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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

.

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here.

14 THE COURT: Dispense with reading of
15 the minutes.

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

17 APPLICATIONS ALONG WITH THE DECISIONS
18 RENDERED BY THE ZONING BOARD HEARING ON
19 WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 2010.

20 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
21 If not, received and filed.

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. COMPLIANCE AUDIT
23 REPORT FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON AGGREGATE
24 PENSION FUND FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2007,
25 TO DECEMBER 31, 2008.

1 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
2 If not, received and filed.

3 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE
4 CITY PLANNING MEETING, HELD ON APRIL 21,
5 2010.

6 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
7 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,
8 please.

9 MS. KRAKE: First are responses from
10 William Courtright, tax collector. He
11 states he no longer has the occupational
12 privilege tax, we now have what is called
13 the LST tax or local services tax where
14 everyone must pay \$52 per year of which \$47
15 goes to the City of Scranton and \$5 goes to
16 the Scranton School District. The local
17 services tax is the only tax charged to
18 nonresidents.

19 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, while we are
20 on the topic of the Single Tax Office, if we
21 could send a letter, please, to Mr.
22 Courtright concerning tonight's caucus and
23 council's desire to send rental registration
24 notices with the tax notices that go out I
25 believe in February of each year, he might

1 entertain that possibility. I thought there
2 was something else we needed from
3 Mr. Courtright, but it's not coming to me
4 right now. Okay.

5 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. This is from
6 Linda Aebli, executive director of OECD. To
7 date, no 2010 street paving list is
8 available through the community development
9 block grant program.

10 MS. EVANS: Then we should expect to
11 receive the paving list from Mr. Brazil I
12 would think.

13 MS. KRAKE: Yes, I would imagine.
14 We have also received a letter or a response
15 from Bill Chainy, executive director of the
16 Scranton Redevelopment Authority. Basically
17 he is telling us he has put together all of
18 the things we requested in our
19 Right-to-Know. He says has assembled the
20 data we requested and the information is
21 available for all our review at the offices
22 of the Redevelopment Authority in the
23 Scranton Life Building, and we can go there
24 during regular business hours Monday through
25 Friday 8 to 4. Now, he has stated this

1 because we indicated that we indicated we
2 were not willing to pay, one government body
3 to another for copies, and we had requested
4 that they come to our office so we could
5 make copies ourselves of what we wanted, so
6 I am assuming that he is stating we can go
7 to his office, review them and then they
8 would make copies for no charge or --

9 MS. EVANS: Could we clarify that,
10 please, because my intent here is to save
11 some money, you know, it's all coming out of
12 the same pockets basically speaking, but,
13 you know, if they are going to allow us to
14 make the copies there or if they wanted to
15 just give us the information then we'll make
16 our own copies and return everything to
17 them.

18 MS. KRAKE: That was our original
19 request, should we reiterate that then?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. KRAKE: This is a letter from
22 Attorney Mecuri on behalf of Olympic Chimney
23 Supply. He is telling us that the use of
24 this land fully complies with all applicable
25 laws and his client is sensitive to the

1 complaints raised by some of the neighbors
2 and has addressed them as follows:

3 "My client has notified Nicholas
4 Trucking in writing as to the streets
5 restricted by the City of Scranton truck
6 traffic. Nicholas Trucking has also been
7 advised in writing to the requirements of
8 Pennsylvania's Diesel Powered Motor Vehicle
9 Idling Act 124 of 2008 and the applicable
10 City of Scranton ordinance regarding truck
11 idling within city limits. My client has
12 posted warning signs as to the law.

13 Since the above-actions were taken,
14 we have not observed any violations of state
15 or city law. I'm sure that the council can
16 appreciate the fact that Nicholas Trucking
17 and my client operate in a light industrial
18 zone. Our property accommodates truck
19 parking. It is not a transfer station. My
20 client's principal has personally spoken
21 with some of the neighbors and has assured
22 them that they we stand ready to address
23 their complaints in every reasonable
24 fashion."

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MS. KRAKE: We have several
2 responses here from Chief Elliott. The
3 first is he has received our letter
4 regarding noise complaints on Crown Avenue.
5 "I have informed our patrol division to be
6 aware of this and also be aware of dispatch
7 for these complaints knowing this is not the
8 first time."

9 The chief tells us he has received
10 our letter regarding blight at the Washburn
11 Street Cemetery. He says he has spoken with
12 Councilman Rogan regarding this issue, but
13 as we have decided, council has decided, I
14 should say, that we do like all of our
15 answers in writing, so he is apologizing.
16 We do know that he did speak to Councilman
17 Rogan though, he has already informed the
18 officer regarding this property and he
19 assured me he would check on this property
20 throughout his patrols.

21 MS. EVANS: Very good.

22 MS. KRAKE: Also from the chief. I
23 received your letter regarding speed
24 enforcement on Sloan Street. I will make
25 patrol aware of the complaint and request

1 special enforcement in this area when
2 possible.

3 And then finally, this is regarding
4 nuisance complaints. He tells us there is
5 no set number of calls for a tavern/bar.
6 "However, when we notice a problem bar "we",
7 the police department, begin to put a file
8 together and contact the Liquor Control
9 Office. We currently have several
10 investigations ongoing involving city
11 taverns and night clubs. If you have any
12 information on a particular bar, please
13 forward this to the chief's office."

14 The next response we have is from
15 PennDOT and it's from Keith Williams, the
16 district traffic engineer. "Council had
17 requested installation of a four-way stop at
18 Harrison Avenue and Gibson Street and a
19 three-way stop at Meadow Avenue and River
20 Street. That one was an interim safety
21 measure until the traffic light can be
22 installed.

23 He tells us in regards to Harrison
24 Avenue and Gibson Street, "As required by
25 Pennsylvania law a multi-way stop

1 engineering a traffic study must be
2 completed in order to determine if the
3 installation is, in fact, warranted.
4 Therefore, a multi-way stop study has been
5 scheduled as per your request. Upon
6 completion of our study, we will be informed
7 in writing of our findings and of our
8 recommendations.

9 In regards to your request to
10 install a three-way stop at Meadow Avenue,
11 River Street, please note since all roads
12 approaching this intersection are local
13 roads the department has no jurisdiction to
14 install a three-way stop. If the city
15 wishes to pursue this as an ordinance,
16 Scranton city engineer should conduct a
17 multi-way stop engineering and traffic
18 study, then based on this to determine if
19 the installation is warranted."

20 Would council like us to forward
21 this then to the city engineer to request a
22 study?

23 MS. EVANS: Please.

24 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. This is in
25 regards to the cardiac arrest victim at Lake

1 Scranton. We actually -- Ms. Carrera
2 composed a letter and we sent it to the --
3 we received a phone call response from
4 Mr. Ken Jimmy so I'm going to read it from
5 that part forward: On Wednesday, April 14,
6 Mr. Ken Jimmy from the Water Company
7 telephoned this office and agreed to provide
8 a key to Engine 10 at the main gate at Lake
9 Scranton. Mr. Ken Jimmy requested that
10 someone from the fire department contact him
11 so that he can personally hand the key to
12 that person. And then he gives his contact
13 information.

14 Chief Davis just returned our
15 original letter to us, but he did indicate
16 that he spoke to Mr. Ken Jimmy and that
17 Engine 10 and Car 21 will each have a key.

18 MS. EVANS: Very good.

19 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
20 from the law department. It was sent to our
21 office today, they sent the rest of the
22 lawsuits that we had requested under
23 Right-to-Know, so now those are all
24 available in the city council's office.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank.

1 MS. KRAKE: And another response
2 from the law department. This is concerning
3 the bidding procedures. She said, "I
4 recently contacted the city solicitor for
5 the council for a meeting to discuss these
6 issues."

7 She feels that the city controller's
8 will also play an important role with the
9 bidding requirements and that we can meet
10 with them as well, and I think she is
11 telling us that it's an ongoing process.
12 There are no dates or anything else on that.

13 MS. EVANS: Okay.

14 MS. KRAKE: Also, from the Sewer
15 Authority we received a response saying that
16 they are in receipt of our letter April 14
17 regarding the storm drains in the 1400 block
18 of North Decker Court. Gene Skeleton and
19 our deputy director Robert Wishing sent a
20 crew of yesterday and they have started
21 repairs.

22 MS. EVANS: Good.

23 MS. KRAKE: This is a second request
24 that we sent out and that is regarding this
25 question: Has the mayor or Mark Dougher

1 authorized the dismantling of the playground
2 or any structures of Lackawanna Little
3 League located at Dooney Avenue and Jackson
4 Street.

5 Next, we received a response from
6 Electric City TV. As Les had pointed out to
7 us, we hadn't received a total response from
8 them in several questions that we asked at
9 once, so this is their response to the one
10 that was left out: "In 2006 an agreement
11 was reached between the peg channel operator
12 Marywood University and the University of
13 Scranton. It was determined that the
14 University would share operation of Channel
15 62, now Channel 21, Monday through Friday
16 between the hours of 5 p.m. and 12 a.m.

17 Electric City television manages
18 Channel 21 weekdays between midnight and 5
19 p.m. only. The channel switch is controlled
20 by Comcast not ECTV. Furthermore, when
21 Comcast returns the transmitter for Channel
22 21 to ECTV, programming on that channel will
23 be completely independent from that of
24 Channel 19. At that point all local
25 government meeting replays will be broadcast

1 only on Channel 19."

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MS. KRAKE: And the other second
4 request was concerning the 500 block of
5 Rebecca Avenue, this was sent to Mr. Brazil,
6 it's a two-way street, why is that a two-way
7 street when the other blocks of Rebecca are
8 only one-way.

9 And rather than go into details and
10 taking up a lot of time, we have 11 requests
11 that have gone unanswered from Director
12 Brazil. If you would like me to read them I
13 will.

14 MS. EVANS: No. Let's extend that
15 invitation to Director Brazil to attend a
16 public caucus meeting where we can discuss
17 all of these problems and receive responses.

18 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. We have two
19 requests that have gone unanswered from the
20 mayor. And for Chief Davis, he may have
21 come into our was and explained the answer
22 that it a West Scranton resident had asked
23 about concerning burning wood in a fire pit
24 in the backyard, however, our office does
25 respectfully request a written response.

1 And from Director Seitzinger we have
2 four unanswered requests, and he did
3 indicate to us that he would be letting us
4 know by next week when he would be able to
5 come to a council meeting. He has received
6 permission from the mayor, but he does have
7 some health concerns that need be addressed,
8 so maybe we can follow the same direction
9 you did with Director Brazil.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes. I would assume,
11 however, though, Mr. Seitzinger would very
12 likely to attend a caucus before Mr. Brazil.
13 When Mr. Seitzinger contacts our office
14 please setup any date that he provides to
15 us, the soonest date available though,
16 please.

17 MS. KRAKE: And that's all we have.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
19 council members have announcements at this
20 time?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Just I would
22 like to offer congratulations to Scranton
23 residents who were finishers in yesterday's
24 Boston Marathon. Maybe a special
25 congratulations to assistant fire chief Jack

1 Davis, who finished the marathon in three
2 hours and 25 seconds. For want, one second
3 per mile he was above three hours, which I
4 know he is probably happy with the time, but
5 probably kicking himself that it wasn't
6 under three.

7 And a special congratulations to
8 Penny Wolfsburger Peoples. Penny has
9 finished 29 overall as female, 14th American
10 female to finish. Her time was two hours,
11 45 minutes and 51 seconds. If that doesn't,
12 you know, relate to you, that's six minutes
13 per mile and running at approximately ten
14 miles an hour for 26 miles. All of that she
15 had her first child something like eight
16 months ago and the time also put her,
17 allowed her for the second time to be an
18 Olympic qualifier. She can run in the
19 Olympic qualifying race for the United
20 States, so quite an accomplishment.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes, it is. 5.

22 MR. MCGOFF: And if anybody -- it
23 was in the paper this morning a list of all
24 of the kind of area runners who finished.
25 There were a number of Scranton runners that

1 completed the marathon, and that was all I
2 had. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I spoke to
5 Mr. Tell from Ken Murphy's Office today and
6 he had great news for us that DEP approval
7 for the Crisp Avenue Bridge will be coming
8 down within the next week or so and I would
9 like to thank Mr. Tell and Mr. Murphy's
10 office for their hard work on this and I
11 know the residents of West Mountain will be
12 very happy because it's been long overdue.

13 And also this one was attached to
14 our packets, I think you gave it to me, the
15 Annual Fishing Derby Sponsored by the North
16 Scranton Rotary Club will be held on May 8
17 from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at South Abington
18 Park and there will be trophies and gift
19 certifies for the children.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
21 Mr. Loscombe?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
23 Evans. There will ben an Earth Day
24 celebration on April 22 from 7:00 p.m. to
25 closing at the City Dump, that's 222 Wyoming

1 Avenue, and it's called "Yes We Can."
2 Recycling your cans on-site and help decide
3 what charities should get the proceeds from
4 the recycling efforts. Prizes and
5 give-aways all night, entertainment
6 provided. Absolutely no cover charge and
7 domestic beer, soda, and hot dogs with
8 toppings are \$1 a piece. Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce?

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes. The Providence
11 United States Presbyterian Church located on
12 1145 Providence Road will host a takeout
13 only baked ziti dinner on April 24 from 2 to
14 6 p.m. The cost of the dinner will be \$8.50
15 per adults and \$4.50 for children. Those
16 who are interested please call 346-0804.

17 Also, the West Scranton Legion
18 Baseball Program will be hosting their
19 annual golf tournament fundraiser on April
20 25 at Summit Hills Golf Course. The cost to
21 play in the tournament is \$85 per person or
22 \$340 per team of four. There will be a
23 dinner/banquet at the Villa Marie II
24 afterwards and those who are interested can
25 register by either e-mailing or calling

1 George Roscus. His e-mail address is
2 Roscus29@aol.com and his number is 344-2929.
3 And that is all.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The schedule
5 for street cleaning is as follows: April 19
6 to 23, Greenridge Street to Fairfield Street
7 and April 26 to 30, Arthur Avenue to Taylor
8 Avenue. Please refrain from parking on
9 specific streets that are designated for
10 cleaning whenever possible in order to make
11 this clean up program more effective.

12 The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will
13 sponsor a Great Strides Wilkes-Barre Walk on
14 Saturday, May 1, at Kirby Park in
15 Wilkes-Barre. Check-in time is 9:30 a.m.
16 and the walk begins at 10:30. Donations
17 will fund the CF Foundation's efforts to
18 assure the development of the means to cure
19 and control cystic fibrosis and to improve
20 the quality of life for those with this
21 disease, and particularly young Jason
22 Turnavich, who is the grandson of Angela
23 Turnavich, and he is one of the children
24 afflicted with cystic fibrosis that will
25 benefit from such fundraisers, and that's

1 it.

2 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
3 PARTICIPATION.

4 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
5 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
8 had a call on this residential, I guess,
9 ordinance. It's not a rental ordinance,
10 it's a residential ordinance because if it
11 was a renter's ordinance people who rent
12 like stores that rent out space in the
13 stores, people who rent out to other people
14 like an office building, that's rent.
15 That's rental. Now, residential, this is
16 aimed strictly at the residents of Scranton
17 and not on the business owners, that's what
18 I have against it. I'd rather see you pass
19 a rental ordinance and use the money and
20 dedicate it to the fire department, which in
21 turn would put everybody on equal footing
22 and not just the poor people. It bothers me
23 that for some reason the legislature always
24 wants to pick on the little guy and the
25 bigger guy they skate away because very --

1 think about it. He said, "Is the Scranton
2 Housing Authority going to have to pay?"

3 I said, "Probably not."

4 "The University of Scranton, do they
5 have to pay?"

6 I said, "Probably not."

7 He asked me about the Forum. I
8 said, "Probably not."

9 Or any other housing that they have.
10 The 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue, are they
11 going to have to pay? Probably not. But
12 poor mom and pop they are going to have to
13 pay. No. I found this very, very troubling
14 when the guy called it out. I forgot about
15 it, it was so long ago passed and nothing
16 was ever done about it, but being you are
17 bringing it up, I think -- I'd like to see
18 you broaden it and the money used for the
19 fire department really because that's --

20 MS. EVANS: Mr. --

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: Go ahead.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, I think
23 the intention of council is to broaden it
24 and it's going to be a rental registration
25 agent as opposed to a residential rental.

1 We do want to be as all-inclusive as we
2 possibly can be under the law.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, that's a good
4 idea, but your dedication, it should be
5 dedicated to something that's really needed
6 by the city, which is the fire department.
7 Why have this rental just add money to the
8 coffers then becomes just another tax. We
9 don't need more taxes. We need money that's
10 put into places in this city that's it's
11 needed. Look at your fire engine that you
12 are going to get, we can't even buy a fire
13 engine. We have to rent one, lease to buy.
14 The engine cost \$250,000, I thin, and \$96,
15 we have to pay back \$310,191.38 with the
16 interest. And that's the way things go in
17 this city. Nobody looks far enough ahead to
18 see what's needed, and they should be. The
19 fire should be able to accomplish it, but
20 this tacked onto the fire department would
21 give them anything they ever needed, and
22 takes it really out of politics because the
23 money is used for something that's needed in
24 the city, which is fire protection. I thank
25 you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
2 Mr. Sbaraglia. Marie Schumacher.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
4 Council.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I guess I would
7 like to spend most of my time also on this
8 rental registration and what you have talked
9 about and the speed now with which you are
10 going. In 2007 was when this ordinance was
11 last adopted and changed and there have been
12 three years have gone by, the revenues have
13 gone down every year, and now you are going
14 to take one week and I think that is -- I
15 think you have got a lot more things to
16 think about, some of which came up tonight.

17 I think you are making it much more
18 difficult. Mr. LaPolla gave me a copy of
19 his proposal, too. I talked to him on
20 certain aspects of this. When you compare
21 costs, I think the cost of an ad would
22 probably -- for a person would probably
23 equal that or maybe even exceed the cost of
24 buying that list of apartment dwellers.
25 From there it's -- I mean, any secretary in

1 this building truly should be able to take
2 two Excel programs on do a merge and come up
3 with all of the -- all of the address labels
4 that would be required, you know. Creating
5 the database is the big thing.

6 I would suggest if you don't have --
7 feel comfortable having the IT Department do
8 it or somebody in the building who is used
9 to working with Excel that perhaps you get
10 somebody from the University of Scranton, I
11 believe they have an information technology
12 degree and they could maybe get extra credit
13 for it or could be a project for them, they
14 could probably whip it out to be honest in a
15 day.

16 MS. EVANS: An internship.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: In a day and create
18 your database and then go from there because
19 you do have a lot of other things. I know
20 from attending the Scranton Sewer Authority
21 meetings, which I'm going to divert for just
22 a minute, I would like to consider going
23 back to having your council meetings on
24 Thursday nights as they were in the past. I
25 don't think there are any authority or other

1 conflicting meetings on Thursday nights as
2 there are with the Sewer Authority which
3 also meets on Tuesday nights currently, but
4 I know they have a -- they hire an inspector
5 that's paid to go around, and I'm sure they
6 would share that data with you council to
7 council that, for instance, if there is a
8 single meter but there are four apartments
9 they charge four times the basic rate. So
10 they already have a lot of -- a lot of
11 information and that's probably something
12 you might want to consider doing.

13 And then, of course, I think the
14 reason, the main reason a lot of people
15 don't register their apartments even if they
16 are aware of the ordinance I would guess is
17 because they have to pay taxes on the gross
18 receipts and, you know, that's a lot of
19 money and I don't know if the Single Tax
20 Office splits that out, but it might be
21 interesting if they do to look at how much
22 that has been for the last several years and
23 I don't know if you can make an adjustment
24 in that, but it does seem as though they are
25 getting hit a whole lot.

1 And as to the Single Tax Office --
2 well, and you already added that position in
3 LIPS. Again, here that's been what, last
4 the last budget, so you have already hired
5 the inspector to work on this program and I
6 assume that person has been doing something
7 for the last four months and not just
8 sitting around, so I wouldn't think you
9 really need another person until you start
10 getting the database compiled and then I
11 don't know how you would even begin to
12 prioritize. I think that's something you
13 need to consider is are you going to
14 prioritize on who gets inspected first, is
15 it luck of the draw, you know, how is that
16 going to be done. I think that's very
17 important.

18 And you could probably pick up more,
19 I would guess, you might pick up more in the
20 trash fees, the annual trash fees than you
21 are on the permitting because I'm sure there
22 are a lot of buildings just as you have a
23 single -- a single water meter for four
24 units, I'm sure there are a lot of places
25 that are getting a single \$178 trash bill

1 that four apartments or -- and if I may --
2 can I just finish and then I promise I'll
3 leave?

4 I don't think the current ordinance
5 has any penalty for not paying which I think
6 is a problem, and the current -- the current
7 ordinance already excludes apartments I
8 think up to a total of four where the
9 landlord lives on-site, they are excluded,
10 and I would very definitely -- two things
11 with respect to the Single Tax Office. I
12 attended that hearing that got so far off
13 track that Mr. Murphy sponsored awhile back
14 and it just -- I don't know what came out of
15 that, I have a strong feeling nothing came
16 out of that, but it sure cost a lot of money
17 because we brought nine representatives in
18 here to attend that hearing and it sort of
19 disrupted in chaos and one of the -- so I
20 don't think that part of that discussion was
21 the bill was now too confusing. I think if
22 you put a rental registration bill in with
23 those bills it could get even more
24 confusing. However, at that same meeting
25 the Single Tax Office said they could

1 collect the Treasurer's -- or they could
2 collect on the delinquent taxes without
3 adding people, so I would suggest maybe if
4 you get the database you send out the letter
5 that's -- you know, some people pay, some
6 people don't, those who don't maybe even the
7 Single Tax Office would do that follow-up
8 and not, you know, we could give them a
9 small percentage. But, you know, I don't
10 think you have to pay anybody to do this.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Thank
13 you for the extra time.

14 THE COURT: Les Spindler.

15 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
16 Council, Les Spindler, city resident,
17 homeowner and taxpayer. Mrs. Evans, I
18 walked in the middle of the caucus and
19 wasn't exactly sure what was going on. Are
20 you talking about a fee that's going to be
21 charged to people that own rental
22 properties?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes. There is all --
24 that's already this effect.

25 MR. SPINDLER: What kind of

1 properties does that include? I own a
2 double which I live on one side, is that
3 included in that?

4 MS. EVANS: I think we will have to
5 look though the ordinance specifically to
6 see.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Okay.

8 MS. EVANS: I'm thinking more of
9 apartment houses and as Mr. Sbaraglia
10 mentioned businesses, etcetera.

11 MR. SPINDLER: I thought in my
12 instance I thought that those was exempt,
13 I'm not 100 percent sure.

14 MS. EVANS: And since you live on
15 one side of the property, obviously, you
16 would be exempt.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.
18 I'm going to bring something up I haven't
19 brought up in a long time. Every time it
20 rains my sidewalks are flooded because I
21 live on the corner, and years ago this city
22 put in the handicapped accessible sidewalks.
23 You've heard me say this in the year's past,
24 Mrs. Evans, I haven't brought it up in a
25 long time because with the past council I

1 just got no satisfaction. This has been
2 going on for about eight years now and I get
3 all of the debris from the streets, like I
4 said, my sidewalks get flooded. When it
5 rains I can't walk down my front steps, so
6 I'm hoping maybe with a new council that
7 something could finally get done, and I have
8 something in writing, I'll give it to Cathy.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Spindler, can I
11 answer your question that you had before?
12 You can hold the time, if you would, please.
13 Under the current ordinance a rental unit is
14 defined as a dwelling unit occupied by one
15 or more tenants, okay? Now, exemptions,
16 there are a number of exemptions, one is
17 properties in which the owner maintains a
18 bona fide domicile and which there are no
19 more than four rental units.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Last week
21 I spoke about a business in Wilkes-Barre
22 opening and hiring 100 people. Well, this
23 Thursday in Dickson City the old Circuit
24 City building a company is moving in there
25 called hh gregg, and has been advertised and

1 it's opening up. It's where the old Circuit
2 City is, another business not moving into
3 Scranton, going on the outskirts, and in the
4 not too distant future Wal-Mart is going to
5 open in Taylor. That's another huge one.
6 Nobody wants to come to this city with the
7 taxes we have, with the mercantile taxes,
8 with the wage tax, nobody is coming into
9 Scranton to open business unless it's a
10 restaurant, so something has got to be done.
11 They are going all around Scranton, but not
12 in Scranton.

13 Next thing, everybody knows that the
14 mayor took council to Court because they cut
15 the fat from his budget. Now, in Sunday's
16 Doherty newsletter all of the Senate
17 candidates made comments and Chris Doherty
18 said he favors trimming budget fat
19 department by department.

20 Now, he took council to Court for
21 doing that with his budget, but he wants to
22 do that in the state budget? Can you say
23 hypocrite. And if Judge Mazzoni didn't see
24 this I think somebody should bring it to his
25 attention. You know, I think this is a good

1 case for city council.

2 Again, last week I saw the
3 University of Scranton bought another
4 building, a tax paying building on the
5 corner of Monroe Avenue and Mulberry Street.
6 It was the Subway and the Aroma Cafe. I
7 have a question, in 2007 council passed --
8 or council gave a loan to the Aroma Cafe of
9 \$85,000, could we look into see if that loan
10 was paid back yet and if not who is
11 responsible to pay that loan back? Would it
12 be the old owners or the University?

13 And I'm wondering if council could
14 draw up legislation or pass an ordinance
15 that any time the University buys anymore
16 taxpayer land that they have to pay the
17 taxes on that land. I mean, this is
18 ridiculous. They are buying up property
19 left and right.

20 MR. MCGOFF: I believe they do now.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Pardon me?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I believe they do now
23 until it's used for educational purposes it
24 stays on the tax rolls.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.

1 Well, that's all I have then. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Cathy Beck.

3 MS. BECK: Good evening, Council.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MS. BECK: Cathy Beck, city resident
6 and taxpayer. I'm here this evening to
7 comment on the article that appeared in the
8 random notes section of the Saturday, April
9 10, edition of the Scranton Times-Tribune
10 pertaining to a meeting between the FBI and
11 Councilwoman Evans. The headline read:
12 "Evans FBI ploy could backfire."

13 This certainly implies that there
14 was, indeed, a ploy on Mrs. Evans' part. In
15 the very first paragraph the writer states:
16 "City Council President Janet Evans is
17 gambling big time if she is the one who
18 called the FBI and asked for a meeting to
19 discuss alleged city hall corruption."

20 Now, all of a sudden it's if
21 Mrs. Evans contacted the FBI. A great lack
22 of certainty or when compared to the
23 headline. The writer goes onto say, and I
24 quote, "Given the bad blood between
25 Mrs. Evans and Mayor Chris Doherty, it is

1 easy to be skeptical about her bombshell."

2 I said given the Times-Tribune's
3 unwavering, unquestioned blind support of
4 Mayor Doherty, it is extremely easy to be
5 skeptical about this article.

6 I would like to point out at this
7 time that I have been referring to the
8 author of this article as "the writer"
9 rather than the reporter because it is
10 riddled with words such as if, probably,
11 possibly, possibilities, imply, etcetera,
12 which indicates absolutely no investigative
13 reporting. For this reason I believe this
14 article as well as most other political
15 related articles written by the
16 Times-Tribune should appear as an editorial
17 not as a news article.

18 If there is one thing that we have
19 learned from the lengthy, deeply involved
20 Luzerne County investigations, which as we
21 all know have moved into Lackawanna County,
22 it is that there are often times a
23 connection between a pay-to-play culture,
24 political contributions and no bid
25 contracts. Keeping this in mind, let's use

1 one of the Times' favorite words "if" and
2 consider the following: If there is any
3 truth to the rumor that the feds were asking
4 questions of a number of Scranton or
5 city-related individuals in the last half of
6 2009 it would behoove that there was an
7 interest long before any meeting with Mrs.
8 Evans. This would also mean that there was
9 an interest while Chris Doherty was still
10 interested in remaining mayor of Scranton,
11 long before he was interested in running for
12 governor, long before any interest he had in
13 lieutenant governor, and certainly much
14 longer than his new interest in running for
15 Senator.

16 What if anything discovered in the
17 Luzerne County investigation and the
18 Lackawanna County investigation brought the
19 FBI to the City of Scranton. If the
20 Times-Tribune receives as it has requested
21 the list of names of all contractors
22 involved with the Lackawanna County
23 Commissioner's investigation, and any of
24 these contractors have done business with
25 the city, especially any no-bid contracts or

1 contracts awarded to big campaign
2 contributors, what investigative reporting
3 would the Times-Tribune do as compared to
4 the Cordaro-Munchak articles?

5 Remember, the City of Scranton and
6 it's authorities have been known for no-bid
7 contracts. We certainly cannot overlook the
8 no-bid landscaping contract at Nay Aug Park
9 or the infamous \$24,000 bill for the water
10 slide at Nay Aug Park that Controller
11 Novembrino refused to pay because the
12 project wasn't properly bid. I believe the
13 bill was later presented to the Scranton
14 Redevelopment Authority for payment. These
15 are only two examples.

16 Finally, I offer the following as an
17 example of the length to which the
18 Times-Tribune will go to support it's own
19 political agenda. During the first
20 Doherty-DiBileo campaign, Mr. DiBileo
21 performed -- I'm sorry, Mr. DiBileo's
22 platform included public safety, the
23 presence of gangs in the city and concern
24 over crime in general. Mayor Doherty and
25 then Public Safety Director Ray Hayes and

1 the Chief of Police Dave Elliott along with
2 the once again unwaiving support of the
3 Times-Tribune and it's pro Doherty articles,
4 insisted that there was no problem with
5 crime in the city and there were no gangs in
6 the city. They claim that the concern
7 regarding the crime was merely perceived and
8 that the fear of the crime was actually
9 worse than the crime itself. They claimed
10 this was a political fear tactic employed by
11 the DiBileo camp.

12 Within months, the newspaper was
13 publishing detailed lengthy articles not
14 just about crime and the existence of gangs,
15 but it referred to the actual names of the
16 gangs, gang colors, gang dress, gang
17 languages, gang graffiti, gang turf,
18 etcetera.

19 So here comes the question: If
20 crime was not a problem and gangs didn't
21 exist during the campaign, if they existed
22 to the extent covered by the Times-Tribune
23 months later, did Mayor Doherty, Safety
24 Director Hayes and Police Chief Elliott with
25 the full support of the Times-Tribune lie to

1 the residents of the City of Scranton and,
2 therefore, put them at risk or did all --
3 can I proceed?

4 MS. EVANS: Please continue.

5 MS. BECK: Or did all of this crime
6 and the gangs come to existence after the
7 first campaign against Mr. DiBileo and,
8 therefore, under the watch of Mayor Doherty
9 and his administration. You can't have it
10 both ways. It has to be one way or the
11 other.

12 I believe there are a sufficient
13 number of if's in my presentation to keep
14 the newspaper happy and at the same time to
15 attract the interest of the educated
16 taxpayers and voters. I just don't know if
17 there will be any answers of any
18 significance. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

20 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
21 Doug Miller, Scranton.

22 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

23 MR. MILLER: I'm here tonight to
24 just bring forward a few suggestions that I
25 have for council, a few of them I have

1 raised in the past. In the past I suggested
2 to council to look into possibly creating a
3 Revenue Task Force made up of residents,
4 neighborhood groups, etcetera, to brainstorm
5 new revenue streams for the city and I have
6 personally offered to lead the efforts to
7 establish such a group and I'm hopeful that
8 council is taking that idea into
9 consideration especially when it comes time
10 to getting ready for next year's budget.

11 Secondly, I suggested council look
12 into conducting town hall style meetings
13 across the city to reach out to those who
14 can't participate at this forum. I think
15 with the nice weather approaching it would
16 serve as a great tool for council to learn
17 more about neighborhood issues and problems
18 across the city from residents and it also
19 may be a forum where residents feel a little
20 more comfortable than coming here, you know,
21 before the cameras and everything else. So
22 I hope that council will consider scheduling
23 a few meetings for the next few months.

24 And finally, I'm asking council for
25 the first time tonight to possibly consider

1 reforming the Junior Council. You know, we
2 heard tonight Mrs. Schumacher discuss about
3 having students download information on the
4 computer for council and that kind of
5 brought in idea to my mind again. I think
6 that forming this group again would serve as
7 an assess not only for council, but for
8 students across the city who I know are
9 interested about their government and I know
10 going back to our tenure, we accomplished
11 quite a lot and gained a lot of valuable
12 experience from being here and learning
13 about city issues and we took a lot out of
14 it, and people saw a group of high school
15 students who were dedicated, passionate and
16 committed to making their city a better
17 place, and because of our accomplishments,
18 you saw that numerous other cities and towns
19 around Scranton formed similar groups.

20 So perhaps council could send a
21 letter to the school district to reach out
22 to the schools to seek interest from
23 students because I know it's out there, I
24 know there are students who are interested
25 and I see students here tonight, so you know

1 it's out there. And I'd also offer my time
2 to work with council and try to organize
3 this group as well. You know, we need to
4 provide our future leaders with the tools
5 they need to learn about government and to
6 develop that sense of pride for their
7 communities and I think a lot of students
8 that work with council and the community
9 would serve a great purposes.

10 Now, I made these suggestions
11 tonight because I really feel it's time for
12 everyone to offer suggestions to council to
13 try to make the city a better place. You
14 know, for far too long we have set back here
15 and we have seen the worry about what side
16 of the fence you are on, whether you are on
17 the good side or the bad side, whether or
18 not people want to label you, but I really
19 truly believe it's time to start worrying
20 about doing the right thing for the city and
21 we play politics too long in this city and
22 that leads me into supporting the forensic
23 audit of the city, and I know Mr. Joyce
24 brought that issue up whether it was last
25 week or the week before, and I think once we

1 have this audit completed we can all be on
2 the same page once and for all and have a
3 clear look at the future of the city and
4 where we are headed.

5 And lastly before I leave, I did
6 bring this issue up in the past a few years
7 ago regarding the vehicles speeding around
8 the corner of West Locust Street which turns
9 into Dale Drive. I was told a few years ago
10 by council that a study was done that speed
11 bumps couldn't be put in, so the city placed
12 signs up instead. Obviously, the signs
13 don't mean anything to people, they are
14 still flying around the corner, and it's a
15 neighborhood where kids are outside in nice
16 weather playing basketball, riding their
17 bikes and other things, and if something is
18 not done soon somebody is going to get
19 seriously injured, so I would like to see if
20 council could look into it. I know it would
21 be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: If I might add, I have
24 actually -- I was looking into speed bumps
25 this past week and trying to do some

1 research that, you know, what actually needs
2 to be done to install street bumps on a
3 street, and I know that some other cities
4 that I found on-line that I saw some of
5 their programs I know that there was a
6 petition involved where a certain number of
7 residents or a certain percentage of
8 residents on the block would have to sign in
9 order to have the street bumps installed.

10 So actually, Mrs. Krake, if you
11 could send a letter to Mr. Brazil and ask
12 him what the procedure is to follow in order
13 to have these speed bumps installed. Do the
14 residents of a certain block need to get a
15 petition or is it simply a matter of traffic
16 study, if you could provide us with some
17 guidance on that, that would be really
18 helpful.

19 MR. MILLER: I'd appreciate that
20 very much because if that is a matter of
21 petition we shouldn't have a problem getting
22 signatures for that because people are
23 pretty upset. Like I said, somebody is
24 going to get hurt. I appreciate anything
25 you can do to help us.

1 MR. JOYCE: No problem. When we
2 hear back from Mr. Brazil I'll ask for that
3 information.

4 MR. MILLER: I appreciate that.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Ron Ellman.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman, member
10 of the Taxpayers' Association. I had a nice
11 quiet weekend for a change. Friday morning
12 about breakfast time my two boys phoned
13 yelling and screaming to help that they got
14 picked up. One of them had one ticket and
15 one had a dozen, 15 tickets, all tickets,
16 you know, so they got arrested. They are
17 yelling, "Get me out of here, I'm being held
18 a prisoner and so on," and so I did what
19 most good parents would do, I rushed right
20 on down there yesterday afternoon at 3:30.
21 You could imagine they weren't very happy.
22 I will say no more about that.

23 And I had a man tell me that they
24 cut off the steam room at Weston Field to
25 save money on gas. That's not right. There

1 is places that -- how much gas could they
2 use in a steam room, you know, I know it
3 would be a lot, but they could save money
4 someplace else.

5 And like Mr. Spindler said, they
6 done it again. The University sucked up
7 another house on Mulberry Street, \$750,000.
8 That house, business or whatever it was, I
9 know where it is, I just don't know what was
10 in there, I never paid any attention to.
11 They paid \$6,325 a year, but the thing is
12 the Rinaldis haven't paid in over five
13 years, they haven't paid taxes so why are
14 these guys allowed to be tax cheats of the
15 city? I have to pay taxes, these people pay
16 taxes, you pay taxes. You know, Jerry Joyce
17 owed \$58,000, he is bragging about a waiting
18 list for those apartments up there, St.
19 Peter's Square or whatever they are called.
20 You know, Pettinato had \$200,000 before he
21 had to pay anything.

22 This city is broke and these people
23 don't have to pay taxes and then Pat McKenna
24 writes in the paper, oh, they are here at
25 this blue and -- black and blue party and

1 this party and that party, they don't pay
2 taxes. You know, it's just time -- this
3 piece of property they don't -- they are so
4 greedy they don't even know what they are
5 going to do with it yet. It says so right
6 here. They are going to make plans, but
7 they have pull it off our pay roll. That's
8 half of one of your salaries.

9 How are we going to make it up, you
10 know? Tell me. Somebody say something, you
11 know. How are you going to makeup \$6,500 a
12 year? Who is going to pay the \$30,000 they
13 haven't paid for five years? Doherty will
14 probably tell them, oh, you know, don't
15 worry about it. The silly taxpayers will
16 make it up for you.

17 And Pat McKenna all he does is write
18 you people get off the back of the
19 Universities, we need them. They are not a
20 friend of ours. A friend wouldn't keep
21 taking property and \$50 million the last 16,
22 17 years from the taxpayers and let us make
23 it up. That's not a friend. They are an
24 enemy just like the Japs and the Germans in
25 World War II. These are our enemies.

1 These three institutions they're
2 just ruining the tax base of the city and it
3 just can't go on. You know, it has just
4 became beyond the people's ability to pay
5 the tax burden here.

6 You know, all I do is flap my gums
7 all day long, like today I was the Price
8 Rite talking to some people and wherever I
9 go people are just overburdened. That's why
10 we don't have any, you know, there is no
11 industry going to come here. You got to be
12 realistic. They are not going to come here.
13 You are not going to have all of these jobs,
14 like I said a week or two ago, it's just not
15 going to happen you know.

16 I wrote this down so I won't -- I
17 used my words and I won't -- I have to put
18 my glasses onto read it. It's about the
19 University, my personal feelings about all
20 three of them, in fact, there are three just
21 despicable parasites as far as -- they are
22 sucking the lifeblood out of this city and
23 not giving us nothing, but talk about the
24 future just like these guys sit here every
25 time. They just blow smoke in your ear what

1 you want to hear. They don't do doing.
2 They don't come up with any solid thing
3 about putting money in the coffers.

4 Let me just finish this, it will
5 just take a minute. I think they are three
6 deplorable, loathsome, nauseating,
7 sickening, repulsive, offensive, revolting,
8 disgusting entities, the three institutions,
9 and that's how I feel about them and that's
10 just not my thinking. That's what I hear
11 out on the street continually about -- from
12 taxpayers, they just can't afford these
13 people. They are a luxury that we can't
14 afford. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
16 Dobrzyn.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: First of all, last
18 week I mentioned about lights for these
19 visually impaired people that were here and,
20 of course, they can't see a light or maybe
21 they could see a light, I don't know, there
22 is different degrees of that, but if anybody
23 can meet with me or if you can't just go
24 past the corner caddy corner from city hall
25 tonight and look at the light and it's

1 obviously been smashed by a tractor trailer
2 or some high truck or maybe you have some
3 wing nut running around with a baseball bat,
4 I don't know.

5 And this week I seen some people
6 around on blight, and I would hope that
7 people would clean up their yards and do the
8 simple things, but some of the issues that I
9 see listed, and it didn't have anything to
10 do with my properties, it seemed like they
11 might be longer term. So what I'm asking is
12 that whoever is this charge please be gentle
13 with fines and penalties and all of that
14 stuff and work with these people because
15 once you condemn a house you can't get
16 finances or anything else. What it adds up
17 to is -- if you remember a man named Paul
18 Mealey, one more homeless person in this
19 town that used to have a home.

20 And also on that blight issue trash,
21 and what we are not doing with that and I
22 have brought it up several times in the past
23 is that the trash gets tossed out at the end
24 of people's property in a bag, the
25 squirrels, the skunks, the cats, or whatever

1 come and tear the bag apart and the guy that
2 picks it up either has to walk around
3 picking up can after bottle after bottle and
4 package or whatever, and that doesn't
5 happen. So if we are going to worry about
6 blight then part of our blight abatement
7 might be to require people to start having
8 trash cans, decent trash cans with the lids
9 and so forth, and I always take mine off in
10 the morning and put it somewhere where it's
11 not going to blow away because I have a
12 couple laying in my yard if anybody they
13 match it up they are welcome to it.

14 On the "U" and the tax exempts,
15 Mr. Ron has a little more passion than me,
16 but we really need to keep on it, and
17 hopefully in the future when you people get
18 things rolling and we get all of the points
19 of order established with these court cases
20 and so forth we need to get on people from
21 outside the area because a lot of these
22 people like he mentioned are people from
23 outside of the town and it's really ashamed
24 and they all seem to know what we should do
25 with our land and that we should be willing

1 to accept another tax exempt.

2 Now I'm scratching my head what
3 about that armory that Mr. -- Mr. -- the
4 Austin Burke mentioned last week? Is that
5 another tax exempt? I'm wondering. It's
6 the federal government. It's probably
7 another tax exempt. Here we go again. We
8 are gifted with all of these wonderful
9 institutions that they want to put here,
10 people that do not live in Scranton.
11 Personally, I feel that the Chamber of
12 Commerce should separate from Scranton/
13 Lackawanna County entirely. We should have
14 a separate totally separate independent
15 Chamber of Commerce for Scranton only
16 because we are getting no where with 700
17 members and we have 300 or whatever the heck
18 it is, you know, we are outnumbered and they
19 are just running things like -- running
20 Scranton like they own it.

21 And when Andy Sbaraglia was leaving
22 he asked me to mention this, and I think
23 it's a good idea, list all of the exemptions
24 on that rental property business. And I'd
25 also like to mention I know my friend Lee

1 has been disagreeable at times and so forth,
2 but he has a house up there I couldn't fit
3 in this chamber and it might not fit in the
4 next chamber, also, and he was forbidden to
5 rent it out. One person in a house that
6 size, I don't know why, but what's wrong or
7 the ordinances, but it would seem to me that
8 a house like that should only be a rental
9 unit and my experience from another town was
10 that there were more people living in that
11 house -- that rental unit before it was a
12 rental unit than after it became a rental
13 unit, but everybody seemed to have a
14 complaint about it.

15 And finally, I have a little award
16 for national politicians, just a little
17 passing comment. It's called the Golden
18 Parrot award. We have a certain senator
19 that was against the medical reform and he
20 used to crow that the insurance rates were
21 going to go up and up and up. Well, it
22 didn't take any intelligence to determine
23 that because they went -- they were going up
24 anyway and they've gone up every damn year.
25 Now he is against Wall Street reform and he

1 is crowing that it's just going to cause
2 other problems and so forth. His name is
3 Mitch McConnell, and I'm so tired of him so
4 this week he gets the golden parrot award of
5 the week because it was exposed that
6 Golden-Sachs contributed a lot of money to
7 him and it's obvious two or three weeks
8 before the medical reform is passed they
9 were -- Goldman-Sachs was crowing to their
10 investors that we can just raise the prices
11 that people are unable to afford it.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, now he is
14 crowing again so he gets the golden parrot
15 award of the week. Thank you. Have a good
16 night.

17 MS. EVANS: You, too. Is there
18 anyone else who would like to address
19 council? Mr. Stucker.

20 MR. STUCKER: I was over walking up
21 the street the other day, across the street
22 and I fell, hurt my hand.

23 MS. EVANS: Oh, I'm sorry.

24 MR. JOYCE: I'm sorry.

25 MR. STUCKER: I stubbed my toe. I

1 didn't see and I was walking going to the
2 hospital and instead of walking up all that
3 block it's all bad, down by Mercy, all the
4 way past the Mercy, all that way is all bad.

5 MS. EVANS: Okay.

6 MR. STUCKER: And we have a couple
7 of drains blocked and they are all full of
8 dirt. I went by one yesterday, the other
9 day I was going by one, full of dirt and
10 holes and the water can't go down. All
11 right, up by Sloans -- up by Sloan ballfield
12 right up past that street there is a house
13 that's condemned, they wanted somebody up
14 there to tear it down. The guy had --
15 people had to move out, the house is ready
16 to fall down, so --

17 MS. EVANS: Okay.

18 MR. JOYCE: We'll have to look into
19 that for you.

20 MR. STUCKER: Thanks. I was talking
21 to Courtright, Courtright called my house
22 the other day about the house on Adams,
23 across from McGinty's on Greenridge Street,
24 they ripped that house down and thanks for
25 alls of yous to have it tore down.

1 Mr. Courtright told me to tell you, Judy --
2 or you, thanks very much for having it tore
3 down. Now they got two more at Mercy, by
4 the Mercy Hospital on Jefferson, they got
5 two more to tear down, a red brick one, a
6 cinderblock house, and there is rocks around
7 the porch.

8 MS. EVANS: Okay.

9 MR. STUCKER: So a lot of people
10 throwing their garbage out, they are not
11 picking -- the city doesn't pick it up
12 anymore. We need some trucks out there. We
13 need a private truck or garbage truck to
14 pick up stuff and mattresses and couches.

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

16 MR. STUCKER: February last month
17 was my birthday I was 65 I retired. I don't
18 work no more cutting grass or doing nothing.

19 MS. EVANS: That's good. You relax.

20 MR. STUCKER: Yeah. Yeah.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you, Jim.

22 MR. STUCKER: Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Happy birthday, Jim.
24 You sure you didn't fall off your scooter?

25 MR. STUCKER: No, no. I don't have a

1 scooter anymore. I just have a bike now.

2 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City
3 Council.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

6 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.
7 Last year the City of Scranton joined a
8 group of people from the Abingtons, it's
9 called SEPTA. There are 11 members, as I
10 mentioned, nine from the Abingtons, two from
11 Scranton and -- or one from Dunmore and one
12 from Scranton, but each one has one vote
13 even though the population of Scranton is a
14 lot greater.

15 I see now where we are going to be
16 joining the Lackawanna River Trail, and once
17 again we seem to be falling into the same
18 problems where the small municipalities will
19 have the same vote as to the City of
20 Scranton, however, the City of Scranton will
21 share most of the burden seeing as we have
22 the longest line and we will probably end up
23 paying most of the expenses. On this agenda
24 there is not much description of it.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

1 MR. UNGVARSKY: I hope next week,
2 for the next two weeks, city council will
3 explain in-depth just what this will involve
4 the city in. On most cases people come up
5 to you and ask you, you know, well, what was
6 that that they voted on and you try to
7 explain to them, but if they are watching on
8 TV they have no idea what this agenda is and
9 I would wish you would explain it in more
10 detail. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you,
13 Mr. Ungvarsky.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
15 South Scranton resident and member of the
16 Taxpayers' Association. "Corrupt scandals
17 poise new barriers for region's economic
18 development."

19 I have been speaking about this for
20 years. Every month for three years I
21 brought in the official unemployment
22 statistics from the Pennsylvania Department
23 of Labor. Every month Scranton ws ranked at
24 the bottom and still is. I also spoke and
25 showed what the per capita wage is in

1 Scranton and the median family income in
2 Scranton. Both rank at the bottom of the
3 State of Pennsylvania and the United States,
4 but again, I have been ignored by past city
5 council, the Chamber of Commerce and the
6 mayor and the Doherty real people.

7 Sherry fan stated while as a
8 councilwoman that the number one reason why
9 a company locates into an area is because of
10 their park system. So I ask why is the
11 economy so bad in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and
12 the Hazelton metropolitan area. We have
13 parks, I believe we have 19 parks, and we
14 also have Nay Aug Park, which according to
15 the administration is the state-of-the-art
16 park. Although, you must pay \$3 a day to
17 use the number one attraction, the pool and
18 the slide.

19 My answer: The Chamber has not done
20 their job. The elected officials have not
21 done their job and the area is loaded with
22 corruption. The citizens must send a strong
23 message that they want a clean government
24 not a corrupt government. Backroom deals
25 and handshakes must stop immediately,

1 otherwise, Scranton and the surrounding area
2 will always be distressed. The medical
3 school will not save the area unless we have
4 a clean government. Voters stop voting for
5 trends and people who gave you or someone a
6 job. Vote for someone who will allow the
7 area to have a fair, honest and open
8 government.

9 Will it ever change? I doubt it.
10 Since 1930, the Great Depression, this area
11 has been distressed and depressed. The
12 unemployment rate during the depression was
13 24 percent nationally. The unemployment
14 rate in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Hazelton
15 was double, 48 percent. Hasn't changed
16 much. Think about it and look at your
17 life-style, bank account and houses. Then
18 travel into other parts of the country and
19 see who really has had it better.

20 Yes, right now the entire country is
21 suffering, but Northeastern Pennsylvania has
22 been suffering for far too much years with
23 no end in sight. It is up to the people of
24 this area to put a stop to this. Remember,
25 residents of Scranton, you have been living

1 in a distressed city for 18 years. Is that
2 your fault or the leaders of the city who
3 want to make sure they keep the citizens of
4 Scranton distressed? My answer is the
5 leaders. They live a good life, although,
6 Mayor Doherty lives on \$50,000 a year.
7 Again, I must tip my hat to him. I do not
8 know how he did it. That's a real nice
9 neighborhood that he lives in on a \$50,000
10 salary.

11 Did you read Doherty's platform in
12 the Sunday Times-Tribune? Same reasons that
13 he is suing city council he is using a
14 platform to run for state senate, just
15 doesn't make sense. Cut excessive spending
16 and remove political jobs from the
17 government and pass more bond issues.
18 That's Doherty's slogan, campaign slogan.
19 It's exactly why he is suing you people on
20 council. I believe I'm correct on that
21 matter. Mayor, that is why Scranton is
22 distressed and you are suing the city, city
23 council for trying to do this?

24 Council, do not back down from this
25 lame duck mayor, support Mr. Sbaraglia.

1 Mayor/Senator Doherty was elected on 3
2 November 2009 to be the Mayor of Scranton.
3 None of the other six candidates for Senate
4 were elected to be the Mayor of Scranton,
5 that's why I can only speak about the mayor
6 of Scranton in the senate campaign. He is
7 the only one that matters to me.

8 If he wanted to be governor/
9 lieutenant governor/senator then he should
10 never have run for the mayor's position. I
11 understand that the only income Mayor
12 Doherty has is the salary that he receives
13 for being mayor, but sometimes you must take
14 a risk.

15 Mayor, come to a council meeting or
16 hold your own meeting with the citizens of
17 Scranton. Make it public and allow
18 questions. None of the other candidates
19 affect my life one way or the other, only
20 Mayor Doherty who happens to be the mayor of
21 the city that I was born in and currently
22 reside in and pay his salary.

23 Also, Mayor Doherty should produce
24 the financial statement that shows he only
25 made \$50,000 a year. Also, the other six

1 candidates should also produce a financial
2 statement on their income since they are all
3 claiming poverty with the exception of the
4 one or could this fall under the category of
5 I will be your sixth councilman, I will
6 reduce your wage tax 1/10 of a percentage
7 point every year while mayor, I created
8 9,000 jobs in eight years in Scranton, and
9 my favorite, I was responsible for bringing
10 the medical school to Scranton all by
11 myself. Pay attention, People. Thank you.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

13 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Cathy. I have it
15 for you. I never forget nobody. You know
16 something, Jack, those firemen are doing a
17 good job, aren't they, downstairs, Jack?
18 Look what I'm wearing tonight. It's for my
19 buddy up there.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: You going to go see
21 Shadow?

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Yes, I am. He's a
23 good dog. You keep him down there. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chrissy.

1 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.
2 Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment Rights.
3 Well, the 16th of April is behind us.
4 Briefs in the lawsuit the mayor filed
5 against council were due this day and I
6 believe your brief was missing a key piece
7 of information that was brought out in the
8 slimes on April 19. By the way, I won't
9 purchase that garbage, I read it on-line for
10 free. Anyway, I was reading an article in
11 the slimes on-line by Boris Kurshinick,
12 staff writer, and published April 18, 2010.
13 It was titled, "State senate candidates take
14 positions on taxes and spending," and I'll
15 quote, "Mayor Chris Doherty, a democrat,
16 favors trimming budgetary fat department by
17 department."

18 Didn't the mayor sue you, city
19 council, for just that? For amending the
20 budget, cutting wages and saving the
21 taxpayers \$700,000? Did he testify that he
22 favors trimming the budgetary fat? If
23 Mr. Hughes can get that quote in the Court
24 record, maybe that would end this lawsuit
25 against council. He said he wants to do --

1 he said he wants to do what you already did,
2 but you got sued for cutting budgetary fat.

3 I'll get into the budgetary fat in a
4 minute, but how about this by James
5 Haggerty, another staff writer for the
6 slimes published April 19, 2010, it's
7 titled, "Corruption scandals pose new
8 barriers for regions economic development."
9 I quote, "The upheaval generates publicity
10 damaging the region's image," and all the
11 while Austin Burke was claiming that city
12 council speakers, the Legion of Doomers for
13 damaging the region's image. Truth will
14 prevail.

15 Now, back to the budgetary fat. 300
16 million to 400 million in long-term debt,
17 and this is after the Connors'
18 administration left this administration a
19 \$3.3 million surplus. 35 million Scranton
20 Parking Authority loan that 59 million will
21 be paid back in interest and the total paid
22 back will be 94 million. A lot of money.
23 Budgetary fat. \$267,000 wasted on repairs
24 to the Casey Parkway before it was torn down
25 because it was declared unsafe. 25 million

1 in raises and new hires in positions since
2 this administration took over. 25 million
3 cumulatively. 1.2 million in green fish
4 pond at Nay Aug. 5.5 million American
5 Anglican arbitration loss resulting in a 56
6 percent rate hike at the Scranton Sewer
7 Authority, third highest wage tax in the
8 state. \$4,2000 a month rent for OECD Office
9 in the Life building. 300,000 for Christmas
10 lights at Nay Aug. A 72 bond secured in
11 July 2003. A million dollars paid for AAA
12 rating. \$50,000 a year to Genisis Wildlife
13 Center only to run them out of town. 48,000
14 a year for hand scanners. Million spent on
15 Nay Aug when our infrastructure, such as
16 streets, is deplorable, and I criticize the
17 dirt they were buying years ago.

18 7.5 million bond for PPL lights,
19 110,110,500 increase in budgets since 2001.
20 Millions for outside attorneys. A water
21 slide forcing children to swim at Nay Aug.
22 The Davis trail fiasco. The undersized bath
23 house at Nay Aug, the tree house. Thousands
24 spent on flower pots and furniture in the
25 mayor's office, forced Channel 61 out of

1 city hall in favor of higher priced TV with
2 ECTV. Forced out 100 employees in 2002
3 paying them full benefits and hiring 100 new
4 employees to replace them paying back full
5 benefits. Eliminated the traffic division
6 only to give out the work to a private
7 contractor. Anyone notice how many traffic
8 lights are out around the city? Lots.

9 What about the "Walk" and "Don't
10 Walk" indicators. That would be worth money
11 being spent on. What about the roads?
12 Terrible. But we, the people, thank you for
13 watching out for the taxpayers. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
15 Mr. Ancherani. Is there anyone else who
16 cares to address council? Mr. McGoff, have
17 you any comments?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I believe that
19 Mrs. Krake did read the response that we get
20 from PennDOT concerning River Street and
21 Meadow Avenue. I would really like to ask
22 the city to look into a three-way stop
23 there, but it gets to the point where it
24 says the city would be responsible for
25 conducting the traffic study that goes along

1 with it and, you know, does it become cost
2 efficient to do that with the possibility
3 that there is going to be a traffic signal
4 there sometime in the future. So I don't
5 know what the answer is on that situation,
6 but maybe it's something that we could at
7 least maybe we could get an estimate on what
8 the study would cost before it's performed
9 and maybe look into the possibility of the
10 three-way stop, although, I don't know that
11 a three-way stop at that intersection would
12 be very helpful considering the way in which
13 traffic moves there.

14 The second thing that I wanted to
15 mention was that in recent weeks there has
16 been a number of complaints or people
17 talking about the condition in the O'Connor
18 Place, which is one of the courts between
19 River Street and Orchard Street, the 500
20 block of River Street and Orchard Street.
21 It's been used as -- it had been originally
22 used by the Linde Corporation or Linde
23 Corporation?

24 MS. EVANS: Linde.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Linde Corporation as

1 they were doing some work along Pittston
2 Avenue. Originally, all they did was put a
3 fence there and a shed and they were storing
4 some tools and some pipes and some other
5 things. The nature of that has changed
6 drastically. Now it's been -- they have
7 dumped all types of dirt, fill, paving
8 materials, gravel, it's become possibly a
9 worse eyesore than when the buildings were
10 actually there.

11 I contacted Mr. Seitzinger and he
12 told me that he has been to that place now
13 three times, on three different occasions,
14 and what's happening is they are trying to
15 investigate the nature of the agreement, of
16 any agreement that Linde has with anyone to
17 use that area. Apparently, there is no
18 record of any agreement with the city or any
19 of the city departments. So Mr. Seitzinger
20 is looking into that and he was contacting
21 all of the various departments in the city
22 and also the Linde Corporation to find out
23 why they were using that area, and once
24 that-- the nature of that agreement is
25 determined then steps will be taken to

1 alleviate the problem.

2 I asked Mr. Seitzinger if he would
3 be expeditious in doing this and he assured
4 me that he would. The city would, you know,
5 move as quickly as possible to try and do
6 something to alleviate the problems that are
7 occurring there. It has become more than
8 just a problem, it's a real nuisance with
9 the dust and dirt that's being put into the
10 air. Also, that it seems as though the
11 vehicles that they are using, some very
12 large trucks, and I'm not much into the
13 various types of construction equipment, but
14 I'm told that these large vehicles are also
15 using the extent of Hamm Court to transport
16 all of this material, and so that the
17 residents all along Hamm Court, which is a
18 very small thoroughfare, obviously, are
19 being bothered from early in the morning
20 until late into the evening sometimes. And
21 so hopefully, hopefully there is some
22 resolution to that in the very near future.

23 I will continue to try and be in
24 contact with Mr. Seitzinger and hopefully we
25 can resolve that, and that's all I have.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Rogan,
3 Councilman Rogan, any motions or comments?

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. I have
5 a list of citizens' requests here for the
6 week as well. Mrs. Krake, will you please
7 send a letter to Mr. Brazil, a second
8 request, to meet with him to discuss damage
9 to two city properties done by the DPW as
10 well as to discuss the city's street
11 cleaning program.

12 I received -- I have a list of
13 citizens' requests here as well. A resident
14 reports a street sign missing at the corner
15 of Crane Street and Coyne Avenue in Minooka.
16 The sign there we are referring to is the
17 sign for Coyne Avenue. Can we please send a
18 letter to the DPW regarding that matter?

19 And a resident reports that 207 and
20 209 Fifth Avenue the house has been
21 condemned. The resident states the house
22 was a drug house and the people that used to
23 live there hanging out in the backyard are
24 using and selling drugs and that the windows
25 are smashed out of the front of the house.

1 They contacted the police department, they
2 said it continues to be an ongoing problem,
3 so could we please send a letter to Chief
4 Elliott making him aware of the situation?

5 And the third one is a resident
6 reports two condemned houses at 1228 and
7 1230 Meadow Avenue, and the house at 1230
8 Meadow Avenue a board is off the window and
9 there are also 15 bags of garbage in front
10 of the house. Can we please send a letter
11 to Mr. Seitzinger making him aware of this
12 situation as well as Mr. Brazil and see if
13 those bags of garbage could be collected.

14 And last week when I was coming into
15 council a group of residents from Mineral
16 Avenue in the Sandy Bank section of Scranton
17 contacted me about a number of problems they
18 are facing in their neighborhoods and, you
19 know, on an average we get a few calls that
20 we handle on the phone, others we go out to
21 and talk to them in person and usually, you
22 know, they are serious situations, you know,
23 a couple of condemned houses and other
24 problems in the neighborhood, but this one
25 really struck me.

1 They took me around their
2 neighborhood and just on Mineral Avenue
3 alone there were five -- on one block there
4 were five condemned houses, 606, 609, 614,
5 626 and 627, and this is all on one block.
6 When we turned the corner onto Olive Street,
7 the former Sony's Cuban Deli 11 is
8 condemned. Right next to that the 13 Olive
9 street is condemned, and 15 Olive Street is
10 half-burned out as well as condemned and
11 this --I'm still at a loss for words after
12 going through this neighborhood and seeing
13 how deplorable it was.

14 And I will give you this list, Mrs.
15 Krake, so we could send it to Mr. Seitzinger
16 and I will call him as well tomorrow, so
17 hopefully we can do something to help the
18 people of this neighborhood.

19 And also the same neighborhood there
20 is a garage located at 636 Mineral Avenue
21 and they report that they are doing paint
22 jobs during the day and the paint, the fumes
23 from the paint are going around throughout
24 the neighborhood, and I will send you the
25 information as well so we can send that to

1 Mr. Seitzinger and see if there are in
2 violation of any health codes, as well as a
3 lot in the back of this auto repair shop
4 isn't fenced in so if there are children
5 playing in the neighborhood they may be
6 coming in and out of there, the garage, and
7 possibly getting hurt.

8 Also, could we look to see if we
9 have a vagrancy law in the City of Scranton?
10 When I was in the same neighborhood the one
11 resident took me up into her house and in
12 her bedroom she opened the window so I could
13 look outside and there are tents all along
14 the river of homeless people and no resident
15 should have to keep their blinds closed at
16 all times because of this.

17 And if you are walking by the
18 railroad tracks and the river it was
19 everywhere and it's deplorable and this is
20 the same street where children walk up and
21 down every day while they are going to
22 school at Scranton High School and it's, you
23 know, I'm -- like I said, I'm at a loss for
24 words with all of the problems that there in
25 this neighborhood and I am hoping we can do

1 things to fix them. Also, some of these
2 tents were put on the riverbank and the
3 residents told me that it was city property.
4 Could we look into that as well and if it is
5 maybe we could put up a "No trespassing"
6 sign and if they continue to live there send
7 the police department down to do something
8 about that.

9 But it is was a very disappointing
10 situation when we have five condemned
11 properties on one block and you turn the
12 corner there is three more and one that's
13 burned out not to mention all of the vacant
14 lots in the area that were overgrown, so
15 hopefully we can do something to get this
16 fixed, and I will be in touch with Mr.
17 Seitzinger; and the problem with the
18 homeless if we have something on the books I
19 will send Chief Elliott an e-mail to make
20 him aware. He has been very good with
21 responding to our requests as of late, and
22 if not, maybe it's something that council
23 could look into. And that is all I have for
24 today.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Actually, I do have one
2 more, I'm sorry. I received a call from a
3 resident who lives on West Elm Street who
4 reports that cars are often traveling well
5 in excess of the 25 miles per hour posted
6 speed limit. He said that he put in a call
7 to council earlier, I don't know if it was
8 this council or the past council, that they
9 sent the police car down there and they
10 pulled over a few people but then a week or
11 two the speeders were back at it. So I will
12 send an e-mail to Chief Elliott as well
13 making him aware of the situation, and that
14 is all.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
16 Mr. Loscombe, any comments or motions?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
18 Evans. Mr. Rogan lead me into a few of
19 them. West Elm Street I believe I had
20 already -- when I met with Chief Elliott had
21 mentioned that also because I also received
22 a call from the gentleman on that street --

23 MR. ROGAN: Oh, good.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- regarding that so
25 we can follow that up and see if they can

1 enforce that a little bitter.

2 And the other thing he lead me into
3 was the vacant dwellings. There is not a
4 day that goes by when we are not out doing
5 citizens' concerns, checking things out and
6 that that someone doesn't grab you and say,
7 "Hey, there is a house on this street that's
8 vacant, it's rat infested or whatever."

9 I'm amazed at the amount of the
10 vacant homes, but I am happy to announce
11 that a vacant dwelling on East Elm Street
12 was recently damaged by fire has been taken
13 down. I was by there today and they are
14 still cleaning up the site, but that was a
15 dangerous situation because it was over the
16 river or part of the foundation was washed
17 out.

18 There is still a large amount of
19 dangerous, condemned and vacant structures
20 located throughout the city. Mrs. Krake,
21 can you inquire through the proper
22 departments as to the status of our
23 demolition program for these structures? Is
24 it done in-house by DPW, is it subcontracted
25 out, and if so is there a bidding process

1 and is there a budget for demolition
2 currently? I would certainly like to see
3 all of these dangerous eyesores removed as
4 soon as possible.

5 I also noticed that the requested
6 30-minute parking signs have been installed
7 on the 100 block of Cedar Avenue.

8 MS. EVANS: Very good.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: So I would like to
10 commend the DPW and LIPS, the LIPS' officers
11 for working diligently on our requests. I
12 would also like to thank Chief Elliott for
13 his prompt response to our requests and keep
14 up the good work. We will be sending him
15 many more.

16 Last week I discussed an ordinance
17 or an opinion regarding fire pits. We are
18 into that season, I still don't think it was
19 clear. I had spoken to Fire Inspector Jimmy
20 Luny afterwards and he wanted me to clarify
21 a little bit better. So what I would like
22 to say is fire pits are not legal in the
23 city, okay? However, chimineas with the
24 flue are legal as long as they are located a
25 safe distance from combustibles and

1 neighboring windows. Due to the fact that
2 we live a tight urban area with properties
3 so close to each other, it is up to you, to
4 use your discretion when operating a
5 chiminea. If a complaint is lodged and the
6 fire department responds and determines the
7 situation to be a nuisance, the fire
8 department will request that the fire be
9 doused or they will extinguish it themselves
10 if it is determined to be a nuisance and
11 the fire department is called there may be
12 citations and fines involved.

13 It's in everyone's best interest to
14 enjoy their own property as much as
15 possible. We are all one big community here
16 and it would be in all of our best interests
17 to respect our neighbors enjoyment of their
18 property and that goes both ways, and don't
19 forget to have a fire extinguisher nearby if
20 you do use one of these devices.

21 But there are fire pits available
22 for those who want to use fire pits that
23 operate by gas, they are not going to
24 emanate the smoke that bothers the neighbors
25 or whatever, so I suggest if you truly want

1 the pit effect you can just go out and get
2 one of these and have it installed.

3 And just a reminder for the grilling
4 season, keep your grills away from the vinyl
5 siding and vinyl railings on your houses.
6 You don't realize how quick those start
7 melting and any other flammables and if you
8 grill on a deck make sure you place a
9 fireproof mat underneath. A lot of decks
10 today are made out of plastic composites,
11 too, but I did bring a prop to show you.
12 This is a chiminea. It's enclosed and it
13 has a screen on the top so sparks can't fly
14 out, and it does have a flue which is going
15 to direct the smoke up and away, however, if
16 it's a windy day and it's blowing in the
17 neighbor's windows they have a right to
18 complain, and that's what will happen.

19 This picture is little bit blurred,
20 this is the fire pits that they sell today.
21 This is regular wood fire pit other than the
22 one you build in the ground. These aren't
23 legal because the smoke is going to emanate
24 all around, so just for your reference. If
25 you have any additional questions regarding

1 those, feel free to call the fire
2 inspector's office and they can direct you
3 with a little more information.

4 And the last think I just wanted to
5 notify you that in our continuing effort to
6 provide transparency to our city residents
7 we have been able to place our legal brief
8 on our website. The brief was filed in
9 conjunction with our Court battle with the
10 administration concerning our budget cuts.
11 I would like to commend Attorney Boyd Hughes
12 for doing such a suburb job and it makes
13 good reading, believe me. This information
14 can be accessed by going to
15 www.Scrantonpa.gov and then clicking on the
16 city departments in the upper left side and
17 you are going to scroll down, it's the third
18 selection, which is city council, click on
19 that, when the page opens you will see on
20 the right that it will say, "Council brief,"
21 click on that and you will be able to read
22 the brief in it's entirety.

23 And, also, if anybody is on-line and
24 they have any questions or concerns that's
25 the easiest way to reach us, just click on

1 each councilman's name and leave your note
2 and we would be happy to help you out, and
3 that's all I have tonight. Thank you, Mrs.
4 Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
6 Joyce.

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do have a few
8 comments. I'm actually down here tonight
9 obviously. A few weeks ago council asked
10 the administration to draft legislation to
11 put professional services out to bid, and
12 tonight what I wanted to do was to just
13 educate everyone exactly, you know, what the
14 scope of the professional services are a bit
15 as well as what has been spent on
16 professional services over the past number
17 of years. So if I could direct your
18 attention to the screen, I know it may be a
19 little bit blurred for those at home.

20 However, over the past nine years,
21 as you could see, there has been a large
22 amount of money allocated towards
23 professional services throughout the
24 summation of nine operating budgets. In
25 fact, it's total comes out to be about \$6

1 million, a little bit over, \$6,050,000
2 roughly to be exact and, as you can see,
3 over the years the amounts allocated towards
4 professional services and unclassified
5 services for that matter that's included in
6 this analysis. Before I go any further,
7 there were two large amounts allocated for
8 unclassified services in 2002 and 2003 in
9 amounts of \$500,000 and \$250,000. This was
10 in the Department of Parks and Recreation
11 and I am not exactly sure what these
12 unclassified services were used for,
13 however, I know that they were around the
14 revitalization of the Nay Aug Park. Anyhow,
15 to continue, so as you can see over the
16 years the amounts allocated for professional
17 services has ranged from \$900,522 down to
18 \$616,653 in 2006. So as an overall average,
19 which I did calculate and I'll get into it
20 later, I believe it's about six hundred and
21 fifty some thousand dollars a year on
22 average that is allocated for professional
23 services.

24 Taking a look at department by
25 department, as you can see from the screen,

1 as far as departments and professional
2 services are concerned, the law department
3 is currently using the most as far as
4 professional services are regarded. The law
5 department over the past nine years has
6 actually roughly about \$1.9 million has been
7 allocated in the professional services
8 account for the law department over the past
9 nine years. Other departments that are
10 using a large amount in regard to
11 professional services is the BA's Office at
12 around \$920,000, HR at around \$800,000, as
13 well as IT at 591 and Parks and Recreation
14 at \$750,000. That was -- actually, the
15 750,000 is primarily the unclassified
16 services from '02 and '03.

17 City council we used over the past
18 nine years \$426,000 in professional services
19 and this -- and you might ask what does city
20 council use professional services for? The
21 major item in regard to what we use
22 professional services for is our annual
23 audit by Rossi & Rossi which constitutes
24 over 30 some thousand dollars in that
25 amount.

1 So currently I know that our council
2 solicitor has been in contact and is working
3 with the city solicitor in coming together
4 with legislation to hopefully put the -- or
5 put professional unclassified services out
6 to bid or at least most of them, and I would
7 actually like to ask Attorney Hughes, have
8 you spoke recently to Attorney Patterson and
9 are there any updates regarding this matter?

10 MR. HUGHES: I have had a phone call
11 from Attorney Patterson I believe yesterday,
12 I haven't had time to call her back. She is
13 on my agenda to call tomorrow.

14 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Sounds good. So
15 why employ competitive bidding for
16 professionals and unclassified services?
17 Well, there is a number of reasons, but just
18 some of the main reasons to highlight is:
19 One, it allows more vendors to engage in
20 providing the city services. It allows more
21 competition, and hopefully in turn it could
22 reduce some costs.

23 Also, and leading into my next
24 point, it could generate better prices for
25 services. Also, it encourages transparency

1 and encouraging transparency is something
2 that is well-needed in city government as
3 well as government as a whole no matter
4 where a municipality lies or the state or on
5 the federal level for that matter.

6 And last, but not least, I'm sorry,
7 I did say six hundred and fifty some
8 thousand, it's actually \$672,150 in taxpayer
9 money is spent on average annually for
10 professional unclassified services and this
11 is taxpayer money, and the taxpayers have a
12 the right to see where this is going, and
13 that's all I have regarding that matter.

14 On other matters, I just wanted to
15 mention, a number of citizens have come up
16 to the podium week after week and they are
17 speaking about the nonprofits and I know
18 that Mr. McGoff in a meeting, a few meetings
19 ago, you did mention that the University
20 does pay or may pay fees or taxes on some of
21 the properties that they own that aren't
22 used for educational purposes such as
23 cafeterias, various eateries or shops. With
24 that in mind, since everyone wants to know
25 this, and I want to know this myself, would

1 you please send a letter to Mr. Courtright
2 asking him for a breakdown of the University
3 of Scranton, Marywood, Lackawanna College,
4 Commonwealth Medical School and Johnson
5 College as far as how much they pay in taxes
6 on noneducational facilities every year and
7 if you could ask him to respond within two
8 weeks that would be great.

9 Also, I did receive an e-mail from a
10 concerned residents, this resident
11 complained on the corner the 16th Avenue and
12 Division Street cars were constantly
13 speeding through a stop sign and that was
14 occurring primarily between the hours of
15 8:00 and 9:30 a.m., as well as 2:30 to 5:00
16 p.m. I know from where this is located this
17 is very close in proximity to West Scranton
18 High School, so I am thinking that the
19 traffic flow to and from school may have an
20 affect on that. With that in mind, can you
21 please send a letter to Chief Elliott and
22 ask him if he would be able to send a car to
23 that location during some of the busier
24 times and ask if he would have that car
25 monitor the situation for awhile and

1 hopefully this will resolve some of the
2 issues that resident are facing in that
3 neighborhood, and that is all I have for
4 tonight.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.
6 Good evening. Ladies and gentlemen, I have
7 been a councilwoman for seven years and
8 during that time, believe me, I have heard a
9 lot of good ones, but in the last few days I
10 have heard two of the biggest whoppers of
11 all time.

12 First, according to his media ads,
13 the mayor fought to cut his own pay. I was
14 here. Such legislation never came before
15 city council. In fact, it's impossible
16 because the Home Rule Charter specifically
17 does not allow the mayor to ever increase or
18 decrease his own salary. According to
19 Article 13, Section 1304, of the Home Rule
20 Charter, and I quote, "Compensation to be
21 paid to elected officials holding the
22 positions of mayor, council person and
23 controller, shall be established by the City
24 Council no later than February 1 of the year
25 in which an election will be held to fill

1 any or all of these positions for a full
2 four-year term."

3 By law, his pay remained the same
4 and as a council member for seven years,
5 frankly, I was never aware of his fighting
6 for a decrease. However, I do remember a
7 fight to raise the mayor's salary which
8 culminated in a heated debate among council
9 members over a pay increase for the mayor,
10 controller and city council members. Public
11 opposition to that legislation was intense
12 because the mayor and it's council majority
13 fought to increase pays during the bleakest
14 days of the recession.

15 Second, and best of all, in an
16 interview as a candidate for state senator,
17 as some of tonight's speakers mentioned
18 previously, the mayor stated that he favors
19 trimming state budget fat department by
20 department. Wow. This is a coming from the
21 same guy who sued Scranton City Council for
22 doing precisely the same thing. Mr. Doherty
23 would rather go to Court than cut the fat in
24 his own administration.

25 Since 2002, he has used his

1 administration as an employment service.
2 Mr. Doherty also remarked that the state is
3 no different than the City of Scranton, you
4 look where you can to reduce spending. Then
5 look for very little state budget reductions
6 from the mayor if elected and expect that he
7 will work hard to multiply state debt by
8 hundreds of millions of dollars just as he
9 raised Scranton's long-term Doherty debt to
10 over \$316 million.

11 Also, Mayor Doherty indicated that
12 he might favor borrowing over a 30-year
13 period. Now, there is a matter the mayor is
14 very familiar with. He balanced his budgets
15 by borrowing nearly \$100 million spread over
16 a 30-year period and, of course, by raising
17 taxes. He likes to call it his recipe for
18 success. Elderly, middle class and poor
19 Scrantonians call it a recipe for financial
20 disaster. The same one he is a desperately
21 trying to escape.

22 I hope the voters of the 22nd
23 Senatorial District are aware that in March
24 2010 Chris Doherty sued Scranton City
25 Council for cutting the fat in his budget,

1 and I also hope as speakers mentioned
2 earlier this evening that Judge Mazzoni read
3 the banner headline and article in the April
4 18 edition of the Sunday Times.

5 I have citizens' requests for the
6 last week, but first I would like to provide
7 an update to citizens of Minooka. Even
8 though Nicholas Trucking doesn't appear to
9 be violating a specific law, when neighbors
10 feel the sanctity of their homes is being
11 threatened this council must address their
12 issues. We have sent letters to Mr. Russell
13 Nicholas, manager of Nicholas Trucking,
14 Mr. William Kozlanski, president of Olympic
15 Chimney, Mr. Timothy Primarana, postmaster,
16 and Mr. Richard Sinkevitch, owner of Dick's
17 Sunoco. Our office has spoken to Mike
18 Wallace, the city zoning officer, and Kara
19 Seitzinger who is handling the issue for the
20 law department.

21 The business owners feel they are
22 doing their part to be aware of the
23 neighbors' concerns and the city officials
24 have agreed they are not in violation of the
25 law. The zoning officer recommends the

1 neighbors appeal to the zoning board to have
2 the zoning for the businesses changed. He
3 did admit, however, that the change would be
4 highly unlikely. The one issue that seems
5 to remain unanswered is how can a new
6 business operate for a 24-hour period when
7 the prior business operated under a normal,
8 for example, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. schedule?
9 Should the city have required this business
10 to submit their proposed hours before
11 allowing them to open? Surely, this is a
12 major change for an area that fronts a
13 residential zone and if residents were
14 accustomed to businesses with normal hours
15 of operation and must now endure noise and
16 traffic and diesel fumes all night and
17 through the early morning hours, I could see
18 how this would drastically effect their
19 quality of life.

20 Some solutions might be to determine
21 if we are supposed to pose this question
22 before a new business opens and becomes more
23 intrusive than the previous business or to
24 amend or enact legislation that would
25 address this important issue if it is not

1 currently on the books.

2 City residents report that state
3 senate political signs have been placed on
4 properties that are in foreclosure or are
5 vacant and condemned. They are very upset
6 and when they contacted campaign
7 headquarters they received no assistance.
8 In the past, I know that political signs
9 could never be posted on these types of
10 properties nor could they be placed on
11 city-owned properties. City employees were
12 always directed to remove political signs
13 from such locations. However, this election
14 seems to have a set of new rules and council
15 hopes that all candidates will abide by the
16 rules for sign placement within the City of
17 Scranton.

18 A letter to Tom Welby, Chairman of
19 the Peg Channel Oversight Committee, and to
20 Mr. John Darcy, executive director of ECTV.
21 I received a list of questions regarding
22 ECTV from a citizen and I would like these
23 questions forwarded to both gentlemen
24 requesting a written response to Scranton
25 City Council on or before May 7, 2010.

1 A letter to Mr. Seitzinger:

2 Neighbors complain of a vacant blighted
3 property at 1232-1234 Phylo Street. It's
4 remained in this condition for over a year.
5 The siding is delapidated and birds and
6 squirrels now inhabit the house. Please
7 present a written update to Scranton City
8 Council.

9 In the 100 block of South Lincoln
10 Avenue vehicles are speeding in both
11 directions. At the same time, children are
12 playing and residents of this block are very
13 concerned with their safety. Consequently,
14 residents request the installation of a
15 "Slow, Children at Play" sign in the 100 of
16 South Lincoln Avenue. They suggest
17 placement at the bottom of the hill and the
18 middle of the block. Please provide council
19 with a written update on this matter.

20 521 Beech Street, a resident reports
21 that this is a condemned house which was
22 burglarized for copper. The police were
23 notified. Since then, however, the board on
24 the second floor window fell off presenting
25 another means of access into the structure.

1 Please replace the board on the window and
2 provide city council with an update on the
3 status of this property.

4 Two catch basins at the bottom of
5 Yesser Drive and East Mountain and several
6 others on East Mountain Road are covered
7 with debris. Please clear these storm
8 drains as soon as possible.

9 The intersection of River Street and
10 Meadow Avenue, this is a really popular
11 place, council has previously requested that
12 the owner of this property would clean up
13 the debris and tall grass. Located so
14 closely to the entrance and exit from 81,
15 this property serves as one of the gateways
16 to the City of Scranton. With the
17 ordination of the Bishop and college
18 graduations occurring, this eyesore should
19 be cleared as soon as possible.

20 Residents of East Mountain report a
21 great amount of litter, including alcohol,
22 bottles and cans, fast food bags, etcetera,
23 between the firehouse and the Lilac Lane.
24 They request DPW would clear the area of
25 this debris, and residents of East Mountain

1 also report that vehicles speed in the area
2 between Mountain Lake and the fire house
3 despite the presence of several stop signs.
4 This road borders a playground which enjoys
5 great activities on it's basketball courts,
6 swing sets, etcetera. At the same time,
7 this area is well-traveled by children on
8 bikes, dogs and Scrantonians just looking
9 for exercise. When time permits, please
10 have a patrol car monitor this location, and
11 that's it.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, may I
13 respond to two of the things you just said,
14 and not for argument sake. It's just a
15 little clarification. I do remember right
16 after I was on council that a couple of the
17 people took voluntary reductions in pay,
18 including one of the council members, I'm
19 not sure what year that was, 2006 or 2007,
20 but I know that did occur.

21 And you did mention the attempt to
22 raise the salaries of the mayor and
23 controller and council, I just -- and that
24 it ws the responsibility of the mayor and
25 the council majority at the time. I just

1 wanted to say that in caucus at that time we
2 did discuss the possibility of raising the
3 salary of the mayor and that all members of
4 council at that time agreed to at least
5 discuss it. I realize the implementation of
6 that was a bit of a problem, but that wasn't
7 done just by the council majority, that was
8 done because all of the members of council
9 had agreed at this time.

10 MS. EVANS: I hadn't agreed.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, you did.

12 MS. EVANS: No, I didn't. What I
13 said was I believe the salary should be
14 increased but not at this time because we
15 are in the midst of the worst recession in
16 this country that we have seen since the
17 great depression.

18 Further, I do find it a bit curious,
19 because I know that Councilman Loscombe who
20 serves on city council and as such had his
21 pension frozen in order to do so, was not
22 able to refuse a council salary in order to
23 be able to keep his pension, so by means of
24 the Charter and even the Pension Board
25 itself, it was ruled that Mr. Loscombe had

1 to accept his salary, so I find it very,
2 very curious that people were allowed to
3 overstep the Home Rule Charter and decide
4 that they are going to voluntarily do this
5 or such because, you know, if so, I think
6 you may have a case, Mr. Loscombe.

7 And in addition to that, I think the
8 year you were talking about there were 5
9 percent cuts made to a few salaried
10 positions, however, they were all fully
11 restored the following year and in some
12 cases increased, and that's it.

13 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION-
14 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
15 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
16 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
17 AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION BY AND BETWEEN THE
18 BOROUGHES OF ARCHBALD, BLAKELY, JESSUP,
19 MAYFIELD, CARBONDALE TOWNSHIP, AND THE CITY
20 OF SCRANTON HEREINAFTER ("PARTICIPANTS") AND
21 LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY
22 ("AUTHORITY") FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND
23 MAINTENANCE OF THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE
24 TRAIL.

25 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
2 introduced into it's proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question? On the
6 question, Mrs. Krake, I would like a letter
7 sent to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley
8 Authority, please, asking them to attend a
9 public caucus of Scranton City Council next
10 week, April 27, at 6:00 p.m. I have a number
11 of questions regarding this legislation and
12 though I will vote to introduce the
13 legislation this evening, before I could
14 cast a final vote of approval I must receive
15 responses from representatives of the
16 authority regarding Scranton's role and the
17 finances of Scranton. I may also be looking
18 for a change in the language in the current
19 legislation so that Scranton is protected.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, also on the
21 question, it appears that at least in the
22 agenda I received that there was possibly a
23 copying error, two pages were missing on the
24 backup, and I know when I looked at it
25 originally in the office that there was a

1 part where it listed the expenditures for
2 each of the municipalities, and I know
3 that's one of the pages that seems to be
4 missing, so I was wondering if for next week
5 or at some point in time that we could
6 recopy the backup there, so it's available.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. ROGAN: Just those two pages.

9 MR. MCGOFF: All I need is those two
10 pages. Certainly, please, because somebody
11 did bring up, you know, the cost to the
12 municipalities.

13 MS. EVANS: Well, it's an
14 intergovernmental cooperation agreement
15 basically for the maintenance and upkeep of
16 the Lackawanna County Valley Heritage Trail
17 and there are a number of townships that are
18 included since the trail runs through all of
19 these areas. Scranton, of course, is one of
20 those. We have the largest portion of the
21 land on the trail, that being I believe 1.5
22 miles and up until now it seems that
23 Scranton's portion, of course, again, would
24 be the largest financial portion of the
25 members covered by the agreement, but up

1 until now I believe it's been approximately
2 \$6,000 a year.

3 My concern, one of my concerns, is
4 the fact that the Authority overseas the
5 entire trail, they are creating and adopting
6 a budget, they are creating a new committee
7 and each participant, that would mean, for
8 example, Scranton, Archbald, Jessup,
9 etcetera, would have one vote in terms of
10 the passage of the budget or any additional
11 expenditures that may occur, and I think
12 that it would be very prudent in the event
13 that costs exceed the current amount of
14 \$6,000 that approval for any additional
15 spending would have to come before Scranton
16 City Council. And, as I said, that's just
17 one of the issues, so I am hoping that
18 representatives will come and chat with us.
19 And anyone else on the question? All those
20 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. Those opposed?

1 The eyes have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 A RESOLUTION -AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
4 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
5 ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL LEASE AND OPTION
6 AGREEMENT WITH FIRST BANKERS CORPORATION FOR
7 THE LEASE PURCHASE OF A PIECE OF FIRE
8 APPARATUS, A KME MODEL PANTHER CHALLENGER
9 CUSTOM PUMPER TRUCK, FOR USE BY THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

14 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, if I may?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, certainly.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm glad to see this.
20 This is a sorely needed piece of equipment
21 and the nice thing is it's made by a
22 manufacturer in Pennsylvania, also, so
23 that's a good thing. You know, it's not
24 like a police vehicle, none of the firemen
25 were able to come up with another enough

1 money to buy their own truck so we had to go
2 the lease route, but, no, this is a good
3 idea. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else
5 on the question? All those in favor of
6 introduction signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
12 have it and so moved. I'll entertain a
13 motion to adjourn?

14 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

15 MS. EVANS: I take that back though
16 you may all leave. I have jumped ahead of
17 myself and skipped Sixth and Seventh Orders
18 even though there is nothing.

19 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
20 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO
21 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
23 Now it's official. I'll entertain a motion
24 for adjournment.

25 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

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MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

Thank you for your participation.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER