

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, November 17th, 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 for all those who have passed away in our  
7 community.

8 And just as we have since the  
9 beginning of this pandemic, we'll take a  
10 moment of silence for all those people in our  
11 community and Lackawanna County and in Scranton  
12 and our country and around the globe who have  
13 passed away from the COVID-19.

14 This pandemic as everyone knows has  
15 turned our world completely upside down. But  
16 we must remain hopeful and strong.

17 The next few months are going to be  
18 extremely difficult. And we will continue to  
19 pray for the doctors, nurses, researchers and  
20 all medical professionals who seek to heal and  
21 help those affected and who put themselves at  
22 risk in the process. May they have protection  
23 and peace.

24 Whether we are here home in Scranton  
25 or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering

1 from this illness or only a few, let us stick  
2 together, endure together, mourn together and  
3 in place of our anxiety, let us have hope and  
4 peace. Thank you. Okay, roll call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

9 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you, Miss  
15 Carrera. Councilman Donahue?

16 MR. DONAHUE: I would like to make a  
17 motion to take from the table file of the  
18 Council No. 31 of 2020.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? This  
21 piece of legislation is being taken from the  
22 table and is being placed in Seventh Order for  
23 a final vote. The legislation approves the  
24 designation of the 300 block of Center Street  
25 as a one way from Penn Avenue towards Wyoming

1 Avenue. Anyone else on the question? All  
2 those in favor signify by saying aye.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

4 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
8 ayes have it and so moved. Mrs. Reed, please  
9 dispense with the reading of the minutes.

10 MS. REED: Thank you. THIRD ORDER.

11 3-A. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
12 OECD DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2020 REGARDING NEPA  
13 ALLIANCE DISCLOSURES AS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL.

14 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
15 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2020  
16 REGARDING COVID- 19 REIMBURSEMENTS THROUGH  
17 LACKAWANNA COUNTY CARES ACT FUNDING.

18 3-C. CHECK RECEIVED FROM COMCAST IN  
19 THE AMOUNT OF \$259,772.26 FOR QUARTERLY  
20 FRANCHISE FEE.

21 3-D. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
22 FIRETREE, LTD. DATED NOVEMBER 3, 2020 REGARDING  
23 RESIDENTIAL RE-ENTRY SERVICES AT 409-411 OLIVE  
24 STREET.

25 3-E. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM

1 KOHANSKI COMPANY PC DATED NOVEMBER  
2 9, 2020 REGARDING CITY OF SCRANTON AUDIT  
3 UPDATE.

4 3-F. HERBERT, ROWLAND & GRUBIC,  
5 INC. PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL DATED  
6 NOVEMBER 10, 2020 REGARDING CHESAPEAKE BAY  
7 POLLUTANT REDUCTION PLAN.

8 3-G. CITY OF SCRANTON 2020  
9 HEALTHCARE UPDATE PRESENTED BY WILLIS  
10 TOWERS WATSON ON NOVEMBER 10, 2020.

11 3-H. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
12 OECD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATED NOVEMBER 12, 2020  
13 REGARDING COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENTS THROUGH  
14 LACKAWANNA COUNTY CARES ACT FUNDING.

15 3-I. CITY OF SCRANTON GENERAL  
16 OBLIGATION TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE  
17 SUMMARY OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECEIVED  
18 NOVEMBER 10, 2020.

19 3-J. MEMORANDUM RECEIVED FROM  
20 COUNCIL SOLICITOR DATED NOVEMBER 10,  
21 2020 REGARDING SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO FILE OF  
22 THE COUNCIL NO. 31, 2020 300 BLOCK OF CENTER  
23 STREET ONE-WAY DESIGNATION.

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

1 Order items?

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes, I had three  
3 comments on Third Order items. I asked them in  
4 caucus. But one was with 3-B and also 3-H with  
5 the CARES Act funding. I guess the comment on  
6 it would be, these seem to be new fees.

7 We've already submitted for about  
8 \$800,000 to the county. We've only been  
9 partially funded for about 500,000. And it  
10 seems that we have another 300,000 here related  
11 to that.

12 And I think we need to be careful  
13 with how we're spending this money and keep a  
14 close eye on this. It really concerns me how  
15 much is being spent there. And then recycling  
16 I see was added to those COVID funds as well,  
17 which is something I think we need to get a  
18 little deeper into there.

19 And then I did have a question with  
20 regards to the working draft and the finance  
21 statements that Kohanski and Company they  
22 stated they were going to provide in their  
23 correspondence. It appears that we're still  
24 waiting on some -- they're still waiting on  
25 some outstanding items from administration and

1 I don't think any of us see where they received  
2 those items. That's all.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone  
4 else on the Third Order items? Okay. I just  
5 have one in reference to Item 3-I, the term  
6 sheet for the Tax Anticipation Note. There was  
7 a typographical error regarding the paying  
8 agent.

9 It was incorrectly stated on the  
10 term sheet and has now been corrected to  
11 reflect that Fidelity Bank is the paying agent  
12 so just to take note of that. If there are no  
13 other comments, they are received and filed.

14 Do any Council members have any  
15 announcements at this time?

16 MR. DONAHUE: Yeah, I have a couple.  
17 Just a reminder that garbage pickup is on  
18 schedule this week. And also I believe City  
19 Hall and everything is closed on Thursday next  
20 week for Thanksgiving. So garbage will be  
21 picked up Friday and Saturday, pushed back next  
22 week.

23 Also, there's -- Fall Leaf and  
24 Recycling Program, all leaves must be placed in  
25 biodegradable brown paper bags. The City's ran



1 out of bags. But they could still be purchased  
2 at your local hardware and home improvement  
3 stores. All collections will be from the  
4 curbside of streets and avenues. No  
5 collections in courts or alleys. No loose  
6 piles, no plastic bags, no household trash in  
7 leaf bags.

8 The remaining weeks for that  
9 schedule are next week the week of November  
10 24th and also the week of December 7th.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone  
12 else have any announcements?

13 MR. MCANDREW: I have one. So every  
14 year Catholic Social Services and Friends of  
15 the Poor have Christmas Gifts For Kids Program.  
16 This year they have to do it a little  
17 differently. What people need to do is either  
18 go to the Friends of the Poor's Facebook page  
19 and online they could register (audio  
20 interruption.)

21 MR. GAUGHAN: Mark, you're freezing  
22 up. We can't hear you.

23 MR. MCANDREW: -- address as well as  
24 insurance card, birth certificate or some proof  
25 of ID for each child. Those who do not have

1 access to a computer or smartphone should call  
2 Mary at 570-207-2283, extension 2110. And this  
3 registration is started already. So it's  
4 Monday the 16th until Friday the 20th. That is  
5 all I have. Thank you.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
7 Mark, you were -- we got most of what you said  
8 but you were freezing up a little bit there  
9 just so you know.

10 MR. MCANDREW: All right. Thanks.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: You're welcome.

12 Anyone else?

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, I have one. I  
14 want to mention there are free holiday meals  
15 being provided by the NAACP Lackawanna  
16 Organizing Committee. So if anyone is in need  
17 for this holiday, they could contact the NAACP.  
18 They have a Facebook page, NAACP Lackawanna  
19 County.

20 Their phone number is 570-234-9794.  
21 Meals are being prepared by three local  
22 restaurants and can be delivered or picked up  
23 between the hours of 10 a.m., and 3 p.m., on  
24 Thanksgiving Day. And in order to receive the  
25 meals, people need to RSVP by November 24th.

1                   And I think the three restaurants  
2                   that are providing meals which are all very  
3                   good restaurants include Paradise Soulfood,  
4                   West Side Flava's and Papis Kitchen. So thanks  
5                   to those restaurants for donating their food  
6                   and services to those in need.

7                   MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you very  
8                   much. Anyone else? I have two. Just to  
9                   announce that this Thursday we will have a  
10                  budget work session. Council will meet with  
11                  the Mayor and the Business Administrator, Carl  
12                  Deeley at 6 p.m.

13                  It will be live on YouTube as well  
14                  as live on ECTV. So the plan is to go through  
15                  the budget department by department. We'll  
16                  start off with revenues and then we'll go into  
17                  the expenditures by department.

18                  So I think Councilman Donahue  
19                  mentioned about sending any questions in  
20                  advance if you can do that if you have any  
21                  major topics or questions. I think that will  
22                  be helpful just so that the administration  
23                  would come, you know, prepared to have those  
24                  answers if there are specific questions.

25                  The second -- I just want to take a

1 moment. The second thing I would like to say  
2 is in honor of Bob McGoff, I just want to say a  
3 few words about Bob McGoff. So Bob McGoff as  
4 all of you know was the long-time President of  
5 Council, long-time Council member.

6 It will be -- and I had the honor of  
7 serving with him for a number of years on  
8 Council when I first was elected back in 2014.  
9 And it will be five years this Thursday,  
10 November 19th that our friend and colleague,  
11 Bob McGoff lost his battle with cancer.

12 And I want to take a second as Wayne  
13 Evans always did at our Council meetings by  
14 reading Bob McGoff's words that he spoke at a  
15 Council meeting about his struggle with cancer.  
16 And Bob McGoff said, "Just one thing I would  
17 like to mention. I would just like to say that  
18 I know all of us have been affected in some way  
19 by this insidious disease.

20 And I would just encourage that  
21 anyone that knows someone who is fighting this  
22 or dealing with treatments involved with cancer  
23 to be a friend. One of the things that happens  
24 to cancer patients and those under treatment,  
25 depression is a very significant aspect of it.

1                   And believe it or not, simply  
2                   sitting down and talking with people, going  
3                   watching a television show, bringing dinner and  
4                   having something to eat with them goes a long  
5                   way to helping people deal with that. And I  
6                   would just encourage that if you know someone,  
7                   please be a friend and be part of the helping  
8                   process."

9                   Those were Bob McGoff's words. Bob  
10                  McGoff was someone who understood the  
11                  importance of even the smallest gesture.  
12                  Someone that we all will have great respect for  
13                  and I will always personally admire and his  
14                  words are worth mentioning once again in his  
15                  honor and his memory.

16                  Bob McGoff was one of the strongest  
17                  people that I have ever sat next to or seen.  
18                  He went through his battle with cancer and I  
19                  never heard him once complain about it. Still  
20                  showed up to Council meetings, still showed up  
21                  to meetings with the administration and still  
22                  led the Council without missing a beat.

23                  And he really was a true gentleman.  
24                  That's the one thing that I will always  
25                  remember about Bob McGoff. Even when things

1 would get heated and people would be on  
2 opposite sides of the fence on an issue, he  
3 always kept his cool and always brought  
4 everybody back to the table and back to the  
5 middle and kept everyone really grounded and  
6 really kept the City together at a very, you  
7 know, perilous moment in terms of our finances.

8 He was outstanding in that regard.  
9 And the one thing I will remember about him is,  
10 you know, in 2015 when my wife had our first  
11 son Jack, one of the first gifts I received was  
12 from Bob McGoff. He bought him a pair of his  
13 first sneakers. So that's the type of guy that  
14 he was.

15 He was just very down to earth, very  
16 compassionate and a very, very kind person. So  
17 our thoughts and our prayers are with Marita  
18 and the entire McGoff family on the five year  
19 anniversary of Bob's passing. And someone that  
20 this Council -- he made such an impact that  
21 this Council and future Councils will never  
22 forget. Mrs. Reed?

23 MS. REED: Thank you. FOURTH ORDER.  
24 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

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

1 At this time, would someone please make a  
2 motion to accept public comment from the  
3 following individuals: Patricia Nestor, Fay  
4 Franus, Dave Dobrzyn and Marie Schumacher.

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion  
8 and a second to accept public comment.  
9 Mrs. Reed, could you please read the comments  
10 into the record?

11 MS. REED: Thank you. The first  
12 submission is from Patricia Nestor as follows:

13 Can someone please elaborate on the  
14 mayor's intentions to reduce guns & ammunition  
15 by over 50%? She posted it on Facebook under  
16 plans for 2021 budget with any further  
17 comments.

18 If she goes after the second  
19 amendment, she might want to budget for some  
20 lawsuits.

21  
22 The second submission submitted by  
23 Fay Franus as follows:  
24 Council,

25 I understand there will be no tax

1           increase this year in the city. It does not  
2           take a rocket scientist to figure this out.  
3           Following in Mayor Doherty's footsteps I see.

4

5                       No Tax increase because the Mayor is  
6           running for election.

7

8                       Get ready folks for the taxes to  
9           skyrocket in 2022.

10

11                      How does the Mayor justify giving  
12           raises to city employees AND creating jobs  
13           when people are losing their small businesses  
14           all over this city and people don't have food?

15

16                      Can any of you please tell me how  
17           this is right? Any of you? Please express how  
18           each of you feel about this.

19

20                      Create jobs? My gosh don't we  
21           already have enough assistants to assistants?

22

23                      The Mayor has a chief of staff then  
24           there is an assistant to the chief of staff  
25           --then an assistant to the city lawyer.



1                   The list is endless and yet the  
2                   Mayor wants to create more jobs?

3  
4                   Does Virginiaia McGregor get paid for  
5                   all of her advice?

6  
7                   Past Scranton mayors had a secretary  
8                   and one lawyer. Scranton is NOT Philadelphia.  
9                   If you approve these budget items to create  
10                  jobs and give raises when we are still a  
11                  distressed city with people losing their homes  
12                  then you need to resign.

13  
14                  Are there still people furloughed?  
15                  If so who are they?

16  
17                  This question has been asked and  
18                  never answered yet.

19  
20                  Why can't there we a list of who is  
21                  laid off and who is already brought back to  
22                  work?

23  
24                  Why the secrecy? What aren't we  
25                  suppose to know that is such a secret? And why?

1                   Also the garbage fee is set for \$300  
2                   again. More than likely illegally because what  
3                   comes in is more than what goes out to run the  
4                   DPW department.

5  
6                   Then you use the rest to pay your  
7                   other bills which is against the city law. The  
8                   garbage fee money coming in from residents is  
9                   ONLY to be used to pay for running the  
10                  Department of Public Works nothing else but  
11                  every year this city has used that extra money  
12                  we send in to pay all of your other bills!

13  
14                  That is why there is a lawsuit  
15                  pending. We caught you and you are continuing  
16                  to do it again. ILLEGALLY!

17  
18  
19                  And 75% of city residents are still  
20                  paying for the 25% that are still NOT paying  
21                  for over a decade. But you don't care-- what is  
22                  the strategy I heard about?

23  
24                  Or is that a secret as well that we  
25                  shouldn't know about?

1                   My neighbors still don't pay for  
2                   their garbage pickup since 2011. Or longer.

3  
4                   Are the people who pay soon this  
5                   year going to get \$30,00 off of their bill  
6                   to \$270 ? --

7  
8                   Is that mentioned in the budget? We  
9                   need to know now. So tell us now.

10  
11                   So here we go again I ask questions  
12                   with undoubtedly no replies--but the people  
13                   should know that you sit there and refuse to  
14                   answer my questions because you definitely  
15                   don't want us to know the answers.

16  
17                   If by chance you answer one question  
18                   that surely is not sufficient.

19  
20                   If I were there in person I would  
21                   stand there and say WELL YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY  
22                   QUESTION. But I don't have that opportunity.  
23                   You get away with what you are doing sad to  
24                   say..

25

1                   How would you feel if you wanted  
2                   answers and never got them? Not nice is it?  
3                   WELL?? Start replying! We pay you to do so.

4  
5                   The third submission is from Dave  
6                   Dobrzyn as follows:

7  
8                   LAST WEEK I SENT AN E-MAIL ON  
9                   RECYCLING AND OMITTED PLASTIC BOTTLES FROM  
10                  CONSIDERATION. THE REVISED SCHEDULE IS AS  
11                  FOLLOWS.

12  
13                  1 ST WEEK METAL CANS COULD BE SORTED  
14                  WITH A MAGNETIC DEVICE CUTTING MANUAL COSTS

15  
16                  2 ND WEEK PAPER.

17  
18                  3 RD WEEK PLASTIC NOTE THROW  
19                  UNSUITABLE CONTAMINATED INTO TRASH.

20  
21                  4 TH WEEK CARDBOARD.

22  
23                  4 MORE WEEKS LEFT OVER COULD BE USED  
24                  FOR LAWN AS SMALL BONUS PER YEAR. LEAVES AND  
25                  TWIGS ETC.

1                   ONCE AGAIN GLASS HAS NO RECYCLABLE  
2                   VALUE AND CONFOUNDS SORTING USUALLY BREAKS BY  
3                   COMPACTION AND CAUSES A SAFETY CONCERNS AND  
4                   WHEN MINGLED MUST BE SORTED AT GREATER COST.  
5                   STATE LAW MAY NEED CONSIDERATION FOR THIS IDEA.

6  
7  
8                   A NEW/OLD CONCERN IS THE CITY IS  
9                   GOING AHEAD WITH A PLAN TO COLLECT TRASH FEE BY  
10                  ADDRESS INSTEAD OF OCCUPANCY

11  
12                  THIS MAY BECOME A BONANZA FOR  
13                  REALESTATE INVESTORS AS THE FEE MAY BE LOWERED  
14                  AND IN FACT RAISED FOR UNOCCUPIED LOTS OFTEN  
15                  SOLD BY THE CITY FOR ADDED SPACE IF WE CHARGE A  
16                  FLAT FEE PER ADRESS A FOUR UNIT COULD BE  
17                  LOWERED TO 300 DOLLARS PER YEAR FROM \$1200. A  
18                  NON DEVELOPABLE LOT COULD INCREASE TO \$300 PER  
19                  ANUM MORE. WHAT A DEAL! MY TAX ON THIS LOT HAS  
20                  INCREASED TO ABOUT \$ 700 PER YEAR AS IT IS AND  
21                  40 BY 140 FOOT IS NOT DEVELOPABLE COULD BE  
22                  INCREASED TO \$1050! TRIPLING THE ORIGINAL  
23                  ASSESSMENT OF \$333!

24  
25                  A RENTAL HOUSE NEAR ME WENT FOR \$950

1 PER MONTH MAINLY DUE TO SECTION 8 SUBSIDY AND  
2 NOT NOW KNOWN HOWEVER THE FORMER TENANTS WERE A  
3 NIGHTMARE AND FORTUNATLY THEY MOVED. THE NEW  
4 TENANTS ARE NICER FORTUNATELY.

5  
6 I WOULD HOPE AN APPEAL PROSCESS  
7 WOULD BE GRANTED FOR THESE SITUATIONS.THIS  
8 IDEA WAS CONTRIVED WITH SEVERAL REALATORS  
9 INVOLVED AND PARDON ME I DON'T NEED THEIR BILLS  
10 FALLING ON MY FINANCES. OUR HOME HAS A WOOD  
11 CHIPPER AND PLANT MATERIALS ARE MULCHED FOR  
12 GARDEN USE. ALSO A FRIEND TAKES WOOD FOR HIS  
13 FIREPLACE USE FOR IN THE COUNTRY IT SEEMS TO  
14 ME THAT EVERY TIME THE TORCH IS PASSED TO A NEW  
15 GENERATION WE REINVENT GOVERNMENT EVEN THOUGH  
16 PAST PRACTICE DID NOT FAIL BUT ONLY TEPID  
17 ATTEMPTS WERE MADE AT MAKING THE OLD SYSTEM  
18 WORK.I NEVER CHALLENGED THE CURRENT SITUATION  
19 ON TRASH.

20  
21 SINCERELY YOURS THE ANTHRACITE HILLBILLY  
22 DAVID DOBRZYN

23  
24 The fourth submission is from Marie  
25 Schumacher as follows:

1                   0 3E does not include the  
2 attachment mentioned in the one-pager.

3                   0 Last week's Caucus stated Council  
4 would receive the next day, the Agenda was made  
5 available 11/16 but Third Order did not include  
6 the Budget; why?

7                   0 Last week's HRG presentation was  
8 both bitter and sweet. Sweet because it  
9 finally arrived but bitter because it kicks the  
10 can down the road yet again as they want to  
11 await new regulations, County action, etc. No  
12 mention of the areas that are regularly flooded  
13 and need attention now.

14                   Not discussed was the opportunity  
15 to: (1) Address the regulations before they  
16 are adopted and (2) to lobby our under worked  
17 REpresentatives to ensure the new regulations  
18 are funded by the Federal Budget and not dumped  
19 on the property owner again.

20                   Also, one of my unanswered Capital  
21 Budget questions related to proper number of  
22 street sweepers is the City should select that  
23 has a sediment reduction. HRG reports that is  
24 a City selection so is the sweeper inventory  
25 sufficient?

1                   0 I would like to know why the  
2 Mayor was allowed to sidestep the question of  
3 how many people furloughed are back to work.  
4 "The majority" is not a sufficient answer in my  
5 book and I'm sorry chose not to pursue a finite  
6 answer.

7                   0 There have been some really nasty  
8 pave cuts. Could someone please brief us on  
9 pave cuts. I once thought an entire street  
10 would have to be paved if a utility made a  
11 certain number of oave cuts on that street.  
12 Now I hear those cuts have to be within a  
13 certain time frame. Is this true and, if so,  
14 what is that time frame?

15                   0 As I have mentioned over the  
16 years, the Redevelopment Authority operates on a  
17 different (July though June, I believe) Fiscal  
18 Year than the City so, if you ever want an  
19 Audit on time you must as them to go on a  
20 January through December year.

21                   0 Closing, may I report it has been  
22 a very long time since any questions not  
23 answered during the Meeting have received  
24 answers.

25                   (This concludes public comment as



1 submitted to Council.)

2

3

MS. REED: That concludes the  
citizens participation portion. Thank you.

4

5

6

7

8

9

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
On the furloughs, I think we asked tonight for  
a list of the employees that are still  
furloughed. So that will take care of that  
question.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

As for Miss Schumacher's comment  
about the budget not being in Third Order, the  
budget is on the agenda tonight. The budget  
was received Monday afternoon. And then the  
agenda was posted Monday afternoon. And if  
anyone from the public would like to look at  
the budget, just go to [Scrantonpa.gov](http://Scrantonpa.gov) under  
the Council page.

18

19

20

21

Click on our agenda for today's  
meeting that was posted yesterday and you could  
find it. It is in there under Fifth Order. It  
won't be in Third Order. It will be in Fifth.

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25

As for some of the other questions,  
we'll pose these to the administration. I  
don't know some of the answers off the top of  
my head. Miss Schumacher's last comment about

1           questions not being answered during the  
2           meeting, Mrs. Reed, if you could -- I know  
3           we've sent any questions that have been posed  
4           to the administration. If you could ask for an  
5           update on when we might receive answers.

6                     And I did -- on some of the DPW  
7           items, I did send those answers to Miss  
8           Schumacher on the street sweeper and other  
9           things that she posed as well related to the  
10          capital budget. Anyone else on the question?  
11          All those in favor signify by saying aye.

12                    MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13                    MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14                    MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15                    DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

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

19          MOTIONS.

20                    MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
21          Councilman Schuster, do you have any motions or  
22          comments today?

23                    MR. SCHUSTER: No, nothing at this  
24          time. I might have a motion on the question  
25          with one of the grants later on but nothing at

1           this time.

2                       MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
3           And, Councilman McAndrew, do you have any  
4           motions or comments?

5                       MR. MCANDREW: A couple. So, you  
6           know, I shared some of my concerns about the  
7           budget in caucus. We served them and expressed  
8           them again at the budget hearing on Thursday.  
9           I -- also in caucus I reached out to Attorney  
10          Hayes two months ago, maybe three, a concerned  
11          citizen who came to me and had questions about  
12          hiring process or a policy whereas, okay, is  
13          there -- does having a felony disclosed on an  
14          application -- if so, if not, okay, what  
15          happens if one surfaces?

16                      So I requested from Solicitor Hayes  
17          to reach out to our HR Director and labor  
18          attorney twice and I haven't -- we haven't  
19          gotten anything back from them. Did you find  
20          anything yet, Solicitor Hayes? You're on mute,  
21          sorry.

22                      ATTY. HAYES: Mark, I had forwarded  
23          to you the memo that they provided in response  
24          to that. So if I didn't send it to you earlier  
25          that was my bad. But they did respond to me on

1           October 20th, so -- which outlines for the  
2           various departments what the policy is and the  
3           applicable law.

4                   MR. MCANDREW: Thanks for the  
5           update. I'll take a look at it and thanks  
6           again. That's all I have.

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

10                  DR. ROTHCHILD: No, not at this  
11           time. Thank you.

12                  MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
13           And, Councilman Donahue, any motions or  
14           comments?

15                  MR. DONAHUE: I'm just going to  
16           reserve my comments for some agenda items.  
17           Thank you.

18                  MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. I  
19           just have a few. The first thing I'd like to  
20           as I mentioned in the caucus tonight, I'd like  
21           to make a motion that Council send a letter to  
22           the Mayor and Business Administrator asking for  
23           a complete report on the pool at Nay Aug Park  
24           when the pool -- if the pool will be ready for  
25           opening in Summer of 2021 and why the funding

1 has not been released to the Recreation Board  
2 to allow for the repair or replacement of the  
3 liner at Nay Aug pool.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion  
6 made and a second. On the question? On the  
7 question, just to reiterate, I was taking a  
8 look at the minutes from the Recreation  
9 Authority Board that will be in Third Order  
10 next week. This meeting was held Thursday,  
11 November 5th.

12 And at the end of the meeting  
13 minutes, one of the members asked the solicitor  
14 of the board if the City answered the Board's  
15 request regarding filling in the big pool. The  
16 meeting -- he replied that the meeting was  
17 cancelled. No date has been set to  
18 rescheduled.

19 And then the members of the board  
20 expressed concerns with money that was  
21 allocated in this budget that was not used to  
22 repair the pool wants to know if the money is  
23 still there if it was transferred elsewhere and  
24 they are very concerned that the pool will not  
25 be repaired and the children will not have a

1 pool in 2021.

2 So, you know, based on that and  
3 being up there this summer and looking at all  
4 the work that has to be done, I am concerned.  
5 I really think we need a full report from the  
6 Mayor and the administration on what's going on  
7 and if that pool is going to be ready. Anyone  
8 else on the question?

9 MR. MCANDREW: Yes, on the question,  
10 so I remember that Mayor Evans put money in the  
11 budget to take care of this. And it terrifies  
12 me knowing that the pool, the deeper pool with  
13 the diving board is not filled in yet. That to  
14 me is a huge liability, huge liability. That  
15 alone scares me. So, of course, I'd like an  
16 update on both of them questions.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. All right.  
18 There's been a motion, a second, on the  
19 question. All those in favor of the motion  
20 signify by saying aye.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The

1           ayes have it and so moved and the motions  
2           passes.

3                       I'd also like to make a motion to  
4           invite the Pennsylvania Economy League  
5           representatives who are the City's Act 47  
6           recovery coordinator to our Tuesday, November  
7           24th caucus to discuss and take questions about  
8           the 2021 budget. Is there a second?

9                       MR. DONAHUE: Second.

10                      MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion  
11           and a second. On the question? On the  
12           question, as has been stated, one of the things  
13           I've always insisted on is that -- and they've  
14           always agreed and have come and answered  
15           questions and usually a letter accompanies the  
16           budget because I believe PEL has to certify the  
17           budget.

18                      But I think it's important to have a  
19           recovery coordinator at a caucus with Council  
20           to answer questions about the budget, about  
21           their thoughts on the budget and what the  
22           financial situation of the City looks like  
23           moving forward. So I look forward to having  
24           those discussions. Anyone else on the  
25           question?

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, on the  
2 question, I think as you say, Mr. Gaughan, I  
3 think it's a good idea to get their thoughts on  
4 this budget and more specifically when we're  
5 looking at the borrowing from that trust fund,  
6 get what they had stated on that fund and get  
7 the parameters (inaudible) from that fund.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree. Thank you.  
9 Anyone else? All those in favor signify -- oh,  
10 sorry, Mark, go ahead.

11 MR. MCANDREW: I totally agree  
12 having their presence and input. The City is  
13 in recovery for a reason. There's a recovery  
14 team here for a reason. I value their, you  
15 know, their input and I'd like to hear it.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you. All  
17 those in favor of the motion signify by saying  
18 aye.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
24 ayes have it and the motion passes.

25 The other thing I have is last



1 Thursday the Business Administrator said that  
2 there was a memo that Council has was supposed  
3 to receive on the sale of receivables. It's a  
4 line item in this year's budget -- a revenue  
5 line item in this year's budget.

6 They mentioned that they were going  
7 to release a memo. So, Lori, could you please  
8 request a copy of that memo or find out when  
9 they are going to release that? I have  
10 additional concerns there, but I'll mention  
11 them in Fifth Order when we talk about the  
12 budget. That's all I have.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: President Gaughan,  
14 was there going to be a motion to send  
15 correspondence to the Mayor and the  
16 administration on the job descriptions?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

18 ATTY. HAYES: I already did that.  
19 And I asked that they be responded to by the  
20 end of the week by 3:30 that they submit them  
21 to Lori. And the Mayor already responded that  
22 they are working on them right now.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Very good.

24 ATTY. HAYES: I don't know if you  
25 still want to do a motion or not.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: No. I think that's  
2 good. That works. Okay. Lori?

3 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR  
4 INTRODUCTION – AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
5 THE COUNCIL NO. 95, 2015, AN ORDINANCE,  
6 ENTITLED “AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 79  
7 OF 2015, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE  
8 COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED ‘AN ORDINANCE  
9 RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
10 TAX (“EMST”) TO LOCAL SERVICE TAX (“LST”)’ AND  
11 BY IMPOSING A WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE  
12 CALENDAR YEAR 2015 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN  
13 FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY  
14 INCREASING THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX WITHHOLDING  
15 FROM \$52.00 TO \$156.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR  
16 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM  
17 TAXATION FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE TOTAL EARNED  
18 INCOME AND NET PROFITS FROM ALL SOURCES  
19 WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY IS LESS THAN \$15,600.00  
20 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNDER AND PURSUANT  
21 TO THE LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT, ACT 511 OF 1965,  
22 P.L. 1257, 53 P.S. § 6924,101 ET. SEQ.  
23 AND THE MUNICIPALITIES RECOVERY ACT, Act 47 OF  
24 1987, P.L. 246,53 P.S. § 11701.101 ET. SEQ. AND  
25 THEIR RESPECTIVE AMENDMENTS” EFFECTIVE

1 RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2020. THIS TAX  
2 ENABLES THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO CONTINUE TO  
3 LEVY THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX AT THE FISCAL YEAR  
4 2019 RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 FOR A TOTAL  
5 MAXIMUM LOCAL SERVICES RATE OF ONE HUNDRED  
6 FIFTY-SIX (\$156.00) DOLLARS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
7 2020 EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2020.

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

11 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

14 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, one  
15 thing I would like to bring up at Thursday  
16 night's meeting is getting the petition in for  
17 the tripling of the LST for next year early  
18 enough.

19 This year it wasn't filed until the  
20 end of February and then with everything with  
21 the pandemic it was pushed off. You know,  
22 normally we should be passing this at the  
23 beginning of the year, not in November.

24 But the petition going forward  
25 should be filed in November so then at least a

1 date is set for, you know, hopefully by  
2 midJanuary then for the court approval.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: I agree. Thank you.  
4 Anyone else on the question? All those in  
5 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

12 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
13 AN ORDINANCE - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE  
14 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD  
15 COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2021 TO  
16 AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 BY THE ADOPTION  
17 OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR  
18 THE YEAR 2021.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
20 At this time I'll entertain a motion that Item  
21 5-C be introduced into its proper committee.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Who  
25 wants to go first?

1 MR. SCHUSTER: I guess on the  
2 question, do all new positions have salary  
3 amounts associated with them and do all line  
4 items have dollar amounts associated with them  
5 too?

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. Yes, they have  
7 to except for the ones where it says not funded  
8 as I mentioned in the caucus. I think we  
9 should take those out but -- yep.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the  
12 question? All right. I have a few things I'd  
13 like to say. So I'll start with the good  
14 before I go into -- it's always good to start  
15 with the good things first.

16 So the first thing I'd like to say  
17 is I've been through several budgets now since  
18 I've been on Council. And I have to give  
19 credit to Mayor Cagnetti and her administration  
20 in this respect that they are not afraid to  
21 defend their budget.

22 I have sat through many budgets  
23 where we couldn't get the Mayor to come -- in  
24 fact, I don't believe we ever had the previous  
25 Mayor before caucus. And we requested numerous

1 times. So we already had the Mayor and the  
2 Business Administrator before us on Thursday.  
3 They are coming again this Thursday.

4 In speaking with the Mayor, they're  
5 more than willing to answer any and all  
6 questions and exhaust all of our concerns  
7 before final passage. So I think any plan, any  
8 budget needs to be scrutinized.

9 That's our job as Council people is  
10 to look at this thing line item by line item,  
11 scrutinize it, put it through the ringer and I  
12 just personally appreciate the Mayor and the  
13 Business Administrator coming before us  
14 answering questions and defending their plan  
15 even if we have concerns about it or we don't  
16 agree with.

17 As I said, I haven't always been a  
18 part of a process that has been like that. So  
19 this is new to me, and I think it's the best  
20 way to do it. So I do appreciate that. And I  
21 think it's much more transparent.

22 As I mentioned earlier, I received  
23 the budget yesterday afternoon as all of  
24 Council did. So it's a rather large document.  
25 So I will need time to continue to look through

1           it.

2                         But my first kind of initial -- my  
3           initial review and my first blush reaction I  
4           have a few concerns. The first would be that  
5           the numbers that we received Thursday when the  
6           Mayor and the Business Administrator came to  
7           our work session compared to the numbers we  
8           received yesterday afternoon varied and in some  
9           cases significantly.

10                        So my first question that I'd like  
11           to know is what changed between Thursday and  
12           Monday? The projections changed in some  
13           instances drastically within a few days. For  
14           example, what we were given Thursday the  
15           delinquent real estate tax was at -- revenue  
16           was at \$600,000.

17                        Tuesday the budget we have in front  
18           of us, the final document it's at 2.3 million.  
19           So for those numbers to change so  
20           significantly, you know, what happened between  
21           in those few days and maybe there is a good  
22           explanation and hopefully we'll find out  
23           Thursday.

24                        The landfill and refuse fees,  
25           Thursday it was 8 million 50 thousand dollars.

1 Tuesday it's 7 million 800 thousand dollars.  
2 And then obviously the borrowing -- the  
3 interfund transfers we had a 5 million dollar  
4 deficit Thursday and then we're down to a 4.4  
5 million dollar deficit on Tuesday.

6 My second concern is the plan that  
7 was presented to us Thursday and the plan that  
8 is presented to us again today, the budget is  
9 using roughly 4.4 million dollars from excess  
10 workers' compensation reserves. These were  
11 originally supposed to be used for OPEB Trust  
12 Fund. OPEB stands for Other Post Employment  
13 Benefits.

14 This was supposed to assist with  
15 future allocations for retiree benefits. The  
16 OPEB Trust Fund allocation was based on a major  
17 recommendation from the City's auditor a few  
18 years ago. The fund would be established for  
19 other post employment benefits which could  
20 include things like medicare reimbursements.

21 The Government Finance Officer's  
22 Association recommends as a best practice that  
23 governments prefund their obligations for post  
24 employment benefits other than pensions once  
25 it's determined that the employer has incurred



1 a substantial long-term liability which, of  
2 course, is the case with the City of Scranton.

3 I think our long-term liability is  
4 over 200 million dollars at this point. If  
5 funded properly -- so if funded with what was  
6 originally -- what the original plan was, the  
7 City may make long-term investments to cover  
8 these obligations through a separate trust fund  
9 which should theoretically over time result in  
10 a lower total cost for providing post  
11 employment benefits and other -- obviously  
12 other examples of post employment benefits  
13 would be healthcare or insurance premiums.

14 During the weekend it was reported  
15 in the Scranton Times that the plan had changed  
16 after a conversation that the administration  
17 had with PFM who is the City's financial  
18 advisor. And at this point, the Mayor and the  
19 Business Administrator were considering  
20 utilizing cash collateral from sewer sale  
21 proceeds or according to the narrative original  
22 financing which would require restructuring.

23 According to the budget document  
24 that we received, this option would be explored  
25 at any point during the year. And if the funds

1           were either not necessary or less than the 4.4  
2           million dollar revenue gap, the refinancing can  
3           be tailored to the needed amount.

4                     There's a few issues that I have  
5           with this on its face. The budget that is  
6           presented to us today includes multiple options  
7           which may address the budget shortfall next  
8           year. I have a hard time approving a budget  
9           with so many options in it.

10                    I'm interested in -- more interested  
11           in how exactly we're going to do this. Either  
12           you're going to do it or you're not going to do  
13           it. And we need as a Council I think much more  
14           detail about how the administration plans on  
15           closing the budget shortfall next year.

16                    I am particularly concerned about  
17           using workers' compensation proceeds that were  
18           designated to reduce costs and liabilities  
19           going forward.

20                    Taking these dollars to balance the  
21           budget next year at the expense of savings  
22           later on is risky in my opinion. One of the  
23           concerns I have is what that -- what kind of  
24           message that would send to the financial  
25           community because I remember a few years ago

1           that the City creating this OPEB Trust Fund,  
2           the negotiations that went on with Labor and  
3           Industry was looked favorably -- was looked  
4           upon favorably by the financial community.

5                         And historically, you know, this is  
6           what the City of Scranton does. We take  
7           something that's intended for another fund or  
8           to invest and we use it as a one-time revenue  
9           source. So I think before we do that, we need  
10          to exhaust every other avenue and option.

11                        And we should really research this  
12          and make sure it's the right thing to do  
13          because that money was not intended for this  
14          use. Before I would even consider approving  
15          this budget, I would need much more information  
16          on the cash collateral restructuring. There  
17          are way too many what ifs in this narrative.

18                        And it seems like to me any way that  
19          this was put together at the last minute which  
20          is concerning. We don't have a figure on how  
21          much money a restructuring or refinancing debt  
22          would bring in. And if this is an actual  
23          serious option that they are going to consider,  
24          then we need at least a ballpark of where those  
25          figures might be before we pass a final budget.

1           The other concern that I have is I  
2 think my other Council colleagues brought this  
3 up. Earlier in the week the budget shortfall  
4 was a million and a half dollars. And then  
5 that changed drastically to 5 million dollars.  
6 Now we're down to 4.6 million dollars.

7           So to me, the fact that the City  
8 administration did not know that they'd be  
9 nearly 4 and a half million dollars in the hole  
10 next year as little as a week ago is concerning  
11 to me. And the fact that, you know, the  
12 numbers are changing and the plan has changed  
13 within the last few days.

14           And I think we need to clarify that  
15 on Thursday. I'd also like to know we did not  
16 get a clear answer on whether there is going to  
17 be projected deficit for the end of 2020. A  
18 major, major concern of mine is the fact that  
19 the administration did not follow through with  
20 the sale of refuse receivables.

21           This was a unique method of  
22 financing that I believe could have brought in  
23 at least a million and a half dollars. That's  
24 what was budgeted in 2020. Council received a  
25 draft of a proposal with a company called MRS

1           that was put together with the previous  
2           administration. And I'm not sure if there had  
3           to be a request for proposals.

4                        I think because of the method of  
5           financing they probably could have negotiated  
6           with MRS. I'm not sure about that. But I  
7           remember in 2015 this same type of financing  
8           was done. And I believe that they just  
9           negotiated with this specific company.

10                      So I think we need to look into  
11           that. Again, that could have -- if this was  
12           acted upon earlier because I know Councilman  
13           Donahue and I had brought this up several  
14           times, I think we might have been able to make  
15           headway there. And that could have been --  
16           it's definitely a million and a half dollars  
17           that we could have used this year.

18                      We were also told there was a memo  
19           that was supposed to be issued on this topic.  
20           So I'd like to see that before we pass the  
21           budget.

22                      The other thing that was in the 2020  
23           budget that was not acted upon that I think the  
24           administration should consider as a means of  
25           bringing in additional revenue next year is an

1 amnesty program. This was something that was  
2 talked about in 2020. It was baked into the  
3 revenue numbers in the 2020 budget.

4 And I think it's a way other cities  
5 do it across the country, a one time -- whether  
6 it's a refuse amnesty, real estate -- I don't  
7 know if that's possible but a one-time program  
8 where if you have outstanding refuse fees or  
9 real estate taxes or whatever, you have a one  
10 time opportunity to come in and pay and get on  
11 a payment plan.

12 And other cities have -- you've seen  
13 a huge influx of revenue into their coffers.  
14 So I think we should really, really look at  
15 that as a way to raise revenue for next year.

16 As I mentioned in the caucus, my  
17 other concern is the conversion from the  
18 Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax to the  
19 Payroll Preparation Tax. It is stated in the  
20 narrative that that is being pushed off or  
21 won't be considered until 2022.

22 To me, this could be the potential  
23 of a major missed opportunity. This is  
24 something that the people of the City voted  
25 overwhelmingly for. I think we studied it.

1 We analyzed it. And it's really time to act on  
2 it because we're going to lose our opportunity  
3 if we wait too long.

4 I need to see job descriptions.  
5 With 12 new positions, I think these are the  
6 most positions -- most newly created positions  
7 that I've seen since I've been on Council.  
8 With those 12 positions obviously comes a hefty  
9 cost.

10 I think total with the raises and  
11 the new positions it's over half a million  
12 dollars. So when you're looking at a potential  
13 4 million dollar deficit next year, you want to  
14 be able to rationalize those type of increases.  
15 I know there was a discussion in the narrative.  
16 I think we need more discussion on Thursday.  
17 And we need job descriptions as well.

18 One of the things that stuck out to  
19 me was the Parks and Recreation Department as  
20 something that needs further study or further  
21 discussion. On its face I just don't  
22 understand it and I don't agree with it.

23 They're adding another director or  
24 another manager in this department. You're  
25 going to have two managers in the Parks and

1           Recreation Department. And the way that I'm  
2           reading it -- and I could be wrong and we need  
3           to clarify this Thursday is that the  
4           groundskeepers, the workers in the Parks and  
5           Recreation Department will be transferred under  
6           the management of the DPW Director or the DPW.

7                     So like who are these -- who are the  
8           new people in here? Or who are the manager and  
9           the director going to supervise? On its face,  
10          I think you're creating more bureaucracy. So  
11          that is something I'd like to discuss on  
12          Thursday.

13                    Also, one of the things I mentioned  
14          in the caucus that I think we really need to  
15          talk about is -- although it might be minor  
16          renaming the department, moving the employees,  
17          does this marry up with the Collective  
18          Bargaining Agreement with the DPW?

19                    I know we when we voted on the CBA  
20          with the DPW three years ago or two years ago,  
21          there was a line in there that specifically  
22          stated that the department is Parks and  
23          Recreation. Now we're adding a different name,  
24          moving employees. So we have to make sure that  
25          that marries up.



1                   Some of the other items that stuck  
2 out to me is we don't have the 2019 audit,  
3 which I've said this before it's unacceptable.  
4 Last year we waited and waited and waited for  
5 the audit. We got every excuse under the book.  
6 And again, I know, you know, we had the  
7 pandemic at the beginning of the year but are  
8 all set up with technology.

9                   We knew what needed to be done. I  
10 sat in on meetings with the auditor and the  
11 Business Administrator's office and yet we're  
12 probably not going to get this thing until  
13 December, maybe not until next year. In a City  
14 of our size, that is just unacceptable.

15                  And I really did think that all of  
16 the issues were going to be solved. And  
17 apparently they weren't. So again, it's hard  
18 to look at a budget when you don't have the  
19 2019 audit. It would be very helpful.

20                  The other thing I think we need to  
21 talk about on Thursday is the midyear  
22 adjustment or update. And I know Solicitor  
23 Hayes has said that this probably -- we need  
24 more clarification on exactly what that is  
25 because under the Home Rule Charter you

1           can't -- I don't think you can just -- you  
2           can't change the budget in the middle of the  
3           year.

4                         The new positions that are not  
5           funded as I mentioned in the caucus, I don't  
6           disagree with them if the Mayor wants to  
7           include that in the narrative to say that these  
8           may be positions that are funded in future  
9           years, that's fine. But putting them as a line  
10          item in the budget even though there is no  
11          funding with it, that doesn't make sense to me.

12                        We need to take those out. If it's  
13          in the budget and it's new, it should be  
14          funded. You know, we get the point where it's  
15          in the narrative. You don't have to put it in  
16          the line item.

17                        The other thing that stuck out to me  
18          was pilot letters, the -- where we get a  
19          contribution from our non-profits. Those  
20          letters apparently just went out within the  
21          last two weeks. I wonder when we'll get those  
22          or if those conversations have occurred and  
23          when we'll know how much of or if there is  
24          going to be an increase on what the non-profits  
25          contribute because we're going to be passing

1 the budget in December.

2 It would seem to me that those  
3 letters should have went out earlier so that  
4 we'd have a better sense when we're looking at  
5 revenue that's coming in.

6 On the topic of overtime, overtime  
7 numbers in this budget are similar to last  
8 year. We've gone over this year. And I still  
9 have not gotten a good explanation as to why we  
10 are over in the fire department and the police  
11 department and why we have overtime in the Law  
12 Department.

13 I think we need that explanation on  
14 Thursday. And also for this year, we spent  
15 overtime in the Law Department when there was  
16 no overtime budgeted. I don't -- I would like  
17 to -- actually, Kevin, if you could look into  
18 if that is even legal for the administration to  
19 do that when the Council and the previous  
20 administration clearly did not put any funding  
21 in for overtime and yet somehow some employee  
22 got overtime in the Law Department.

23 Interns, interns are budgeted at  
24 \$120,000 for next year. I question spending  
25 that much money on interns. I think the

1 internship program is a good thing but not at  
2 the expense of \$120,000. So I think we need to  
3 talk about that on Thursday. I would like just  
4 looking at it preliminary, I'd like to take  
5 that money and use it to fund ECTV.

6 I've had conversations with the  
7 Mayor and the Business Administrator about  
8 this. They only put in \$20,000. That's going  
9 to leave them -- according to my conversations  
10 with them unable to continue broadcasting. So,  
11 I mean, it's not going to work. So we need to  
12 fund that.

13 There is a line item for a grant  
14 match. And there's money in the line item as  
15 an expenditure for a grant match. And I would  
16 like a breakdown of that figure. And I'm going  
17 put this all in a document and send it to the  
18 administration.

19 Apparently there is no increase for  
20 the Clerical Union in the budget. So I'm  
21 assuming that they're going to ask for a pay  
22 freeze. But I haven't seen any agreement to  
23 that effect and do we know that for sure. And  
24 if not, you know, I just -- to me, I don't know  
25 how you can put that in there without knowing

1           it for sure. Maybe they do. I don't know.  
2           But we need further clarification on that.

3                     I mentioned in the caucus too about  
4           the Keystone Landfill grant, a hundred thousand  
5           dollars. I don't believe that that's actual --  
6           it's not actual revenue unless something has  
7           changed. That was equipment that was to be  
8           donated through the landfill. So I don't know  
9           why that's in there. We're probably going to  
10          have to take that out.

11                    And we need to talk about the Ethics  
12          Board funding was cut. I think they're down to  
13          10 or \$20,000. And there is some other minor  
14          items in here. Those are my initial concerns  
15          that I have. So again, I appreciate the Mayor  
16          and the Business Administrator coming on  
17          Thursday.

18                    I think we really need answers to  
19          these outstanding questions sooner than later,  
20          especially if I had to pin this down to, you  
21          know, the major items, it really would be the  
22          budget shortfall next year. And, you know, we  
23          need more clarification on all of these  
24          different options.

25                    I don't think you pass a budget with

1 four different options. We have to get a way,  
2 way clearer picture on that before I'd be  
3 comfortable. So those are my comments. I'm  
4 sure I'll have more next week and look forward  
5 to Thursday. Anyone else on the question?

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, Mr. Gaughan, I  
7 think we covered a lot of that in caucus so I  
8 didn't get my list of concerns. But I think  
9 you did a very good job. I agree 100 percent  
10 on everything that you put out there.

11 One of the things I would like to  
12 touch on is, I mean, in the pandemic what we're  
13 seeing large shortfalls in revenue, things that  
14 we can't control. And I think in other areas  
15 of business, these are areas that they do  
16 control for trainings, overtimes, new  
17 positions, and salary increases.

18 These are definitely things that  
19 could be controlled and, I mean, when we're  
20 using the pandemic as justification for other  
21 things, I think with those revenue shortfalls  
22 it would be good justification for these items  
23 here.

24 Especially with looking at some of  
25 the furloughs that were done in the beginning

1 and then going into these CBAs as you  
2 expressed, the Clerical Union, you know, that's  
3 being negotiated right now.

4 And, I mean, if that's the case, I  
5 don't understand how justification could be  
6 given for salary increases and new positions  
7 when that's what's occurring right now and  
8 going into those CBAs into next June.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
10 Anyone else on the question? Okay. All those  
11 in favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

13 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

14 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

18 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
19 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
20 NO. 6, 2020, AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
21 59, 2019 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE  
22 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED 'AN  
23 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE  
24 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENACT  
25 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE

1           PURPOSE OF RAISING REVENUE TO COVER THE  
2           WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY  
3           THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF  
4           REFUSE' " BY IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
5           COLLECTION FEE OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR  
6           2021 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE  
7           AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER AND TO AMEND THE  
8           TIMELINE FOR PAYMENTS ALLOWING CHANGE IN THE  
9           MECHANISM OF BILLING, UPDATE THE REQUIREMENTS  
10          FOR EXONERATIONS AND INCREASE PENALTIES FOR  
11          VIOLATIONS.

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

15                   MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

16                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

17                   MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
18                   the question, I think it would probably --  
19                   well, we can discuss this on Thursday with the  
20                   Mayor and the Business Administrator. As I  
21                   mentioned though, I just want to make sure that  
22                   these bills that would go out -- the real  
23                   estate tax bills that would go out if they go  
24                   out to a -- somebody that does not have a  
25                   structure on their land, a vacant property that



1           they're not going to get charged \$300.

2                         Now, you know, I guess they could  
3           come back and say well they're exempt but then  
4           you have to go through a whole process. And  
5           I'd hate to put them people through that  
6           annoying process of having to go down, prove  
7           that they don't have a structure on their  
8           property.

9                         I just feel like it would be a huge  
10          mess. Maybe that's not the case, but I think  
11          we should definitely double-check on that  
12          before we pass this. And the other thing too  
13          we did see a -- I think everyone got a copy of  
14          it. We did get a copy of what a sample bill  
15          will look like.

16                        ATTY. HAYES: Yes.

17                        MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, so just as an  
18          example of what it would look like. Anyone  
19          else on the question? At this time I'll  
20          entertain a -- or, I'm sorry. All those in  
21          favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

22                        MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

23                        MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

24                        MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

25                        DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

3 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
4 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
5 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
6 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
7 OF THE BLACK SCRANTON PROJECT TO THE  
8 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE  
9 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL  
10 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE  
11 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
12 OF \$135,893.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
13 "BLACK SCRANTON PROJECT CENTER FOR ARTS &  
14 CULTURE" LOCATED AT 1902 NORTH MAIN AVENUE,  
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING  
16 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
17 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE  
18 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER  
19 INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND  
20 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
21 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN  
22 THE AMOUNT OF \$135,893.00 AWARDED BY THE  
23 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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

1           into its proper committee.

2                   DR. ROTHCHILD:  So moved.

3                   MR. MCANDREW:  Second.

4                   MR. GAUGHAN:  On the question?

5                   DR. ROTHCHILD:  Yes, on the  
6           question, I'm happy to see this grant  
7           application on our agenda tonight.  I think the  
8           Black Scranton Project has been doing really  
9           great work for our City.

10                   And I would love to see them have a  
11           center and a place where black and brown people  
12           of Scranton could go for programs and  
13           resources.  So I think that this grant would be  
14           really helpful in allowing them to do that and  
15           to provide the types of services and programs  
16           that they're interested in doing.

17                   And I did take a look through the  
18           proposal.  And I think there is some really  
19           great meaningful ideas in there.

20                   MR. GAUGHAN:  Thank you.  Anyone  
21           else on the question?

22                   MR. SCHUSTER:  Also on the question,  
23           I used to live down in this neighborhood here.  
24           I mean, the building is something that I've  
25           driven past every day.  Did -- was this

1 building sold yet or did they acquire this  
2 building at this point in time? Do we know  
3 that?

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: I believe that it  
5 was being donated to them. I believe the  
6 building was being donated. That was my  
7 understanding.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Okay. And at that,  
9 I imagine the property would be taken from the  
10 tax rolls too.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes. It's a  
12 nonprofit organization.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Anything else? No?  
14 Okay. All those in favor of introduction  
15 signify by saying aye.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

22 MS. REED: 5-F. A RESOLUTION -  
23 RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION AND  
24 SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY THE  
25 CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF GREEN RIDGE

1 LITTLE LEAGUE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
2 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH  
3 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT  
4 GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE  
5 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
6 OF \$121,220.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
7 "FIELD SAFETY RENOVATION" LOCATED 2630 OLYPHANT  
8 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING  
9 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
10 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE  
11 GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER  
12 INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND  
13 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
14 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN  
15 THE AMOUNT OF \$121,220.00 AWARDED BY THE  
16 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll  
18 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be introduced  
19 the into its proper committee.

20 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All  
24 those in favor of introduction signify by  
25 saying aye.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

3 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

7 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
8 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
9 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
10 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
11 OF JOHNSON COLLEGE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
12 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH  
13 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT  
14 GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE  
15 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
16 OF \$158,918.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
17 "STORM WATER DRAINAGE PROJECT" LOCATED AT 3427  
18 N. MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND  
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
20 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO  
21 ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE  
22 AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT  
23 CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE  
24 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND  
25 UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$158,918.00

1           AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR  
2           SUCH PROJECT.

3                   MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll  
4           entertain a motion that Item 5-G be introduced  
5           into its proper committee.

6                   MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

7                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

8                   MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All  
9           those in favor of introduction signify by  
10          saying aye.

11                   MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

12                   MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

13                   MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

14                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

15                   MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
16          eyes have it and so moved.

17                   MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
18          A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
19          THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
20          APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
21          OF LACE BUILDING AFFILIATES, LP TO THE  
22          COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE  
23          COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL  
24          SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE  
25          HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT

1 OF \$275,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
2 "SCRANTON LACE ADAPTIVE USE PROJECT" LOCATED  
3 1315 MEYLERT AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
4 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
5 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
6 PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF  
7 SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL  
8 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT  
9 LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO  
10 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
11 \$275,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
12 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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

16 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

24 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The



1           eyes have it and so moved.

2                       MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
3           A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
4           THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
5           APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
6           OF NEIGHBORWORKS OF NEPA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
7           PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH  
8           FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT  
9           GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE  
10          DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
11          OF \$70,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
12          "WEST SCRANTON BUSINESS CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT  
13          PLAN" LOCATED AT 800 BLOCK OF NORTH MAIN  
14          AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING  
15          THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
16          OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO  
17          ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND  
18          EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT  
19          GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE  
20          COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND  
21          UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000.00  
22          AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR  
23          SUCH PROJECT.

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

1           into its proper committee.

2                   MR. DONAHUE:   So moved.

3                   MR. SCHUSTER:   Second.

4                   MR. GAUGHAN:   On the question?  All  
5 those in favor of introduction signify by  
6 saying aye.

7                   MR. SCHUSTER:   Aye.

8                   MR. MCANDREW:   Aye.

9                   MR. DONAHUE:   Aye.

10                  DR. ROTHCHILD:  Aye.

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

13                  MS. REED:   5-J.  FOR INTRODUCTION -  
14 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF.  THE  
15 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
16 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
17 OF SCRANTON LIFE REALTY CO.INC. TO THE  
18 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE  
19 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL  
20 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE  
21 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
22 OF \$262,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
23 "SPRUCE STREET HISTORIC RENOVATION" LOCATED AT  
24 536 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND  
25 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

1 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO  
2 ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE  
3 AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT  
4 CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE  
5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND  
6 UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$262,000.00  
7 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR  
8 SUCH PROJECT.

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

12 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

23 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
24 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
25 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT

1 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
2 OF TRIPP PARK MISSY E LEAGUE TO THE  
3 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE  
4 COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL  
5 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE  
6 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
7 OF \$19,950.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
8 "TRIPP PARK MISSY E LEAGUE FIELD RENOVATIONS"  
9 LOCATED AT 2000 DOROTHY STREET, SCRANTON,  
10 PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
11 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
12 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF  
13 SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL  
14 SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT  
15 LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO  
16 ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
17 \$19,950.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
18 PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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

22 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

25 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I'd

1           like to ask that Council if we could have Lori  
2           write a letter on behalf of the Council if  
3           everyone is in agreement support from the  
4           Council for this grant.

5                   MR. GAUGHAN: Sure. Do you want to  
6           make a motion to that effect -- Kevin, do we  
7           have to make a motion to that?

8                   MR. SCHUSTER: Possibly a friendly  
9           amendment or does it have to be a motion?

10                   MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, sorry, Kevin,  
11           you're muted.

12                   ATTY. HAYES: I don't think you need  
13           a motion. I don't think you need an amendment.  
14           If you all just agree you want to write a  
15           letter and then we could have Lori send one.

16                   MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. That sounds  
17           good to me. Anyone else on the question? All  
18           those in favor of introduction signify by  
19           saying aye.

20                   MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21                   MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

22                   MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: 5-L. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
2 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
3 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
4 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
5 OF UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH  
6 OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH  
7 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT  
8 GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE  
9 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE AMOUNT  
10 OF \$315,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS  
11 "MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM EQUIPMENT  
12 PROJECT" LOCATED AT 800 LINDEN STREET,  
13 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND AUTHORIZING THE  
14 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF  
15 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT,  
16 IF SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO  
17 A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND  
18 COMMITMENT LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
19 PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE  
20 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315,000.00 AWARDED BY  
21 THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH  
22 PROJECT.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time I'll  
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-L be introduced  
25 into its proper committee.

1 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

2 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Is there a second?

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? All  
6 those in favor of introduction signify by  
7 saying aye.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

9 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

10 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

14 MS. REED: 5-M. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF  
16 THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
17 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF  
18 OF SCRANTON AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO THE  
19 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH  
20 THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A  
21 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA  
22 RACE HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT IN THE  
23 AMOUNT OF \$63,000.00 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE  
24 KNOWN AS "NEPA MOVES" LOCATED AT 615 JEFFERSON  
25 AVENUE, SUITE 102, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AND

1           AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
2           CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
3           PENNSYLVANIA, TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF  
4           SUCCESSFUL, AND EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LOCAL  
5           SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND COMMITMENT  
6           LETTER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA TO  
7           ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF  
8           \$63,000.00 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
9           PENNSYLVANIA FOR SUCH PROJECT.

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

13                   MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

14                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

18                   MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

19                   MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

20                   MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

21                   DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

24                   MS. REED: 5-N. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25           A RESOLUTION - RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE



1 EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT  
2 APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO PENNDOT  
3 MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION BRIDGE PROJECT  
4 GRANT FUNDING TO BE UTILIZED TO REPLACE THREE  
5 BRIDGES IN THE CITY, NAMELY (1) MARY STREET  
6 BRIDGE, (2) HOLLOW AVENUE BRIDGE AND (3) SOUTH  
7 WEBSTER AVENUE BRIDGE.

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

11 MR. SCHUSTER: So moved.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

14 All those in favor of introduction signify by  
15 saying aye.

16 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

18 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

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

23 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 33,  
24 2020 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE  
25 OF A TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES

1 OF 2021 IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT  
2 TO EXCEED \$12,200,000; PROVIDING FOR THE DATED  
3 DATE, INTEREST RATE, MATURITY DATE, REDEMPTION  
4 PROVISIONS, PAYMENT AND PLACE OF PAYMENT IN  
5 RESPECT OF THE NOTE; ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL  
6 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B" FROM THE  
7 FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAMED THEREIN FOR THE  
8 PURCHASE OF THE NOTE; NAMING A SINKING  
9 FUND DEPOSITARY/PAYING AGENT; AUTHORIZING THE  
10 PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO EXECUTE AND  
11 DELIVER THE NOTE AND CERTAIN OTHER  
12 DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES IN CONNECTION  
13 THEREWITH; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
14 PREPARATION, CERTIFICATION AND FILING OF THE  
15 NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
16 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
17 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA; SETTING FORTH A  
18 FORM OF THE NOTE.

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

21 MR. DONAHUE: I move that Item 6-A  
22 pass reading by title.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

25 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question,

1 earlier in caucus, Solicitor Hayes, I asked if  
2 you had a chance to review the fee schedule.  
3 Has the City Solicitor stated that this is the  
4 fees here are comparable with any other  
5 transactions? And do you, yourself, feel that  
6 it's in line with any comparable deals or  
7 transactions of this size and nature?

8 ATTY. HAYES: Councilman Schuster,  
9 earlier this afternoon the City Clerk  
10 circulated the projected -- or the estimated  
11 costs -- closing costs, which I think are in  
12 the neighborhoods of --

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I think we got  
14 this in our e-mail.

15 ATTY. HAYES: About \$45,000. I'm  
16 going to have to review that. And I will have  
17 certainly a report back to you prior to final  
18 passage to see whether they are fair and  
19 reasonable based on the amount of the TAN,  
20 which is I guess 12.2 million. But I don't  
21 know without looking more closely into it.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I got the  
23 e-mail maybe about 3:40 today. So I got a  
24 quick glance at it. But I didn't take a deep  
25 dive.

1                   ATTY. HAYES: Okay, but I will.

2                   MR. SCHUSTER: All right. Thank  
3                   you.

4                   MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I know I'm almost  
5                   positive -- well, it's definitely lower than  
6                   last year at least the bank fee is lower. But  
7                   the total fees are a little bit lower than last  
8                   year according to Business Administrator.

9                   And I know from what I remember from  
10                  past hands that I think this is probably one of  
11                  the lowest amounts because at one time back in  
12                  I think 2014, 2015 this was much higher because  
13                  of some of the financial issues we were having.

14                  But Lori could probably pull for you  
15                  the last couple years' worth of pages of the  
16                  sources and uses of funds if you wanted to look  
17                  at that. But I'm almost positive this is  
18                  probably the lowest that we've seen in a long  
19                  time.

20                  MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I want to thank  
21                  Lori. Lori already did that a few days ago.  
22                  But at that point in time I didn't have the new  
23                  fees to compare with the old one.

24                  MR. GAUGHAN: Oh, okay.

25                  ATTY. HAYES: And just the closing,

1           it's just short of \$45,000 in closing costs.  
2           So I have to look to see if, you know, whether  
3           that's comparable to what's been charged in the  
4           past.

5                       MR. GAUGHAN: And according to the  
6           Business Administrator as of this morning, this  
7           was circulated earlier today. The rates were  
8           0.01 percent higher than the proposal on the  
9           proposal date. So it's gone up 0.01 percent.

10                      MR. SCHUSTER: I think they said  
11           they would be tracking that a little. Did he  
12           say how it was tracking or just that it was  
13           .01 higher?

14                      MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, that's all he  
15           said, 0.01 percent, which is normal. Okay.  
16           Anyone else on the question? All those in  
17           favor signify by saying aye.

18                      MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

19                      MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

20                      MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

21                      DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

24                      MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
25           CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR

1 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 89, 2020 -  
2 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
3 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT  
4 APPLICATION THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT  
5 OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Act 47  
6 GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00 TO BE  
7 USED TO HIRE A CONSULTANT TO ASSIST THE CITY  
8 IN THE RE-DESIGN OF ITS OPERATING SYSTEM.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the  
10 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
11 Committee on Finance?

12 MR. SCHUSTER: As Chairperson for  
13 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
14 passage of 7-A.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
17 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.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

4 MS. REED: FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE  
5 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION -  
6 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 31, 2020 - AUTHORIZING  
7 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO APPROVE THE DESIGNATION  
8 OF THE 300 BLOCK OF CENTER STREET AS A ONE-WAY  
9 STREET FROM PENN AVENUE TOWARDS WYOMING AVENUE  
10 WITH THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE  
11 THE DESIGNATIONS AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED  
12 DRAWING, C-4 CENTER STREET PARKING.

13 MR. MCANDREW: I'd like to make a  
14 motion to Amend Item 7-B as follows: Insert a  
15 new Whereas clause, following the 7th Whereas  
16 clause to read:

17 WHEREAS, in order to address  
18 concerns raised by neighboring businesses and  
19 to increase signage, Lackawanna County  
20 Engineer, Frank Summa, prepared a revised  
21 drawing, dated November 4, 2020 for Lackawanna  
22 County Parking, City of Scranton, Lackawanna  
23 County, "Center Street Parking" noted as C-4 -  
24 Project No. 2019701.00. A copy of same is  
25 attached hereto as Exhibit "C" with the

1 original drawing on file in the Legal  
2 Department of the City of Scranton; and

3 And in the Now Therefore Clause,  
4 change Exhibit "B" to read: Exhibit "C".

5 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion  
6 and there's been a second to Amend Item 7-B.  
7 These amendments are necessary due to the  
8 schematic revisions that were provided. On the  
9 question? Anyone on the question?

10 MR. MCANDREW: Well, I was just  
11 going to say it on the actual vote. But I'm  
12 just glad that they reached out to the  
13 neighboring business, asked for their input  
14 and, you know, my understanding is they could  
15 live with this now.

16 Prior to this they had some  
17 concerns. So before the changes, you know,  
18 they felt they weren't getting a fair shake  
19 with regards to issues that would affect their  
20 business because of the change, you know, the  
21 parking and one way. So I'm happy to see that  
22 everybody right now can live with this.

23 Maybe we have to look at it again  
24 if it doesn't work out. I'm happy now that  
25 this occurred so I could vote yes for it.



1 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the  
2 question? All those in favor of introduction  
3 signify by saying aye.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

5 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

10 What is the recommendation of the  
11 Chairperson for the Committee on Public Safety?

12 MR. MCANDREW: As Chairperson for  
13 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
14 final passage of Item 7-B.

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: As amended.

17 ATTY. HAYES: As amended.

18 MR. MCANDREW: Sorry, as amended.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: That's okay. Is there  
20 a second? I'm sorry.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

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

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

6 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare  
9 Item 7-B as amended legally and lawfully  
10 adopted.

11 Before we adjourn, once again we  
12 will have a budget work session this Thursday  
13 at 6 p.m. It will be broadcast on YouTube and  
14 ECTV so anyone who's interested can watch.

15 We'll have a public hearing December  
16 1st at 5:45 p.m., so the public can submit  
17 their comments on the budget. They could also  
18 submit them for next Tuesday at our regular  
19 Council meeting as well. So again, this  
20 Thursday 6 p.m.

21 You could take a look at the budget  
22 by looking at our agenda at [Scrantonpa.gov](http://Scrantonpa.gov)  
23 under the Council web page. And we'd like to  
24 hear your comments, if you have any. If there  
25 is no further business, I'll entertain a motion

1 to adjourn.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting's  
4 adjourned. Thank you everyone.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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