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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, September 9, 2019

TIME:

7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

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

MICHAEL DEMPSEY, President

MICHAEL HAYES - absent

VINCE AMICO

MICHAEL MCHALE

CAROL SCRIMALLI

THOMAS HALLINAN

THOMAS EHNOT

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor - absent

MICHELLE SMOLSKIS
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Amico.

4 MR. AMICO: Here.

5 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Hallinan.

6 MR. HALLINAN: Here.

7 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Dempsey.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

9 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. McHale.

10 MR. MCHALE: Here.

11 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Ehnnot.

12 MR. EHNNOT: Here.

13 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Scrimalli.

14 MS. SCRIMALLI: Here.

15 MR. RUGGIERO: Mayor Burke.

16 MR. BURKE: Here.

17 MR. RUGGIERO: Number three, public
18 comment on agenda items.

19 MR. DEMPSEY: Would anyone in the
20 public like to comment on agenda items only?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DEMPSEY: I'm seeing none.

23 MR. RUGGIERO: Motion to approve the
24 minutes.

25 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a motion

1 to approve the minutes.

2 MR. EHNOT: I'll make a motion to
3 approve the minutes.

4 MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have a second?

5 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

6 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
7 second. Anyone on the question?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor,
10 signify by saying aye.

11 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Any opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
15 so moved.

16 MR. RUGGIERO: Number five, motion
17 to approve and pay the open bills.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have a motion?

19 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make a motion.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

21 MR. AMICO: I'll second.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Motion and a second.

23 Anyone on the question?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor,

1 signify by saying aye.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
6 so moved.

7 MR. RUGGIERO: Number six, motion to
8 accept the repository bid of \$1,522.05 for the
9 property identified as Map No. 15803010019.
10 That's Tiffany Drive Rear which is a wooded lot
11 behind the existing homeowner equivalent to .17
12 acres.

13 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that
14 motion.

15 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion. Do I
16 have a second?

17 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: Motion and a second.
19 Anyone on the question? Vito, do you want to
20 just give a quick background?

21 MR. RUGGIERO: On the question.
22 This was approved already through Lackawanna
23 County repository sale. They accepted the bid
24 to get it back on the tax rolls and it went up
25 for tax sale. I believe someone owned it,

1 didn't pay taxes on it, it went up for tax
2 sale.

3 As stated, it's .17 acres. It abuts
4 the back yard of this homeowner. They just
5 want to increase their backyard and put it
6 on their deed.

7 MR. EHNOT: Vito, is that roughly a
8 fair market value, too, for that land?

9 MR. RUGGIERO: Yes.

10 MR. EHNOT: Okay.

11 MR. DEMPSEY: All right. I have a
12 motion and a second. Anyone else on the
13 question?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor,
16 signify by saying aye.

17 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
21 so moved.

22 MR. RUGGIERO: Number seven, a
23 motion to accept the tax assessment appeal for
24 Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank, Map
25 No. 146340300034.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a
2 motion.

3 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that
4 motion.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

6 MR. MCHALE: I'll second.

7 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
8 second. Anyone on the question? Quickly on
9 the question, the Fidelity Bank had filed a tax
10 assessment appeal for their property up at The
11 Corners. Their appraisal came back
12 approximately at 1.5 million.

13 We had an appraisal ourselves, the
14 Dunmore Borough, the school district and the
15 County had an appraisal done at 1.9 million.
16 All parties agreed that the value of the
17 property would be assessed at 1.75 million.
18 The school district and the County already
19 approved it, so we'll be the last to approve
20 that.

21 Anyone else on the question?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor,
24 signify by saying aye.

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
4 so moved.

5 MR. RUGGIERO: Number eight, motion
6 to accept the COSTAR price of \$163,194.00 for a
7 2020 10-ton freight liner with a plow, VIN
8 1FVDG5FE9LHLD8774.

9 The freight liner cost is
10 \$102,894.00 and 11-foot power angle plow is
11 \$60,300. This is to replace the 10-ton vehicle
12 that we've been utilizing for winters and for
13 blacktop that's 15 years old.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. I'll look
15 for a motion.

16 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make a motion.

17 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
19 second. Anyone on the question? Vito, this is
20 going to come fully equipped, plow, spreader?

21 MR. RUGGIERO: If we order it, it
22 will be ready for November fully equipped for
23 the winter.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. And I don't
25 know if you said it, but the truck that this is

1 replacing, we are keeping that truck. We're
2 going to utilize it hopefully for blacktopping,
3 potholes. We currently use, what, a one-ton
4 or --

5 MR. RUGGIERO: A one-ton. This will
6 give us the opportunity to pick up ten tons of
7 hot blacktop material.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Anyone
9 else on the question?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor,
12 signify by saying aye.

13 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
17 so moved.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: Number nine, motion
19 to ratify the Department of Public Works
20 Collective Bargaining Agreement effective
21 January 1st of 2019 through December 31st of
22 2021.

23 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. I'll look for a
24 motion.

25 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that

1 motion.

2 MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

3 MR. HALLINAN: Second.

4 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
5 second. Anyone on the question?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor,
8 signify by saying aye.

9 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
13 so moved.

14 MR. RUGGIERO: Number ten, public
15 comment on non-agenda items. Gary Dunkin,
16 Dunmore neighborhood watch.

17 MR. DUNKIN: I'll be as fast as I
18 can. I got the responses from the neighborhood
19 watch from last month from Joe Lorrince today.
20 Just a couple corrections. One that he -- and
21 you folks, I know, all have a copy. I hope you
22 all do. If you don't, let me know and I'll get
23 one back to you. But Joe had a question about
24 a property that needed some additional cleanup,
25 and we failed to list the property. It was 122

1 Sand Street. That's an ongoing thing. It's
2 been on for probably since April.

3 The question was that there was some
4 concern about who the neighbor was -- or, who
5 the owner of that property was. For the folks
6 that live up there that have the complaints,
7 that it's been the same owner for the last
8 year. So, that's 122 Sand Street up in the
9 Bunker Hill section.

10 And then there was, at our last
11 meeting, neighbors inquired about a quiet time
12 ordinance in the Borough. I was told that at
13 this time there's no such ordinance, but the
14 response I got was that it's a council
15 question. That was the response I got.

16 So, I don't know if that's something
17 that our Council could discuss, if we could
18 look at it, or if somebody actually knows from
19 Council if there's a specific quiet time that I
20 didn't get a response to.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: I think we have --
22 Joe's not here, but I thought we had one.

23 MR. DUNKIN: I thought we did. Joe
24 said that it's a council -- quite literally,
25 the response was, It's a council question.

1 That's why I thought I'd bring it up tonight,
2 because we have our meeting next Monday and I
3 could always just let our folks know. We could
4 maybe look at for October, but --

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah. I'll check on
6 it.

7 MR. DUNKIN: Okay. Thanks. You
8 have my phone number?

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah.

10 MR. DUNKIN: Can you text me or let
11 me know where we stand just so I can get a
12 response out?

13 MR. DEMPSEY: Sure.

14 MR. DUNKIN: Thank you very much for
15 that. Just a few other things. Obviously,
16 next Monday, which will be the 16th, we're
17 going to have our September meeting. I have to
18 give credit to both banks, both Fidelity and to
19 First National, they're running it on the
20 communication boards for me so people will be
21 able to see them at The Corners. With the
22 First National, you could see their message
23 board coming down Drinker Street, so, I mean,
24 that's really a wonderful asset in terms of us
25 getting our message out.

1 I talked to Chief DeNaples briefly
2 for our October meeting. We always have fire
3 safety month for the Borough for October, and
4 so, Chief, if you could just put it on your
5 agenda for next month, if we could get a couple
6 of the guys? And we always appreciate what
7 Dunmore Fire Department does for the Borough.
8 So, thanks in advance for that, if you can just
9 put that on your calendar of events.

10 Not with the neighborhood watch, but
11 if I could just say one more thing, because I'm
12 also with the historical society, on September
13 the 27th, Mrs. Bochicchio, Kim Bochicchio, from
14 Dunmore High School, she's taking a bunch of
15 8th graders over to the cemetery, you know, for
16 the historical tour of the cemetery, but
17 immediately after that she's going to bring the
18 kids over, it's a Friday, it's the 27th, she's
19 going to bring the kids over to the historical
20 society, and Phil Sardo, who's our immediate
21 past president, is going to -- it's kind of
22 like a show and tell for the kids.

23 If you haven't been inside the
24 Dunmore Historical Society, we're on Tripp and
25 Barton Street and we're there on Saturdays.

1 Phil Sardo and I are there Wednesdays from,
2 like, 9 until 12. If you haven't been there,
3 honest to God, get there. We have so much --
4 it's really -- I'm a guy that I love history,
5 and we just have so much incredible history.
6 And I hate to brag, but I think we're one of
7 the gems of Dunmore and I wish more people
8 would show up.

9 If you know any volunteers, I could
10 tell you, Phil and I, it took us two weeks just
11 to do some archiving on a donation that was
12 made to us. We really could use people,
13 volunteers, whatever, that could show up and
14 that help us and they could do some archiving.
15 You know, we have to use gloves and tweezers to
16 separate some of the documents that we get.

17 I have to thank Mayor Burke. A
18 person gave Mayor Burke a donation and that's
19 what Phil and I were working on. We finally
20 got it completed but with, like, eight hours of
21 work to get it separated and filed from
22 somebody who found information in a basement.

23 We have historical papers that were
24 found by a contractor under linoleum, September
25 the 1st, 1939, it was when Hitler hit Poland

1 with the blitzkrieg. So, we have some really
2 information -- I think it's really educational
3 whether you're a kid or an adult. And just
4 keep that in mind if you know of anybody who's
5 retired and can help out. We'd certainly
6 appreciate it.

7 And I know everybody knows this,
8 Wednesday's the 18th anniversary for 911, and
9 we have, from Ruddy Real Estate, the
10 co-owner was a fireman in 911. I have 43 years
11 of healthcare, I've had patients who were
12 firemen who knew they were dying. They had
13 brain bleeds, they were inoperable.

14 And so I think for all of us, it's
15 personal, and for those of us who've treated
16 victims of it who've died since, it's also
17 personal. So, you know, if you're moved to
18 prayer, maybe say a prayer with us Wednesday
19 and keep those folks in mind.

20 I probably took enough of your time
21 today. Thanks, Council.

22 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you, Gary.

23 MR. DEMPSEY: Anybody else like to
24 address Council tonight?

25 MR. MCGRAW: I brought up at the

1 neighborhood watch about stop signs -- or, not
2 stop signs, the no parking on the corner of
3 Tripp and Delaware. Now, Eddie Casey just had
4 new sidewalks put in, a truck came down last
5 week and on the handicap entrance to it,
6 cracked it, because, you know, they couldn't
7 make the turn because the people parked on
8 Tripp Street close to Delaware Street.

9 They should be parked 20 feet away
10 from Delaware Street. And then on Delaware
11 Street on the corner should be 20 feet on both
12 sides. Now, today they put the no parking on
13 Delaware Street, a sign up, which is terrific
14 service, and then they moved the stop sign off
15 the pole which was located about 15 feet up the
16 left side of Tripp Street, and I suggested that
17 they put the stop sign right on the corner
18 right next to Casey's sidewalk. Now nobody can
19 come down and go up over the sidewalk. They'll
20 have to take the stop sign down.

21 So, that alleviated that problem
22 there. But now on the opposite side coming
23 down, they're parked right out to the street,
24 and, you know, if the garbage truck or anybody
25 wants to make a big loop, they don't have the

1 room. They're parking right out almost
2 adjacent to the sidewalk.

3 So, if we can get no parking going
4 up Tripp on the right, and then we had it last
5 year, a no parking on the right side of the
6 entrance to Tripp, no parking for the 20 feet.

7 And then the next suggestion was we
8 had complaints on Exchange Court, the alleyway
9 going up to the bank from Delaware Street.
10 They need, out on Delaware Street, the same
11 thing, no parking on both sides, because almost
12 every day there's very close to an accident.

13 And at the meeting, they said, We're
14 going to look into it. I talked to Mayor
15 Burke, and the DPW did a terrific job getting
16 the stop sign in and everything, and if -- I
17 don't know if they could put signs in, because
18 once you put the no parking sign in, you don't
19 have to worry about the pavement, when no
20 parking, wearing out. You know, that's a
21 permanent one, because we've had problems over
22 the years with the markings wearing out and you
23 can't put them in in the wintertime. You can't
24 see them in the winter.

25 So, it's more logical to, if it's

1 possible, to put up the signs from here to
2 corner. And the State's, it's 20 feet. You
3 know, I imagine maybe the Borough we should
4 follow what the State is.

5 And then now the bank is doing a lot
6 of work up there where they're creating a lot
7 of parking for their own people, so that should
8 be alleviated. You know, we won't have it.

9 And there's a couple of homes now
10 that have more tenants, more cars, so I think,
11 for just safety sake, it should be done. And
12 the best would be the sign, if it's possible,
13 because you can't drill in the -- put a sign up
14 if you hit rock or something. Then you have to
15 pave them every year.

16 But DPW does a terrific job and they
17 just have to wait for them to come in and
18 whatever the problem is, because, you know,
19 people will ask me, Why is the speed limit up
20 there 10 miles an hour? It's up there 10
21 because you're going 20 and 30. You know, if
22 it was 25, you'd be going 50.

23 And what it is is everybody is in a
24 hurry, and all the kids on bicycles and walking
25 up to Rita's, you couldn't believe the daytime

1 traffic with the kids, and many of them are,
2 I'd say, less than 12 years old, and they're
3 going up, maybe the oldest of the group is the
4 supervisor of the flock, and I sit there now
5 with the handicap, I see an awful lot of near
6 accidents just about every day, and I think
7 this will help stop some of them or eliminate
8 them.

9 And then, you know, you can't do it
10 overnight, and when the signs come in, we get
11 them up, and until we get them up, we should
12 paint it because, who knows, it may be snowing
13 next week, or, you know, it'll be raining all
14 week, they won't be able to paint and you'll
15 lose them. But so far, you know, the
16 cooperation has been fine, but we need a little
17 more. And thank you very much.

18 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

19 MS. LONGO: Hi. Annie Longo. 312
20 Williams Street in Dunmore. I have a few
21 comments I'd like to make. And, actually, I
22 want my comments to be noted and on record.

23 I'm having problems up on Williams
24 Street, as usual, as Mr. McGraw has just
25 explained. We have the same problem up on

1 Williams Street. It's absolutely -- I don't
2 know how to even say it anymore.

3 I'm having extensive work done on my
4 home. I'm having, because trucks in the court
5 on Farber Court, have hit my wall so bad that I
6 can't stand looking at it anymore, so I'm
7 having it repaired.

8 The people coming to repair this are
9 not even safe out there working. In fact, they
10 said to me, Is it always like this? Like, we
11 live on a speedway up there.

12 And another thing I wanted to point
13 out was, are golf carts allowed on the streets?
14 I've seen, like, kids 12 years old
15 zip-a-dee-doo-dahing up and down the street, up
16 and down the court. Is this permissible, golf
17 carts, for these kids that don't even have a
18 driver's license that are -- that street's a
19 dangerous street to begin with. So, I don't
20 understand why kids are going up and down in
21 golf carts, but I see it every day. Every day.
22 So, I'm wondering if that's permissible.

23 MR. DEMPSEY: It's not.

24 MS. LONGO: Is it a legal thing?

25 MR. DEMPSEY: No.

1 MS. LONGO: Should they have it?

2 MR. DEMPSEY: No.

3 MS. LONGO: And I know that Mayor
4 Burke was concerned about quads going up and
5 down. That still goes on. It's like a
6 speedway there. So, I don't know what's going
7 to be done. I've complained about it many
8 times, but I just don't know what's going to be
9 done about it.

10 The other thing I want to comment on
11 is the way that people have no respect for
12 anyone else and it's just, it's becoming --
13 people have a sense of entitlement. I like to
14 keep my property nice, I like it clean, I like
15 everything just so, I don't want my neighbor's
16 trees growing on my property.

17 I just spent a lot of money to put a
18 privacy fence up, Stephanie and I did, and I
19 had this problem addressed in July, and it was
20 never followed through. I was told that the
21 people were contacted to cut down the trees
22 and, you know, to take care of their
23 properties.

24 There's so much going on up there
25 with the property in the back and that house in

1 the back that should be really condemned, but,
2 you know, there's so much going on up there,
3 it's terrible.

4 But the thing I want to know is now
5 I'm putting that wall up and I would -- first
6 of all, I want to know about the trees and when
7 these people are going to be contacted to get
8 that tree away from my property? And I don't
9 want to be told, Well, you could go and cut
10 that yourself. I'm 71 years old, I am not
11 getting on a ladder to cut those branches for
12 somebody else that don't take care of their
13 properties. I want something done.

14 If the Borough has to come up and
15 cut them down, then charge that homeowner.
16 They have no business. That tree, I've
17 complained to the people five years now to cut
18 that tree down. It's growing between the fence
19 and, like I said, it's ruining my privacy
20 fence, and I'm getting really fed up. So,
21 between that and the other problems going on up
22 there, I just want to know what can be done.

23 Oh, and the other thing is, I have
24 to put something, once I have this wall
25 completely repaired, and I don't know what to

1 put there, but something has to be put there so
2 these trucks and everything else coming up
3 there isn't going to damage that wall again.
4 So, I would like some feedback on that. Okay.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

7 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you, Annie.

8 MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Would anybody else
10 like to address Council tonight? Mrs. Cuff.

11 MS. CUFF: Hi. I just had a
12 question about the upcoming meeting on the
13 19th, the public hearing on the ordinance.
14 What is the format and will you be voting that
15 night?

16 MR. DEMPSEY: It's scheduled --
17 what's today? Today's Monday. Tuesday
18 there'll be an announcement in the newspaper.
19 We have it scheduled to vote on the 19th and on
20 the 23rd just in case the 19th runs -- we don't
21 know how late it's going to go.

22 We're anticipating that we're going
23 to go probably, I think it was 6 to 8, if I'm
24 not mistaken. We're going to have a sign-in
25 sheet, everyone's going to have to sign in,

1 name and address. You're going to have to be
2 either a Dunmore resident, own Dunmore
3 property, have a Dunmore business, to speak.
4 Everyone will be allotted five minutes.

5 I'm trying to think if there's
6 anything else. We're going to obviously try to
7 keep it on topic, specific to the ordinance
8 change. I know this is a --

9 MS. CUFF: Volatile issue.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: -- volatile topic, I
11 guess, so you will be asked, if you go off on
12 tangents, you'll be asked to reel it back in,
13 but hopefully it goes smooth. But that's sort
14 of our format. Two hours max. If we get done
15 in an hour, an hour and 15 minutes, we may vote
16 then, we may have questions. I don't know
17 what's going to happen, so I -- we have it to
18 vote on the 19th or the 23rd --

19 MS. CUFF: Okay.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: -- depending on what
21 occurs.

22 MS. CUFF: Okay. That's fair. Can
23 I ask, why is it limited to only Dunmore
24 residents? I mean, I realize it's a Dunmore
25 ordinance --

1 MR. DEMPSEY: Right.

2 MS. CUFF: -- but given that the
3 height and the issue --

4 MR. DEMPSEY: It's a Dunmore zoning
5 issue, Dunmore residents. It doesn't have to
6 be a Dunmore resident. You could own property,
7 you could own businesses here.

8 MS. CUFF: Okay. But at the
9 Scranton meetings, don't people outside of
10 Scranton --

11 MR. DEMPSEY: No.

12 MS. CUFF: No? Okay.

13 MR. HALLINAN: No.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: No.

15 MS. CUFF: Okay.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: So, that's what we're
17 going to do.

18 MS. CUFF: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. DEMPSEY: I am assured that our
20 Dunmore residents will not have any issues that
21 are left on the table that somebody from
22 Scranton will say.

23 MS. CUFF: True.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: I'm confident in that.

25 MS. CUFF: All right. That's good.

1 address Council tonight?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. DEMPSEY: I'm seeing none.

4 MR. RUGGIERO: Public officials.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: I'm going to lead us
6 off tonight just because it's an important
7 topic, that we had a great meeting today with
8 Lance Robbins. Council and Mayor Burke and
9 Vito attended.

10 What bothered me about this whole
11 issue of him pulling out of the project was,
12 you know, Scranton --

13 MR. MCHALE: Explain who he is. You
14 just said his name.

15 MR. DEMPSEY: Oh. Lance Robbins,
16 he's the gentleman that's trying to -- and I
17 apologize if nobody knew who it was. Thanks
18 for catching that. He's trying to revitalize
19 the Scranton School for the Deaf -- the
20 Marywood project. The old Scranton school for
21 the Deaf.

22 It's a 14-million-dollar project.
23 It's going to be amazing. You know, we've seen
24 the plans. I think everybody's seen the plans.
25 It's been in the news. And there's a small

1 group of people that are against it based on a
2 restaurant that has six bar stools.

3 But, be that as it may, the Scranton
4 Times wrote an article that the Dunmore and
5 Scranton public officials failed us, and that
6 bothered me because we were behind that project
7 100 percent. Mr. Robbins told us today, the
8 only reason he's still in this is because we
9 have been pushing him. So, that editorial
10 bothered me.

11 And we had a great meeting today.
12 He's still in. We're trying to figure out a
13 way to make this project work. There are a lot
14 of ideas floating around today, but he flew up
15 here from California to meet with us. He's
16 thrilled that he has our support.

17 And I'm not speaking -- I think I'm
18 speaking for everybody, I don't know, and if
19 I'm not, everybody please correct me if I'm
20 wrong, but we want this project to go through.
21 The place is going to turn, as the years go on,
22 that place is going to turn into a nightmare,
23 and 90 percent of that is in Dunmore. And
24 those people are going to be calling on us to
25 get the rats out, to get the asbestos out, to

1 get everything out.

2 This project is a 14-million-dollar
3 project that's going to bring in 70-some
4 apartments, a wedding space. It's an
5 upscale-type restaurant with, you know, six bar
6 stools. I picture something similar to Sibio's
7 or Ragnacci's. He's not looking to put in a
8 2 a.m. college club in there because that
9 torpedos his vision for the place. It's an art
10 vision.

11 So, the fact that people are against
12 it is mind boggling to me, but I just wanted to
13 clarify that there was no failure on the part
14 up here. The failure was somewhere else. I'm
15 not going to name any names, everybody knows
16 who's against it, but I just wanted us to come
17 out and say we fully support it. I hope he's
18 here, I hope he stays, but for right now he did
19 tentatively pull out, but he's back in
20 cautiously.

21 So, any support that you can lend
22 him, shoot him an e-mail, tell him that you
23 support the project. If you do. And if you
24 don't, that's fine, too. Everybody has their
25 own problems. But that being said, that's all

1 I have for tonight, and I will kick it off.
2 Vince, do you want to start us off?

3 MR. AMICO: Yeah. I'll just chime
4 in on what Michael said. I didn't miss any of
5 Scranton's zoning or planning meetings
6 regarding this issue and I sat -- if you're
7 familiar with council chambers in Scranton,
8 they have the main chambers and then the
9 balcony up top, and I sat in the balcony just
10 to keep out of sight because that's what I do,
11 and I heard a lot of the complaints, and really
12 not many of them, in my mind -- they're issues
13 for some people, but I didn't think they were
14 major issues.

15 And, again, I live a block away from
16 the place, and I know my neighbors are pretty
17 on board with it. When Marywood bought the
18 project 15 years ago, I was a little taken
19 aback, because in my mind I thought it would
20 become dorms or just another college space, and
21 I was just taken aback by it, and then it sat
22 idle for the last 15 years.

23 And, again, I toured the building in
24 November with Mr. Robbins' group, and the
25 building's beautiful, magnificent structures,

1 but on the inside they're going to the pot.
2 And the longer any building sits idle, the
3 faster it's going to deteriorate. The
4 plaster's falling, the insides are going down.

5 And we always hear the argument, you
6 know, why isn't this guy -- why doesn't this
7 developer from Scranton take care of it, or
8 this guy? The place has been for sale for 15
9 years and nobody here has come up for air and
10 said, We're willing to buy it. So, I'm on
11 board with at least letting this gentleman have
12 a shot and go for it. It's more tax revenue.
13 It's another place back on the tax roll.

14 And, again, as Michael said, it's
15 just a place that's going downhill, and the
16 longer it sits, the faster it's going to go to
17 pot. So, that's all I have. Thank you.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, Vince.

19 Mr. Hallinan.

20 MR. HALLINAN: I'm just going to
21 piggyback on you guys. Again, I've already
22 spoke for, I'm sure, all of us here. As
23 Mr. Robbins said, if this fails, Marywood
24 eventually just lets -- it goes onto the tax
25 rolls or somebody's -- it's going to go into

1 disarray, and it's going to fall on the
2 taxpayers of Scranton and Dunmore to fix it up,
3 because they're going to abandon the property
4 eventually. They tried to sell it back to the
5 state, the state doesn't want it. Nobody wants
6 it. They can't do anything with it.

7 So, this guy's going to develop, and
8 I don't see where the major problems are, but
9 it was a very fruitful meeting today. And,
10 again, like Michael said, he's very cautious
11 but optimistic, and I hope it goes through.
12 That's all I have, Mr. Dempsey. Thank you.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: Mr. McHale.

14 MR. MCHALE: I have nothing further
15 than that. Thank you.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. Mr. Ehnnot.

17 MR. EHNOT: I just want to thank
18 everybody for coming. Drive home safely. And
19 God bless.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

21 Mrs. Scrimalli.

22 MS. SCRIMALLI: I just want to say
23 that I also fully support Lance Robbins and his
24 project. I'd much rather see him develop it
25 into a beautiful, you know, shining jewel of

1 the town rather than to see it go into, you
2 know, buildings that need to be raised and then
3 the property has to be excavated. So, I'd much
4 rather see it developed into something
5 beautiful.

6 I also want to congratulate our
7 chairman for being the best attorney in the
8 United States. So, let's give him a round of
9 applause.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Carol.

11 MS. SCRIMALLI: And I do want to
12 thank you all for coming. And that's all I
13 have for tonight.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Carol.

15 MS. SCRIMALLI: You're welcome.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Mayor Burke.

17 MR. BURKE: Yes. Is it Carol that
18 spoke up from Williams Street?

19 MS. SCRIMALLI: Annie.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Annie.

21 MS. LONGO: Annie.

22 MR. BURKE: I'm sorry. I can't hear
23 too good from back here.

24 MS. LONGO: That's okay.

25 MR. BURKE: But, anyway, Annie, I

1 got a letter -- I keep addressing the ATVs and
2 the same situation I guess you're having with
3 golf carts. Last meeting I addressed it again
4 and asked Tommy Cummings to send myself,
5 Council and Vito in writing or an e-mail what
6 we could and we cannot do, and he sent me back
7 he will not do that unless directed by Council
8 to do that. So, that's where I'm at with that.

9 As far as the tree, legally, and I'm
10 not a lawyer, but if the tree is on your
11 property, if somebody's tree is growing all
12 around my property, I could cut on the property
13 line.

14 MS. LONGO: Right.

15 MR. BURKE: But I would have to pay
16 for it myself.

17 MS. LONGO: Right.

18 MR. BURKE: The same as if that tree
19 fell on my house, that's my responsibility.

20 MS. LONGO: Right. Exactly.

21 MR. BURKE: So is that. So, the
22 Borough, I'm just telling you what I was told
23 by our lawyers here from the past from being on
24 Council, that the Borough will not cut a tree
25 on somebody else's property if it's hanging on

1 your property.

2 MS. LONGO: It's not that it's
3 hanging on my property. It's destroying my new
4 fence from where -- Vito was up there, he saw
5 the position where the tree was.

6 MR. BURKE: Right.

7 MS. LONGO: And how it's affecting
8 everything. And I explained everything to him.
9 So, I think that something really needs to be
10 done. I think that that homeowner -- plus,
11 that homeowner has windows that are blown out
12 up there. There's squirrels running in there,
13 there's animals running in there. It's
14 terrible.

15 MR. BURKE: Right. That's a
16 different issue. I was just saying what I knew
17 tree-wise, property-wise, if it's hanging on
18 your property, you could legally get that. As
19 far as that, Joe Lorrince, I guess, was up
20 there, and I haven't talked to Joe Lorrince
21 about it, but I'm sure he'll get on it.

22 MS. LONGO: I hope so.

23 MR. BURKE: Also, we had a meeting
24 with American Water Thursday, there's a meeting
25 every last Thursday at the end of the month,

1 and I brought up I don't think American Water's
2 doing what they're supposed to be doing.

3 For instance, the streets, they
4 don't leave risers when they pave the streets.
5 Vito sat at these meetings and heard me bring
6 them up that they haven't done it. They said
7 they'll do it, they still don't do it. Okay?
8 There's property that's getting replaced or
9 damaged. They're not getting back and talking
10 to all the people.

11 If anybody has any problems, I mean,
12 they still haven't fixed my problem in front of
13 my house, and that was paved in May. I report
14 it every month. Vito, you know I bring this up
15 every single month with them.

16 The last meeting, Thursday the 31st,
17 I brought it up. Tommy was there, too. We had
18 an issue last August on Meade Street where we
19 had sewage going down Meade Street and it ended
20 up coming out of the taxpayers' money to pay
21 for that. So, I told Vito that he's got to get
22 Tommy to act on this, our solicitor, because we
23 sold the sewer authority and the combined
24 system, and I don't want to be paying for it
25 twice coming out of my tax money. I'm sure

1 nobody else in here wants to be paying for
2 that.

3 So, the next day -- Vito called
4 Tommy and told him, the next day he was in the
5 office and he told me he heard I had an issue
6 with Meade Street, and I said, Yes, it should
7 have been taken care of last year when the
8 situation happened, because it will happen
9 again because the ground shifts, all the water,
10 extra water, we're getting from the bigger
11 storms, and it'll break again, and I don't want
12 to be paying for it out of my own taxpayer
13 money again, because we sold the place.

14 Tommy said that he would send a
15 letter, in front of Vito, you were right there,
16 Vito, to PUC and to the developers, Chris Viker
17 (phonetic), American Water and TEP. So, I
18 didn't hear from Tommy, so I called Vito up the
19 next day, I said, Vito, can you send him a
20 letter or an e-mail to remind him? We need an
21 answer on that.

22 Vito sent him the 3rd at 9:30, it's
23 in my e-mail because he sent it to me, and
24 still haven't heard anything from Tommy. But
25 it's something that's got to be taken care of

1 very soon because it's going to happen again.

2 And we spent -- I mean, Tommy made a
3 good buck on this, on the sale. If you
4 remember, it was a quarter of a million
5 dollars. And this is something that should
6 have been settled because this is going to
7 happen again, and I don't want sewage running
8 down any street in Dunmore.

9 And, as far as he needs Council's
10 approval for what I've asked for, I don't
11 believe in that. If I could find a lawyer that
12 could answer my question why, because I'm
13 supposed to get the same information as
14 Council as being there, why he can't send me an
15 e-mail and Council an e-mail on why he will not
16 give us the information I asked for at the last
17 council meeting, I simply don't understand. If
18 I could find another lawyer to answer my
19 question, because I'm not going to get it off
20 of Tommy, I'll pay him out of my pocket.

21 Maybe, Bob, if you could give me a
22 break, because you're a lawyer. It's just
23 something that should be answered why he can't
24 answer my question.

25 And, you know, it's really

1 frustrating when you ask your solicitor for
2 answers on something that we should all know
3 and then he says he will only answer if
4 directed by Council. As Mayor, I'm a tying
5 vote, that's why I'm supposed to be allowed the
6 same information as Council, and he's avoiding
7 his job by not answering my questions.

8 And this is a very important
9 question because, like I said, the sewage
10 happened a year ago in August, a year in
11 August, and nobody wants sewage running down
12 the streets. And then us, Joe taxpayer, it's
13 going to come back for us to pay again. It's
14 not right.

15 Like I said, he made good money on
16 this sale as representing Dunmore, a quarter of
17 a million dollars, okay, and he didn't even
18 have to show us receipts. It's still
19 dumbfounding me. I can't understand that. But
20 maybe Council could ask him for the
21 information, send an e-mail if you want to, but
22 I think we deserve it.

23 MR. DEMPSEY: My understanding of
24 that e-mail was in regards to ATVs.

25 MR. BURKE: Right. The ATVs, but

1 I'm just going back --

2 MR. DEMPSEY: When he said that he
3 wouldn't answer any questions that you had
4 or -- well, I don't have the exact e-mail on me
5 now so I don't want to put words. My
6 understanding was that e-mail was directed
7 towards ATVs and not directed at anything
8 water, sewer authority --

9 MR. BURKE: Right. No, you're
10 right. That's --

11 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. So, I just
12 wanted to clarify that.

13 MR. BURKE: Right.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: That was with regard
15 to ATVs.

16 MR. BURKE: Right.

17 MR. DEMPSEY: And making an
18 ordinance at a gas station. That had nothing
19 to do with --

20 MR. BURKE: Nothing to do with the
21 sewer situation. Exactly.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. So, he didn't
23 refuse to write any letter or answer your
24 question with regard to the sewer authority; is
25 that right?

1 MR. BURKE: No. He didn't refuse to
2 do anything.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay.

4 MR. BURKE: He said he would do it.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay.

6 MR. BURKE: So, I've been waiting,
7 I'm going to say I've been waiting since last
8 year on the ATV incident.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. I just wanted
10 to clear that up.

11 MR. BURKE: No. Right.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Because I didn't want
13 a misunderstanding.

14 MR. BURKE: Right. Yeah. The ATVs
15 I can't get any answers on.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay.

17 MR. BURKE: The sewer, I mean, this
18 happened, like I said, a year in August. If
19 I've got to wait as long as -- well, maybe I'll
20 have to wait as long for that as I am for the
21 ATV, which I shouldn't have to wait. I have
22 the same rights as Council on getting the
23 answers, and I'm hoping somehow I can get an
24 answer without having to pay some other lawyer
25 to find out about my rights on this.

1 And the taxpayers, I know you don't
2 want sewage running down your street and then
3 you have to pay for it again out of your own
4 pocket, or pay out of your tax money for
5 something that should have been settled when
6 the Scranton sewer authority was sold.

7 It's not a pleasant sight. People
8 driving down there, people jogging down there,
9 walking their dog down there, it's a health
10 hazard that I told our solicitor I will not --
11 I mean, my first step when this happens again,
12 which it will happen, is I'm going to the news
13 and I'm going to the news station and the
14 newspaper because I'm not going to have it.
15 I'm sick of it. What I want answers from it, I
16 want answers from Tommy, and I hope Council
17 asks for the same answers that I'm asking for.

18 And on a happier note, I'm asking
19 Council if they'll have Vito write a
20 proclamation for Coach Henzes and see if we
21 could have the Coach here at some time in the
22 future to present a proclamation for his
23 accomplishments with our students and his
24 coaching.

25 MR. DEMPSEY: And, again, that's

1 fine, it's just last night wasn't the time or
2 the place for that. That was a four-hour
3 dedication to him. And Vito, on Friday at
4 5:00, can't get all that -- there's a lot of
5 information that Coach Henzes -- a lot of
6 accomplishments that he has, we don't want to
7 miss any of them. So, to put something
8 together that fast was not possible on a
9 Friday.

10 MR. BURKE: No, I totally understand
11 that.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: For Vito. Okay?

13 MR. BURKE: That's why I'm asking
14 tonight and I --

15 MR. DEMPSEY: Absolutely.

16 MR. BURKE: Right.

17 MR. DEMPSEY: Absolutely. We'd love
18 to honor Coach Henzes.

19 MR. BURKE: I'm just asking for
20 Council's approval to do that, that's all.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.

22 MR. BURKE: I don't know if we have
23 to go by a vote, a motion.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: I don't believe we
25 need one.

1 MR. BURKE: Okay. So, I just wanted
2 on record on that. Okay. At the meeting today
3 with Lance Robbins, I thought it was
4 productive. I'm glad I walked in on the
5 meeting because I didn't know about it, but my
6 only problem was, and he said that he would
7 address, would be any water runoff, and he
8 talks, correct me if I'm wrong, Mike, but he
9 did mention permeable concrete or macadam for
10 the parking lots.

11 MR. DEMPSEY: He mentioned that as a
12 possibility, yes.

13 MR. BURKE: Right. And that was my
14 concern about, it's always runoff, because I
15 haven't seen many projects, to be honest with
16 you, I've never seen any project where we've
17 built and somebody would get water down the
18 hill. But he said he would take care of that.
19 That's, I think he said, a possibility.

20 I think it would be a big plus to
21 us, too, if that project is done correctly and
22 water problems are solved. I think it can be
23 great for the community. And that's all.

24 Thank you to the DPW getting that
25 line painted and helping the police down in

1 front of Henry's. And I'm going to see if Rich
2 could get together with you guys again to try
3 to get a couple more just because with school
4 back there, it is a dangerous street to cross
5 for our children. And that's all I have at
6 this time.

7 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. Thanks.

8 MR. BURKE: Oh. No. I do have one
9 more thing. I'm sorry. I'll volunteer my time
10 if we need any help at the stand to get it open
11 for the soccer games. People were asking me,
12 my grandchildren play soccer in the soccer
13 league, and they ask me every weekend when
14 we're going to open. So, if you need any
15 volunteers, I'll volunteer for the stands until
16 Council decides what they're going to do. I
17 mean, I'm not going every hour, but I'll put a
18 time there and I'll ask parents that are asking
19 me, if they'll do what --

20 MR. MCHALE: Tim, before you go, we
21 had a company who was going to come in to do
22 it, they couldn't get there that quick. I
23 asked DGR to do it. DGR, who you're talking
24 about, them to do it, and they have not
25 answered. So, I appreciate you putting your

1 neck out there, but they've already been asked.

2 MR. BURKE: Okay. Well, I'm just
3 saying I'll volunteer.

4 MR. MCHALE: Talk to the coaches.

5 MR. BURKE: Well, I'll do what Union
6 County did with their baseball games.

7 MR. MCHALE: And I did it all by
8 myself practically with my kids.

9 MR. BURKE: Right.

10 MR. MCHALE: And gave all the money
11 to the Borough. They're long days, and I was
12 there from morning to night. I'm not looking
13 for a pat on the back, but it's not easy.

14 MR. BURKE: I'm sure it's not,
15 that's why I'm saying, I'll volunteer, I'll
16 look for help.

17 MR. MCHALE: But, again, DGR, it's
18 in their hands right now.

19 MR. BURKE: Okay. Well, I'll talk
20 to them and see if they want to start.

21 MR. MCHALE: They've already been
22 spoken to.

23 MR. BURKE: Okay. Well, I'll tell
24 them, you know, if they want, if they're not
25 getting volunteers --

1 MR. MCHALE: Yeah. They've already
2 been spoken to.

3 MR. BURKE: Okay. Well, anyway,
4 I'll bring that up with them again, because
5 it's money that we're losing there until we
6 find out what we're going to do with the stand.
7 Okay. And that's all I have for tonight.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks. Didgy,
10 anything?

11 MR. JUDGE: Nothing.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Vito?

13 MR. RUGGIERO: Nothing.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: All right. I'll look
15 for a motion -- I'm sorry. Chris. Chief.
16 You're blending in over there. I apologize.

17 MR. DENAPLES: Nothing.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: All right. With that,
19 did I miss anybody else?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. DEMPSEY: All right. I'll look
22 for a motion to adjourn.

23 MR. EHNOT: I'll make that motion.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

25 MR. HALLINAN: Second.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor say
2 aye.

3 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

4 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. DEMPSEY: We're adjourned.

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