

COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON

HELD:

Tuesday, April 21st, 2026

LOCATION:

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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

THOMAS SCHUSTER - PRESIDENT

PATRICK FLYNN, VICE PRESIDENT

MARK MCANDREW

JESSICA ROTHCHILD

SEAN MCANDREW

FRANK VOLDENBERG, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

THOMAS GILBRIDE, ESQ., COUNCIL SOLICITOR

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. SCHUSTER: Please remain standing for a moment of silent reflection for our service men and women throughout the world and for those who have passed away in our community. Roll call, please.

MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

DR. ROTHCHILD: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Present.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

MR. MARK MCANDREW: Present.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

MR. FLYNN: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

MR. SCHUSTER: Present. Please dispense with the reading of the minutes.

MR. VOLDENBERG: THIRD ORDER.

3.A. MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON
FIREFIGHTERS PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD
MARCH 18, 2026.

3.B. MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM
MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH 18,
2026.

1 3.C. AGENDA FOR THE NON-UNIFORM
2 MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL 15,
3 2026.

4 3.D. MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE
5 PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 18, 2026.

6 3.E. CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE
7 MONTH ENDING MARCH 31, 2026.

8 3.F. MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE
9 PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH 18,2026.

10 3.G. MEMORANDUM FROM THE BUSINESS
11 ADMINISTRATION DATED APRIL 9, 2026 REGARDING
12 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) FROM GOODWILL
13 AT NORTH.

14 3.H. 2025 LISTING FOR PAYMENTS IN
15 LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) RECEIVED FROM CITY
16 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Are there
18 any comments on any of the Third Order items?

19 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: No.

20 MR. SCHUSTER: I have a few
21 comments. We have 3-E. We have the
22 Controller's report ending on March 31st, 2026.
23 I made the statement prior to the purchase of
24 the Fidelity building next door that it was my
25 fear this year that we were overextending

1 ourselves with the size of government in
2 Scranton.

3 When looking at this report for the
4 first quarter, we're short 1.2 million dollars.
5 Going back as far as I've been on Council,
6 we've always been -- we've always had more
7 revenue than we've had expenditures. I'm going
8 back to 2021 we were plus 27 million. 2023, we
9 were 9.4 over. 2024, we were 1.3, 2025, we
10 were about 555,000 over.

11 And at this point in time in the
12 first quarter we're running a little short.
13 Like I said, it's the first time in my tenure
14 on Council that we're running short for the
15 first quarter. And I just wanted to ask if
16 there's -- if we could ask Matt Domines, the
17 Business Administrator, are we projecting any
18 shortfalls this year or any concerns that we
19 have?

20 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll ask those
21 questions.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you very much.
23 3-H, we also have the pilots. We had 14 pilots
24 listed. I think it was given to us I'd say
25 about two weeks ago. When we look at this

1 list, the city, the county, the SRA, the
2 Scranton School District, Housing Authority,
3 state, the railroad own a lot of these -- a lot
4 of these properties.

5 But we do have some -- some bigger
6 pilots here. We have the University of
7 Scranton that owns 173 properties. We have
8 Lackawanna College. We have Geisinger. And I
9 only see one of these -- one of these
10 individuals, the University of Scranton payment
11 pilot for the last few years.

12 So we're going to keep the
13 conversation alive about reaching out to some
14 of these entities. One thing I'd like to point
15 out is we do see several churches that are on
16 here. So I want to thank them for their
17 payments.

18 And that's all I have for Third
19 Order. Any other comments on Third Order? If
20 not, received and filed. Any Councilmen or
21 women have any announcements at this time?

22 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yeah, I have
23 one. Scranton is turning 160. There's a
24 birthday block party at the Everhart. It is
25 Saturday, April 25th from 12 to 3 p.m. And

1 again, it's at the Everhart Museum at 1901
2 Mulberry Street. So I'm very excited to attend
3 that this weekend. And it will be a fun time.
4 Thanks.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Any other
6 announcements?

7 DR. ROTHCHILD: I just wanted to
8 mention just remind people now that it's the
9 spring and people will be looking for plants to
10 support your local businesses, one of them
11 being the Greenhouse Project. They do have
12 plant sales going on.

13 And they have cold hardy plants for
14 this time of year when you wake up to frost
15 like we did today. And so they have ready to
16 plant herbs, kale, lettuce, beets, daffodils,
17 broccoli, succulents, house plants, etc.

18 And so that sale takes place
19 Thursdays through Sundays each week from 9 a.m.
20 to 1 p.m. at the Greenhouse Project over near
21 Nay Aug Park. That's all. Thank you.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you very much.
23 Fourth Order.

24 MR. VOLDENBERG: FOURTH ORDER.
25 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: Our first speaker
2 tonight is Joan Hodowanitz.

3 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
4 Scranton. Just a friendly reminder that the
5 audit should be underway by now. If we were
6 going by the Home Rule Charter, we would have
7 until May 31st to finish it. But you know we
8 won't do that.

9 And also, DPW's contract is still
10 not on the website. So hopefully they're
11 working on that. I suspect that once they type
12 the document they're going to have to have the
13 lawyers look at it to make sure no one, you
14 know, didn't cross all the T's and dot all the
15 I's. But I want to see that on the website.

16 Kudos to the FOP for the event they
17 had on Sunday. It was a charity event for one
18 of the police officers who is ill. It was a
19 pasta dinner and it was so crowded, I'm
20 surprised that the fire marshal didn't come and
21 shut it down, but they did a good job. And
22 thank you because I got three full meals out of
23 one take home meal.

24 And for somebody for whom cooking is
25 against their religion, I appreciate it. I'm

1 very confused about this Unsheltered Task
2 Force. One would think that for such an
3 important issue the public would be welcome to
4 contribute, but apparently not. I don't know
5 why.

6 Then I pulled out the 2026 budget.
7 And there are two line items that I find
8 interesting under the nondepartmental side of
9 the house, one is the homeless outreach
10 initiative, \$31,000. And the other one is a
11 hunger initiative, \$31,000.

12 So I checked and the only money
13 expended for the homeless outreach initiative
14 was in 2025. They were budgeted for 15,000.
15 And they expended \$8,600. One thing I would
16 like to know is, who controls those
17 expenditures? Is it the task force or is it
18 someone else within the administration because
19 obviously they -- they allotted far more money
20 than they used.

21 The hunger initiatives, I couldn't
22 see any expenditures. And especially since,
23 you know, we've just finished a cruel, cruel
24 winter. It made no sense. I was wondering
25 what that is all about. So maybe in the future

1 you could tell me who controls those line
2 items, the homeless outreach initiative and
3 hunger initiative.

4 It would certainly help the people
5 who are unsheltered. The other thing is the
6 pilots. I too noticed the 14 list -- the 14
7 people on the list. What happened to the
8 Scranton Prep or as you said, Lackawanna
9 College.

10 There's got to be a lot more than 14
11 nonprofits in the city limits, would there not
12 be? I saw that they budgeted for \$280,000
13 this year and last year. But for all of 2025
14 they only got \$246,000. And this year they've
15 gotten 170,000. But I suspect most of that is
16 probably from the University of Scranton.

17 But, you know, the Diocese of
18 Scranton one could argue that they provide a
19 lot of services in kind to the city which they
20 do. But Scranton Prep? Now, you know, a lot
21 of very poor people attend Scranton Prep.

22 They are probably making a pretty
23 penny from the way, you know, their fiscal
24 assets look. So somebody needs to be making a
25 list of the non-profits in the city, you know,

1 that you were checking on that. And one by
2 one, maybe the paper could do a little story.
3 Here's the 14 that was gracious enough to, you
4 know, give a pilot.

5 What about all of your other people?
6 Maybe they need to be on their own wall of
7 shame. Thank you.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Miss
9 Hodowanitz, we were told at a meeting last week
10 that we're going to get the audit early.

11 MS. HODOWANITZ: Oh, good.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: So can't wait to get
13 that. Thank you. And, Mr. Voldenberg, can we
14 ask those questions about the hunger
15 initiatives?

16 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will, sir.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Next is
18 Mike Mancini.

19 MR. MANCINI: Thank you, Council
20 President Schuster. Good evening Council and
21 residents of Scranton. Tonight part seven of
22 my series, the state of Scranton, prepare to be
23 dazzled.

24 Since I pay attention to local
25 issues, the list can be compiled. The

1 following questionable decisions are not in any
2 certain order:

3 Number one, Rubicon; third party
4 pave cut inspections; tree cutting and an
5 engineer; 448 days to resolve the DPW labor
6 negotiations; 9 DPW directors; 6 park
7 directors, insulting every city union employee,
8 gathering information and doing nothing; no
9 teeth ordinance excuse not to act against
10 utilities cutting our roads, five fines for
11 utility pave cut infractions; two former rubber
12 stampers, one remains; removing 17 traffic
13 light intersection downtown; refusing to make
14 the profitable nonprofits accountable for their
15 rightfully owed taxes; commingling with a local
16 bank purchasing a bank that we do not need;
17 Park Gardens rental increases; circumventing
18 the zoning process for Geisinger; questionable
19 ethic violations; unfair street paving list;
20 refusal to make PA Water accountable for storm
21 drain maintenance; blame DPW employees for poor
22 snow removal; no ambulance agreement; dimming
23 the lights to one of our amazing local
24 developers; questioning fire department
25 response times; Scranton Fire Department mutual

aid agreement causing safety concerns;
unavailable working hydrants, question Engine
10's location on East Mountain; updated
Scranton Fire Department's signs at each
location, no emblem for unions; change the
Scranton Police Department testing causing a
shortage of manpower; thousand of active
warrants, change the structure of the Scranton
Police Department without a study or Council
approval; overdoses without prosecution;
refusal to publicize the provisional overdose
death rates; increase gangs, guns and drugs;
refusal for two donated canines and police
pursuit vehicles; multiple brutal homicides;
hundred of city cameras with no one watching;
frequency and nature of Scranton Police
Department calls; removing pools and replacing
them with splash pads; 25 million in the parks
from the ARPA funds and other questionable
expenses; refusal to update city website
properly; questionable bidding processes;
multiple bridges; sunken manhole covers and
train track crossings in need of repair or
replacement; crosswalk program using the wrong
paint; dull signs; ghost poles; residents in

1 fear of being out at night; good families
2 moving because of the current climate; out of
3 county Business Administrator; phone in
4 decisions that are now okay; refusal to respond
5 with information for right to knows; city hall
6 is in self-imposed lockdown behind an extra set
7 of locked doors; maternity leave reductions;
8 employee morale is at an all time low; unable
9 to lock and unlock park gates at dusk and dawn;
10 serving a resident before City Council meeting
11 with a gag order for doing the right thing;
12 fired a State Senator's mother after 19 years
13 of service with a knock on her door; possible
14 two set of books just like the county; Ufberg;
15 insulting City Council members weekly with
16 vague answers or no answers to their questions;
17 a secretive unhoused commission with zero
18 answers other than a survey for a head count;
19 six overnight beds for homeless single women;
20 homeless sexual predators with little
21 oversight. That was two syllables, by the way;
22 increased homeless break-ins of condemned
23 properties; refusal to engage (inaudible) by
24 any City Council member because of pick and
25 choose politics over people; unable to

1 understand the importance of the railway
2 connection and its concern; and number 67
3 crickets.

4 These are just some issues that I
5 noticed by paying attention. Many have
6 witnessed these same concerns that I bring up
7 week after week. It's shameful to put politics
8 above people. Is anything that I said
9 concerning? Next week, part eight, you said
10 nothing. Good evening, Scranton City Council
11 and the residents of Scranton.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Up next is Les
13 Spindler.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
15 Council, Les Spindler, city resident,
16 homeowner. First I want to start off with some
17 upsetting news I heard on Friday. Bob Bolus I
18 heard suffered a stroke. And he's -- his
19 speech is impaired. I didn't hear about
20 anything else.

21 Bob and I don't agree politically,
22 but he's my friend. I volunteered at his
23 Christmas party for the last 23 years. So I
24 wish him good health and God speed. I hope
25 everything is okay with him.

1 Next thing, okay. This kratom
2 thing, Councilwoman Rothchild, last week you
3 wanted to table the legislation on that because
4 you said it's being rushed through. Well, I
5 remember late last year when our Mayor wanted
6 to rush through that streetscape program and
7 myself and many other people came to this
8 podium saying why don't you table it until
9 January when the new Council takes over because
10 we had a lame duck Council.

11 And I didn't hear you wanting to
12 table that. Not only did you not table it, you
13 voted for it. And it's a ridiculous plan. And
14 just because the Mayor wanted to push it
15 through because she knew she wouldn't get the
16 votes with the new Council, you pushed it
17 through with your other two puppets.

18 It was a stupid idea. Our former
19 engineer that is sitting right here tonight
20 said you never replace traffic lights with stop
21 signs. And you still voted it through. That's
22 the height of hypocrisy on your part.

23 Okay, I brought up last week about
24 Euclid Avenue they made it one way just that
25 one block, I stated last week about people

1 telling me that people are going out the wrong
2 way. Well, I was affected by that Sunday.
3 Sunday morning I turned off Main Avenue to go
4 up Euclid, somebody was coming down the wrong
5 way.

6 He wasn't coming fast luckily or we
7 would have got head on. And I had a lot of
8 choice words for the person. But it's a
9 terrible idea. And I hear it's going through.
10 And I don't know why that didn't come before
11 City Council.

12 The streetscape program did, why
13 didn't this job come before Council? To me, I
14 think that's some kind of violation. I think
15 it should be looked into.

16 Again, these pave cuts which I'm
17 going to keep talking about, talking about
18 until they're taken care of. So the ones in
19 Tripp Park, Euclid Avenue is terrible, the 8
20 and 900 blocks of North Sumner are terrible
21 and Garfield from Dickens to Dorothy Street.

22 I don't know when they are going to
23 be fixed, but they got -- those three streets
24 got to be paved curb to curb. And I don't know
25 why there's not fines being levied by this joke

1 outfit Pennoni that they're not doing their
2 job.

3 Next thing, I heard from a good
4 source, somebody in the police department and I
5 guess there's negotiations ongoing now with
6 their contract which is up at the end of this
7 year that the Mayor is trying to stick it to
8 the police department.

9 I hear she wants to gut their
10 healthcare along with other stuff. And I don't
11 know if any of you remember what happened with
12 the last Mayor that tried to stick it to our
13 police department and fire department. Mayor
14 Doherty cost the city 40 million dollars.

15 So I think somebody better have a
16 conversation with the Mayor and tell her to
17 wake up and give them what they're supposed to
18 get. It's ridiculous. Only -- only by the
19 good graces of the unions, the Court order -- I
20 forgot how many years ago that was, was for 80
21 million.

22 But the unions only took 40 million.
23 They saved the city 40 million dollars. She's
24 trying to screw this city over again. Maybe
25 she thinks she won't be here, I don't know.

1 But these people deserve everything they should
2 get. And I can't believe that she's the way
3 she is.

4 And next thing, I'm glad I went to
5 the benefit for Nancy Baumann on Sunday. It
6 was a great -- great -- oh, so many people
7 there I couldn't believe it. And I saw three
8 of you there. I didn't see you, Mr. Schuster.
9 But I know you went.

10 But I bumped into Commissioner Welby
11 and I was talking about this kratom. And I
12 said, you know, the state's dragging their feet
13 so you have to do something countywide. At
14 least because if the city does, I told him, you
15 know, even if the city bans it, they could go
16 to Dunmore or Taylor very easily.

17 At least if it's banned countywide
18 until the state does something, that will be a,
19 you know, more -- take a lot more effort for
20 them to go out of the county to get it. So I
21 hope they do something with it. Thank you for
22 your time.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. And, Les,
24 we asked last week. I asked last week if
25 they're paving Euclid from North Main to Court

1 Street. And we got the answer back that
2 they're going to be paving from Dorothy to
3 Dickens and it should be done by June.

4 MR. SPINDLER: I hope so because I
5 told -- I was told two years ago that North
6 Rebecca was on the paving list. I'm still
7 waiting for it to get paved.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Up next
9 is Mark Scarinci.

10 MR. SCARINCI: Pleasant good
11 evening, Council, Mark Scarinci, the west side.
12 I see some new faces over here since I've been
13 here last. Welcome to the neighborhood.

14 First I want to start out by
15 thanking the citizens of Scranton because I
16 come from Las Vegas three years ago and there's
17 high perimeter fences. There's a helicopter
18 every three nights in dark. There's
19 Rottweilers in the front yard, high perimeter
20 fences. We do not have that here.

21 It's very nice to live in Scranton.
22 Okay, now, before I start, I have a quick
23 comment. This is April 21st, two weeks ago was
24 April 7th. It was the octave of Easter. And
25 on that Tuesday, our President said this Monday

1 morning, a whole civilization will die tonight
2 never to be brought back again.

3 I don't want that to happen, but it
4 probably will. Who in their right mind as a
5 leader would do that? So we have our pontiff
6 here. And the pontiff said -- and these are
7 his words. He said, this is unacceptable. And
8 he asked the public to contact authorities,
9 political leaders, and Congressmen, tell them
10 to work for peace and to reject war.

11 And then the next day we have this
12 Trump, you know, pontiff, you're very weak on
13 crime. And you're terrible on foreign policy
14 and all of this is going back and forth and
15 back and forth and it's building up. And then
16 on Easter Saturday, I wake up to this. Do you
17 see this Council?

18 This broke the camel's back, the
19 straw that broke the camel's back. This is
20 reprehensible. And I looked at this and I
21 said, he's (inaudible) to Christ. And so a
22 reporter went to the President. And the
23 reporter said, are you trying to portray Jesus?

24 And here's what the President said.
25 It's supposed to be as a doctor making people

1 better. He didn't want to have anybody be
2 confused. People were confused. So he deleted
3 it, reprehensible.

4 In four weeks from today our
5 President is going to visit Xi China right
6 there in Beijing. And he's going to shake
7 their hands and everything. But he gets this
8 idea that he could do anything he wants and
9 he's going to go to Taiwan and he's going to
10 shake the hand of Te Ching (inaudible.)

11 And he's going to say I'm the first
12 American President to do that. And I'm going
13 to do it. No, you're not. No, you're not
14 going to do it because I said so. Xi said so
15 and Putin said so. It is you, President Trump,
16 who are weak.

17 Now, the real reason why I'm here.
18 I want to take you back to two years because my
19 time is short. Two years ago and the shocking
20 thing is that this country is going to go to
21 war soon. And we're going to be aligned with
22 Israel.

23 And I just want to say before you
24 and Scranton because they're going to have sons
25 and daughters in the ships and everything like

1 that. We are the most technology advanced
2 country in the world. And we will out --
3 outsmart the enemy. And we will prevail the
4 enemy. And when President Biden, our hometown
5 hero goes to Israel tomorrow and looks
6 Netanyahu in the eye, he's going to say I'm
7 with you.

8 And we are going to change the
9 Middle East together. And we're going to
10 establish dominance there and we will reign
11 there for 1,000 years. So just -- my time is
12 short, okay.

13 So two years ago that thing -- and
14 then the hostages got home. And they had one
15 glass of water and one pieta bread for how many
16 hundreds of days. How many Americans would do
17 that, not even one. Give me one more minute,
18 is that okay?

19 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

20 MR. SCARINCI: One more minute, no,
21 one more minute. I got to tell you --

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Sorry. Thank you.
23 We have our next speaker. Our next speaker --

24 MR. SCARINCI: See this? This is a
25 nuclear bomb. I'm telling you. I'm telling

1 you. Prime Minster Sharon is going to launch a
2 nuclear bomb on, on, on Iran because they got
3 to get to plutonium. That plutonium --

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Our next
5 speaker is John Pocius.

6 MR. SCARINCI: The end of the world
7 comes when this crown, the king, when he no
8 longer reigns the earth, he's gone.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Our next
10 speaker is John Pocius.

11 MR. SCARINCI: The earth will be
12 destroyed.

13 MR. POCIUS: Good evening, Council,
14 Mr. Voldenberg, Attorney Gilbride, Kathy, nice
15 to see you again. First, I want to clear up
16 one thing that Les said about that previous
17 meeting about the downtown improvements.

18 I have concerns about the removal of
19 lights and the stop signs. But they were going
20 to be monitored by PennDOT on a steady basis
21 and I kind of drew that back. I was more
22 concerned with the intersections and the
23 narrowing and the turning movements, just to
24 clear that up, okay?

25 I'm here tonight to speak on Item

1 5-B, the 3100 block of Cedar Avenue. I've been
2 a resident of Minooka for the last 53 years.
3 And I've been a member of St. Joseph's Parish
4 now, Divine Mercy Parish. And that's spelled
5 D-I-V-I-N-E, not D-E-V-I-N-E like it's in the
6 report.

7 That's one problem I had with the
8 report. The second one is, I take no exception
9 to the report because it's based on sound
10 engineering judgment and referencing of the
11 proper PennDOT details and manuals and things
12 about traffic control.

13 What I am concerned about is the
14 report is not signed and sealed by the
15 professional engineer that prepared the report.
16 And to make that an official report, it should
17 be signed, sealed and dated on the cover sheet
18 by the professional engineer that had direct
19 supervision over it.

20 I have one major concern with the
21 whole project. St. Joseph's -- I keep calling
22 it St. Joe's. I've been there too long.
23 Divine Mercy Parish -- St. Joseph's Church at
24 Divine Mercy Parish is an island in the middle
25 of this project.

1 And there's all references to what's
2 going to happen outside of the project as they
3 make the street one way towards -- it's going
4 to be one way towards -- let's say south
5 towards the Shop Rite Shopping Center down
6 there as you go down Cedar Avenue.

7 Knowing what I know, there's no -- I
8 have very big concerns that people are going to
9 use the church property as a bypass to get
10 around this one way. If I'm coming up Cedar
11 Avenue and I get to Crane Street, I can't go
12 straight to Davis, I'm not going to drive all
13 around the driveway. I'm going to say, hey,
14 the church got a park -- driveway right here,
15 I'll cut through the church, go out their
16 parking lot.

17 I shortchange myself quite a bit of
18 distance right there. My wife brought it to my
19 attention too that the way funerals enter the
20 church, they come in off Davis Street where the
21 hearse parks facing Cedar Avenue. And they
22 usually make a left hand turn to get out of
23 there. That will be prohibited right now.

24 I don't know if they could make the
25 right-hand turn and then another right-hand

1 turn to get themselves back over to Davis, you
2 know, down Crane and over to get back. So I
3 think those things should be looked at as part
4 of this traffic study, okay?

5 I'm here as a parishioner. I'm
6 concerned for the church, the church's
7 property, and people will use private property
8 to avoid a traffic signal device which is a
9 violation -- I think it's a Vehicle Code
10 violation to cut through private property to
11 avoid a traffic signal device, which would be
12 additional stop signs and turns.

13 I just want to make sure that this
14 is brought into the account. And one thing
15 that confuses me from my many years in
16 engineering and on the Planning Commission both
17 presenting and being a member of the City
18 Planning Commission for four years and Chairing
19 it and also being a member of the County
20 Planning Commission for 20 years that why was
21 this report done by the city and not the
22 developer?

23 If there was -- I was told with
24 other hearings that were here on this matter at
25 the zoning board that all traffic studies were

1 presented. Well, this should have been a part
2 of the developer's traffic study and reviewed
3 by the City Engineer and not done by the City
4 Engineer.

5 Maybe that's the way they do it now,
6 but it's something unusual like why would the
7 city jump in looking at this last phase of the
8 project? I'm not taking a stance on the
9 project. I'm not taking a stance on, you know,
10 the one way version of the street.

11 All I'm saying is that I think that
12 someone has to look at as a part of this study,
13 has to look at if there's additional signage or
14 something to prevent vehicles from using the
15 church parking lot and driveways as additional
16 means of egress to bypass this one-way street.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: Yeah, thank you very
18 much. Mr. Voldenberg, can we pass those
19 answers -- or those questions along so we could
20 get those answers before Seventh Order?

21 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will, Mr.
22 Schuster.

23 MR. POCIUS: Thank you very much.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Good to
25 see you.

1 MR. POCIUS: I've been in here too
2 many times. It's got to be something that
3 really moves me to bring me here.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: I thought you were
5 missing it in here.

6 MR. POCIUS: No, not really.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: Up next is Ron
8 Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.
10 Like so many, this pollen and stuff is killing
11 me. And then it gets cold and hot. Well,
12 tonight about Gaughan and Welby our so-called
13 County Commissioners, they were voted in office
14 by Americans.

15 But apparently they think Biden's
16 army of illegal filth is more pertinent. These
17 people create chaos and mayhem. And ICE is in
18 there to stop that. And then I watch all of
19 these fools wondering around, bafferoons
20 wondering around parading against -- they're
21 actually -- they're against society.

22 You can't have no law and order like
23 they wish. I am not anti-immigrant. I'm
24 anti-illegals just as strong as it can be.
25 Cogneetti and Welby are both in office on a

1 blatant lie that they are independents. I'm an
2 independent for years and years. I gave up
3 voting locally to be an independent.

4 These two lied like hell to get
5 votes. I have no respect whatsoever for Welby.
6 He chose the immigrant population giving them
7 asylum, I guess, and sanctuary at my expense.
8 I think he's an absolute disgrace.

9 And it's -- while I think of it,
10 three or four days ago when I was at Sheetz, a
11 cab driver told me there isn't a good street in
12 the City of Scranton. And he wasn't joking.
13 You can't imagine the mess in North Scranton.
14 There's tractor-trailers keep going down there
15 no matter what the signs say.

16 There was two of them today that I
17 saw. I think they ought to throw some \$600
18 tickets on them. Maybe that will stop them.
19 You can't -- it's dead end. You can't go
20 nowhere. They go down there anyway, so do the
21 cars.

22 And I got a question for Mr.
23 McAndrew. Somebody asked me what happened to
24 all of the computers the school board gave a
25 couple years ago. I told them I didn't know

1 nothing about, you know, I don't have nothing
2 to do with the school board.

3 MR. MCANDREW: (Inaudible.)

4 MR. ELLMAN: They said -- a lady
5 told me -- she had two children and they was
6 supposed to get computers, neither one got one.
7 I said I don't know nothing about 'em. It's
8 just a waste of money like we're supposed to be
9 teaching children how to speak English and they
10 give them translators, 19 million dollars in
11 the hole.

12 And they buy all that equipment. It
13 doesn't make sense. And before I leave, I wish
14 you all could get the -- do something about
15 getting some free parking for the military. I
16 talked to a lady. They have one of those vans
17 for the wheelchair for her husband.

18 And she said -- I think she said two
19 years ago they got a ticket. But they did take
20 care of it when she went to that little office
21 downtown. But there's no reason in the world
22 that greedy bunch we gave 2 million dollars to
23 can't give military some free parking. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

1 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: I'm going to
2 address the school district and the computers.
3 Every student's one to one. So every student
4 receives a tablet. If a parent did not receive
5 a tablet, then they should report it to their
6 principal.

7 But every student had a tablet. And
8 for the lower grades, like the younger kids,
9 they do not take them home anymore. They stay
10 in the school.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Next is
12 Doris Koloski.

13 MS. KOLOSKI: All this time and you
14 can't pronounce my name anymore, huh?

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Koloski.

16 MS. KOLOSKI: Yeah, there you go.
17 Okay, Doris Koloski, Scranton resident. Okay,
18 the first thing I want to talk about is that I
19 want people to be aware probably out there in
20 TV land and they could spread it around the
21 City of Scranton has a Human Relations
22 Commission.

23 And it's there to help people to
24 fight against complaints of unlawful
25 discrimination in the city, for housing,

1 employment, public accommodations based on
2 race, religion, gender identity, sexual
3 orientation.

4 And I want -- I don't think there's
5 a lot of people that are aware of it. So I
6 want to tell people how to file a complaint if
7 they have one. You go to ScrantonPA.gov on
8 your computer, click on your government, click
9 on boards and commissions and authorities,
10 click commissions, scroll down and click on
11 human relation commission, click on human
12 relation complaint form and authorization
13 forms.

14 Or if you don't have a computer or
15 you don't know how to use one, you could
16 personally visit the Law Department at City
17 Hall. Okay, I want to also mention 421 Colfax
18 Avenue that I, you know, I've been talking
19 about for a hundred million years.

20 And I watched the conservatorship
21 caucus the other day. So I was wondering if
22 there was anything going on with 421. I
23 actually did text Andrew and he said he'd look
24 into it. But what I'm here for today is
25 neighbors have called me to tell -- ask if I

1 would report to the Council that the rear
2 house, the rear of 421 Colfax, it's in Sherwood
3 Court in case they don't -- it's all full of
4 overgrown vegetation and it's like a -- and
5 people are dumping garbage there.

6 A couple of the neighbors have
7 cleaned it up previously, but they don't want
8 to do it anymore. All right. An announcement
9 is on June 20th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will be the
10 5th Annual Electric City Flower Show at Nay Aug
11 Park.

12 It's free entry to the museum that
13 day. There's going to be live music. There's
14 going to be vendors. There's going to be
15 gardening tips and food trucks. And everybody
16 seems to love it. So hopefully the word will
17 get out.

18 On June 14th, there is something
19 that's going to be called Bingo and Baskets.
20 It's going to be at the Nay Aug Park Community
21 Room again in the old snack bar. The doors
22 open at 12. And the first bingo game is at
23 1 p.m.

24 The room has limited seating so they
25 suggest you make reservations. Walk-ins are

1 welcome if available seats. There's no limit
2 for people to come into the basket raffle.
3 Kids are welcome for bingo 14 and up if they're
4 accompanied by adult.

5 For bingo, the fee is \$20 for
6 members of the Hill Neighborhood Association
7 and \$25 for nonmembers. Admission to go into
8 the basket raffle is free.

9 Reservations could be made by text
10 to 272-7729-210 or e-mailing HNA
11 Scranton@gmail.com. Oh, I still have some time
12 so that I could tell you about the water. When
13 you guys -- they finally did cut down that curb
14 on Olive Street and Colfax.

15 But one of the things is that the
16 water/sewer problem there still isn't solved.
17 The other day I was walking and it was quite a
18 while after the rain and the water was still up
19 in the road. So they really need to look into
20 that.

21 And I also wondered if anybody
22 looked into the streetlights on my block, the
23 400 of Colfax. I think I remember saying
24 there's like one streetlight on the whole
25 block. I guess that's all. At least that's

1 all I could think of right now. As soon as I
2 sit down and can't talk anymore I'll think of
3 something else. But that's for another time.
4 You guys have a good night. If it's okay, I'm
5 going to give you some of these fliers.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Frank,
7 did we hear anything about the 400 of Colfax
8 streetlights?

9 MR. VOLDENBERG: Nothing yet. I'll
10 follow up and report back.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: All right. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. VOLDENBERG: And on the other
14 items also.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Would
16 anyone else like to address Council?

17 MR. COYNE: Good evening, Council,
18 Tom Coyne, Minooka. Is there any updates on
19 the Gerrity gift cards and the handout from the
20 bunches of them that were donated to the city?

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Did we get any
22 updates on the gift cards?

23 MR. VOLDENBERG: We have not.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: All right, if we
25 could ask that again.

1 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

3 MR. COYNE: It was brought up the
4 Human Relations Commission here in the city.
5 It would be interesting to know if the human
6 relations group is actually involved in the
7 Unsheltered Task Force.

8 It seems like someplace where a
9 human relations group should be involved in.
10 First, from my paper tonight is the Archbald
11 Mountain Transmission Project for putting new
12 power lines in for the data centers is
13 currently having a meeting right now up in
14 Jerymn.

15 I guess we'll know eventually and
16 will pay for increase in rates as all the money
17 that we're paying now for building the
18 infrastructure is now being set for putting
19 power lines all across these data centers. It
20 was in the newspaper and evidently they're
21 having a meeting right now on putting these
22 power lines in place.

23 Maybe the PUC, the private utility
24 centrists could get involved and say maybe we
25 should stop letting the electric company build

1 them until the centers actually put in
2 applications. And the centers can be charged
3 for the electricity and the infrastructure that
4 they need since it's for them and not for the
5 rest of the community.

6 And it's up in Jermyn. But with the
7 population here and the population numbers, the
8 majority of the fees that are going to come out
9 for the electric company's increases are going
10 to come out of the pockets of the citizens of
11 City of Scranton.

12 Moving on, I know we're going to be
13 voting -- it's going to be an interesting night
14 with the kratom regulation as the President
15 deregulates mushrooms, LSD, and other
16 hallucinogens. We definitely live in strange
17 times.

18 I hope that you do pass the kratom
19 age restriction and walk back those on adults
20 or at least pause it for more feedback and
21 review. I think that for juveniles having a
22 restriction on is perfectly reasonable. And I
23 don't think anyone would argue against that.

24 I'd also like to thank Council
25 because this is one of the first times I've

1 seen in a long time that Council is actually
2 created something itself as a legislative body
3 rather than just rubber stamping something
4 coming down from the administration.

5 For a long time I made and was a
6 proponent here of City Council actually doing
7 legislative tax themselves and putting out
8 ordinances for the betterment of the community,
9 not just waiting for the legal department to
10 hand down whatever it was for a final blessing
11 after all was done. I'm happy to see that this
12 has been involved.

13 Moving onto 5-B, it's prudently
14 designed and has a number of issues for the
15 Cedar Avenue one way passing -- the passing
16 traffic study does not really comprehend it.
17 Unfortunately, when I went to the meeting -- I
18 tried to go to the meeting and it was over.

19 And it wasn't posted, the signs in
20 the neighborhood because it was told it was
21 posted two years beforehand and continued
22 onward from there. The plans provide three
23 options in there. Option one is the best,
24 eliminate a parking on the one side of the
25 block and leave it as a two way for that

1 stretch of the block itself.

2 That is my neck of the woods. I
3 walk two blocks from there is my house. When
4 you come up from Moosic through Birney Plaza,
5 you have Cedar Avenue. When you hit the one
6 way, you have to make a right-hand turn, go up
7 onto Birney Avenue to make a right-hand turn to
8 go down to make a left hand turn to make a left
9 hand turn to go around it.

10 Or you put traffic down to Oak
11 Avenue, which is down a steep hill and going up
12 a hill incline that during wintertime gets
13 hazardous because it gets ice and snow on it.
14 And I actually turn my car around in the other
15 direction because I won't drive down those
16 hills.

17 It puts traffic going up a street
18 with kids. And unfortunately with a one way
19 coming towards -- going southbound, it destroys
20 the traffic flow. I'm going to have to hold
21 off there. But I'll bring in more information
22 on it.

23 It just reroutes traffic in a
24 serpentine pattern through a very congested
25 area dead ends. And it just seems unreasonable

1 to make it one way. Option one says leave it
2 two way but remove one side of the parking.
3 And that seems the most logical for that area.
4 Thank you. Good night.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Anyone
6 else like to address Council?

7 MR. LITTLE: Hello, Council, Rik
8 Little. A couple weeks ago I talked about the
9 need of Scranton to get a robot. And this
10 would be a robot that would be programmed to
11 know every law going back to the Declaration of
12 Independence, all the local laws, all the local
13 ordinances, all the case law, everything.

14 And it would oversee everything that
15 happens in Scranton. The one thing I didn't
16 talk about though is, how this could be the
17 very savior of Scranton itself. This robot --
18 I mean, they have robots in New York City now
19 and even at the Giant they have a robot that
20 rolls around.

21 But they would be a humanoid sort of
22 robot who would walk softly and carry two big
23 sticks, like I think bamboo poles would be the
24 thing to clack on the ground, strike fear into
25 every person who's breaking the law.

1 But this could be a boom for
2 Scranton because Scranton is a great place
3 because it has location. It was the fictional
4 location for the show The Office. And they
5 picked Scranton because they wanted a city that
6 was on its decline.

7 And, you know, they made this funny
8 show, you know, in the building that built
9 railroads. And I've always read about
10 railroads and coal and steel and the 1877
11 railroad strike and everything that's
12 happening.

13 But the time is now to have a robot
14 because this robot could not only enforce the
15 laws, it could be an international sensation
16 television show like Cops. Like, I remember
17 when TV used to be narrative things. And then
18 they got into reality TV, Jerry Springer, Cops,
19 and all the way into, you know, American Idol
20 and all of these reality based things.

21 The time is now to have this robot
22 because it will put Scranton on the map. I
23 mean, Melania Trump came out with one of these
24 kind of robots and said, oh, we should have the
25 robots teach the kids, which isn't a bad idea,

1 you know, considering all the crazy stuff that
2 people are -- the kids are being taught, you
3 know, that a boy could be a girl and all kinds
4 of just crazy stuff.

5 And then it's a blame game and it's
6 a budget game of who gets the, you know,
7 federal education money, Health and Human
8 Services money, federal housing money. There's
9 enough money to buy one of these robots,
10 certainly like \$100,000, \$200,000.

11 There's all different things. But
12 it could change the whole thing for Scranton
13 because right now, Scranton's about to be
14 destroyed by these data centers. And people
15 are saying, oh, well, this politician only
16 wants them to pay 35 percent of the electric
17 bill. No one is talking about the water.

18 But there's no doubt that the data
19 centers are going to destroy everything that we
20 have. And what's better to have on your side
21 than a robot arguing at the data centers. Who
22 could get into the public meetings. The robot
23 could say, you know, they're saying, well, you
24 have to sign in to get into the public meeting,
25 you know.

1 You have to go through this process
2 and the robot would know all the processes,
3 know all the ordinances. You know, you know,
4 oh, you got some kratom, you know, that's
5 now -- that's a crime, you know.

6 And everything that the robot sees
7 will be downloaded to a computer that everybody
8 could watch. But the main thing is, I mean,
9 I'm thinking, you know, you have to kill a
10 bird, you know, one stone to kill a lot of
11 birds. And this is the perfect bird.

12 This is the perfect time because
13 Scranton is the perfect location. It's the
14 home of the first blockbuster movie, the
15 Exorcist. When I was in NYU grad film, you
16 know, I met with William Friedkin and I'm
17 asking him about Jason Miller and, you know, I
18 mean, he lived right off Courthouse Square.

19 And, like, independent films were
20 made here, you know, a film called Forged in
21 2010 I remember, a great film made here.
22 Anyway, we need -- we need a robot. And we
23 need it now. So I'd like to see you get
24 together and work on this project. Thank you.

25 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Anyone

1 else like to address Council?

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

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Dr. Rothchild, do you
5 have any motions or comments?

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes, I do. First, I
7 just want to start off with a complaint that
8 was brought forward to me regarding a property.
9 So if we could forward this request to code
10 enforcement, it sounds like the neighbor has
11 previously been in touch with them.

12 But I just want to clarify some
13 things about the property. So it is 1610
14 Roselynn Street. And it's an abandoned home.
15 I believe the owners are deceased. And it was
16 previously on the demo list from what I've been
17 told. But then they found that it was on the,
18 like, the historical registry.

19 And they couldn't demolish it. But
20 I've seen pictures of the property. And I'll
21 be passing by it as well. And it does not look
22 to be in good shape. So I'd like to see what
23 we could do about this property. Maybe it's
24 another one that could be considered
25 potentially for the -- what we spoken about

1 before with the city potentially taking over
2 and being able to make changes if it is
3 repairable.

4 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll reach out in
5 the morning.

6 DR. ROTHCHILD: Thank you. I know
7 it was Les Spindler who brought up about the
8 fundraiser for Nancy over the weekend. And I
9 know myself and other Council members were able
10 to attend.

11 And I was really glad to see how
12 crowded it was for her. And we stopped in
13 shortly because I had my kids with me. And it
14 was quite busy. But I think were we even told
15 they ran out of pasta dinners. So that's a
16 good thing. That means a lot of people
17 attended and gave towards her treatments.

18 So I'm glad that I was able to make
19 it and the rest of Council was too. I think
20 that's all that I have. Thank you.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Mr. Sean
22 McAndrew, do you have any motions or comments?

23 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yeah, I have a
24 few. So first, my responses from questions I
25 asked last week. The first question I asked

1 was regarding does DPW do potholes or utility
2 cuts on state roads.

3 The answer we received is, yes, they
4 do. I asked was there any attempt to
5 collaborate with either PennDOT or the utility
6 companies to get these done for the marathon.
7 That's why they were doing them, which I
8 completely agree with doing them for the
9 marathon because of, you know, safety reasons.

10 The response I got, the DPW does not
11 interface with utilities when it comes to pave
12 cuts and utility work. DPW does, however, make
13 every effort in advance to make our needs known
14 to these entities as time allows. But there
15 are instances that DPW will act in the best
16 interest of the city.

17 PennDOT and PAWC were extremely
18 responsive on the evening of Thursday, April
19 9th, when there was a major collapse of the
20 road surface due to water main break on the
21 1500 block of North Main to have the road
22 repaired in time for the Half Marathon.

23 City Hall issued fines for errant
24 pave cuts and work done by DPW to restore road
25 issues on a case-by-case basis when warranted.

1 So in other words, no, they do not -- they do
2 not collaborate with either the utility
3 companies or PennDOT. Going forward I think we
4 should.

5 We know this race was coming, simply
6 call out to them, e-mail to them to say, hey,
7 we have this race coming can you please fix it,
8 especially the pave cuts. We have a pave cut
9 inspector who should be monitoring them. And
10 that definitely should have been done.

11 But at least for the potholes by
12 PennDOT, a little communication might go a long
13 way. At the end of the day it saves us money
14 and, you know, it's best for everybody. Second
15 question, Councilman McAndrew advised that the
16 city has a dedicated fire and police services,
17 but does not have a dedicated EMS service.

18 He asked if the city may indicate
19 their concerns in writing to Council regarding
20 not having a dedicated EMS company like PA
21 Ambulance to serve the city.

22 The response we got, Chief Judge
23 would be happy to meet with the Public Safety
24 Chairperson and Cochairperson to educate
25 Council on the matter. Well, I'm neither the

1 chairperson or the cochairperson. So it
2 doesn't look like they want to provide me with
3 an answer.

4 I don't understand -- again, I'll
5 keep saying it. Why it's so hard for a sitting
6 Council member to get asked questions? That's
7 our job. I'm trying to get asked questions
8 for -- on behalf of our residents because we
9 have to have an emergency service that is
10 responsive and there's a lot of municipalities
11 around us who do have ones dedicated just to
12 them.

13 This was brought up before with past
14 Council. I know Councilman King was a big
15 proponent of it. This has been an issue that's
16 going on for a couple years now and we cannot
17 get an answer. Talking to Councilman Schuster
18 and Attorney Gilbride, there was a lot of
19 feedback when they brought it up in their
20 meeting last Monday.

21 All I'm asking is to put that in
22 writing. I don't understand why in the back
23 door closed rooms, they could have and express
24 their concerns and say what they want to say,
25 but they won't put it in writing. It's all

1 about transparency. It's all about doing
2 what's best for our residents to make sure
3 they're safe and we have a reliable EMS
4 service.

5 So I'm questioning does the city
6 even care to go down this path? Do they care
7 about the safety and the services that our city
8 and our members should have? So, Frank, if you
9 could ask -- I am not the chairperson or the
10 cochairperson of the public safety.

11 But I would like to have a meeting
12 with Fire Chief Judge. Also, ask him if it
13 would be okay if we take meeting minutes or
14 record the meeting so I could have documented
15 responses to present and write up -- and
16 present to the public.

17 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will, sir.

18 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: All right.
19 Perfect. Thank you. Some other issues, myself
20 and Councilman Schuster, we met with Eileen
21 Cipriani and Matt Domines regarding the
22 upcoming budget. We asked a lot of questions
23 trying to get where they are at with the budget
24 coming up this year.

25 We will be getting an update from

1 PEL three to four weeks they said regarding the
2 five-year projections. So I'm anxiously
3 waiting to see that and see where they think
4 we're headed.

5 Another issue that they did bring up
6 that could possibly cause a shortfall in the
7 budget -- around a 3 million dollar shortfall
8 in the budget is the LST tax. We need
9 something done by the state to change the
10 language of our distressed status and minimally
11 distressed.

12 If we do not get that, that is going
13 to hurt us. And there's going to be a gap
14 there that we're going to have to find --
15 figure out ways to plug that. So while we're
16 buying all of these buildings next door and
17 we're doing all this and that and spending a
18 ton of money, that is looming over our head.

19 So maybe that is something us as
20 Council could maybe draft a letter to our
21 legislators in the state to kind of help us out
22 here because we do need that -- that little
23 change will go a long way for us.

24 And HUP test, I know there is some
25 delays with the county in collecting some

1 information. You know, they said -- they
2 expressed how busy they are right now at the
3 county. They didn't really want to call them
4 out. But it's getting to a point where we have
5 to call them out.

6 It's delaying getting information to
7 us and the school district. We need that
8 information. Hopefully we'll get that soon.
9 If not, I think we need to take a stronger
10 stance on it.

11 Frank, can you ask updates on the
12 pools? Are we going to be opening up any time
13 soon and, if so, when. I know there was an
14 issue the, I believe, the other day at Nay Aug
15 and the new pool. There was pipe that burst.
16 But I believe that was fixed today.

17 And I know Connell Park had a lot of
18 issues in their pool last year. Can you
19 confirm if they're repaired and they're going
20 to be ready to go for opening day?

21 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will.

22 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: As for 5-B, you
23 know, hearing Mr. Pocius who's an expert on the
24 matter, his concerns with a document not being
25 signed and sealed, I mean, I don't think

1 anything should even come to us at that point
2 if it's not completed.

3 And he also brought up some other
4 great concerns. So when 5-B comes, I'll
5 probably motion to table it. Normally I would
6 introduce it. But the way we've been getting
7 responses when we ask questions and how long it
8 takes, by the time we get any response this
9 thing could possibly be passed or we can
10 already be in 7th Order.

11 So I'm going to probably be
12 motioning to table right away so we could kind
13 of push them to get us answers quicker. I have
14 a few residents concerns. First, this is the
15 second concern, sidewalk on 705 West Elm
16 Street, the water company damaged their
17 sidewalks when they were doing some repairs and
18 they never restored it. I know, Frank, we sent
19 it over again today. This is the second time.
20 So hopefully we could get a response on that?

21 MR. VOLDENBERG: That's correct.

22 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: On the 100 block
23 of North Main Avenue, there's a lot
24 restaurants, smoke shops, bars, funeral homes.
25 I had a resident ask if there could be crossing

1 signs in the road so cars will stop and allow
2 people to cross the street. It's a busy
3 street. There's a lot going on there trying to
4 make it a little safer for people to get across
5 the street.

6 And also, from North Main the 900
7 block along South Main to Taylor, like, to the
8 Taylor line, it's a mess. They need the street
9 sweeper there. Is there a way we could set
10 that up, publicize, you know, one day don't
11 park on the right-hand side, the other day
12 don't park on the left-hand side and do it
13 right and get a good cleanup there? Can we
14 send that down to DPW?

15 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will, Mr.
16 McAndrew.

17 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: And we had a few
18 more properties again on Prospect Avenue that
19 we sent down. So I'll just report that out.

20 MR. VOLDENBERG: I got them today,
21 yes.

22 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: All right.
23 That's all I have. Thank you very much.

24 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you very much.
25 With that being said about the ambulances, at

1 the end of the day, the administration said
2 they would meet with the company when me and
3 Mr. Gilbride had met with them. So let's see
4 what we get in terms of answers to what you
5 asked about their concerns and then we'll see
6 about if they would meet with the company.
7 Next, Mr. Mark McAndrew, do you have any
8 motions or comments?

9 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yeah, I got a
10 few. So last week, Mr. Voldenberg, I asked,
11 you know, if we could get a schedule. It's
12 said that we have to ask this every year, a
13 schedule or a process where all the parks are
14 secured at night and who is responsible.

15 We know who's responsible. But
16 maybe, you know, they need to develop a
17 schedule that we're able to see and a checklist
18 because it's not working, all right, if you
19 could please follow up on that one.

20 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will, sir.

21 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Thank you. So
22 also, I brought up Third Avenue detour, you
23 know, the Elm Street bridge neighbors are very
24 concerned. And they sent me videos where there
25 is just constant dirt and dust. Prior to the

1 project I was told that, you know, the
2 neighbors were informed that, you know, only
3 was a verbal, but, you know, they would
4 maintain that road and constantly clean it and
5 because of the amount of dust.

6 And so I reached out. And it was
7 done. But it was like a drive by and not
8 satisfactory to the residents that are still
9 dealing -- can't even open their windows in
10 this nice weather. So Mr. Voldenberg reached
11 out and I'm glad to say that they will increase
12 the focus on running the street sweeper and
13 actually do it every Monday.

14 So let's hope that takes place. And
15 I appreciate everybody's effort with that one
16 because the residents have been very patient.
17 That project was, you know, supposed to finish
18 at the end of July, I believe.

19 Next up, 725 Factory Place, the
20 resident there in front of her house is still
21 awaiting a pothole to be filled in front of her
22 house. I guess it's pretty big. She's been
23 waiting a long time. Let's remind the powers
24 that be that that needs to be addressed, Mr.
25 Voldenberg, if you would.

1 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will.

2 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Also, a resident
3 reached out to me about East Locust over in
4 South Side, right? So he's like, you know,
5 it's great it's getting paved. I said, let me
6 see. It's not on the paving list. So it's the
7 utility project that's paving, hopefully it's
8 curb to curb and the whole street because there
9 was an intense amount of work done by the water
10 company.

11 So that's great to hear. But this
12 resident also said, like, the paving stops at
13 this little Hamm's Court or Hamm Court. It
14 hasn't been paved in decades. So it's, you
15 know, and, you know, that makes sense the
16 residents come and say, why did they stop right
17 here? Who makes that decision?

18 Well, like I said, this is a utility
19 project. So that's only, you know, they're
20 required to go there. They don't -- they're
21 not required to do Hamm Street. We are -- or
22 Hamm Court, I apologize. If, Mr. Voldenberg,
23 you know, I know there's the paving schedule is
24 done for the spring and there's a possibility
25 of a fall one.

1 If you could please see if that
2 could be added to that or, you know, reach out
3 to administration. And then right near there,
4 there is also a path. This is near St.
5 Stanislaus Church and Rec Center. So this is
6 all the same area there's, like, a little path
7 or a little court in between them two
8 buildings.

9 So, you know, if we get them to do
10 Hamm, why can't they do that while they're
11 there, if you could please inquire about that?

12 MR. VOLDENBERG: I will.

13 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Thank you. 19
14 Fawnwood Drive, residents reached out to me
15 there's a condemned house up there. It's at
16 least three years. It's getting worse. Now
17 there's holes in the roof. So would you please
18 reach out to code enforcement and see if they
19 could give us an update status with regards to,
20 you know, that condemnation process and
21 what's -- what, you know, is there anything
22 going on. Sometimes they bring it out. We're
23 just not aware of that. And the neighbors
24 should be aware of that.

25 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll take care of

1 it.

2 MR. MARK MCANDREW: All right. So
3 what else do I have? I have one more thing and
4 this is going to take a couple minutes. But
5 it's a point I have to make. And it's very
6 disturbing. And I'm addressing this in public
7 because I saw it in a public forum.

8 Facebook is a public forum, like it
9 or not, right, especially when stuff is shared
10 in a public stream. So real quick, 30 years
11 ago I put a fence in my backyard. Me and
12 buddies (inaudible) we threw it up in a day,
13 right. Thirty years later, my fence is
14 dilapidated.

15 It's seen better days. And the
16 worst winter we had in 30 years finally was the
17 last straw. So immediately when the weather
18 got better, I decided to replace my fence,
19 right? I reached out to a guy that does
20 fences.

21 And I said, you know what, I need a
22 fence. And, you know, he did some work for
23 some people I knew. And I said, I need to
24 replace the fence. And I'm not sure, but I'll
25 reach out to code enforcement with regards to

1 because I know certain municipalities only
2 require a permit to install the first fence.

3 Some don't require a permit to
4 replace a fence. So I thought, you know what,
5 for clarity sake and do the right thing, I
6 reached out to a code enforcement officer. And
7 I said, hey, I need to replace a fence. Or
8 when -- is a permit needed to replace a yard
9 fence or just for the first fence you put in
10 the city -- in our city.

11 And the gentleman said yes. So I
12 was unclear on, like, which one is yes. I need
13 a permit for the first one or the second one.
14 So I reached out to another code enforcement
15 officer. And that officer said, yeah, you need
16 a -- yes, you need a permit for replacing a
17 fence. All right, but it's free.

18 I'm, like, great. I said I want to
19 do the right thing. So thank you for your
20 guidance with, you know, me requiring to get an
21 ordinance -- not an ordinance, listen to me,
22 I'm sorry -- a permit. So I said, fine.

23 I instructed the guy who's going to
24 install my fence to get a permit. And these
25 correspondences were March 26th, both of them,

1 right, so that's how long ago I inquired to
2 code enforcement do I need a permit.

3 These are inside guys, right,
4 they'll probably get in trouble because we're
5 not supposed to talk to anybody. But I'm
6 making a point. Right, so on the 16th -- so
7 I'm waiting. So my fence guy, you know, the
8 weather was back and forth.

9 And he went away for Easter. He
10 said we'll catch up after Easter. I said have
11 a great Easter he said because, you know, he
12 did the 811 which we're talking about that.
13 It's to call when you do any digging. So he
14 did that.

15 He informed my wife the other day
16 that he's awaiting a permit. All right.
17 Everything's great, thinking I can't wait, you
18 know, everybody likes it when you can get some
19 stuff done in your yard. But going on Facebook
20 like I said is a social platform.

21 Sometimes you just can't look away.
22 There was a post by a gentleman who said, hey,
23 code enforcement, people who follow me, do I
24 need a permit to do interior demolition in a
25 commercial building in Scranton? It's a fair

1 question to throw out there.

2 People always, you know, ask for
3 ideas or recommendations. So what was
4 interesting here is, someone responded from
5 this building, not someone from code
6 enforcement. The head of IT, a department
7 head, a cabinet member and says, or install a
8 fence in West Side with a smily face.

9 You know, West Side is the biggest
10 part of the city. So the gentleman who did the
11 post said, no, Mr. Reager, what do you mean? I
12 don't own a property in West Side. Fair
13 enough. He doesn't respond here. But he
14 responds to this guy privately and says, wasn't
15 sure if they would see, but McAndrew's putting
16 a fence in with no permit.

17 This is alarming. This is
18 disturbing. So I want to know what's going on
19 in this building, right, I'm a sitting
20 Councilman that reached out to two people from
21 code enforcement and asked for the -- do the
22 right thing and the proper process.

23 I'm a process and procedure guy. I
24 tout it up here all the time when I don't like
25 policies aren't being followed, right? So, and

1 you know, to me, that is concerning, alarming,
2 unprofessional and, like I said, very, very
3 disturbing.

4 This person is using social media to
5 question my integrity. That's the way I look
6 at it, all right? We have a policy, a Facebook
7 policy. I have it right here, right. It
8 frowns upon -- it frowns upon the type -- that
9 type -- it frowns upon that type of behavior
10 that a department head cabinet member, IT guy
11 who should know better is running around his
12 little keyboard warrior taking shots at me on
13 Facebook.

14 That doesn't sit well with me. His
15 behavior is -- it's unacceptable. So with that
16 said, I mean, I'm a teacher. There's a lot of
17 Facebook and social media bullying that goes
18 on. It's horrible at the high school level.
19 And there's zero tolerance for that.

20 But for a grown man and have emoji
21 faces -- the other one had a silly emoji like
22 he's 14, you know, this big IT Director who
23 comes to us every year at budget time, we need
24 more money. We're not paid enough. We need
25 more software. We need this.

1 So I want to know what's going on
2 under this roof and how -- how is -- where's
3 his purview as the IT guy? Why -- how is he
4 involved with code enforcement at all? I mean,
5 is this watercooler talk or is this discussions
6 at an administrative meeting?

7 You know, they've always been
8 accused, some departments of weaponizing their
9 departments with the public. If this is done
10 to me, a sitting Council member, this could be
11 done to anybody. This is absurd. It's
12 unacceptable. And I'll tell you what, so, you
13 know, this is a nice try, Mr. Reager. But it
14 was a swing and a miss.

15 And I'm going to tell you something.
16 I have all of this receipts that I'm happy to
17 provide to administration because the Mayor
18 should do something about this. And if she
19 doesn't, I know the next Mayor will. And that
20 is all I have. Thank you.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Mr.
22 Flynn, do you have any motions or comments?

23 MR. FLYNN: I do. So last week I
24 brought up the question from My Center for
25 Independent Living who is trying to get the

1 proper permits to do a mobile food truck for
2 meals for the homeless.

3 They have been trying to reach out
4 to code enforcement, Department of Health for
5 quite some time and haven't been getting any
6 answers on what permitting they needed. I did
7 get a response from the administration, a very
8 lengthy response.

9 I won't read it out, but it did give
10 all the information that they will need in
11 order to do that. So I will just forward that
12 right along to them. I also want to take a
13 moment to talk about the benefit for Officer
14 Baumann on Sunday.

15 I believe that the greatest part of
16 our city, our community, our area is the
17 people. And the people show up for each other,
18 especially when something goes wrong with one
19 person, everyone is there to help lift them up.
20 And that's what we saw on Sunday.

21 So kudos to the FOP for putting that
22 on. It was a fabulous turnout. It was a
23 fabulous event and just prayers to the officer
24 to get well -- get well soon and best wishes
25 there.

1 So yesterday morning, myself,
2 Council President Schuster, Solicitor Gilbride
3 finally had the opportunity to meet with city
4 Solicitor Eskra, Deputy Solicitor Hayes, Chief
5 Carroll and public health coordinator Dr.
6 Saxena regarding the potential ordinances with
7 kratom.

8 We walked through a number of
9 questions. And I believe we had a productive
10 and substantive conversation. During the
11 conversation, it became clear that a followup
12 conversation would be beneficial. When we move
13 forward, we have an obligation to make these
14 ordinances as strong, as clear, as effective as
15 possible.

16 I firmly believe that passing these
17 ordinances is the right thing to do for our
18 city. It is the right thing to do for our
19 residents, for our neighborhoods, and
20 especially for our youth. Ignoring the reality
21 of gas station heroin living in a regulatory
22 gray area and having real public health
23 concerns, would be a dereliction of duty.

24 I believe our job as a municipal
25 government is to act when there is a gap that

1 puts people at risk and to put safeguards in
2 place where none currently exists.

3 That's exactly what these ordinances
4 do. It's about protecting our community and
5 not waiting for a problem to get worse before
6 we respond. So in an effort to make these
7 ordinances as strong as possible and address
8 any concerns, I will make a motion tonight to
9 table to allow these conversations to continue.

10 What I will not do is allow this to
11 become an indefinite pause. I will not allow
12 these conversations to become a delay tactic.
13 The work must continue. And it must continue
14 proactively.

15 Some questions that were raised will
16 be answered in a timely manner so that we could
17 move forward swiftly with confidence. I will
18 not let us delay this for delay's sake. Our
19 goal is to get this right and get it done. So
20 I look forward to continued engagement with the
21 administration.

22 I expect ongoing communication as
23 the questions are addressed. And I'm hopeful
24 we will be in a position to pass these
25 ordinances in the very near future. That's all

1 I have for tonight. Thank you.

2 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you very much.
3 I have a couple comments tonight too as well.
4 Just to follow up on what Mr. Flynn had said,
5 we did meet yesterday. I do feel like it was a
6 productive meeting and to also reiterate what
7 he's saying, as long as I feel that this is
8 sincere and the effort is to move this forward
9 and to strengthen this ordinance and pass it
10 in the end, I'll continue to work through this
11 process.

12 So I think the meeting yesterday was
13 very insightful. I think the individuals that
14 showed up at that meeting learned a lot from
15 some of the doctors that we brought along. I
16 do think a lot of the processes that there was
17 questions about are already existing.

18 So I do feel strongly that this is
19 going to pass. We'll give it a brief pause.
20 But I just want to reiterate that as long as
21 the efforts are sincere, we will take this
22 route.

23 Moving on, there was some questions
24 last week during public comment about Keyser
25 Valley. Some of the last bids went out this

1 week. And the work is already begun in Keyser
2 Valley for the stormwater and the flood
3 projects there.

4 I repeated it several times here
5 back when I first got on Council within the
6 first month I took the Mayor and the flood --
7 the flood director up to Keyser Valley. I
8 showed them problem areas. We took a tour of
9 the pump station. We took a tour of the areas
10 along Newton Road.

11 The area that I brought them to was
12 within 30 yards, 40 yards of where the rock
13 slide came across Newton Road. So I'm glad the
14 work is getting done. It needs to continue.
15 There's a couple more -- I believe there's a
16 couple more easements that need to pass.

17 But once that happens, I do believe
18 this work is going to get completed. Next one
19 is the West Scranton Gateway. So with that
20 gateway project, it's a street -- streetscape
21 improvement project along North Main Avenue,
22 500 feet south of the intersection West Gibson
23 to the North Scranton Expressway and the
24 southbound ramps.

25 What it includes is new curbs,

1 sidewalks, period lighting and related work, a
2 retaining wall, trees planted and traffic
3 control during the project and then pavement
4 restoration afterwards.

5 What it didn't include is,
6 temporarily right now it's a one way. Euclid
7 Avenue is a one way. When speaking to the
8 administration, they let us know that it was
9 PennDOT that suggested this one-way street.

10 So I did have two questions
11 regarding this. But the one thing I wanted to
12 bring up was, at the end of Dorothy Street
13 there's a business that's been there for over
14 90 years. I believe it started in 1936. It's
15 Emiliani Trucking.

16 So there's a trucking outfit at the
17 end of that street. It's a longtime business
18 in our city. The family all live -- they have
19 a large family that all live in the city. And
20 I think it's going to be detrimental to that
21 company.

22 My questions that I have for them,
23 Mr. Voldenberg, is I believe they told me it
24 was about 150 feet of sight. So the question
25 is how is the 150 feet of sight line -- line of

1 sight determined. And then how does this
2 changing the street into a one way comply with
3 PennDOT?

4 MR. VOLDENBERG: I'll ask both of
5 those questions.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. We did
7 have some questions last week about the parks.
8 There's a lot of improvements occurring in the
9 parks. And we're getting some complaints about
10 individuals in the parks at night.

11 I did some get some lengthy answers
12 here. But what I'm just going put out is one
13 of the paragraphs state that we're going to
14 continue to work with our IT Department for
15 more camera coverage and the SPD for additional
16 patrols to ensure that the people are using the
17 park for its intended purpose and hopefully
18 during appropriate hours.

19 It is recommend that the Public
20 Safety Chair meet with the Chief of Police for
21 more information. So Mr. McAndrew may be
22 having several meetings coming up in regards to
23 that.

24 Some of the other things that we got
25 were police activity around the park. So they

1 did give us some of the incidents at Weston
2 Field, 52 total incidents, so building checks,
3 unrelated incidents. But there was some other
4 calls removal of disorderly individuals
5 occurring during code blue for individuals that
6 were being housed at the shelter.

7 There was also another four cases, a
8 warrants, disorderly conduct where an arrest
9 was completed during code blue, weapons
10 threats, trespassing -- trespassing males being
11 removed during the code blue.

12 So we're getting police calls in
13 that area of Weston Park. So I think it's
14 definitely on the administration's radar that
15 we need to secure the park and it's happening
16 during the night hours.

17 They spoke about back road access
18 gates that can be closed to vehicles. But
19 there's several sports leagues that play in the
20 area and they need load equipment on and off.
21 But, I mean, this is understandable during
22 daylight hours.

23 But once -- once we hit dusk and
24 once we hit after dark, there is no reason that
25 individuals should be in the park. And the

1 signage is there. And we still want these
2 parks secured at night to protect our assets
3 and to also protect individuals in the area and
4 those that are -- will be enjoying the park.
5 That's all I have for tonight.

6 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-B. FOR
7 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - DESIGNATING THE
8 3100 BLOCK OF CEDAR AVENUE AS ONE WAY
9 SOUTHBOUND FROM DAVIS STREET TO CRANE STREET.

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

13 MR. MARK MCANDREW: So moved.

14 MR. FLYNN: Second.

15 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?

16 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yeah, on the
17 question, like I said in Fourth Order, I'm
18 going to make a motion to table this. I agree
19 with Mr. Pocius. If something was signed and
20 not completed, I don't know why it's in front
21 of us.

22 I normally would introduce it, but
23 if you look at the information we get back or
24 the lack thereof, questions that are getting
25 answered, the timing of the questions getting

1 answered, I want to just table this right away.
2 Hopefully that will give them some urgency to
3 get us these responses to Mr. Pocius's
4 questions. So I'll make a motion to table it.

5 MR. MARK MCANDREW: I'll second it.

6 MR. SCHUSTER: We have a motion and
7 a second. On the question? I'd just like to
8 say some of the concerns that were brought up
9 tonight were I think credible.

10 There was a -- they asked for
11 additional signage. If this one way was to
12 cause traffic to go into the church, is there a
13 plan for additional signage in the area? And
14 it also appears that there's some alternate
15 options. So, I mean, I would be in support of
16 tabling this for tonight and seeing if we could
17 get some of these questions answered. All
18 those in favor of tabling say aye.

19 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

20 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Aye.

21 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Aye.

22 MR. FLYNN: Aye.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Aye. Opposed? The
24 ayes it so motion to table has passed.

25 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-C. FOR

1 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - RESOLUTION
2 RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS "PENNSYLVANIA 811
3 SAFE DIGGING MONTH".

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

7 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: So moved.

8 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

9 MR. FLYNN: Second.

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

13 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

14 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Aye.

15 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Aye.

16 MR. FLYNN: Aye.

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

19 MR. VOLDENBERG: 5-D. FOR
20 INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
22 APPROVE THE EXECUTION AND SUBMISSION OF THE
23 GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
24 THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION &
25 NATURAL RESOURCES FOR UP TO \$175,000.00 IN

1 FUNDS FOR PHASE 2 OF THE ALL-INCLUSIVE
2 PLAYGROUND THAT AIMS TO CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE
3 SPACE THAT SERVES INDIVIDUALS OF ALL AGES AND
4 ABILITIES.

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

8 MR. FLYNN: So moved.

9 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

10 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Second.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?

12 DR. ROTHCHILD: On the question, I'm
13 glad to see that we're applying for a grant for
14 Phase 2 for this playground. I'm happy that we
15 do have that playground now at Nay Aug that is
16 accessible.

17 But there could certainly be more
18 that could be added. And if this grant is
19 awarded to the city, then we'd have the
20 opportunity to do that too, add even more
21 activities and equipment onto the playground
22 for everyone to enjoy. Thank you.

23 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Yeah, it
24 will be great to see this grant accepted.
25 Anyone else on the question? All those in

1 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

2 DR. ROTHCHILD: Aye.

3 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Aye.

4 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Aye.

5 MR. FLYNN: Aye.

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

8 MR. VOLDENBERG: SIXTH ORDER. No
9 business at this time.

10 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
11 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
12 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
13 12, 2026 - REGULATING THE SALE AND/OR
14 DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM (MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA) AND
15 ITS ACTIVE RELATED ALKALOID, INCLUDING BUT NOT
16 LIMITED TO MITRAGYNINE AND 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE
17 (7-OH), AND/OR ANY SYNTHETIC, SEMI-SYNTHETIC,
18 CONCENTRATED, OR CHEMICALLY MODIFIED
19 DERIVATIVES THEREOF FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR
20 INGESTION TO MINORS; PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION
21 OF KRATOM (MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA) AND ITS ACTIVE
22 RELATED ALKALOID, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
23 MITRAGYNINE AND 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE (7-OH),
24 AND/OR ANY SYNTHETIC, SEMI-SYNTHETIC,
25 CONCENTRATED, OR CHEMICALLY MODIFIED

1 DERIVATIVES THEREOF FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR
2 INGESTION BY MINORS; AND, PROVIDING FOR
3 ENFORCEMENT OF THESE PROVISIONS, INCLUDING
4 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

5 MR. SCHUSTER: What is the
6 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
7 Committee on Public Safety?

8 MR. MARK MCANDREW: As Chairperson
9 for the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
10 final passage of Item 7-A.

11 MR. FLYNN: Second.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?

13 MR. FLYNN: Mr. President, on the
14 question, I make a motion to table Item 7-A.

15 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Second.

16 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: We have a motion and
18 a second to table the question. Can we have a
19 roll call to table?

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Can we do on the
21 question first on the motion?

22 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question.

23 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yeah, so on the
24 question, I know I've of spoken about this for
25 the past couple of weeks. And I've made

1 previous motions to table. I'm glad to see
2 that there was one made tonight.

3 And so I'll be voting to table it as
4 well. I do believe that we need additional
5 time to make these ordinances enforceable and
6 also limit our risk for legal action against
7 the city.

8 I glad that my colleagues -- my
9 colleagues also recognize this need to table
10 these ordinances to make these appropriate
11 changes. And I also hope it will still be a
12 consideration to limit the ordinances with
13 prohibition of the sale of synthetic kratom and
14 having that distinguished from natural kratom
15 leaf, which we've heard from a lot of people,
16 you know, of constituents and then other people
17 from across the country that that's something
18 that -- that they would like to see happen.

19 And I do appreciate Councilman Flynn
20 and Schuster meeting with members of the
21 administration to discuss these ordinances
22 further. I think this is why collaboration and
23 communication is really important between
24 Council and the administration. We don't
25 always have to -- have to agree.

1 But I think that that was vital in
2 this. And I appreciate that happening.
3 That's all.

4 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. On the
5 question, as I stated before, we did have a
6 productive conversation. And we also seem to
7 be getting a lot of buy-in from individuals in
8 the county, other municipalities within the
9 county, and out of the -- outside of the
10 county.

11 So I think this pause is going to
12 create more of a buy-in from other
13 municipalities. And hopefully we could get it
14 passed and move forward in a concerted front.

15 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: On the question,
16 I also agree with Councilman Schuster and, you
17 know, want to thank -- or Councilwoman
18 Rothchild and thank Tom, thank Pat and
19 Mr. Gilbride for having a meeting with the
20 administration.

21 I think this is just going to make
22 it a little stronger actually. So I think the
23 pause right now is good. I also -- like, what
24 Pat said, I don't think it needs to sit here
25 forever, just like, you know, the data center

1 ordinance that's been sitting there for over a
2 month and a half.

3 You know, we had some discussions
4 earlier today in our caucus to kind of get --
5 ask some questions on going what's on with that
6 one. So I just don't want to see -- sit here
7 and the administration not get back and follow
8 up with this.

9 So I think right now is a perfect
10 time to pause. I think it's only going to
11 make it stronger with other municipalities
12 wanting to join our effort. So I think it's
13 going to be good.

14 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you.

15 MR. MARK MCANDREW: So on the
16 question, I too am in favor of just the pause
17 and not like with what Councilman Flynn said in
18 no way have this sit and then, you know,
19 committees or we need extensions or we need --
20 because I don't want to see that. The pause is
21 good. I'll take the pause.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: Thank you. Right now
23 we have on the floor we have a motion to table.
24 So roll call, please.

25 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

1 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

3 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

5 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

7 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

9 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I hereby
10 declare that Item 7-A has been tabled.

11 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-B. FOR
12 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBIC
13 SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
14 13, 2026 - REGULATING THE SALE AND/OR
15 DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM (MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA) AND
16 ITS ACTIVE RELATED ALKALOID, INCLUDING BUT NOT
17 LIMITED TO MITRAGYNINE AND 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE
18 (7-OH), AND/OR ANY SYNTHETIC, SEMI-SYNTHETIC,
19 CONCENTRATED, OR CHEMICALLY MODIFIED
20 DERIVATIVES THEREOF FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR
21 INGESTION; PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF KRATOM
22 (MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA) AND ITS ACTIVE RELATED
23 ALKALOID, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
24 MITRAGYNINE AND 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE (7-OH),
25 AND/OR ANY SYNTHETIC, SEMI-SYNTHETIC,

1 CONCENTRATED, OR CHEMICALLY MODIFIED
2 DERIVATIVES THEREOF FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR
3 INGESTION; AND, PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE AND
4 PRODUCTION OF KRATOM (MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA) AND
5 ITS ACTIVE RELATED ALKALOID, INCLUDING BUT NOT
6 LIMITED TO MITRAGYNINE AND 7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE
7 (7-OH), AND/OR ANY SYNTHETIC, SEMI-SYNTHETIC,
8 CONCENTRATED, OR CHEMICALLY MODIFIED
9 DERIVATIVES THEREOF FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR
10 INGESTION.

11 MR. SCHUSTER: What is the
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Public Safety?

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

17 MR. FLYNN: Second. Mr. President,
18 on the question, I make a motion to table Item
19 7-B.

20 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

21 MR. SCHUSTER: So we have a table --
22 we have a motion to table and a second. Anyone
23 on the question? Roll call, please.

24 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

2 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

4 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

6 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

8 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. Item 7-B has
9 been tabled.

10 MR. VOLDENBERG: 7-C. FOR
11 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
12 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 41,
13 2026 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER
15 INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES
16 SOCCER FOUNDATION, INC. ("FOUNDATION") FOR A
17 MINI PITCH PROGRAM GRANT OF ONE HUNDRED
18 THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000).

19 MR. SCHUSTER: What is the
20 recommendation of the Chairperson from the
21 Committee on Community Development?

22 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: As Chairperson
23 for the Committee on Community Development, I
24 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

25 DR. ROTHCHILD: Second.

1 MR. SCHUSTER: On the question?

2 Roll call, please.

3 MS. CARRERA: Dr. Rothchild.

4 DR. ROTHCHILD: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Sean McAndrew.

6 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Mark McAndrew.

8 MR. MARK MCANDREW: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Flynn.

10 MR. FLYNN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Schuster.

12 MR. SCHUSTER: Yes. I hereby
13 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

14 MR. VOLDENBERG: EIGHTH ORDER.

15 8-A. FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7,
16 2026.

17 MR. SCHUSTER: 7-A -- this ordinance
18 amends provisions to the zoning ordinance for
19 the City of Scranton related to data centers.

20 MR. VOLDENBERG: 8-B. FILE OF THE
21 COUNCIL NO. 8, 2026.

22 MR. SCHUSTER: And this ordinance
23 amends provisions to the zoning ordinance for
24 the City of Scranton related to data centers.
25 These ordinances have been tabled until a

1 public hearing can be held at a later date.

2 If there's no other business, I'll
3 entertain a motion to adjourn.

4 MR. FLYNN: Motion to adjourn.

5 MR. SEAN MCANDREW: Motion to
6 adjourn.

7 MR. SCHUSTER: This meeting is
8 adjourned. Have a good night.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria McCool".

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

(The foregoing certificate of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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