

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

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HELD:

Tuesday, May 4th, 2021

LOCATION:

VIA ZOOM

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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

WILLIAM GAUGHAN, PRESIDENT

KYLE DONAHUE, VICE PRESIDENT

MARK MCANDREW

JESSICA ROTHCHILD

THOMAS SCHUSTER

FRANK VOLDENBERG, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK - ABSENT

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, for
6 those who have passed away recently in our
7 city, especially Sam Vitris former DPW employee
8 and Union President who served the City and
9 served honorably for over 40 years.

10 Mr. Vitris was hired June 26th,
11 1980. DPW workers often don't get recognized
12 enough for the dangerous and often difficult
13 job that they have to do. And Sam Vitris
14 performed his duties honorably. He fought on
15 behalf of the employees in the DPW for years
16 and our prayers go out to him and his family.

17 This is a big loss not only for the
18 DPW, and it's a big loss for the City of
19 Scranton. We also want to have a moment of
20 silence again for all of the people in our
21 community, in our country and around the world
22 who are suffering because of this pandemic.

23 Let us continue to pray for the
24 doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical
25 professionals who seek to heal and help those

1 affected and who put themselves at risk in the
2 process, may they have protection and peace.
3 Thank you. Roll call, please, Miss Carrera.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Present.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Present.

8 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

11 MR. DONAHUE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Here. Mr. Voldenberg,
14 please dispense with the reading of the
15 minutes.

16 MR. VOLDENBERG: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

17 3-A. MINUTES OF THE ETHICS BOARD
18 MEETING HELD MARCH 17, 2021.

19 3-B. CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO MAYOR
20 PAIGE G. COGNETTI DATED APRIL 23, 2021
21 REGARDING LIST OF CURRENT EMPLOYEES AND
22 VACANCIES.

23 3-C. RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM THE
24 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 25, 2021
25 REGARDING COUNCIL'S IT DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS.

1 3-D. SINGLE TAX OFFICE CITY FUNDS
2 DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON REPORT 2020-2021 YEAR TO
3 DATE APRIL 30, 2021.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Are there
5 any comments on any of the Third Order items?
6 If not, received and filed. Do any Council
7 members have any announcement at this time?

8 MR. MCANDREW: I do. West Side lost
9 another great guy Sammy Vitris. This news I
10 heard this morning was devastating. It seemed
11 like only yesterday he retired and we all
12 realize that. My heart, thoughts and prayers
13 go out to his family and his wife Judy.

14 Secondly, I would also like to wish
15 my colleagues at the Career Technology Center
16 and all the wonderful teachers out there a
17 happy Teacher's Appreciation week.

18 And lastly, well, we all know what
19 Sunday is. If you don't know what Sunday is,
20 you're going to be in trouble. I would like to
21 wish all of the mothers and those who take the
22 role of the mother a very happy Mother's Day.
23 Jess, your first year as a mother and, Kyle,
24 your wife Mary Kate's first year as a mother
25 and my beautiful daughter Moriah's first year

1 as a mother. Happy Mother's Day to you guys.

2 And, you know, at my house
3 everybody -- it rains skittles on Mother's Day.
4 There's big dinners, parades, but hang in there
5 boys, Father's Day is right around the corner.
6 That's all I have.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
8 else?

9 MR. DONAHUE: I would just, you
10 know, my thoughts and prayers go out to, you
11 know, Sammy's wife Judy, his kids and the rest
12 of his family and the DPW as a whole. It was,
13 you know, terrible hearing that news this
14 morning.

15 On another note, the Recreation
16 Authority is holding a Butterfly playground
17 run, 5k run and 1 mile fun walk to benefit the
18 installation of a special needs playground in
19 Nay Aug Park. And that will be held on May
20 22nd at 9 a.m. So help them out to make sure
21 all the children and adults with special needs
22 can enjoy, you know, their time with family and
23 friends at the park.

24 You could sign up by going to
25 [runsignup.com\butterflyrun](http://runsignup.com/butterflyrun) or you can make a

1 monetary donation on Venmo at Nay Aug Park, all
2 one word or a check made out to the Scranton
3 Municipal Recreation Authority. And I'd also
4 like to wish Mark a happy Teacher's
5 Appreciation week.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
7 else?

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I'd also like
9 to extend my condolences to the Vitris family
10 to his children, to his father, and to his wife
11 Judy as well as extend a happy Mother's Day to
12 all the mothers out there and another day to
13 also celebrate is May 6th for Nurse's
14 Appreciation Day.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
16 else?

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes. I wanted to
18 remind everyone that tomorrow -- this week is
19 the start of Observe Scranton Week in the City.
20 So there are a lot of events and things going
21 on. You can go to the website
22 Observescranton.org.

23 There is plenty of information on
24 there. So it's a great opportunity to learn
25 about Jane Jacobs and what she stood for and

1 participate in some of the events.

2 I also want to give my condolences
3 to the family and friends of Sammy Vitris. I'm
4 very sorry to hear of his passing. And I also
5 wanted to mention someone else who passed a
6 week ago. She was actually a neighbor. She
7 lived a few houses down from me, Beverly Coyne.
8 She was 81 years old.

9 But she was the secretary to former
10 Mayor James J. Walsh and then she was a clerk
11 to District Justice Eugene Cadden. And she was
12 also married to a retired fire captain of our
13 Scranton Fire Department. So, you know,
14 definitely a great loss to the Coyne family and
15 I wanted to give my condolences to them as
16 well.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Earlier today Governor
18 Wolf announced that his administration is
19 lifting the COVID-19 mitigation orders for
20 masking -- except for masking at 12:10 a.m., on
21 Monday, May 31st. So Council will reassume in
22 person meetings in Council Chambers starting on
23 Tuesday, June 1st, 2021. Masks will still be
24 required.

25 We will have further details on any

1 safety protocols for the in-person meetings in
2 the next few weeks. As I mentioned in the
3 caucus tonight, we do have a new City Clerk
4 which I want to welcome Frank Voldenberg.
5 Frank took over yesterday and was sworn in by
6 Magistrate Corbett.

7 So anyone who is going to submit
8 public comment for the next three weeks because
9 we'll be doing the Zoom meeting for the next
10 three weeks in May, you could send your
11 comments to Frank's e-mail. His e-mail is
12 Fvoldenberg, V-0-L-D-E-N-B-E-R-G,
13 Scrantonpa.gov.

14 And that goes until Tuesday at 3
15 p.m., the day of the meeting at 3 p.m. That's
16 the cutoff. And if you want to mail your
17 comments and, of course, as always send them to
18 340 North Washington Avenue, attention City
19 Clerk, second floor, 18503. And that's all I
20 have. Mr. Voldenberg.

21 MR. VOLDENBERG: FOURTH ORDER.
22 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: At this time will
24 someone please make a motion to accept public
25 comment from the following individuals:

1 Patricia Nestor, John White, Joseph Healey,
2 Norma Jeffries, Marie Schumacher and Charlie
3 Spano.

4 MR. DONAHUE: I make a motion to
5 accept public comment.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: There's been a motion
8 and a second to accept public comment.
9 Mr. Voldenberg, will you please read the
10 comments into the record at this time?

11 MR. VOLDENBERG: The first
12 submission is from Miss Patricia Nestor and
13 read as follows:

14 I would like to know what authority
15 Chrissy Manuel from United Neighborhood Center
16 has over city property? She never ran for
17 public office nor has been elected by
18 taxpayers. On what authority does her and UNC
19 get to decide the fate of Capouse Pool or paint
20 hideous murals in our neighborhood? If she
21 wants to make decisions regarding public parks,
22 she should run for office! Once again
23 nonprofits have more say in the city than the
24 taxpayer. Penn Ridge is a pool, not a splash
25 pad!

1 On Friday April 30, 2021 Mayor
2 Cognetti stated that Capouse Pool is set for
3 demolition.

4 When did you as a council vote on
5 that? When did you even discuss it?

6 Why is the fate of city property in
7 the hands of a nonprofit? The United
8 Neighborhood Center should not be making
9 decisions that the representatives of the
10 taxpayers should! UNC is making decisions based
11 on the goals of their financial backers, not
12 the tax payers.

13 The taxpayers built that pool with
14 the intention of keeping it as a pool. It's a
15 shame city government let it become a mess
16 through lack of care and maintenance. That
17 doesn't give nonprofits the right to take over.

18 Who ordered the demolition of
19 Capouse Pool without your authority?

20
21 MR. VOLDENBERG: The second
22 submission is from Mr. John white and Reads as
23 follows:

24 City Council:

25 I'm writing today to gain your

1 attention to an ongoing health issues in our
2 neighborhoods. The dust, dirt and other debris
3 from pgw making cuts in the road for gas lines.
4 We can't keep our neighborhoods clean. Every
5 land fill truck that goes by Our homes kicks
6 up more choking grime And many trucks travel
7 wheeler ave every day.

8 Among other issues of nuisance,we
9 have, in our neighborhood. The very serious
10 health issues of asthma, copd and more.
11 Here are some cheap and effective things that
12 can be helpful in remedying this issue city
13 wide.*

14 * enlist our fire department to
15 power hose right behind the utility vehicles.
16 *agree with university, hospital or other non
17 profit to do the same.

18 *Contract. With Mr. Denaples to do
19 the same.

20 *encourage neighborhood citizens to
21 organize and hose down the fronts of their
22 homes, regularly.

23 *future Scranton times article:
24 "Scranton Voted one of the cleanest cities in
25 U.S.*.

1 Encourage neighborhood citizens to
2 organize and pick up their hoses sand hose of
3 their properties regularly...not.

4 If I haven't been successful in
5 relaying the severity of this situation, please
6 feel free to join me with coffee tomorrow
7 morning or any time in the 500 block of wheeler
8 to breathe for yourself. Wear your mask.
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. VOLDENBERG: The third
12 submission is from Mr. Joseph Healey and reads
13 as follows:

14 I was very encouraged to learn that
15 Scranton has joined with the city of Lancaster
16 and Delaware and Montgomery counties in an
17 amicus brief that backs the
18 Philadelphia/CeaseFirePA lawsuit.

19 At last weeks meeting, it was a bit
20 unclear though if the resolution to become a
21 member of "The Pennsylvania Gun Safety
22 Alliance" was in order to join the amicus brief
23 or if this was a separate measure being taken?
24 Councilman Schuster hit the nail on the head
25 when he said, "Council is starting to get into

1 things that are out of the jurisdiction of a
2 municipal" because that is the exact point of
3 the entire lawsuit.

4 The state should be enacting common
5 sense uniform laws from border to border to
6 protect Pennsylvanians, but since the
7 Republican held congress simply will not do
8 this, it is absurd that cities within the state
9 (besides Philadelphia) are unable to enact
10 safety measures on their own and must sit and
11 wait for their citizens be victimized.

12 Many citizens were extremely
13 concerned about the safety of poll workers and
14 voters during the 2020 elections (and how right
15 they were to be so) and when I had asked
16 council if they could at least enact bare
17 minimum safety measures like prohibiting
18 firearms within so many feet of polling
19 stations, I was very kindly informed by
20 attorney Hayes that the city's hands were in
21 fact tied because we are not a class 1 city
22 and therefore are prohibited from enacting any
23 such common sense safety measures.

24 If joining the "Pennsylvania Gun
25 Safety Alliance" or any other organization that

1 can help facilitate the city's power to protect
2 its citizens then I would strongly urge you to
3 do so.

4 ISSUE 2

5 Could anyone please explain the
6 sudden change in parking patterns for the
7 residents of St. Ann's St.?

8 Was parallel parking always the law
9 there? Did some legislation recently change
10 this, or was it simply never enforced in the
11 past.

12
13 MR. VOLDENBERG: The fourth
14 submission is from Miss Norma Jeffries, the
15 letter states:

16 Regarding: Street Sign Project.

17
18 Over the last 4 years, I have been
19 given the opportunity to discuss my concern on
20 the condition of the street signs in Scranton.
21 At that time, in 2017, I was a new resident of
22 Scranton and was constantly either late for
23 appointments or lost in the city because of the
24 lack of street signs.

25 The condition of the street signs

1 throughout the city became a passion of mine.
2 City Council was gracious enough to listen to
3 my concerns, as I asked for updates on the
4 project. Whenever, I requested an update, it
5 was always freely given. The last update, I was
6 told that a grant was being requested for the
7 funds.

8 Therefore, it was with great
9 excitement when I was told that a grant had
10 been secured for the replacement of the street
11 signs in the entire city of Scranton. What a
12 gift to the residents and visitors to Scranton.
13 I want to take this opportunity to put a stamp
14 of DONE on my letters and to say Thank You to
15 City Council, Thank You, Mayor Cagnetti, Marty
16 Flynn and Kyle Mullins for assisting and
17 securing the grant for the Scranton Street
18 Signs. I look forward to seeing the new signs
19 in place in the near future.

20 Again, I say,,,, Wow!! Wow!! Wow!!
21 For a job well done.

22
23 MR. VOLDENBERG: The fifth
24 submission is from Marie Schumacher and it
25 reads as follows:

1 First I want to give a shout out to
2 our City Forester, Tony Santoli. The wind
3 gusts we had last week could have caused havoc
4 if Tony hasn't been marking dangerous trees for
5 trimming or removal for over two decades
6 without receiving a penny from the taxpayers.

7 About a decade or so ago Tony campaigned to
8 place trees in front of homes if the home
9 owners were willing. Thanks to his efforts we
10 have streets with beautiful trees. Some have
11 flowers in the Spring while the leaves of
12 others provide vivid colors in the Fall. Which
13 ever they add much beauty while cleaning the
14 air.

15
16 Next, I would like to welcome City
17 Clerk Frank Voldenberg.

18
19 As reported by the Times Tribune,
20 Astra Wealth Advisors will be moving to Clarks
21 Green. While the owner spoke well of Scranton
22 he also mentioned some negatives and I wonder
23 if any member of Council had or has scheduled a
24 debrief which might help in the effort to bring
25 business to the City.

1 Mr. Gaughan will probably be the
2 only member of Council who remembers the
3 December 2015 release of the Chamber of
4 Commerce Community Revitalization plan that it
5 hoped would secure the top prize in the
6 America's Best Communities competition and
7 provide vision and unity to guide redevelopment
8 of downtown Scranton. I am asking the Chamber
9 be invited to Council to report the outcome of
10 this five-year effort.

11
12 I believe it was 2018 when Council
13 authorized a ten-year LERTA with the
14 expectation ten-years downstream there would be
15 a substantial property tax increase. The
16 missing element was a definition of
17 substantial.

18 I am asking Council to ask the
19 Administration to begin using expectation
20 metrics when a new program is sent to Council
21 for approval and report regularly on those
22 metrics if approved.

23
24 While on the LERTA topic I would
25 like to report that I saw a new, what I

1 consider bait-and-switch, billboard. This one
2 went Make Scranton your home office. Pay zero
3 taxes for 10 years. Mr. Gaughan, you know
4 LERTA only applies to the increase in
5 improvements made. I do not know why the City
6 allows such misinformation on billboards.

7 What Finally, I have never known a
8 responsible organization developing a new
9 system without maintaining the current system
10 until the new system was perfected.

11 The City's website is an
12 embarrassment. It is a beautiful skeleton but
13 there is no meat on the bones. You can' find
14 nothing. This has got to be corrected.

15
16 MR. VOLDENBERG: The sixth
17 submission is from Mr. Charlie Spano and reads
18 as follows:

19 I would like to thank the Council,
20 the Mayor and the great employees at DPW for
21 your assistance in this effort to honor and
22 remember Walter Pasiak. He was a real hero and
23 a great example of an honorable, good man.
24 Thank you. See you at Noon May 8th at 416
25 Breck St.

1 (Concludes public comment letters as
2 submitted to Council.)

3
4 MR. VOLDENBERG: And that ends the
5 public comment.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you, Mr.
7 Voldenberg. Okay. On the question for the
8 public comment.

9 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, first
10 off in terms of Miss Jeffries, I just want to
11 thank her for her strong and consistent
12 advocacy on the street sign issue. Back when I
13 was new to Council about three years ago, I
14 don't know if it was right before or right
15 after I got on. I can't remember.

16 But I know that when she first
17 brought this up, I know Councilman Gaughan
18 inquired with then Business Administrator Dave
19 Bulzoni who reported back to Council that there
20 was a need for an up-to-date assessment and
21 list of signs throughout the City in order to
22 even apply for these grants.

23 So, you know, back in September of
24 '18 we, you know, unanimously approved a
25 contract for the company to perform that

1 assessment. So I just wanted to just say so in
2 addition to, like, the current administration
3 and State Representative Flynn and Mullins, I
4 also think that Councilman Gaughan and
5 Mr. Bulzoni should also be recognized and
6 thanked for spearheading the legwork that was
7 necessary to get us to this point.

8 And then also on Miss Schumacher's
9 comments, I also saw those billboards and I had
10 the same thought. So, Mr. Voldenberg, would we
11 be able to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce
12 regarding those billboards to see exactly what
13 they mean by those? Because I know a LERTA
14 isn't 100 percent tax free. And that's all I
15 have on that.

16 MR. VOLDENBERG: Yes, Councilman
17 Gaughan, I will do that.

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

20 MR. MCANDREW: I'd like to speak to
21 Mr. Healey's issue too inquiring about the
22 sudden change in parking patterns for residents
23 on St. Ann's Street. So about a couple months
24 ago we started getting a couple warnings it was
25 on Facebook that, you know, parallel parking

1 would no longer be allowed.

2 And it's been allowed for my 58
3 years that I have lived here. So I dug a
4 little deeper and found out that some residents
5 were complaining about the parking. And then I
6 also received residents on the other side
7 saying why are we no longer being able to park?
8 It's the widest street in the City.

9 So my understanding is there was
10 never legislation on the books that allowed for
11 to us park for -- for angle parking. So in
12 order to do so, I requested a study be done, a
13 traffic study to see if, in essence, we are
14 actually able to do it and have that approved.
15 So that's where we're at with that. That's all
16 I have.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
18 else on the question? I just want to address a
19 few items that came up in the public comment.
20 So first I want to thank all six of those
21 individuals who submitted public comment. As I
22 mentioned earlier in the meeting, we will get
23 back to in person meetings on June 1st.

24 So, you know, this obviously has not
25 been the most ideal situation conducting a

1 public meeting like this. It's worked for our
2 circumstances with the pandemic. But again, we
3 are going to get back into chambers on June
4 1st.

5 Miss Nestor's comments about the
6 United Neighborhood Center and Chrissy Manuel.
7 So there's no great conspiracy theory that's
8 going on here between UNC and the City. The
9 United Neighborhood Center has been a huge
10 benefit to the City of Scranton, huge benefit.

11 Just in terms of what they did in
12 conjunction with the City and other entities on
13 Cedar Avenue in South Scranton, there's been a
14 major revitalization there. We're hopefully
15 going to see the same thing happen in Pine
16 Brook which is desperately, desperately needed.

17 So again, I know the term non-profit
18 has a negative connotation sometimes. But
19 there are non-profits who do very good work and
20 the United Neighborhood Center and Chris Manuel
21 do a wonderful, wonderful job.

22 In terms of Capouse pool, Council
23 would not have any control over the Mayor's
24 decision to demolish the pool. I know that
25 there has not been a final determination on

1 what exactly is going to go there. I know that
2 the initial conversations were that they want
3 to put some sort of recreation there which I'm
4 in favor of.

5 But that decision has not been made
6 yet. And Miss Nestor's comments that the City
7 property is in the hands of a non-profit is not
8 true. The City still retains control over that
9 property. So I hope that clears that up.

10 We'll send Mr. White's comments to
11 the administration about Wheeler Avenue and
12 some of the issues that he brought up, which I
13 think were very good. As for Mr. Healey's
14 comments, I think I could answer at least one
15 of his questions about the Pennsylvania Gun
16 Safety Alliance.

17 His question was, did that have
18 anything to do with the City joining that --
19 the lawsuit with the City of Lancaster and
20 Delaware, Montgomery counties. No, those were
21 two separate things. So the resolution on our
22 agenda last week which was tabled was
23 completely separate from the lawsuit that the
24 administration entered which Council did not
25 have a vote on or anything to do with.

1 So the Mayor was able to make that
2 decision on her own without Council's approval.
3 So I hope that answers that. I want to thank
4 Miss Jeffries for her comments and for her
5 activism on that issue of street signs.

6 Miss Jeffries always comes to
7 Council with good questions and good ideas to
8 help the City and saw the fruits of her labor
9 come to fruition which is nice.

10 And then Miss Schumacher's comments
11 Councilman Donahue addressed one of them.
12 We'll try to get some answers for some of the
13 questions that were posed. And I would agree
14 with her on her comment about Tony Santoli,
15 the City Forester. He's been a great asset to
16 the City over the last few years.

17 And he does it for free. He does it
18 as a volunteer. He does not get paid for that
19 position. And that's all I have. Anyone else
20 on the question? All those in favor 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. Mr. Voldenberg.

3 MR. VOLDENBERG: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
4 MOTIONS.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Councilman
6 Schuster, any motions or comments?

7 MR. SCHUSTER: No, nothing at this
8 time.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Councilman
10 McAndrew, any motions or comments?

11 MR. MCANDREW: I have nothing at
12 this time. Thanks.

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

15 DR. ROTHCHILD: I have no motions or
16 comments tonight. Thank you.

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

19 MR. DONAHUE: I'd just like to
20 welcome Mr. Voldenberg and wish him the best of
21 luck in his new position. The City's paving
22 program started. Some of the streets have been
23 paved already. I know one of the -- two of the
24 worst sections of the City I think besides
25 Boulevard Avenue were the Wintermantle stretch

1 from Beech Street -- or Birch Street to the
2 dead end.

3 And that has been paved. And
4 another one that was like a -- it really was
5 like a roller coaster going down was the 18, 19
6 and 2000 blocks of South Webster Avenue. And
7 that (audio interruption) I think that those
8 really are beneficial because those were, you
9 know, two of the worst stretches in the City.

10 Also, the Keyser Valley stormwater
11 and flood mitigation study has officially
12 begun. We approved that contract about a month
13 or two ago. But, you know, just a reminder
14 this is a necessary first step to begin to
15 address the flooding issues the residents of
16 the Keyser Valley have been dealing with. So
17 that has gotten underway.

18 And one of the requests I have for
19 the administration maybe we could try -- I
20 guess we'll send it to the Business
21 Administrator, Carl Deeley but, Mr. Voldenberg,
22 could you just request an update on the
23 downtown kiosk project? I know that we've
24 gotten -- got a lot of information before the
25 pandemic regarding that.

1 And I know -- I think they even set
2 up places where they were going to go. But I
3 don't think we heard anything since then.
4 So -- but that's all I have. Thank you.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

6 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll take care of
7 that, Councilman Donahue. Thank you.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Thank you.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Just a couple things,
10 Miss Schumacher had asked a question a week or
11 two ago about the RACP grant for City Hall, for
12 renovations to City Hall. Eileen Cipriani
13 responded today that the City did apply again
14 for the RACP grant in the most recent round
15 that closed March 31st, 2021.

16 The City applied for 1.8 million.
17 And she's hopeful that they are announcing the
18 awards by the end of May. So we should
19 hopefully know something by the end of May
20 which is a good thing. We had -- I had two
21 citizen's complaints.

22 One was a dangerous tree on Drinker
23 Place in Green Ridge. A neighbor had called me
24 about it. So I did send that over to DPW and
25 they are going to investigate that. And then

1 there's a building in Hill Top in the Scranton
2 housing complex. I've gotten complaints about
3 this over the years and it's nonstop, loud
4 vulgar music and a bunch of other things.

5 So the neighbors up there are very
6 upset about it. So, Mr. Voldenberg, I'd
7 like -- we've done this before. But if we
8 could send another letter to the Scranton
9 Housing Authority and the Scranton Police
10 Department just making them aware.

11 The police department is aware and
12 so is the Housing Authority. But for whatever
13 reason there are still issues up there. So if
14 can you just let them know that we're starting
15 to get complaints again. That would be good.

16 MR. VOLDENBERG: Okay.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: And then my last
18 comment, I just want to thank the -- our County
19 Commissioners and their Chief of Staff Brian
20 Jeffers on the unbelievable job they've done
21 with the efforts to vaccinate Lackawanna
22 County. We are one of -- the county is one of
23 the leaders in the State of Pennsylvania in
24 getting our people vaccinated.

25 So I just wanted to say what an

1 amazing effort and an amazing job to all of
2 those people involved, specifically to the
3 Commissioners and the Chief of Staff for
4 putting that together. I know it was not an
5 easy effort to undertake but they did a really
6 good job. So it was very helpful. And that's
7 all I have. Mr. Voldenberg.

8 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-B. FOR
9 INTRODUCTION – AN ORDINANCE – AMENDING FILE OF
10 THE COUNCIL NO. 69, 2016, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
11 “AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 21, 2011, AN
12 ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
13 NO. 243, 2003 ENTITLED ‘ADOPTING A
14 COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
15 ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON REGARDING
16 EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, REAL ESTATE AND PUBLIC
17 ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR REDRESS
18 OF VIOLATIONS’ IN ORDER TO BE CERTIFIED AS
19 SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE FAIR HOUSING
20 ACT, AS AMENDED IN 1988, 42 U.S.C. §3601, ET
21 SEQ. AND TO BE COMPLIANT WITH RECOMMENDED BEST
22 PRACTICES FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS
23 COMMISSION (“PHRC”)” TO EXTEND THE TERM OF
24 SERVICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS
25 COMMISSION FROM THREE (3) YEARS TO FIVE (5)

1 YEARS.

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

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

8 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I
9 mean, the justification for the change here is
10 financial. So my only question would be if we
11 could get the -- what legal expenses would be
12 associated with this training.

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Okay. Anyone else on
14 the question? All those in favor of
15 introduction 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 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-C. FOR
23 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF
25 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT

1 WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
2 PROTECTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
3 PROTECTION, BUREAU OF ABANDONED MINE
4 RECLAMATION TO ACCEPT THE DONATION/TRANSFER OF
5 1517 EUCLID AVENUE, SCRANTON PENNSYLVANIA.

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

9 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

10 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

12 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question, I'd
13 just like a little bit more information on this
14 one as well. I think we need to look into what
15 the City's liability is and if this property is
16 deemed safe and whether the Department of
17 Environmental Protection and Mine Commission
18 feel this will be in the next few years.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
20 question? Just from reading the agreement, I
21 think they're deeming it safe because they've
22 stabilized the -- satisfactorily stabilized the
23 shaft which was finished with a mound of dirt
24 and then secured with a perimeter fence.

25 So I think that -- from just reading

1 the agreement that is part of the, you know,
2 securing the property. But if you want to
3 double-check on that you can. But I think that
4 was the -- that was the mitigation effort to
5 make sure that it was safe.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, I think maybe
7 specifically if the mound of dirt is going to
8 subside and then if the fence would be removed
9 at any point in time.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, I don't -- you
11 can check but I think the fence went up to make
12 sure that, you know, obviously no kids or
13 anyone gets hurt and plays on the mound of
14 dirt. And I believe the mound of dirt is there
15 to fill in the subsidence.

16 I could wrong on that. But I think
17 that is the reason for it. We can double-check
18 on that. Anyone else 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 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-D. FOR
3 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING AN
4 ANONYMOUS DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTEEN
5 THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$15,500.00)
6 PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON IN THE FORM OF
7 A K-9 OFFICER WHICH INCLUDES THE TOTAL COST OF
8 POLICE SERVICE K-9 AND K-9 HANDLER SCHOOL.

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

12 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: 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 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-E. FOR
24 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - REAPPOINTMENT OF
25 PEDRO ANES, 555 SEYMOUR AVENUE, SCRANTON,

1 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF
2 THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION BOARD EFFECTIVE
3 MARCH 26, 2021 FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM THAT
4 WILL EXPIRE ON MARCH 26, 2026. THE ORIGINAL
5 TERM OF MR. ANES EXPIRED ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2018
6 AND WAS HELD OVER. THE START DATE OF HIS NEW
7 TERM BEGINS ON MARCH 26, 2021.

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

11 DR. ROTHCHILD: So moved.

12 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: 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 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-F. FOR
24 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - CEREMONIOUSLY
25 DEDICATING THE 1800 BLOCK OF ROSEN COURT IN

1 HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT WALTER A. PASIAK.

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

5 MR. DONAHUE: So moved.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? On
8 the question, this is a great honor for this
9 gentleman who served in the Korean War. I'm
10 very happy to see this come across our desk.
11 Anyone else on the question?

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: I agree on the
13 question, you know, I was very impressed by his
14 service to our country and certainly deserving
15 to dedicate this street to him.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. Anyone
17 else? All those in favor of introduction
18 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 ayes have it and so moved.

25 MR. VOLDENBERG: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

1 No business at this time.

2 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR
4 ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 67, 2021 -
5 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
6 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229641 ENTITLED
7 "HARRY AND JEANNETTE WEINBERG FOUNDATION -
8 WESTON FIELD GRANT" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
9 DISBURSEMENT OF CAPITAL GRANT FUNDS FROM THE
10 HARRY AND JEANNETTE WEINBERG FOUNDATION, INC.

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 7-A.

17 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

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

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

2 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

6 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-B. FOR
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
8 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.
9 159, 2021 - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
10 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
11 ("HARB") AND DENYING THE CERTIFICATE OF
12 APPROPRIATENESS FOR JOYCE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING,
13 317 POPLAR STREET, 2B, SCRANTON, PA 18509 FOR
14 THE MODIFICATION OF SIGNAGE AT 539 LINDEN
15 STREET, SCRANTON, PA 18503.

16 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Community Development?

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the
20 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
21 final passage of Item 7-B.

22 MR. MCANDREW: Second.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

24 On the question, I just want to say that a yes
25 vote on this resolution affirms HARB's denial

1 of the digital billboard. And a no vote on the
2 resolution reverses HARB's decision and it
3 would be deemed a vote of support for the
4 digital billboard.

5 I'm going to be voting yes for this
6 piece of legislation. I do agree with HARB's
7 explanation for their denial. I do think that
8 the modification of this signage would actually
9 detract from the historic nature of the
10 downtown. And it's really not consistent with
11 the historic nature of the downtown. So I'll
12 be voting yes. Anyone else on the question?
13 Okay. Roll call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

17 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

21 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

25 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-C. FOR

1 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
2 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.
3 161, 2021 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
5 EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT
6 ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE
7 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE
8 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION FIVE
9 HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$1,500,000.00) DOLLARS;
10 ACCEPTING AND DISBURSING THE GRANT IF
11 THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATE
12 THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH THE UNIVERSITY
13 OF SCRANTON AT 301 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SCRANTON
14 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED "ENGINEERING
15 PROGRAM FACILITIES PROJECT".

16 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Community Development?

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair of the
20 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
21 final passage of Item 7-C.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
25 call, please.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

4 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

8 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

12 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-D. FOR
13 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
14 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.
15 162, 2021 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
16 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
17 EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT
18 ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE
19 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE
20 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION
21 (\$1,000,000.00) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND
22 DISBURSING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS
23 SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT
24 FUNDS WITH SLOCUM HOLLOW PROPERTIES LLC, FOR
25 THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE "517 BOGART

1 PROJECT”.

2 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. What is
3 the recommendation of Chairperson for Committee
4 on Community Development?

5 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the
6 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
7 final passage of Item 7-D.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

9 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

10 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question? Roll
11 call, please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

13 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

15 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

17 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

19 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

23 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-E. FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
25 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

1 163, 2021 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
2 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND
3 EXECUTE A GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT
4 ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP) THROUGH THE
5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA’S OFFICE OF THE
6 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION
7 (\$3,000,000.00) DOLLARS; ACCEPTING AND
8 DISBURSING THE GRANT IF THE APPLICATION IS
9 SUCCESSFUL; AND COORDINATE THE USE OF THE GRANT
10 FUNDS WITH CITY OF SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT,
11 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED THE
12 “EMERGENCY BUILDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
13 PROJECT”.

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

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

20 MR. SCHUSTER: Second.

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

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

1 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

3 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

5 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-F. FOR
10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
11 DEVELOPMENT - R ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 164,
12 2021 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
13 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
15 WITH SMART RECYCLING COMPANY, INC., TO PERFORM
16 DEMOLITION WORK WITHIN THE CITY.

17 MR. GAUGHAN: What is the
18 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
19 Committee on Community Development?

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: As Chair for the
21 Committee on Community Development, I recommend
22 final passage of Item 7-F.

23 MR. DONAHUE: Second.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question?

25 MR. DONAHUE: On the question, I was

1 happy to see that Lackawanna County Court
2 upheld today the demolition of two Ken Bond
3 properties that are on this list. They're --
4 they've been, you know, needed to be torn down
5 for a while now and I'm happy that they can
6 proceed with that.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Also on the question,
8 I did get a complaint from a resident in the
9 Swetland area of West Scranton about two
10 properties on Swetland Street and those two
11 properties were included in this list of
12 demolition. So that resident was happy to see
13 that they would be included in the demolition
14 project.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Anyone else on the
16 question? Roll call, please.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

18 MR SCHUSTER: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McAndrew.

20 MR. MCANDREW: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

22 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Donahue.

24 MR. DONAHUE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

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

3 MR. VOLDENBERG: EIGHTH ORDER. Old
4 Business. Nothing at this time.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: If there is no further
6 business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Motion to adjourn.

8 MR. GAUGHAN: This meeting is
9 adjourned. Thank you everyone. Stay safe.
10 We'll see everybody next week. Thank you.

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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.

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