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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, August 16, 2012

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection  
2 observed.)

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. Mr.  
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the  
13 reading of the minutes, please.

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

15 CHECK RECEIVED FROM COMCAST IN THE AMOUNT OF  
16 \$207,547.02 ON JULY 31, 2012.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
20 REPORT, FINAL RESULTS FROM APPEAL HEARING ON  
21 JULY 25, 2012.

22 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
23 If not, received and filed.

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
25 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND

1 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS RECEIVED AUGUST 10,  
2 2012.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
4 If not, received and filed.

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
6 REPORT, HEARING DATE AUGUST 29, 2012.

7 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AMOUNT TRANSFERRED  
10 TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FROM NORTHEAST  
11 REVENUE SERVICES, LLC IN THE AMOUNT  
12 OF \$49,420.68.

13 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
14 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
15 clerk's notes this evening, Mrs. Krake?

16 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
18 council members have announcements at this  
19 time? Councilman McGoff is unable to attend  
20 tonight's meeting because he is out of town.

21 I'd like to welcome Ryan Astelford  
22 from Troop 16 Hickory Street church to our  
23 council meeting. Ryan is working toward his  
24 citizenship and community merit badge and  
25 perhaps some day after he completes his

1 education and becomes a taxpayer he will sit  
2 in one of these seats as a Scranton city  
3 councilman.

4 The Scranton Lackawanna County  
5 Taxpayers' Association will meet on Tuesday,  
6 August 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in Scranton  
7 City Council chambers, and that's it.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, does  
9 Mr. Astelford has to speak for five minutes?  
10 I'm only teasing you.

11 MS. EVANS: That was a joke.

12 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZEN'  
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this  
15 evening is Elan Xanthus.

16 MS. XANTHUS: Good evening, city  
17 council.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MS. XANTHUS: Elan Xanthus, I live  
20 on Dickson Avenue. The reason I'm here I  
21 want to publically thank the Scranton Fire  
22 Department for saving my brother today from  
23 a fire at his home. He had smoke inhalation  
24 and he lost everything, total loss, but  
25 that's just things. I just want to thank

1           them and the police department, the EMTs and  
2           the American Red Cross. Thank you.

3                   MS. EVANS: Thank you very much,  
4           Mrs. Xanthus. Our next speaker is Bill  
5           Jackowitz.

6                   MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
7           South Scranton resident and member of the  
8           Taxpayers' association, founder of the  
9           Legion of Doom. Believe it or not, I  
10          belonged to the same troop when I was a  
11          young kid. I don't think the people believe  
12          that I was a boy scout at one time, but I  
13          really was.

14                   Let's take a trip down memory lane.  
15          Remember when we used to take trips down  
16          memory lane years ago. Okay, Andy, Andy  
17          Sbaraglia. What happened when he -- how did  
18          he make out when he was appointed to  
19          Scranton Parking Authority? Not too good.  
20          Nonprofits paying in lieu of taxes, how do  
21          the taxpayers make out? Not too good. We  
22          are still trying to get money. One day I  
23          hope we do. No money until the mayor  
24          attends council meetings. How did the  
25          taxpayers make out? Not too good.

1                   But again, the mayor did come  
2                   tonight, hopefully this will be a start of  
3                   things to come because without the mayor's  
4                   cooperation it's going to be not too good.

5                   The Parking Authority no money until  
6                   they produce a budget, how did the taxpayers  
7                   make out? Not too good. You still don't  
8                   have a budget for the Parking Authority and  
9                   the last one was what, three paragraphs long  
10                  or whatever it was. We are not doing too  
11                  good on that one either, are we, people?  
12                  City council voting no for authorities  
13                  appointments and having the appointments  
14                  seated anyway. How are we doing on that  
15                  one, people? Not too good. We are -- city  
16                  council is being ignored and that needs to  
17                  be changed. We need to start working  
18                  together. Again, hopefully the mayor being  
19                  here today will be the start of that.

20                  Okay, the annual city audits, I  
21                  understand the audit for 2010 came out, I  
22                  was looking at it a little bit earlier,  
23                  again, it's due in the end of May, we got it  
24                  in August, how are the taxpayers doing on  
25                  that? Again, not too good. Responses to

1 city council letters by cabinet members and  
2 people who are in charge of the department  
3 heads, how are we doing on that one? Again,  
4 not too good. So we need to really start  
5 working on some of these areas because these  
6 are important areas. They need to be  
7 resolved, and again, I was so happy to see  
8 the mayor today, I hope he comes back again.  
9 I hope city council continues to work  
10 together with the mayor, but I would like to  
11 see it a little bit more open than in  
12 private. I like what happened tonight. I  
13 really do and we need to push that. Push  
14 it, push it, push it. Even if you got to  
15 sit on the mayor's front porch. Push it.  
16 He needs to be here. Nobody yelled at him,  
17 nobody screamed at him. Well, maybe I did a  
18 little bit, but anyway, we need more of  
19 this, we really do.

20 This is what cooperation is. I'm  
21 sorry Mr. McGoff is not here tonight because  
22 this is what cooperation is and we might be  
23 able to get out this mess. Like I said,  
24 people, I don't know if this number really  
25 means anything to city council or to the



1           mayor, but I find 7,524 days being  
2           distressed as being deplorable. I cannot  
3           accept that. Maybe other people in the  
4           audience or watching this on TV maybe they  
5           can accept it, maybe the mayor can accept  
6           it, maybe Ryan McGowan. I, Bill Jackowitz,  
7           cannot accept 7,524 days of being distressed  
8           for a total of 248 months. We have been  
9           distressed as long as Doug Miller has been  
10          alive for God's sake. I'm serious. And Pat  
11          Rogan. Pat Rogan is not only about three  
12          years, four years older, now he is a  
13          councilman. I mean, this is -- you know,  
14          I'm being repetitive, 7,524 days. Let's do  
15          something about it. That should be  
16          tomorrow's headline, Jim Lockwood, 7,524  
17          days of being distressed. I would love to  
18          see that in big black -- no, big red letters  
19          in tomorrow's paper. Maybe that will get  
20          somebody's attention and somebody will  
21          really start paying attention to saying,  
22          wow. I didn't realize it has been that  
23          long.

24                    You know, so again, I mean, the  
25          Doherty debt is good debt. How do we deal

1 with that one, taxpayers? Not too good.

2 Mr. Washo's appointment to the

3 Parking Authority \$100 an hour.

4 Mr. Spindler has been coming here for months

5 saying he had to get a second job just to

6 make ends meet. Obviously, he doesn't know

7 the same people Mr. Washo knows because

8 Mr. Washo got a \$100 an hour entry level

9 position. Entry level position as the

10 receiver for the Scranton Parking Authority.

11 \$100 an hour entry level position. Who is

12 paying the salary? WNEP reported yesterday

13 it would be Wells Fargo Bank, the Scranton

14 Times reported today it would be the Parking

15 Authority. Please answer that during

16 motions if you know the answer.

17 And Chris Kelly's outlook for the

18 city, not too good. And finally, the

19 doomers outlook for the city I'm looking for

20 truthfulness, I'm looking for cooperation,

21 I'm looking if we need to raise taxes 129

22 percent then darn it we raise taxes 129

23 percent. I don't want to have taxes raised

24 two or three times a year or every year, and

25 I don't want to hear anymore of that we

1 can't make payroll we can't do this, we  
2 can't do that. Unacceptable. And I hope  
3 somebody will work on it.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy  
5 Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,  
8 if the government would allow us to print  
9 money we wouldn't be in this problem, but  
10 unfortunately, they don't. Your I guess  
11 it's 7-D, yeah, 7-D, do you believe we have  
12 enough police vehicles because, obviously,  
13 you are taking money from buying the police  
14 vehicles and putting it to use -- these curb  
15 cuts that God knows how many people are  
16 going to use, and I don't think they are  
17 going to be as used as much as the police  
18 vehicle would have been.

19 Being everybody is talking about the  
20 Parking Authority, you are right, I don't  
21 believe that they or the Connell building  
22 are worth \$2 million to the taxpayers of  
23 Scranton, but that's what we have to pay for  
24 them two buildings. Is it worth it? No.  
25 Is Mr. Washo going to be worth \$100 an hour

1 and since the Parking Authority is broke and  
2 you are going to have pay off the bonds you  
3 in turn are paying his salary, not the  
4 Parking Authority.

5 As far as that piece the lawyer put  
6 in the newspaper that's ludicrous. He is  
7 paid to say what he is paid to say. You  
8 think that's an legitimate argument? No.  
9 You think anything about the Parking  
10 Authority is good for the city, no. Is this  
11 receivership going to be good for the city?  
12 Probably not either.

13 There was a definition of insanity,  
14 one was doing the same thing over and over  
15 again and expecting different results, so we  
16 are going to try to correct one problem that  
17 a politician put with another politician.  
18 It's not going to work. It definitely not  
19 going to work, and I don't know what's wrong  
20 with Wells-Fargo. There must be a very good  
21 reason why they didn't take money of their  
22 own employees and put them in the  
23 receivership to run that garage since it  
24 affects the bond holders, I would expect  
25 they would want somebody of the manager

1 skill beyond running the county. They  
2 probably use that as one of the requisites  
3 of the job that he was in charge of the  
4 county.

5 Well, right, make they have a little  
6 county experience but we are not talking  
7 about a county anymore, we are talking about  
8 bilking the taxpayers of Scranton \$2 million  
9 a year for the next what 20 years or  
10 something like that? We can't do it. There  
11 is no way we can do it, and you are going to  
12 be stuck. I'm sorry you don't really  
13 consider putting in for some type of a  
14 bankruptcy. I really do. I'm at the point  
15 now where you can see what's happening, this  
16 city isn't going to stay afloat, it's going  
17 to sink, sink and sink. Who is going to --  
18 our bond rating is dropping, according to  
19 your auditor and your audit the bond rating  
20 dropped again, which we knew it was.  
21 Scranton is junk bond, so anybody wants to  
22 give us money would have to do with that  
23 idea in mind and charge high enough interest  
24 to cover this junk status. That is because  
25 at any time this city can go under.

1                   If you had a revolt from the  
2                   taxpayers in this city, this city would  
3                   collapse and you might get that. I remember  
4                   mean when you passed these high tax rates  
5                   people are going to remember what  
6                   Shakespeare said when they stabbed Julius  
7                   Caesar, Et tu, Brute, and that's what is  
8                   going to be tagged on these people. The  
9                   people who stuck a knife in the city.

10                  You got to look at something to get  
11                  from the nonprofits, a residence tax, an  
12                  occupation people in the city tax. They  
13                  talk about the outsiders, these students are  
14                  here for four years, two years, whatever,  
15                  they are using more services than anybody  
16                  that lives outside of the city. Actually  
17                  most of the people don't even use the  
18                  service of the city they just ride through  
19                  the city and the state is paying for their  
20                  own tax. You got to look way, way outside  
21                  of the box, otherwise, you are going to be  
22                  the most hated people in all of Lackawanna  
23                  County, and I can understand their hate for  
24                  you because you are taking money out of  
25                  their children's mouths and that's the way

1           you have to look at it.  Them people got to  
2           eat just as well as anyone else and instead  
3           of oppressing them we should be inviting  
4           them -- you want them to come in and spend  
5           money in this city and yet you are driving  
6           them away because of things like this.

7                     I know a few -- of course, I live in  
8           the city, but if Dickson City all of a  
9           sudden give me a 1 percent tax I don't think  
10          I would ever go to the mall in Dickson City.  
11          Thank you.

12                    MS. EVANS:  Thank you.  Les  
13          Spindler.

14                    MR. SPINDLER:  Good evening,  
15          Council.  Les Spindler, city resident and  
16          homeowner and taxpayer.

17                    MS. EVANS:  Good evening.

18                    MR. SPINDLER:  I wasn't here last  
19          week, but I was very sad to hear about the  
20          passing of Helen Cook.  I knew Helen well.  
21          I worked a lot of campaigns with her.  She  
22          was a great woman, she is going to be sorely  
23          missed and condolences to her family.

24                    I didn't see the Recovery Plan, but  
25          I hear we are going to be paying a higher

1 garbage fee. I'm really disappointed with  
2 that.

3 MS. EVANS: No.

4 MR. SPINDLER: You're not? That's  
5 what I was told.

6 MR. JOYCE: The garbage fee raise  
7 has been eliminated.

8 MR. SPINDLER: It was eliminated?

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

10 MR. SPINDLER: So it's still going  
11 to be \$178?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. SPINDLER: I sorry, I was  
14 misinformed. Moving on, the Parking  
15 Authority, I'm going to borrow a line from  
16 Mr. Jackowitz tonight, how did council's  
17 plan to have a receiver appointed to run the  
18 Authority? Not too good. Mike Washo  
19 appointed. They might as well have  
20 appointed Chris Doherty as the receiver  
21 because Mike Washo is a Chris Doherty  
22 supporter. When Chris Doherty ran for mayor  
23 last election the two county commissioners,  
24 including Mike Washo, supported Chris  
25 Doherty, even though he wasn't the endorsed



1 Democratic candidate, so I think Bob  
2 Scopelliti can rest easy, he is going to  
3 have a job for as long as he wants it, I  
4 guess, because Mike Washo is not going to do  
5 anything. It's going to be status quo for  
6 the Parking Authority and who is going to  
7 take the hit, the taxpayers. It's really  
8 sad and I don't know how this happened.  
9 It's a darn shame.

10 And \$100 an hour, Mike Washo is  
11 going to make more in a day than I make in  
12 two weeks. I'm just in shock over this.  
13 It's just everything we have said here for  
14 the past weeks and weeks and weeks just gone  
15 down the drain because it's going be the  
16 same Parking Authority for God knows how  
17 long. It's a darn shame.

18 In the Doherty newsletter last week  
19 about Attorney O'Brien said that if the  
20 September bond payment isn't met the city  
21 could be on the hook for \$54 million  
22 immediately. Attorney Hughes, is that true?

23 MR. HUGHES: On October 17 I  
24 requested all of the bonds and trust  
25 redemptions from Mr. Scopelliti, I have

1 never received them so I haven't received  
2 them. I doubt if there is a -- there could  
3 be an acceleration clause, but I doubt it.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Well, if we are  
5 responsible for \$54 million then we are  
6 going to have to go bankrupt.

7 Nonprofits, Mrs. Evans, I don't  
8 remember who it was but you recently said  
9 that some city took a nonprofit to Court and  
10 won, would that be a possibility for this  
11 council to do that for the nonprofits here  
12 if they don't come up with more PILOTS?

13 MS. EVANS: I think before we would  
14 do that we are certainly going to try  
15 several different approaches and, you know,  
16 one of which that can be under consideration  
17 is what has been mentioned by council  
18 speakers and that would perhaps some type of  
19 tax or a fee as I believe I mentioned and  
20 someone may have tonight as well. Mayor  
21 Luck Ravenstahl of Pittsburgh is trying to  
22 -- or had tried a tuition tax, but now I  
23 believe he is calling the contributions a  
24 privilege of -- I don't recall, if it's a  
25 privilege to live in Pittsburgh or privilege

1 to go to school in Pittsburgh fee, so I  
2 think there are quite a number of things we  
3 can do if the nonprofits are not agreeable  
4 to voluntarily make fair share  
5 contributions.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Lastly,  
7 for quite a few weeks now some speaker has  
8 been coming up here criticizing council for  
9 not having open meetings, meetings behind  
10 closed doors. I don't agree with that and I  
11 have an example here. I was in a union for  
12 quite a few years, when there were  
13 negotiations we elected people to negotiate  
14 for us. We didn't all go to the meetings.  
15 The representatives would negotiate, then  
16 they would go to the union for a vote. We  
17 entrusted you when we put you up there to  
18 work for us and I think that this citizen  
19 should put the trust behind you. I know I  
20 do, I know you are working hard. That's all  
21 I have to say tonight. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Doug Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening, council.

1 Doug Miller, Scranton. Sitting back here  
2 listening to Mr. Jackowitz, you know, it's  
3 pretty amazing to think 7,524 days the city  
4 has been in distressed status. You know, as  
5 he stated as long as I have been alive, I'm  
6 really hopeful that it won't be for another  
7 22 years.

8 You know, I was pleased tonight to  
9 see the mayor here along with Administrator  
10 McGowan in attendance here to discuss the  
11 issues facing the city. Obviously it's been  
12 a tough hall, a long hall, and it was nice  
13 for a change to see everybody in the same  
14 room. As we have been saying for a long  
15 time, there was no reason why this couldn't  
16 have happened a long time ago. Nothing went  
17 on here, there was there screaming and no  
18 yelling, carrying on. We all got along and  
19 we discussed the issues and that needs to  
20 continue. We need to continue the dialogue  
21 and I'm hopeful that we will continue to --  
22 I should say adhere to a pledge that he made  
23 12 years ago to be the sixth councilman.  
24 You know, it only took him ten plus years to  
25 do so, but I hope it continues.

1                   But most of all I think it's a  
2                   credit to this council and we need to sit  
3                   back and take a look at the fact that you  
4                   were persistent for months and months in  
5                   encouraging the mayor to come forward in a  
6                   public setting and this is a major  
7                   accomplishment for you tonight that we had a  
8                   mayor come in here and discuss -- he wasn't  
9                   here looking for money, he wasn't here to  
10                  increase his rubber stamp council, we had a  
11                  supermajority of people's council bring the  
12                  mayor in here and I really want to commend  
13                  you for that and I think the public should  
14                  applaud you for him coming here tonight  
15                  because you had a lot to do with this.

16                  You know, the Recovery Plan, as we  
17                  have said, it's not a perfect plan but we  
18                  never claimed that any plan is perfect think  
19                  the bottom line here is that he we had a  
20                  council and an administration come together  
21                  in the interest of the citizens of this city  
22                  and their commitment to come up with a plan  
23                  that you find to be in the best interest  
24                  moving forward is something that I applaud  
25                  you for.

1                    Obviously, you faced many criticisms  
2                    along the way and it truly infuriated me,  
3                    last week I was very frustrated that through  
4                    all this process the critics who claim to  
5                    have the answers telling us how we should  
6                    run the city and how we should put our  
7                    recovery plan together never came forward  
8                    with a plan of their own and they still  
9                    haven't. You know, I heard more of the  
10                   same. I didn't hear new suggestions, mostly  
11                   I'm against this and I'm against that, and  
12                   you are entitled to your opinion and I  
13                   respect everyone's opinion, but I also feel  
14                   strongly that if you are going to be  
15                   objective you better have something yourself  
16                   and, unfortunately, we haven't had that. I  
17                   haven't heard anything better and I'm still  
18                   waiting and will be waiting for a long time.

19                    You know, the media, the Scranton  
20                    Times, Chris Kelly has been brought up  
21                    already tonight, I guess his statement  
22                    tonight was the outlook for the city is no  
23                    good. Well, we are still waiting for his  
24                    plan. As I said, he is good with his little  
25                    Sunday columns every week, still waiting to

1 see how Chris Kelly feels we should move the  
2 city forward. You know, he is so brilliant.  
3 I'm hopeful maybe this Sunday he will have a  
4 nice little recovery plan for us.

5 You know, on the Parking Authority  
6 motion I really do appreciate the fact that  
7 council fought to get a receiver in to take  
8 over, the only issue I do have with this is,  
9 you know, we see Mike Washo was appointed at  
10 \$100 an hour to run the day-to-day  
11 operations of the Authority. You know, the  
12 only issues I do have with this is a little  
13 uncomfortable with the fact, it's nothing  
14 personal with Mr. Washo, I have a lot of  
15 respect for him, he was county commissioner,  
16 whether you support his decisions or not  
17 that's a totally different matter, but the  
18 fact that, you know, I was hopeful that we  
19 would move in a direction where we would  
20 sort of bring in some outsider who doesn't  
21 have close political ties, and this isn't  
22 anything that council had any doings on,  
23 this was done by Wells Fargo, but, you know,  
24 to think Mr. Washo to see him as individual  
25 who has already had a bite out of the apple

1 so to speak, you know, we all know we need  
2 more transparency and accountability in that  
3 Authority, they have run it reckless.

4 Certainly it's been quite the cause of most  
5 of our financial issues in the city and I'm  
6 hopeful that moving forward we can move in a  
7 direction that's not political. We can turn  
8 this Authority around and make the decisions  
9 that need to be made. I do believe council  
10 needs to have more of an input than you did  
11 in the past and I do believe this is step  
12 forward in that direction that a lot of  
13 council had before, but as I stated I just  
14 hope that this doesn't continue to stay the  
15 course of the old political ways that it has  
16 been. Hopefully we can move forward.

17 Moving onto the fire department, you  
18 know, a speaker was up earlier tonight truly  
19 unfortunate the fire happened in after non  
20 over on Dickson Avenue in lower Greenridge,  
21 but it also once again brings up the point  
22 that public safety has taken a back seat  
23 with this administration. They haven't  
24 taken it serious since day one, their  
25 actions have proven it times and time again.



1           You know, more people need to come forward  
2           and protest the fire stations that have been  
3           closed or browned out, the layoffs and  
4           everything that's gone on. People have sat  
5           back and they haven't objected to it.  
6           People should be appalled that this  
7           administration has consistently jeopardized  
8           the health, safety and well-being of the  
9           residents of this city.

10                        Engine 7 in West Side, and I'll be  
11           real brief here, my neighborhood, my closest  
12           engine company, has been closed for months.  
13           I believe Council Loscombe stated somewhere  
14           I believe it was 33 out of 36 days it was  
15           browned out. You know, jeopardizing the  
16           health, safety of not only my family, but  
17           the fellow Westsiders around me and others  
18           within the city because that's an engine  
19           that does respond to the scene, but people  
20           need to come forward and demand that Chris  
21           Doherty takes our public safety seriously.

22                        SAFER grant giving \$3 million of it  
23           back knowing full well that it would have  
24           restored a full compliment of fire and would  
25           have kept our stations open and what does he

1 do? Gives it back. It makes no sense at  
2 all. Like I said, it's like winning the  
3 power ball and saying, "I don't want all of  
4 it, take some of it back."

5 Consistently time and time again  
6 hasn't taken our safety seriously and he  
7 needs be held accountable and more people  
8 need to come forward and demand that their  
9 stations be opened and that a full  
10 compliment of firemen be restored. Thank  
11 you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Fay Franus.

13 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MS. FRANUS: First I'd like to thank  
17 you, Mrs. Evans, for having the mayor come  
18 today. I'm sure it wasn't easy getting that  
19 done, but we all appreciate it, and it  
20 looked like it's a good think to work well.  
21 I think it's a beginning of a new start here  
22 with council and Attorney Hughes and the  
23 mayor and it was great to see that.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MS. FRANUS: For you to get together

1           like that and it was very sincere and I'm  
2           really tired of this negativity coming from  
3           this podium, not so good, not so good. I  
4           wish one day you would take the time, all of  
5           you, would take the time each time, maybe in  
6           motions tonight and explain to these people  
7           and the people in this city what you do  
8           every day and how much work you do.

9           Everyone that takes you for granted and  
10          thinks you just come here on Thursday and  
11          that's it. They have no clue. I wouldn't  
12          want your life for all of the tea in China I  
13          can't even comprehend because people don't  
14          know. I think you should take the time to  
15          tell them. I really do because they don't  
16          believe it.

17                   And for everybody to come here and  
18                   say, "Well, I want 129 percent."

19                   Well, Mr. Jackowitz, maybe you can  
20                   pay my taxes because I can't, I certainly  
21                   can't afford it and I do not want 129  
22                   percent tax increase and thank you for  
23                   fighting for that to get it as low as you  
24                   can for us. That's why you are there. You  
25                   could just let PEL give us that tax increase

1 and you are not.

2 On another matter, I want to say  
3 this quickly, I want to say that Annette  
4 Solfanelli and the Lackawanna Heritage  
5 Valley Association they are doing a  
6 wonderful job. I go there every day with my  
7 boy and I see the work that they do. They  
8 had like 100 kids down there the other day  
9 putting mulch around and paving in that --  
10 and getting the road all straightened and  
11 picking up garbage. They don't miss a  
12 trick. They are down there all the time.  
13 There was a tree down, I called them, gone  
14 the next day. I mean, they are just  
15 phenomenal and they really are good and they  
16 are doing a good job.

17 Now, Boyd, I'd like to ask you this,  
18 I don't know if you want to answer this, but  
19 I'd sort of like your opinion, just, like,  
20 make out like we are talking me and you, we  
21 are not, but we are, what do you think about  
22 Mike Washo as far as do you think he will  
23 get rid of Bob Scopelliti? I mean, that was  
24 the plan here to get rid of these people not  
25 keep them. It scared me when Mike Washo

1           said he doesn't want to do that yet. What  
2           do you think?

3                   MR. HUGHES: Well, he has only been  
4           there one day.

5                   MS. FRANUS: I know, but that was  
6           the purpose of getting a receiver.

7                   MR. HUGHES: There were many people  
8           interviewed. There is a misconception that  
9           Judge Mazzone just picked Mike Washo and he  
10          selected him. The process and the reason it  
11          takes time in order to get a receiver is  
12          that there were several people that the  
13          insurers and the new bond trustee  
14          interviewed for the position and they  
15          selected Mr. Washo. It was a consent order  
16          entered into between -- and the city was a  
17          defendant, between the city and the Parking  
18          Authority and Wells Fargo appointing  
19          Mr. Washo.

20                   In addition to that it says in the  
21          order, the consent order, it runs three or  
22          four pages, I have read it, that he has full  
23          authority. He has no obligation to continue  
24          the existing employees of the Authority,  
25          that he has full authority to hire a manager

1 of the Parking Authority. I can tell you  
2 that the insurers have interviewed and  
3 brought people in to look at the operations  
4 of the Authority that are professional  
5 Parking Authority managers. They are very  
6 serious about this. They know the situation  
7 and if council did not vote the way that  
8 they did and they could not make that bond  
9 payment that's what woke the insurers up and  
10 started this whole process, and I think it's  
11 much too early to tell.

12 When I was special counsel to the  
13 city I worked for very closely with  
14 Mr. Washo on the mall project, spent lots  
15 and lots of time with Mr. Washo on the mall  
16 project and it became reality against a lot  
17 of odds. I know him, you know, from that  
18 standpoint, so he just can't come in on day  
19 one, he is there in order to marshal all of  
20 the monies and see that all of the monies  
21 are reported. He has to have some staff  
22 right now, but I believe that from my  
23 information is that in time, and you just  
24 can't do this overnight, that there will be  
25 a professional management that will take

1 over the operation of the Authority.

2 MS. FRANUS: Thank for answering  
3 that.

4 MR. BOYD: Maybe I've said too much,  
5 but that's --

6 MS. FRANUS: No, no, I'm glad you  
7 did.

8 MR. HUGHES: But that has been the  
9 goal from day one contrary to lot of  
10 reports, I think that had not the insurers  
11 realized that this Authority was ineptly run  
12 and mismanaged, that wouldn't have taken the  
13 actions that they did in number one  
14 replacing the trustee, and number two,  
15 coming in and getting a receiver appointed;  
16 and number three taking the steps to bring  
17 people, professional parking managers in  
18 from outside of the area to look at the  
19 garage, all of the garages with the view, I  
20 think, to have competent people run it.

21 And I know that there -- that they  
22 do want to do everything they can to raise  
23 the revenues to reduce the liability to the  
24 city.

25 MS. FRANUS: Well, and it all

1 started with you, Attorney Hughes.

2 MR. HUGHES: Well, I was directed by  
3 council to do it.

4 MS. FRANUS: Well, council, yeah,  
5 absolutely but you worked together on that.

6 MR. HUGHES: I was just the hired  
7 gun.

8 MS. FRANUS: No, but when you  
9 explained everything all the time you really  
10 made it -- what was going on and --

11 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, I appreciate  
12 that.

13 MS. FRANUS: Well, the people  
14 appreciate it, believe me, because if you  
15 didn't do this council wouldn't have been --  
16 that wouldn't have been a default and none  
17 of this would have happened.

18 MS. EVANS: And I might add, I don't  
19 think there are too many attorneys who would  
20 have done this.

21 MS. FRANUS: No.

22 MS. EVANS: That would have taken  
23 this on so we are very grateful to Attorney  
24 Hughes.

25 MS. FRANUS: That's the truth



1           because we wouldn't be here today with Mike  
2           Washo there. I mean, I know Mike Washo, he  
3           is a nice guy, and I hope he does -- I don't  
4           think -- well, I like Mike Washo and I hope  
5           he does a good job and we have to have faith  
6           in him. Just like you said, Mr. Hughes,  
7           these people don't put him in there just to  
8           go and do -- do what they want to do, he is  
9           there for a reason or none of this would  
10          have happened; right?

11                   MR. HUGHES: They know there is  
12                   substantial problems that have to be  
13                   corrected.

14                   MS. FRANUS: Right.

15                   MR. HUGHES: And I don't who is  
16                   interviewed, I know that there were several  
17                   people interviewed, they made the decision  
18                   that he was the one to hire to get this ship  
19                   corrected.

20                   MS. FRANUS: I'm just hoping that  
21                   Bob Scopelliti is gone. Not even now, even  
22                   if it's six months, but whenever the time  
23                   comes that they need to did it, that's what  
24                   I'm hoping and thank you very much for  
25                   everything.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next  
2 speaker is a Gerard Hetman.

3 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, council.  
4 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County  
5 Department of Community Relations. We are  
6 here to talk to you this evening about a  
7 specific special event that's coming up next  
8 month. This an event that's currently at  
9 the moment in the planning stages so this  
10 announcement is sort of a save the date,  
11 mark your calendar type of announcement and  
12 we will have more details and more  
13 information upcoming as the event develops  
14 over the next several weeks, but the event  
15 that we're proud to announce is the  
16 Department of Lackawanna County Department  
17 of Community Relations in cooperation with  
18 the Lackawanna County Commissioners will be  
19 hosting -- will be the first annual  
20 Lackawanna County senior health fair. This  
21 is an event that's obviously geared toward  
22 our senior citizens and senior residents of  
23 Lackawanna County and it's going to take  
24 place on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, from  
25 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lackawanna County

1 Trolley Museum, 300 Cliff Street in Scranton  
2 on the grounds of the Steamtown National  
3 Historic Site. The event will feature free  
4 flu shots for seniors that attend the fair,  
5 seniors will be able to learn the importance  
6 of flu shots and protecting themselves from  
7 the flu and colds and communicable diseases.  
8 Light refreshments will be served. Free  
9 tours of the trolley museum will be offered  
10 and there will be prizes and giveaways for a  
11 number of different attendees. I don't want  
12 to say vendors, but a number of different  
13 agencies will be there to provide  
14 information and giveaways, displays,  
15 etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

16 The following agencies at the moment  
17 are scheduled to attend, which include the  
18 Pennsylvania Department of Health,  
19 Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging and  
20 the National Council of Aging. This event  
21 is also being put on in cooperation with the  
22 traditional home health and hospice. This  
23 is something that our department is working  
24 on. The idea came up several weeks ago and  
25 we are moving actively now to plan and

1 execute and develop the event. We have got  
2 a little bit less than a month, but it's  
3 going to come together and we are looking  
4 forward to being a great opportunity for our  
5 senior residents of Lackawanna County as  
6 both the City of Scranton come together and  
7 be able to have an event to come to where  
8 they can learn new information, learn about  
9 new services and offerings and things like  
10 that.

11 I have got several flyers here, we  
12 have one for every council member and also  
13 some extras I will leave with Ms. Marciano.  
14 We also have some that I can give to anybody  
15 in attendance who would like some  
16 information. And again, we haven't  
17 clarified everything yet, we are still  
18 working to develop it with the partner  
19 agencies, other agencies in the community  
20 that serve our seniors. We want to work  
21 together with council and with anyone else  
22 who wishes to work with us on this to spread  
23 the word. We are going to be going out to  
24 senior centers, senior residences, homes,  
25 and other places that serve seniors

1 throughout the county to make them aware of  
2 this and we are going to be developing it up  
3 to the day of the event to make it as easy  
4 to attend and as fun and engaging to attend  
5 as we can fore senior citizens, but over the  
6 next few weeks I'll give even more  
7 announcements about it and keep you informed  
8 as the event develops as to what we have,  
9 and again, I look forward to working with  
10 and I ask everyone here in attendance who is  
11 watching please spread the word to anyone,  
12 neighbors, friends, coworkers, anyone you  
13 know is a senior resident of the county and,  
14 of course, the city. Please let them know  
15 and they will all be welcome to attend the  
16 event.

17 So we will be giving more  
18 announcements as the event develops over the  
19 next few weeks and we look forward to  
20 keeping you informed of it and we hope to  
21 have a great turnout for events on the 11th.

22 That's all I have for this evening.  
23 Anything else? Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: Would you be able to  
25 e-mail me the information regarding the

1 senior event?

2 MR. HETMAN: Absolutely.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

4 MR. HETMAN: Thank you, ladies and  
5 gentlemen.

6 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Ron  
7 Ellman.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

9 Everybody kept telling me this week that I  
10 have been negative on anything and  
11 everything. I am not negative, I'm just  
12 stating facts and that are out there for  
13 everybody to see and a bunch of the people  
14 just don't see them, you know, that's why I  
15 get away with it every week with my big  
16 mouth because I got facts not a bunch of  
17 distortions like the newspaper prints day in  
18 and day out. I guess that's why nobody ever  
19 confronts me up here. I'm waiting for  
20 someone to come up, you know, year after  
21 year.

22 I got two attack ads, I learned that  
23 Mr. Obama's stuff in the paper. First is  
24 Mr. Zigmont, boo-hoo. He is just a blatant  
25 liar for the school and that's it. There is

1           just no other way to put it. It's just full  
2           of propaganda and he doesn't have facts. I  
3           think it was two weeks ago he said the  
4           University follows and qualifies as a  
5           nonprofit. In every way whatsoever, they  
6           don't. Those five rules I gave that they  
7           don't fit and that's from the state  
8           something should have been done years ago  
9           about them being like obstacles taking over  
10          the city. You know, to me they are a  
11          business first and institution of learning  
12          secondly. That's my opinion I guess.

13                         And this irresponsible nonsense that  
14          Mr. Zigmont spews forth, in their defense  
15          last week he had something about they pay a  
16          couple of hundred thousand dollars  
17          temporarily on 11 pieces of the property,  
18          but there wasn't a mention one of the 150  
19          houses they have taken off the payroll that  
20          have cost the taxpayers of this city  
21          millions forever. Millions and millions of  
22          dollars so far, you know? That's what I'm  
23          saying, he is just -- they just blatant lies  
24          what they give us. A couple of years ago,  
25          last year I think, it was -- first they said

1           that 5,000 students spend a \$100 a week in  
2           the city and we ought to be grateful. Then  
3           a couple of months later from \$100 a week,  
4           which is what, five -- you know, they went  
5           up to \$400 million dollars a year for the  
6           students which would be like 80, 85 thousand  
7           dollars a piece a year. Nobody says  
8           anything when they have such distortions.

9                     I just don't -- I support this  
10           University. They are not doing nothing  
11           positive for me or the people in this city,  
12           you know. Of course I have read about some  
13           benefits that they have, you know, but they  
14           are a liability to the people in this city.  
15           When you go to Beaver -- to the football  
16           games the school supports the city. It's  
17           completely opposite with us.

18                    My second attack is Mr. Tunis today,  
19           just his gross incompetence and saying that  
20           they are doing good management in there that  
21           there is nothing wrong. I know everybody  
22           had to read this ridiculous article. I  
23           didn't agree that, to the SPA money, I have  
24           to talk to anybody out there in the streets  
25           that agreed to it. It was Mr. Doherty and



1 the council before this when, excluding Ms.  
2 Janet, who spoke against it, all of a sudden  
3 we are responsible for millions and millions  
4 of dollars. You know, you got a bunch of  
5 guys over there Donald Trump wouldn't even  
6 hire them, plus he would have to fire them  
7 fools because they would do a terrible job,  
8 they have been doing a terrible job, that's  
9 why there is millions of dollars down the  
10 drain. It's not worth spending another  
11 penny on them. It's got to end someplace.  
12 A city can't make payroll sure can't support  
13 them for the next year after year.

14 I'd like to say something real quick  
15 before I go, this is from Abe Lincoln who  
16 was a good man even if he was a Yankee, and  
17 for all of those college students at the  
18 University and the high school students that  
19 don't know who Abe Lincoln I think he was  
20 the 16th president way before Obama, but he  
21 said something this ship is sinking faster  
22 than the Titanic and he speaks of the ship  
23 is safe. To save the good ship of the union  
24 on this voyage nobody will have a chance to  
25 call at her on the next voyage of we don't

1 start right now immediately planning the  
2 future of this country, and this is in  
3 reference we need to do it now, the future  
4 of this city needs to start now. I have  
5 talked to two or three high school or  
6 college students a week and they are  
7 concerned about staying here. Those are who  
8 we should be concerned about and those are  
9 the people you can't give them the loans  
10 like the SPA and let the University keep on  
11 being a magnet on the people of this city.  
12 Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.  
14 Does anyone else care to address council?

15 MS. WARDELL: Can we continue this  
16 meeting with only two councilmen up there?

17 MR. HUGHES: Yes.

18 MS. WARDELL: But there is no  
19 quorum.

20 MR. HUGHES: Once a quorum is  
21 achieved it's maintained.

22 MS. WARDELL: Okay. Thank you.  
23 Gentlemen, I just have a few questions, I'm  
24 not going to take much of your time. Do you  
25 know if there are any plans in the work for

1 the East Parker Street bridge? It's been  
2 one lane for like three years now.

3 MR. ROGAN: I haven't received  
4 anything that I remember reviewing. We can  
5 check into it.

6 MS. WARDELL: That's a very busy  
7 bridge because we have the Parker House over  
8 there, you know, and you young guys probably  
9 know where that is; right?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. WARDELL: It's very  
12 inconvenient. I mean, there is a light  
13 there, but it's very inconvenient for so  
14 long.

15 MR. JOYCE: I agree.

16 MS. WARDELL: Also, Lake Side Drive  
17 and Depot Street we have had now I believe  
18 three stop signs put up there and three of  
19 them have been stolen. If you could check  
20 on that?

21 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes, absolutely.

23 MS. WARDELL: And, also, I do have a  
24 question about the Scranton Parking  
25 Authority, Mr. Washo in his capacity as

1 receiver can he get rid of the board of the  
2 Parking Authority? Can he get rid of the  
3 people on the board?

4 MR. JOYCE: I'm not 100 percent  
5 sure.

6 MR. HUGHES: Can he get rid of the  
7 board itself?

8 MS. WARDELL: Can he get rid of the  
9 people who are on the board and replace  
10 them?

11 MR. HUGHES: You are into an area  
12 that I'd rather not comment on. If an  
13 operator is hired there would be no reason  
14 for the existing employees.

15 MS. WARDELL: Okay. And does anyone  
16 happen to know who the other people were  
17 that were considered for this receiver and  
18 how Mr. Washo's name came up by whom, who  
19 brought up his name? Does anybody know  
20 that?

21 MR. ROGAN: I found out from the  
22 Scranton Times.

23 MR. JOYCE: I found out from the  
24 Scranton Times as well.

25 MS. WARDELL: That's all I want to

1 know. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
4 Dobrzyn.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Like bad news it just  
7 doesn't go away. I owe you people and the  
8 people of the city an apology, one thing I  
9 forgot about was the audits and I would  
10 appreciate if the mayor is watching that he  
11 makes a concerted attempt to bring that in  
12 before the people have to be confronted with  
13 adopting or a Recovery Plan.

14 And I rarely disagree publically,  
15 but I disagree with term limits for council.  
16 I think the executive side has probably too  
17 much power in most instances and it became  
18 -- especially during the FDR administration,  
19 which we had World War II, but the man  
20 became to ill to do his job, especially in  
21 the last term and that's where that came  
22 from, and it was a tradition handed down  
23 from George Washington who felt that he  
24 might establish a dynasty or an aristocracy  
25 so he bowed out and by then he probably

1           wasn't feeling too good anyway because he  
2           had a pretty rough life during the French  
3           and Indian War. He fell into a river in the  
4           middle of winter and all kinds of stuff, he  
5           is a really interesting guy.

6                         And mention was made about trash  
7           fees again, I'd like to point out that is  
8           that not paid by all? So, in other words,  
9           if I had a small nonprofit and I put trash  
10          out do they pay trash fees? That's the  
11          purpose of the fee so that's the idea. I  
12          mean, it's chicken feed money, but it's the  
13          point that you might have to raise somebody  
14          else's taxes ten or 20 dollars to take up  
15          for them and then they are really not paying  
16          anything extra, so it's just something to  
17          consider. I mean, it's not a great reason  
18          to be disagreeable about.

19                        And the Parking Authority, also, no  
20          mention has been made and I found out doing  
21          some political work that the theatre  
22          downtown also validates tickets across from  
23          the mall and it's free parking for them,  
24          also, so that's where I feel a lot of the  
25          problems came from was that we were promised

1 all of this economic development with the  
2 Connell building and who knows what those  
3 people are paying, we never get an answer  
4 anyway when we ask for one, and the medical  
5 school is given 300 and the Hilton was given  
6 120 and the next thing you know everything  
7 is free and the people from out of town say  
8 thank you. Thank you, Scranton. Don't ask  
9 for a commuter tax though or we'll rip your  
10 heart out.

11 And last week mention was made about  
12 a DPW or police car catching fire and  
13 Nelson, my little buddy from the juvenile  
14 division, complained for week after week  
15 after week that he didn't even -- couldn't  
16 get motor mounts done on his car, engine  
17 mounts, and I often wondered if we don't  
18 need a little education down there that  
19 could be offered by the employer to bring  
20 people up to speed. I know I did it, I did  
21 it for free at the dealership when I worked  
22 there and I went in on Saturdays and went on  
23 and studied computer and it did help. After  
24 awhile I had the people that were shipped to  
25 school out of state and everything calling

1 me over to see what the problem was, and  
2 that's not giving myself -- that's the  
3 truth.

4 And on the sewer business, the Sewer  
5 Authority, there is a local person that does  
6 a lot of work the river and keeping in mind  
7 he doesn't draw a wage for the city or the  
8 Sewer Authority, Bernie McGurl, and if we  
9 could invite him some time for a caucus and  
10 possibly get to the bottom of this, some of  
11 this money is being required by the federal  
12 government to be spent, so we have a big  
13 choice there, spend the money or get fined  
14 thousand dollars a day or a couple of  
15 millions dollars or whatever the heck, but  
16 they haven't been very helpful with the  
17 money even though we are cleaning up the  
18 Chesapeake Bay and all.

19 And I might mention in Pennsylvania  
20 if you vote 50 years straight you get a  
21 super voter award, this is the golden  
22 parrot, and these people 25 percent of them  
23 now do not qualify as voters because of the  
24 voter ID law, state photo ID law. Judge  
25 Simpson yesterday just stated for this fall,



1 and keeping in mind that 19 counties have no  
2 photo center, and ten or 11 are open one day  
3 and we have about between 700 and 900,000  
4 people that may be ineligible to vote and  
5 shame on you, judge Simpson. I don't know  
6 where he got his law degree from, maybe the  
7 Doolittle Tech. Thank you and have a good  
8 night.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
10 anything anyone else?

11 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. MORGAN: Tonight I'm hoping that  
14 council will not either introduce this  
15 Recovery Plan or vote on it. I'm really of  
16 the opinion that it should be tabled. It's  
17 just not workable. You know, relying on  
18 commuter taxes and just, you know, all of  
19 these other things there is no legislation  
20 for it, even a county tax. I think it's  
21 really time for the people outside of this  
22 city to call all of their legislators and  
23 make sure that there is never again a  
24 commuter tax implemented in the  
25 Commonwealth, especially here for Scranton.

1                   You know, a lot of residents may be  
2                   a little angry at that statement but this  
3                   city knew where it was for a long time.  
4                   This isn't a surprise. PEL and all of the  
5                   other political forces they had the sway,  
6                   they could have did something, in my opinion  
7                   they did nothing. At what point does a  
8                   government have enough of any individuals  
9                   income in taxation?

10                   Now, the state taxation equalization  
11                   board says that the City of Scranton in this  
12                   document it's tax rates are I believe 35  
13                   percent too low. They should be higher, but  
14                   the only reason they are not is because the  
15                   county hasn't done an assessment. When  
16                   anybody with any common sense knows that the  
17                   property and the City of Scranton has lost  
18                   most of it's value and we have auctions  
19                   here. The former Chamber of the Commerce  
20                   building across the street is being  
21                   converted into apartments.

22                   Now, we are certain, and I don't  
23                   want to say certain individuals who talked  
24                   about nonprofits, but their legislation  
25                   comes through here for funding all the time,

1           certain nonprofits, and they get money and  
2           then in one hand we are complaining about  
3           them and in the other hand we were funding  
4           their expansion. There is something wrong  
5           here. I think there is a very serious  
6           disconnect.

7                         Now, council and the Home Rule  
8           Charter, as I have stated many times before,  
9           had the power of subpoena and never used it,  
10          okay, so when you say that somebody is  
11          hiding any document from you or that you  
12          don't have all of the facts in my opinion  
13          it's not possible because a judge can order  
14          that those facts be presented to you, and  
15          what's happened now is that this city is  
16          just in very, very serious trouble and I  
17          just don't see how we can pass a Recovery  
18          Plan relying on the legislature to pass law  
19          to make it possible to collect the plan  
20          necessary to make this Recovery Plan work.

21                        And the other thing is that Scranton  
22          had a redevelopment plan, it was called  
23          SAPA. I wanted to talk about it with  
24          Mr. Loscombe at the debate, I wanted to talk  
25          about it with council, it was all political.

1 No, it wasn't political it was about  
2 redeveloping the city. Now, we can tax  
3 everybody and we can walk through the  
4 neighborhoods and look at all of the "For  
5 Sale" signs. They aren't diminishing, they  
6 are increasing. In my opinion we have  
7 passed a flawed rental registration program  
8 in this city to raise revenue and do harm to  
9 the tax base. Council did that.

10 You know, it reached the point when  
11 you squeeze an orange to make orange juice  
12 you run out of juice, and that's what  
13 happened here. You know, we can vilify the  
14 Parking Authority, we can vilify the Sewer  
15 Authority, but the truth of the matter is  
16 that the council and this administration had  
17 an obligation to protect the residents'  
18 interest and taxing nonentities in this  
19 city, people that don't live here, that's  
20 not a solution to our problem, that's just a  
21 way to take somebody's money that we  
22 shouldn't be taking, and we can talk all we  
23 want to about the services they use when  
24 they come here, well, what about the  
25 services we use when we go there? You know,

1 the truth of the matter is this, the  
2 residents paid for the services that they  
3 received here. If there is disconnect and a  
4 problem then that problem should have been  
5 solved decades ago and it wasn't, but now  
6 that everybody is back up against the wall.

7 You know, the truth of the matter  
8 should be told that the only thing that  
9 people are interested is paying the  
10 bondholders. I mean, we are have got a  
11 pension plan that's under water, and I don't  
12 know why we haven't implemented a 401-K.  
13 You know, it's pretty easy to just put  
14 legislation up there and vote on it and vote  
15 every property owner, it's like the one lady  
16 said to the neighbor, she moved out of here  
17 to get away from aggressive taxation and now  
18 council wants to and the state and whoever  
19 else wants to tax her some more, so how far  
20 does she have to go, and I just think it's  
21 time to table this because it can't work.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
23 anyone else?

24 MS. CHILIPKO: Good evening again,  
25 Council.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MS. CHILIPKO: Marry Chilipko,  
3 resident of the City of Scranton. As a  
4 neighborhood leader in Pinebrook I just do  
5 want to mention that we had an excellent  
6 meeting on Tuesday night. We have had one  
7 of the best neighborhood meetings we have  
8 had in a long time. There were no egos  
9 involved. Mr. Loscombe was in attendance,  
10 Councilman Loscombe, Councilman Rogan if he  
11 is not present he is in constant  
12 communication with us.

13 And I'd like to pay a compliment to  
14 the new chief, well, acting chief Captain  
15 Graziano. He attended our meeting as well  
16 as Lieutenant Crofton and I have to give him  
17 a compliment, he was so interested and we  
18 worked together on problems and trying to  
19 find solutions so I think that's a bright  
20 spot for the city.

21 We do need some help. As far as  
22 7-D, I read the paper and almost cry anymore  
23 and that's sad, but I almost cried when I  
24 saw that three police vehicles were hit  
25 during the drug bust down on Albright

1 Avenue. They are in such bad shape as it  
2 is. I don't understand, maybe we will get  
3 some more explanation on 7-B.

4 Mr. Rogan, did you ever look -- find  
5 any further into our street sweeper overtime  
6 issue?

7 MR. ROGAN: No. A motion was made,  
8 I believe it was unanimous, asking all of  
9 the department heads to report overtime I  
10 believe it was for the last year or last two  
11 years to council on a monthly basis itemized  
12 by employee who receives the overtime and  
13 once again we haven't received a response  
14 from any department head.

15 MS. CHILIPKO: So we are still  
16 working on that.

17 MR. ROGAN: Well, we are just  
18 waiting. Just waiting, yeah.

19 MS. CHILIPKO: Okay. As far as the  
20 Mike Washo situation, maybe I'm the only one  
21 incensed. I read it in the newspaper, most  
22 of the people that I know reacted -- the  
23 reactions were shock, disbelief and nausea.  
24 I have notes all over the place here, but  
25 nothing personal, I don't know Mike Washo,

1 very intelligent man I'm sure and it seems  
2 to me tonight to be smoothed over. I would  
3 also like to know aren't we owed an  
4 explanation as to how his name got into the  
5 mix for the Parking Authority receivership?  
6 I don't think Wells Fargo hired him. What  
7 do people like, is there a certain people  
8 that call people that don't have jobs that  
9 are politicians and just say, hey, here is  
10 another one apply? Why couldn't I apply?  
11 Who interviewed them? How did the interview  
12 process become? I think we are owed that  
13 explanation. You know, we have known a long  
14 time, he does good work, big deal. I don't  
15 why I expected to see Joe Smo from  
16 Shavertown that has some experience in  
17 running parking garages and then they are  
18 going bring it professionals? What do we  
19 need him for?

20 I'm tired of the same names over and  
21 over and over again. I don't know him, but  
22 I have heard his name since I'm alive, maybe  
23 not quite that long. We should be privy to  
24 more information because I came here and was  
25 convinced that the vote and however the



1 money went we would see changes, not to see  
2 Mike Washo appointed as receivership. You  
3 will never convince me that there is not  
4 politics involved in that. He is only there  
5 one day, I understand that. That's one day  
6 too long for me.

7 And what did I hear, a comment  
8 somebody made today, at least they didn't  
9 appoint some political hack career  
10 politician, and I think that says it all.  
11 I'm so angry. That has not changed, that  
12 has not -- nothing will change. A bare  
13 bones operation it was described as. You  
14 will see those people there and they laugh,  
15 they have to laugh every day they go to work  
16 if that's the way you call it.

17 Judge Mazzoni, again, I say whoever  
18 else was involved in that appointment of  
19 Mike Washo get a real job. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
22 again. Marie Schumacher. I guess I'll  
23 start with Mr. Rogan tonight. Five years  
24 ago 408 Cedar Avenue or Cedar, maybe it was  
25 just Cedar, LLC, received a quarter of a

1 million dollar loan from the city for I  
2 believe it was -- at least it was said  
3 during the council meeting that it was at 5  
4 percent interest for 25 years for the  
5 acquisition and building a business and  
6 business for equipment, inventory and  
7 working capital to expand their bills.

8 I happened to drive by 408 Cedar and  
9 it is available, so could you find out  
10 perhaps whether they just moved to another  
11 location or --

12 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: --if they have gone  
14 and what happens with the balance of that  
15 loan if they are no longer functioning as a  
16 business?

17 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. I'll get in  
18 touch with Ms. Aebli tomorrow.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I did check.  
20 It's still listed as an active corporation,  
21 but that could be a little bit old.

22 Next, Mr. Loscombe must read minds  
23 and that's why he departed because --

24 MS. EVANS: Well, actually,  
25 Mr. Loscombe wasn't feeling well and he

1 spoke with me, he needed to leave.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, sorry about  
3 that. Well, I'll bring it up anyway because  
4 this is still three of you there, the news  
5 in this past week another police bad boy.  
6 Only difference -- well, the only likeness  
7 is that Mr. Jarbola once again passed on  
8 doing anything and instead sent it back to  
9 the police department, but I don't  
10 understand, I was told that you couldn't  
11 give names, you couldn't tell what the  
12 offense was, but that was then and now we  
13 have it in the paper, the person's name,  
14 three multiple shoplifting sprees, why can't  
15 we get that information about the person who  
16 was demoted? I don't care about the name, I  
17 said that repeatedly, but I do want to know  
18 what the offense was in that case. I think  
19 we are owed that. If we are stopped by the  
20 police we need to be feel secure that we are  
21 in good hands and nothing is going to happen  
22 to us.

23 On the revised recovery plan, again,  
24 I still don't think there are enough cuts, I  
25 think. I think we need to cut more and I

1 want to ask Mr. Joyce during motions to let  
2 us know how much is in the new revised  
3 recovery plan for the Scranton Parking  
4 Authority debt per year for these three  
5 years.

6 And also I missed, I got a little  
7 bit of the property tax increases, but I  
8 didn't get them all, Mr. Joyce, so if you  
9 could give us the tax increases for 2013,  
10 '14 and '15 that would be helpful.

11 And then I would like to know, quite  
12 awhile back now I gave council some case law  
13 that concluded that the property tax  
14 exemption of a government owned facility did  
15 not pass onto a commercial operator and  
16 noted that that would make former  
17 Chamberlain or maybe it's still the current  
18 Chamberlain property taxable to the tune of  
19 like \$500,000 a year, what did council do  
20 with that? Maybe I'll bring it back again  
21 next week and maybe you can try to do  
22 something about that.

23 And then I'll conclude tonight with  
24 taking issue with Mr. Miller's comments  
25 about PEL because I read that letter that

1 was excoriated last week or I guess it was  
2 two weeks ago and they only recommended that  
3 the property taxes be raised until it could  
4 be proven that some of those other taxes  
5 could be -- were actually real and actually  
6 included that they would -- the property  
7 taxes should be reduced when any of those  
8 other taxes came to fruition, so I don't  
9 think that was all they were thinking, but I  
10 do think that's certainly a more safe way to  
11 go if they include certain taxes -- a  
12 certainty for uncertain incomes, so I'll  
13 look forward to Fifth Order. Thank you.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

15 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chris.

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Frank, welcome  
17 back, my boy.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thanks, Chris.

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Janet, thank you.  
20 Thank you for the shirt you gave me. Thank  
21 you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thanks. Is there anyone  
23 else?

24 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,  
25 Council. Nelson Ancherani, resident and

1 taxpayer, exercising my First Amendment  
2 Rights.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. ANCHERANI: Recently council has  
5 been getting beat up by the slimes because  
6 the recovery plan is not in place yet. You  
7 have also been getting criticized by many  
8 others, PEL and DCED can't makeup their  
9 minds as to what the recovery plan should  
10 say. PEL and DCED now say Scranton is  
11 making progress on the recovery plan, but it  
12 still has holes. Their credibility is lower  
13 than the snake's belly. When it comes to a  
14 revised recovery plan, their original plan  
15 had the sale of the storm drains for \$6  
16 million plus from the city to the Sewer  
17 Authority. They didn't know, or did they,  
18 that the Sewer Authority owned them and  
19 couldn't be sold to themselves. That had  
20 holes, but yet they wanted to put it into  
21 the plan.

22 The city was supposedly going to  
23 sell the parking meters to the Scranton  
24 Parking Authority for \$6 million. Where was  
25 the SPA going to get that money when they

1           were almost in default? Oh, yeah, I forgot,  
2           they could have borrowed the money and then  
3           the city taxpayers could pay them, pay the  
4           loans when the Scranton Parking Authority  
5           could not pay back that loan. If I remember  
6           correctly, there was a \$35 million loan  
7           taken out by the Scranton Parking Authority  
8           in 2000 I believe it was seven.

9                       Mrs. Evans, did you vote for the  
10           approval of that loan?

11                      MS. EVANS: No, I did not.

12                      MR. ANCHERANI: I didn't think so,  
13           then it was the runner stamp council, the  
14           one that was sitting prior to this council.  
15           Now, the Scranton Parking Authority can't  
16           pay it's bond of four loans. I still can't  
17           understand why the Scranton Parking  
18           Authority or that council would have voted  
19           for the approval of a \$35 million loan with  
20           a 59 million interest pay back.

21                      This council is getting the blame  
22           because they were going to let the Parking  
23           Scranton Authority default. I don't know  
24           what's worse, a default or the taxpayers now  
25           going to pay \$2 million a year to keep them

1           afloat. The banks loaned the Scranton  
2           Parking Authority the 35 million. They are  
3           going to get 59 million in interest back.  
4           Were won't they loan the money now?

5                     They just -- I don't know, they did  
6           it for the Scranton Parking Authority and  
7           now they won't do it for us. We never had  
8           to have a recovery plan in place, now we do.  
9           This council did not put the city in \$400  
10          million plus in long-term debt. Let's start  
11          putting the blame where it belongs. The  
12          administration spends into oblivion and the  
13          banks loan the money, so shouldn't they take  
14          some of the blame? A lot of the blame  
15          maybe. They loaned the money to help put us  
16          where we are right now.

17                    This council did not vote for any of  
18          the loans that put us where we are today  
19          except one of the sitting council members.  
20          We all know who that is.

21                    We are getting -- so you are getting  
22          the blame for the mayor and the banks  
23          spending and borrowing. Don't take the  
24          bait. We know where that came from. The  
25          banks loaned the money prior, the



1 administration spent the money. Don't take  
2 the blame.

3 As for going bankrupt, you won't  
4 have to worry about raising the taxes, the  
5 receiver will do that without any approval  
6 from any one of you. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Ancherani. Is there anyone else?

9 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER, 5-A.  
10 MOTIONS.

11 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you  
12 have any motions or comments?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Just two questions  
14 on the recovery plan, I think Mr. Joyce said  
15 he would elaborate during motions. Mr.  
16 Joyce, will you elaborate on what Mrs.  
17 Schumacher brought about the sale of the  
18 lease back?

19 MR. JOYCE: Yeah.

20 MR. ROGAN: You can do it now or  
21 during motions, whatever, whatever you want  
22 to do.

23 MR. JOYCE: I'll do it right now.

24 MR. ROGAN: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. JOYCE: Basically it's -- and I

1           asked the same question and in speaking with  
2           Mr. McGowan, it's borrowing against a city  
3           asset. For instance, the DPW complex, that  
4           would be a city asset that would be used as  
5           collateral for borrowing.

6                   MR. ROGAN: Do you know what  
7           collateral they put on use.

8                   MR. JOYCE: No, it's not parking  
9           meters.

10                  MR. ROGAN: That's what my concern  
11           was.

12                  MR. JOYCE: That's what I was  
13           thinking it was at first, too, but it's not  
14           parking meters. I think the DPW complex was  
15           the first thing mentioned.

16                  MR. ROGAN: Okay, and the second  
17           question, I think I heard Mr. McGowan  
18           correctly, the additional real estate tax  
19           increase, the 68.56 percent that is not in  
20           addition to the 35.89 percent, is it?

21                  MR. JOYCE: No.

22                  MR. ROGAN: So that would just be  
23           the total amount if everything was to come  
24           out.

25                  MR. JOYCE: Correct.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, and I'll hold  
2 my comments on the agenda items as they come  
3 up.

4 As many of you were, I was very  
5 upset to read in the newspaper about the  
6 appointment of former Commissioner Mike  
7 Washo as the receiver for the Scranton  
8 Parking authority. Now, I have met  
9 Mr. Washo a few times, he has always been  
10 very friendly and pleasant, he is a nice  
11 guy, I don't have anything against him  
12 personally, but I was hopeful that the  
13 receiver that was appointed, and I think  
14 everyone was hopeful of this, would be a  
15 business professional, not somebody who is  
16 entrenched in Lackawanna County politics for  
17 longer than I have been alive.

18 And that is what's very frustrating  
19 in seeing this appointment go through and  
20 Mr. Washo knows probably all of the  
21 employees at the Authority, and he may be  
22 friends with some of them. You know, I was  
23 very hopeful it was going to be somebody  
24 from out of town. I don't know what the  
25 bank was thinking because at the end of the

1 day they want to get their money, so they  
2 want the Authority to be run professionally  
3 as do the citizens and the members of the  
4 council so that we don't have to pay that  
5 debt, but it's the very frustrating.

6 I would hope that we could have  
7 Mr. Washo and Mr. Scopelliti, other members  
8 of the board in here for a caucus as soon as  
9 possible to discuss what his plans are for  
10 the Authority, and with the agreement of my  
11 colleagues I would ask that we send a letter  
12 requesting him to come to a meeting when it  
13 can be scheduled.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes, I agree.

16 MR. ROGAN: And another thing, and  
17 I'll mention these questions when hopefully  
18 he comes, I think he will, the \$100 per hour  
19 salary in addition to Mr. Scopelliti's  
20 salary and the other financial person's  
21 salary, Mr. Renda's wife, all of the people  
22 that have been put into this Authority, you  
23 know, assuming Mr. Washo works a 40 hour  
24 week being in charge of this Authority, he  
25 is going to be making more money in a week

1 than many people make in a month or two  
2 months. I think anyone out there would love  
3 to make \$4,000 a week. It doesn't happen  
4 and especially shouldn't happen in an  
5 Authority or a business that is basically  
6 bankrupt, because that's what the Authority  
7 is. They are bankrupt. That's why they  
8 came begging to city council looking for  
9 money.

10 Also, the comments that were made in  
11 the Scranton Times to the effect of, you  
12 know, we have a lean operation and things  
13 are being run effectively. If that was the  
14 case there wouldn't have been a receiver  
15 appointed in the first place. I hope that  
16 they really don't believe that the residents  
17 of Scranton are stupid because they are not.  
18 Every single person I talked to since that  
19 article ran has brought this up. How can  
20 they believe, how can they expect us to  
21 believe this, that this authority is being  
22 run properly. It's obviously not. If it  
23 was we wouldn't be discussing it right now.

24 Another thing, I firmly believe that  
25 not other penny of taxpayer dollars should

1 be given to the Scranton Parking Authority  
2 until Scopelliti is fired, the finance  
3 people are fired, but at the same time I  
4 would hope that Mr. Washo wouldn't take out  
5 the problems of the Authority on the  
6 employees. Employees at the Authority by  
7 and large do a good job. I haven't had one  
8 complaint about a Parking Authority  
9 employee, other than you get a ticket, but  
10 that's their job. The employees do great  
11 work and they are actually understaffed.  
12 It's the management that's the problem at  
13 this authority and changes need to be  
14 mailed.

15 So hopefully things will move in the  
16 right direction, but I, for one, and I know  
17 all of you are very upset about this  
18 appointment. It's another political  
19 appointment. It wasn't made by the mayor  
20 this time, it was made by the Courts, but  
21 it's just another Lackawanna County person  
22 when it should have been someone from  
23 Philadelphia, New York with an MBA, you  
24 know, business background, somebody who ran  
25 a parking garage before privately, not a

1 former county commissioner.

2 Next, I have heard from numerous  
3 residents as well as residents of the  
4 Pinebrook just today at the meeting that our  
5 new police chief, Chief Graziano, is doing a  
6 great job. I am very glad to hear this.  
7 Chief Duffy has done a lot of good for the  
8 city fighting blights and crime in the  
9 neighborhoods, I hope Chief Graziano would  
10 do the same. I heard from some police  
11 officers that morale has picked up in the  
12 department so that is very good to hear and  
13 I definitely look forward to meeting with  
14 him, and Mr. Loscombe is not here, but I  
15 know Mr. Loscombe will be working closely  
16 with him as well and definitely wish him the  
17 best.

18 Next, going onto another department  
19 head that isn't doing a good job, again the  
20 DPW. I hate to harp on it every week, but I  
21 have to. Many months ago, I think it was  
22 actually the beginning of spring, I  
23 mentioned -- and they are not even potholes,  
24 they are divots are pulling up right off on  
25 Fawnwood in West Scranton, somebody put dirt

1 to fill them in, whether that was the DPW,  
2 and I don't think it was, I think a private  
3 resident, you know, just filled in the holes  
4 on their own and residents up there are  
5 telling me that when you are driving up and  
6 another car is driving down they both try to  
7 avoid the pothole, and it's not a pothole  
8 it's a sink hole, and when both cars try to  
9 avoid it, it almost causes an accident every  
10 time.

11 Now, the residents up in Fawnwood  
12 have very nice homes, they pay very high  
13 property taxes, and this is six months that  
14 the DPW director couldn't get somebody up  
15 there to fix a hole.

16 Next, again with the DPW last week,  
17 I believe it was last week or two weeks ago  
18 I mentioned potholes on Division Street.  
19 Schools are going to be back in soon.  
20 School buses run on this street. There are  
21 very large holes. A resident called at  
22 least eight times to the DPW before he even  
23 contacted city council and they can't get  
24 any results, so I was very encouraged two  
25 weeks when Mr. McGoff -- or, actually,



1 Mrs. Krake read off a list of responses we  
2 received back from the DPW, I was very happy  
3 thinking, well, maybe they are finally going  
4 to get this stack of work when we need, but  
5 as much as I would like to and as much as we  
6 all would like to, we can't drive down to  
7 the DPW and take a truck and fill the  
8 potholes, although, it would make our jobs  
9 much easier at times.

10 I'm hopeful these will be fixed,  
11 especially, you know, six months to get a  
12 hole fixed is completely unacceptable and  
13 also, you know, school buses will be running  
14 again soon so they absolutely need to be  
15 fixed.

16 Two other requests that were  
17 mentioned, Mrs. Krake, and I'll e-mail all  
18 of these to you tomorrow, the East Market  
19 Street bridge, I haven't heard anything on  
20 that and maybe the DPW director has, and  
21 also the stealing of the stop sign on the  
22 corner of Depot Street and Wayside Drive,  
23 whether it's kids or not, but hopefully the  
24 DPW can be made aware of it and the police  
25 department as well so they can take a closer

1 look with that.

2 So that is all I have for tonight.  
3 Actually, one more thing. Item 7-D that was  
4 formerly tabled regarding the transferring  
5 of the funds from police -- account for  
6 police vehicles to neighborhood police  
7 patrol to curb cuts and road paving, the  
8 reason this money is being transferred is  
9 because the city is ineligible to be used  
10 this year. When the mayor cut police  
11 staffing, when it's cut below a certain  
12 level you can't use federal funds to  
13 increase it, we can only use federal funds  
14 to increase the current compliment of police  
15 officers, so at least the money will be used  
16 and put to good use cleaning up the streets  
17 and the neighborhoods, and that is all I  
18 have for now and I'll comment on agenda  
19 items as they come up. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,  
21 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments  
22 motions?

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. To begin  
24 tonight I'm going to address the recovery  
25 plan. I have received several questions

1            regarding the plan over the past two weeks  
2            and hopefully this will help the public in  
3            understanding the recovery plan a little bit  
4            more or what it's about or some of the  
5            repercussions of not having a plan at all.

6                       One of the questions was why does  
7            the city need a tax increase in the first  
8            place especially since the city is not  
9            increasing the services? There are several  
10           reasons why a tax increase is need to cover  
11           expenses.

12                      To begin, first we have a \$17  
13           million Supreme Court award to pay to the  
14           firefighters and police officers which was  
15           caused by Mayor Doherty taking the advice of  
16           DCED and fighting against the police and  
17           fire unions for years. The debt service  
18           that this will cost is outstanding. To  
19           note, if it we are not for the efforts of  
20           some city council members and the  
21           administration to negotiate with the unions  
22           recently, this award could have been in the  
23           range of 30 to 35 million dollars  
24           respectively.

25                      Secondly, in addition to that, the

1           MMO, minimum municipal obligation, that the  
2           city must towards police, fire and  
3           non-uniform pension plans for the city  
4           employees will be increasing by \$5.1 million  
5           per year in renege 2013, 2014 and 2015 as  
6           per a study conducted by Thomas Anderson.

7                     This \$5.1 million per year increase  
8           is a large hit to the city. If you could  
9           look at what this would cost the city alone  
10          as far as the tax increase, for very 1  
11          percent in tax increase it's equivalent to  
12          \$139,000, so you could only imagine what a  
13          \$5.1 million extra expense will due to the  
14          city. It's very, very -- it's a very large  
15          hit.

16                    Third, salaries are rising. As one  
17          knows, prior to Court decisions the fire and  
18          police force in Scranton did not receive a  
19          raise in ten years. After Court decisions,  
20          the fire and police force in Scranton were  
21          awarded raises which were retroactive,  
22          therefore, the costs of the fire and police  
23          force is higher than in years past and will  
24          continue to rise in 2013, '14 and '15.

25                    Other unionized workers such as DPW

1 and clerical unions will also receive raises  
2 in 2013, '14 and '15 and these are all  
3 contractually negotiated. There is nothing  
4 we can do it about that.

5 Fourth, health insurance costs are  
6 rising. Though fire and police unions will  
7 be contributing to their health insurance as  
8 well as the DPW and clerical unions along  
9 with management, as they have been, the cost  
10 of health care is rising at a rate of  
11 somewhere in the realm of 9 percent per  
12 year, as per PEL's data.

13 Fifth, the Scranton Parking  
14 Authority, according to the operating  
15 agreement, will continue to need funding  
16 assistance of the city per their operating  
17 agreement in which the city guarantees their  
18 full faith and credit by their taxing powers  
19 to cover the Scranton Parking Authority  
20 debt.

21 Because of reckless borrowing by the  
22 Scranton Parking Authority that has caused  
23 the Authority to borrow more money than they  
24 can pay, the city is on the hook for  
25 approximately \$2 million per year.

1                   Sixth, beginning in mid-2014, the  
2                   city will be required to pay the salaries of  
3                   firefighters being paid by the SAFER grant  
4                   at the current time. This is expected to  
5                   cost the city \$700,000 in 2014, and \$1.5  
6                   million in 2015 to keep our fire department  
7                   staffed at the same level it's currently  
8                   staffed at now, and that's just to keep it  
9                   where it is.

10                   Another question that I received  
11                   over the past two weeks pertained to whether  
12                   or not it would just be better for the city  
13                   to go bankrupt. I have received a few  
14                   e-mails and they have said, well, at this  
15                   point the city is so far gone why isn't the  
16                   city just going bankrupt? The short answer  
17                   to is it better for the city to go bankrupt  
18                   is, no. Those some have discussed that the  
19                   city going bankrupt is the only way out, it  
20                   is really not. If the city were to go  
21                   bankrupt, a receiver would be appointed. At  
22                   that point, the decision making powers of  
23                   the administration and the Scranton City  
24                   Council will be a moot point.

25                   Basically, the administration and

1 Scranton City Council would lose it's say in  
2 what happened with the city. An appointed  
3 receiver would be given the discretion to  
4 dictate the future of the city, which means  
5 that a receiver could simply increase your  
6 taxes at will. A municipal bankruptcy is  
7 not the answer to getting rid of the  
8 municipal debt that's Scranton has.

9 Unlike a personal bankruptcy, the  
10 debt does simply not go away. In fact,  
11 after researching further into municipal  
12 bankruptcies, there has not been one case  
13 where a municipal bankruptcy has been  
14 forgiven on its debt. So I'm generally  
15 saying that if a municipality were to go  
16 bankrupt, it doesn't mean that the bonds or  
17 the loans that the municipality has just  
18 simply go away, they are still required to  
19 be paid.

20 In addition to this, a municipal  
21 bankruptcy would destroy the city's credit  
22 rating and jeopardize the city's borrowing  
23 power in the future for unnecessary tax  
24 anticipation notes, which are used on a  
25 year-by-year basis to keep the city afloat

1           until tax revenues are realized in the  
2           beginning of the year for each year.

3                     A third question that was asked of  
4           me over the past week was why we simply  
5           can't privatize refuse collection and  
6           eliminate a garbage fee which is \$178 per  
7           year. The first reason that we can't do  
8           this immediately is due to the fact that the  
9           DPW contract does not expire until the end  
10          of 2013, meaning that we cannot privatize  
11          until 2014.

12                     In addition to this, I have  
13          researched other surrounding communities.  
14          In other communities where refuse collection  
15          is privatized, fees to pick up garbage is  
16          much higher on an annual basis and in some  
17          communities the cost to pick up garbage is  
18          about \$3 per bag. Therefore, if one were to  
19          take the average family who has two bags of  
20          garbage on average the cost to pick up  
21          garbage would be \$6 per week. \$6 per week  
22          multiplied by 52 weeks in a year equates to  
23          \$312.

24                     With this being said, in this  
25          scenario the average family would end up



1            paying more than the garbage fee every year  
2            even if they only had two bags of garbage  
3            per week. If a family had three bags of  
4            garbage per week at an average of \$3 per,  
5            bag this would equate to \$9 per week. When  
6            multiplying this by 52 weeks it would equate  
7            to \$468 per year.

8            Both scenarios would equate to an  
9            average family or person for that matter  
10           actually paying more for garbage pick up  
11           than the current city fee.

12           A fourth question that was asked to  
13           me it why we can't just privatize the Sewer  
14           Authority. The answer to this is very  
15           complex. First of all, many requirements  
16           would have to be agreed upon for this to  
17           happen. For instance, the mayor would have  
18           to approve to privatize the Sewer Authority  
19           which we currently do not have.

20           In addition to this, the board of  
21           the Scranton Sewer Authority would have to  
22           agree to dissolve the Authority and sell it  
23           themselves, which we currently do not have  
24           since they are all the mayor's appointees.

25           Third, we would then need to get the

1 agreement of Dunmore to dissolve the  
2 Authority, which would be an unknown as to  
3 whether or not we would get it or not.

4 Fourth, there are many mandates that  
5 need to be made under the Chesapeake Bay  
6 federal mandates that the Scranton Sewer  
7 Authority is currently making. The cost of  
8 these mandates is extremely high which is  
9 the reason that sewer rates have been on the  
10 rise by the Authority. If the Sewer  
11 Authority was sold, sewer rates could rise  
12 by an even greater amount.

13 Fifth, the sale of the Scranton  
14 Sewer Authority would not bring a windfall  
15 of cash that would be needed to cover all  
16 expenses. In the past when the Sewer  
17 Authority was sold, the city only received  
18 \$5 million in upfront money which would only  
19 put a dent into the projected three year  
20 deficit before mandates of over \$41 million.

21 Fifth, a question was asked to me  
22 why does the city even need a Recovery Plan  
23 in the first place? In response to this  
24 question, the city needs a Recovery Plan  
25 because lending institutions are now

1            requiring it in order to provide financing  
2            to the city. In meetings that I have  
3            attended with local lending institutions in  
4            the past PEL has been present. In these  
5            meetings PEL has stressed the importance of  
6            a revised recovery plan as being met with  
7            the assurances that the city could pay them  
8            back. Because of PEL's persuasion, a  
9            revised recovery plan is being required by  
10           just about all lending institutions that the  
11           city is dealing with at the current time.

12                            At this point in time without a  
13            revised recovery plan, the city would not be  
14            able to secure budgeted financing. This  
15            would mean that the city would basically  
16            fall into an abyss. Employees would not be  
17            paid, debt services obligations would not be  
18            paid and we would default and the city most  
19            likely would not be able to secure any type  
20            of financing that it needs to in the future.

21                            As one knows, a revised recovery  
22            plan that was jointly constructed by the  
23            administration and members of council was  
24            constructed and voted on for introduction at  
25            the August 2 Scranton City Council meeting.

1           Also as one knows, PEL had raised some  
2           concerns regarding the revised recovery plan  
3           and rejected the plan in its current state,  
4           thus, requiring several revisions to be  
5           made. There were several changes to the  
6           revised recovery plan by the administration  
7           over the past two weeks. These changes  
8           were-- all the changes made were primarily  
9           made by the administration to accommodate  
10          PEL's requirements.

11                        To begin, the changes made to the  
12           revised recovery plan by the administration  
13           are as follows:

14                        Number one, first, the baseline  
15           projection of operating revenue was changed  
16           from \$61,226,437 to \$61,736,457 in 2013.  
17           This is primarily due to the Geisinger  
18           expansion project that they wish to  
19           undertake as Mr. McGowan mentioned earlier.

20                        Subsequently, the baseline  
21           projection of operating revenue was changed  
22           from \$62,226,457 to \$60,986,457 i n 2014.  
23           Along with this baseline projection, the  
24           operating revenue was changed from  
25           \$63,226,457 to \$61,132,824 in 2016.

1                    Secondly, the baseline projection of  
2                    all operating expenses changed from  
3                    \$62,738,986 to \$63,746,788 in 2013.

4                    Subsequently the baseline projection  
5                    of operating expenses changed from  
6                    \$70,983,614 to \$71,983,614 in 2014. Along  
7                    with this, the baseline projection of  
8                    operating expenses changed from \$71,540,569  
9                    to \$72,532,596 in 2015.

10                   This was primarily due to the rise  
11                   in operating expenses is due to the fact  
12                   that the revised recovery plan calls for  
13                   refinancing in 2013 and in 2014 with the  
14                   Supreme Court award and other debt service  
15                   requirements there would be extra expenses  
16                   in terms of debt service.

17                   After changes to the baseline  
18                   projections for revenue and expenditures,  
19                   the current year deficit before mandates  
20                   changed by the administration to \$2,019,331  
21                   in 2013. For the same reason, the  
22                   administration changed the current year  
23                   deficit before mandates to \$10,997,157 in  
24                   2014; and \$11,399,7721 in 2015.

25                   Overall, the total deficit before

1 mandates in cash outflows was reported as  
2 \$41,577,469 by the administration.

3 Third, the current year deficit  
4 changed from \$4,825,937 to \$7,725,937. The  
5 reason why this changed was to due to the  
6 city not being able to refinance debts soon  
7 enough to maximize the full savings involved  
8 in the refinancing, which was originally  
9 dictated by Mayor Doherty and business  
10 administrator Ryan McGowan to be \$6.4  
11 million.

12 Fourth, the amount of unfunded  
13 borrowing was increased for this year due to  
14 the fact that the city did not refinance  
15 debt in time to maximize the full \$6.4  
16 million savings that could have been  
17 realized by refinancing earlier in the year.

18 Fifth, the DCED grant was changed by  
19 the administration of \$250,000 to \$750,000.  
20 In meeting with business administrator Ryan  
21 McGowan, Mayor Doherty and Councilwoman  
22 Evans, Mayor Doherty expressed that he was  
23 going to petition DCED to make the grant  
24 that they were offering \$750,000 rather than  
25 \$250,000.

1                   In speaking yesterday with Ryan  
2                   McGowan, he expressed that the city would  
3                   still be receiving \$2.25 million from the  
4                   state except that instead of paying back \$1  
5                   million the city would pay back \$500,000  
6                   instead.

7                   Sixth, the commuter tax revenue  
8                   projections for 2013 was decreased from \$4  
9                   million to \$2.5 million. It was a  
10                  requirement of the PEL that the projections  
11                  for the commuter tax be reduced for year one  
12                  due to the lag that can occur in the  
13                  collection of this new tax.

14                 Seven. Projections for the  
15                 repayment of the unfunded borrowing from  
16                 2011 was changed by the administration from  
17                 \$2.1 million to \$1.8 million for 2013, 2014  
18                 and 2015. This projection was confirmed as  
19                 appropriate by PEL because in speaking with  
20                 Ryan McGowan he also stated that since we  
21                 wouldn't be looking to borrow from the  
22                 pension fund we would be looking at  
23                 obtaining a lower interest rate.

24                 Eighth, the projection for the  
25                 repayment of the unfunded debt from 2012 was

1 changed from \$882,981 to \$1,050,000 for 2013  
2 and 2014. This was due to the city not  
3 being able to refinance debt soon enough to  
4 maximize the full savings that could have  
5 been realized this year.

6 Ninth, the additional firefighters'  
7 line was changed by the administration to  
8 \$700,000 in 2014, and \$1.5 million in 2015.  
9 This figure was determined to be okay by  
10 PEL. As to the costs the city will incur to  
11 maintain the amount of firefighters that we  
12 have now after the SAFER grant ceases.

13 Ten. The increase to the MMO was  
14 changed from \$5.5 to \$5.1 million.  
15 According to a study by Tom Sanderson who  
16 calculates the MMO for the city employees'  
17 pensions, it was determined that the MMO  
18 increase would be \$5.1 million in 2013 and  
19 2014. We will not know of the increase to  
20 the MMO in 2015 until 2014 occurs, since  
21 they only do it on a two-year period.

22 However, it was estimated by the  
23 administration that the MMO increase would  
24 still be \$5.1 million higher than it is now.  
25 Overall after all changes were made the tax



1 increases were changed by the  
2 administration. If the sale's tax is  
3 realized and passed by the legislature to  
4 11.91 percent in 2013, which is a  
5 court-ordered tax increase associated with  
6 unfunded borrowing that was approved by the  
7 Court of Common Pleas in 2011, a 9.63  
8 percent tax increase in 2014, and a 14.34  
9 percent tax increase in 2015. And that's  
10 all I have tonight.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman  
12 Joyce. Good evening. Earlier this week  
13 Councilman Joyce and I met with State  
14 Senator John Blake to discuss the pressing  
15 financial issues facing our city and its  
16 people and to enlist his help.

17 Unfortunately, Senator Blake is  
18 unable to assist Scranton in the short-term  
19 since the Senate does not return to session  
20 until September 24 and thereafter very few  
21 legislative dates remain during the Fall of  
22 2012.

23 In addition, Republican legislators  
24 stated recently that he will entertain no  
25 legislation following the forthcoming

1 November election. Rather, they prefer to  
2 use those valuable weeks for what is termed  
3 housekeeping duties.

4 Nevertheless, Senator Blake will  
5 research the new taxes proposed by city  
6 government among other revenue generators  
7 and will pursue the financial relief for  
8 Scranton and support from colleagues and  
9 related groups that share our financial  
10 burdens in the long-term.

11 We also discussed municipal  
12 bankruptcy with Senator Blake. He firmly  
13 believes that it is not an option for our  
14 city and we should do whatever is necessary  
15 to survive the current short-term financial  
16 crisis.

17 Further, he stated that no city that  
18 entered bankruptcy to his knowledge has ever  
19 escaped full payment of bonds and that the  
20 Pennsylvania Courts are quite different than  
21 those of California in which three cities  
22 recently declared bankruptcy.

23 Additionally, Senator Blake warned  
24 against the long-term consequences of  
25 bankruptcy, particularly, the resulting loss

1 of city services. Legacy costs, court  
2 decisions and tax exempt properties have  
3 entrapped our city in a financially confined  
4 space. However, Senator Blake feels the  
5 shackles could be removed with state  
6 legislation. Unfortunately, this is a  
7 long-term solution which doesn't address the  
8 immediate problems.

9 Further, the longer a city remains  
10 distressed the more power appears to be  
11 given over to the state. According to  
12 Senator Blake, this is a distortion of the  
13 intention of the Act 47 as the state power  
14 should diminish in time, yet, DCED and PEL  
15 appear to exercise an ever growing grip on  
16 Scranton, one that has nearly destroyed our  
17 city.

18 Next, I wish to comment on the  
19 latest newspaper articles concerning the  
20 appointment of a receiver and the Scranton  
21 Parking Authority board meeting. Scranton  
22 City Council had neither input nor knowledge  
23 of the appointment of Mr. Washo as a  
24 receiver.

25 Rather, we had been hoping for the

1 appointment of an independent individual or  
2 firm from outside Lackawanna County or even  
3 the state. The announcement was a colossal  
4 a surprise to council as it was to city  
5 residents. Nevertheless, Mr. Washo has a  
6 weighty burden on his shoulders to restore  
7 public confidence in the Scranton Parking  
8 Authority and we wish him well.

9 The Parking Authority has been  
10 anything but a bare bones operation. It was  
11 not until after the June 1, 2012, default  
12 that Mr. Scopelliti's \$150 monthly car  
13 expenses were cut, bloated management  
14 salaries were reduced, and the former SPA's  
15 solicitors clear conflict of interest  
16 mandated his replacement.

17 Further, the SPA failed to cure the  
18 four or five events of default by the July  
19 9,2012, deadline and thereby placing it into  
20 receivership. To date, it still has no 2012  
21 budget. Because the 2011 approved and  
22 amended budget was violated and the 2012  
23 budget presented to the city council was  
24 neither approved nor adopted.

25 These budgets appear to be cursory

1 at best and an attempt to obfuscate  
2 financial information at worst. If the  
3 board members had serious doubts or  
4 reservations concerning the ability of the  
5 parking garages to meet financial  
6 obligations, they could have and should have  
7 voted against construction of new garages.

8 When this \$35 million borrowing was  
9 brought before city council, I had the  
10 financial sense to vote "no" and insist that  
11 the owners of the Connell building construct  
12 the adjacent garage at their own cost.

13 In addition, free parking spaces in  
14 various garages should never have been doled  
15 out. Therefore, I don't believe that any  
16 city funds should be used to make SPA bond  
17 payments while the current management team  
18 remains employed. Under such circumstances,  
19 the garage will need to be sold to drive  
20 down debt and interest payments. The city  
21 cannot afford to support this mess as it  
22 currently stands. A professional operator  
23 should be hired.

24 And finally, I have citizens'  
25 requests for the week: The area under the

1 bridge on Luzerne Street between Meridian  
2 and Railroad Avenues was not cleaned. I  
3 visited the site this week and noticed  
4 bottles and garbage strewn throughout the  
5 area and dirt covered half the sidewalks on  
6 the left side traveling down from Meridian  
7 Avenue.

8 In addition, a large "No Parking"  
9 sign is broken and lying in the dirt.  
10 Please address as soon as possible.

11 Residents of the 500 block of  
12 Schultz Court wish to know when the  
13 condemned buildings in the court are  
14 scheduled for demolition since they were  
15 informed that the work would be performed  
16 this summer. Please provide city council  
17 with the date on or before August 23, 2012.  
18 And that's it.

19 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I  
20 could just since the Scranton Parking  
21 Authority was mentioned I'd like to chirp in  
22 on two things. One issue that Mr. Washo has  
23 no control over is the cooperation between  
24 the city and the Scranton Parking Authority  
25 which is whereby they employ the meter

1 people, we reimburse the Parking Authority  
2 for the payroll and the Parking Authority  
3 gets 10 percent of all revenues collected.  
4 That is not in the consent order because  
5 that was never a contract, it was pledged to  
6 the trustee on any of the bond issues.

7 I have been informed that the 10  
8 percent management fee that the Scranton  
9 Parking Authority has been assigned to  
10 Landmark Bank to pay the note that the  
11 Scranton Parking Authority has. I believe  
12 that the amount of the 10 percent, I'll call  
13 it the vig, that the Scranton Parking  
14 Authority gets is around \$100,000 a year and  
15 now that Mr. Washo would have control of all  
16 of the revenues of the Parking Authority,  
17 except the money that the Parking Authority  
18 gets from the city, 10 percent on what's  
19 collected, the Parking Authority will remain  
20 in business. Of course, they could use that  
21 10 percent to pay salaries and payroll of  
22 Mr. Scopelliti and other people.

23 I would suggest that council review  
24 the cooperation agreement. There is a  
25 clause in there that you can terminate this

1 agreement within 30 days, that we look at it  
2 to terminate that agreement which would mean  
3 that all of the meter people would have to  
4 come back on the city payroll, we are paying  
5 for them anyway, and that comes out of the  
6 parking revenue that -- from the meters.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. HUGHES: I think that this  
9 should be looked at, and I'm recommending  
10 that council look at it and determine if  
11 that cooperation agreement should be  
12 terminated and the meter people be brought  
13 back as employees of the city, where it  
14 would go in the budget and how the budget  
15 would be amended, that would all have to be  
16 in the ordinance terminating the cooperation  
17 agreement. That's my recommendation on that  
18 and I think that, you know, take some time  
19 to look at it and consider what to do. I'll  
20 draft the legislation on that to terminate  
21 that agreement and bring all of those people  
22 back, all those employees back in-house.

23 MS. EVANS: Very good.

24 MR. HUGHES: The second thing, and I  
25 don't have the paper so I'm going here from



1 memory, I read with interest Mr. Tunis'  
2 comments that were in the paper this morning  
3 regarding the Scranton Parking Authority  
4 meeting last night, that the SPA relied upon  
5 consultants, feasibility studies, regarding  
6 the financing -- the financially solvency of  
7 each of the garage projects and that they  
8 had sufficient projected revenues to pay the  
9 operating expenses and amortize the debt  
10 services.

11 I would recommend that council  
12 direct a letter be written, I don't know who  
13 the chairman of the Parking Authority is, I  
14 know Mr. Tunis he is an attorney, he is a  
15 board member, that we write a letter to the  
16 SPA to have them furnish to council all  
17 feasibility studies that the SPA had and  
18 relied upon for the financing of the new  
19 garages in the 100 block of Adams Avenue  
20 next to the Hilton Hotel and the new garage  
21 at the corner of Adams and Lackawanna. I  
22 don't know the names of the garage. I don't  
23 know if they're the Medallion and the Casey  
24 garbage, but everybody knows the garages I'm  
25 talking about it, and also the new garage in

1 the 100 block of Washington Avenue next to  
2 the Connell building, all of those  
3 feasibility studies, and also any  
4 feasibility studies that they had regarding  
5 any refinancing. I don't know when these  
6 bond issues, if there was refinancing of the  
7 existing bonds that were rolled into the  
8 financing of these new garages.

9 They say they relied on these  
10 feasibility studies that they were accurate,  
11 well, if they are, why is there a \$2 million  
12 hole so that we could take a look at them  
13 and there is -- I don't know who did them,  
14 but there might be a legal liability here  
15 for the city to file the lawsuit. That's  
16 going to be a question whether or not --  
17 it's the city is the guarantor of those  
18 bonds, I believe we would have standing to  
19 file a lawsuit to sue any consultant that  
20 provided these studies if they are not  
21 accurate.

22 This is not an easy lawsuit, but if  
23 as Attorney O'Brien said that the city is on  
24 the hook for \$2 million for the next 23  
25 years that's \$46 million, I certainly think

1           that somebody should be taking a serious  
2           look as to who did these feasibility studies  
3           and how they were done, whether they are  
4           accurate, and if they are not litigation  
5           should be instituted.

6                   MS. EVANS: And thank you, Attorney  
7           Hughes. Mr. Krake, if you can confer with  
8           our solicitor tomorrow and draft and send  
9           that letter on behalf of Scranton City  
10          Council, please.

11                   MS. KRAKE: Yes. 5-B. ORDINANCE OF  
12          THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,  
13          PENNSYLVANIA APPOINTING W. BOYD HUGHES,  
14          ESQUIRE AND PAUL A. KELLY, JR., ESQUIRE AS  
15          SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND  
16          CASECON CAPITAL, INC. AS CO-FINANCIAL  
17          ADVISOR TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON ON THE  
18          ISSUANCE AND PLACEMENT OF ANY BONDS, NOTES  
19          OR FINANCING OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S  
20          UNFUNDED DEBT OR REFINANCING OR REFUNDING OF  
21          ANY OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING BOND ISSUES  
22          AND 2012 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE B AND  
23          AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
24          CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH  
25          CASECON CAPITAL, INC.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
7 those in favor of introduction signify by  
8 saying aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
12 have it and so moved.

13 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE  
14 DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FROM SCRANTON'S OFFICE  
15 OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UDAG  
16 REPAYMENT CHECKING ACCOUNT NO. 56- 202174-9  
17 ENTITLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT  
18 REPAYMENT ACCOUNT, SAID FUNDS TO BE UTILIZED  
19 FOR FINAL PAYMENTS DUE AND OWING WITH  
20 RESPECT TO WORK PERFORMED REGARDING THE  
21 CRISP AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

22 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be  
24 introduced into its proper committee.

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
3 those in favor of introduction signify by  
4 saying aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE  
10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
11 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A  
12 GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PENNSYLVANIA  
13 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND THE SCRANTON  
14 POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL  
15 YEAR (FFY) 2009 BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION  
16 PROGRAM AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING IN THE  
17 AMOUNT OF \$27,685.91.

18 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
19 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be  
20 introduced into its proper committee.

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
24 those in favor of introduction signify by  
25 saying aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
4 have it and so moved.

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. AUTHORIZING THE  
6 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
7 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A DESIGN AND  
8 CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES CONTRACT  
9 WITH REILLY ASSOCIATES TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND  
10 CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE  
11 CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PROJECT ENTITLED:  
12 "RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY STREETS TO  
13 INCLUDE HANDICAPPED CURB CUTS".

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
20 those in favor of introduction signify by  
21 saying aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
25 have it and so moved.

1 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
2 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50,  
3 2012 – AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF  
4 COUNCIL NO. 56, 2011, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
5 “GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2012” BY  
6 TRANSFERRING \$178,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.  
7 01.401.13090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL  
8 OPERATING EXPENSES – CONTINGENCY) TO THE  
9 ACCOUNTS LISTED BELOW TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR  
10 LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE PAYMENTS THROUGH  
11 THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012.

12 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
13 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

14 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
15 pass reading by title.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
18 those in favor signify by saying aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
22 have it and so moved.

23 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a  
24 motion to take File of Council No. 49, 2012,  
25 from the table.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
3 those in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

6 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
7 have it and so moved.

8 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
9 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE  
10 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) - AMENDING THE REVISED  
11 RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON  
12 PURSUANT TO THE FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED  
13 MUNICIPALITIES ACT; AND AUTHORIZING THE  
14 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ISSUE AN  
15 ORDER DIRECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
16 REVISED RECOVERY PLAN DATED AUGUST 1, 2012  
17 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A" IN ACCORDANCE  
18 WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 245 OF  
19 THE FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES  
20 ACT.

21 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by  
22 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

23 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-B  
24 pass reading by title.

25 MS. EVANS: Second. On the



1 question?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I think I made my  
3 opinions on the plan clear two weeks ago.  
4 I'll just vote on it I guess.

5 All those in favor signify by saying  
6 aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

9 MR. ROGAN: No.

10 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so  
11 moved.

12 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
13 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
14 COMMUNITY  
15 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 35,  
16 2012 - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
17 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
18 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
19 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC,  
20 1147 THE HIDEOUT, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA  
21 FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING AWNING COVER AND  
22 INSTALLATION OF NEW, BLACK SYNTHETIC VINYL  
23 MATERIAL AWNING WITH VINYL LETTERING, WITH  
24 NO CHANGE TO THE FRAME DIMENSION, HEIGHT AND  
25 LOCATION SPECIFICATIONS AT 410 SPRUCE

1 STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

2 MS. EVANS: What is the  
3 recommendation of the Chair for the  
4 Committee on Community Development?

5 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
6 Committee on Community Development, I  
7 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
10 call, please?

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
17 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
20 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 36, 2012 -  
21 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
22 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
23 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
24 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC,  
25 1147 THE HIDEOUT, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA

1 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CUSTOM MADE,  
2 DOUBLE-SIDED, SANDBLASTED AND CARVED HDU  
3 SIGN PANEL, 48"H X 42"W X2", MOUNTED ON A  
4 CUSTOM WROUGHT IRON BRACKET WITH BRASS END  
5 CAPS AT 410 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON,  
6 PENNSYLVANIA.

7 MS. EVANS: What is the  
8 recommendation of the Chair for the  
9 Committee on Community Development?

10 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
11 Committee on Community Development, I  
12 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
15 call, please?

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
22 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

23 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
25 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 37, 2012 -

1 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
2 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
3 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
4 APPROPRIATENESS FOR POCONO SIGN & GRAPHIC,  
5 1147 THE HIDEOUT, LAKE ARIEL, PENNSYLVANIA  
6 FOR REMOVAL OF EXISTING AWNING COVER AND  
7 INSTALLATION OF NEW, BLACK SYNTHETIC VINYL  
8 MATERIAL AWNING, WITH LOGO IN SHADES OF  
9 GREEN AND WHITE, WITH NO CHANGE TO THE FRAME  
10 DIMENSION, HEIGHT AND LOCATION  
11 SPECIFICATIONS AT 406 SPRUCE STREET,  
12 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

13 MS. EVANS: What is the  
14 recommendation of the Chair for the  
15 Committee on Community Development?

16 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the  
17 Committee on Community Development, I  
18 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

19 MR. JOYCE: Second.

20 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
21 call, please?

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
3 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a  
5 motion to take File of Council No. 48, 2012,  
6 from the table.

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
9 those in favor signify by saying aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
13 have it and so moved.

14 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
15 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
16 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 48,  
17 2012 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) - AMENDING FILE OF  
18 COUNCIL NO. 83, 2009, FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
19 40, 2010 AND FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 53, 2011  
20 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE  
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE  
22 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY  
23 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED  
24 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
25 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE

1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
2 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)  
3 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)  
4 PROGRAM" BY TRANSFERRING \$480,320.84 FROM  
5 THE NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL, 10-96,  
6 NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL, 11-96, AND  
7 NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL VEHICLES, 11-96.2  
8 TO PROJECT 12-04 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND  
9 HANDICAP CURB CUTS.

10 MS. EVANS: What is the  
11 recommendation of the Chair for the  
12 Committee on Community Development?

13 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
14 Committee on Community Development, I  
15 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
18 call, please?

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
25 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

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If there is no further business,  
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
adjourned.

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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 of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER