thing for our
21 community.

22 There was a question on the --
23 specifically for the capital budget. I think
24 there will be a lot of people interested in
25 this on the McLain Park study. So there was

1 going to be a study, a comprehensive study of
2 all of our parks, our whole park system which I
3 think is really -- a really, really good idea.
4 So McLane Associates gave us a tentative
5 project schedule along with a number of
6 documents detailing everything that they've
7 done and everything that they will do.

8 I'm not going to go through every
9 single thing because I would bore you all to
10 death with it. We are going to put this in
11 Third Order for next week so that the public
12 can take a look at because this is paid for
13 with public tax dollars.

14 But just to give you a brief
15 tentative update or tentative project schedule,
16 they are currently doing site assessments of
17 the recreation facilities throughout the City.
18 And they're starting the preparation of a
19 report. So this would include inventory and
20 analysis to all 30 City-owned parks and these
21 field visits will occur weekly.

22 They've already done several of
23 them. Connors Park and Billy Barrett Park over
24 in Minooka are an example of that. They're
25 also including an assessment of other

1 complementary facilities and partnerships like
2 the Heritage Trail and the Nay Aug Avenue
3 natural play area. A draft report has been
4 started.

5 Data obtained during the field
6 visits and background information will
7 continually be added to the report.

8 In November and December they're
9 looking at neighborhood outreach discussions
10 and conceptual renderings. And then January or
11 February of 2021, they're going to compile the
12 final report, conceptual master plan, phased
13 opinion of probable costs for what the upgrades
14 look like.

15 A draft report will be sent to the
16 City for review and comment. And then McLane
17 will sit with City officials to discuss
18 priorities and grant opportunities. And I know
19 that Mr. McLane would be more than willing to
20 come before Council with his partners and, you
21 know, present this and discuss it.

22 This is a very, very good project
23 and worth every single penny that the City
24 spends because what this is going to do is give
25 us a master plan for the next 10, 15, 20 years

1 to show us exactly what needs to happen in the
2 parks, where we might be a little deficient,
3 what upgrades we need.

4 And the biggest thing and the reason
5 that we pushed this was because it's going to
6 really help us get grant money because when you
7 go for these different grants like a DCNR
8 grant, they want to see that you have a master
9 comprehensive plan.

10 So we're going to have that. And if
11 you look at the backup documentation that's
12 been provided, they're well on their way to
13 completing that. So I want to thank them for
14 the update. Hopefully that answers the
15 question there.

16 There was a question about the dog
17 license policy, \$35 per dog a year is way too
18 high. I agree. Administration responded that
19 that's currently under review. So the dog
20 license policy for those of you with animals or
21 pets, that's currently under review.

22 Bev deBarros asked about polling
23 places will they be ready for in-person voting.
24 Information on polling places can be found at
25 votesPA.com. If you go to votesPA.com you

1 could see where your polling station is and you
2 could look up where vote drop boxes are.

3 That's the Pennsylvania voters
4 services website where you could look up your
5 polling location among a number of other
6 different things. If you are a voter in
7 Lackawanna County, you could call the Elections
8 office at 570-963-6737 or visit
9 Lackawannacounty.org for a list of polling
10 locations. Again, all that information is
11 available at votesPA.com.

12 Onto the capital budget, there was a
13 number of questions for the IT Department. So
14 the projected cost for the IT Department is
15 nearly a million dollars. And there are
16 several questions on that.

17 So the administration responded that
18 the project is being managed by the City's
19 Digital Transformation Manager currently titled
20 Information Technology Manager and the Director
21 of Information Technology.

22 An RFP is being prepared for a third
23 party technology partner who will provide,
24 technical expertise throughout the
25 implementation of the new operating platform.

1 The new system for the City will unify resident
2 and commercial information, City financials and
3 enable integrated workflow for the City's core
4 processes and citizen chasing tools including
5 financial management, asset management, human
6 resources, applications and payments for
7 licenses and permits and general search
8 capability for public information.

9 The hardware upgrades are ongoing as
10 part of our maintenance program. The \$300,000
11 cost is specific to projected one time
12 upgraded -- upgrade costs. There was another
13 question about the training of personnel for
14 this big project.

15 The training will be a combination
16 of outside services and inhouse training.
17 There was also a question about the RACV
18 funding for the new roof at City Hall. The
19 RACV was submitted before the August 12th
20 deadline.

21 The City expects to know what funds
22 have been granted by the second quarter of
23 2021. The City currently has \$80,000 that was
24 received from the Historical Museum Commission
25 allocated to the repair of the south tower.

1 Other funding will be dependent on revenues
2 received, first budget and the capital fund
3 balance.

4 There was several questions about
5 the Serrenti conversion. The response from the
6 administration is the public safety building
7 has been an ongoing project since 2015. As
8 stated in the capital budget highlights, this
9 administration has made a commitment to improve
10 management of all current and future projects.

11 Past expenditures and plans for the
12 emergency services center have been reviewed by
13 public safety and business administration. We
14 are taking a phased approach to the completion
15 of the facility in order to conserve cash and
16 maximize state and federal funding bringing the
17 center online for the services it was designed
18 for.

19 The first phase is the public safety
20 training simulator which will benefit both the
21 police department and community organizations.
22 Our aim is that this training capability will
23 generate revenue from other municipalities and
24 private companies before the end of 2021.

25 Be assured the concerns raised by

1 this question are being fully considered by the
2 administration. I think that that is it for
3 those questions. There was a few other
4 questions on the DPW items. We'll get to those
5 when we receive them from the administration.

6 Anyone else on the question? Okay.
7 All those in favor of the motion to accept
8 public comment 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 eyes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed?

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

16 MOTIONS.

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

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Nothing at this time,
20 no.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Councilman
22 McAndrew, any motions or comments at this time?

23 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, I do. So in
24 lieu of the article today that was in the paper
25 about the Scranton landlord appeal city --

1 ongoing condemnation of apartment building that
2 had a fatal fire, I would like to request --
3 and Miss Reed, would you please be able to do
4 this for me?

5 I'd like to request the police, fire
6 and LIPS Department reports with this incident
7 and also the police and fire run cards of this
8 incident, if you would please do that for me.
9 That's all I have.

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

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: No, I don't have any
14 tonight. Thank you.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Dr.
16 Rothchild. And, Councilman Donahue, any
17 motions or comments?

18 MR. DONAHUE: I'm going to save my
19 comments for agenda items.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. I
21 have a few things. The first is, I did speak
22 with the Mayor today -- questions about the
23 internship program. There is an internship
24 program going on in the City, which I think is
25 a good thing.

1 There have been questions about what
2 the cost of that program is. I think the state
3 picks up most of it. But the Mayor is going to
4 get a full overview from our OECD Director who
5 is managing the program. And I expect to have
6 that by next week.

7 Also, I'm waiting on information
8 about the Novembrino Park project, specifically
9 how many change orders since the beginning of
10 the project have been submitted and for how
11 much and the total cost of the project to date
12 verse what was originally budgeted. So again,
13 I expect to have that by next week.

14 We talked in the caucus briefly
15 about the budget presentation from last week.
16 And I want to just reiterate my comments from
17 the caucus that now that, you know, I've had
18 time to review the presentation and the
19 numbers, I would like to request the following:

20 I would like to request a breakdown
21 of the capital expenditures, other departmental
22 expenditures and nondepartmental expenditures.
23 These are coming in way under budget which is a
24 good thing. And I was pleasantly surprised.
25 But I just find it a little hard to believe.

1 And I want to make sure that we have
2 everything accounted for and a full picture of
3 what the outlook is here before the end of the
4 year. As I mentioned in the caucus, capital
5 expenditures, we're going to spend under budget
6 by almost a million dollars.

7 Same thing with other departmental
8 expenditures and nondepartmental expenditures
9 nearly, you know, less than 5 million dollars.
10 Again, good thing. Pleasantly surprised, but
11 based on my experience towards the end of the
12 year, things are really tight.

13 And I hope I'm wrong on that. And I
14 hope that these numbers, you know, stay where
15 they're at. But I just want to be positive.
16 And I think that was all that I had for
17 tonight. Yes, that's all I have. Thank you.
18 Mrs. Reed?

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Mr. Gaughan, we spoke
20 in caucus about the issue you just said. And I
21 was looking, can we possibly to your request,
22 can we add the quarter four revenue to actual
23 revenue intake for quarter four of 2019 as
24 well?

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Very good. Thank you.

3 Mrs. Reed?

4 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR
5 INTRODUCTION AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY
6 OF SCRANTON TO APPROVE THE DESIGNATION OF THE
7 300 BLOCK OF CENTER STREET AS A ONE-WAY STREET
8 FROM PENN AVENUE TOWARDS WYOMING AVENUE WITH
9 THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE THE
10 DESIGNATIONS AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED
11 DRAWING, C-4 CENTER STREET PARKING.

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

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?
17 Did we freeze? Is there a second?

18 MR. MCANDREW: Second. I thought
19 I --

20 MR. GAUGHAN: There you go. That's
21 okay. I think you froze, Mark. On the
22 question?

23 MR. DONAHUE: Yes, on the question,
24 I'm going to be voting against 5-B and 5-C
25 because what they essentially do is allow the

1 county to create more parking spots downtown.
2 I'm all for cooperation with the county. If
3 they wanted to make it a one way to create a
4 safer loading zone, I'd be all for it.

5 But at the same time this, you know,
6 one thing we have a surplus of downtown is
7 parking. Plus, you add on the fact that they
8 purchased the former Community Bake Shop, took
9 that off the tax rolls and put a parking lot
10 there.

11 And the Globe Store, the County
12 Government Center now is connected to a parking
13 garage. Plus the fact that in a two block
14 radius, there's at least four parking garages.
15 We don't need to add more parking downtown. So
16 for that reason, I'm going to be voting against
17 5-B and 5-C.

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

20 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I'll
21 vote to move it forward so we can have a
22 discussion. But I wouldn't mind seeing more
23 information on the status of the Globe Store
24 parking how far along they are with that.

25 I think maybe some of the updates

1 with NDC -- is it next week, Mr. Gaughan, might
2 be helpful with that as well.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. As I'm reading
4 through this -- and correct me if I'm wrong,
5 but it looks like the engineer for the county
6 is saying that they use the 300 block of Center
7 Street to access the garages, the loading docks
8 and other points of ingress and egress to the
9 Government Center.

10 And from what I'm reading, the
11 engineers are requesting this because they
12 don't believe that the parking that's already
13 there for this section of the street is
14 acceptable by engineering standards for two-way
15 traffic because the clearance in some areas of
16 the proposed parking would be 16 feet.

17 So I'm -- I mean, I -- I'm still
18 reviewing this. But there's parking already
19 there. I don't know. It seems like there is
20 parking already going on there. And this would
21 make it a one way so that when you're backing
22 out and backing in it would be safer.

23 Unless I'm -- I could be missing
24 something there as well. I don't know. But
25 anyways, I'm going to vote to introduce it so

1 that we can continue to discuss it. Anyone
2 else on the question?

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, I just wanted
4 to add, yeah, my understanding from the
5 legislation wasn't that that it would be adding
6 spots but maybe we need more clarification on
7 that. It's been a while since I've driven down
8 that street.

9 But when I've been down there in the
10 past, I know they have a parking area with
11 spots. But I do remember it being pretty
12 narrow. And I could understand why it would be
13 a one way instead of a two way. And I think
14 there's parking -- maybe temporary
15 loading/parking along the side.

16 So I could see how it would enhance
17 the safety of the street. But I'm open to
18 asking for further information on the spots.

19 ATTY. HAYES: The one issue -- and I
20 don't know the answer to this question as I sit
21 here now is that there's -- pursuant to the
22 City Code, there's no parking permitted in
23 courts or alleys. And I don't know that Center
24 Street qualifies for that or not. And I could
25 research that.

1 But generally there is no -- the
2 City Code prohibits any parking on courts or
3 alleys.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Good question.
5 Anyone else?

6 MR. DONAHUE: I mean, so I just read
7 it a little differently because if you look at
8 the legislative coversheet, specifically under
9 what does the legislation do, what are the
10 specific goals, tasks the legislation seeks to
11 accomplish?

12 It states that legislation seeks to
13 allow Lackawanna County to use the 300 block of
14 Center Street for access to their Government
15 building with the ability to allow parking that
16 would be safe and in accordance with
17 engineering standards. So I read that to mean
18 that it would be adding parking.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. I think we need
20 to clarify that prior to final passage. So we
21 will do that. That's a good point. Anyone
22 else on the question? Okay. All those in
23 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed?

3 MR. DONAHUE: No.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: The ayes have it and
5 so moved.

6 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
9 ENTER INTO A ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
10 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND LACKAWANNA COUNTY FOR
11 THE PAVING, REPAIR, SNOWPLOWING, SIGNAGE
12 AND ANY OTHER MAINTENANCE DUTIES, AS NEEDED
13 ONCE THE 300 BLOCK OF CENTER STREET HAS BEEN
14 DESIGNATED ONE-WAY.

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

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

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

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

24 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed?

2 MR. DONAHUE: No.

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

5 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
6 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW MEYER,
7 PH.D., 930 TAYLOR AVENUE, SCRANTON,
8 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF
9 ETHICS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2020. DR.
10 MEYER WILL BE REPLACING MARY JO SHERIDAN WHO
11 RESIGNED EFFECTIVE AUGUST 28, 2020. DR. MEYER
12 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MARY JO
13 SHERIDAN WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE AUGUST
14 31, 2022.

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

18 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
21 the question, I don't think you could have
22 asked for a better candidate for this board,
23 someone who is trained in -- a trained
24 philosopher and also trained in ethics,
25 currently employed as a professor of philosophy

1 at the University of Scranton and has taught a
2 number of ethics courses to hundreds of
3 students and smaller seminars that talk about
4 the importance of civil responsibility, so on
5 and so forth.

6 So I want to thank Dr. Meyer for
7 showing interest and putting his name in. I
8 also want to say that, you know, two years
9 ago -- I think it was two years or maybe a year
10 ago. I can't remember off the top of my head.
11 But when I had really pushed to revive the
12 Ethics Board, I really, really thought it was
13 so important and everything that's gone on in
14 the City in terms of corruption in the last
15 year and a half has highlighted that.

16 The Ethics Board has -- it is not
17 where it should. But I know that the members
18 that are currently on that board are trying
19 their best to get it really up and running and
20 functioning. They have come a long way since
21 we rewrote the Ethics Code a year and a half
22 ago.

23 There is more that needs to be done.
24 I do know that -- I think all City employees
25 now it's my understanding have signed off on

1 the fact that they received the Ethics Code and
2 have acknowledged it. And we're kind of living
3 under those rules now.

4 But one of the things that we had
5 discussed previously was training. And that
6 was going to be a part of kind of the Ethics
7 Board's duty was to kind of get that training
8 off the ground, not only for City employees but
9 for public officials too.

10 I think any public official in the
11 City of Scranton should have that ethics
12 training, should have that training on things
13 that had to do with our Ethics Code and make
14 sure that everybody fully understands what
15 they're signing off on.

16 So again, I want to thank Dr. Meyer
17 for taking this position until 2022, wish him
18 the best of luck. And we'll continue to move
19 forward in finding the next person to complete
20 the board and move forward.

21 All those in favor of introduction
22 signify by saying aye.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

24 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

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

5 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 30,
6 2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING TWO (2) R5-1
7 DO NOT ENTER SIGNS (30X30) TO BE INSTALLED AT
8 THE INTERSECTION OF DEPOT STREET/SHAWNEE AVENUE
9 AND R6-1L HORIZONTAL LEFT ONE-WAY SIGNS
10 TO BE INSTALLED AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF
11 RIVERSIDE DRIVE/CANTON PLACE AND RIVERSIDE
12 DRIVE/DEPOT STREET.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: You've heard reading
14 by title of Item 6-A. What is your pleasure?

15 MR. MCANDREW: I move that 6-A pass
16 reading by title.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
2 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
3 WORKS - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
4 28, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
5 ALLOW THE R1-1 STOP SIGN WITH A W3-1 STOP
6 AHEAD SIGN PLACED IN ADVANCE OF THE STOP SIGN
7 ON PRICE STREET AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH NEWTON
8 ROAD (S.R.3003) TO REMAIN AS INSTALLED ON
9 AUGUST 27, 2020.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
11 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Public Works?

13 MR. DONAHUE: As Chair for the
14 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-A.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
18 call, please.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

5 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
7 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 29,
8 2020 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 4,
9 2020, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY
11 OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
12 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
13 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO
14 BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
15 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
16 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
17 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE FIVE
18 YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS
19 TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE, AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
20 FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020." BY
21 AMENDING THE 2020 ACTION PLAN PROGRAMMING BY
22 \$522,531.00 IN CDBG-CV FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY
23 THE CARES ACT.

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

1 Committee on Community Development?

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

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

19 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
21 RESOLUTION NO. 78, 2020 - APPOINTMENT OF
22 JOSEPH A. O'BRIEN, ESQUIRE, 1012 COLUMBIA
23 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS CITY
24 SOLICITOR FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON EFFECTIVE
25 SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 TO REPLACE JESSICA BOYLES

1 ESKRA, ESQUIRE WHO WAS SERVING AS CITY
2 SOLICITOR.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
5 of Item 7-C.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
8 the question, this question came up from a
9 member of the public. Just to clarify,
10 Attorney Eskra is still staying on with the
11 City. She's just moving to the position of
12 First Assistant City Solicitor. Anyone else on
13 the question? Roll call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

25 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
2 RESOLUTION NO. 79, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
3 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
4 AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WILLIS TOWERS
5 WATSON FOR CONSULTANT/BENEFITS BROKER
6 SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON EMPLOYEE
7 BENEFITS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Rules, I recommend final passage
10 of Item 7-D.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

13 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, I'd
14 like to make a motion to table 7-D until we
15 receive a full breakdown of all bids from the
16 administration.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll second that.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion
19 to table Item 7-D and a second. On the
20 question for the motion to table? On the
21 question, so there is two things that we're
22 requesting here.

23 Number one, a breakdown of all 11
24 bidders. There was a breakdown of the final
25 four, which I appreciated. But we did request

1 last week a breakdown of all 11 so that we
2 could get a full picture.

3 And I did speak with the Mayor and
4 Business Administrator today. And they are in
5 the process of providing us that. So when we
6 get that we will bring this back up for a final
7 vote.

8 And second thing that we are waiting
9 for is a disclosure by this firm in terms of
10 political contributions given to any City
11 officials over the last five years. I inquired
12 about why that was not included in the bid and
13 was told that it was an oversight.

14 I have made it very clear to the
15 administration that moving forward and they
16 agree and this will be included according to
17 the Law Department and the Mayor in any RFP or
18 RFQ moving forward that there will be a
19 disclosure by any firms that bid, want to do
20 work in the City that they will disclose the
21 amount, the date, anything else relevant to
22 political contributions to any elected official
23 in the City of Scranton.

24 I think that's very important. And
25 that will be included moving forward. This

1 according to the administration was an
2 oversight. And we'll wait for that information
3 and then bring it up for a final vote if
4 everyone has reviewed it next week.

5 MR. DONAHUE: And I would just like
6 to just add that I agree with that point 100
7 percent strictly to make it a public record
8 that, you know, whoever is getting a contract
9 here who they contributed to and here's how
10 much they contributed.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I agree. Anyone
12 else on the question on the motion to table?
13 All those in favor of tabling Item 7-D signify
14 by saying aye.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The
20 eyes have it and Item 7-D is hereby tabled.

21 If there is no further business,
22 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting's
25 adjourned. Thank you, everyone. We'll see you

1 next week. Be safe.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Have a good night.

3 ATTY. HAYES: Good night.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Good night.

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4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
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