

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, October 27th, 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. DONAHUE: 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 passed in our community.
7 And on this second anniversary of the Tree of
8 Life synagogue tragedy, I ask that you keep the
9 victims and their families in your thoughts
10 this evening. Thank you. Roll call, please.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

15 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Okay, motion number
21 one, I would like to make a motion to appoint
22 Councilman Donahue as temporary chair -- oh,
23 sorry. It's muted. Motion number one, I would
24 like to make a motion to appoint Councilman
25 Donahue as temporary chair for the Committee on

1 Rules.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

3 MR. DONAHUE: On the question?

4 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MR. MCANDREW: Okay, motion number
11 two, I would like to make a motion to appoint
12 Councilman Schuster as temporary chair for the
13 Committee on Public Works.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

15 MR. DONAHUE: On the question?

16 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: I would like to make
23 a motion to take from the table the following
24 three ordinances, file of the Council NO. 23,
25 2020, file of the Council NO. 26, 2020; and

1 file of the Council NO. 27, 2020.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

3 MR. DONAHUE: On the question?

4 These pieces are being taken from the table and
5 placed in Seventh Order for a final vote.

6 These pieces have been tabled in order to
7 comply with the 30-day public comment period as
8 required by HUD.

9 All those in favor signify by saying
10 aye.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. Opposed? The
15 ayes have it and so moved. Dispense with the
16 reading of the minutes.

17 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER.

18 3-A. AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORM
19 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
20 OCTOBER 21, 2020.

21 3-B. MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM
22 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD
23 SEPTEMBER 16, 2020.

24 3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
25 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED OCTOBER 20, 2020

1 REGARDING FY 2020 CDBG – SLHDA PROJECT UPDATE.

2 3-D. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
3 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DATED OCTOBER 16,
4 2020 REGARDING INTERNAL AUDIT.

5 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
6 THE CITY’S ADMINISTRATION DATED OCTOBER 14,
7 2020 REGARDING DECISION TO REJECT TWO PROPOSALS
8 RECEIVED BY THE CITY.

9 3-F. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
10 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED OCTOBER 19, 2020
11 REGARDING COVID- 19 REIMBURSEMENTS THROUGH
12 LACKAWANNA COUNTY CARES ACT FUND.

13 3-G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
14 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED OCTOBER 19, 2020
15 REGARDING RESPONSE TO COUNCIL QUESTIONS ON
16 DEMOLITION PROCESS MAP.

17 3-H. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
18 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DATED OCTOBER 19,
19 2020 REGARDING PA STATE AND LOCAL INTERNSHIP
20 PROGRAM (SLIP) OVERVIEW.

21 3-I. BREAKDOWN OF NOVEMBRINO PARK
22 PROJECT COSTS RECEIVED OCTOBER 20, 2020.

23 3-J. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
24 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DATED OCTOBER 22, 2020
25 REGARDING WILLIS TOWERS WATSON DISCLOSURE AS

1 REQUESTED BY COUNCIL.

2 3-K. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
3 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED OCTOBER 23, 2020
4 REGARDING COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENT THROUGH
5 LACKAWANNA COUNTY CARES ACT FUNDING.

6 3-L. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
7 KOHANSKI COMPANY PC DATED OCTOBER 21, 2020
8 REGARDING CITY OF SCRANTON AUDIT.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Are there any comments
10 on any of the Third Order items? If not,
11 received and filed.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Mr. Donahue, I'd like
13 to request a copy -- I don't have an original
14 copy of the Novembrino Park Project, the plan
15 and the budget. Can I request a copy of that
16 at this moment?

17 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, I think
18 that's -- that's just going to be after the
19 request of everything to date. I don't think
20 there is one specific file on it because I
21 think in the beginning it was sort of
22 piecemealed.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. I'll look into
24 that a little deeper then.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Received and filed.

1 Do any Council members have any announcements
2 at this time?

3 ATTY. HAYES: You're muted, Mark.

4 MR. MCANDREW: I don't know what's
5 happening here. I'm sorry. I would like to
6 provide an updated Trunk or Treat events
7 status.

8 So in West Side, trick or treat or
9 Trunk or Treat will be on the 500 block of
10 North Main Avenue. It will be Saturday,
11 October 31st from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

12 Also, there will be one at the
13 Hilton Conference Center, 100 Adams Avenue,
14 Scranton, PA. This will be Saturday, October
15 31st 6 to 8 p.m. It's a drive through. The
16 Scranton Police Department giveaways were
17 donated and will be handed out by the Hilton
18 staff.

19 And then the East Scranton Little
20 League, 901 Richter Avenue has been changed.
21 So it was October 30th, but now it will be
22 Sunday, November 1st from 3 to 5 p.m. That is
23 all I have.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Okay. I have a
25 couple. Next week Council will reschedule

1 their regular meeting of Tuesday, November 3 to
2 Monday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m., due to
3 Election Day. City Hall will be closed
4 Tuesday, November 3rd for the Election Day
5 holiday.

6 DPW will also be off on Tuesday.
7 Refuse and blue recycling will be one day
8 behind starting on Wednesday of next week. I
9 also want to remind you about the City of
10 Scranton 2020 Fall Leaf Pickup and Recycling
11 Program.

12 Leaves must be placed in
13 biodegradable brown paper bags. These bags are
14 available for pickup at the DPW complex located
15 at 101 Popular Street and at the Weston Field
16 House located at 982 Providence Road. All
17 collections will be from the curbside of
18 streets and avenues.

19 No collections will be in courts or
20 alleys; no loose piles, no plastic bags, no
21 household trash in leaf bags. The fall leaf
22 pickups will be -- the remaining fall leaf
23 pickups will be this week following cardboard
24 pickup; the week of November 9th following
25 paper pickup; the week of November 24th

1 following cardboard; and the week of December
2 7th following paper.

3 Also OECD's Executive Director asked
4 that an announcement be made regarding the
5 following:

6 Effective Wednesday, October 21st,
7 2020, applications will be available for the
8 City of Scranton's Community Development Block
9 Grant Program, Home Investment Partnership
10 Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant
11 administered by the U.S. Department of Housing
12 and Urban Development.

13 Project activities must be
14 consistent with the needs and objectives
15 identified in the City of Scranton's Five Year
16 Consolidated Plan principally for extremely
17 low, low, and moderate income families.

18 Eligible applicants must be
19 incorporated for profit, nonprofit or public
20 organizations or businesses able to undertake
21 their approved activity within the boundaries
22 of the City of Scranton.

23 Applications are available online at
24 ScrantonWorks at www.scrantonworks.org and must
25 be submitted electronically no later than 5

1 p.m., on Friday, November 20th.

2 Public Comment on the CDBG Home ESG
3 Programs will be accepted at the November 10th,
4 2020 Council meeting scheduled at 6:30 p.m. To
5 submit comment, e-mail Lreedatscrantonpa.gov or
6 by U.S. mail at Scranton Municipal Building,
7 340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA
8 18503, attention City Clerk's Office no later
9 than 3 p.m., on November 10th, 2020.

10 Public comment will also be received
11 until November 20th, 2020 at
12 www.scrantonworks.org or by e-mailing Scranton
13 311 at www.scrantonpa.gov. And as we -- and as
14 I mentioned before, Election Day is next
15 Tuesday.

16 I would just like to urge anyone who
17 applied for a mail-in ballot, received their
18 mail-in ballot that has yet to put it in the
19 mail to please hand deliver that ballot if you
20 want to make sure that it's counted. There is
21 a lot of uncertainty into when ballots will be
22 accepted.

23 So to guarantee that your vote will
24 be counted, I urge you to drop it off at the
25 Lackawanna County Government Center on Wyoming

1 Avenue. Also if --

2 ATTY. HAYES: Or in one of drop
3 boxes, right?

4 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I believe the
5 drop boxes are only open until Friday at 5
6 p.m., is that correct, where the one at the
7 county building is Tuesday?

8 ATTY. HAYES: I wasn't aware of that
9 but I'll find out for the end of the week and
10 let you know.

11 MR. DONAHUE: And also, you know,
12 if you mailed in your ballot, you believe that
13 you might have erred in how you filled it out
14 or you sent in a naked ballot, meaning you
15 didn't put it in the privacy envelope, if there
16 is any doubt in your mind, you could show up at
17 your polling place on Election Day and request a
18 provisional ballot.

19 Okay, FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
20 PARTICIPATION. The following residents have
21 submitted public comment for tonight's meeting,
22 Marie Schumacher, Norma Jeffries, Fay Franus
23 and Dave Dobrzyn. Can I have a motion to
24 accept public comment?

25 MR. SCHUSTER: I'll make a motion to

1 accept public comment.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

3 MR. DONAHUE: There's been a motion
4 and a second to accept public comment. Mrs.
5 Reed, please read the public comment.

6 MS. REED: Thank you, Councilman
7 Donahue. The first submission was from Marie
8 Schumacher as follows:

9 0 The City's recycling color-coded
10 pick-up schedule shows the comingled bin is for
11 plastic bottles and jars; however, I believe I
12 heard Mr. Donohue say that only plastic with
13 the numbers one,two and four in the triangle
14 were acceptable. If I heard correctly please
15 advise when the City will correct the
16 information we received.

17 0 Reading the Third Order items
18 tells me this Body needs to start paying more
19 attention to what they have authorized. Though
20 the current Capital Budget is not available on
21 line that I could find it appears Council has
22 allowed the expense for the Novembrino Splash
23 Park to get out of control. Of more importance
24 is not following up on the Auditor's report to
25 see whether or not the Administration was

1 proving the needed information.

2 And, while I'm on that topic why are
3 we still paying Rainey and Rainey? It was my
4 understanding they were brought in to train BA
5 personnel and when that had been accomplished
6 they would be gone.

7 0 Currently 64% of the City's
8 property owners pay for 100% of the Operating
9 Budget. City Councils have placated the paying
10 property owners by including addressing the 36%
11 and growing non-profits who are exempt from
12 paying property tax but Council has done
13 nothing to test the eligibility for this perk.

14 0 Last week Council brought the
15 Capital Budget back for passage stating all the
16 questions have been answered. I know mine
17 weren't answered and the communication you said
18 you'd received from DPW was not in Third Order
19 for all to see.

20 0 Taxpayers, at least this one,
21 were told the Harrison Avenue bridge was a
22 deterrent to increased efficiency of the Fire
23 Department. When will a Fire Department
24 efficiency study be performed now that the
25 Harrison Avenue Bridge has been replaced.

1 The second submission is from Mrs.
2 Norma Jeffries as follows:

3 Regarding NDC presentation in
4 10/20/2020 parking at kiosk system.

5 It was with great anticipation that
6 I waited for the NDC update during the recent
7 City Council Caucus. I was hoping against all
8 hope, that they would have discussed some of
9 the future plans that would assist the kiosk
10 parkers in Scranton. That they hear us when we
11 have concerns!!

12 Some of my friends and acquaintance
13 relay their experiences with receiving parking
14 tickets because the machines are
15 malfunctioning. It then becomes a "proof it"
16 situation for the resident. It becomes our
17 task to contact ABM to proof that the kiosk was
18 malfunctioning at the time I tried to use it.

19 It seems to me that with the
20 technology of being able to scan our License
21 Plate for a violation, the system should be
22 able to scan the parking meters to ensure that
23 they are always in tip top condition. I am sure
24 that each kiosk has a identifying number.

25 It seems that a malfunctioning meter

1 should be reported to ABM via the system rather
2 than being reported by John Q. Public. This
3 seems to be a great upgrade to the system and
4 relieve so much frustration for the citizens of
5 Scranton.

6 As Dr. Rothchild mentioned last
7 week, she too has experienced the
8 malfunctioning of a kiosk. It was very
9 noticeable to me that the presenter, David
10 Trevasani, remarked that he would check with
11 ABM for any malfunctioning kiosk information.

12 However, my concerns from my letter
13 of September 15, 2020, as far as I can see,
14 have not been addressed. I am sure that it is
15 not just Dr. Rothchild and me experiencing
16 these issues. All of us who use the kiosk will
17 eventually experience one of these situations.

18 When I leave the house and head
19 downtown, I leave with sufficient quarters and
20 credit card in hand, because I never know which
21 I will need. That is kind of sad!!

22 I am also attaching my letter to Council,
23 regarding my concerns with NDC/ABM.

24 Respectfully Submitted,

25 Norma Jeffries

1 Scranton City Resident.

2 The third submission is from Miss

3 Fay Franus as follows:

4 Council,

5 I saw where the 7 judges ruled in
6 the city's favor and now there is no cap on how
7 high you can tax the people of Scranton on the
8 LST tax.

9
10 Gee I really thought when we, the
11 people voted for our council members we
12 believed they were elected to represent US, the
13 taxpayers NOT THE Administration.

14
15 I want every one of you to publicly
16 say why you believe it is the right thing to do
17 to tax the city residents as much as the
18 administrations wants--so high people may lose
19 their homes! Remember I do NOT want to hear
20 how if you don't do this the city has no other
21 way to recoup the 50 million THEY OVERCHARGED
22 the taxpayers to begin with. That is THE
23 MAYORS PROBLEM NOT YOURS!

24

25 I repeat this city OVERCHARGED the

1 taxpayers illegally 50 million dollars more
2 than they were allowed to and you the city
3 council members are not fighting to get that 50
4 million back to the people who this city
5 overcharged.

6
7 YOU instead are on the side of the
8 administration who are thrilled they won this
9 lawsuit to keep raising the city's LST tax on
10 residents for millions more.

11
12 Go ahead Councilman Gaughan McAndrew
13 Donahue Schuster and councilwoman Rothchild.
14 Let's hear how you feel this is fair. How the
15 Scranton taxpayers won't be getting their money
16 back and now you want to keep overtaxing them
17 millions again. Then end by saying "And by the
18 way we represent YOU!" No you do NOT! You are
19 Liars --you take care of the Mayor and her
20 administration NOT THE PEOPLE.

21
22 We are tired of your excuses.: One
23 being The city can't function if you didn't win
24 this lawsuit. Too bad-- it's okay though that
25 people don't have a clue how they will be able

1 to pay these bills. There is nothing you can
2 say that will justify abusing the residents of
3 this city.

4
5 Finally and most important I
6 definitely believe this is illegal to continue
7 to have no limit on the LST tax. No cap at all!
8 Other municipalities all have a cap on how much
9 you can charge. Where is equality here? You may
10 have had these judges rule in your favor. That
11 means NOTHING if this is truly illegal. You
12 count on people not suing you to continue to do
13 what you want. Maybe someone out there will
14 indeed challenge the illegality of this. This
15 city has to be stopped by having judges rule in
16 their favor to the detriment of the people of
17 Scranton. over and over.

18 Fay Franus

19
20 The fourth submission is from Dave
21 Dobrzyn.

22 Good luck trying to make ends meet
23 on the budget for 2021. I would like to address
24 past comments by other speakers back in March.
25 Comments were made about the mayors and certain

1 council members attendance to a planned
2 parenthood rally.

3 My opinion is that the USA. Should
4 have introduced family planning globally fifty
5 years ago to all willing to participate.
6 Ecologically this planet cannot support more
7 than 2 billion people on a western standard of
8 living without serious environment degradation.

9 Many of these same commentators
10 express opposition to social programs and
11 spending to sustain US. Citizens in times of
12 need. I have always supported free choice and
13 personal responsibility. People should not be
14 required to put up WITH INTRUSION into their
15 personal lives by gov at the behest of others
16 religious fervor. These issues have no place in
17 a constitutional democracy.

18 Regressive legislation
19 disenfranchisement incarceration and ethnic
20 cleansing are often the final result. Over the
21 years I have seen these same individuals
22 comment on many issues that are not their
23 legitimate concern.

24 The 14th and 15th amendment to the
25 bill of rights have ensured free choice in

1 matters of social nature, we need not return to
2 1859.

3 I have had my own issues with these
4 people as they have on their hopeless bids for
5 public office have portrayed me as on drugs and
6 the fact is that I have 7 different
7 prescriptions to keep me alive. My suggestion
8 is they should accept the will of the voter and
9 mind their own business.

10 IN Colorado the state instituted
11 broad avail of birth control and eliminated 55%
12 of all unplanned pregnancies and 65% of
13 abortions.

14 Excuse me if life taught me at
15 66yrs. That half a loaf is better than none. It
16 appears that some people love their imaginary
17 reality but no good will prevail.

18 MS. REED: And that concludes the
19 public participation.

20
21 (This concludes letters as submitted
22 to Council for public comment.)

23

24 MR. DONAHUE: On the question?

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, on the

1 question, I just want to respond to
2 Mrs. Jeffries' comments regarding the parking
3 and ABM because we did receive
4 correspondence -- I'm assuming it's going to be
5 included -- I would ask that that be included
6 in Third Order next week.

7 But it seems that they're saying
8 there are on average three kiosks per day that
9 are not working properly and they have a
10 full-time technician that services them. And I
11 believe any kiosks that they have I think
12 that's just 1.6 percent per day that require
13 service.

14 I think maybe some of us have been
15 the unlucky ones to just happen to come upon
16 those kiosks that day. But at least we did
17 receive some numbers and a little bit more
18 insight on how often those repairs are being
19 needed.

20 I'm not sure if that is still
21 acceptable that amount of kiosks being in
22 disrepair. You know, I don't really have
23 anything to compare it to. But I just wanted
24 to provide her with that information that we
25 received.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you. Just to
2 answer a couple of Miss Schumacher's questions,
3 when I said that, you know, only one, two and
4 four of the plastics were acceptable, that
5 doesn't mean that glasses and jars weren't
6 acceptable. One, two and four are the only
7 plastics that are accepted along with jars and
8 cans.

9 And when the schedule first came
10 out, you know, it wasn't until July that we got
11 from the Recycling Center which plastics they
12 would accept moving forward and that schedule
13 was put out in February, I believe. So
14 hopefully we could have that information go out
15 on a schedule for next year.

16 And then on her question about the
17 capital budget and the DPW questions not being
18 in Third Order, Councilman -- President Gaughan
19 read those answers into the record last week.
20 So I would urge Miss Schumacher to read the
21 minutes from last week to get those answers.
22 It wasn't in Third Order, but Councilman
23 Gaughan did read them into the record. Anyone
24 else?

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, there were two

1 things I wanted to comment on. First off,
2 Mr. Hayes, how do we go about testing the
3 eligibility of nonprofits? Do you know that
4 offhand or can we begin to look into that?

5 MR. DONAHUE: You're muted.

6 ATTY. HAYES: Councilman Schuster,
7 the nonprofits are regulated by the
8 Pennsylvania Department of State. In order to
9 be eligible to be designated as a -- by the
10 Pennsylvania Department of the State as well as
11 the IRS and the Department of Revenue.

12 So I don't know that we as a
13 municipality have the ability to challenge
14 their designation as a 501(c)(3) or other
15 designation.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Kevin, I think what
17 Tom and also Miss Schumacher are referring to
18 are a HUP test.

19 ATTY. HAYES: Okay.

20 MR. DONAHUE: A HUP test, H-U-P.

21 ATTY. HAYES: Oh, okay.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Where, you know, you
23 send out and you make the nonprofits justify
24 their nonprofit. You know, you send out a
25 letter making them justify their nonprofit

1 status.

2 ATTY. HAYES: Okay. I'd have to --
3 I'll look into, Tom. I don't know offhand the
4 specifics how we do that. But I could look
5 into it and report back next week on that.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, thank you very
7 much. I know it's a conversation that I've had
8 a couple of times. But maybe we get started on
9 that. And the second thing is, with the audit,
10 it was -- the correspondence was put into third
11 order tonight.

12 Am I to understand that as of
13 September 3rd, the auditors have not received
14 any information from the administration? It's
15 on the first page.

16 MR. DONAHUE: With that, Tom, is
17 that there's a meeting with the auditors
18 scheduled for this week. So maybe we could
19 follow up on that towards the end of the week
20 to see if, you know, that schedule in terms of
21 the midDecember one they gave to us has moved
22 up or is --

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, so, I mean --

24 MR. DONAHUE: It's my understanding
25 that they're having a meeting this week with

1 the auditors --

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, it looks like
3 (audio interruption) just saying things to
4 (audio interruption) I'm fulling understanding
5 that correspondence. That's -- they are giving
6 some of those reasons for that, correct?

7 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. And that's, you
8 know, that's sort of the same thing we got with
9 our, you know, questions from last --

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah.

11 MS. REED: And if I may add,
12 Councilman Donahue and Schuster, I believe
13 within that correspondence Kohanski did note
14 that they would be providing weekly updates
15 from here on out.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Right. Yes, I did
17 see that. Thank you.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Is that it? Does
19 anyone else have anything?

20 ATTY. HAYES: Councilman Donahue,
21 Miss Schumacher had requested the total number
22 of pending or outstanding lawsuits which the
23 City is currently involved in or defending. I
24 reached out to the Law Department. And we're
25 trying to compile that information for her.

1 MR. DONAHUE: Okay. And then we'll
2 send the rest of the questions along to the
3 administration. All those in favor of
4 accepting public comment signify by saying aye.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

6 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

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

11 MOTIONS.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Mr. Schuster, do you
13 have any motions or comments at this time?

14 MR. SCHUSTER: No, none at this
15 time. I already spoke on those.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Mr. McAndrew?

17 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, thank you. So,
18 I mean, for months I've been getting bombarded
19 with calls about illegal garage services
20 throughout the City, all right.

21 One in particular I received another
22 correspondence today. And this one -- this one
23 I first brought forward in May, okay, so -- and
24 it's on 324 Crown Avenue. All right, it's a
25 garage. It's been illegally operating since

1 May.

2 I know that they went through the
3 process where, you know, the LIPS Department
4 shows up. And I know my understanding is
5 they've been cited. Of course they received
6 the original zoning violation letter that says,
7 you know what, we're not going to correspond
8 with you any more after 10 days, some formal
9 action will take place.

10 So my understanding is they received
11 a few citations. So how many is too many or
12 what happens? I know there was a revision of
13 the LIPS Department that occurred, internal
14 audit. I'd like to know, first of all, what
15 the status of this illegal garage is if,
16 Mrs. Reed, if you could please send a request
17 to me.

18 And I know I'm saying a bunch of
19 stuff. So, Mrs. Reed, I'll e-mail the actual
20 request tomorrow, okay? And secondly, there's
21 another one. It's the rear of 1149 Sloan
22 Street, right, so -- and I've been inquiring
23 about this one.

24 So here's another one where, okay,
25 so the police department showed up. The LIPS

1 Department showed up. They also received the
2 zoning violation letter that states, you know,
3 after 10 days formal action will probably
4 occur.

5 But then part of that letter says
6 that they have the opportunity to appeal this,
7 the people that are running this illegal
8 garage, which doesn't make sense. So they have
9 until -- this other issue with the garage, they
10 have until November 8th to appeal this -- to
11 appeal the illegal services that they are
12 providing.

13 So I'm having trouble wrapping my
14 head around this whole process. Is this the
15 process that's going continue to happen even
16 after the revision of the LIPS Department. And
17 if this is policy, I'm just not understanding
18 it because this isn't fair to all the other
19 garages in the City that do it legally and
20 provide the services.

21 So I need some type of, you know,
22 explanation, feedback with regard to the
23 process in general and to see, you know, if
24 this is the old process, is this the new
25 process or was this even looked at because

1 these occurrences are happening throughout the
2 City.

3 I'm just naming two as of right now.
4 But I know it's more than two. And it
5 continues. And I know that, you know, for a
6 while they'll stop and then a week or two later
7 they're back at it.

8 And the one at the rear of 1149 is
9 causing huge safety issues with regards to
10 parking all over the place, on the sidewalks.
11 And this is a side street, actually Schlager
12 where, you know, trucks can't get through. UPS
13 delivery can't get through. I mean, there's
14 kids that live in that neighborhood.

15 So it's a huge safety issue. I just
16 need a better explanation as to why that these
17 illegal garages get all of these steps before
18 they are shut down. And then the ones that
19 went through that process, the one on Crown
20 Avenue, 324 Crown Avenue, the process started
21 in May and they are still operating illegally.

22 I just -- I'm having a huge problem
23 understanding this. So, you know, like I said,
24 Mrs. Reed, I'll e-mail you my request. But I
25 need some answers. The residents that live

1 near these illegal operations are dying for
2 resolve. And it just doesn't seem to be
3 happening. That is all I have. Thank you.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Dr. Rothchild, any
5 motions or comments?

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: No, not at this
7 time. Thank you.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Just to expand quickly
9 on what Councilman McAndrew brought up, you
10 know, this is an issue all over the City. And
11 really it's not just in garages. It's in
12 alleys. It's on streets where, you know, a car
13 will be up on jacks for, you know, a week on a
14 City street.

15 So I would just like that included
16 too if -- trying to figure out a policy moving
17 in -- especially once we get into next summer
18 for how we're going to deal with those. You
19 know, if they're actually in a garage, they
20 could actually be doing that stuff throughout
21 the winter.

22 But the stuff on the street, in the
23 alleys, that's something that we're going to
24 have to really look at, you know, going into
25 next -- you know, before going into next summer

1 too.

2 MR. MCANDREW: You know, thank you,
3 Councilman Donahue. I also forgot to say that
4 some of these cars are being painted in the
5 middle of the street at these illegal garages
6 which is -- I can't even understand it. So
7 thanks for (audio interruption) and it's
8 rampant.

9 MR. DONAHUE: And that's all I have
10 for tonight too.

11 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION --
12 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
13 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON
14 TO DONATE AN OBSOLETE AND INACTIVE FIRE ENGINE
15 TO JOHNSON COLLEGE FOR USE.

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

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

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

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

4 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION --
5 A RESOLUTION -- APPOINTMENT OF MARY JO
6 SHERIDAN, 123 SCHLAGER STREET, SCRANTON,
7 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF
8 THE LAND BANK EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020. MS.
9 SHERIDAN IS BEING APPOINTED TO FULFILL THE
10 UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. WAYNE BECK WHICH WILL
11 EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 9, 2024.

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

15 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Is there a second?

18 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

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

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION --
2 A RESOLUTION -- RE-APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY
3 SANTOLI, 1041 PRESCOTT AVENUE, SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA, 18510 AS A MEMBER OF THE SHADE
5 TREE COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR
6 TERM EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 29, 2020. MR. SANTOLI'S
7 CURRENT TERM IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE ON OCTOBER
8 29, 2020 AND NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER
9 29, 2025.

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

13 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

15 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? All
16 those in favor of introduction signify by
17 saying aye.

18 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. Opposed? The
22 ayes have it and so moved.

23 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION --
24 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
25 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
2 WITH NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ALLIANCE, 1151
3 OAK ST. PITTSTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18640-3726 TO
4 PROVIDE THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND OECD WITH
5 UNDERWRITING SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR
6 VARIOUS LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS.

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

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

12 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? All
13 those in favor signify by saying aye.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. Opposed? The
18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION --
20 A RESOLUTION -- AUTHORIZING THE COORDINATOR OF
21 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AL LUCAS, TO ACT AS AN
22 AGENT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR EMERGENCY
23 AND DISASTER RELIEF PURSUANT TO THE ROBERT T.
24 STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY
25 ASSISTANCE ACT, AND AUTHORIZING CITY

1 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE DESIGNATION OF AGENT
2 AND THE PEMA PUBLIC DISASTER ASSISTANCE
3 APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR FINANCIAL
4 ASSISTANCE.

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

8 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

10 MR. DONAHUE: On the question? All
11 those in favor of introduction signify by
12 saying aye.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. No
19 business at this time.

20 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
21 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
22 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
23 31, 2020 - AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
24 APPROVE THE DESIGNATION OF THE 300 BLOCK OF
25 CENTER STREET AS A ONE-WAY STREET FROM PENN

1 AVENUE TOWARDS WYOMING AVENUE WITH THE SCRANTON
2 POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE THE DESIGNATIONS
3 AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED DRAWING, C-4
4 CENTER STREET PARKING.

5 MR. MCANDREW: I would like to make
6 a motion to table 7-A per our discussion in
7 caucus.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

9 MR. DONAHUE: There's been a motion
10 and a second to table Item 7-A. On the
11 question? All those in favor of tabling Item
12 7-A signify by saying aye.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

14 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and Item 7-A is tabled.

18 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
20 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 82, 2020 -
21 CEREMONIOUSLY DEDICATING A PORTION OF COBB
22 AVENUE ADJACENT TO THE ENGINE 10 FIRE STATION
23 LOCATED ON EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD IN HONOR OF
24 CHARLES J. TANSITS, JR.

25 MR. DONAHUE: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Public Works?

3 MR. SCHUSTER: As temporary
4 Chairperson for the Committee on Public Works,
5 I recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

7 MR. DONAHUE: On the question?

8 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I
9 just -- very happy to honor this portion of the
10 road to Mr. Tansits.

11 MR. DONAHUE: I second that. Roll
12 call, please.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare
21 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
24 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 83, 2020 - ACCEPTING
25 TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY (\$250.00) DOLLAR DONATION

1 FROM RICCARDO'S MARKET, INC. PRESENTED TO THE
2 CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE K-9 UNIT.

3 MR. DONAHUE: What is the
4 recommendation for the Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Public Safety?

6 MR. MCANDREW: As Chairperson for
7 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
8 final passage of 7-C.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

10 MR. DONAHUE: On the question?

11 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, I think it's
12 fantastic. I would like to thank the Riccardos
13 and their family for their very nice donation
14 for the K9 Unit.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: I agree. Thank you
16 for the generous donation.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Roll call, please.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR
4 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 84, 2020 - RATIFYING
5 AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF
6 THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON
7 TO PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A MULTIMODAL
9 TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
10 \$306,000.00 TO BE UTILIZED TO IMPLEMENT PHASE
11 II OF THE STREET SIGN PROJECT FOR THE PURCHASE
12 AND INSTALLATION OF 2,036 STREET SIGNS.

13 MR. DONAHUE: What is the
14 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Public Works?

16 MR. SCHUSTER: As the temporary
17 Chairperson for the Committee on Public Works,
18 I recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

20 MR. DONAHUE: On the question?

21 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question,
22 after the meeting tonight, I'll send
23 Mrs. Collins an e-mail with that idea I was
24 thinking for that reclamation project. Maybe
25 we could get some kind of nice art work or some

1 type of case made from these street signs if
2 it's a possibility.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Okay. Just on the
4 question, you know, it feels like a decade ago
5 when Miss Jeffries first came in and brought up
6 the street signs. But I think it was only two
7 years ago. So this is -- I mean, but this is a
8 long time coming and not only, you know, for
9 aesthetic value but also for public safety to
10 make sure first responders are turning down,
11 you know, the right streets. Roll call,
12 please.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

20 MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare
21 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

22 MS. REED: 7-E. Previously tabled.
23 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
24 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
25 NO. 23, 2020, AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

1 4, 2020 ENTITLED AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
2 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 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
8 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM
9 FOR THE FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN ANALYSIS OF
10 IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE AND ANNUAL
11 ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
12 2020 BY AMENDING THE 2020 ACTION PLAN BY
13 UTILIZING \$80,000 UNDER CDBG.

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

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

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

21 MR. DONAHUE: 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. I hereby declare
6 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

7 MS. REED: 7-F. Previously tabled.
8 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
9 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION -- FILE OF THE COUNCIL
10 NO. 26, 2020 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
11 27, 2018 ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
13 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS
14 TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
15 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO
16 BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
17 GRANT PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
18 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM
19 FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019 BY
20 AMENDING THE 2019 ACTION PLAN BY UTILIZING
21 \$40,000 UNDER THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
22 PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNER HOUSING REHABILITATION
23 PROGRAM.

24 MR. DONAHUE: 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-F.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

6 MR. DONAHUE: 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. I hereby declare
16 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

17 MS. REED: 7-G. Previously tabled.
18 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
19 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL
20 NO. 27, 2020 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
21 20, 2018 ENTITLED -- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
22 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
23 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
24 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
25 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

1 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, HOME
3 INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
4 SOLUTIONS GRANTS PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD
5 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2018 BY AMENDING THE 2018
6 ACTION PLAN BY UTILIZING \$75,000 UNDER THE
7 EMERGENCY REPAIR HOUSING REHABILITATION HOME
8 INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNER
9 HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

10 MR. DONAHUE: What is the
11 recommendation for the Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Community Development?

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the
14 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
15 final passage of Item 7-G.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

17 MR. DONAHUE: 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.

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MR. DONAHUE: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted. If
there's no further business, I'll entertain a
motion to adjourn.

MR. MCANDREW: Motion to adjourn.

MR. DONAHUE: This meeting is
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

8
9
10 _____
11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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