

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, February 2nd, 2021

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

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

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- WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT
- KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT
- MARK MCANDREW
- JESSICA ROTHCHILD
- THOMAS SCHUSTER
  
- LORI REED, CITY CLERK
- KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- KEVIN HAYES, COUNCIL SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2  
3 MR. GAUGHAN: Please remain standing  
4 for a moment of silent reflection for our  
5 service men and women throughout the world and  
6 also for those who have passed away in our  
7 community, especially our Solicitor Kevin  
8 Hayes's aunt, Ann Corbett who tragically passed  
9 away this past weekend.

10 Ann was a resident of Minooka, a  
11 veteran of the United States Air Force Nurse  
12 Corps who served her country honorably in  
13 Vietnam. She had a 45-year career in nursing.  
14 She was a friend to all who knew her and she  
15 will be deeply missed.

16 Let us also take a moment of silence  
17 for all of the people in our community, our  
18 country and world who have passed away from the  
19 coronavirus. This pandemic has turned our  
20 world upsidedown. But we must remain hopeful  
21 and strong.

22 We continue to pray for the doctors,  
23 nurses, researchers and all medical  
24 professionals who seek to heal and help those  
25 affected and who put themselves at risk in the

1 process. May they have protection and peace.

2 Whether we are home or abroad,  
3 surrounded by many people suffering from this  
4 illness or only a few, let us stick together,  
5 endure together, mourn together and in place of  
6 our anxiety, let us have hope and peace. Thank  
7 you. Roll call, please, Miss Carrera?

8 MS CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

11 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

12 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

15 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Thank you. I'd  
18 now like to ask Councilman McAndrew to read a  
19 proclamation into the record. Councilman  
20 McAndrew?

21 MR. MCANDREW: Sure. Thank you. It  
22 is with great pleasure that I read this  
23 proclamation celebrating National School  
24 Counseling Week. I know firsthand at the  
25 Career Technology Center where I teach that we

1           have two exceptional school counselors, Mrs.  
2           Ann Jordan and Miss Nicole Gaetano. They have  
3           been a godsend this year helping us teachers  
4           connect with students because of the various  
5           models of instructional and delivery we had to  
6           do during this global pandemic.

7                        This proclamation is not just for  
8           them but a shoutout to all the school  
9           counselors in our area that do a fantastic job  
10          for our kids every day.

11                       So **WHEREAS**, the **COUNCIL OF THE CITY**  
12          **OF SCRANTON** is desirous of acknowledging  
13          **“NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS”** as the nation  
14          celebrates **National School Counseling Week**  
15          **February 1-5, 2021**, and

16                       **WHEREAS**, **School Counselors** are vital  
17          members of the education team and maximize  
18          student success; and

19                       **WHEREAS**, **School Counselors** help all  
20          students apply academic achievement strategies,  
21          manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills,  
22          plan for postsecondary options, such as, higher  
23          education, military, work force; and

24                       **WHEREAS**, **School Counselors** are  
25          certified/licensed educators who improve

1 student success for all students by  
2 implementing a comprehensive school counseling  
3 program; and

4 **WHEREAS, School Counselors** provide  
5 valuable individual or small group support,  
6 counseling and psychological assessments for  
7 students with specific needs.

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that  
9 on **Tuesday, February 2, 2021,** Scranton City  
10 Council wishes to recognize **"SCHOOL COUNSELORS"**  
11 for their dedication and commitment to the  
12 advancement and well-being of all students from  
13 Kindergarten through Grade 12.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this  
15 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the  
16 Record of this Council, as lasting tribute to  
17 **"NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK 2021."** Thank  
18 you.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman  
20 McAndrew. Please dispense with the reading of  
21 the minutes.

22 MS. REED: Thank you. **THIRD ORDER.**

23 **3-A. AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING**  
24 **BOARD PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,**  
25 **FEBRUARY 3, 2021.**

1                   3-B. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
2 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
3 PROTECTION DATED JANUARY 12, 2021 REGARDING  
4 MEADOW BROOK FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT.

5                   3-C. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
6 PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER DATED  
7 JANUARY 21, 2021 REGARDING POPLAR STREET PUBLIC  
8 RAILROAD CROSSING.

9                   3-D. BREAKDOWN OF Law Department  
10 BILLS – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT.

11                   3-E. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM  
12 RESIDENTS OF THIRD AVENUE DATED JANUARY 12,  
13 2021 REGARDING TRUCK TRAFFIC.

14                   3-F. FUEL CARD ANALYSIS RECEIVED  
15 FROM OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER  
16 FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 24 THROUGH DECEMBER 23,  
17 2020.

18                   MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
19 Are there any comments on any of the Third  
20 Order items? If not, received and filed. Do  
21 any Council members have any announcements at  
22 this time?

23                   DR. ROTHCHILD: I have a few.  
24 First, I wanted to, you know, mention that it  
25 is Black History Month. And so there's a lot

1 of celebrations going on. And it's a great  
2 time to just become more educated and learn  
3 more about black history.

4 And one of our local organizations  
5 the Black Scranton Project is going to be  
6 hosting a flag raising ceremony this Saturday.  
7 It's going to be outside on the steps of City  
8 Hall. It's going to be the Pan-African flag  
9 that they are raising.

10 And that's going to take place at  
11 12:00 so if anyone is interested in going to  
12 that. Social distancing and masks will be a  
13 definite there.

14 And they also have other events  
15 going on online and virtual events for the  
16 course of Black History Month. So if you check  
17 it out their Facebook page or their website for  
18 the Black Scranton Project, you'll find some of  
19 those if you're interested in any of them.

20 And then the other event that's  
21 coming up this weekend I wanted to mention is  
22 the Scranton Ice Festival. And I brought that  
23 up just probably like a week or two ago when  
24 they had announced it.

25 And that's going to take place from



1 February 5th through the 7th. So that's Friday  
2 through Sunday. And there's going to be ice  
3 sculptures throughout downtown. And I think it  
4 will just be a good chance for people to be  
5 outside and walk through downtown and, you  
6 know, maybe go to some of the businesses in  
7 downtown while they're out there.

8 So we have those two things coming  
9 up that I wanted to make sure the public was  
10 aware of.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone  
12 else have --

13 MR. DONAHUE: I just have -- I just  
14 have one just because of the snowstorm, garbage  
15 will be a day behind this week for the  
16 remainder of the week.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you.  
18 Anyone else? All right. Mrs. Reed, Citizens  
19 Participation.

20 MS. REED: Thank you. FOURTH ORDER.  
21 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time would  
23 someone please make a motion to accept public  
24 comment from the following individuals: Brian  
25 Grassi, Fay Franus, and Norma Jeffries.

1 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to  
2 accept public comment.

3 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion  
5 and a second to accept public comment.  
6 Mrs. Reed, would you please read the comments  
7 into the record?

8 MS. REED: Thank you. The first  
9 submission is from Brian Grassi as follows:

10 I have e-mailed city council and  
11 they have not received any response. Can you  
12 please get answers on following concerns.

13 1. New Jersey central building.  
14 Who owns it and are taxes current?

15 City few years ago gave I believe  
16 \$25000.00 for roof and building was to be  
17 developed. Roof went on and nothing ever  
18 developed. Building is historical and can be  
19 put to a lot of good use. It can be used as  
20 grocery store and apartments.

21 This building is the gateway into  
22 down town Scranton. Needs to be developed.

23 2. Building in the 500 block of  
24 Lackawanna Ave next to Bouna pizza.

25 They I believe were given money for

1 sidewalks and was suppose to develop building.  
2 It has never been developed even though they  
3 received sidewalks Who owns it and are taxes up  
4 to date.

5 3. Vine street station. A few years  
6 ago the building was damaged and gas station  
7 closed. Has the gas been removed from tanks and  
8 are tanks still in ground? Who owns it and are  
9 taxes being paid.

10 4. Gas station next to Chicks  
11 dinner. Been closed for years. Is there gas in  
12 ground there? Are tanks in ground . Who owns  
13 it and are taxes being paid.

14 5. House on the corner of Pine  
15 street and Wheeler Ave. House was on fire a few  
16 years ago. Who owns house and are taxes being  
17 paid? House needs to be fixed or taken down.

18 6. House on the corner of Wheeler  
19 and olive street. House has been vacant for  
20 years. House is boarded up and is beginning to  
21 deteriorate.

22 You can see chimney needs repair and  
23 roof needs repair. Who owns house and are taxes  
24 up to date.

25 Please make these part of city

1 council minutes and e-mail me responses.

2  
3 MS. REED: The second submission is  
4 from Fay Franus as follows:

5 Council,

6 In 1995 while many of you were young  
7 teens I was 51 years old and I fought hard to  
8 get an ordinance/law passed banning trucks over  
9 ten ton in all of Bellevue because it is a mine  
10 cave area. Subsequent to the passing of this  
11 ordinance every street coming into Bellevue was  
12 posted ; "Trucks Over Ten Ton Gross Weight  
13 Prohibited" You have seen the photos of the  
14 sign.

15  
16 On the South Elm Street entrance to  
17 Bellevue the sign going over the bridge was  
18 changed from 10 ton to allow 18 ton weight . I  
19 have asked numerous times via council via the  
20 police chief --no one can tell me who  
21 authorized that sign to be changed to allow  
22 DeNaples trucks to carry more weight than  
23 allowed by law.

24  
25 I am 76 now and to this day--- 25

1 years later maybe 3 trucks were stopped.  
2 Essentially no action by the city.

3  
4 Mayor Cognetti has the maps of  
5 Bellevue--- the petitions and the ordinance  
6 from 1995. Bill Gaughan met at my home with my  
7 neighbors to address this issue.

8  
9 I want to refresh your memory  
10 please. My garage caved in. The department of  
11 mining had to fill it in with concrete. The  
12 house that was behind me on 5th Avenue is  
13 gone--caved in--now just grass. The house 2  
14 doors down from me- the front sidewalk caved  
15 in-- also 5 doors down their kitchen caved in.

16  
17 Please listen closely to what I am  
18 about to say. There is a business run by Louis  
19 DeNaples on South Elm Street. At this time of  
20 year it is primarily salt to treat roads that  
21 is being delivered to customers with 3 axle  
22 trucks --probably weighing 20 ton----- 11 tons  
23 overweight.

24  
25 The South Elm Street bridge entering

1 Bellevue has been closed to trucks. Overweight  
2 trucks undoubtedly contributed to this  
3 restriction. This bridge may not be repaired  
4 for up to four years.

5  
6 So what do they do----- these 3  
7 axle trucks go over 3rd Avenue, over 100  
8 trucks a day causing the residents to be upset  
9 and make an appeal to the city for relief.

10  
11 The city using the argument to the  
12 resident of 3rd Avenue that there was no sign  
13 posted on 3rd avenue prohibiting trucks over  
14 ten ton. However all streets taking you to 3rd  
15 Avenue entering Bellevue are posted so there is  
16 no need to have a sign on 3rd Avenue because  
17 the trucks have already broken the law by  
18 taking a street that is posted coming into  
19 Bellevue thus they would never be near 3rd  
20 Avenue if they obeyed the law.

21  
22 Not only are there hundred and more  
23 trucks going down 3rd Avenue they are then  
24 turning right and going over the bridge on  
25 Broadway which is posted " Trucks over Ton

1 gross weight Prohibited" Allowing over weight  
2 vehicles to use this bridge will shorten the  
3 life of the bridge.

4  
5 Remember this we the people of  
6 Bellevue obey the laws. Every truck that goes  
7 down 3rd Aveue ---South Elm Street ---Broadway  
8 and Railroad Avenue are breaking the law.  
9 Failure to enforce this law could increase the  
10 number of mine cave ins and the resident's  
11 safety.

12  
13 Perhaps a solution would be for the  
14 city engineer to go to the back of Walmart on  
15 South Main Avenue in Taylor and look down to  
16 see how far DeNaples business operation goes.  
17 IT runs past Walmart towards Taylor Why can't  
18 DeNaples build a road to the railroad Tracks  
19 then continue the road on the other side of the  
20 tracks to get out to South Main Avenue. That is  
21 his problem not the people in Bellevue's  
22 problem.

23  
24 It is DeNaples responsibility to  
25 obey the laws especially if he is endangering

1           the lives of the people of Bellevue and  
2           possibly burdening the taxpayers with  
3           unnecessary capital cost.

4  
5                       This also goes for the Tractor  
6           trailers going down Railroad Avenue. Three cars  
7           were totaled in less than 2 years on my block  
8           alone, mine included. This street is way to  
9           narrow for cars let alone trucks.  
10          BELLEVUE is a cave area-- NO TRUCKS OVER TEN  
11          TON.

12  
13                      Clarks Summit got thousands of  
14          dollars from citations for overweight trucks on  
15          State Street. I do believe we are owed some  
16          help in enforcing this law that was passed 25  
17          years ago.

18  
19                      I also believe we have a pretty  
20          clear cut case for a lawsuit if this continues.  
21          (Photo was attached.)

22  
23                      MS. REED: The third and final  
24          submission is from Miss Norma Jeffries as  
25          follows:



1 First to Councilman Gaughan, I count  
2 it such a pleasure to have gotten to know you  
3 since my return to Scranton. Your concern for  
4 the city was above and beyond. Each e-mail or  
5 telephone call was addressed and was very much  
6 appreciated. I am sure our paths will cross  
7 again someplace along the way. Thank You  
8 Councilman Gaughan for a job well done!  
9 My concerns tonight are two fold:

10 1) Street Signs. Over the past 3  
11 years, the Scranton Street signs has been a  
12 concern. Not only for me, but also city  
13 residence. As I previously stated, returning  
14 to Scranton, after 37 years resulted in getting  
15 lost trying to maneuver myself through  
16 Scranton. As a result, it was good to hear  
17 that KS Engineers was paid \$270,000 to provide  
18 a database of the missing or poor condition of  
19 the street signs.

20 Also, beginning in January, 2020,  
21 \$2,600 is being billed for the maintenance of  
22 the database. Since most of the city hall  
23 employees were working at home during 2020, is  
24 the city still billed for that maintenance fee.  
25 I know that there is only 1.5 staff to oversee

1 and work in this department, therefore, is the  
2 database being of much use to the city.

3 Is the data base being reviewed and  
4 are some of the neglected signs being replaced?  
5 At a recent Town Hall meeting, the Mayor  
6 mentioned the condition of our street signs.  
7 So along with the painting of the crosswalks,  
8 can the replacement of old or damaged street  
9 signs be accomplished at the same time. Maybe  
10 it is a different department, but hopefully an  
11 update can be provided to let us know the  
12 status.

13 With all the attention that our city  
14 is receiving since President Biden is our  
15 President, let's help him along by getting our  
16 street signs in a better condition for visitors  
17 coming to town.

18  
19 2) Walkability Study: Can a report  
20 be given of the status of this study. With the  
21 Pandemic, walking and getting fresh air is a  
22 priority. I began to wonder what happened to  
23 that study. I know that previously, this  
24 study was a priority and everyone seemed so  
25 enthusiastic about how the city would benefit

1 from this study.

2 Can someone address these two  
3 projects for me and the citizens of Scranton.

4  
5 (Concludes public comment letters as  
6 submitted to Council.)

7  
8 MS. REED: And that concludes the  
9 Citizens Participation.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mrs. Reed.  
11 On the question? On the question, I'll start  
12 with Mr. Grassi's questions. So we did submit  
13 and Mr. Grassi did reach out to me previous to  
14 this. And I did submit his questions to the  
15 administration because I honestly don't know  
16 who owns that New Jersey Central building or  
17 that -- the building in the 500 block of  
18 Lackawanna Ave., next in Buona Pizza.

19 And there's other questions here.  
20 We did submit these again. And we will check  
21 back next week. And we'll make sure that these  
22 questions are answered for him.

23 The second thing, Mrs. Franus's  
24 comments about Third Avenue, I did exchange a  
25 message with the Mayor about the issues on

1 Third Avenue. And we are scheduled -- are  
2 going to be scheduled to speak about that  
3 letter. That's on our agenda tonight. I'll  
4 keep everybody updated on that.

5 And finally, Miss Jeffries'  
6 questions about the street signs and the  
7 walkability study. With the street signs,  
8 Council a few months ago voted to approve a  
9 grant application I believe for the replacement  
10 of all of the street signs in the City that are  
11 damaged or faded and need to be replaced.

12 I can't remember the exact amount of  
13 street signs. But it was a sizeable amount.  
14 It was a significant amount. So we will  
15 double-check on where the City is at with that  
16 grant. I'm not sure if it was awarded. We  
17 haven't been notified about that yet.

18 The second thing Mrs. Jeffries  
19 mentioned in her comments was the -- about the  
20 maintenance fee for the database. The software  
21 that the City has now that tracks all of the  
22 signs that are replaced which Council asked a  
23 few years ago.

24 As far as I know, in fact, I'm  
25 almost positive that the DPW staff, the DPW

1 workers did not work from home. You know, they  
2 can't work from home just the nature of their  
3 position.

4 And we did -- the City did -- I  
5 don't know if they hired the person yet. But  
6 they did put in an extra traffic sign person in  
7 the 2021 budget. So we'll double-check if that  
8 position has been filled yet.

9 MR. DONAHUE: I think there was two  
10 positions there, Bill, wasn't there?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: I'm not -- I thought  
12 it was one but I could be wrong. I'll  
13 double-check on that. But the database I know  
14 is reviewed. We could ask Director Preambo for  
15 an update on that. I just think it's -- it  
16 made the -- made the City more efficient in  
17 regards to replacing the street signs.

18 I think the administration is taking  
19 the right path here and the DPW in terms of  
20 applying for that grant to replace all the  
21 street signs that are damaged or faded. And  
22 there's a lot of them, especially up in the  
23 Hill sections.

24 I know that Mrs. Jeffries has been  
25 really kind of leading the charge here for the

1 last few years and coming to Council and making  
2 that a point. So I appreciate that. So we'll  
3 get an update for Mrs. Jeffries on that.

4 And the second thing about the  
5 walkability study, we will ask for an update on  
6 that. I thought that that was kind of put on  
7 the back burner from what I remember. And the  
8 reason that the Mayor and OECD gave at that  
9 time was because of the pandemic.

10 But we just can double-check and  
11 refresh our memories on that. And also, I want  
12 to thank Mrs. Jeffries for her kind words in  
13 the beginning of her comments. Hopefully we  
14 will cross paths again. You know, this is the  
15 last place that any of us want to be looking on  
16 a computer screen and not being in Council  
17 Chambers.

18 And, you know, being on Council for  
19 seven -- almost eight years now we get to know  
20 the people who come regularly to the Council  
21 meetings. And many of them are friends because  
22 we see them every week. And I personally  
23 appreciate the fact that those concerned  
24 residents like Mrs. Jeffries show up almost  
25 weekly with their concerns.

1                   They pay attention to the agenda.  
2                   They pay attention to what's going on in the  
3                   City. And just as Council's a check on the  
4                   Mayor and her administration, Mrs. Jeffries and  
5                   others who come to the meetings are a check on  
6                   the Council. And that's a good thing. And  
7                   they keep us on our toes and they do a really  
8                   wonderful job. So I want to thank her for  
9                   that.

10                   And hopefully, you know, I think  
11                   we're all praying that we can get back in  
12                   Council Chambers as quickly as possible and see  
13                   each other in the flesh again. Anyone else on  
14                   the question? All those in favor 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                   eyes have it and so moved.

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

23                   MOTIONS.

24                   MR. GAUGHAN: Councilman Schuster,  
25                   do you have any motions or comments?

1 MR. SCHUSTER: You know, while the  
2 Meadowbrook Project is fresh on our minds, can  
3 we have Lori send correspondence over to the  
4 administration about when they are going to  
5 release the contractor to take a look at those  
6 four properties there along Wyoming Avenue?

7 I know they have -- it's been filled  
8 in with gravel and that. But I think there's  
9 some repaving and regrading that needs to be  
10 done to those properties.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Anything else?

14 MR. SCHUSTER: That's all.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Thank you,  
16 Councilman Schuster. Councilman McAndrew, any  
17 motions or comments?

18 MR. MCANDREW: I do have some  
19 comments or an update, I should say. I'm happy  
20 to report an update on the Hometown Heros  
21 Banner Program initiative I brought forth a few  
22 months ago in Council.

23 Through collaboration with Todd  
24 Pousley from NeighborWorks of Northeastern  
25 Pennsylvania and Leadership Lackawanna, which



1 has decided to take this as -- on as one of  
2 their core projects for the year. So with  
3 regards to that, they accepted or approved this  
4 as a project. They will do a lot of groundwork  
5 for us.

6 They do a great job. They do  
7 fund-raising. I know my daughter was involved  
8 in a project last year with a park. So they'll  
9 have people dedicated to this which will be  
10 great. Also, we're starting to get this  
11 project off the ground.

12 Todd Pousley will be the liaison  
13 between Leadership Lackawanna and then our  
14 committee. Our committee meaning to include  
15 myself, Council -- Chris Smith being our City  
16 Hall point person. Robert DeLuca who is a West  
17 Scranton High School principal and a veteran  
18 along with Jim Kuchwara and his team from the  
19 American Legion Post 25.

20 I also see this committee expanding  
21 and this project expanding and being embraced  
22 by everyone in the City. So once we have some  
23 meetings are set up, of course, I'll get -- you  
24 know, I'll provide updates. Also Mary Ellen  
25 McDonough reached out to me from the Minooka

1 part -- section of town. And they're very  
2 interested over there.

3 So this will be another group that  
4 will jump in on this. So it's just in the  
5 beginning stages. We'll start having meetings.  
6 Like I said, I'll update everybody and I'll see  
7 this project through. Thank you. That's all I  
8 have.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman  
10 McAndrew. It's a great project and thanks for  
11 taking the lead on it. Very good.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Sure.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Dr. Rothchild, do you  
14 have any motions or comments?

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: No motions or  
16 comments tonight. Thank you.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. And,  
18 Councilman Donahue, any motions or comments?

19 MR. DONAHUE: The only thing I have  
20 tonight is something I brought up in caucus  
21 before. But Miss Reed was going to send a  
22 request for an update on 2208 Prospect Avenue.  
23 There's been some complaints from neighbors.

24 And I know it was sort of working  
25 through the process with Licensing and

1           Inspections. We sent a request out a couple  
2 weeks ago. I haven't received anything back.  
3 So I know she resent that already actually.

4                       Also, Mrs. Reed, would we be able to  
5 get an update or would you be able to request  
6 an update from the administration on where  
7 they're at in terms of hiring a zoning officer?  
8 I know Don King the City Planner sort of been  
9 doing double-duty there for well over a year  
10 now.

11                      So just see where they're at there.  
12 I know that's an important position and it  
13 becomes even more important as we move into  
14 spring. That's all I have tonight.

15                      MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Councilman  
16 Donahue. Just a few comments. And most of  
17 these I covered in the caucus. But I'm going  
18 to ask for the following updates, number one, I  
19 would like an update from the Mayor and the  
20 administration on the conversion from the  
21 Business Privilege and Mercantile Tax to the  
22 Payroll Preparation Tax.

23                      It's been a few weeks since we've  
24 heard any sort of update on that. And every  
25 day that goes by is a day that we're losing

1           because this has to be done before the City  
2           exits Act 47.

3                       So I'd like to know what the plan is  
4           moving forward, you know. This is something  
5           that was approved by the voters of the City of  
6           Scranton overwhelmingly. The Business  
7           Privilege and Mercantile Tax is despised  
8           amongst the business community.

9                       It hurts our businesses. It's a  
10          very regressive tax. And it's clear, you know,  
11          where the people want the City to move. It's  
12          just taking much longer I think than anyone  
13          expected. So I'd like an update on that. Also  
14          an update from the Mayor --

15                      MR. MCANDREW: Can I just jump in on  
16          that too also? I mean, the reason for the  
17          extension of Act 47 was to implement this. So,  
18          I'm sorry, I just wanted to throw that out  
19          there -- one the main reasons.

20                      MR. GAUGHAN: Also I'd like to ask  
21          for an update on the recycling. We had  
22          received a memo. It was in Third Order a few  
23          weeks ago about the recycling -- recycling in  
24          the City. An RFP was issued. And both of  
25          the -- I think both of the bidders were denied.

1           So I'd like an update on that, also an update  
2           on the delinquent refuse RFP that was out.  
3           They chose Portnoff. We went back and forth  
4           with the administration on that and gave our  
5           thoughts and changes to the legislation. And  
6           we have not really heard anything on that yet.  
7           So I'd like an update on that.

8                         And also, two weeks ago I had  
9           submitted questions regarding an update on the  
10          Act 47 recommendations. So I'd like to just to  
11          see where we are with that. Also in the  
12          caucus, I brought up the fact that we do have  
13          an acting Police Chief.

14                        The Police Chief was -- we passed  
15          legislation in September to hire Leonard  
16          Namiotka as the acting Police Chief or interim  
17          Police Chief as they called it. So I'd like an  
18          update on when we're actually going to get  
19          legislation for a Police Chief that doesn't  
20          have that title because there's issues I think  
21          with the administrative code as Solicitor Hayes  
22          pointed out a few weeks ago.

23                        We also talked about the Ethics  
24          Board appointment. So Council does have one  
25          appointment left. And we did receive one

1 resume and letter of interest from Dave  
2 Falchek. We did not receive any others so we  
3 are going to draft legislation to appoint  
4 Mr. Falchek. And that should be on the agenda  
5 within the next week or two.

6 Also, just to end with some good  
7 news, there was an article today in the  
8 newspaper and a study was done on Realtor dot  
9 com nationally and Scranton received  
10 recognition as the third best place in the  
11 country to work remotely.

12 And I thought that was some really  
13 good positive news for the City. So I think  
14 it's something that in spite of all of the  
15 negative things that are going and different  
16 things with the pandemic, it's something I  
17 think the City can hang their hat on moving  
18 forward. And that's all I have. Thank you.

19 MR. SCHUSTER: I should have brought  
20 this up when Director Donahue -- Councilman  
21 Donahue brought up the DPW garbage collection.  
22 Do we know if all of the new 2021 schedules  
23 have gone out to the residents?

24 MR. GAUGHAN: I don't know.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: I know I received

1 mine. But I did get a few calls asking if the  
2 schedules went out that some residents didn't  
3 receive them. So if that's something else  
4 maybe we could look into or have Lori look  
5 into.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else? Okay.  
9 Thank you. Mrs. Reed?

10 MS. REED: Thank you. 5-B. FOR  
11 INTRODUCTION – A RESOLUTION – A RESOLUTION OF  
12 THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
13 CREATING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE THE  
14 FEASIBILITY OF RENAMING WYOMING AVENUE OR  
15 ANOTHER PROMINENT ROADWAY IN HONOR OF UNITED  
16 STATES PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

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

20 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
23 the question, as I mentioned last week, we're  
24 going to form this committee and look at what  
25 the process is for renaming a street in the

1 City of Scranton.

2 It's, you know, doesn't come along  
3 often that you have a President of the United  
4 States who was born in your City. And I think  
5 that's something that we should all take a lot  
6 of pride in. And I think the vast majority of  
7 Scrantonians do take a lot of pride in that the  
8 fact that we have someone who was born here and  
9 raised here for the first 10 years of his life  
10 and who always came back here and never forgot  
11 the City of Scranton.

12 And as I mentioned last week, the  
13 eyes of not only the country but the whole  
14 entire world had been on Scranton because of  
15 Joe Biden. And it's been really tremendously  
16 positive for us. So whether you're a Democrat,  
17 Republican, Independent, party affiliation  
18 doesn't matter here.

19 It's about honoring the fact that  
20 this person made it all the way to the highest  
21 office in the land. And it's an extremely,  
22 extremely positive thing for the City. Anyone  
23 else on the question? All those in favor of  
24 introduction signify by saying aye.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.



1 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

6 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF  
8 MARY JO SHERIDAN, 1213 SCHLAGER STREET,  
9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO SERVE AS A  
10 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
11 LACKAWANNA COUNTY LAND BANK TO A FIVE (5) YEAR  
12 TERM WHICH COMMENCED ON DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND  
13 IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2025.

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

17 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

18 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

20 All those in favor of introduction signify by  
21 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-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
4 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF  
5 MARION E. GATTO, 12 FRANK WAY, SCRANTON,  
6 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE  
7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LACKAWANNA  
8 COUNTY LAND BANK TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WHICH  
9 COMMENCED ON DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND IS SCHEDULED  
10 TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2025.

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

14 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

17 MR. MCANDREW: On the question, I'd  
18 just like to say I know Marion Gatto very well.  
19 And she brings -- I'm glad that she's being  
20 brought back for another five years. She  
21 brings great value to this Landbank Board of  
22 Directors and has vast real estate experience.  
23 So I wish her well.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone  
25 else on the question? All those in favor of

1 introduction signify by saying aye.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

3 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

8 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
9 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
10 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY  
11 OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN  
12 AGREEMENT WITH BAUT STUDIOS, 1095 MAIN STREET,  
13 SWOYERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 18704 TO RESTORE THE  
14 STAINED GLASS TRANSOM WINDOWS AT THE ENTRANCE  
15 OF CITY HALL.

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

19 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? The  
22 only question I have here is, Mrs. Reed, if you  
23 could just find out what line item the balance  
24 of the funds to pay for this project is coming  
25 from.

1                   It says from City General Funds.  
2                   I'd like to know the specific line item. And  
3                   the City is using historic preservation funds  
4                   in the amount of \$15,479 to offset the costs.  
5                   And it could be anywhere between \$38,700 and  
6                   \$45,000. Anyone else on the question? All  
7                   those in favor of introduction signify by  
8                   saying aye.

9                   MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

10                  MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

11                  MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

12                  DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

15                  MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
16                  A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION  
17                  OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
18                  ("HARB") AND DENYING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
19                  APPROPRIATENESS FOR L. R. COSTANZO  
20                  CO., INC., 123 NORTH MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
21                  PENNSYLVANIA 18504 FOR THE FOLLOWING UPGRADES  
22                  TO SITE LIGHTING THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY AT PNC  
23                  BANK, 201 PENN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA 18503.

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

1           into its proper committee.

2                   MR. DONAHUE:   So moved.

3                   MR. SCHUSTER:   Second.

4                   MR. GAUGHAN:   On the question?  On  
5           the question, Solicitor Hayes is going to issue  
6           a memo to Council just on the process moving  
7           forward with this piece.  I believe that we  
8           have to give L. R. Costanzo Company the  
9           opportunity to attend a Council meeting and  
10          whether it's to, you know, give their opinion  
11          on it or object.

12                   There is something in the  
13          legislation that we passed a few years ago that  
14          gave the applicant recourse -- so Solicitor  
15          Hayes is going to look at that and we'll have  
16          something to report next week.  Anyone else on  
17          the question?  All those in favor of  
18          introduction signify by saying aye.

19                   MR. SCHUSTER:   Aye.

20                   MR. MCANDREW:   Aye.

21                   MR. DONAHUE:   Aye.

22                   DR. ROTHCHILD:  Aye.

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

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

1 A RESOLUTION – ACCEPTING A DONATION PROVIDED  
2 TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR TWO (2) THERMOBODY  
3 TEMPERATURE CAMERAS TO BE DONATED BY ICU  
4 SURVEILLANCE SERVICE, LLC.

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

8 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

9 MR. MCANDREW: So moved.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

12 MR. MCANDREW: Yeah, on question,  
13 I'd like to thank ICU Surveillance Services for  
14 this very nice donation. These thermobody  
15 temperature cameras provide another line of  
16 defense and safety for our police department.  
17 So I think this is great. Thank you.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone  
19 else on the question? All those in favor of  
20 introduction 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.

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

3 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 51,  
4 2021 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE  
5 COUNCIL NO. 78, 2019, AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)  
6 ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET  
7 2020" BY TRANSFERRING \$13,591.25 FROM ACCOUNT  
8 NO. 01.401.13090.4299 NON-DEPARTMENTAL  
9 EXPENDITURES CONTINGENCY TO ACCOUNT NUMBER  
10 01.011.0078.4201 TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR PAYMENT  
11 OF FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES THROUGH THE 2020  
12 BUDGET PERIOD.

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

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

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

21 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

22 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

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

1 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR  
2 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR  
3 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 46, 2021 -  
4 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.  
5 78, 2019, AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED  
6 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2020" BY  
7 TRANSFERRING \$34,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.  
8 01.401.13090.4299 NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES  
9 TO CONTINGENCY TO THE ACCOUNT NUMBERS LISTED  
10 BELOW TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR PAYMENT  
11 OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS THROUGH THE 2020  
12 BUDGET PERIOD.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: What is recommendation  
14 of the Chairperson for the Committee on  
15 Finance?

16 MR. SCHUSTER: As the Chairperson  
17 for the Committee on Finance, I recommend 7-A  
18 for final passage.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

23 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

25 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.



1 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

4 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

8 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
10 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 47, 2021 - AN ORDINANCE  
11 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 78, 2019, AN  
12 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY  
13 OPERATING BUDGET 2020" BY TRANSFERRING  
14 \$4,280.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.051.00082.4448  
15 DEPARTMENT OF LICENSE & INSPECTIONS BUREAU OF  
16 BUILDINGS PAWC-WATER TO ACCOUNT  
17 NO.01.401.10120.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL) ST CATS  
18 & DOGS TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR  
19 PAYMENT OF ST CATS & DOGS SPAY AND NEUTER  
20 INVOICES THROUGH THE 2020 BUDGET PERIOD.

21 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the  
22 recommendation of the Chairperson for the  
23 Committee on Finance?

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

1 passage of 7-B.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

8 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

10 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

12 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

16 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
18 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 48, 2021 - AN ORDINANCE  
19 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 2020, AS  
20 AMENDED BY FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.59, 2019,  
21 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE  
22 COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS  
23 AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
24 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENACT A WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
25 COLLECTION FEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING

1 REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND  
2 COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF  
3 SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE",  
4 BY IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE  
5 OF \$300.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020 AND THE SAME  
6 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY  
7 THEREAFTER" TO PROVIDE AN EXTENSION OF THE  
8 DEADLINE TO PAY 2020 REFUSE FEES UNTIL MARCH  
9 31, 2021 DUE TO THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS CAUSED  
10 BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

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

14 MR. SCHUSTER: As Chairperson for  
15 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
16 passage of Item 7-C.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On  
19 the question, I'm going to be voting in favor  
20 of this. As everybody knows the pandemic has  
21 had a really awful affect on people's finances,  
22 people who lost their jobs, couldn't go --  
23 couldn't go to work, didn't have an income  
24 coming in.

25 And it's just been really difficult

1 on people. And the \$300 garbage fee as all of  
2 us know is a significant amount. So if there  
3 were people within the last year since the  
4 pandemic started that fell behind and couldn't  
5 make that payment, I think this at least wipes  
6 off the penalties and the interest. So I'll be  
7 voting in favor. Anyone else on the question?  
8 Roll call, please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

10 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

12 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

14 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

16 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

20 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -  
22 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 49, 2021 - AN ORDINANCE  
23 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 47, 2000, AN  
24 ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED BY FILE OF THE COUNCIL  
25 NO. 8, 1999 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING

1 FEES TO BE IMPOSED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
2 EMERGENCY SERVICES BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE  
3 DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION AND  
4 ENFORCEMENT OF SAID FEES; AND PRESCRIBING  
5 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS," BY UPDATING THE FEE  
6 SCHEDULE CONTAINED IN SECTION 4 THEREOF.

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

10 MR. SCHUSTER: As Chairperson for  
11 the Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
12 passage of Item 7-D.

13 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

14 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
15 call, please, Kathy.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

21 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION  
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
4 RESOLUTION NO. 114, 2021 - AUTHORIZING THE  
5 MAYOR AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
6 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT  
7 AGREEMENT WITH CRISTIAN GARCIA TORRES.

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

11 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll  
13 call, please.

14 MR. MCANDREW: I'm sorry, I have  
15 something on the question. I'm sorry. Of  
16 course, I understand all -- we talked about  
17 this in caucus last week. I understand the  
18 legal ramifications of this.

19 But, you know, if a yes vote doesn't  
20 feel good to me then it's a no vote. This is a  
21 personal thing. But, you know, this resolution  
22 is based on the ordinance that we're changing  
23 the language because of language.

24 But we could still implement this  
25 ordinance based on other language. And it's

1 clear that the language is the "F" word. Since  
2 last meeting I spoke to a couple of Hispanic  
3 people. And they said that's it. So I didn't  
4 have to Google it. They said that's what it  
5 refers to.

6 And I'll give you an example, say if  
7 I retire tomorrow and moved over to Hungry  
8 and the word cookie over in Hungry means male  
9 pieces -- or genitalia. I'm not going to open  
10 a bakery and call it Mark's Cookies over there  
11 just out of courtesy.

12 So, you know, I know there's freedom  
13 of speech and self expression and I'm all for  
14 that. I just want to know where we're going  
15 with this moving forward that we're taking  
16 stuff out of our ordinances and now we'll pick  
17 and choose what's offensive.

18 And there will be an argument all  
19 the time. So like I said, I own my own vote.  
20 This is my personal thing. So I'll be voting  
21 no. Thank you.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the  
23 question? I'm going to be voting yes for this  
24 settlement agreement for the simple fact that  
25 based on the opinion that was presented by

1           Solicitor O'Brien and then the concurrence from  
2           Solicitor Hayes, if we don't accept the  
3           settlement agreement if Council does not accept  
4           it, then we are most likely going to lose the  
5           case against the ACLU which would cost the City  
6           a significant amount of money.

7                         And the example that was given by  
8           Solicitor O'Brien was the case -- somewhat  
9           similar case between Colts and the ACLU and  
10          they ended up having to shell out close to  
11          \$400,000. So to me this comes down to dollars  
12          and cents. Based on everything that I've read,  
13          the City ends up losing the case, the only  
14          people that make out in the end are attorneys  
15          from the ACLU. So I'm going to be voting yes.  
16          Anyone else on the question? Roll call,  
17          please.

18                         MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

19                         MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

20                         MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

21                         MR. MCANDREW: No.

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-E legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
5 THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
6 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 115, 2021 -  
7 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
8 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
9 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH  
10 BARRY ISETT & ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PERFORM  
11 ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE  
12 OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

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

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

19 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Yes,  
21 I'd like to make a motion at this time to table  
22 agenda Item 7-F.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion

1 to table agenda Item 7-F and there's a second.  
2 On the question? On the question, I making  
3 this motion as I mentioned in caucus just for  
4 further clarification on a few things.

5 Director Cipriani has been very  
6 gracious in responding almost immediately to  
7 the questions that I posed. I did have a  
8 chance to review some of the answers as we were  
9 going back and forth this afternoon today.

10 And I just want clarification on two  
11 or three more things before I think we should  
12 move forward with this. Anyone else on the  
13 question? All those in favor of the motion to  
14 table agenda Item 7-F signify by saying aye.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye.

16 MR. MCANDREW: Aye.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Aye.

18 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. Opposed? The  
20 ayes have it and agenda Item 7-F is tabled.

21 MS. REED: EIGHTH ORDER. Old  
22 Business. Nothing at this time.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: If there's no further  
24 business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

25 MR. DONAHUE: Motion to adjourn.

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MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting is  
adjourned. Enjoy the snow shovelling. Thanks  
everyone. Stay safe.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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12 Official Court Reporter  
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