

Scranton parking lease agreement not done yet

JIM LOCKWOOD, STAFF WRITER / PUBLISHED: JUNE 9, 2016

An authority serving Scranton and Lackawanna County will hold a June 23 public hearing on the financing involved in Mayor Bill Courtright's plan to lease the city's parking garages to a nonprofit firm that would operate them.

The Scranton-Lackawanna Health and Welfare Authority had [a public notice published Friday](#) in The Times-Tribune for the June 23 hearing at 10 a.m. at the Health and Welfare Authority's office at the Lackawanna County Administration Building, 200 Adams Ave.

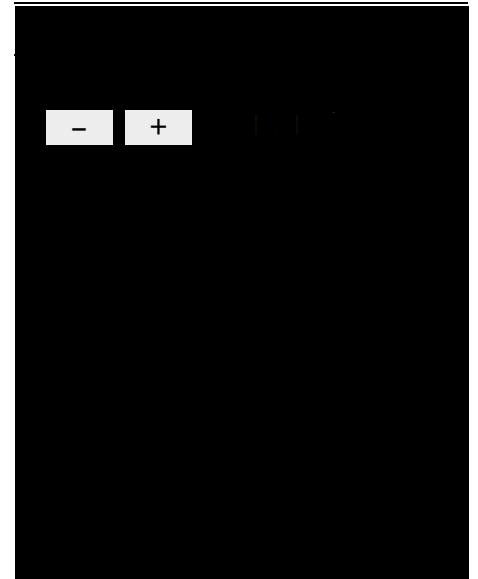
The public notice references a "Scranton Parking Facilities System Concession and Lease Agreement." The newspaper tried to obtain the agreement this week, but was told it does not exist yet.

An agreement or draft is not available for release to the public because it is not completed, said Todd Johns, solicitor for the Scranton Parking Authority.

The solicitor for the health/welfare authority, Brian Koscelansky, also said he does not have the lease agreement, which he called a "draft agreement," and suggested city solicitor Jason Shrive might have it.

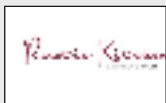
Efforts to obtain the lease agreement from Mr. Shrive also were unsuccessful.

Asked if the health/welfare should have the agreement, since this agency is holding the public hearing, Mr. Koscelansky said no.



DEAL OF THE DAY

\$25 to Rustic Kitchen & \$25 in Free Slot Play for \$25



Save 50%

[VIEW HERE](#)

Powered by The Times Tribune and ReferLocal

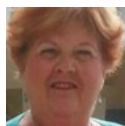
RECENT OBITUARIES [View All \(92\) >](#)



JOSEPH BLASH
[Sign Guest Book](#)



WILLIAM BONNA SR.
[Sign Guest Book](#)



ELAINE GALLAGHER
Sign Guest Book



IDA ILACQUA
Sign Guest Book

[VIEW ALL OBITUARIES](#)



MOST READ

RECENT COMMENTS

- Police charge 16-year-old with homicide in stabbing
- Pirates draft Kranick in 11th round
- DeNaples property for sale; DEP settlement to be announced
- Child porn suspect remained free 2 1/2 years due to court mixup
- NCAA: Penn State's Tessa Barrett is back on track
- Forest City class of 2016 celebrates togetherness
- Former local sports broadcaster Jim Miller who died Friday made games events



Scranton council tables no-parking outside pizzeria after owner complains

Scranton City Council on Thursday tabled legislation to create no-parking zones at the corner of a longtime

"The financing documents do not need to be complete for the (health/welfare) authority to hold the public hearing and take comments on the proposed project," Mr. Koscelansky said in an email. "The city is controlling the final terms of the financing and city council will need to approve the execution and terms of the lease along with the parking authority. The (health/welfare) authority is simply a conduit issuer for this deal, as it is when they help with other financings including university and health care financings they have assisted with in the past."

The parking authority will hold a special meeting at City Hall, likely next week, on the transaction, Mr. Johns said.

Council also will hold a public caucus at City Hall on the parking deal, though a date has not been set, council President Joe Wechsler said.

Resident Marie Schumacher, who keeps close tabs on city government, also wants to review the lease agreement. Under the Courtright administration's plan, the city would get an unspecified, upfront payment from nonprofit National Development Council, and the city would use those funds to pay down SPA debt that the city guarantees. The city would refinance the leftover SPA debt, called "stranded debt."

Ms. Schumacher wants to see all of those details.

"I have concerns about the lack of transparency," Ms. Schumacher said. "I think the taxpayers have a right to know what the (stranded SPA) debt will be. How much debt will we be left with and how much will the city get" from NDC through the lease.

Mr. Johns contends the mayor, his administration and the parking authority have been exceedingly transparent during the entire process over the past two years. Once the lease agreement is completed, it will be released to the public, before the June 23 hearing, he said.

"This is an incredibly complex problem that requires a very sophisticated solution," Mr. Johns said. "Multiple people have been working on this for two years. There are a lot of moving parts. A lot of people put in a lot of time to do this the right way."

Melissa Melewsky, media law counsel for the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, said copies of the lease agreement referenced in the public notice should be made available to anyone who wants one, and well in advance of the hearing.

"It's a very detailed notice," she said. "The details are wonderful, but I don't know if the public can really understand them without context, and that context would be in the agreement."

Contact the writer:

jllockwood@timeshamrock.com,

pizzeria in Green Ridge (read more)



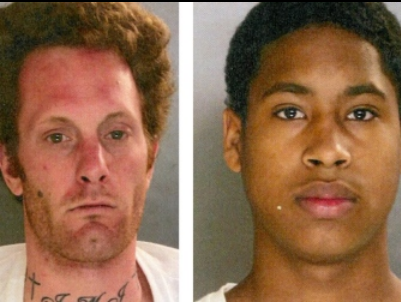
10 Things: Dog-friendly summer events

Today, we feature 10 dog-friendly summer events and places throughout Northeast Pennsylvania. (read more)



Emerald ash borer found in Lackawanna County

The experts always called it a matter of when, not if. Nine years after researchers confirmed the arrival of the emerald ash borer in Pennsylvania (read more)



Two Scranton addicts sent to intense prison recovery program

A burglar and a thief, both with serious addiction issues, were sentenced

@lockwoodTT on Twitter

RECENT SCRANTON NEWS

- Child porn suspect reamined free 2 1/2 years due to court mixup
- Scranton woman sentenced for getaway driver role
- DeNaples property for sale; DEP settlement to be announced
- Keystone landfill zoning challenge reaches county court
- Growing number of districts testing for lead in water
- Over the edge: Group offers rappelling for charity
- Governor, local officials talk opioids at roundtable

Top Video Headlines

of 3



This Week's Circulars

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

BIG LOTS

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

MODELL'S SPORTING GOODS

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

STAPLES

We welcome user discussion on our site, under the following guidelines:

To comment you must first create a profile and sign-in with a verified DISQUS account or social network ID. Sign up here.

Comments in violation of the rules will be denied, and repeat violators will be banned. **Please help police the community by flagging offensive comments for our moderators to review.** By posting a comment, you agree to our full terms and conditions. Click here to read terms and conditions.

Thursday to an intense, two-year recovery program starting in state prison. (read more)



Mayfield flips, becomes chicken-friendly

After a showdown with a resident over chicken keeping, the Mayfield Borough Council opened the coop door, allowing backyard chickens in the borough. (read more)



Officials oppose testifying in double pension case

Former Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty and several other former and current city officials are fighting a request to testify about the circumstances surrounding a 2002 retirement incentive that doubled the pensions of 35 city employees. (read more)

Sponsored

Looking For a Job? Don't Say These 8 Words

The Naked CEO

Trio in Rio: Triplets to make Olympic history

Reuters TV

10 Celebrity Deaths Related To The Illuminati

Top Celeb Daily

Find out why more than 20 million people can't stop playing this game

Pirates: Free Online Game

End Your Nightly Snoring Nightmare With This Simple Solution

My Snoring Solution

Suffering From Acid Reflux? There Is A Natural Remedy...

Rapid Reflux Relief eBook

4 Comments

The Times-Tribune

1 Login

Recommend

Share

Sort by Best

Join the discussion...

enough already · 3 days ago

complex is another way of admin's telling you "boy, is this going to cost you"!! but u won't know how much until it is all done....

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share

Otelia Robards ➔ **enough already** · 2 days ago

"my room mate Lori Is getting paid on the internet \$98/hr".....!tl314x

two days ago grey McLaren. P1 I bought after earning 18,512 Dollars..it was my previous month's payout..just a little over.17k Dollars Last month..3-5 Bours jbb a day...with weekly payouts..it's realy the simplest. job I have ever Do.. I Joined This 7 months. ago. and now making over hourly. 87 Dollars...

Learn. More right Here

!tl314x

:D:D:D:

.D.D.D.D. http://GlobalSuperJobsReportsEmploymentsChoice\GetPay\$98\Hour....

.★★

^ | v · Reply · Share

The Mayor · 3 days ago

This is too funny. Sounds just like Obamacare, where you have to pass the law before you can read the document. We can trust the city, right? They only have our best interest at heart. Sorry, I almost said that whole statement without laughing out loud!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

^ | v · Reply · Share

LesFan · 3 days ago

"I have concerns about the lack of transparency," Ms. Schumacher said.

Want transparency? Check out the films from a Courtright CT scan. There's nothing up there!

^ | v · Reply · Share

The Times-Tribune



149 Penn Ave. Scranton, PA 18503



1-800-228-4637



CONTACT US

Copyright ©2016 The Scranton Times-Tribune

PRIVACY POLICY | OPINION POSTING POLICY |

ABOUT OUR ADS | Questions or comments?

CONTACT US

SUBSCRIBE
HOME DELIVERY
DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
NEWSLETTERS
ALERTS

NEWS
OBITUARIES
SPORTS
LIFESTYLES
BUSINESS
OPINION
CONTACT
JOBS

CLASSIFIEDS
MARKETPLACE
PLACE AN AD
FIND SCRANTON JOBS

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

The Times-Tribune **THE CITIZENS' VOICE** **Standard-Speaker** **REPUBLICAN HERALD**