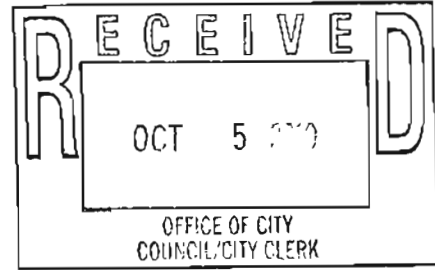


SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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



HELD:

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

- JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
- PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ROBERT MCGOFF
- FRANK JOYCE
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK
- CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and  
2 moment of reflection 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. Dispense with the  
14 reading of the minutes.

15 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
16 APPLICATIONS ALONG WITH THE DECISIONS  
17 RENDERED BY THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON  
18 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
22 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE  
23 AUTHORITY'S REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD  
24 AUGUST 19, 2010.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE  
3 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF  
4 DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AUGUST 24, 2010.

5 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
6 If not, received and filed.

7 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
8 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF  
9 DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING HELD AUGUST 31,  
10 2010.

11 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
12 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,  
13 please.

14 MS. KRAKE: We do have a few  
15 responses first. The first is from Don  
16 King, city planner, he replied by sending us  
17 a copy of his application for OECD funding,  
18 and we also have a response from the  
19 Scranton Parking Authority concerning their  
20 decision to install these meters. They are  
21 saying that the Parking Authority simply  
22 followed the ordinance forwarded by the City  
23 of Scranton. That was from Bob Scopelliti,  
24 executive director.

25 And we have a reply from OECD

1 concerning a request for the amount of money  
2 in the UDAG account. Linda Aebli, the  
3 executive director, tells us that of July  
4 30, the balance is \$4,163.19, and we also  
5 got a reply from the business administrator  
6 since we did a Right-to-Know request and in  
7 his reply he tells us he needs an additional  
8 30 days in which to respond to our two  
9 questions which was the total dollar amount  
10 of UDAG and what dollar amount UDAG will be  
11 realized in 2011 and 2012.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. KRAKE: From Brian Swanson, Les  
14 Spindler had asked about the Lackawanna  
15 Avenue Bridge. He told me this person he  
16 did not send a written response, that he  
17 walked the bridge and he could not find the  
18 crack in the bridge, but if we had any  
19 further direction for him he would be glad  
20 to check it out further.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MS. KRAKE: We had two requests that  
23 were not answered by the city engineer. The  
24 first was the intersection of Price and  
25 North Merrifield for an additional two stop

1 signs, and the second was council's request  
2 that they do an assessment of Lake Scranton  
3 Road concerning truck traffic being  
4 prohibited there.

5 We also did not have two responses  
6 from the city controller, they were  
7 concerning Mulberry Street and Harrison  
8 Avenue where they intersect that the traffic  
9 signals were not working. The controller  
10 did convene a meeting which I attended and  
11 Councilman Loscombe will be reporting on  
12 that later.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MS. KRAKE: We have eight  
15 nonresponses from Director of DPW, Jeff  
16 Brazil, and we have nine combined  
17 nonresponses from Tom Oleski, the Deputy  
18 Director of License and Inspections, and  
19 Mark Seitzinger, the Director of License and  
20 Inspections.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Could I just interrupt  
22 for a moment, just to mention the DPW. I  
23 was talking to Jeff Brazil today and he did  
24 mention that there are three things that I  
25 think were requested, the Cosmo Iacavazzi

1 sign along with the school district they had  
2 reinstated that, O'Neill and Penman Street  
3 have been paved, and the stop sign at  
4 Hemlock and Crown has been replaced. I  
5 don't know if they were part of it or not,  
6 the requests. I'm sorry to interrupt.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MS. KRAKE: And we have five  
9 nonresponses from the mayor, direct  
10 questions that were to him, that first was  
11 concerning violators and trespass on private  
12 property and political campaign signs. The  
13 second was a request from Citizens Savings  
14 Association about the planter. The third  
15 was the traffic signal at Mulberry and  
16 Harrison. And the fourth was asking him to  
17 reconsider the decision to install parking  
18 meters on Mattes Avenue. And the fifth was  
19 the request from Councilman Rogan,  
20 permission to meet with the newly appointed  
21 police chief.

22 And then we have six nonresponses  
23 that we were instructed to send any requests  
24 of the police chief to the mayor, so these  
25 are six responses that we were asked to

1 prepare to pass onto the police chief:

2 First was Mulberry and Harrison; the second  
3 was the makeshift tents by the railroad  
4 tracks off of Olive Street; the third, Finn  
5 McCool's Bar on Cedar Avenue; fourth, the  
6 1100 block of Prospect Avenue, Scarfield's  
7 Bar; and the fifth, junk stored in the back  
8 yards of 1340 East Elm Street and 1114 Froud  
9 Avenue; and the fifth the overgrown property  
10 at 316-318 Phelp Street.

11 MS. EVANS: So again, just so I  
12 understand this correctly, the mayor has not  
13 granted permission for those letters to be  
14 sent to the police chief or they have been  
15 given to the chief and he hasn't responded?

16 MS. KRAKE: When Police Chief Dan  
17 Duffy first started he called to inform us  
18 of a request that he had completed and  
19 during that telephone conversation he asked  
20 our office very kindly please -- or as he  
21 was directed any requests council would have  
22 of the police chief to send them to the  
23 mayor, so that's what we have been doing per  
24 the chief's request, which we would be in  
25 the chain of command.



1 MS. EVANS: And so the mayor has not  
2 responded to this? In other words, he has  
3 not passed it along to the chief?

4 MS. KRAKE: That would be an  
5 interesting question. I guess we don't know  
6 the answer to that and I feel badly about  
7 that.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, I know that the  
9 traffic light at Mulberry and Harrison was  
10 taken care of a week ago Saturday, so we can  
11 certainly eliminate that. I think also, Mr.  
12 Rogan, since you are trying to obtain an  
13 appointment with the police chief perhaps  
14 you could take that list with you at such  
15 time as that meeting is granted and  
16 hopefully discuss those with Chief Duffy and  
17 then report back to all of us on his  
18 response.

19 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. I'm looking  
20 forward to the meeting and hopefully it will  
21 be very shortly.

22 MS. KRAKE: And we have a few more  
23 nonresponses. Bill Shane, the executive  
24 director of the Scranton Redevelopment  
25 Authority, council asked about a 1 1/2

1 million dollar RACP grant for Lackawanna  
2 College in conjunction with the SRA.

3 From Gene Barrett, director of the  
4 Sewer Authority, the storm drain at Spruce  
5 Street and Adams, and also to Gene Barrett  
6 request the catch basins be cleared of  
7 debris during to prevent flooding during the  
8 fall months.

9 MS. EVANS: Let's submit those  
10 again, please.

11 MS. KRAKE: And that's all I have.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.  
13 Do any council members have announcements at  
14 this time?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a couple.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Go ahead.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: First, I want to  
18 remind everybody of the all you can eat  
19 spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Holy  
20 Rosary Boy Scout Troop 57. It will be held  
21 Friday, October 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. at St.  
22 Joseph's Church, which is at the corner of  
23 Theodore and North Main Avenue. The price  
24 is \$8.00 for adults, twelve and over, and \$5  
25 for children, under two are free. Takeouts

1 are also available.

2 Also, the West Side Falcons are  
3 continuing their gun raffle. Tickets can be  
4 purchased at Big Rich American Sports Shop  
5 on the 100 block of South Main Avenue in the  
6 Jones building. The dinner will be -- the  
7 raffle will be held on November 5 from 5  
8 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be 12 guns raffled  
9 with a combined value of \$5,000, a donation  
10 of \$25 for the raffle only or \$40 for the  
11 raffle and the dinner. Dinner and beverages  
12 will be served. There is only a limited  
13 number of tickets available for the dinner  
14 raffle and you can get your tickets again by  
15 contacting any board member going onto  
16 [www.westsidedefalcons.org](http://www.westsidedefalcons.org) going to Big Rich  
17 American Sports Goods.

18 And I also received an e-mail, the  
19 men's group of Elm Park Church is having a  
20 cook off this Saturday, October 2, from 4 to  
21 7 p.m. Cooks from different area churches  
22 will be competing. The cost of the tickets  
23 is \$12 for tasting the cook's food and the  
24 buffet, which is provided by the men of Elm  
25 Park Church. The buffet for the men's group

1 of Elm Park Church is only \$10, if you just  
2 want to go for the buffet, the \$12 tickets  
3 you can get the sample the competitor's food  
4 and you get to vote people's choice award.  
5 Tickets will be available at the door, and  
6 that is all I have. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I assume that's at the  
9 church?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

11 MR. MCGOFF: It doesn't say, but I  
12 assume it's there. I was on the same  
13 e-mail. Pages and Places is a having a book  
14 signing October 2 from 12 to 1 at the book  
15 expo on the courthouse square, part of their  
16 overall book festival. All of the 2010  
17 panelists will be there. If you are into  
18 the book signings or have read some of the  
19 books of the authors that are going to be  
20 present they will be there from 12 noon to  
21 1:00 p.m., October 2, courthouse square.

22 MR. ROGAN: On Monday, October 4,  
23 there will be an Alzheimer's fundraiser held  
24 at Kilcoyne's Tavern at 129 South Main  
25 Avenue, West Scranton, from 7 to 10 p.m. in

1 Honor of Bobby Beck. There be will a  
2 celebrity bartender's night and all tips  
3 will be donated to the Alzheimer's  
4 Association.

5 Also, on Saturday, October 9, a  
6 memory walk will be the held at PNC Field.  
7 Registration will be begin at 9 a.m. and the  
8 walk starts at 10 a.m.

9 And also I received a letter from a  
10 resident who would like me to announce this  
11 at the meeting that a member of the Troop 16  
12 Hickory Street Church Boy Scout Troop is  
13 here tonight and I see that Greg Schwartz is  
14 here and he is working on his citizenship in  
15 the community badge. I'm glad to have you  
16 here tonight, and that's all.

17 MS. EVANS: I wish to respectfully  
18 remind council speakers that all requests  
19 for information, reports, and complaints  
20 must be submitted in writing to  
21 Mrs. Carrera, assistant city clerk. This is  
22 done in an effort to efficiently provide  
23 responses and to prevent your requests from  
24 falling through the cracks. Council  
25 appreciates your cooperation in this matter.

1                   Saints Peter and Paul Church, 1309  
2                   West Locust Street in Scranton will  
3                   celebrate it's 100th anniversary on Sunday,  
4                   October 17, 2010. The choir will perform at  
5                   3:30 p.m. and the centennial mass will be  
6                   celebrated by the most Reverend Joseph  
7                   Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at 4 p.m. All  
8                   are welcome to attend. Following the mass a  
9                   dinner will be held at St. Mary's Center,  
10                  320 Mifflin Avenue in Scranton. Dinner  
11                  tickets are \$40 for adults, \$10 for children  
12                  under 11 years of age, and are available at  
13                  the weekend masses. You may also purchase  
14                  tickets by calling the rectory between 10  
15                  a.m. and 2 p.m. at 343-7015.

16                  Mrs. Krake, please prepare a  
17                  proclamation to honor the 100th anniversary  
18                  of Saints Peter and Paul Church on behalf of  
19                  Scranton city council.

20                  The Dearly Departed Players of the  
21                  Dunmore Cemetery Tour will present their  
22                  seventh annual performance this Sunday,  
23                  October 3, and again on Sunday, October 10.  
24                  Both performances begin at 2 p.m. at the  
25                  Warren Street entrance to the Dunmore

1 Cemetery and are free to the public.  
2 Donations are not accepted. Talented  
3 director Julie Estin, together with a troop  
4 of 15 actors, will portray the famous and  
5 not so famous who have made positive  
6 contributions to Northeastern Pennsylvania  
7 and are buried in the Dunmore Cemetery.  
8 These dearly departed come to live to  
9 describe their lives and the eras in which  
10 they existed. The actors are costumed in  
11 clothing style representative of their  
12 characters. Bring the entire family to this  
13 informative, entertaining and historical  
14 event. Don't miss your free and enjoyable  
15 opportunity to travel back into our  
16 Pennsylvania history, and that's it.

17 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
18 PARTICIPATION.

19 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this  
20 evening is Marie Schumacher.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
22 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident  
23 and member of the Taxpayers' Association.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Last Thursday I  
2 attended the Vacant Property Review  
3 Committee meeting. This is the body charged  
4 with getting vacant city properties sold and  
5 back onto the tax rolls and in the hands of  
6 persons who will care for them and remove  
7 blight.

8 The good news is of 42 properties on  
9 the list 17 of them have interested buyers  
10 and there is -- the number of public  
11 attendees outnumbered the number of  
12 committee members, which is a very rare  
13 occurrence.

14 The bad news is that the last two  
15 meetings of this body had to be cancelled  
16 due to a lack of a quorum. As a matter of  
17 fact, the September meeting had to be  
18 rescheduled for the same reason and last  
19 Thursday's meeting came close to having to  
20 be cancelled for lack of a quorum, but a  
21 late arrival saved the cancellation.

22 Further, though city council has a  
23 seat at the table, they were not represented  
24 at the meeting. And as a council interested  
25 this blight reduction and removal, I found



1 the lack of attendance disappointing.

2 Now, as threatened last week back to  
3 BRT Ice. First, I'd like to state that I  
4 believe that I have the valid agreement as  
5 it was obtained from the city through a  
6 Right-to-Know request. Awhile back, Andy  
7 Sbaraglia questioned why we are paying  
8 insurance for the property as the property  
9 is being leased for \$1 a year.

10 Now, the terms, as I read the  
11 contract, and I'm certainly not a solicitor,  
12 but 6-B says, "The insurance shall be  
13 maintained for the --" this is the  
14 responsibility of BRT Ice. "The insurance  
15 shall be maintained for the mutual benefit  
16 of lessor and lessee. Any succeeding owners  
17 of the fee title and the leased land and any  
18 successors and assignees of this lease. The  
19 insurance policy or policies shall name both  
20 lessor and lessees as insured as their  
21 interests appear. It is understood that a  
22 lender or lenders may also be listed as loss  
23 payee."

24 So if the agreement calls for them  
25 to pay the insurance for both lessor and

1           lessee, I don't know why we are wasting tax  
2 dollars and our policy paying for that.

3           So I also -- that's sort of a minor  
4 point. My major point is back to the  
5 \$600,000 payment to the city. Again, I'd  
6 like to read Section 203 of the agreement as  
7 provided under the Right-to-Know Act.

8           "Lessee shall pay \$600,000 to lessor as rent  
9 for the leased premise. Lessee shall make  
10 minimum annual payments every 12 months  
11 beginning on the date hereof for the amount  
12 of no less than \$1. Provided, however, that  
13 any unpaid rent under this paragraph:

14           (A) shall be paid by lessee to  
15 lessor in a lump sum within 30 days  
16 following the occurrence of the last to  
17 occur of (1), vacation of the leased premise  
18 by DPW in total as on the date provided for  
19 hereunder," and as we are all aware that has  
20 been achieved; "or two, certification of the  
21 leased land by the City of Scranton Planning  
22 Commission as within a redevelopment area as  
23 that term is defined by law.

24           Approval of a redevelopment contract  
25 for the leased land, including transfer of

1 the leased land to the lessee by the SRA and  
2 approval of said Redevelopment contract by  
3 Scranton City Council."

4 Now, I also have a copy here of the  
5 blight certification for the City of  
6 Scranton Department of Public Works, so that  
7 condition has been met. Back in the  
8 original -- the original agreement is dated  
9 2002. Again, back in 2006 there was --  
10 Scranton Redevelopment Authority did send a  
11 recommended ordinance to council and without  
12 digging it out it did change the terms, I  
13 believe it would have extended the payments  
14 it was either 20,000 for 30 years or 30,000  
15 for 20 years, I believe it was the latter.  
16 However, that ordinance was not passed.

17 Now, early on in this board's  
18 administration Attorney Hughes went through  
19 some figures that showed it's only going  
20 to -- they're only going to be charged \$1 a  
21 year for like 198 years because some options  
22 were extended. However, again, I -- the  
23 paperwork that was attached to that deed  
24 when it was -- when it was filed was signed  
25 by City Solicitor -- excuse me one minute,

1 city clerk Jay Saunders, I don't know how  
2 you pronounce his name, but I have not  
3 found, and I will put it in writing, I have  
4 not found any approval for that change that  
5 was made to extend that to 198 years by city  
6 council, so as far as I'm concerned BRT owes  
7 the \$600,000 as soon as the council takes  
8 action, so I would hope you could have the  
9 solicitor relook at that one more time and  
10 if it's due make that billing. Thank you  
11 very much.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And again,  
13 as you said Mrs. Schumacher, if you would  
14 put that in writing to Ms. Carrera then we  
15 can pass it along to our attorney and see  
16 what we are able to do.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

19 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MR. MORGAN: You know, I really  
22 appreciated the discussion we had last week  
23 and I just would like to try to expand on  
24 that a little bit, if I may. Mrs. Evans,  
25 you asked a question on why the Sewer

1 Authority won't answer your questions about  
2 federal stimulus monies; is that true?

3 MS. EVANS: I don't know that I put  
4 it in the form of a question, but --

5 MR. MORGAN: You said they  
6 wouldn't answer your --

7 MS. EVANS: -- I did reference that.

8 MR. MORGAN: Well, what I want to  
9 say is this, you have a solicitor right  
10 there and council has oversight over the  
11 Scranton Sewer Authority and all of the  
12 authorities and if you aren't getting the  
13 answers you need as council members you need  
14 to talk to your solicitor because any  
15 question you have they can answer, and I'm  
16 just really amazed that we are going down  
17 this path.

18 I mean, you know, Mr. Loscombe you  
19 said you were -- that you just couldn't  
20 understand why politics was mentioned or  
21 that you were insulted or -- you know, and  
22 I -- I just don't know where you get those  
23 comments from because in my opinion this  
24 SAPA plan is all about politics. I was  
25 just to Dunmore's council meeting yesterday

1 and Mr. Nardoizzi was there and he is hoping  
2 that Scranton Council reconsiders. But, you  
3 know, in my opinion, and I'm going to be  
4 real honest, we have asked some questions  
5 that I can't understand why this council  
6 asked them like why don't other communities  
7 join? I mean, if you understand the SAPA  
8 plan you already understand it's locked.

9 I mean, I'm just -- I'm sitting here  
10 listening to a council trying to debate an  
11 issue which in my opinion, and it's only my  
12 own, I really don't think you understand  
13 that plan and I'm not really sure you have  
14 read it, and that's a very, very troubling  
15 think.

16 You know, the other thing is council  
17 has at numerous occasions discussed it and  
18 it's come through council, can't understand  
19 is all. I mean, you know, some people got  
20 up and they spoke on SAPA. Mr. Dobrzyn  
21 talked about transportation and people  
22 coming from outside of the city and all of  
23 the pollution, but part of the SAPA plan is  
24 transportation. It's about Lackawanna  
25 Transit Authority and other modes of

1 transportation.

2 I mean, say in the paper you find  
3 where the former Chamber of Commerce  
4 building is in trouble, the Plaza is in  
5 trouble, Leonard's former hardware store is  
6 in trouble. I think, Mr. Rogan, you said  
7 this isn't the right plan and I am just  
8 wondering maybe this council should  
9 enlighten all of the people in this city  
10 what the right plan is because evidently  
11 when only three members of this council vote  
12 on this plan why don't we bring these people  
13 forward? Why don't we discuss it with these  
14 people and put this plan together. Why  
15 isn't Mr. King down here talking with this  
16 council?

17 This council ran and said it was  
18 going to be transparent. I don't find that.  
19 I don't even see the backup for the --  
20 anything on the agenda ever. It hasn't made  
21 it through the IT Department, and I just in  
22 my personal opinion think it's all politics.  
23 I think all of the residents of this city  
24 have a right to have this council move  
25 forward. I mean, to be honest with you, so

1 many times in this council chamber we have  
2 talked about why we can't find answers to  
3 problems. I have never seen subpoenas  
4 issued to any of the authorities. Why not?  
5 Why are we asking the same questions decade  
6 after decade? I think I have been coming to  
7 this council chamber longer than all of the  
8 people that are seated here today and I just  
9 find it to be something that revolves with  
10 politics continually, okay, and I think it's  
11 really ashamed. I think the residents really  
12 deserve a council that's going to work for  
13 them.

14 You went into Court, the judge  
15 didn't think much of what you did with the  
16 last budget. We still haven't seen the  
17 minutes to that, and I just want wonder, you  
18 know, what does the council plan to do the  
19 next budget? Are there \$8 million worth of  
20 cuts and where are they and why are we still  
21 proceeding with the PEL if it hasn't given  
22 us anything? Why? I don't understand why.

23 I hear a lot of rhetoric from  
24 council, this one and previous ones, and the  
25 truth of the matter is the members of SAPA



1 should come here and present the plan, five  
2 council members should vote, not three,  
3 five, okay? I think it's really time to put  
4 everything on the table and I really think  
5 that nobody on this council right now  
6 particularly likes what I'm saying and I  
7 know you'll have plenty of comments to make  
8 when I step away from the podium and you  
9 know what my one comment is, let's bring the  
10 SAPA in here, let's sit them down, let's  
11 bring Mr. King in, let's sit him down.

12 Mr. Rogan, let's listen to your plan  
13 because you know what, to be truthfully  
14 honest with you, your plan just has just as  
15 much merit as anybody else's, but let's have  
16 a plan. Let's worry about the people in  
17 this community, let's worry about the  
18 working core who have no job, okay? It's  
19 pretty obvious that city has the  
20 infrastructure for this plan. At one time  
21 it had close to 140,000 people here. We are  
22 wondering why the people in SAPA's  
23 communities want to bring it here, and to be  
24 bluntly honest they don't have the  
25 infrastructure. Thank you.

1                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Morgan, I would  
2 just like to make a brief comment, you hit  
3 the nail on the head in your comments  
4 regarding today's newspaper articles. If  
5 you remember, our biggest concern has been  
6 our taxes, especially the mercantile taxes.  
7 That was one of the big points brought out  
8 in the newspaper today why these companies  
9 are moving out of here. SAPA isn't going to  
10 be the answer to the mercantile tax. We  
11 have to get our taxes in order before  
12 something like SAPA could be considered, and  
13 to point fingers at us and say it's  
14 political, you can say what you want it's  
15 not political with me, but if that's what  
16 you feel that's what it is. The only  
17 politics involved with me is that I  
18 represent Scranton and what's best for  
19 Scranton and until anything else is changed  
20 that's the way I'm going to stand on it.

21                   I have read the plan, you said you  
22 doubted we read the plan, I believe  
23 everybody has read the plan inside out and  
24 looked at the maps. There is nothing going  
25 to change until we have equitable taxes with

1 our surrounding neighbors then a plan like  
2 that would be ideal And us on council we are  
3 striving to work towards something like  
4 that, but we are taking one step at a time.  
5 That's all I have to say on that.

6 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add  
7 that as Mr. Loscombe said this is not a  
8 political issue for Scranton City Council.  
9 This is a financial issue. However, I  
10 believe it has evolved in a sense into a  
11 political issue for candidates for state  
12 office.

13 Now, Mr. Morgan, you have been  
14 coming to council a long time, that's true,  
15 longer than I have been seated here. You  
16 have announced it many times you have a plan  
17 for cutting 10 percent of the operating  
18 budget which would amount to multi-millions  
19 of dollars. I'm still waiting for those  
20 cuts. Council is working on the budget as  
21 we speak and it would be very appreciative  
22 of seeing your 10 percent worth of cuts and,  
23 you know, I hope before the proposed budget  
24 comes down on November 15 from the mayor  
25 that you be able to find some time in your

1 schedule to come up with those proposals and  
2 present them to council. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to add  
4 I would agree with what my colleagues said  
5 and whether it's on a local level, state  
6 level or a national level taxes are the  
7 number one obstacle for businesses. We see  
8 this debate being played on a national level  
9 now and when taxes are increased and when  
10 taxes are higher it's harder for small  
11 businesses to start up, it's harder for  
12 small businesses to stay in business.

13 And as far as it being a political  
14 issue for me, it wasn't political at all. I  
15 just firmly believe that the SAPA plan would  
16 not help the City of Scranton, and again,  
17 there is no firm cost. We don't know what  
18 the cost is up front and that's about three  
19 weeks in a row Mr. Morgan mentioned that  
20 it's political. I don't understand why he  
21 would think that. It's not political at  
22 all. If we were running for office outside  
23 of the city up in the Abingtons then I could  
24 see how it could be a political issue, but  
25 none of us are running for anything now. We

1 are just looking out for the people of  
2 Scranton.

3 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
5 Council. Les Spindler, city homeowner,  
6 resident and taxpayer. First off, about  
7 what Mrs. Krake said about Brian Swanson  
8 saying there is no cracks on Lackawanna  
9 Avenue bridge, I can give Cathy my phone  
10 number and if he wants to call me I could  
11 show him where those cracks are, there is no  
12 doubt in my mind. My eyes aren't what they  
13 used to be, but there is a big crack on the  
14 deck of that bridge and also cracks in the  
15 sidewalk.

16 MS. EVANS: Very good. We'll try to  
17 get the two of you together then.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. You know what,  
19 a few weeks ago I stated my stance on SAPA,  
20 a few months ago, I said I won't speak about  
21 it again, but after watching last week's  
22 meeting and listening tonight I have to say  
23 my stance again. I said at that time I  
24 agreed with Councilman Loscombe and  
25 Councilman Rogan, taxes are what keeping

1 people out of this city, SAPA is not going  
2 to help with that, and I said the prime  
3 example was the Mt. Pleasant Corporate  
4 Center, they didn't get their KOZ extension,  
5 all they wanted was a free ride, but they  
6 didn't pay our outrageous taxes and all it  
7 is now and all it's going to be is an  
8 eyesore. It's going to be overgrown weeds  
9 eventually, nobody is moving in there, and I  
10 said before it was even started, I said, we  
11 have so much empty office space downtown why  
12 do we need an office park? Like I said  
13 that's a huge example right there.

14 Moving on, I was watching the  
15 meeting at home last week and I was  
16 listening to Mrs. Franus say about an  
17 incident that she had with an ECTV employee.  
18 Well, a few years ago when the previous  
19 council wanted to give themselves raises we  
20 were protesting on the steps of city hall,  
21 Mrs. Evans, you might remember that.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. SPINDLER: And that same ECTV  
24 employee, I was standing their holding a  
25 sign and he walked by me and hit my sign, so

1 to me that's shows this gentleman has anger  
2 issues and if Fay Franus is watching this if  
3 he she needs my help I would be more than  
4 willing to help her out and be a witness for  
5 her. As a matter of fact, Bill Jackowitz  
6 was also standing next to me and he saw the  
7 incident, also. I just never brought it up  
8 because I didn't feel I had to. If Mrs.  
9 Franus has a problem, I think I might be of  
10 some help to her.

11 Those meters on Mattes Avenue, I  
12 have spoken about them before, just a waste  
13 there, they are not making any money, I have  
14 a good idea, when the mayor's visitor's  
15 center is done up at Nay Aug they can move  
16 them up there are for the all of the people  
17 that are going to go to that visitor's  
18 center. We'll make a fortune. Not.

19 Awhile back in the Doherty  
20 newsletter there was an article the mayor  
21 stated that the city will no longer hang  
22 banners throughout the city that they used  
23 to do I think for nonprofits, they don't  
24 have the manpower. The first block of  
25 Spruce Street coming into the city off the

1 Central City Expressway, there is a sign --  
2 a banner was just put up I think this week  
3 and I saw it the other day advertising for  
4 the Back Yard Ale House fall festival they  
5 are having this weekend. I would like to  
6 know, I didn't get this in writing, I'm  
7 sorry, who hung that banner. If the city  
8 did it or if they paid to do it like the  
9 mayor said they were supposed to, and can a  
10 business advertise with banners hanging in  
11 the city like that? I thought just  
12 nonprofits could? Maybe if council could  
13 look into that?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. SPINDLER: And moving on, a few  
16 weeks ago on a Saturday night there was an  
17 incident down at the Tripp Park softball  
18 complex. There was a young girl sitting on  
19 a bench in the softball fields. She was  
20 approached by three young men and a juvenile  
21 and they made sexual innuendos and I think  
22 they harassed her and everything. To make  
23 along story short, these men were arrested  
24 like three blocks from my house that night.

25 My point being, I was called tonight



1 by a fellow member off Tripp Park  
2 Neighborhood Crime Watch, council could  
3 possibly look into getting better lighting.  
4 The lighting in that complex is not good at  
5 all when it gets dark. Even though this  
6 incident did take place during daylight, it  
7 was like 7:00 so it was still light out, but  
8 if we can get better lighting in there maybe  
9 that would help, but we don't want stuff  
10 like that happening in our neighborhood. I  
11 thank God they caught these men. The person  
12 that called me tonight he knew this girl  
13 personally, so that's why he wanted me to  
14 come and comment about it tonight, so that's  
15 all I have and thank you for your time.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 Mr. Spindler, the only think I wanted to add  
18 would be when you first spoke tonight you  
19 were referring to the KOZ program, I  
20 believe, and one of those locations,  
21 Leonard's Hardware, which houses a theatre  
22 was going up for auction or sale, I believe,  
23 they had been granted a KOZ and  
24 coincidentally, I believe, that KOZ expires  
25 now in 2010, so it just seemed, you know,

1           seemed a bit coincidental that the sale of  
2           the theatre was taking place at the time  
3           that a KOZ was going to expire thereby  
4           preventing the owner from paying taxes to  
5           the city, school district and county.

6                   MR. SPINDLER: And I forgot to say,  
7           Mr. Loscombe did steal my thunder a little  
8           bit, I forgot to say I meant to speak about  
9           the front page of the Doherty newsletter  
10          today. The two big office buildings that  
11          are almost empty, they can't even sell them.  
12          I mean, the old Chamber of Commerce building  
13          has an elevator that doesn't work, the air  
14          conditioning doesn't work, and we have more  
15          problems to worry about in this city I think  
16          than worrying about SAPA. Again, thank you  
17          for your time.

18                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Spindler, I'll be  
19          getting ahold of that gentleman tomorrow  
20          from Tripp Park, I got the message. Thank  
21          you.

22                   MS. EVANS: Ron Ellman.

23                   MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.

24                   MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

25                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. ELLMAN: I didn't have your  
2 company last week I had to take Miss Rosie  
3 to a funeral.

4 MS. EVANS: Sorry.

5 MR. ELLMAN: I had a dozen people  
6 ask me where I was. It's like I said one  
7 time I miss supper when I don't come up here  
8 and exercise my lungs.

9 I got a question, I was told when a  
10 house is condemned by drugs it's supposed to  
11 last six months; is that true?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: You mean the  
13 condemnation is supposed to last six months?

14 MR. ELLMAN: When it's condemned  
15 because of drug traffic.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't believe there  
17 is any time frame on it.

18 MR. ELLMAN: A policeman told me he  
19 thought that was the --

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: If it's condemned  
21 it's condemned for structural or other  
22 problems. They may have had a drug  
23 situation and found structural problems,  
24 plumbing, electric stuff like that, but  
25 there is no time limit. That stuff would

1           have to be brought up to code and changed in  
2           order to bring it up to standards to be able  
3           to open it again or occupy it, but there is  
4           no set -- I mean, it doesn't just expire in  
5           six months.

6                       MR. ELLMAN: Why is everybody  
7           worried about South Side, you know. There  
8           is a north side. From my house one block up  
9           I got the old Smith house that's condemned  
10          for years and years. Behind me is a house  
11          that ought to be saved that's condemned  
12          that's in my backyard, across the street is  
13          a house that is condemned now. Next to it,  
14          three houses down on the corner of Alfred is  
15          a condemned house; on Alfred was a house  
16          that was condemned for drugs. That a block  
17          of three empty houses in row, you know, my  
18          neighborhood is going to pot. And all I  
19          hear about when I look it the paper is South  
20          Side, money for this, and money for that and  
21          pave the streets, whatever, there is other  
22          parts of this city.

23                       This house on Alfred Street was  
24          condemned for drugs, and this was a bad  
25          bunch of people there, I don't know that

1 address, that's where that girl had the baby  
2 in the garage or something. That was a bad  
3 bunch of -- been nothing but trouble, God  
4 knows when. The police are there all the  
5 time, you know, and now they are trying to  
6 move back in. In this town it seems like  
7 you just make a phone call if you know  
8 someone that makes a phone call, makes a  
9 phone call, everything is over with. I wish  
10 I was a better speaker, you know.

11 Well, about my favorite college here  
12 the University. They seem to just be  
13 masters of deception, somebody told me a  
14 family member tried to get a job there, I  
15 don't know of a teacher or what, and I said  
16 I never seen an ad in the paper for  
17 employment with them. And this is nothing,  
18 but nepotism to get a job in these schools.  
19 You know, you just don't apply for a job  
20 with it.

21 I'd sure like to see Mr. Kelly join  
22 forces with Mr. McKenna and put in black and  
23 white what we are supposed to do to recover  
24 all of this money. He keeps attacking you  
25 people in the paper, you know, to me when

1           they attack council and editorials that's an  
2           attack on the people in this city because we  
3           put you there, that's like biting the hand  
4           that feeds you to me, you know. I would  
5           like to see the salaries these people get in  
6           the print in the paper. It's no secret.  
7           I'd like to see their retirement benefits.  
8           I'd like to see all of the benefits, but  
9           they won't tell you nothing.

10                        I phoned the school to ask them  
11           once, all they seem to be interested in is  
12           just their greedy goals, you know, just they  
13           are the University of Scranton is the death  
14           knoll of this city. They have to destroyed  
15           our tax base. I just don't, you know, a lot  
16           smarter people than me say that you can't  
17           survive with a loss of over a third of your  
18           tax base. You people just got to forget  
19           about asking for donations and start  
20           supporting the bills that come up in  
21           Harrisburg. It's passed asking for  
22           donations. They are a bunch of greedy  
23           deadbeats. I bet the University teaches  
24           greed is one of the seven deadly sins, but  
25           they practice it left and right.



1           have been -- we are making phone calls, we  
2           are going to get into some meetings and  
3           stuff like that, as we said, we are not the  
4           only ones in this boat, so the more we get  
5           around the state the better opportunity we  
6           have to change these laws on the tax  
7           exempts.

8                     MR. ELLMAN: Sometimes I don't think  
9           council realizes the urgency.

10                    MR. LOSCOMBE: We do realize the  
11           urgency, but you know the bureaucracy of the  
12           major --

13                    MR. ELLMAN: Every Friday they got  
14           like 100 houses that are being lost. You  
15           should talk to someone that like I have, not  
16           foreclosure, you should talk to someone who  
17           lost a house that was paid for because they  
18           just couldn't afford it no more. That's a  
19           heart break. I talked to a man he told me,  
20           he said, "I sold my car and I done this and  
21           I done that, you know, I gave up the  
22           newspaper," he done everything trying to  
23           hold onto his property.

24                    MR. LOSCOMBE: I mean, there are  
25           some good programs for people like that



1 through the United States Neighborhood  
2 Centers and that they can contact. They  
3 would do anything they can to help them with  
4 the programs that are in the --

5 MR. ELLMAN: Well, this part I  
6 don't.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: And some state  
8 programs that would help them save their  
9 homes so they could contact us for  
10 information and we could forward it.

11 MR. ELLMAN: We talked about that,  
12 you know, in the tax -- the Thursday  
13 meeting, but it's ashame. There is no  
14 reason in this country somebody should lose  
15 a home that's paid for because they couldn't  
16 afford taxes and insurance and, you know,  
17 all of the upkeep. I know the last five  
18 years I'd say everything is more than  
19 doubled on owning a house. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
21 anyone else who cares to address council?

22 MR. TALIMINI: Good evening. Joe  
23 Talimini. I think just last week we  
24 discussed the mercantile and as Mr. Rogan  
25 and Mr. Joyce and Mr. Loscombe are aware

1 nobody wants to move in here because of the  
2 mercantile tax, they can't afford it, and  
3 you have a very prominent attorney in  
4 today's paper said that he was moving out of  
5 here because of the mercantile tax. Now, I  
6 mean, I don't know what it takes to the  
7 powers that be to get the message, but  
8 apparently they are way out of touch, all of  
9 them.

10 I find it ludicrous that Jeff  
11 Brazil, who is an employee of the city, Mark  
12 Seitzinger, who is an employee of the city,  
13 and some of these other department heads  
14 will not answer questions to the council.  
15 Apparently they work for the mayor and  
16 Mr. Doherty apparently works for the mayor,  
17 too, because he sure in hell doesn't work  
18 for the city, so I would suggest, and I'm  
19 hoping that there are citizens in this  
20 community who will get up in arms about this  
21 and let Mr. Doherty start paying  
22 Mr. Brazil's salary, and Mr. Seitzinger's  
23 salary out of his own pocket, because if he  
24 is not going to answer to the residents who  
25 pay his salary, and the mayor certainly

1 doesn't go to answer to the residents who  
2 pay his salary, then there is something  
3 radically wrong with in city and for people  
4 to come up here and chastise this council, I  
5 mean, I'm not running for any political  
6 office and I don't have the benefit of  
7 anybody who has sat in on these meetings for  
8 the last couple of years in an official  
9 capacity, but I see nothing wrong with what  
10 this council is doing and I have been  
11 monitoring you since the word go and I don't  
12 think I'm in touch with any one of you on a  
13 regular basis.

14 As a matter of fact, Mrs. Evans, you  
15 and I have had more conversations before  
16 this council was elected, and it's just that  
17 simple. So if anybody thinks that this is a  
18 one-way street and I'm protecting you people  
19 that's absolutely not the case. I'm going  
20 to come down on you just as I do anybody  
21 else who isn't doing their job, but so far I  
22 haven't seen you people avoiding your jobs,  
23 and I mean, I think you are to be commended,  
24 but as I say, possibly when I run for public  
25 office if I ever decide to do you are all in

1                   trouble. Thank you very much.

2                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

3                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is this  
4 anyone else who would like to address  
5 council?

6                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I would just like to  
7 mention something, I don't know, I'm sorry,  
8 I have an answer for everybody tonight, but  
9 Mr. Talimini, I'm not defending any of the  
10 department heads or anything like that, but  
11 we are in a Catch-22 situation. I found  
12 speaking to them personally you get a lot of  
13 things done, we get a lot of things  
14 answered. We do have to submit letters to  
15 them so we have a record of it and paper  
16 trails.

17                   I spoke to Mr. Brazil, and he said  
18 it would be easier to come in and see him  
19 because he is on the road, he doesn't have a  
20 chance to answer like that and I know  
21 Mr. McGoff has spoken to him and he got some  
22 information today. I can understand that to  
23 a certain point, but we are not allowed to  
24 go directly to them until we go through the  
25 mayor and so there is all of these steps

1 in-between.

2 Mr. Seitzinger I have spoken to on  
3 several occasions and he reacted very  
4 quickly. It doesn't look good when they  
5 don't respond to our requests, but we are in  
6 a tough spot. We can't make an appointment  
7 to meet them every week. We have lives,  
8 too. We are working on a lot of other stuff  
9 here. If the mayor gave us the authority to  
10 meet these department heads personally when  
11 we have these situations, it might be easier  
12 and more effective for everyone, but the  
13 problem is now we have to jump through  
14 hoops.

15 And, like I said, the department  
16 heads that I have spoken to have been very  
17 cooperative with us, however, you know, some  
18 of them aren't too good at responding to  
19 letters and that, however, they can react if  
20 you could get to them in person.

21 MR. TALIMINI: May I just respond to  
22 that? I did mention the fact that I don't  
23 believe that Mr. Brazil or Mr. Seitzinger  
24 work for the mayor, I believe they work for  
25 the city, and it's my tax dollars and your

1 tax dollars that are paying their salaries.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. TALIMINI: And if the mayor does  
4 not appreciate that then the mayor should  
5 pay them out of his own pocket.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes, we understand.

7 MR. TALIMINI: Because they are  
8 responsible to the city and the taxpayers,  
9 not to the mayor, and the mayor is also  
10 responsible to the city and to the  
11 taxpayers.

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

13 MR. TALIMINI: Thank you.

14 MR. ROGAN: I would also like to  
15 add, as Mr. Loscombe mentioned, you know we  
16 sent a letter, I asked Mrs. Krake to send a  
17 letter to the mayor asking to meet with the  
18 new police chief and we have been waiting  
19 for two weeks and there is still no response  
20 and, you know, definitely what Mr. Talimini  
21 said it's disappointing when we get requests  
22 that don't get answered, for instance, I  
23 have one that I'm going to read off later  
24 that's nine months on Cameron -- a stop sign  
25 at the corner of Price and Jackson and the

1 flooding on Cameron Avenue, and I was over  
2 there today and what makes it even worse is  
3 not only are many of the department heads  
4 not answering our requests the department  
5 heads get paid more than the mayor, and I  
6 personally find that appalling.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. Dobrzyn.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,  
9 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton, member  
10 of the Taxpayers'. Once again, I'm going to  
11 have to put it the top of the my list with  
12 SAPA. Why don't they just join the county  
13 planning commission and get together with  
14 them? We have a county plan commission and,  
15 you know, why do we have to have all of  
16 these separate groups all over trying to do  
17 something different and tugging in different  
18 directions, so that's my take on it.

19 Now, I was happy to hear a very  
20 recent statement from John on these  
21 nonprofits. Personally, I think that it's  
22 beating it to death that we have to ask some  
23 of them for money. Some of them probably  
24 have lots of money like our -- my friend  
25 there says, then a hospital, I just was up

1 to CMC and they have these little pamphlets  
2 there and you take them out and it tells you  
3 how much free or uncompensated medical care  
4 is what they call it, okay? And currently  
5 if council is our only income, Pat, I'm  
6 pleased to let you know you are almost 50  
7 percent below the threshold, you know. So,  
8 like, in other words, you can earn about  
9 \$20,000 or \$21,000 a year. If you get hit  
10 by a car or get appendicitis and go up to  
11 the CMC and you are probably have to go  
12 through a lot of paperwork, but you would  
13 not be required to pay the hospital bill.

14 So it's easy to see why somebody  
15 like the CMC might start running out of  
16 money with conditions being what they are  
17 and 10 percent of the work force unemployed  
18 and so forth, so I do feel that going in the  
19 state legislature and staying on them to get  
20 honest compensation for the state they are  
21 the ones that require it through the state  
22 constitution, let them come up with some  
23 ideas on how we should pay our bills.

24 I mentioned this before on the  
25 trash, and I talked to the person that I



1 always mention that mows the lawns down by  
2 the Trolley Town there and she said that she  
3 would like to see if somebody dumps trash  
4 along the road, which it has been at times,  
5 maybe the DPW could call it in and get  
6 permission from their boss to remove it even  
7 though it's not at a specific address. That  
8 would be an idea for keeping some of that  
9 because that trash is still hanging out  
10 there, so and I see the trouble we have  
11 getting anything done, you know, and they  
12 have to get -- you know, you might get  
13 permission from Jesus sooner.

14 And on these budgets, I have a  
15 question for everybody in Scranton how do  
16 you make a budget when the city is always so  
17 far behind on the audits? Every year that I  
18 have come here I have heard that we are  
19 rounding up an audit for 2008 or, you know,  
20 two years behind or things like that and  
21 it's just not right. It's just not right  
22 that these departments are getting their  
23 figures back out and I think personally  
24 they need a little -- a couple of pep pills  
25 or something.

1                   And finally, I'm going to keep it  
2 short tonight, the golden parrot award goes  
3 to the US Chamber of Commerce for opposing  
4 legislation to bring back outsourced jobs,  
5 jobs that were outsourced to Indian and  
6 China. They have opposed it, there are  
7 certain Congressmen that have tried to  
8 introduce legislation to bring these jobs  
9 back and instead the US Chamber of Commerce  
10 is opposed to it, well, I have a question  
11 for them, too, how do I afford goods that  
12 the US Chamber of Commerce members are  
13 selling if we don't have a job. Thank you  
14 and have a good night.

15                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16                   MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city  
17 council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky.

18                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19                   MR. UNGVARSKY: And I'd like to  
20 thank Mr. Rogan for bringing up this report  
21 two weeks ago about HUD and the delinquent  
22 payments. However, in that same report  
23 there are several other items that can be in  
24 violation such as the number of hirees they  
25 have. I wish you would look into that.

1                   Also, last week you voted to give  
2                   Attorney Greco another \$25,000. Since we  
3                   only pay \$70,000 to a full-time solicitor  
4                   maybe it would be wise to look into hiring a  
5                   second solicitor and doing away with  
6                   Mr. Greco. I wish you look into that.

7                   This past week I received a call  
8                   from a person who was having trouble with  
9                   some potholes. He has called every office  
10                  in the city, he has been down to the mayor's  
11                  office, well, he said he didn't get into see  
12                  the mayor, he made several visits there. He  
13                  has called several members of city council.  
14                  He would like to know what's going on. Alls  
15                  he wants is somebody to contact him and tell  
16                  him when he can expect to get those potholes  
17                  filled. They are on Earth Avenue and  
18                  Hickory Street and he is having trouble  
19                  getting out of his carport. I hope somebody  
20                  can get ahold of city workers, I'm sorry,  
21                  and get those potholes fixed.

22                  Just a short sentence on SAPA. I  
23                  noticed in the Scranton Times again this  
24                  week they have an editorial. I guess  
25                  whatever city council is for they are going

1 to be against. That is the Scranton Times.  
2 I hope city council will stick to their  
3 conviction because I see nothing that they  
4 can do for Scranton that we don't already  
5 have. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry, but I do  
8 have to respond. I did meet the gentleman  
9 on Earth Court and I took some photos and we  
10 actually submitted a letter about two weeks  
11 or so ago, it's one that we haven't had a  
12 response yet. I'll see if I can get down  
13 there before Friday and get some response  
14 directly. And I did call the gentleman  
15 today, but I didn't get him, he didn't have  
16 an answering machine, so I'll try him again  
17 tomorrow.

18 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm sure he would  
19 appreciate that and, as he says, it's  
20 getting late in the season and he would like  
21 to have it taken care of.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. No, I know  
23 it's rough.

24 MR. UNGVARSKY: Because he has been  
25 talking to so many people about it. Thank

1           you.

2                       MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
3 anyone else who cares to address council?

4                       MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.  
5 Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment Rights.  
6 In approximately seven weeks the 2011 city  
7 budget will be presented to you by the  
8 administration. It will be curious to see  
9 if it will be more than the \$77,800,000  
10 budgeted for this year. We can't forget  
11 that this council attempted to amend the  
12 administration's budget by approximately  
13 \$700,000, which would have put the budget in  
14 at approximately 77 million.

15                      Over the last nine years, and  
16 including this year, the budgets have  
17 increased by \$111 million cumulatively,  
18 increased by \$111 million dollars and what  
19 improvements have we seen in the  
20 infrastructure in the city? I have to  
21 remind everyone that the taxpayers are  
22 footing the bills for that \$111 million  
23 increase.

24                      Over the course of the last nine  
25 years the totals of the budgets and loans

1 and bonds the city has taken out puts us  
2 over the three-quarter billion mark for the  
3 money taken in in revenue. Remember the  
4 three-quarter billion, 700,000 savings was a  
5 drop in the bucket compared to what was  
6 taken in in revenues. Make your budget at  
7 \$60 million. Cut the fat.

8 The economy isn't the best so let's  
9 tighten our belts. Let's stop the pork  
10 spending. Let's stop giving lien-free  
11 demolitions to select businesses. There is  
12 so much more, but we don't have enough time  
13 to tell it all.

14 A couple weeks ago I came before you  
15 and said you should set the 2011 budget at  
16 60 million. That's 18 million less than the  
17 2010 budget that you were unable to amend  
18 and 24 million less than the 2008 budget.  
19 These are hard times and if the unions are  
20 successful it may be very much harder for  
21 the city and it's taxpayers, especially if  
22 the city has not put money aside for when  
23 all of the city appeals come home to roost,  
24 but as I said before, it will be the unions  
25 who get the blame.

1 Over the last nine years over 25  
2 million was given out in raises and new  
3 hires while both the police and fire unions  
4 got nothing from this administration and you  
5 hear nothing in the papers, nothing in the  
6 media. It's always against the unions. We  
7 have to remember that the expenditures of  
8 the police and fire departments has remained  
9 static over the last nine years. It took  
10 the Courts to give us a raise. Bring the  
11 salary of the favorites back to the 2002  
12 rates and give out 7 1/2 percent raises.  
13 Even out of the playing field. No one is  
14 saying take any money back retroactively,  
15 just make the playing field even.

16 I'm not coming here to scare anyone,  
17 especially the taxpayers, I'm just trying to  
18 lessen the impact when Peter comes to the  
19 door looking for his money, the money we  
20 borrowed from him to pay Paul, and good luck  
21 on your budget. Stand firm, be strong. We,  
22 the people, are counting on you. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

1 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Jackie. Well,  
2 Jack, we winning against these guys. They  
3 are winning.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: How about that game?

5 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, that was the  
6 best game in the world. Jack, I was -- I  
7 almost fell over.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Beautiful night for  
9 the game.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: This week, North  
11 Pocono this week. West, good luck this  
12 week. Thank you.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Take care, Chrissy.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
15 anyone else who cares to address council?

16 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

17 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, any comments  
18 or motions?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Very brief. We did  
20 receive -- we received two items, questions  
21 about properties, an apartment house at  
22 746-748 River Street, and then another  
23 property at 418 and 420 Alder Street. I  
24 will attempt to contact Mr. Oleski and  
25 Mr. Seitzinger tomorrow, if not tomorrow the



1 next day concerning these two properties and  
2 see it there is any resolution for dealing  
3 with them, and while I'm there I'll even  
4 look into the one for Mr. Talimini, the one  
5 Mr. Talimini mentioned I'll be speaking to  
6 him about it, also about the paving as well,  
7 and that's all. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan, any comments  
9 or motions?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I have a list of  
11 citizens' requests and a few comments. The  
12 first one that I mentioned earlier is there  
13 is still no stop sign at the corner of Price  
14 and Jackson Street, that has been requested  
15 nine months ago. It was a two-way stop and  
16 they added a third and now with the  
17 three-way it's even more dangerous than with  
18 the four because residents are confused, and  
19 also the 200 block of North Cameron Avenue  
20 the flooding problems there are terrible. I  
21 was over there today in the afternoon and we  
22 had rain in morning so I was able to see how  
23 it puddles and on the side of the road, you  
24 know, this is -- I was there a few hours  
25 after the rain stopped, there was a very

1 large puddle into the person's yard and come  
2 winter that's going to form ice, and they  
3 did a lot work on the 500 block, but the 200  
4 block nothing was done. So, Mrs. Krake,  
5 could we please forward that to Director  
6 Brazil and, Mr. McGoff, if you would also  
7 like to mention that when you go that would  
8 be great.

9 Secondly, the Bryn Mawr Cafe at 1544  
10 Bryn Mawr Street has been condemned for  
11 several months and the garbage hasn't been  
12 collected, and also in the alley there are  
13 rodents and the grass and weeds are  
14 overgrown. Mrs. Krake, could we please send  
15 that to the DPW as well as Licensing and  
16 Inspections?

17 The South Side Shopping Center,  
18 there was a request that we received  
19 probably about six months ago and I believe  
20 we sent a letter to the shopping complex.  
21 It was about the garbage pickups they were  
22 3:30, 4:00 in the morning and it was waking  
23 up neighbors in the area and they started  
24 collecting them at a later time after they  
25 received our letter, but according to the

1 resident that contacted me they are starting  
2 doing them at 4:00 in the morning again, and  
3 the dumpsters is making or waking up people  
4 in the neighborhood behind the center.

5 And this is a rather long one, but  
6 I'll just sum it up. The first part -- the  
7 letter was sent to us by the residents on  
8 800 block of Prescott Avenue and the  
9 principal of Prescott Elementary School.  
10 They would like council's assistance and had  
11 no cooperation from the department heads  
12 concerning a blighted property on their  
13 block. They are thoroughly frustrated and  
14 feel their concerns have gone on deaf ears.  
15 Our calls to the blight director as well as  
16 Mark Seitzinger have gone unreturned. They  
17 are tired of being ignored. The property  
18 they are referring to is a double home  
19 located at 837-839 Prescott Avenue in the  
20 Upper Hill Section, and the property was  
21 condemned two years ago and this letter goes  
22 on, it's almost two pages. It goes onto  
23 detail all of the problems with it and I  
24 will pass this along to Mrs. Krake and  
25 hopefully we can get something done.



1           should matter if it's in written form or if  
2           it's a personal visit or it's a phone call,  
3           their job is to work for all of the people  
4           of Scranton as is our job and that's what we  
5           are trying to do, we are just trying to help  
6           people, and personally believe come budget  
7           times there has to be cut, the salary should  
8           be reduced to less than the mayor's. I  
9           think they are overpaid and underworked.

10                   And my final request is about a  
11           mobile trailer parked in front of 418 to 420  
12           Alder Street and this File of Council No.  
13           216, 2003, an ordinance attached to it, that  
14           prohibits these type of trailers being  
15           parked on the street, and they also mention  
16           that they're worried that if there is a fire  
17           or ambulance that needs to come down the  
18           road because the mobile home is taking up so  
19           much of the road they are worried that they  
20           won't be able to get down, so I would also  
21           like to give this to Mrs. Krake. I guess  
22           it would go to the chief, but we'll just  
23           talk about that after the meeting, and that  
24           is it. Thank you.

25                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 Mr. Loscombe, any comments or motions?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.  
3 Evans. First, as Mrs. Krake alluded to  
4 earlier, we did have a meeting this Friday  
5 regarding the problem with our traffic  
6 signalization. We have had some lights in  
7 some major intersections that were left on  
8 flashing for quite some time, so we had a  
9 meeting here convened by Roseanne  
10 Novembrino, our solicitor was here, myself,  
11 Mrs. Krake, Mr. McGoff, our city engineer  
12 and DPW director. We were all present along  
13 with two representatives from Urban Electric  
14 and basically, you know, we pointed out  
15 issues on the contract and, you know, it was  
16 getting a little contentious and then it was  
17 back and forth, but I think all in all they  
18 saw our point. There was a meeting of the  
19 minds. They have agreed to -- the biggest  
20 thing is all of our interest is in the  
21 public safety.

22 I mean, there were several accidents  
23 at some of those intersections, so they have  
24 agreed to -- their big thing was that they  
25 had to order new control boxes and

1           apparently that takes some time, and we had  
2           asked them about they had obviously have  
3           different parts on hand, at least control  
4           boxes are a big ticket item and they didn't  
5           have them, but they had agreed to have a  
6           control box on standby and they would  
7           program it in the event that something like  
8           that happened again with the control box  
9           which would expedite the process.

10                        So I think all in all they heard our  
11           side and they have agreed to expedite the  
12           process and we have requested some  
13           information from them on some of the  
14           projects they have worked on and we'll be  
15           waiting for that and observing and I think  
16           hopefully we will see some action, we won't  
17           have those problems that we had prior, so  
18           all in all I think it worked out to be a  
19           fairly good meeting.

20                        Next, Mr. Rogan, you had mentioned  
21           something that I was going to touch on, too,  
22           the flooding issues back the valley. I did  
23           several weeks ago I think I mentioned I had  
24           a meeting at Representative Murphy's Office  
25           with different members of PennDOT, the Sewer

1 Authority, and stuff like that. I did run  
2 into Representative Murphy, Tom Tell and  
3 Gene Skeleton from the Sewer Authority the  
4 other day and I'm happy to say that two of  
5 the major issues that we had discussed, one  
6 has been taken care of and we just have to  
7 keep an eye on it, that was the one in  
8 Minooka according to go Mr. Skeleton, the  
9 other one at 15th and Luzerne Street they  
10 have ordered the material for that and that  
11 should be in process very shortly and he  
12 also did a project that I had mentioned up  
13 on I believe it was Dorothy Street.

14 But Mr. Murphy and Mr. Tell -- or  
15 Representative Murphy and Mr. Tell from  
16 Representative Murphy's Office and  
17 Mr. Skeleton we agreed to convene another  
18 meeting very shortly because there are  
19 several other issues just like this and one  
20 of them and I was made aware of it, too, and  
21 I have witnessed it myself the Keyser Valley  
22 area there is a couple of different spots  
23 there that we have to pay attention to and  
24 also up in the Tripp's Park area I had a  
25 couple of issues up there that we would like



1 to look at, so if any of other areas come up  
2 please don't hesitate to bring them up to me  
3 and I'll present them to them and I'll let  
4 you know when our meeting is.

5 And just lastly, you know, in this  
6 position we see a lot of bidding going  
7 through for different projects and stuff  
8 like that, and it just crossed my mind in  
9 these economic times and stuff like that the  
10 city does not have a bottomless piggybank.  
11 We get bids for some of these projects that  
12 I think, you know, on a normal level should  
13 be considerably less. I realize there is  
14 prevailing wages, there is permit fees and  
15 stuff like that, but I would like to ask the  
16 contractors dealing with the city that are  
17 going to be submitting bids in the future to  
18 consider our economic status at this point,  
19 too, and to help us out because I know some  
20 of these bids are quite high and I just  
21 think they feel it's government money, it's  
22 free, but if they can tighten up their bids  
23 a little bit more and help the city out it  
24 will allow for more money in the piggy bank  
25 for more projects. That's all I have to

1 say. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, when you  
3 have your next meeting though would you  
4 please be certain to have these gentlemen  
5 visit the 200 block of North Merrifield?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. EVANS: This has been going on  
8 and on and on.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's definitely a  
10 target area.

11 MS. EVANS: It may have been out  
12 there possibly a year and a half, two years  
13 ago, and something was done to address this  
14 the situation, but it wasn't successful and  
15 the flooding has been ongoing since and they  
16 really do need to return and take another  
17 in-depth look at it and prescribe what needs  
18 to be done.

19 MR. ROGAN: It's the 200 block of  
20 Cameron actually.

21 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, right. North  
22 Cameron Avenue.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: And that one at  
24 Merrifield still backs up with the pump  
25 station there and --

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: And i also impacts  
3 over on the back of Dewey Avenue, too, so  
4 there is whole big area that's at issue and  
5 we have to resolve that definitely.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: And, Mr. Joyce, any  
9 comments or motions?

10 MR. JOYCE: Just a few. The first  
11 thing I wanted to talk about tonight are 888  
12 funds. Council has received notification  
13 last week that the Single Tax Office has  
14 issued the city a check in the amount of  
15 \$555 -- roughly about \$557,000, give or take  
16 a few dollars and cents here and there. The  
17 amount of this check was a payment of 888  
18 funds collected.

19 To further inform everyone, I know  
20 that some people at home are probably  
21 wondering what are 888 funds. Basically,  
22 888 funds are funds that are collected by  
23 the tax office from residents who work  
24 within the city limits and do not already  
25 pay a municipal wage tax to their home

1 community, so these are nonresidents working  
2 within the city limits who did not pay a  
3 municipal wage tax to their own home  
4 communities. The amount that is collected  
5 from these individuals is 1 percent of their  
6 wages, therefore, if you live in town "X",  
7 which does not have a municipal wage tax, a  
8 1 percent tax will be collected from you.

9 Anyhow, from prior research I  
10 understand that the last time 888 funds were  
11 sent from the Single Tax Office was in 2009.  
12 Prior to that, no 888 funds were sent from  
13 the tax office for quite sometime. In fact,  
14 I think it was a few years prior to 2009.

15 In discussing earlier with the  
16 Single Tax Office, the recent check that was  
17 issued includes funds from not only the  
18 prior year being 2009, but also previous  
19 years as well.

20 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, would  
21 you be able to send a formal request to  
22 Mr. Courtright at the Single Tax Office and  
23 ask him for a breakdown of the \$557,000 that  
24 was sent from the tax office to the city as  
25 far as what year those 888 funds were for?

1                   And I have a few citizens' requests.  
2                   I have been informed by various South  
3                   Scranton residents that there are suspicious  
4                   activities occurring in the Nativity Church  
5                   parking lot, and this is at nighttime. Some  
6                   of the residents that I spoke with mentioned  
7                   that they smelled an odor of marijuana when  
8                   walking their pets and fear that other drugs  
9                   are being used or sold in the lot at night.

10                   Mrs. Krake, can you please send a  
11                   letter to Chief Duffy and copy Mayor Doherty  
12                   as well and maybe, Pat, since you are  
13                   planning on speaking with the chief maybe  
14                   you can mention this.

15                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you. If you would  
17                   notify him of this activity and ask him if  
18                   he could inform whoever is patrolling that  
19                   area at night to keep a close eye on that  
20                   lot for these activities.

21                   Also, I was informed by a Minooka  
22                   resident there are various cracks in the  
23                   road in front of 115 Pequest Drive as well  
24                   as the ditch on the corner of Pequest and  
25                   Penwood, that's up in the Minooka section of

1 Scranton. The resident is inquiring if  
2 these road disturbances could be patched up.  
3 Mrs. Krake, if you could please send a  
4 request to Mr. Brazil and ask him if he  
5 could fill in the cracks in front of this  
6 resident's house. This is an elderly  
7 resident who upon going to their various  
8 appointments and getting out their  
9 wheelchair is getting struck in the cracks  
10 and it's becoming quite frustrating for  
11 them, so if we could have this taken care of  
12 that would be very much appreciated by them  
13 and so if you could send that request to  
14 them that would be greatly appreciated, and  
15 that's all I have for tonight.

16 MR. ROGAN: I'm sorry to interrupt,  
17 but I just received a message, Mrs. Krake,  
18 it's one more request, I just got it now.  
19 The light on Parallel Drive is still out and  
20 I have the number, I believe we sent a  
21 request maybe a month ago but I have the  
22 number for you, it's pretty long, so I'll  
23 give it to you after the meeting.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I'm  
25 pleased to announce the inclusion in

1           tonight's agenda of legislation to amend the  
2           Administrative Code of the City of Scranton  
3           to publically bid for professional services  
4           when the payment for such exceeds the  
5           threshold of \$10,000 in one calendar year.

6                     This first cooperative step by the  
7           administration is in response to city  
8           council's call for bidding of professional  
9           services. After five months of continuous  
10          requests, this ordinance will finally  
11          provide a level playing field for businesses  
12          and professionals, increase transparency and  
13          accountability in city government, and often  
14          save taxpayers' dollars.

15                    In addition, legislation will be  
16          introduced to create and establish a special  
17          city account entitled "Police, Fire and  
18          Ambulance Report Fees" for the receipt and  
19          dispersement of report fees collected as  
20          amended by this council. Victims of crime  
21          no longer pay for police reports. The funds  
22          in the newly created account must be used  
23          solely for the purchase of police vehicles  
24          and if there are a sufficient number of  
25          police vehicles, then funds will be used to

1 purchase equipment necessary for police  
2 officers.

3 This is another step taken by the  
4 administration in an effort to cooperate  
5 with this council and we do hope cooperative  
6 efforts will continue to benefit the people  
7 of Scranton.

8 Next, late yesterday city council  
9 members received an e-mail from Denise  
10 Prowell, SAPA secretary, in response to city  
11 council's September 13 letter. In her  
12 e-mail Mrs. Prowell states, and I quote:  
13 "It should be noted that any SAPA  
14 implementation steps that Don King can do  
15 in-house for Scranton would have, of course,  
16 be accepted as implementation of the plan."

17 She further states, "Adoption  
18 carries no cost obligation for any of the  
19 communities and no obligation for specific  
20 implementation steps. We do hope that all  
21 communities that have adopted will go to  
22 some type of implementation. After Don King  
23 provides a written summary of his thoughts  
24 regarding which SAPA implementation steps  
25 for Scranton could be done in-house, SAPA



1 will include this information in a more  
2 detailed letter to city council."

3 It seems that Mrs. Prowell may not  
4 understand the offer proposed by Scranton  
5 City Council. Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please  
6 send another letter to Mrs. Prowell and SAPA  
7 on behalf of Scranton City Council. Council  
8 recognizes that there is no cost obligation  
9 for adoption and for specific implementation  
10 steps. Council wishes to know the actual  
11 defined costs for each year before it may  
12 decide to reconsider adoption of the SAPA  
13 implementation plan. In other words, please  
14 tell us the actual costs that we may or may  
15 not be obligated to pay.

16 Second, Scranton City Planner, Don  
17 King, can provide implementation steps such  
18 as zoning updates to regulations without  
19 Scranton's membership in SAPA. In fact,  
20 Scranton is no longer a member of SAPA since  
21 like North Abington it did not adopt  
22 implementation of the plan. City council  
23 has proposed that SAPA accept Don King's  
24 services to SAPA members as Scranton's total  
25 contribution to the SAPA implementation

1 plan. His in-kind services are not simply  
2 to cover costs for select services he  
3 provides to Scranton, since Mr. King's job  
4 for which he is paid by Scranton taxpayers  
5 can be accomplished independent of SAPA.

6 Finally, council will accept only  
7 defined annual costs for Scranton's portion  
8 of the SAPA implementation plan or a written  
9 agreement stating that the City of Scranton  
10 will incur no financial costs for it's  
11 membership in SAPA and it's implementation  
12 of the SAPA plan from 2010 through 2030.  
13 Scranton will provide the services of it's  
14 city planner to SAPA in lieu of any and all  
15 payments for membership and implementation  
16 of the plan.

17 When defined costs or the  
18 aforementioned written agreement is  
19 presented to Scranton City Council, it will  
20 reconsider adoption of the implementation of  
21 the plan. Until such time, Mr. King should  
22 only provide his participation and services  
23 to SAPA outside of the daily working hours  
24 required by his paid position as Scranton  
25 city planner. His personal participation is

1 not to be construed in any way manner as an  
2 agreement by the city to implement the SAPA  
3 plan.

4 Next, I wish to respond and clarify  
5 some of the remarks made by Councilman  
6 McGoff at last week's council meeting.

7 First, Mr. McGoff stated that since  
8 2002 the loan portfolio for economic  
9 development has had 61 total loans. Are you  
10 aware, Mr. McGoff, that the city's best loan  
11 portfolio was sold in 2005? Loans  
12 considered high risk were rejected by the  
13 purchaser and remained in the possession of  
14 OECD.

15 Also, having reviewed the reports  
16 sent by Mrs. Aebli I noticed that ECTV's  
17 loan was not included, whereas, it had been  
18 previously included in reports as forgiven.

19 Do you know how many of the  
20 satisfied loans were actually forgiven and  
21 not paid off?

22 Incidentally, loan forgiveness  
23 decrease the amount of dollars available for  
24 new businesses to receive loans. The seven  
25 loans that are in litigation are a serious

1 concern. The total dollar amount of the  
2 seven loans in litigation is \$1,240,000.  
3 The loss of these loan payments affects the  
4 overall quality and quantity of the loan  
5 program and the city pays at least one  
6 attorney, Mr. Greco, and perhaps others to  
7 pursue this litigation. It's a pleasant  
8 motion to see through rose-colored glasses,  
9 but a distressed city that faces a large  
10 deficit needs to be realistic and examine  
11 all of the facts and figures.

12 Second, Mr. McGoff stated that it's  
13 been his experience that every citizen  
14 request made to departments of the city are  
15 acted upon. The only request that may not  
16 be acted upon are those that are received  
17 anonymously. And, oh, I wish that were  
18 true. City council requests to department  
19 heads are made on behalf of citizens and  
20 they are not anonymous, yet at least 50  
21 percent of those requests are ignored. No  
22 responses, no actions, no explanations.

23 Also, Mr. McGoff stated that he  
24 thinks that a more personal relationship  
25 with the city departments is going to be

1 much more appropriate, and I do agree,  
2 however, the mayor requires that city  
3 council members obtain his permission to  
4 speak to department heads. He also requires  
5 that city council submit it's requests only  
6 as a body, yet, Mr. McGoff seems able to  
7 speak to department heads and phone in his  
8 requests by passing the requirements for  
9 permission.

10 Luckily, I think Mr. McGoff enjoys a  
11 personal relationship with the mayor and his  
12 administration that unfortunately is largely  
13 unavailable to this council majority and to  
14 many city taxpayers. Most Scranton  
15 residents have been well aware of these  
16 personal relationships and the purposeful  
17 lack thereof since 2002.

18 Third, Mr. McGoff addressed  
19 Comcast's contract. The facts are stubborn  
20 and regardless of how you try to twist them  
21 they still remain the facts. Council  
22 approved the Comcast contract for renewal  
23 because council amended the contract to  
24 include most of the changes it believed were  
25 fair and necessary. At the same time, it

1 offered numerous compromises to the mayor.  
2 The mayor, however, vetoed the contract and  
3 on the advice of council solicitor, Boyd  
4 Hughes, council did not override the mayor's  
5 veto, which I previously stated at council  
6 meetings.

7 Also, an RFP or request for  
8 proposals was requested by council but it  
9 was never signed by Attorney Hughes and it  
10 was never agreed to by council. Some  
11 attorney other than Attorney Hughes drafted  
12 a model RFP without council's input. After  
13 having read the model RFP, council decide  
14 that the language of the RFP was  
15 inappropriate as discussed at a prior  
16 council meeting. The RFP, like the  
17 contract, must be rewritten.

18 Mr. McGoff also said that ECTV has  
19 been criticized by a number of people for a  
20 lack of programming and then it was  
21 criticized for agreeing to have programming  
22 for the school district. Perhaps Mr. McGoff  
23 didn't listen to the full comments provided  
24 previously. Since ECTV has no contract, it  
25 appears that it cannot enter into agreements

1 with any entities to provide future  
2 programming. To do so is to misrepresent  
3 itself and any new franchise agreement.

4 In addition, ECTV agreed to provide  
5 17 hours of daily programming to the school  
6 district from 12 a.m. to through 5 p.m. each  
7 day. Local colleges, universities and  
8 private schools apparently will receive zero  
9 programming.

10 Further, this schedule leaves nearly  
11 seven hours or less than 1/3 of the  
12 programming to the presentation of city and  
13 county government meetings. A responsible  
14 education and government EG channel  
15 administrator would provide a more balanced  
16 offering of programs.

17 Council is not vacillating on what  
18 it wishes to do and is not stagnating the  
19 entire process as our honorable colleague,  
20 Mr. McGoff, remarked. Council demanded  
21 financial accountability, an EG channel  
22 contract, a fair and reasonable RFP and  
23 funding for a future EG channel  
24 administrator. The mayor vetoed these  
25 amendments and the contract causing a return

1 to contract negotiations. These demands  
2 remain on the table as well as a renewed  
3 interest in a ten-year contract and the  
4 return of a second EG channel as a result of  
5 the mayor's veto.

6 Now, if you wish to waste time  
7 pointing the finger of the blame, please  
8 point it where it belongs, Mr. McGoff, and  
9 as a councilman, rather than a personal  
10 friend, encourage the administration to get  
11 this process moving.

12 Finally, I have a few citizens'  
13 requests for the week.

14 MR. MCGOFF: May I respond to --

15 MS. EVANS: When I finish, please.

16 I have a few citizens' requests for the  
17 week, and some of them I think Mr. Rogan and  
18 Mr. Loscombe have already taken care of  
19 thankfully.

20 Residents report that stop sign they  
21 requested at the corner of Price and North  
22 Merrifield Avenue was still not installed.  
23 Installation was requested by council at  
24 least three times in the last nine months.

25 Residents of North Cameron, we got



1           that.

2                         Neighbors report that the property  
3 owner of the 104 Yesu Drive is digging  
4 trenches at the top of her sidewalks which  
5 are causing flooding issues on neighboring  
6 properties. There are additional problems,  
7 Mr. Loscombe, and I know I gave you some of  
8 that information prior to this evening's  
9 meeting in the hope that you will give it  
10 your precious attention.

11                        City residents report that the  
12 police department did a highly commendable  
13 job on Saturday evening, September 25.  
14 Residents listened to scanners, heard a  
15 number of code red calls as well as reports  
16 of police chases, apprehensions, and words  
17 of appreciation exchanged among police  
18 personnel. These residents requested that  
19 kudos go out to our men and women of the  
20 Scranton Police Department, and this  
21 councilwoman is very happy to grant this  
22 request.

23                        East Mountain residents ask for an  
24 update on 403 Stafford Avenue from  
25 Councilman McGoff. They also report that

1 the large posting board remains at the  
2 corner of the Meadow and River Street and  
3 they soon anticipate the placement of  
4 campaign signs, so again they request an  
5 update from Mr. McGoff on this matter as  
6 well.

7 Install a permit parking sign in the  
8 middle of the 500 block of Quincy Avenue as  
9 soon as possible. Both sides of this block  
10 are permit parking only and signs remain at  
11 the end of both of the block. However, the  
12 permit parking only sign was removed from  
13 the middle of the block. Consequently,  
14 police officers will not ticket vehicles  
15 parked at this location without appropriate  
16 signage.

17 Residents of Pike Street again  
18 request their street is paved. It has not  
19 been paved in 23 years. The DPW recently  
20 patched several potholes but the materials  
21 spilled out and has created additional  
22 problems while at the same time numerous  
23 large potholes still remain untouched.  
24 Vehicles are traveling in oncoming traffic  
25 lanes to avoid large holes and are causing

1 dangerous conditions for both drivers and  
2 pedestrians. This is a repeated request for  
3 paving.

4 Also, please clean the drainage  
5 ditches on the westerly side of Pike Street.  
6 The water ponds and freezes during the cold  
7 weather months creating even more  
8 treacherous road conditions, and I believe  
9 this is a repeat request as well.

10 Finally, city council requests a  
11 proclamation for Rudolph Michael Drasba on  
12 the occasion of his achievement of the rank  
13 of Eagle Scout. For his project, Rudolph of  
14 purchased and installed high visibility  
15 marker polls on each of the closest fire  
16 hydrants to 19 public schools in Scranton.  
17 Rudolph felt these poles would help Scranton  
18 firefighters to locate the hydrants quickly,  
19 particularly, in a snow emergency and at  
20 night. He passed his Eagle Scout Board of  
21 Review on September 15, 2010. Council  
22 wishes to add it's official proclamation to  
23 those which will be displayed at his Eagle  
24 Scout Court of Honor ceremony, and Scranton  
25 City Council commends Rudolph Michael

1 Drasba, son of Joyce and Rudolph Drasba, for  
2 his numerous accomplishments and his  
3 outstanding contribution to public safety in  
4 our city.

5 MR. MCGOFF: I just wanted to  
6 respond to two things that were mentioned.  
7 First, prior to the meeting I did mention to  
8 Attorney Hughes that I misspoke last week  
9 and attached his name to the RFP and I  
10 explained to him how it happened and I do  
11 want to say that I did make a mistake in  
12 saying his name was on that RFP for the PEG  
13 channel. That was totally my fault and I do  
14 publically apologize as well for doing that.

15 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Secondly, I didn't  
17 think that we were, you know, discussing  
18 SAPA at any point in time anymore. Although  
19 I was in favor of the original proposal, I  
20 would just like to comment that I think that  
21 SAPA is aware of what the parameters are for  
22 council reconsidering the proposal and I  
23 think right now the ball is in their court  
24 and until they're willing to send something  
25 to council that meets those parameters for

1 council reconsidering it, I think any  
2 criticism of council concerning SAPA is  
3 really unwarranted.

4 It's been made quite clear what  
5 people's feelings are on SAPA on the council  
6 and under what conditions we will reconsider  
7 it, so until SAPA themselves do something I  
8 don't think that there is anything council  
9 needs to respond to as far as criticism, and  
10 that was all. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake.

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. ACCEPTING A ONE  
13 THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION  
14 FROM SANOFI PASTEUR PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF  
15 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

16 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
17 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be  
18 introduced into it's proper committee.

19 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AMENDING THE  
6 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,  
7 PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION 6-14 CONTRACTS,  
8 SUBSECTION (C) TO PUBLICLY BID FOR  
9 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

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

13 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. CREATING AND  
25 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.

1 02.229597 ENTITLED "POLICE, FIRE AND  
2 AMBULANCE REPORT FEES" FOR THE RECEIPT AND  
3 DISBURSEMENT OF THE REPORT FEES COLLECTED  
4 PER FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 28, 2010 (AS  
5 AMENDED).

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
21 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
22 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
23 COMMUNITY  
24 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL  
25 NO. 40, 2010 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND

1 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
2 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO  
3 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR  
4 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
5 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
6 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT  
7 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY  
8 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
13 Committee on Community Development, I  
14 recommend tabling Item 7-A.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. The reason I'm  
18 asking to table Item 7-A tonight is to allow  
19 the public a 30-day comment period before  
20 the vote, the final passage.

21 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of  
22 tabling Item 7-A signify by saying aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.



1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -  
6 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 36, 2010 -  
7 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
8 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
9 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
10 APPROPRIATENESS FOR HEMMLER + CAMAYD  
11 ARCHITECTS, 409 LACKAWANNA AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
12 PENNSYLVANIA  
13 FOR FAÇADE MASONRY CLEANING; PAINTING OF  
14 TRIMS AND PANELS; NEW ALUMINUM COPING;  
15 FACING FINISHING AND PAINTING OF NEW SIGN  
16 FRIEZE; NEW SIGNAGE; RECONSTRUCTION OF  
17 FIRST-FLOOR STOREFRONTS; CERAMIC TILE KNEE  
18 WALL; NEW ALUMINUM GLAZING AND NEW PILASTERS  
19 AND DOOR SURROUND AT 426 SPRUCE STREET,  
20 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

21 MS. EVANS: What is the  
22 recommendation of the Chair for the  
23 Committee on Community Development?

24 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
25 Committee on Community Development, I

1 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
4 call, please?

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION-  
18 RESOLUTION NO. 37, 2010 - APPOINTMENT OF  
19 WAYNE EVANS, 717 ALDER STREET, SCRANTON,  
20 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, TO THE HISTORICAL  
21 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD. MR. EVANS  
22 WILL REPLACE JOHN T. COGNETTI WHO RESIGNED  
23 ON AUGUST 10, 2010. MR. EVANS' WILL FULFILL  
24 THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. COGNETTI, WHOSE  
25 TERM WILL EXPIRE OCTOBER 11, 2014.

1 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
2 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7-C.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question? I'm  
6 sure Mr. Evans will do a splendid job in his  
7 appointment to the Historical Architecture  
8 Review Board. I know it's been one of his  
9 areas of interest and expertise for many  
10 years. Roll call, please.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
23 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
24 RESOLUTION NO. 38, 2010 - APPOINTMENT OF  
25 GENE P. TESEROVITCH, 1514 THACKERY STREET,

1 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER  
2 OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION. MR. TESEROVITCH  
3 WILL BE REPLACING WAYNE EVANS, WHO RESIGNED  
4 ON AUGUST 11, 2010. MR. TESEROVITCH WILL  
5 FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. EVANS,  
6 WHOSE TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 12, 2015.

7 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
8 Committee on Rules, I recommend the tabling  
9 of Item 7-D.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just wanted to  
13 explain why we are tabling it. Basically,  
14 you know our policy, we need a resume for  
15 anyone that's appointed to these boards and  
16 such, we have made that known from day one,  
17 however, before the final vote we have  
18 always sent out a reminder letter to the  
19 candidate to at least remind them, they may  
20 not see us on TV or whatever to know about  
21 it, unfortunately, we forgot to get this one  
22 out in the mail, so that's the reason we are  
23 tabling it. Nothing against Mr. Teserovitch  
24 or anything, but just to give him an  
25 opportunity so we could remind him. That's

1 all.

2 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of  
3 tabling Item 7-D signify by saying aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

9 (Mr. Joyce was not present for this  
10 vote.)

11 MS. EVANS: If there is no further  
12 business, I'll entertain a motion to  
13 adjourn.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

15 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
16 adjourned.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

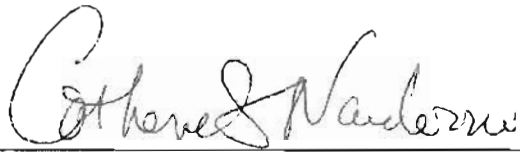
24

25

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER