

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
14 reading of the minutes.

15 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. NO
16 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. FOURTH ORDER.
17 CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, actually before we
19 begin the citizens' participation, council I
20 believe has a few announcements. First of
21 all, calling all veterans, informational
22 meeting to discuss the closing of the
23 governor's outreach office in Pittston. The
24 meeting will be held at the University of
25 Scranton in the DeNaples' building on

1 Friday, February 5, 2010 at 9 a.m. Speakers
2 will include Ken Smith, Kevin Murphy, and
3 other representatives from Harrisburg.

4 Also, Colts wants your input. There
5 will a two public meetings to gather input
6 about Colts bus routes. They will be held
7 on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at 11 a.m. to
8 1 p.m., and again at 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at
9 the Mall at Steamtown on the second floor
10 across from the shoe department. Colts is
11 conducting an analysis of it's current
12 routes and considering possible changes to
13 better serve our riders. To do this, Colts
14 needs your suggestion and input.

15 And beginning with evening's
16 meeting, I ask all speakers during citizens'
17 participation to put in writing all requests
18 for information and problems that require
19 attention. Please include your name on your
20 request as well and give it to the assistant
21 city clerk who is seated to the right of the
22 podium. This council is willing and anxious
23 to answer your questions and address your
24 problems, however, there were so many
25 requests made at last week's opening meeting

1 that it was difficult for council and it's
2 staff to compile a complete list and
3 determine which individual made each
4 request. We ask you to help us better help
5 you by not only announcing your concerns
6 during citizens' participation, but also by
7 committing them to writing complete with
8 your name, and when council has your
9 information or has addressed your problem,
10 it will provide the information to you at a
11 council meeting.

12 Finally, I'd like to commend all
13 community volunteers who were involved in
14 the numerous celebrations, Martin Luther
15 King day within the last several days in our
16 great city. Dr. King's message of peace and
17 equality remains vital and we as Americans
18 must strive to continually make his dream a
19 full reality. I regret my inability to
20 attend these celebrations as well as two
21 wonderful fundraisers for cancer victims
22 over the weekend because of a physical
23 ailment.

24 Are there any other council members
25 who have announcements at this time? Mr.

1 Joyce?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Last week, I
3 mentioned that the Census Bureau was
4 accepting applications for various
5 positions. As I was informed, they still
6 have not filled all of the vacancies for the
7 2010 census for Lackawanna County. With
8 this in mind, I encourage all who are
9 interested to apply as there still is time.
10 To learn more about the opportunities
11 available, I encourage you to visit the
12 Census Bureau's Website at
13 www.2010Census.gov and click on job seekers.
14 From the site, you will be able to learn
15 more about the positions available. To
16 qualify for a position with the Census
17 Bureau, you must pass a background check and
18 complete a short 28 question basic skills
19 test which can also be seen on the website.

20 If you are interested, you may
21 submit application at the Census Bureau's
22 local office on Lackawanna Avenue and they
23 can also be reached at 903-6020.

24 In addition, late last week I was
25 informed by a city resident that Logan

1 Schneider, a 15-month-old boy had recently
2 been diagnosed with neuroblastoma which is a
3 rare form of cancer. According to
4 statistics, there are only 650 cases of this
5 type of cancer diagnosed every year. With
6 this in mind, Logan has a long road ahead of
7 him and his parents are asking that you
8 consider purchasing a bracelet to help
9 support him and his treatment efforts as he
10 currently undergoing treatment at Sloan
11 Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York
12 City.

13 If you wish to purchase a bracelet
14 in support of Logan or wish to make a
15 donation to help support his treatment,
16 please visit www.helplogan.com. From there
17 you will be able to contact his parents by
18 e-mail and place a request for a bracelet.
19 And that is all I have tonight.

20 MS. EVANS: Are there any other
21 announcements at this time?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just one. West
23 Scranton baseball team is conducting a drive
24 to help the Bethel AME temporary emergency
25 shelter in Scranton. The shelter is in

1 desperate need of following: Blankets,
2 scarves, hats, gloves, additional warm
3 clothing, and nonperishable food items.
4 Please drop any of your donations in the
5 bins located at the main entrance of West
6 Scranton High School. That is all.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake?

8 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
9 PARTICIPATION.

10 MS. EVANS: Mr. Stucker.

11 MR. STUCKER: How you doing?

12 MS. EVANS: Hello.

13 MR. JOYCE: Hello.

14 MR. STUCKER: On Hamm Court, Hamm
15 Court, the garbage I went down through last
16 week about two weeks ago, the garbage is
17 still out in the yard. And we need a sign
18 on Cedar Avenue going down the hill, a bus
19 sign. We need bus signs.

20 MS. EVANS: What type of signs?

21 MR. STUCKER: South Side where
22 Gerrity's market is, Gerrity's store. We
23 need signs on the other side of the street.
24 We need more bus signs.

25 MS. EVANS: Bus signs?

1 MR. STUCKER: Yes. There is none.
2 You know, on the west side, on the side
3 coming up.

4 MS. EVANS: We'll look into that.

5 MR. STUCKER: And we have a problem
6 over by Oppenheim and the Globe Store again
7 with the cars parking there in front of the
8 buses and the buses can't park there.

9 MS. EVANS: Maybe we'll have
10 Mr. Loscombe look at that.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll check into that
12 for you, Jimmy.

13 MR. STUCKER: Okay. I think that's
14 all.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
16 Sbaraglia.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
18 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.
19 6-C, the upper part with the 2 percent
20 income -- earned income and net profits on
21 person and businesses associated businesses
22 who are residents of the City of Scranton or
23 nonresidents of the City of Scranton for
24 work done and services performed or business
25 conducted within the City of Scranton. Tell

1 me, does a doctor at the hospital that
2 performs an operation subject to this tax?

3 MS. EVANS: Actually, I am going to
4 refer this to Attorney Hughes. We had a
5 brief discussion this following last weeks
6 meeting.

7 MR. HUGHES: I'm looking for the
8 button here, but somehow it doesn't go on.
9 I have no idea on that. From a legislation
10 standpoint it's a business privilege tax.
11 It would seem that any doctor who resides or
12 that has his office in the City of Scranton
13 would be paying the tax on his total income
14 for services performed. Whether doctors
15 from outside of Scranton that come in and
16 perform operations whether they are paying
17 the tax, I have no idea. I believe that's
18 an issue that probably the solicitor's
19 office should look at or the single tax
20 office with their solicitor.

21 It would be similar to what Mrs.
22 Evans and I discussed that if a contractor
23 comes into Scranton, builds a property or
24 puts an addition on to a house for \$10,000
25 he would be paying a business privilege tax

1 on that and taking out permits and paying
2 the tax and certainly I think he would be
3 getting the bill for all of the services
4 that he performed in the city, all of the
5 construction.

6 Personally, I see no difference than
7 when a doctor comes in who has his office
8 outside of the Scranton and performs
9 operation and performs a service here then
10 goes back his office, bills it outside of
11 the City of Scranton, even though that
12 revenue would come in outside of the City of
13 Scranton the service to be performed, at
14 least the cost of the operation.

15 I have no idea what the answer to
16 that is. I believe it should be looked
17 into. I believe that that would be up to
18 the single tax office. I believe they are
19 the ones that would be responsible for that.
20 Probably most of the operations I would
21 venture, I would make an educated guess they
22 are performed in Lackawanna County are
23 probably performed in the hospitals here
24 within the City of Scranton.

25 MS. EVANS: And I might just quickly

1 add that I did meet with Mr. Courtright on a
2 different issues last week, but prior to
3 that discussion I did bring your idea to
4 him, he wrote it down, it's something that I
5 would like him looking into.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, as you know,
7 it's attached to our paying our tax and I
8 would hate to see us pay our tax and other
9 people that are -- should be taxed the same
10 way are not, but that's -- we'll find out.
11 That has to go a long time anyway. I didn't
12 have the opportunity to write down, I wish I
13 did, if I had known you wanted it written I
14 would have written it, because we got to
15 find out the status of the South Side
16 Complex. That's sitting there too long
17 without having some kind of a status and
18 another with the DPW site. As you know, we
19 are paying liability on both parcels which
20 would say that will we still own them, at
21 least I hope we still own them, but anyway,
22 to get some clarification on it, and as far
23 as the money from the DPW site, I think I'll
24 long dead before he comes up with that, but
25 that isn't the point. The point is the

1 liability. They are going to build a
2 garage. I mean, not a garage a Turkey Hill
3 there. Are we liable if somebody gets hurt
4 at the Turkey Hill being we are liable for
5 all of the parcels? Somewhere along the
6 line we got to set limits on the liability
7 for the parcel.

8 MS. EVANS: Actually, Mr. Sbaraglia,
9 I think you mentioned this last week and we
10 had sent a letter requesting what insurance
11 coverage the city has for both the complex
12 and for the former DPW, what's being paid
13 and why.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. That will
15 help somewhat, but you notice on the
16 legislation they had they were on the --
17 both parcels was on it under the liability
18 and city-owned property.

19 The only other thing I had to
20 comment was that ludicrous article that I
21 read in the Times. We had two council
22 persons that sat up there that got a pension
23 and weren't entitled to it and yet you have
24 a new council that is entitled to a pension
25 they want to take it away from him. Where

1 is the justification in that? Why should a
2 man who was entitled to a pension going to
3 serve his government be striped by two
4 people that were up there that weren't
5 entitled to a pension, were given a pension.
6 To me, that's ludicrous, but in this city
7 everything is ludicrous. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Sam Patilla.

9 MR. PATILLA: Sam Patilla, Scranton
10 resident and Scranton homeowner. Good
11 evening, City Council, minus one.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. PATILLA: I'd like to first
14 commend you, Madame President and council,
15 for the legislation that I read on the
16 agenda 5-B, the repealing of that library
17 authority. It really brings a smile to my
18 face and joy to my heart, but to hitch a
19 ride along with what Andy was speaking about
20 earlier in reference to the fees that will
21 be imposed, he used the example of the
22 doctors. I would divert from that and use
23 the one where I would include attorneys, the
24 lawyers. My thing is how are we going to --
25 what format are we going to use to account

1 for the services provided by. Is it going
2 to be a case-by-case pay as you go or is it
3 going to be semiannual management? What
4 type of accounting are we going to use to
5 keep track of how much money those
6 professionals owe the City of Scranton, you
7 know, because my focus right now is on the
8 revenue side. You know, I personally feel
9 that we have four qualified individuals up
10 there who have nothing but the best interest
11 of the taxpayers at heart and, Madame
12 President, my support is behind you 125
13 percent. Wherever you go, I'm here with
14 you. If you need me, get on my shoulders
15 when you get tired and I will carry you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. PATILLA: We have to focus on as
18 a people, as a city, focus on the revenue
19 side and allow you men and gentlemen --
20 women and gentleman to do the jobs that we
21 elected you to do. One of the problems that
22 this nation has right now is everybody voted
23 for a president and as soon as he and his
24 team were assembled they started to break
25 them down. Well, we don't want to go this

1 way -- or we don't trust that and we don't
2 trust that. You know, they weren't given
3 the opportunity to actually fail.

4 And, Mr. Loscombe, excuse me if I'm
5 not pronouncing your name right, I
6 personally will request you, don't go
7 anywhere, all right? The citizens will help
8 fight to keep you on there because we need
9 you. I have been here going on four years
10 right now and I can honestly say this is the
11 first time I ever walked in these council
12 chambers and I actually feel there is
13 somebody up there representing the people,
14 you know. This is a first time as I spoke
15 to other residents that I actually saw a
16 seat on city council or any government
17 position actually opened to the public, and
18 if they didn't inquire or submit their names
19 for consideration tough-titty. That's on
20 them, but at least they had the opportunity
21 to do so, you know, that's unheard of in
22 this day and age because wherever you turn
23 corporate America owns everything, but you
24 guys actually gave the average man, the
25 average woman, the average homeowner, the

1 average small business owner the opportunity
2 to represent, come forward and represent
3 their city, their municipality and I commend
4 you for that, you know. And as such, you
5 know, stick to your guns. I personally know
6 you guys have a long road ahead of you, all
7 right, and the opposition is going to do
8 everything in their power to try and shut
9 you down, but I just want you to know that
10 you have the support of some of the people,
11 all right, hopefully it's the majority of
12 the people, but you have our support and,
13 you know, when you get sad, when you get
14 down and you are feeling kind of sad and you
15 are thinking where the walls are closing in
16 and it's getting kind of tight just open the
17 window to your car or automobile and look
18 down the street at the passersby that you
19 see and know that we are your support, we
20 will be your strength. We will be there
21 when you need us to be there. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Jean Suetta.

1 MS. SUETTA: How are you? Jean
2 Suetta, Scranton. And congratulations on
3 your win and, Bob, I still like you. I'm
4 calling about the medical school. I know
5 it's a great asset to our community. The
6 Mercy Hospital donated a floor for the
7 contractors to park their car. You go by
8 any given day at Pine Street there is
9 between 15 and 18 pickup trucks there and
10 the people in the United House have nurses,
11 coming, drug stores coming, blah, blah,
12 blah, and they have to park over Cooper's
13 parking lot, and if the contractors can't
14 park in the parking lot they are giving the
15 free space. And I don't think the elderly
16 and the blind and the cripples should have
17 to go over to Cooper's.

18 Another thing, the 500 block of
19 Lackawanna Avenue looks beautiful. When are
20 we are going to get tenants? There is no
21 stores down there. Are they done inside?
22 Is it finished? Is it complete? I mean,
23 the mall is getting emptied. Let's put
24 something in the 500 block of Lackawanna
25 Avenue. There is nobody there. That's it.

1 I ain't cursing. Nothing. I'm being good.

2 MS. EVANS: Very good. Thank you,
3 Jeannie.

4 MS. SUETTA: All right? But do
5 something about that parking, all right?
6 Thank you. Hi, Neil.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Hi, Jeannie.

8 MS. EVANS: Marie Schumacher.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
10 Marie Schumacher, city resident and member
11 of the Taxpayers' Association. I'd like to
12 start tonight, we talked about the next
13 Sewer Authority meeting and it will be per
14 legal notice in today's paper it will be
15 held at 6 p.m. next Tuesday, the 26th, in
16 their headquarters on Adams Avenue. As a
17 matter of fact, all of their meetings this
18 year will be in there headquarters at Adams
19 Avenue. And again, I would urge all
20 ratepayers who are concerned about the \$90
21 quarterly flat fee to attend that meeting.
22 Now, let's ask a question, who owns Nay Aug
23 Park?

24 MS. EVANS: Who owns Nay Aug Park?
25 I would believe the residents of Scranton

1 do.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it's the city.
3 Then the Home Rule Charter, Article V,
4 Section 502, and Ozzie Quinn I thought was
5 going to speak on this tonight but he is not
6 here, so I'd like to quote. Section 502 are
7 the actions requiring ordinances, and eight
8 under 502 reads: Convey or lease or
9 authorize the conveyance or lease of any
10 lands of the city must be by ordinance.

11 Yet I understand from a friend who
12 attended the Recreation Authority meeting
13 the fourth of January, that a lease was
14 executed with Lackawanna College for the
15 former zoo area and parking lot behind it
16 and I wonder how that's possible if the Home
17 Rule Charter states otherwise?

18 MS. EVANS: I agree. We'll look
19 into that with the Recreation Authority that
20 it's certainly should come before council in
21 the form of an ordinance.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and another
23 sort of legal question because I don't know,
24 which takes precedence, state statute or
25 Home Rule Charter?

1 MS. EVANS: I'll defer to Attorney
2 Hughes.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: If there is a
4 conflict?

5 MR. HUGHES: First of all, you would
6 have to find out what the statute is. The
7 statute generally would control the Home
8 Rule Charter. I said the statute would
9 generally control over the Home Rule Charter
10 because the Home Rule Charter what could be
11 adopted is limited by the enabling
12 legislation, so without knowing specifically
13 what state statute and what section of the
14 charter, it's a virtually impossible
15 question to answer, but any home rule city
16 could only adopt within certain limitations
17 it's form of government and in accordance
18 with the state statute.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Perhaps
20 I'll bring something more specific next
21 week. Also, I noticed on the website
22 Mr. Loscombe has not been added as a council
23 person and there are no e-mail contacts for
24 him or for Mr. Joyce, and I hope that those
25 will be available soon.

1 Also, I would like to know the
2 status of the Comcast contract which I
3 understand expired at the end of last year
4 and when we can expect to hear from PEL
5 since it's been several years since the
6 recovery plan expired? Do we have -- are
7 you aware of either of those tonight?

8 MS. EVANS: No. As far as I knew
9 the negotiations with Comcast were
10 beginning, were ongoing. An attorney was
11 hired by the city to represent the city who
12 specializes in cable television franchise
13 agreements, but we have received no updates
14 on that.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: And what about the
16 PEL and the Recovery Plan, updated Recovery
17 Plan?

18 MS. EVANS: Actually, city council
19 has received no summaries, meeting minute
20 summaries from PEL's meetings with city
21 representatives for over two months now.
22 That is something that I was going to
23 request this evening that Mrs. Krake as
24 council's representative to those meeting
25 would indicate to them that council would

1 like to be updated and receive all of the
2 meeting minutes for the last two months.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And as I
4 recall on the former council, the person who
5 had liaison with the economic development
6 was also a liaison for PEL. Is that not
7 correct? And are you going to appoint
8 someone to that function?

9 MS. EVANS: I don't know that it
10 would be an appointment in that our previous
11 representative actually volunteered for that
12 duty, so certainly we can discuss the matter
13 and hopefully there will be a council person
14 amenable to serve as the representative.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Mr. Sbaraglia is
16 one of the -- may I finish that?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes, finish.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: One of his comments
19 tonight was on the ice -- what's known as
20 BRT, the contract with BRT, and may we
21 expect an ordinance from council so that
22 \$600,000 can be collected?

23 MS. EVANS: Well, I think that's
24 certainly something that I will refer to
25 Attorney Hughes. I'll have him take a look

1 at all of the contracts and agreements and
2 if can be done I believe council would be
3 interested in pursuing it.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think it's very
5 clear. I have all of the documentation,
6 including the ordinance that was here before
7 if anybody wants it. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. It would be great
9 if you could provide that to me. Neil, if
10 you can make copies for Attorney Hughes and
11 the new council.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Bill Jackowitz.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
16 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton
17 resident, member of the Taxpayers'
18 Association. Last week's meeting was most
19 professionally conducted meeting that I have
20 witnessed in the past seven years. It was
21 about time that the police officer has been
22 removed from council chambers and placed
23 back on the street where police officers
24 belong and are being paid to protect the
25 citizens of Scranton, not council persons

1 that are frightened by the speakers who
2 appear at the council meetings. There have
3 been occasions where council members
4 frightened me, LOL, laugh out loud.

5 I would like to welcome the newest
6 is council person. I do not know you, but I
7 am sure we will get to know each other as
8 time goes on. Do not give in. You have as
9 much right being on council as any of the
10 other four members.

11 The Scranton Times-Tribune all of a
12 sudden has become interested in Scranton
13 City Council. Why? Because the newspaper
14 and Mayor/Governor Doherty are desperate and
15 when you are desperate you will try
16 anything. Losing power is a tough pill to
17 swallow. Hang in there. The people are
18 behind you. Work for the people your
19 support will grow. Do like Mayor/Governor
20 Doherty does, tie it up in court -- in the
21 court system. Do not quit.

22 I have 67 unanswered questions from
23 the past four years. I do not have time
24 tonight to ask all 67 questions, aren't you
25 lucky? So I will ask two tonight. Are the

1 cameras working that have been installed in
2 the various locations through the City of
3 Scranton? If so, who is monitoring these
4 cameras? If not, why not?

5 Also, I have made several requests
6 that have fallen on deaf ears. Again, I
7 would like to have council invite
8 Mayor/Governor Doherty to attend a council
9 meeting and answers questions for the
10 citizens of the Scranton, and also Mr.
11 Austin Burke, president of the Scranton
12 Chamber of Commerce.

13 My last request, have any tenants
14 been found for the 500 block of Lackawanna
15 Avenue? If so, how many and what addresses?
16 If not, why not?

17 Ex-councilwoman Fanucci promised me
18 an answer four months ago, but I never did
19 get that answer. Tonight Mayor/Governor
20 Doherty, Commissioner O'Brien and Washo and
21 Austin Burke are speaking at the Radisson
22 Lackawanna station about how much great
23 Scranton is. Maybe, just maybe, they should
24 be speaking at city council, you know, where
25 the citizens of Scranton are at and are

1 watching on television. Instead, they
2 choose to spoke to nonresidents, rich
3 people. By the way, it only costs \$10 to
4 attend this noninformal meeting. City
5 council is free.

6 Last week Ozzie Quinn, president of
7 the Taxpayers' Association, stated he had
8 been informed that the Scranton Sewer
9 Authority was going to rescind the \$90
10 increase. Councilman McGoff received a
11 phone call from one of the political
12 appointees to the authority stating that was
13 not going to happen. On Thursday, the
14 Scranton Times-Tribune reported that the
15 Sewer Authority was going to delay the rate
16 increase and look at it again based upon the
17 amount of phone calls and complaints they
18 have received. Can anybody tell me what the
19 qualifications to be on the Sewer Authority
20 and Parking Authority Recreation Authority
21 are? Please, during motions tonight.

22 Let's hope that the Sewer Authority
23 does the right thing for the people, not
24 Mayor/Governor Doherty or any other
25 politician for that matter. Representatives

1 Smith, Murphy and county commissioners,
2 Congressman Kanjorski should be right in the
3 middle of this fight. Also, Hillary
4 Clinton, Joe Biden, Bob Casey who all claim
5 to be Scranton natives when they wanted your
6 vote. Now it's payback time for the
7 Scrantonian natives who ask for your vote.
8 They even marched in the St. Patrick's Day
9 parade.

10 Mr. Barrett stated he would be happy
11 to attend a council meeting once he had more
12 information. What? He sent out letters to
13 inform residents and taxpayers without
14 having all of the information? Another sign
15 of unqualified people running the
16 authorities. You never make a major
17 decision without having all of the
18 information in front of you. Although, the
19 previous council did just that every Tuesday
20 night and that goes for the four
21 Mayor/Governor Doherty's appointees to the
22 Sewer Authority who voted in favor of this
23 ridiculous rate hike.

24 On four, January, 2010, the
25 Recreation Authority rented out the zoo

1 building and parking lot to Lackawanna
2 College. Rent: \$1 a year for 25 years.
3 Total: \$25. You think the college can
4 afford a dollar a year rent? Another bad
5 decision by Mayor/Governor Doherty's
6 appointed authority members. It must stop.
7 I guess Lackawanna College have not sold
8 enough seats at the Mellow Center. I have a
9 copy of the leases with me.

10 Finally, I hope that the speakers
11 will be allowed to speak without being
12 interrupted by council members and ruled out
13 of order by council president. I have my
14 rights and I expect elected officials to
15 respect my rights just like I will respect
16 their rights.

17 And, Mr. Joyce, can you repeat that
18 information that you repeated about that
19 young man, Logan, at the end of the meeting
20 so people will have time to write that
21 information down?

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, I will.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: So they can get
24 ahold of that website. And, also, here is a
25 copy of the lease from the Scranton

1 Municipal and Recreation Authority, right
2 here in Section 5, rent. "The rent during
3 the term of the lease," the term of the
4 lease is 25 years, "Rent during the term of
5 this lease is \$1 per year."

6 Twenty-five dollars for 25 years of
7 Nay Aug Park which is the park that belongs
8 to the citizens, not Lackawanna County, not?
9 Mayor/Governor Doherty, to the citizens of
10 Scranton and we are giving away the old zoo,
11 the parking lot and front and the parking
12 lot behind for \$1 a year. Council, do
13 something. The citizens of Scranton should
14 be outraged.

15 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add
16 something to what Mr. Jackowitz just said,
17 many of you may remember that in 2009 when
18 this issue was first raised, the issue
19 specifically of Lackawanna Junior College
20 taking over the Genesis Wildlife Center, I
21 sent a letter to the president of Lackawanna
22 Junior College asking for payments in lieu
23 of taxes and I specifically asked that it
24 would take the form of free swimming for
25 children at Nay Aug's pool complex which

1 lies, you know, quite close to the zoo, and
2 the response that I received from Lackawanna
3 Junior College was that, no, they would not
4 be making that contribution, and so
5 certainly this is something I think council
6 should be investigating in terms of the
7 transfer of this property within Nay Aug
8 Park. And if, Mr. Jackowitz, you would be
9 so kind as to provide the information that
10 you have to Mr. Coolican and he can make a
11 copy of that for each member of council so
12 we are better informed. Thank you. Les
13 Spindler. I apologize, Mr. Spindler, for
14 taking your time.

15 MR. SPINDLER: That's okay, I wasn't
16 up here yet. You weren't taking my time.
17 Les Spindler, city resident, homeowner and
18 taxpayer. First, I'd like to congratulate
19 Mr. Loscombe on his appointment and wish you
20 the best of luck, and I just have one
21 question for you. If something comes down
22 the road having to do with the fire
23 department, would you abstain from voting?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I will. I will
25 be commenting on that later on.

1 MR. SPINDLER: That's what I wanted
2 to hear. Thank you. Mr. Jackowitz
3 mentioned this already, I wasn't going to
4 say it. I know, Mrs. Evans, I asked I don't
5 know how many times the last council to put
6 the police officer out on the street and I'm
7 glad to see that you have done that.
8 They're not of any use here, they should be
9 out on the street fighting crime. Does that
10 mean you are not afraid of us terrorists
11 that come here weekly?

12 MS. EVANS: I think we all feel--

13 MR. SPINDLER: That's a rhetorical
14 question.

15 MS. EVANS: -- fairly secure, Mr.
16 Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. I'm going
18 to bring up an old subject, I brought it to
19 the last council quite a few times, it has
20 to do with Gary DiBileo's campaign signs
21 being stolen last year and thrown in the
22 Lackawanna River. As some people might know
23 there was a police report filed, two city
24 employees were identified on videotape, the
25 report was given to the mayor, to Ray Hayes

1 and to Chief Elliott and Chief Elliott
2 denies, he said there was still an ongoing
3 report. Attorney Chris Cullen has a copy of
4 the report and Attorney Minora said he
5 called Attorney Cullen and he never returned
6 his call. I don't believe Attorney Cullen
7 was ever called. So, Mrs. Evans, I would
8 kindly ask if maybe Attorney Hughes can give
9 Mr. Cullen a call and see if maybe he could
10 fax that report here or send it over
11 somehow?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes, I'll certainly
13 discuss it with Attorney Hughes and I think
14 it's an issue also for our Chair of Public
15 Safety.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Okay.

17 MS. EVANS: He will be happy to look
18 into it.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Because I have spoken
20 to Attorney Cullen many times on this
21 subject and he says he has the police report
22 and, like I said, it identifies two city
23 employees and nothing is being done. These
24 people committed a crime and I think
25 something should be done.

1 Moving on, Mr. Jackowitz stole a lot
2 of my thunder tonight. I also want to talk
3 about the Recreation Authority giving the
4 away the zoo for a dollar a year for 25
5 years. This is more of Chris Doherty giving
6 away assets in this city and it's got to
7 stop. We can't keep giving away assets, we
8 are going to have nothing left in this city
9 to make money for this city. At one time
10 the zoo was making money for the city and
11 people would donate when they went there.
12 We can't be giving away anything to the
13 University and Lackawanna College. It's got
14 to stop.

15 Next, I read somewhere, I don't know
16 if it was in the newspaper, the mayor wants
17 to hire an outside firm to run the tax
18 office. Didn't we just elect somebody to do
19 that. It's about time we stopped this mayor
20 from hiring consultants, wasting the
21 taxpayers' money, so if that ever comes
22 before council I hope it gets voted down.

23 And last week I spoke about the
24 Library Authority and had some questions.
25 Needless to say, I was thrilled to

1 yesterday's paper that there is going to be
2 legislation on tonight's agenda and from
3 reading the paper I know which way
4 Mr. McGoff is going to vote, so I'm hoping
5 the four of you vote in favor of this
6 ordinance because that would be the best
7 thing for the taxpayers. I hope you all
8 vote in favor of that and pass it through.

9 Lastly, about these parking fees
10 again and the parking meters. Going back to
11 work from lunch today, I was walking in the
12 200 block of Franklin Avenue, there wasn't
13 one car parked on that block at the meters.
14 That block was empty and there wasn't one
15 single car parked there. As I stated last
16 week, these fees are going to hurt this
17 city, not make money. And I also walked by
18 Mifflin Avenue, which is usually packed with
19 cars, there is at least half the cars that
20 are normally there aren't there and I could
21 say that on a number of other blocks
22 throughout the city. These fees are
23 astronomical. Nobody can afford to come
24 downtown and pay a dollar an hour to park.
25 It's just ridiculous, and I hope if you open

1 up the budget that you will do something
2 about this. I think that's all I have this
3 week. Thank you for your time.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Brett
5 McCloe.

6 MR. MCCLOE: Good evening, Council.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. MCCLOE: My name is Brett
9 McCloe, resident of Scranton and taxpayer.
10 Two weeks ago, the citizens witnessed the
11 swearing in of a new council, a council born
12 of valued rights of citizenry, fiscal
13 responsibility and an awesome task of trying
14 to put this city's people first, but they
15 cannot do it alone. It would be wrong to
16 lay the burden of progress in this city on
17 this council without the citizens first
18 realizing that progress does not only mean
19 economic opportunities for individuals of
20 the City of Scranton, but progress must also
21 include a fostered sense of duty and purpose
22 throughout the boroughs and the county as a
23 whole in order to help build and achieve a
24 more equitable regional society.

25 There are many pitfalls and legal

1 problems associated with trying to get blood
2 out of Scranton's nontaxable stones, but it
3 also highlights the possibility that we may
4 be aiming at the wrong targets. I think we
5 need to explore new forms of local taxation
6 instead of constantly mourning the death of
7 millions of dollars in losses due to
8 properties that have been removed from the
9 tax roles. Maybe a loss of revenue tax to
10 be paid by the seller of the property. When
11 you own or by a property, you have entered
12 into a covenant with other tax paying
13 citizens of this city and an agreement to
14 pay taxes on that property as long as you
15 own it. There is very -- there is every
16 reason to believe that this property will
17 stay on the tax roles. If you cannot afford
18 to pay your taxes there are remedies. Some
19 are helpful, most are not so helpful, but
20 regardless the property stays on the tax
21 roles.

22 I believe that owners who transfer
23 properties to these nontaxable entities
24 should pay a fee or a tax of 15 to 25
25 percent of the sale price to go directly to

1 the city coffers because once that property
2 has been taken off the tax roles it's dead
3 and gone forever or simply rolled over to
4 another nontaxable. The seller of the
5 property has broken a covenant with the
6 people.

7 We should also tax some of these
8 large parking structures. Maybe look into
9 creating lodging taxes for the dorms.
10 Registration fees, also, or just cut off
11 building permits and I believe, I'm not
12 quite sure if that's legal, but until they
13 start doing something. We should not be
14 persuaded that nothing can be done.

15 Mr. McGoff talked about how many
16 counties, state and federal buildings there
17 are in Scranton that are also not on the tax
18 roles. I fail to see the similarities. The
19 business of running various government and
20 judicial institutions versus privately-owned
21 multi-million dollar tax free institutions
22 and organizations. It's apples and oranges.
23 It's not the same.

24 Many who believe in regionalism
25 either ignore or can't seem to grasp the

1 concept that it is Scranton residents who
2 are always footing the bill. All of the
3 boroughs, villages, townships of Lackawanna
4 County and most of the surrounding counties
5 use Scranton services as county seat as well
6 as regional center for governmental affairs
7 for nothing. Yes, we all pay for the
8 buildings and the services they provide, but
9 only Scranton residents pay for the
10 nontaxable footprint. We end of paying
11 while others benefit. We shouldn't wait for
12 the state to pass legislation pertaining to
13 the burden of county seats.

14 I think this council should come up
15 with a proposal and bypass the state and ask
16 for some kind of relief for the taxpayers of
17 Scranton at one of the county commissioners'
18 meetings. It's time to go beyond Scranton's
19 borders for help. I understand the boroughs
20 didn't cause our massive 300 to 500 million
21 dollar debt, but they definitely benefited
22 from the results of eight years of Mayor
23 Doherty's expensive vision, lack of fiscal
24 responsibility, and Scranton's 30 percent
25 nontaxable properties. Be it educational,

1 real, state, federal or county or charitable
2 institutions. Those who would love to
3 instill the virtues of regionalism should
4 take the lead by convincing the surrounding
5 communities throughout the county to pitch
6 in and ante up because the citizens of this
7 city should no longer be held financially
8 hostage, slave or accountable for someone or
9 some thing's nontaxable ambitions. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Charles Newcomb.

14 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. NEWCOMB: Before I get into what
17 I came here for I just want to bring
18 something to your attention so if anybody
19 else comes to the podium you'll be aware. I
20 got a bill in the mail from NCC, that's who
21 collects, you know, our taxes and I opened
22 it up, I figured, you know, I shouldn't have
23 one of these. I looked at it and had mine
24 and my wife's name on it and my address on
25 and it said amount due \$136 and change, and

1 I seen in the bottom on the bottom it said
2 municipal -- waste garbage tax. So I called
3 them and I asked them what it was about and
4 the gentleman said that, well, we have you
5 down -- the city recorders have you down as
6 your April or May, you know, when the first
7 payment is due, but you never sent in your
8 second one so with the fees and the
9 penalties and everything it's \$136. And I
10 said, "Well, there's a reason I didn't send
11 in the second one."

12 And he said, "What's that."

13 I said, "Because if you look at the
14 first one it was for \$178."

15 "Oh, we don't have a report of
16 that."

17 So anyway, to make a long story
18 short just, you know, I just figured it was
19 a typo on mine so I went to my bank to get a
20 copy of the check, the front and the back to
21 send it to this gentlemen. And he said,
22 "Well, we'll send it to the city and, you
23 know, the worst it could be is there is a
24 small fee that you would have to pay."

25 Well, why I would have to pay your

1 fee when I paid my garbage fee? But the
2 point of it is you might be running into
3 trouble. Remember when the people to use to
4 come to the podium a couple of years ago
5 with their bill?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. NEWCOMB: Well, when I went to
8 my bank today to get a copy of this check, I
9 called her on the phone and I went to pick
10 it up at my bank and she said, "Boy, there
11 must be something going on."

12 And I said, "Why?"

13 And she said, "I had about 12 or 13
14 requests for this already."

15 So my point of it is just be on the
16 alert that I think there might have been an
17 mistake made in the wage -- in the garbage
18 fees from last year, but mine was paid.
19 That's why I only paid it one check instead
20 of two.

21 But why I came tonight is,
22 Mr. Loscombe, congratulations, too, and I'd
23 like it thank everybody that came out to
24 other benefit that I spoke about last week,
25 and I know Mrs. Evans, you know, you sent in

1 an e-mail you couldn't make it, but you were
2 going to send a donation. And,
3 Mr. Loscombe, I seen you there. If anybody
4 else was there apologize if I didn't see
5 anybody because I am very happy to say that
6 we did over \$10,000 just at the door.

7 MS. EVANS: Wonderful.

8 MR. NEWCOMB: And, you know, we
9 don't have the final numbers yet because we
10 had baskets and some donations will be
11 coming in, but on behalf of, you know, we
12 only had like a week and a half to put this
13 together, so it was a success. We put it
14 together in a week and a half, but I'd just
15 thank everybody that came and supported, the
16 community out there that came, and all of
17 the musicians that did a great job. It went
18 on until after 11:000 at night, and like I
19 said, we did a little over \$10,000 just at
20 the door, you know. So in this area the
21 bands really come to a help and the
22 musicians, but like I said it on here once
23 before and I said on the radio if the people
24 didn't come and support the cause, you know,
25 it really wouldn't have been a successful

1 like it was. So I would like to thank
2 everybody that had a hand in it and Shamus'
3 family to the bottom of their they really
4 appreciate what everybody did and I do, too,
5 and I thank all of my musician friends and
6 everybody that came out to help. They did a
7 great job, so I'm proud to say it was a
8 success.

9 But I just want to keep you on your
10 toes a little bit about the garbage fees
11 because if it was just mine I would have
12 said, well, maybe they didn't read that I
13 sent the 178, but when the lady at the bank
14 said, "I've had a lot of requests for
15 these," so I think there was a mistake made
16 in that just so you know, you don't -- if
17 you get inundated you know what's it all
18 about. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Newcomb,
20 I actually had given Mr. Loscombe a check
21 for that fundraiser because he had indicated
22 --

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: I presented it at the
24 door, Charlie.

25 MS. EVANS: Because he said he was

1 going to be able to attend, so I thought
2 that would be the fastest way --

3 MR. NEWCOMB: Oh, okay, so you
4 contributed already, okay.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I handed it to the
6 doorman.

7 MR. NEWCOMB: Oh, okay. I know I
8 seen you when you came up me, there was just
9 so many people there, I didn't realize. And
10 thank you, Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. NEWCOMB: Thank you very much.

13 MS. EVANS: Before I call the next
14 speaker, I just wanted to add that I did
15 receive some phone calls today about the
16 issue raised by Mr. Newcomb, phone calls
17 from citizens who had actually paid their
18 garbage fees for 2009, had the cancelled
19 checks, but nevertheless, were receiving a
20 delinquency notice from NCC. Mrs. Krake is
21 very well-versed on the Treasurer's Office
22 and this particular situation since we had,
23 as Mr. Newcomb noted, so many problems with
24 just this a few back.

25 So, Mrs. Krake, if you could please

1 explain from the public what the proper
2 procedure is for them to follow if they
3 should receive a notice as did Mr. Newcomb
4 indicating that they owed delinquent garbage
5 fees and any type of fee on top of that how
6 they can successful rectify this.

7 MS. KRAKE: The first thing a person
8 should do would be to call the Treasurer's
9 Office. There seems to be one general error
10 that has occurred, but your error may be
11 different than the one that's going on, so
12 the first thing to do is to call the
13 Treasurer's Office. They will direct you,
14 as Mr. Newcomb said, to bring in proof that
15 you paid. In many cases they will accept a
16 bank statements, they don't necessarily need
17 to see the cancelled check. If you do, hang
18 onto those. They also most likely would
19 accept a copy of the check if you have
20 checks that have a register that you have a
21 copy with.

22 I did hear that the error today was
23 that if you did not send your bill in a
24 certain fashion, your stub, that they were
25 unable to and "they" I'm assuming means

1 Northeast Credit, I'm not sure, they may
2 mean the bank, were unable to apply your
3 check to your account. The city did receive
4 the money, so it's -- it is within the city,
5 the problem is it hasn't been applied to the
6 exact account that it needs to be. They
7 said the error was that there is a pull line
8 along your bill and in that line is your map
9 number and if that part did not rip off
10 correctly with your check then they weren't
11 able to apply it to your account. However,
12 the account number is farther down on the
13 stub so I'm not really sure that's a valid
14 explanation, so the best bet is to contact
15 the treasurer and follow their instructions.

16 MS. EVANS: And just one other word
17 of advice that I might add, if you own more
18 than one property in the City of Scranton
19 the best policy is to write a separate check
20 for each one of the properties that you own.
21 If you combine the garbage fees for all of
22 the properties owned by you, it seems that
23 there has been a great deal of problem
24 involving that particular situation where
25 the resident would be credited only

1 partially, and I believe someone indicated
2 to me today who has been to the tax office
3 that the Treasurer's Office is not looking
4 at what you are writing in the memo portion
5 of your check. So, please, if you do own
6 more than one property make sure to make out
7 separate checks for the garbage fee for each
8 one of those properties only to save
9 yourself a lot of grief and misery which
10 basically shouldn't be happening, but for
11 whatever reason it is. Next, Joseph
12 Ruggiero.

13 MR. RUGGIERO: Joseph Ruggiero,
14 Scranton resident and homeowner, taxpayer.
15 First, I would like to congratulate the new
16 appointee for city council. I would also
17 like to briefly state that I can best serve
18 the city from this side of the room.

19 I'm here tonight to discuss Scranton
20 school children being left behind by an
21 outdated and cruel transportation system.
22 Unlike the case of Abraham Lincoln who
23 walked five miles to school during the time
24 when there were no cars, trucks or buses,
25 and no child predators roaming the streets

1 by car, today if a child lives under one
2 mile from the school they are required to
3 either walk or have a parent or guardian
4 take them to school. In my opinion, to
5 force a child to walk a mile in today's
6 world with the amount of cars on the road,
7 crime on the rise, sex offenders loose is
8 simply I remember responsible. Times are
9 not what they were 30, 40 years ago, not
10 even five years ago. Many of these laws are
11 outdated.

12 In the mornings and afternoons at
13 our schools parents are forced to park
14 illegally in order to pick up their kids
15 while creating traffic nightmares on the
16 streets and obstructing the free passage for
17 homeowners who reside near the school. I'm
18 not one of those. Road rage is also common
19 during these unnecessary and dangerous
20 excursions and police are not always around
21 to help out and many don't own cars or
22 cannot drive and parents of those children
23 are at the highest risks.

24 I'm asking for a vote among council
25 and parents to consider a new law changing

1 the bus eligibility to anyone living over
2 half a mile a way from a school instead of a
3 mile. I believe parents like myself would
4 not mind paying a little more knowing that
5 their child would be able to go to and from
6 school safely. We cannot afford to continue
7 allow our children to be left behind. Such
8 a law would create less congestion while
9 employing more drivers.

10 The federal government can and
11 should help foot the bill for this. The "No
12 Child Left Behind Act" must include adequate
13 transportation. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. Ruggiero, I might
15 suggest though that you would very likely be
16 better served by presenting all of this
17 information and your very valid request to
18 the Scranton City School Board. I know that
19 there are state regulations that govern
20 transportation. I also recognize there are
21 a lot of financial difficulties within the
22 school district at this time, but they would
23 be the source to best address I feel what
24 you are looking for.

25 MR. RUGGIERO: Thank you, and I will

1 go that route at well.

2 MS. EVANS: You are welcome.

3 MR. RUGGIERO: I would like to
4 submit this.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. RUGGIERO: You're welcome.

7 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

8 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. MORGAN: I asked a few questions
11 last week, do you have any answers for the
12 questions I asked last week?

13 MS. EVANS: All of the questions
14 that you posed have been sent out in letter
15 form to the appropriate parties rather than
16 -- in some instances, rather than council
17 attempting to answer it single-handily we
18 are looking for also the opinion and the
19 statements of the administration since they
20 are the ones that basically are in control
21 of what you are asking. For example, about
22 the garbage and the tipping fee, etcetera.

23 MR. MORGAN: Well, how about, and I
24 only want to touch briefly on this, but how
25 about the question on the Scranton Sewer

1 Authority and whether you use your council
2 to try to gain control of the rates and the
3 other one about putting the agenda and all
4 of the backup documentation on the city
5 council's website and the part about putting
6 in paper form possibly in this building and
7 at the two Scranton public libraries the
8 agenda and the backup so that the residents
9 would have an opportunity to study that?
10 Maybe next week I can get an answer to that.

11 You know, there were a couple of
12 questions that were asked here, I would just
13 like to offer my opinion. The Scranton --
14 the South Side Sports Complex from my
15 understanding has been returned to the lower
16 Court because Mr. Pilchesky appealed it,
17 went into court to pursue it and it went up
18 to the higher courts and the higher courts
19 sent it back here because he had standing to
20 oppose the transfer.

21 You know, I would like to know about
22 the city's municipal pension fund and where
23 it stands, how many of it is funded and how
24 much the city owes to the Pennsylvania fund
25 which hasn't been funded yet?

1 In regards to the Lackawanna College
2 taking Nay Aug Park, I think that the right
3 place isn't to go to the authority, the
4 right place is to go to the deed because
5 that may be in conflict with the deed.

6 And as far as -- I think Mr. Stucker
7 came up and asked about signs, but we don't
8 have a sign writer, do we, so how are we
9 going to make signs to post them?

10 MS. EVANS: Well, it's my
11 understanding there are some individuals who
12 are still working within that department
13 because as far as I know the intention of
14 the mayor was to privatize that of sorts, to
15 give it to a private form to perform all of
16 these duties while retaining one city
17 employee who would oversee the work of
18 whatever private firm, and as I was saying
19 to my knowledge, I don't believe that any
20 firm has been hired yet.

21 MR. MORGAN: Is it city council's
22 intention to open the budget?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MR. MORGAN: Is there any support,
25 maybe it's too early to ask this question,

1 but is there any support on the part of the
2 council to restore some of the positions
3 that have been cut?

4 MS. EVANS: I don't know that we can
5 answer that at this point in time until we
6 actually sit down and work out line by line,
7 department by department every part of the
8 budget.

9 MR. MORGAN: Well, the only other
10 thing I have here is that in the end in
11 order for this city to pay it's debt, it
12 shouldn't lose all it's employees because
13 that's not constructive and I just think
14 that we need to find new solutions to old
15 problems, but maybe I can get the answer to
16 those questions relatively in the next
17 couple of weeks. Would that be possibly?

18 MS. EVANS: That's what we are
19 aiming for, but this is why we are asking
20 that all of the attendees would put their
21 questions in writing with your name and
22 submit it to our assistant city clerk so
23 that we are certain that we are not going to
24 be omitting anything. It certainly isn't
25 done purposefully, it's simply a matter of

1 so many speakers, so many questions, and
2 it's very difficult to listen to you to give
3 you full attention while trying to copy down
4 four or four or five questions --

5 MR. MORGAN: Well, I can see that.

6 MS. EVANS: -- so from that point on
7 then, yes, these letters go out, we are
8 making phone calls, and we fully intend to
9 be able to provide you with the answers and
10 if we cannot get the answers to your
11 questions we are going to tell you that we
12 didn't and why we didn't, what was standing
13 in our way.

14 MR. MORGAN: Okay. But, you know,
15 two of my questions only have to do with
16 council, okay? One of them is whether you
17 are going to use your attorney in regards to
18 the Scranton Sewer Authority and the one
19 other one which falls only on council's lap
20 is whether you are going to put the backup
21 and the agenda on your website and make it
22 available to the two public libraries and
23 maybe a copy in this building, and I think
24 council could answer those two questions.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, I think that it's

1 certainly a very good idea, something I
2 would hope our office would be able to do.
3 However, we work with a skeleton staff. I
4 think we can say, quite frankly, it's a very
5 good idea to have the backup placed into
6 libraries, the Albright library, for
7 example, for use. I honestly will have to
8 consult with those who work with the office
9 to see who is going to have the time to be
10 able to get the full backup you are
11 requesting --

12 MR. MORGAN: Yes, but could I say
13 something on --

14 MS. EVANS: -- onto the city website.

15 MR. MORGAN: The minutes are on the
16 website, aren't they? Are the council's
17 minutes on the website?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, I believe so.

19 MR. MORGAN: So I just think that
20 even if it came to the point where it was
21 just entered on the website people would
22 have access to it. I think the people in
23 this city want to see legislation as it's
24 being crafted and I think it's very
25 important for the people to feel like they

1 are part of the process; and I also believe
2 they'd have a lot more confidence in this
3 council if they new that council was voting
4 on things on the agenda in form, okay, and I
5 just hope that this council would try to
6 actually do that. That's all I have. I
7 appreciate your time.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
9 Dobrzyn.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
11 Dobrzyn, member of the Taxpayers'
12 Association, also a resident of Scranton.
13 First comment I have is on, what is it, 5-D,
14 I have to compliment you on the review and I
15 just have a few suggestions or a little food
16 for thought. If we had an independent
17 library system we would still be paying
18 county taxes anyway, and the area proposed
19 is very close to, once again, Scranton
20 University. Our current library is
21 dominated during the daytime by Lackawanna
22 Junior College, and it may be a totally
23 prosthetic observation there, but two blocks
24 is too far to block if you are going to
25 dominate the next one in five years or

1 whatever, so I am reasonably certain that
2 you people are addressing that, and I will
3 go no further. Also, why not deeper into
4 Minooka and then how about West Side and
5 North Scranton, nothing is being proposed
6 for them, so that's all I have to say on
7 that matter.

8 And I have a question about the
9 Sewer Authority, how much from landfills, is
10 Alliance part of Taylor's sewer? It's
11 something that you probably wouldn't know,
12 but it would be interesting to find out
13 because I understand that Taylor residents
14 are also entered into our sewer system and
15 paying a certain amount, but who is getting
16 the sweetheart deal here? You know, are we
17 processing an entire landfill worth of
18 leachate for 90 bucks a month -- or \$90 a
19 quarter, maybe?

20 Okay, and on Nay Aug, please do what
21 you can to prevent leases, especially
22 long-term. And also, I think you might have
23 seen in the paper, I think it was this
24 morning, a lot vandalism went on up there,
25 please do what you can to prevent the

1 landfill. We sink a lot of money into that
2 park and that's the last thing I want to see
3 is that money being wasted because of
4 vandals.

5 And finally, last week it was
6 pointed out nonprofits can be required to
7 pay anything and it's part of the state
8 constitution and people up and down and
9 outside of the valley and around the state
10 really don't agree with us trying to recoup
11 any losses from this on our taxes, however,
12 please don't give up. Please keep on it and
13 keep pointing this out. Every time I talk
14 to somebody about taxes from Scranton
15 they -- and -- "I wouldn't live there, you
16 have a big tax here and a big tax there."

17 Well, they are living off of us and
18 there is little burgs and towns and shires
19 don't have such high taxes because they
20 don't have 30 percent tax free property and
21 it's really ashamed, but they surely -- it's
22 very annoying to hear that at the very
23 least, very annoying to hear that, oh, well,
24 Scranton taxes are higher and then you turn
25 around and, well, we don't want to pay

1 anything towards Scranton or the use of
2 nonproperty by nonprofits, so the only
3 situation that I find is that the state has
4 to start to contribute some day. They have
5 to contribute. And furthermore, one way I
6 would suggest of controlling this is with
7 zoning and planning boards. At some point
8 it's time you can say, no. You know, in
9 retrospect I spoke up for the medical
10 college, well, maybe I was wrong. Maybe I
11 should have just said, no, and that would be
12 it. No, we can't afford it anymore, sorry.
13 Put it up the valley or put it down the
14 valley or wherever. But, obviously when I
15 talked to one legislator here a taxpayers'
16 he suggested moving more businesses up to
17 Scott Township, well, they are paying taxes
18 up there, and I mean, what's the point? The
19 people live here not -- and the place that
20 we were discussing you could not afford to
21 work there and buy a house in Scott
22 Township. That's the bottom line. You
23 couldn't afford it. They're a
24 quarter-million dollar, half-million dollars
25 houses and then, you know, somebody working

1 on in an industrial park all we are doing is
2 paying for their roads and that's our
3 Chamber of Commerce that has a big effect on
4 that. So once again, I would like to see
5 them questioned and maybe we could press
6 them a little harder in the future.

7 Jack, I hope that problem in the
8 paper is straightened out for you and that's
9 -- hopefully things won't be to --
10 obviously, I don't see why when you get
11 appointed to a position it should be
12 considered a job, you know. That's all I
13 have to say. Thank you and have a good
14 night.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Are there
17 any other speakers?

18 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie
19 Ellman, Taxpayers' Association. I would
20 have been here earlier, but I was watching
21 an Elvis Presley movie, and this a rather
22 important and I'm glad I followed Dave
23 because a couple of days ago a lady came up
24 and said, "Are you one on council?"

25 And I said, "Yes, ma'am, that's me."

1 She said, "Dave, isn't it?"

2 I don't know if that's -- she said
3 she liked me, but I don't know which one of
4 us she liked. Well, whatever. Somebody
5 told me I come on too strong about our three
6 higher institutions of learning calling them
7 loathsome, repugnant parasites, that's
8 because that's I couldn't think of anything
9 worth to call them the way they were treated
10 the people in this city. If you three can't
11 find a way to stop them from taking all of
12 these houses off, this will just go on day
13 and night, come to an end, you know.
14 It's in black and white and in 15 years we
15 will just be -- I won't be here, it will be
16 your problem, if will be some of their
17 problem, but you can see it will be like a
18 billion dollars facing the taxpayers in loss
19 of property and what's already owed, you
20 know.

21 You know, nobody wants to take
22 responsibility for the mess that Scranton is
23 in. I have never seen nothing like this
24 place. I talked to my first cousin in
25 Florida, he got a condo and his taxes

1 aren't, you know, real bad. I got a friend
2 that lives in Waverly, his taxes are like
3 \$1,500 a year. You know, here in town it's
4 just getting out of hand with all of the
5 bills and everything. You know, I know this
6 isn't no way to win friends and influence
7 people when I get up here and say these
8 things, but I don't know. I guess if you
9 don't expect much you won't be disappointed.

10 I went -- I'm going to put up -- I'm
11 planning on taking down my old wooden
12 carport and putting up one of those metal
13 buildings you see for sale around town for
14 seven, eight hundred dollars, you know? I
15 went up there to the get a permit, you know,
16 to see what it costs, a permit is \$44 for
17 \$1,000, and that's what I figured I was
18 going to spend if I get it. But here Austin
19 Burke's \$33 million project is only paying
20 \$19, I don't see why I have to pay \$44, you
21 know, instead of 19 at least. They ought to
22 give me a break.

23 That's the trouble. There is a
24 double standard in this city. There is it
25 standard for Doherty and his friends and

1 there is a standard for all of the poor
2 working people and the retired people which
3 most of them don't have children in school
4 either. You know, take Pettinato, he had
5 \$200,000 on the Electric Building, nobody
6 was after him. There is that building out
7 here on Mulberry that owes \$400,000, they
8 are still open. Why? You know, why aren't
9 they -- why? You know, there was a guy that
10 owed \$350 on that sheet, I think he lived on
11 Jackson Street or Luzerne or something, the
12 poor guy they caught him right away, but
13 they can't catch somebody that owes over
14 \$400,000 and do something?

15 I went down to pay my taxes and
16 Mr. Courtright said I was too early, he
17 didn't have the paperwork yet, but you know,
18 I paid my taxes twice in 2005 and I can't
19 get no one to see what, you know, I can't
20 get the run around. Go here and go there.
21 I got in black and white I paid it twice,
22 you know. I guess -- I would be happy if I
23 got a credit for my garbage fee out of it.
24 That's probably, you know, with that 2
25 million dollars that Jarbola says don't

1 worry about it. I bet if his salary wasn't
2 paid and we found it would show up real
3 fast. Well, now I got him mad at me for
4 saying that. I hope I don't have to go
5 before and see him so it doesn't matter.

6 You know, like I said though,
7 Mr. Doherty says Scranton is a role model.
8 You know what, a role model of what? It's
9 grants and corruption and nepotism and, you
10 know, favoritism. It doesn't stop. That's
11 his city of a role model.

12 And, Mr. Hughes, Phyllis told me I
13 could talk all I wanted to tonight so you
14 don't have to worry about my time.

15 MR. HUGHES: You have five seconds.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Next?

18 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, City of
19 Scranton. I have been investigating
20 501-C-3's and I come up with some very
21 interesting facts and I think it would
22 behoove the council to take a good look at
23 the IRS rules and regulations for 501-C-3's.
24 Any business which is conducted and is not
25 conducive to the purpose of the 501-C-3 is

1 taxable. Consequently, if you take a good
2 look at that I think you can find a lot of
3 taxable properties at Lackawanna College and
4 at the University and a lot of other
5 so-called 501-C-3's in this community.

6 Secondly, I would like to comment on
7 a very disturbing fact that I think they are
8 going to rename the Steamtown Mall the ghost
9 town mall. They have lost some more
10 businesses, they are losing more. They've
11 lost two more restaurants in town. I don't
12 know where Mr. Doherty is getting his
13 information, but I sure wish he would share
14 it with us because from what we see the town
15 is deteriorating. From what he sees, it's
16 growing. There is something wrong
17 someplace.

18 Thirdly, I'd like to really
19 compliment the council, I never thought I
20 would stand up here and say this, but I
21 would like to compliment the council. I
22 think you have given us a more open forum
23 here, you have been much more citizen
24 friendly, and I particularly would like to
25 thank Mr. Rogan who went out of his way last

1 week to go up and talk to a gentleman that I
2 had mentioned. This gentleman owns three
3 businesses, one in Dickson City, one in
4 Dunmore, and one in Moosic and he thought
5 very seriously about moving into Scranton
6 and Mr. Rogan took it on his own to go up
7 there and did a fact finding tour and he
8 found out why the gentleman would not move
9 into Scranton, and I think it will serve him
10 well and I'm sure he will share it to the
11 council as to why this is not a business
12 friendly community.

13 And again, I would like to thank all
14 of you because you have made this a much
15 more relaxing atmosphere. I mean, we feel
16 like we are welcome up here and your
17 response is fantastic, so I'd like to
18 personally applaud all of you.

19 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Any other speakers?

21 MS. HUMPHRIES: I am. I'm coming
22 up. I'm sorry, but you got to do what you
23 got to do, boys and girls. I'm just
24 bringing one thing out for. These were
25 items that have been damaged. It's been a

1 circus for years. I wanted to present the
2 city council to look at this, on both sides.
3 There are some on this side and the bottom.
4 This right here I will read it. Hi. My
5 name is Phyllis Bernadette Fatima Yasmin.
6 My Carnallite name is Phyllis of Jesus and
7 Mary. I am an Pro-lifer. I am defending
8 the rights of every human being, everybody
9 in poverty inside and outside of the womb.
10 Because of my endeavor to do well of the
11 mother of God I have been truly persecuted.
12 I have been raped, I have been attacked, I
13 had a multiple attacks to make me look
14 crazy, so I'm going to read you something on
15 the lower part.

16 The pace -- okay. I was within
17 normal limits. We are going to go down
18 here. "I'm familiar with her and they feel
19 she has no mental illness and is obliged to
20 follow-up."

21 The second someone from New York
22 City, I was held against my will when the
23 Holy father was there. My daughter turned
24 around and went home. I was homeless at a
25 point. I didn't have the documents and the

1 telephone numbers to get to the contacts.
2 I'm a New Yorker. I'm a Washington DC girl,
3 and I'm a Pennsylvania girl and my father
4 was a coal miner.

5 The other instructions, "your social
6 worker has the following additional
7 instructions for you. Patient was
8 discharged by Judge Court orders on the
9 fourth, the 29th, '08. I'm submitting this
10 in.

11 Now, the rest of the pictures are of
12 a chair walking above steps, a letter from
13 the Holy Father, the letter of the blessed
14 mother. The letter of the blessed virgin
15 mother was dictated and given to Attorney
16 Tom Munley's Office. In the process they
17 changed the numbers around. It was ten
18 years the United States, seven years
19 Ireland, they switched it around. It was
20 signed by the Navy, the Army, the Marines,
21 the Air Force, you name it. It was taken up
22 into the Avoca airlines.

23 In process of it, it had at the end
24 mathematical equations, St. Thomas Aquinas
25 that the mother of God is visiting here. I

1 didn't understand what it is, I'm of an
2 eighth grade education. Whatever the virgin
3 mother taught me, I learned, and then I
4 turned books -- similar books over, but I
5 looked the other night to see what
6 mathematical is, everybody looked it up what
7 it is. Everybody look up what cathedral is.
8 What they have done is come against me to
9 make me look crazy. It's a sad situation.
10 I try not to look back but ever day there is
11 something else. I have been evicted out of
12 Mulberry Towers. I have been sexually
13 harassed, damaged every week to make we look
14 like I'm crazy, falsification of documents.
15 When I went to the hearing at Farrell's it
16 was sequestered hearing.

17 MS. EVANS: Phyllis, actually we
18 have gone over the time limit now, and I
19 know we talked about this, but if you could
20 stay --

21 MS. HUMPHRIES: I would like to
22 stay -- I would like to sit because there is
23 fungus to the buildings. There is lot of
24 stuff and I went here to the mayor's office,
25 I have --

1 MS. EVANS: Phyllis, we can --

2 MS. HUMPHRIES: Yes.

3 MS EVANS: I'm sorry to interrupt
4 you. We can discuss this -- somebody
5 council will discuss this with you after the
6 meeting.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: Yes, because these
8 documents are going to go to the Saudi
9 Arabia --

10 MS. EVANS: Okay. Yes.

11 MS. HUMPHRIES: -- and council's
12 office.

13 MS. EVANS: We'll talk to you after
14 the meeting.

15 MS. HUMPHRIES: And it's imperative
16 that we straighten out the City of Scranton.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis.

18 MS. HUMPHRIES: And I'm so proud of
19 you and I want to thank you even though you
20 didn't understand, sir, what the problem was
21 with the situation they blocked me from the
22 newspaper, but I know the man, you are going
23 to do a wonderful.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Thank you
25 very much.

1 MS. HUMPHRIES: Could I leave these
2 here? Is that okay?

3 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.
4 Nelson Ancherani.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. ANCHERANI: First Amendment
7 Rights. Sam said it right, 125 percent
8 confidence in the council. Don't let us
9 down. Tonight I am only going to mention a
10 few things and then maybe ask some
11 questions. I want to address the question
12 about the library. I don't believe anyone
13 doubts that the main library needs more
14 room. At this time during an economy that
15 is struggling with 10 percent unemployment,
16 spending 16 million is ridiculous. Someone
17 mentioned the former Bishop Hannon building
18 on Wyoming Avenue would be a perfect place.
19 Expand the library and cost nowhere near 16
20 million. There is also parking, plenty of
21 room in the building and it's centrally
22 located. Perhaps the Diocese of Scranton
23 would even consider donating the building to
24 the City in lieu of taxes.

25 Now, on the matter of the budget

1 that this council inherited, I want to
2 remind everyone that Mrs. Evans presented
3 budgets that she made on her own time that
4 saved this city much money. She didn't get
5 many of then council person's attention to
6 save the taxpayers money. I hope,
7 Mrs. Evans, that you are working on amending
8 this current budget with the intent of
9 saving money for the taxpayers and city with
10 the goal of lowering some taxes.

11 I have been going over this budget
12 and have a few remarks about it. The 2009
13 budget format was changed from the previous
14 budget formats under Renda's reign as
15 business administrator. The format changed
16 to a department breakdown from budget items.
17 The budget items were compensation or health
18 care, pension. All of the budgets have
19 expenditure pie charts, both under the old
20 and new formats, and I talk about pie charts
21 a lot, so under the old and new formats all
22 of the pie chart percentages are inflated as
23 the percentages don't match the numbers
24 listed in the budget. In fact, with the
25 list of percentages being inflated, the

1 differences all add to the amount borrowed
2 for the Tax Anticipation Notes, and that was
3 for the budgets previous to 2009 before the
4 format changed.

5 Both 2009 and 2010 budgets also have
6 inflated percentages in the expenditure pie
7 charts, but the difference in 2009 and 2010
8 is that the inflated difference now equals
9 the total of the nondepartmental
10 expenditures and with both years the pie
11 chart percentages are inflated over 23
12 million dollars each year.

13 As I was leaving my home I heard
14 that another attorney was being hired to
15 work on a Comcast contract. I have a
16 question then, why do we need a law
17 department? They are a budgeted \$185,000
18 this year in professional services alone and
19 since 2002 \$1,905,000 has been budgeted in
20 the law defendant department for
21 professional services alone. Over the years
22 professional services in all of the
23 departments since 2002, professional
24 services total six million -- I'm sorry,
25 \$6,014,510 and most of the departments have

1 professional services. This one this year
2 is \$185,000 for the law department and
3 \$100,000 for the LIPS, the building; 100,000
4 for human resources; 70,000 for the DPW
5 engineering. Don't we have our own engineer
6 or are we paying for an engineer out of
7 professional services? Thank you.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

9 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chris.

10 MR. JOYCE: Hi, Chrissy.

11 MS. EVANS: Great to see you.

12 MS. SLEDENZSKI: Thank you. Janet,
13 I'm nervous. I'm nervous. I'm going to say
14 this -- I'm going to say this guy's name on
15 the air. I'm getting nervous saying it on
16 the air. I'm getting nervous.

17 MS. EVANS: Don't get nervous.

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Marie, come help
19 me. I'm nervous.

20 MS. EVANS: Don't be nervous. Don't
21 be nervous.

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I'm nervous.

23 MS. EVANS: No, no. Everybody loves
24 you.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: You are with your

1 friend. You can do it.

2 MR. SLEDZENSKI: All right. I'll
3 do. I'll do it. Gerry Spindle, hi, guys.
4 Hey, what's that kid's name? That kid's
5 name over there? My buddy over there. I
6 forget his name over there, next to Janet.

7 MS. EVANS: Frank.

8 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Frank. Welcome,
9 Frank. I love you, baby.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thanks a lot, Chris. Is
11 there anyone else that would like to address
12 council? Mr. McGoff?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. In response
14 to the one question that was asked earlier
15 about whether doctors pay taxes and they
16 perform operations within the city
17 hospitals, and we didn't have an answer for
18 it. I thought I would ask Attorney Hughes
19 if attorneys pay city taxes if they appear
20 in Court in the City of Scranton and you
21 have offices outside of the city?

22 MR. HUGHES: So far as I know, I
23 think the answer would be no, but I believe
24 that would up the tax collector of the
25 single tax office to tax a look at that. I

1 really don't know the answer to that but I
2 believe the answer would be no. I think the
3 comment is that how could new sources of
4 revenue be looked and are these being
5 charged for services performed within the
6 city? And I believe that the question was I
7 think that with doctors a doctor. That
8 performs an operation in the city is it
9 performing a service. If he is from outside
10 of the city and he comes into perform it, is
11 the legislation that currently exists would
12 that be taxable income and would he have to
13 pay tax on that portion of his bill which
14 would be applicable to performing an
15 operation in the city hospital.

16 I don't know if the legislation is
17 there, but I believe that that would have to
18 be something that be looked into I believe
19 that that would be the single tax office,
20 they are familiar with the regulations as to
21 how to tax that revenue.

22 MR. MCGOFF: I guess my point was
23 going to be that I feel that that's -- that
24 would be a difficult thing to determine
25 costs, how much it would cost, you know, is

1 involved in somebody doing a service in the
2 city as opposed to the overall total cost of
3 the service that they provide. It just
4 seems as though it's a -- it could be a
5 burdensome situation.

6 The other thing, somebody asked
7 about the current status of PEL and the
8 Recovery Plan, Mr. Cross from PEL had
9 requested a meeting with council back in
10 December and he had requested a meeting with
11 the old council and also with the newly
12 elected members of council. That was never
13 acted upon, I believe he also sent
14 correspondence to council requesting a
15 meeting with the current council to discuss
16 the Recovery Plan; am I correct?

17 MS. EVANS: I haven't seen that, but
18 I'll believe what you are saying.

19 MR. MCGOFF: And so there had been
20 attempts on the part of PEL and to take a
21 look at the Recovery Plan, so it's not being
22 ignored and the -- I'm not sure what month
23 it was that I did attend one of the meetings
24 of the -- of PEL and the Recovery Plan and I
25 believe that at the time I did report on

1 what was said there. I really don't know
2 exactly what that report was, but I guess my
3 point again is that there have been some
4 attempts on the part of PEL to communicate
5 with council and to work with council on the
6 new Recovery Plan.

7 And I believe that that is all that
8 I have. I will reserve comments on the
9 library and the Library Authority for when
10 the legislation is presented. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan?

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Many of you have
13 seen the devastation in Haiti following last
14 week's earthquake. Hundreds of thousands of
15 people have died and many more have injured
16 are homeless. I would urge Scranton's
17 residents to make a donation to the American
18 Red Cross. Donations can be made by calling
19 1-800-REDCROSS or online at
20 www.redcross.org.

21 I had received a e-mail this week
22 regarding the intersection of Harrison
23 Avenue and Pine Street. Residents complain
24 that there have been numerous accidents at
25 that intersection over the past few years.

1 Due to parked cars, it is very difficult to
2 make a left-hand turn when traveling west
3 from Pine Street onto Harrison.

4 Mrs. Krake, can you please send a
5 letter to the DPW requesting a larger "No
6 Parking" area on this corner between
7 increase drivers' ability to make a
8 left-hand turn.

9 And, Mrs. Krake, this is also for
10 the DPW as well, I have received a list of
11 four areas where there are potholes in the
12 city. The first one is on Spruce Street in
13 front of Penn Security Bank and this hole
14 includes a pave cut as well as a pothole.
15 Seventh Avenue in front of Scranton High
16 School, the 100 and 200 blocks of Meadow
17 Avenue and the 300 block of Bolan Court, and
18 I will give you a list after the meeting as
19 well.

20 And Mr. Jackowitz brought up the
21 cameras that the city has bought and I'm
22 curious myself as to the status of those.
23 So, Mrs. Krake, would please send a letter
24 to Chief Elliott regarding the status of the
25 cameras? And that is all.

1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. I have a
3 few comments. First off, I would like to
4 thank everyone over the past week who have
5 phoned me, e-mailed me, faxed me, and
6 personally offered me their congratulations,
7 their words of wisdom and their condolences.
8 It didn't take long to find out why.

9 A couple of citizens' concerns, Mrs.
10 Krake, I don't know if there is a paving
11 list, but I had someone from Glinko Street
12 and Anna Court towards the Taylor line
13 behind that Keyser Avenue complex, there is
14 lot of pave cuts there and there is a large
15 section of the street that's just dirt, it's
16 a mud hole, if that can be checked out.

17 I have met with representatives of
18 the Scranton Fire Department regarding the
19 operation of the a fire department based QRS
20 system. I will continue to meet with them
21 on a regular basis to see that this
22 enhancement to your public safety becomes a
23 reality.

24 I will be contacting Mr. Mark
25 Seitzinger, excuse me, Seitzinger, in the

1 nature future to start discussion on a more
2 user friendly builder permit system.

3 I would like to reiterate some
4 comments that I made last week regarding my
5 intentions as your councilman. I many
6 pro-taxpayer and I will work for all of the
7 people of Scranton in order to earn their
8 trust in this appointment that I have been
9 given. Any assertion or implications to the
10 contrary such as my blind support of a
11 particular agenda or interest group is a
12 falsehood.

13 In addition, any contract or piece
14 of legislation concerning the Scranton Fire
15 Department that comes before this council
16 that directly involves me will not be voted
17 upon by me. I will abstain and I intend to
18 be cooperative and productive during my
19 tenure on this council, not divisive.

20 I also wish to set the record
21 straight regarding my career as a
22 firefighter. I suffered a 12,000 volt shock
23 and continued to work for nearly a year and
24 a half until my left side pain from nerve
25 damage became unbearable. At that point I

1 was put on a temporary disability known as
2 heart and lung. The records will show that
3 I attempted to come back in some capacity
4 and I was prevented from doing so and was
5 forced to take my pension. I have
6 subsequently undergone quadruple heart
7 bypass surgery.

8 I take offense at some of the rumors
9 and innuendoes going around and I don't want
10 my character and reputation damaged by such.
11 Had I not been electrocuted, I would still
12 be enjoying my career today on the fair
13 department, which as a public servant as
14 been the most fulfilling occupation that I
15 have enjoyed to-date.

16 I will always be available after
17 these meetings to personally discuss any
18 questions or concerns that anyone may have.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce?

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Some members of
22 the city administration have demanded all
23 council requests in writing and by motions
24 since this new council has assumed office.
25 Perhaps the reasoning for this was to ensure

1 that the majority of council's approval of
2 all requests, I'm not sure. In order to
3 alleviate the time and supplies necessary
4 for the demand, I would like to make the
5 following motion:

6 I move that all council members
7 written requests for information as well as
8 all citizens' requests for information and
9 for city help solving city-related problems
10 that are forwarded by council members on
11 behalf of any and all city residents and
12 which are sent to all city employees,
13 including city administrators and all union
14 and nonunion employees be sent on behalf and
15 in the name of Scranton City Council
16 retroactive January 4, 2010, and continuing
17 through the first Monday in January 2014.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I don't -- I don't
21 disagree with this, but I don't understand
22 how we could foresee every written request
23 and that all of us would necessarily agree
24 to all written requests and to make a motion
25 that they be sent on behalf of all of

1 council I think is presumptuous.

2 MR. JOYCE: Well, I think the intent
3 of this is just to make sure that citizens'
4 requests are being answered as far as, you
5 know, if they are looking for a piece of
6 information, if they are looking for a
7 problem solved, if they are looking for
8 something or for some information that as a
9 taxpayer and as a resident of the City of
10 Scranton they should have. I firmly believe
11 that they should have the right to know this
12 and I don't see why anyone that is sitting
13 up here on city council would have any
14 objections to preventing them from doing so.

15 MS. EVANS: And I might add,
16 according to what I'm reading here, we are
17 speaking specifically about council members'
18 written requests for information and,
19 frankly, I couldn't imagine a situation
20 where any council member would be opposed to
21 another council member or the full council
22 receiving information from the
23 administration.

24 And as Mr. Joyce said, the second
25 part seems to be concerning citizens and

1 asking for help and information for the
2 people of the this city and I think that's
3 our job as elected officials to do just
4 that.

5 MR. MCGOFF: He didn't read the
6 second --

7 MS. EVANS: Pardon?

8 MR. MCGOFF: He didn't read the
9 second part.

10 MS. EVANS: What part?

11 MR. MCGOFF: That you are speaking
12 of now. We are talking about the first
13 motion?

14 MS. EVANS: I'm talking about the
15 first motion as well.

16 MR. MCGOFF: There is nothing in
17 there about citizens' request?

18 MS. EVANS: Mine says as well as all
19 citizens' requests for information and for
20 city help in solving city-related problems
21 that are forwarded by council members on
22 behalf of any and all city residents.

23 (Whereupon several audience members
24 make comments.)

25 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me. I'm sorry,

1 I did -- I missed that. I'm sorry.

2 MR. JOYCE: That's okay.

3 MR. MCGOFF: But my point was that
4 to move that all requests, and I'm not
5 looking to -- I'm not saying that anybody's
6 request would be denied, but to foresee --
7 there may be an occasion when that's not
8 possible and to make a motion that every
9 request is going to be on behalf of all of
10 the city council, again, I think is
11 presuming that we will agree on everything
12 and, as I said in the past, that is not
13 happening.

14 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. McGoff, you
15 certainly I think could have the option if
16 you objected to helping citizens or getting
17 information for them --

18 MR. MCGOFF: I did not say that.

19 MS. EVANS: Or if you object to --

20 MR. MCGOFF: I said --

21 MS. EVANS: -- council asking for
22 information for information --

23 MR. MCGOFF: I said there may be a
24 time -- you are putting words in my mouth.

25 MS. EVANS: -- you can -- I'm saying

1 if the time arises where you object then
2 certainly you can ask that council would
3 provide it's names minus yours.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

5 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
6 question? All those in favor signify by
7 saying aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Those opposed?

12 MR. MCGOFF: No.

13 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
14 moved.

15 MR. JOYCE: In addition, because
16 some members of the city administration have
17 established a pattern of failure to respond
18 to requests by Scranton City Council and the
19 requests of the people of Scranton on behalf
20 of Scranton City Council, I also move that
21 the responses to Scranton City Council's
22 written requests for information as well as
23 all citizens' requests for information and
24 for city help in solving city-related
25 problems that are forwarded by council

1 members on behalf of any and all city
2 residents which are sent to all city
3 employees, including all city administrators
4 and all union and nonunion employees shall
5 be provided to Scranton City Council in
6 writing and within 15 business days of the
7 request unless another date is specified by
8 the requester and made by Scranton City
9 Council.

10 MR. ROGAN: I'll second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Those opposed?

18 The ayes have it and so moved.

19 MR. JOYCE: I have been informed by
20 a city resident that a streetlight on the
21 corner of 10th Avenue and Luzerne is out and
22 is not been working for some time. I took
23 the time to drive by this area and I noticed
24 that the light is out and that particular
25 corner or intersection. As you may recall,

1 it is rather dark and this individual as
2 well as some of the neighbors in the
3 surrounding area have complained that they
4 see a lot of suspicious activities occurring
5 on that corner which may be related to drug
6 deals.

7 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, if I
8 could ask that you please send a letter to
9 Municipal Energy Managers asking them to
10 repair this light. Also, in the letter ask
11 them to provide a date that this light will
12 be fixed by. To also in your include in
13 your letter the number on the pole is
14 56695N4588194, and that's all for tonight.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
16 evening. I have several updates to provide.
17 First, I had a cooperative, productive
18 meeting with Mr. Courtright, Scranton tax
19 collector, and Mr. Renda, city business
20 administrator last week. After discussion
21 of the missing or unaccounted for \$1.6
22 million the city was shorted, we jointly
23 decided on the following actions:

24 Mr. Courtright will determine what
25 records are available in the tax office for

1 a ten-year period included in the Nihill and
2 Ridley report. Thereafter, a second meeting
3 will be held to draft a scope of work in
4 preparation forbids for a financial
5 investigation followed by advertisements.
6 Finally, bids and proposals will be reviewed
7 and evaluated with particular emphasis on
8 costs. When this process is completed, I
9 will offer another public report.

10 In addition, Mr. Courtright affirmed
11 that he has no invoice from the firm of my
12 Nihill and Ridley, thus, we do not know if
13 the firm was already paid in full or in part
14 for it's financial reports or if the bill is
15 forthcoming. At such time as this question
16 is answered, I will report the cost and
17 portion of payments made by each of the
18 three local taxing bodies.

19 Second, Mr. Eugene Barrett,
20 executive director of the Scranton Sewer
21 Authority, was unable to attend a public
22 caucus both this evening and next Tuesday at
23 which time a public meeting of the Scranton
24 Sewer Authority will occur at 6:00 p.m. at
25 the headquarters of the Sewer Authority on

1 Adams Avenue in downtown Scranton, however,
2 he has been asked formally to attend a
3 public caucus of council on February 2 and
4 we await his reply. The purpose of the
5 caucus is to discuss any manner of rate
6 increase that will be exercised by the Sewer
7 Authority.

8 Third, I spoke with the mayor last
9 week regarding the relocation of Recreation
10 Authority public meetings to council
11 chambers where live and repeated television
12 broadcasts of authority meetings can be
13 provided. The mayor expressed no problem
14 with council's requests and advised me to
15 speak with the chairman of the Recreation
16 Authority, Mr. Sam Shera, which I did
17 immediately thereafter. Mr. Shera agreed to
18 place this request on the agenda for the
19 February 1 evening meeting of the Scranton
20 Recreation Authority at Weston Field. I
21 emphasized to Mr. Shera the importance of
22 good government and open meetings to the
23 residents of Scranton who have been
24 currently inundating council with their
25 requests to see authority meetings occur in

1 council chambers and broadcast on Channel
2 19. Many residents, particularly senior
3 citizens and second shift workers, are
4 unable to attend public meetings and rely on
5 Channel 19 for uncensored information. Mr.
6 Shera a will notify me of this board's
7 decision following it's meeting.

8 In the interim, with the agreement
9 of my council colleagues, I would like to
10 see the financial information of the
11 Scranton Recreation Authority. Mrs. Krake,
12 and again, this is in agreement with
13 council, council would like to file a
14 Right-to-Know request with the Scranton
15 Recreation Authority. Scranton City Council
16 requests all financial statements and
17 records of the Recreation Authority from
18 January 1, 2002, through January 31, 2010,
19 particularly including the current dollar
20 amounts in any and all accounts, the names
21 and locations of the banking institutions
22 where such accounts are contained and
23 deposits occur, the name of the individuals
24 who makes bank deposits and withdrawals, the
25 total amount of debt the Recreation

1 Authority has incurred since 2002 to the
2 present, and a detailed specific breakdown
3 of all of revenues and expenditures from
4 January 1, 2002, to January 31, 2010.

5 Finally, all requests made by
6 council speakers during last week's meeting
7 were forwarded by Friday, January 15, to the
8 appropriate parties in writing as requested
9 by members of the administration. When
10 responses are received or lack thereof,
11 council will announce them during it's
12 meetings.

13 Further, a handicapped parking sign
14 that was requested by a visitor and speaker
15 to council last week, Mr. Suchak, had been
16 waiting for installation of that sign since
17 approval was granted last July and that sign
18 has been installed.

19 Because council has not received PEL
20 meeting summaries in the last two months,
21 Mrs. Krake, please send a letter to PEL
22 requesting detailed summaries from the date
23 of the last submission of meeting summaries
24 to the present on or about before February
25 5, 2010.

1 And finally, one additional letter,
2 I might imagine th is should be sent to the
3 Office of the Mayor, are there any
4 qualifications for service on city boards
5 and commissions. I am assuming that one
6 must be a city resident and one must be an
7 adult and of voting age. I really don't
8 know if there are any qualifications above
9 and beyond that and so because someone has
10 asked that tonight I would like to know if
11 indeed there are and what those would be.

12 I should add that all members of
13 boards and commissions with the exception of
14 the members of the zoning board of the City
15 of Scranton are appointed by the mayor, and
16 that's it.

17 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. FOR
18 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE
19 OF THE COUNCIL NO. 95, 2009 (AS AMENDED) AN
20 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "SIGNIFYING THE INTENTION
21 AND DESIRE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON TO ORGANIZE AN AUTHORITY TO BE
23 KNOWN AS THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
24 AUTHORITY UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF THE
25 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, KNOWN AS THE MUNICIPALITY

1 AUTHORITIES ACT, 53 PA. C.S. 56; SETTING
2 FORTH AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ARTICLES
3 OF INCORPORATION; APPOINTING AND FIXING THE
4 TERMS OF THE FIRST MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF
5 SUCH AUTHORITY; AND UPON ORGANIZATION
6 CONVEYING TITLE TO THE AUTHORITY FOR
7 THE PROPERTIES ON WHICH THE ALBRIGHT
8 MEMORIAL LIBRARY, THE GREEN RIDGE LIBRARY
9 AND THE SILKMAN HOUSE ARE LOCATED;
10 AUTHORIZING ALL OTHER NECESSARY ACTION;
11 AND REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR
12 PARTS OF ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF
13 RESOLUTIONS.”

14 MS. EVANS: At this time I will
15 entertain a motion that 5-B be introduced
16 into it's proper committee.

17 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. First of all, I
21 would like to know the reason for this
22 legislation and the purpose of repealing the
23 authority? This was voted on by the prior
24 council, it was discussed in council and
25 there were adequate reasons for it's passage

1 and now to repeal it I would like to know
2 why.

3 MS. EVANS: The Home Rule Charter,
4 Article V, Section 5019, addresses the
5 ability and manner in which city council can
6 amend or repeal any ordinance previously
7 adopted unless proposed by initiative and
8 referendum. The City of Scranton remains a
9 distressed city for close to 20 years and is
10 buried in well over 300 million dollars in
11 long-term debt. It has guaranteed
12 significant bond issues for the Scranton
13 Parking Authority which refused to attend a
14 council caucus to justify it's financial
15 maneuvers to the taxpayers of Scranton, and
16 a portion of debt of the Scranton
17 Redevelopment and Scranton Sewer
18 Authorities, local unemployment numbers are
19 high, the tax base has eroded thanks to the
20 constant expansion of the nonprofits and
21 Scranton like so many other municipalities
22 suffers from a recession.

23 Library funding further was cut in
24 the state budget and the county
25 commissioners have refused to financially,

1 support the construction of a new library.
2 Further, the overwhelming opinion expressed
3 at the public hearing conducted on December
4 15, 2009, was against the creation of a
5 Library Authority and the construction of a
6 new library.

7 In addition, I have received
8 countless e-mails, letters, and calls in
9 opposition to this new authority and a new
10 library.

11 Further, I learned that the
12 Authority's application for articles of
13 incorporation was rejected by the state, and
14 at this time I defer to Attorney Hughes for
15 his comments.

16 MR. HUGHES: Yes, Madame President,
17 when I was instructed to draft this
18 ordinance the first thing that I did was
19 check the Department of State website to see
20 if the authority had been created. There
21 was nothing on the Department of State
22 website. I also checked the land dex and
23 the Recorder of Deed's index for Lackawanna
24 County to see if any properties had been
25 transferred, they hadn't.

1 On Friday morning I called the
2 Department of State to see what the lag time
3 was between the receipt and approval of
4 articles of incorporation and being posted
5 on the website. I talked to a woman there
6 by the name of Louise. She said that it had
7 come in on Thursday, it had been rejected
8 and was being returned to the city. Since
9 yesterday was Martin Luther King Day, I
10 don't know if the city has received the
11 application back. There were certain items
12 that were not completed in it, so as a
13 result it had been rejected. There is
14 nothing before the Department of State right
15 now and, of course, since the authority has
16 been never properly formed the deeds from
17 the city that were authorized in any
18 resolution cannot be transferred until the
19 authority is properly created.

20 So there is nothing before the
21 Department of State right now. The city
22 would have to -- I guess it would be the
23 mayor's and the solicitor's office would
24 have to take the application as submitted,
25 review it and the reasons for the rejection,

1 and resubmit the application.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
3 anyone else on the question?

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. I'm sorry.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Go ahead.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just want to say
7 I'm going to vote in favor of the repeal,
8 and the reason is numerous people have
9 approached me, many people that I brought
10 the subject up with, I haven't had one
11 person that I had spoken to or e-mailed or
12 me or called me that was in favor of this.

13 As I stated last week and during my
14 interview for the council position, I do not
15 wish to saddle the city with any further
16 debt at this time, that's why I will be
17 voting for this legislation. Thank you.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Number one, there is no
19 legislation here to build a new library.
20 There is nothing in the legislation to
21 create the authority that would saddle the
22 city with any debt, and as a matter of fact,
23 it would probably by creating the authority
24 the city would be alleviated of the
25 liability on the three properties and,

1 therefore, would be a savings to the city.

2 MS. EVANS: Well --

3 MR. MCGOFF: The purpose of --

4 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry.

5 MR. MCGOFF: The purpose of creating
6 the Library Authority was stated by those
7 who are most familiar with the library.
8 They desire to have an authority so that
9 they can consolidate resources, so they
10 could manage the library system more
11 properly, also so that they could adequately
12 insure the library and the assets therein.

13 It would also -- the authority was
14 also -- they also felt that they would be
15 better able to seek federal and state
16 funding for the library system since the
17 deeds had placed constraints on their
18 ability to do that and the antiquated nature
19 of the board had also created some problems
20 for seeking funding.

21 The reason for creating the
22 authority was on behalf of those people who
23 are most concerned with the library. The
24 members of the board of the library have I
25 think an average of something like 15 years

1 on that board. They are people dedicated to
2 the continuance of the Scranton Public
3 Library. The director of the library who is
4 in favor of this, of creating the authority,
5 has worked in the Scranton Public Library
6 since he was in high school.

7 This was something that was being
8 done not to saddle taxpayers with debt,
9 which it won't do. It was not being done so
10 that people could -- so that a new library
11 could be built, it was being done so that
12 the continuance of the library as we know it
13 and perhaps into the future the expansion of
14 the library into something that is of which
15 we can be proud could take place.

16 This was being done for -- I
17 don't want to -- the people that were
18 members of the board and the director of the
19 library saw this as something desirable and
20 something necessary for the continuance of
21 the library, and I think that maybe we
22 should take heed of what they have to say
23 about the library system.

24 MS. EVANS: I'd like to add, and I
25 think probably Mr. Rogan and Mr. Joyce could

1 attest to this, we spoke to the mayor about
2 the library, a Library Authority and his
3 response was, "I need a Library Authority
4 because I want to build a library in South
5 Side and I need an authority formed so that
6 we can look for state funding to help with
7 that."

8 Now, we all know that the state
9 funding to budgets has been cut and the
10 establishment of an authority is not going
11 to create a wealth of money in Harrisburg to
12 be drawn from.

13 In addition, members of the board of
14 trustees I believe of the Albright Memorial
15 Library, as we are all aware, held an
16 emergency meeting to pass a motion that they
17 were in favor of this, and that was I
18 believe after they were informed about it by
19 the administration, so I think we need to
20 get the facts clear here.

21 Now, the bottom line again is two
22 things: Money and the people of this city.
23 The taxpayers have told us loud and clear
24 they cannot afford a 16 million dollar
25 library right now. They have also told us

1 they fear authorities, they fear the
2 unchecked power of municipal authorities
3 over them.

4 And I can finally add if I am in
5 office when those three things happen: The
6 distressed status is lifted, the annual
7 structural deficit is resolved, and our debt
8 service is manageable, I will be the first
9 to support and place a new library on the
10 agenda.

11 MR. ROGAN: I would like to echo
12 what President Evans just said. My concern
13 with the Library Authority is once they are
14 up and running we have no control over them.
15 They could do whatever they want, they could
16 borrow money, and in the end it's the
17 taxpayers who are going to have to pay. I
18 would love a new library in the City of
19 Scranton, but just like some of my
20 colleagues said, we can't afford it. We
21 have to focus on basic things in this city,
22 you know, keeping the neighborhoods safe,
23 paving streets. This authority, you know,
24 contrary to what Mr. McGoff says, I firmly
25 believe this authority is being setup

1 exclusively to build a new library in South
2 Scranton, and it's a library that we can't
3 afford, so I will be voting to repeal the
4 Library Authority.

5 MR. JOYCE: I would just like to
6 add, throughout the course of my campaign I
7 walked the streets of Scranton and knocked
8 on thousands of doors and every section of
9 the city, might I add, when knocking on
10 those doors I learned a lot, a lot about the
11 needs and concerns of our residents.

12 After knocking on so many doors and
13 hearing the concerns of so many residents,
14 it was no secret that the majority of
15 residents have serious concerns regarding
16 the financial state of Scranton. Residents
17 from all over Scranton have expressed to me
18 that they can't afford to incur more debt.
19 They are afraid of tax increases such as the
20 25 percent tax increase that was imposed on
21 them from the last council majority. Many
22 city residents, especially many senior
23 citizens, have expressed to me that they are
24 living on fixed incomes and that they have
25 fallen on hard times. Many have expressed

1 to me that if they have to withstand one
2 more rate increase or any increase in taxes
3 for that matter, they don't know how they
4 will make it.

5 One of the reasons I was elected to
6 this office is to protect the residents of
7 Scranton and watch out for frivolous
8 spending that may occur which can have grave
9 consequences for the residents that live in
10 Scranton. Given the current state of the
11 city, I cannot approve the construction of a
12 16 million dollar library at this time nor
13 can I approve of creation of any new
14 authority to oversee a project of this
15 magnitude knowing that this authority could
16 possibly have free reign and not have to
17 answer to this council.

18 By and large, the public outcry was
19 against the creation of this new library and
20 this new authority. We simply cannot afford
21 it at this time, and therefore I will be
22 voting "yes" to repeal this authority.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Once again, there is no
24 legislation to build a new library and we
25 are voting -- you are making statements

1 based on supposition. What the mayor said
2 that he would like to build a new library in
3 South Scranton, that's public knowledge.
4 Nobody said it was going to be tomorrow,
5 nobody said it was going to be five years
6 from now and anybody who has any dealings
7 with the library knows that there is a
8 needed expansion of the library at some
9 time. Nobody has claimed that that's going
10 take place in the near future and all we are
11 doing is, again, just using scare tactics
12 and supposition to prove a point.

13 MR. ROGAN: It's not --

14 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, it's not
15 scare tactics, there was \$100,000 placed to
16 the 2009 budget for the purchase of the bank
17 building in South Side which is the site of
18 a new library, so there is no suppositions.
19 There has been in the works.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, it has and I don't
21 deny that, but there is no -- no where have
22 I seen -- is there any legislation for a 16
23 million dollar building.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, that's because
25 you've got to form the authority first.

1 That's the first step, so the authority is
2 not going to be formed.

3 MR. MCGOFF: The second thing I
4 would like to say is before -- before
5 approving the repeal of this, I would
6 suggest that maybe members of the council
7 speak with the board of trustees of the
8 library and speak with the director of the
9 library rather than painting them as people
10 who are going to in some way do something
11 serious, do something to deliberately hurt
12 the city, maybe you should speak to those
13 people.

14 MS. EVANS: I don't think we have
15 painted them that way and I think if any
16 council member would like to get in touch
17 with any of the members of the board of
18 trustees or Mr. Finnerty they are certainly
19 welcome to do so over the next week. I do
20 know though that many of them made an
21 appearance at the public hearing on December
22 15, 2009, and stated their case both
23 publicly and to the council prior to the
24 final vote on the Library Authority which
25 had been railroaded through by a lame duck

1 council.

2 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, I do agree
3 with you that we should get in touch with
4 everybody, and we will be doing that, but
5 you should also be in touch with all of the
6 people who myself and my running mates over
7 the last year have talked to.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I live in the City of
9 Scranton and I have talked to people, also.

10 MR. ROGAN: We have talked to over
11 10,000 people and people are upset at what's
12 going on, and I think giving a blank check
13 to an authority who we have no power over is
14 just irresponsible.

15 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
16 introduction signify by saying aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

21 MR. MCGOFF: No.

22 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
23 moved.

24 MR. HUGHES: If I could, Madame
25 President, there is I believe a referendum

1 petition that is being circulated. I kind
2 of believe in belts and suspenders at the
3 same time. I think you have the suspenders
4 here, but I think that the referendum should
5 certainly continue and not stopped so that
6 the time limit would be met. Once it's on
7 the ballot if this is rescinded, even in the
8 referendum it would still not mean anything
9 because the authority would be terminated,
10 but I think that just in any event, as I
11 said, this is the suspenders, I think that
12 that's the belt -- that's the people who are
13 doing the referendum, that's up to them.

14 MS. EVANS: And I think the
15 petitions perhaps that are involved in this
16 process could very well be due to city
17 council's office by -- well --

18 MR. ROGAN: I think it's Thursday.

19 MS. EVANS: The 21st.

20 MR. HUGHES: That's Thursday.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes, so I agree. I
22 would encourage those individuals to
23 continue their process. Thank you.

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF MRS.

1 COLLEEN GLEASON, 2104 CAPOUSE AVENUE,
2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509 AS A MEMBER OF
3 THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY
4 TO SERVE THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF JOSEPH S.
5 GUIDO THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

6 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
8 introduced into it's proper committee.

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question? I will
12 vote to introduce this legislation tonight,
13 however, I have been trying to reach Ms.
14 Gleason by phone unsuccessful for several
15 days. In fact, I have made more than six
16 attempts in order to discuss some issues I
17 believe are very important to the Recreation
18 Authority and the people of this city. If
19 she cannot be contacted by next week's
20 meeting I will be voting, no. All those in
21 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
2 have it and so moved.

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ACT AS
6 AGENT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR EMERGENCY
7 AND DISASTER RELIEF PURSUANT TO THE ROBERT
8 T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY
9 ASSISTANCE ACT.

10 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
11 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
12 introduced into it's proper committee.

13 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question. All
16 those in favor of introduction signify by
17 saying aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

25 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 1,

1 2010 – AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
2 COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE
3 (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL
4 REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF REAL
5 PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF
6 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE
7 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH
8 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES
9 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING
10 PENALTIES”, BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE
11 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND FIVE
12 TENTHS PERCENT (2.5%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR
13 2010.

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

16 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
17 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
3 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 2, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
4 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 7, 1976,
5 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING
6 A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS FOR THE
7 YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER UPON
8 PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS AND
9 BUSINESSES THEREIN; PROVIDING FOR ITS
10 LEVY AND COLLECTION AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
11 MERCANTILE LICENSES; CONFERRING AND IMPOSING
12 POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF
13 THE CITY OF SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING
14 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE
15 LICENSE TAX AT ONE (1) MILL FOR CALENDAR
16 YEAR 2010.

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

19 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
20 that Item 6-B pass reading by title.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
6 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 3, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
7 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 8, 1976,
8 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
9 PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE BY
10 IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO
11 (2) MILLS UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR
12 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
13 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;
14 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE
15 TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH
16 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND
17 COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH
18 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;
19 CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX
20 COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
21 IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE
22 RATE OF ONE (1) MILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010.

23 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
24 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

25 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move

1 that Item 6-C pass reading by title.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
10 have it and so moved.

11 MS. KRAKE: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
12 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 4, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
13 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 11, 1976,
14 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
15 ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE
16 PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO PERCENT (2%)
17 ON EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS ON PERSONS,
18 INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO
19 ARE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
20 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
21 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS
22 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
23 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
24 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO
25 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE

1 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
2 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
3 THE VIOLATIONS", BY IMPOSING THE WAGE TAX AT
4 TWO AND FOUR TENTHS PERCENT (2.4%) ON EARNED
5 INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2010 FOR RESIDENTS.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
9 that Item 6-D pass reading by title.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
18 have it and so moved.

19 MS. KRAKE: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -
20 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 5, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
21 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976,
22 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING
23 GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL
24 YEAR 1977", BY SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE
25 YEAR 2010.

1 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
2 title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

3 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
4 that Item 6-E pass reading by title.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 6-F. READING BY TITLE -
15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 6, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
16 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 17, 1994
17 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
18 AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
19 OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE DISPOSAL AND
20 COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING
21 REVENUE TO COVER THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND
22 COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF REFUSE", BY
24 IMPOSING A WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE
25 OF \$178.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010.

1 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
2 title of Item 6-F, what is your pleasure?

3 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
4 that Item 6-F pass reading by title.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 6-G. READING BY TITLE -
15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
16 AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 145 OF 2007
17 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RENAMING THE
18 EMERGENCY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES TAX
19 ("EMST") TO LOCAL SERVICE TAX ("LST") AND BY
20 IMPOSING A WITHHOLDING OF \$52.00 FOR THE
21 CALENDAR YEAR 2010.

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

24 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
25 that Item 6-G pass reading by title.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 6-H. READING BY TITLE -
11 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 8, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
12 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49, 2008, AN
13 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING
14 BUDGET 2009" BY TRANSFERRING \$1,410.00 FROM
15 ACCOUNT NO. 01.011.00011.4470 (TRAINING &
16 CERTIFICATION) TO ACCOUNT NO.
17 01.011.00011.4101 (UNIFORM ALLOWANCE
18 MILEAGE) TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO REIMBURSE
19 EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
20 FOR MILEAGE.

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

23 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
24 that Item 6-H pass reading by title.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. FOR
10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
11 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2010 -
12 ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A POLICE VEHICLE, VIN
13 NUMBER 1FMEU74E86UB38911 FROM POLICE OFFICER
14 MARY K. STEPPACHER FOR USE IN THE CITY'S
15 FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
16 THE CITY AND OFFICER MARY K. STEPPACHER.

17 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
18 Committee on Rules, I recommend passage of
19 Item 7-A.

20 MR .JOYCE: Second.

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

23 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Loscombe.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Joyce.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
10 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
11 RESOLUTION NO. 3, 2010 - AUTHORIZING THE
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
13 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY
14 AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER MARY K. STEPPACHER,
15 GOVERNING THE USE OF SCRANTON POLICE
16 OFFICER STEPPACHER'S "PRIVATE CRUISER" AS
17 DEFINED HEREIN.

18 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
19 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
20 passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Loscombe.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: I hereby declare Item
7-B legally and lawfully adopted. I'll
entertain a motion for adjournment.

MR. JOYCE: Second.

MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER