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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE  
(Not present)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe. Mr.  
9 Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

15 AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING BOARD HELD ON  
16 OCTOBER 13, 2010.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. CHECK RECEIVED  
20 FROM LUTHERWOOD FOR \$6,000 WHICH IS PAYMENT  
21 IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

22 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes, just very briefly,  
24 at this time I just wanted to thank  
25 Lutherwood publically for their \$6,000

1 payment in lieu of taxes. I applaud them  
2 for their efforts being a good neighbor and  
3 contributing to the city. That's all.

4 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? Received  
5 and filed.

6 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. CHECK RECEIVED  
7 FROM MULBERRY POETS WRITERS ASSOCIATION FOR  
8 \$100 WHICH IS PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR  
9 THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: The first response we  
14 have is from Tom Oleski, Deputy director of  
15 licensing and inspections. We sent him a  
16 letter concerning 837-839 Prescott Avenue,  
17 but we also did a phone call and he told us  
18 today that that property will be on the  
19 demolition list early in 2011, and that's  
20 mostly contingent on the day it was  
21 condemned which was 4-6 of 2009.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MS. KRAKE: Last week -- or actually  
24 for several weeks we had a resident call our  
25 office concerning 418-420 Alder Street.

1 Last week Councilman McGoff offered to ask  
2 Director Seitzinger about those, I'm sure  
3 you could report on it better than I, but I  
4 will just -- he told us that it was not  
5 going to be enforced because the ordinance  
6 that Mrs. Beck was referring to was meant  
7 for tractor trailers and was never enforced  
8 before. Actually, her concern, excuse me, I  
9 didn't mention that, was that there was a  
10 trailer, mobile home trailer parked on the  
11 street in front of an apartment home  
12 actually taking up several spots.

13 Now, the ordinance does say that  
14 only a passenger car, van or sport utility  
15 vehicle, station wagon or small pickup truck  
16 can be parked on the street, and I guess  
17 that's where the confusion set in. Even  
18 though the ordinance reads that way, it was  
19 never asked to be enforced that way, so Mrs.  
20 Beck -- we explained to Mrs. Beck what was  
21 relayed to Councilman McGoff and she also  
22 then asked the police department since there  
23 was an issue between license and inspections  
24 and the police about who was to enforce this  
25 ordinance, so she then asked the police and

1 she spoke to an Officer Miller, Officer  
2 Miller was a tremendous help to her and he  
3 sent a police officer over to check out the  
4 situation.

5 From there, we received a phone call  
6 in our office from Corporal Bachman stating  
7 that the police were out and they spoke to  
8 the owners and they will be moving the  
9 mobile home on Thursday.

10 MS. EVANS: Thursday of this week?

11 MS. KRAKE: Yes, of this week, and  
12 she did ask that we continue to follow-up to  
13 make sure that it's done, and I know that  
14 was a long story, but she persevered and I'm  
15 not glad she did.

16 MS. EVANS: Absolutely, but it does  
17 seem clear that we have an ordinance in  
18 place and it should be enforced by the  
19 police department.

20 MS. KRAKE: Yes. As I understand it  
21 the police enforce from the curb into the  
22 street and our inspectors from the curb in  
23 towards the property.

24 MS. EVANS: Perhaps we could send  
25 the ordinance with the appropriate section

1 highlighted to Chief Duffy and asking that  
2 in the future if we should have any similar  
3 occurrences that could police address it  
4 immediately because they are empowered to do  
5 so.

6 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is  
9 from Linda Aebli, Director of OECD. We had  
10 asked her regarding legislation that's on  
11 the agenda tonight, it's actually analysis  
12 of impediments of fair housing choice, and  
13 our request was a little in-depth so I'm  
14 going to try and make it short. Apparently  
15 1997 was the last time that we had hired a  
16 consultant to do this, which is a  
17 requirement by HUD. HUD did not cite them  
18 in an audit for this even though it's  
19 required by HUD they did not call our OECD  
20 department audit the best I can make out  
21 from Ms. Aebli.

22 Once Ms. Aebli took over this  
23 department she knew that it had to be done  
24 because she worked for OECD under a prior  
25 administration, so she knew that this had to

1 be done and that's why even though a large  
2 period of time had passed now when she was  
3 in charge, she was going to make sure that  
4 the fair housing analysis would be  
5 completed.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MS. KRAKE: Next week we will have a  
8 5:30 caucus for Pennsylvania Economy League.  
9 They have affirmed that they will be here.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MS. KRAKE: We received a response  
12 from Bill Shane, Director of the Scranton  
13 Redevelopment Authority, this is concerning  
14 Lackawanna College's 1 1/2 million RACP  
15 grant which will be used towards the  
16 expansion of it's -- of the former Hawley  
17 Silkmill. I got ahead of myself here,  
18 excuse me. The Lackawanna College's 1 1/2  
19 million RACP grant will be towards the  
20 expansion of it's educational programs into  
21 the Hawley area at the site of the former  
22 Hawley Silkmill. For further information on  
23 this project, I suggest you contact the  
24 college's chief executive officer, Mark  
25 Vull, at the Vine Street location.



1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MS. KRAKE: We did not receive a  
3 response from Mr. Teserovitch asking him for  
4 a resume. We also did not receive a  
5 response on several requests to the mayor,  
6 the first was concerning a copy of the video  
7 surveillance tape from July 27. This tape  
8 was not provided to Ms. Franus as requested.  
9 The next is concerning the numerous syringes  
10 in front of the parking lot owned by Daron  
11 Northeast, and that's it for the mayor's  
12 office.

13 Chief Davis, prior Chief Davis did  
14 tell us that when we asked his office about  
15 10 and 13 West Olive that it was not -- his  
16 department had gone as far as they could  
17 with it, the fire inspectors, and now it was  
18 in the hands of Licensing and Inspections,  
19 and unfortunately we did not receive a  
20 response from that department concerning  
21 that property.

22 MS. EVANS: Let's send another  
23 request of that and a phone call follow-up,  
24 please. And with regard to Daron Northeast  
25 while we have LIPS on the phone that can be

1           discussed as well.

2                   MS. KRAKE: We received a response  
3           from Stu Renda, business administrator.  
4           This is regarding for financial records  
5           specific for each department. He has  
6           attached a vendor payment history report for  
7           each department, and also they have included  
8           job descriptions which they dropped off in  
9           our office.

10                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11                   MS. KRAKE: And also from Roseanne  
12           Novembrino, the city controller, she has  
13           done the same staffing level and operational  
14           expenditure budget supporting the office of  
15           herself as an elected official.

16                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

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

18                   MS. EVANS: Thank you very much,  
19           Mrs. Krake. Are there any announcements  
20           this evening?

21                   MR. MCGOFF: Just another reminder  
22           that this Sunday is the Steamtown Marathon.  
23           It is too late to register, I'm sorry, for  
24           those of you who were thinking of doing  
25           that, but there are a number of city

1 employees that are involved in the race.  
2 Fire Chief Davis will be running, assistant  
3 chief Jack Davis, who should be close to the  
4 three-hour mark; Paul O'Hora from the flood  
5 control department and a special note Harry  
6 Pearson, who works for Parks and Rec is  
7 running this year. He will be running in  
8 his forth decade. He ran a marathon in his  
9 30's, one in his 40's, one in his 50's and  
10 now he is looking to run one in his 60's, so  
11 those are a couple of the people that are  
12 running, so if you are interested in seeing  
13 the end or part of the marathon get out on  
14 Sunday morning, otherwise, it might be a  
15 good idea to avoid the downtown until later  
16 in the afternoon because there will be large  
17 crowd of people.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Are there  
19 any other announcements? Councilman  
20 Loscombe is absent tonight because of  
21 illness. I know that he is very meticulous  
22 about his attendance and I'm sure that he  
23 mustn't be feeling very well if he would not  
24 be here this evening and I wouldn't be a bit  
25 surprised that some of his work last week

1 might have something to do with it. I know  
2 he was out during those very heavy rain  
3 storms that were occurring over a 36-hour  
4 period and checking storm drains and going  
5 to various locations throughout the city  
6 where residents and homeowners have notified  
7 council of flooding issues, and so he spent  
8 an inordinate amount of time working with  
9 the people.

10 He told me that the DPW did an  
11 extraordinary job, he saw them in many  
12 locations clearing storm drains during and  
13 while throughout the storm and so, Jack, we  
14 hope you feel better soon, please hurry back  
15 and great job.

16 I wish to respectfully remind  
17 council speakers that all requests for  
18 information and reports of complaints must  
19 be submitted in writing to Ms. Carrera,  
20 assistant city clerk. Council asks this in  
21 order to provide responses efficiently. We  
22 appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

23 The Scranton/Lackawanna County  
24 Taxpayers' Association will host a state  
25 legislator's forum this Thursday, October 7,

1 at 6:00 p.m., in Scranton City Council  
2 chambers. Candidates for state  
3 representative of the 113th legislative  
4 district incumbent Democratic Kevin Murphy  
5 and republican newcomer Michael LaPolla will  
6 be interviewed. Tune into Channels 19 and  
7 21 to view the broadcasts of this forum at  
8 future dates.

9 Saints Peter and Paul Church, 1209  
10 West Locust Street in Scranton will  
11 celebrate it's 100th anniversary on Sunday,  
12 October 17, 2010. The choir will perform at  
13 3:30 p.m. and the centennial mass will be  
14 celebrated by the most Reverend Joseph  
15 Bambara, Bishop of Scranton, at 4 p.m. All  
16 are welcome to attend.

17 Following the mass, a dinner will be  
18 held at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin  
19 Avenue in Scranton. Dinner tickets are \$40  
20 for adults, \$10 for children under 11 years  
21 of age and are available at weekend masses.  
22 Tickets may also be purchased by calling the  
23 rectory between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at  
24 343-7015. Again, 343-7015.

25 The Dearly Departed Players of the

1 Dunmore Cemetery tour will present their  
2 seventh annual performance this Sunday,  
3 October 10, at 2 p.m. beginning at the  
4 Warren Street entrance to the Dunmore  
5 Cemetery. Admission is free and donations  
6 will not be accepted. Talented director  
7 Julie Esti and 15 delightful actor will  
8 portray the famous and the not so famous who  
9 made positive contributions to Northeastern,  
10 Pennsylvania, and are buried in the Dunmore  
11 cemetery. Clothed in costumes  
12 representative of their characters actors  
13 bring to life the dearly departed describing  
14 their lives and the eras in which they  
15 existed. Take the entire family to this  
16 free and informative and entertaining  
17 opportunity to travel back into our  
18 Pennsylvania history.

19 Fetching Grooming Salon and Pet  
20 Boutique, 928 Boulevard Avenue in Scranton,  
21 will sponsor a photo fundraiser to benefit  
22 the Red Cross of Scranton's pet safety  
23 program on October 16 and 17. Pet's photos  
24 will be taken with your choice of Halloween  
25 or winter holiday backgrounds and costumes

1           may be borrowed from the grooming salon.  
2           The event will also offer a raffle of  
3           numerous themed baskets and larger items.  
4           Get a photo of your pet for \$5 and help our  
5           local Red Cross.

6                         Finally, the Scranton Animal  
7           Association will sponsor a rabies clinic  
8           this Saturday, October 9, 2010, from 1 to 3  
9           p.m. at the VCA Dunmore Animal Hospital  
10          located at 1317 Drinker Street. Rabies  
11          injections cost \$10 per pet, and that's it.

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

14                        MS. EVANS:   Our first speaker this  
15          evening Carl Kupchunas.

16                        MR. KUPCHUNAS:  My name is Carl  
17          Kupchunas, I'm a lifelong resident of lower  
18          Greenridge. I'm here this evening to offer  
19          praise, express concern over a few issues  
20          and make a comment. First, I'd like to  
21          commend the Army Corp of Engineers for being  
22          near completion on the Albright Avenue flood  
23          control project. The project protected the  
24          residents of lower Greenridge this past week  
25          when the Lackawanna River was one foot over

1 flood stage at the Parker Avenue bridge as  
2 indicated on the NOAA river gauges. I would  
3 like to thank the Lackawanna County  
4 Emergency Management and Scranton Public  
5 Works for acting quickly and closing the  
6 flood gates which prevented what could have  
7 been another disaster.

8 However, I do have a very important  
9 concern. The new storm drains which go  
10 around the corner when coming up to the  
11 Albright Avenue bridge apparently were not  
12 working. When I went to work on Friday  
13 morning, there was close to two feet of  
14 water by the new storm drains. If it  
15 continued to rain it would have started to  
16 flood further on down the street. When I  
17 came from work that day I stopped my car  
18 right at the drain and none of them were  
19 blocked. Therefore, there may be an issue  
20 of what design of the new drains which  
21 apparently cannot handle the larger volume  
22 of water. I would appreciate if somebody  
23 would be able to check it out.

24 Also, I would like to praise the  
25 Mulberry Poets and Writers Association, who



1 I read in the Doherty Gazette this morning  
2 gave the city a \$100 PILOT when their total  
3 operating budget is only \$3,000. What I  
4 cannot understand is why a multi-million  
5 dollar corporation such as the University of  
6 Scranton cannot give the city a fair amount  
7 in lieu of taxes considering all of the  
8 city's services that they take advantage of  
9 when the Mulberry Poet's Association, who  
10 have a very limited budget, are able to give  
11 the city a donation. It's apparent they  
12 appreciate the services that the city  
13 provides where the University of Scranton  
14 does not appreciate those services at all.

15 Last season I addressed council  
16 about residents who walked in the middle of  
17 the street instead of using the sidewalk.  
18 It seems more and more people are doing this  
19 dangerous practice and since night fall is  
20 now earlier is there anyway the police  
21 department could enforce or council could  
22 pass some legislation which would require  
23 people to walk on the sidewalks in areas of  
24 the city where there are sidewalks instead  
25 of the middle of the street?

1                   In most instances, these people do  
2                   not wear reflective clothing and sometimes  
3                   they walk two and three abreast. At night  
4                   you cannot see them until you are very close  
5                   to where they are walking. This is a  
6                   presentable accident just waiting to happen.  
7                   Please to something if you are able to.

8                   Finally, I would like to encourage  
9                   council to hold their ground on SAPA until  
10                  we get the actual cost of the city would  
11                  have to pay. A distressed city cannot  
12                  afford anymore expenses from such think such  
13                  as zap a when there is no proof at all that  
14                  it will beneficial to the City of Scranton.

15                  Also, keep after the nonprofits to  
16                  give PILOTS when they use the city services  
17                  and in my opinion these nonprofits are not  
18                  paying their fair share. I think it's time  
19                  to define what is actually a nonprofit  
20                  organization. The area colleges and  
21                  universities are multi-million dollars  
22                  corporations, they are not nonprofit  
23                  organizations. Just look at what it costs  
24                  attend to one of these schools. Thank you  
25                  for time and have a great week.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And, Mr.  
2 Kupchunas, if you could please give that  
3 information that you began your presentation  
4 with regarding the storm drains and the  
5 other issues you would like addressed to Ms.  
6 Carrera so that we can follow-up on that for  
7 you.

8 MR. JOYCE: And also, Mr. Kupchunas,  
9 I know I did thank Lutherwood publically in  
10 Third Order, but I also wanted to take the  
11 time to thank the Mulberry Poets and Writers  
12 Association for their contributions as well.

13 MR. KUPCHUNAS: Especially their  
14 operating budget is only \$3,000 and they  
15 gave a \$100 donation which I think that is  
16 wonderful. This is fantastic.

17 MR. JOYCE: True. That's a \$100  
18 donation off of a \$3,000 budget. That's  
19 roughly 3.3 percent of their budget, so that  
20 is very admirable.

21 MR. KUPCHUNAS: They definitely  
22 deserve a lot of praise.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: I agree.

25 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

1 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MR. MORGAN: I just have a couple of  
4 questions here to start off with.

5 Mr. Loscombe isn't here to the tonight, but  
6 he made a reference to the mercantile tax  
7 and I'm just wondering in the next budget if  
8 the mercantile can be abolished?

9 MS. EVANS: I don't believe it will  
10 abolished, no, but it is something that we  
11 are looking very closely at, that and the  
12 business privilege tax.

13 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Now, my other  
14 question is, Mrs. Evans, with all due  
15 respect to you, I think last week you made a  
16 comment about somebody running for state  
17 office, can you just state where did you get  
18 that idea from? How did that come into the  
19 conversation, that's my point?

20 MS. EVANS: That I believe  
21 individuals running for state office who are  
22 representing areas of the Abingtons, as  
23 Mr. Rogan mentioned, and Dunmore would  
24 certainly have SAPA as one of their  
25 concerns.

1 MR. MORGAN: My other question is  
2 has anybody on council driven to Taylor  
3 lately? Have you gone by the Wal-Mart?

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I have been.

5 MR. MORGAN: Did you notice where  
6 all of the stores are? Did you see all of  
7 the stores that are there? They are not  
8 here. Now, we are going to start debating  
9 the pros and cons of SAPA, and you know  
10 what, this council is more than entitled as  
11 the legally voted representatives of this  
12 city to do whatever they care to do, but  
13 it's a well-known fact that business doesn't  
14 want to be here. We offered KOZ's, they  
15 stayed for the KOZ's and they left, okay?

16 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Morgan, that's  
17 exactly the point we were making.

18 MR. MORGAN: You have no plan. I  
19 mean, and I respect your opinion --

20 MR. ROGAN: They are moving right  
21 outside of the City of Scranton and the  
22 reason why they moved to that location is  
23 because the taxes in Scranton are so much  
24 higher, and by being right outside the court  
25 the people who live in Scranton who only

1 live a few minutes away from the business  
2 and then they won't have to pay the taxes in  
3 the city.

4 MR. MORGAN: Yes, but, you know, I  
5 respect everybody's opinion who came up here  
6 and spoke on SAPA because they have just as  
7 much a right to their opinion as anybody  
8 else does. I just think that people who  
9 would have read the plan would realize a  
10 couple of really very, very important  
11 things; all right?

12 Now, these other outlying  
13 communities are building industrial parks  
14 and rezone, why would somebody move into a  
15 city with a declining infrastructure? I  
16 mean, SAPA is definitely an answer to a lot  
17 of our problems because we have the  
18 infrastructure here. Are we going to be  
19 able to compete with corporations outside of  
20 the city? Let's say that Marcellus Shale  
21 becomes very popular. They do a lot of  
22 drilling, they start retrieving a lot of  
23 natural gas, okay? Well, that's going to  
24 move. I mean, they are going to be building  
25 infrastructure. Let's say they build

1 industrial parks with all brand new  
2 infrastructure, do you really honestly  
3 believe that anybody is going to relocate  
4 here?

5 I mean, we keep talking about  
6 Dickson City, Taylor, they don't have to the  
7 tax problems we have, we have a very unique  
8 problem. We have a lot of nonprofits moving  
9 in here because property values have dropped  
10 and they are continuing to drop. I mean, we  
11 went through that last week about just the  
12 three properties here. I mean, we are all  
13 sitting here wondering, but you know what  
14 this is all about, this is about people  
15 having jobs. That's my opinion and my  
16 opinion is that if we have to the industrial  
17 space here why aren't we trying utilize it?  
18 The other thing is look it, everybody is  
19 entitled to their opinion but why isn't Mr.  
20 Don King coming here because I have talked  
21 to the gentleman and it could be to  
22 implement this plan may be zero to \$30,000,  
23 but he hasn't come here.

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, I think we  
25 have already cleared up the issue on SAPA

1           once and for all.

2                   MR. MORGAN: Absolutely.

3                   MS. EVANS: Which is the fact that  
4 proposals have been made to him and we are  
5 awaiting their responses.

6                   MR. MORGAN: Absolutely you are.

7                   MS. EVANS: And that's where it  
8 stands.

9                   MR. MORGAN: No, no. I more than --  
10 I completely agree with you, okay, but what  
11 I'm listening to the city say, at least from  
12 this council is that they don't want to  
13 invest. Where do you want to invest in the  
14 residents of this city? I mean, where do we  
15 draw the line and determine now PEL is going  
16 to come here next week. We have got a 5 1/2  
17 million structural deficit that's been going  
18 for a long time and we've been selling a lot  
19 of our asset and it's continued over a very  
20 long period of time. Don't you think that  
21 we should be trying to reach out to the  
22 Chamber of Commerce. I mean, I know that  
23 Mr. Austin Burke has gone, but somebody is  
24 here in his place.

25                   I mean, you know, you talk about



1 poverty here. You talk about the ladies  
2 that were in the paper living at -- living  
3 at I assume Ruth's Place. You got all of  
4 the homeless people here, you got poverty at  
5 an all-time high. I mean, everybody is  
6 entitled to their opinion, but, I mean, when  
7 the state is going to come in and start  
8 funding these projects the city can't fund  
9 anything to be honest with you.

10 We are in a mountain of debt and I  
11 honestly think that if council wanted to  
12 know what the people who put this plan  
13 together thought they would bring them here.  
14 I think that if Cindy Campbell is on board  
15 that must mean that the state backs it. You  
16 know, we just keep shooting ourselves in the  
17 foot.

18 And then when the budget, you asked  
19 Mrs. Evans about cutting the budget by 10  
20 percent absolutely, but you know what the  
21 problem is here? You had to start that the  
22 minute you are took office and I think we're  
23 going to see exactly what you have done when  
24 the next budget comes up, and I think that  
25 you are obligated as the alleged leaders of

1           this community to come up with a plan. I  
2           just think, you know, I don't see any  
3           leadership here and I know you are smiling,  
4           Mrs. Evans, so proceed -- feel free to make  
5           a comment.

6                    MS. EVANS: No, I actually had asked  
7           you for the --

8                    MR. MORGAN: That's right, but  
9           here's the --

10                   MS. EVANS: -- ten million dollars in  
11           budget cuts.

12                   MR. MORGAN: -- the problem with  
13           that.

14                   MS. EVANS: And you said the clock  
15           is ticking so I was --

16                   MR. MORGAN: You're right.

17                   MS. EVANS: -- I was wondering if you  
18           had any of it for us yet?

19                   MR. MORGAN: Well, I made a  
20           recommendation here. I made two, two  
21           recommendations. One, I said to this  
22           council when they took their seats was to  
23           start breaking the budget down line item by  
24           line item and I asked numerous times if you  
25           had done that and you said, no.

1                   The other thing is the city's  
2                   pension isn't even 50 percent funded. Where  
3                   is that money coming from? I just think,  
4                   you know what, there are a lot of questions,  
5                   but the major problem, another thing is,  
6                   council said that they were going to put the  
7                   backup to the agenda on the site, it's still  
8                   not there. The transparency, to be quite  
9                   blunt, isn't there and we need it. Thank  
10                  you.

11                 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, council has  
12                 pursued that for you on several occasions.  
13                 It's the IT Department.

14                 MR. MORGAN: It has nothing to do  
15                 with them.

16                 MS. EVANS: Yes, it does. The IT  
17                 Department is supposed to place the agenda  
18                 on the Internet and they said that it cannot  
19                 be done, and so if you would like to pursue  
20                 it further may I suggest that you make an  
21                 appointment with IT and the mayor and  
22                 perhaps they can better explain to you why  
23                 they are not able to do that. Our office is  
24                 not able to provide the service, that falls  
25                 under the IT Department.

1 MR. MORGAN: That's fine. I just  
2 think that we are talking about transparency  
3 here and it's not here, and you know what it  
4 doesn't even come to them? All of the  
5 backup could be left right out here in the  
6 hallway and it's still not there so what I'm  
7 saying to this Council is let's not talk  
8 about transparency if it's not going to  
9 happen. It's not a personal shot at you  
10 because I have said it to other councils.  
11 It's just not there and it hasn't been there  
12 for a long time. It's not a personal shot,  
13 I mean, evidently you take it personal, but  
14 you know what, it's not personal. What it  
15 is is the people in this city deserve some  
16 answers to their problems and you were  
17 elected to be -- to create those answers and  
18 I just don't see them. All right?

19 And if you didn't break the budget  
20 down yet and you if you haven't found the  
21 answers I think you need to ask PEL some  
22 questions and then when I think you need to  
23 do is if they don't have answers go into  
24 bankruptcy because evidently there is a lot  
25 of seniors reverse mortgaging their homes

1 and property, and poverty out of control.  
2 Poverty here is out control.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.

4 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I  
5 could just make one comment?

6 MS. EVANS: Oh, absolutely.

7 MR. HUGHES: Regarding the Wal-Mart  
8 in Taylor, it was about 12 or 13 years ago  
9 there were -- Wal-Mart had a series of  
10 three -- several developers to big sites,  
11 there was no site in Lackawanna County. The  
12 number one site for Wal-Mart in Lackawanna  
13 County would have been the first Wal-Mart  
14 would be where Scranton High School is now.  
15 That was selected by Wal-Mart in Arkansas as  
16 their number one site in Lackawanna County.

17 I wrote the agreement between the  
18 City of Scranton at Wal-Mart for them to put  
19 the Wal-Mart on that site. The city could  
20 not deliver it because back then when  
21 PennDOT condemned for a highway they only  
22 condemned an easement over the surface of  
23 the road. The City of Scranton had title to  
24 the property underneath, underneath the  
25 Scranton Expressway.

1                   As the fee owner, we attempted to  
2                   get from PennDOT the surface rights so the  
3                   Wal-Mart could be built where Scranton High  
4                   School is. Due to the time constraints that  
5                   Wal-Mart wanted to expand in Lackawanna  
6                   County, they went up to Dickson City, their  
7                   first store that they closed, then when they  
8                   closed that store, and there is a lawsuit  
9                   still pending over that because of the rocks  
10                  coming down and crashing into the store--

11                  MS. EVANS: I remember that.

12                  MR. HUGHES: They ended up -- that  
13                  store was vacant in Taylor, they moved down  
14                  there as their temporary store until they  
15                  built the Wal-Mart up on Commerce Boulevard,  
16                  but their number one site was the site of  
17                  Scranton High School is now. It look I  
18                  believe three or four years to get that  
19                  title cleared up, not the title cleared up,  
20                  but for PennDOT to convey it to the school  
21                  district plus also in the law where PennDOT  
22                  would convey, but what we are trying to do  
23                  they would convey to a local governmental  
24                  unit, the city was trying to -- our position  
25                  was at the time that if PennDOT conveyed to

1 the City of Scranton we would use it for  
2 economic development for the Wal-Mart,  
3 however, PennDOT said that with the school  
4 district going there for the school that was  
5 more of a public purpose for the city and we  
6 just couldn't deliver the site, but that was  
7 their number one site.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you very  
9 much for that information.

10 MR. ROGAN: If I could just make a  
11 comment as well, Mr. Morgan, we all want  
12 transparency. We would like to see the  
13 backup placed on the Internet. I believe  
14 when we had the IT Department here one of us  
15 made the request. I don't see why any of us  
16 would -- we all support putting it on the  
17 Internet, but it's not something that we can  
18 do. We requested that the IT Department do  
19 it multiple times. We could send a request  
20 in again, it's not likely that it's going to  
21 happen, but I agree with you it should be  
22 done and we have been transparent.

23 For instance, when we had a vacancy  
24 on council we interviewed publically, I  
25 believe you applied and interviewed in front

1 of the cameras, in front of everyone,  
2 instead of doing it in a back room like the  
3 way it's been done in the past, and that's  
4 just something that we are trying to do. We  
5 are holding our caucuses publically in front  
6 of the people instead of the back room as  
7 they have been done in the past, and that's  
8 all.

9 MR. JOYCE: I just want to make a  
10 few comments myself. I know I have been  
11 rather quite on the issue of SAPA, and I  
12 wanted to refer back to Wal-Mart. You  
13 mentioned all of the stores and the new  
14 Wal-Mart in Taylor and the Wal-Mart Super  
15 Center in Dickson City, I don't think that  
16 the reason that Wal-Mart did not decide to  
17 build in Scranton, per se, is due to not  
18 adopting SAPA since Taylor and Dickson City  
19 aren't a part of SAPA as well.

20 About SAPA, I don't necessarily  
21 think that SAPA is some horrible plan, my  
22 primary reservation regarding SAPA is the  
23 cost and the cost that will be incurred by  
24 the city overtime by adopting into SAPA or  
25 adopting into the plan for a period of time,



1 and I cannot sit up here and make a  
2 responsible, a fiscally responsible decision  
3 without knowing exactly what those costs are  
4 and once a breakdown of that -- those costs  
5 are provided to us, then I think a more  
6 educated decision can be reached.

7 And regarding the budget, I -- as  
8 finance chair I have been working on  
9 breaking down the budget and I have been  
10 looking at it consistently and constantly  
11 throughout the year and when budget time  
12 arrives I will be making some of the  
13 comments and hopefully coming up with some  
14 of the answers that are you looking for.

15 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Ron  
16 Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Council, I interrupted  
18 my cocktails to come here tonight. I'm  
19 going to get off my usual soapbox about the  
20 University and I'd like to -- I probably  
21 shouldn't even talk about this, but these  
22 commercials are so adverse against  
23 Mr. DeNaples and Mr. Marino, you know, I  
24 don't know Mr. Marino, but I know  
25 Mr. DeNaples, I have been to his house, I

1           have eaten with him, I worked for him and to  
2           demean a man that has done -- forget  
3           Dunmore, for Steve Corbett to demean a man  
4           like this that has done so much for this  
5           city it's just -- this is just deplorable.

6                     You know, Mr. DeNaples supports the  
7           University which I -- you know, I'm totally  
8           against their policies, he supports the  
9           medical school, the library, the soup  
10          kitchen, this man has done, like I said, I'm  
11          just talking about Scranton, not Dunmore, he  
12          has done more anonymously than any of you  
13          people now. Years ago when I drove the  
14          wrecker he had me pick up food now and then  
15          for families that were in financial  
16          problems, all of this unanimously.

17                    And, you know, I think Mr. Corbett  
18          overestimates his worth to this area. He is  
19          a complete failure to me that worked his way  
20          from a big city radio and television area to  
21          a third or fourth rate radio station that  
22          only goes 25 miles because you can't pick it  
23          up, you know, after you leave this area and  
24          that's what I meant to just get it off my  
25          back. I know I shouldn't even mention this

1           probably, but Mr. Corbett has an outlet to--  
2           I don't have one like he has to release his  
3           frustrations.

4                        I had a fellow phone me and we were  
5           talking during the week I think -- I think  
6           it was this past May Mr. Doherty said to  
7           dismiss the concerns of the impact of the  
8           University on the people of this city, you  
9           can't do that. I know that's what it said  
10          in the paper, and as I remember the  
11          newspaper said they have taken about 11  
12          football fields through -- for their --  
13          isn't that right? It was 11 football  
14          fields. Can you imagine how many pieces of  
15          property that was? Forever. It's gone.

16                       Then Mr. Doherty said, well, out of  
17          the \$20 million we got \$2 million building  
18          permits. That's when I asked to see it in  
19          black and white and this has been going on  
20          since then and they refuse to give it me, so  
21          I think I can safely enlist that it's a  
22          blatant lie. I asked, you know, I went like  
23          everybody told me, I did everything, I have  
24          made phone calls, I have been there, I  
25          filled out papers and Stu Renda doesn't

1 think that it needs to be given out to the  
2 public, so I just believe I can say safely  
3 that \$2 million we got is a bunch of bull.

4 And about the phony nonprofits I've  
5 been complaining about I don't think you can  
6 find a bigger epitome than the Scranton Club  
7 having a \$700,000 building off the tax  
8 rolls. Who ever heard of something so  
9 asinine as keeping a building like that. Is  
10 going on the tax rolls now? It's a company  
11 bought it. It should be on the tax rolls  
12 immediately.

13 You know, it's like I said,  
14 these nonprofits you can't stereotype them,  
15 you know. Sister Adrian is a nonprofit, the  
16 real nonprofits have -- you know, they are  
17 not in good financial condition. Friendship  
18 House could give the city \$241,000, they  
19 don't deserve to be a nonprofit. I don't  
20 care who gives them money and who likes  
21 them, and if the United Way can buy houses  
22 for Arc, I wouldn't give a penny to them.  
23 This -- there needs to be something to  
24 separate a business from a real true  
25 nonprofit, you know? I don't know how you

1 do it, but it's -- there is so many phoneys.  
2 There is names come up in the paper under  
3 buying houses that nobody even knows who  
4 they are and they are nonprofits. Well, I  
5 heard the bell.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Ellman.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Unfortunately, the  
9 nonprofits are very well protected by state  
10 law and federal law and I did want to  
11 comment on the statement that you made  
12 earlier regarding the \$2 million in permit  
13 fees from the University of Scranton,  
14 perhaps we could send a Right-to-Know  
15 request, Mrs. Krake, asking for a copy of  
16 that, but more so I think another issue at  
17 hand is, Mr. Ellman, that it's a one-time  
18 cost. It's, like we say, a sale of a city  
19 asset a one-time revenue source. Permit  
20 fees are a one-time revenue source. They  
21 don't carry through the years, and in  
22 addition to that anyone in the City of  
23 Scranton who wants to build or who is making  
24 repairs to their home, for example, building  
25 a fence in their backyard must obtain

1           permits from the city as well. The only  
2           difference there is they are paying taxes.  
3           They have to get permits as well, everyone  
4           who resides here to do work, but they're  
5           paying taxes whereas the University does  
6           not. Thank you.

7                   MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

8                   MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
9           cares to address council?

10                   MR. DOBRZYN: On this budget issue,  
11           you know, it keeps getting raised and how  
12           you people should cut the budget, how do you  
13           cut the budget when you are denying somebody  
14           essentially services that they might even  
15           die or go homeless if they have to do  
16           without. I.

17                   Mean, you know, I heard a lot,  
18           especially at this election time about how  
19           we can't control the budgets and so forth  
20           and we don't have -- we haven't taken any  
21           time to control the budget and we haven't  
22           had any time to control the budgets and any  
23           attempt to control the budgets was taken to  
24           Court, so I don't know what some people are  
25           talking about there, but it's not enough to

1           stare at somebody during tough economic  
2           times because they can't flip the light  
3           switch and fix everything overnight. I'm a  
4           lot more patient than that and it disturbs  
5           me right onto the national elections I hear  
6           a lot of talk, but it's just wonderful it  
7           turns out that somebody people's wives that  
8           they have been bitching about, excuse the  
9           express, unemployment compensation and stuff  
10          their wife was elected, the candidate's wife  
11          and he is saying that it's unconstitutional  
12          to have unemployment compensation. Well,  
13          where is that going?

14                   And as far as Wal-Mart is concerned,  
15                   you see this? (Holding wallet up.) Not 10  
16                   cents has ever gone out of this to Wal-Mart.  
17                   Never will 10 cents go to -- yeah, Wal-Mart.  
18                   Not 10 cents. They cheat their employees,  
19                   they pay minimum wage, 24/7 they are going  
20                   to be open, how are in the heck do you  
21                   afford a car to drive to work up there at  
22                   seven dollars and what 20 cents an hour or  
23                   something like that? You are going to be  
24                   walking through west side, lower west side  
25                   at 4:00 in the morning when you get out of

1 work, working for minimum wage? No.

2 If Jan and I are working at the  
3 jewelry counter and I don't show up for the  
4 night shift Jan gets told to work there and  
5 her time gets cancelled out. She does not  
6 get paid overtime. She doesn't get paid the  
7 wages I would have gotten paid. There was  
8 lawsuits on that, so guess what people, we  
9 don't need a Wal-Mart in our town. Don't  
10 even bother moving here because you are not  
11 getting ten cents out of there.

12 Now, on these donations there is two  
13 bills, and they are constantly being -- by  
14 nonprofits, being introduced for the  
15 taxpayers if they are going to tell us the  
16 general state of taxpayers are going to tell  
17 us that we have to have all of these  
18 nonprofits in our town just because they  
19 sort of landed here and they grew up and  
20 they got much bigger and so forth, it's time  
21 that they start to start chip in and as long  
22 as you people stay on that case and with  
23 your representatives you are fine by me.

24 I mean, maybe we will win, we will  
25 probably lose, but you can't say you lost



1           until you didn't try, if you didn't try.  
2           This is -- it's a state constitution  
3           prevents us from taxing these people, so  
4           then let the state come up with a solution  
5           and replace some of missing money out of our  
6           budget hopefully.

7                         And now I got involved with an  
8           organization a few weeks ago it's called  
9           WFTE, we are going to be running fundraisers  
10          and so forth and I'll try to tip you people  
11          off so you can announce them, we are trying  
12          to setup a nonprofit radio station. All it  
13          will occupy is antenna and four people  
14          initially. So, you know -- but we were  
15          selling books down at the book fair  
16          Saturday, I don't know how we did, but we  
17          are working on it and there is going to be  
18          foreign language on the station and  
19          different programs and hopefully some of the  
20          young musicians and stuff will be able to  
21          make recordings and submit them and so forth  
22          and get here.

23                         Finally, well, one other mention, I  
24          mentioned last week about the hospital and  
25          \$19,000 or \$20,000 being a threshold for not

1           being covered and being covered by  
2           uncompensated medical care, well, it goes up  
3           from there and it goes up as high as \$70,000  
4           if you have five or six kids. So, you know,  
5           right there we could have somebody from  
6           Blakely with six kids coming down and his  
7           kids been injured and the hospital takes a  
8           beating they are not turning a profit, they  
9           can't pay any taxes, they can't pay any  
10          donations and, you know, people up valley,  
11          okay, thank you.

12                   MS. EVANS: Thank you?

13                   MR. DOBRZYN: Finally, one -- just a  
14                   second, the golden parrot once again goes to  
15                   US Chamber of Commerce. Now, tonight on the  
16                   news they accept foreign money and run  
17                   pacts, so they got a double bawk, bawk.

18                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19                   MR. DOBRZYN: Pretty soon we are  
20                   going to have to have a golden parrot hall  
21                   of fame because they are getting in the news  
22                   too often. Have a good night.

23                   MS. EVANS: You, too. Is there  
24                   anyone else would who cares to address  
25                   council?

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MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.

Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment Rights.  
In six weeks the 2011 city budgets will be presented to council by the administration. Time is getting closer and closer and we will see if another record budget is presented by the administration. Every budget since 2001 has been a record budget. In fact, the total of the nine previous budgets is 111 million cumulative excess, that's excess.

If the Connors' 2001 budget had been adopted over those nine years, remember, police and fire unions who have been blamed over those nine years for the city not being able to get out of the distressed label have not gotten a raise by this administration. And the police and fire budgets have remained static over the last nine years.

You also have to remember that even though the police and fire budgets have remained static, the city is at least \$300 million in long-term debt, but not to worry, our grandchildren will pay the bill. How do the fire and police get the blame for that

1 300 million? It baffles me to think that  
2 the city has been in distressed status since  
3 1992 and in that status for 19 years.

4 Nineteen years and nine of those years is  
5 under this administration. It baffles me as  
6 to why 25 million dollars in raises and new  
7 hires were given out over the last nine  
8 years while the city was in distressed  
9 status.

10 It baffles me why \$266,000 was spent  
11 on the former Casey Parkway Garage repairs  
12 only to tear it down while in the process of  
13 the repair process. It baffles me why 100  
14 city employees were forced out of their jobs  
15 with full medical and pension benefits  
16 before January 1, 2003, only to hire 100 new  
17 employees to take their place with full  
18 medical and pension benefits. Why would we  
19 put millions of dollars into Nay Aug while  
20 we were in a distressed status for the last  
21 19 years, and 1.2 million of that went into  
22 a black fish pond.

23 Why would we pay \$48,000 a year for  
24 hand scanners in city hall buildings while  
25 we are were in a distressed status for the

1 last 19 years? Why would we pay over \$4  
2 million to build a new DPW building only to  
3 sell it and lease it back? Why would we pay  
4 \$3 million for a new police building that  
5 wasn't built big enough to house all of the  
6 police units when the intention in building  
7 it was to house the entire department? Why  
8 was the paving not completed on the parking  
9 lot? Why are we paying \$4,200 a month for  
10 rent for the OECD offices that aren't  
11 located in city hall while the city has been  
12 in distressed status for the last 19 years?

13 Why were taxes raised 25 percent in  
14 2007, when 12.2 million was sitting in a --  
15 and it's my opinion, a secret bank account?  
16 And 1.6 million missing from the tax office  
17 and it appears that no one is going to make  
18 an attempt to find out where it went. Why  
19 not? Why not try to find out where it is?  
20 If it was sloppy bookkeeping, let's find it  
21 out. As long as it's missing and we turn a  
22 blind eye to it, shame on us. Our taxes go  
23 up 25 percent and we let 1.6 million go. We  
24 should be jumping up and down trying to find  
25 where that money is, it's a travesty for

1 city taxpayers. If there is a cloud of  
2 doubt, let's lift it. Budget the money or  
3 not.

4 What about \$300,000 for Christmas  
5 lights put up at Nay Aug and the electricity  
6 to light the lights, the cost of installing  
7 them and taking them down. All of the while  
8 we are distressed. Did the donations by the  
9 public pay for the costs of the purchase of  
10 the lights and utilities? I bet not enough  
11 donations were collected but yet you make  
12 children pay to swim. Don't get me wrong, I  
13 like Christmas lights, even though I have  
14 never been to Nay Aug to observe them, but I  
15 also think kids should swim free. We also  
16 failed to make our returning soldiers from  
17 Iraq whole.

18 We are facing a deficit next year,  
19 so stay strong and do what you must by  
20 adopting a 60 million budget, be strong for  
21 the people. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Ancherani. Anyone else?

24 MS. HUMPHRIES: I'd like to speak.  
25 Get with the program. Everybody's

1 nightmare, I'm here. Everyone knows me. I  
2 think I will put these on first. My name is  
3 Phyllis Bernadette Fatima Yasmine, Phyllis  
4 of Jesus and Mary, Phyllis of Jesus and  
5 Mary, a third order Carmelite.

6 Over the years everyone was upset  
7 with me for my freedom of speech, my  
8 practice of documents that was given, Burt  
9 -- and whatever. This town is corrupt.  
10 Knowing that I'm an elderly woman violated  
11 and Planned Parenthood is killing the  
12 unborn, I am a Pro-Lifer, and I'm going to  
13 straight like a good American soldier. When  
14 you are in a war and you are moving and your  
15 man goes down and you try to help if not to  
16 keep on moving on, and I am going on.

17 I have here a pile of lawsuits.  
18 They are going to first to the UN. I sent a  
19 letter to Tricky and this is what happened.  
20 I have the paper, Court order out of the  
21 Bellevue Hospital because they put like an  
22 ABP out wherever I went like a criminal, a  
23 terrorist or whatever to cover their own  
24 corrupt guilt. It's ashame. I love the  
25 marines, but Mr. West whoever you gave the

1 documents to come forward. This is going up  
2 into the international courts for what has  
3 happened here. We are supposed to protect  
4 the elderly. I'm an elderly and I wasn't  
5 protected. We are supposed to protect human  
6 beings. Human being. And this is what we  
7 get in the United States of America. This  
8 is wrong. The morality is wrong.

9 Okay, about a week ago I went to the  
10 CMC so I could sign because of HIPPA law for  
11 everybody and anybody to read whether I got  
12 a rectal examination, a vagina examination  
13 or a breast examination and that's a shame  
14 to say but that's medically wise, so that  
15 NASA and the government officials could see  
16 my documents how since the age of 60 I and  
17 numerous people were held and even at the  
18 Bellevue Hospital against their will to rip  
19 off the medical, in fact, one of the ladies,  
20 I won't say her name, she died about two  
21 week. We all put everything together and we  
22 seen actually what was going on.

23 This is wrong from the United States  
24 of America. This is wrong for humanity.  
25 All are accountable. Mayor Doherty, I



1 brought my x-rays down to him, I wanted him  
2 plus a children's -- from the 40's a  
3 classroom, you would appreciate this, chair.  
4 Because of the killing of the children in  
5 the schools and what they are teaching the  
6 children in the schools. Where is our  
7 morals in the United States of America and  
8 it says freedom for all and justice. It's  
9 been perverted.

10 I sent letters and I'm going to name  
11 them right now and they didn't do nothing.  
12 Kanjorski, Mr. Casey, Hillary Clinton, I  
13 begged and pleaded. I got the documents and  
14 the one I got turned from one place to the  
15 other, what's his name, he went from a  
16 republican to democrat? He had my  
17 documents. They knew I was raped. They  
18 knew the pillaging in my apartment to make  
19 she look crazy.

20 Well, last week was the last straw,  
21 when I went to the release my records I was  
22 hit with a 302, some of the police are  
23 afraid to say anything and they will lose  
24 their jobs. There is a lot of nice police  
25 department people here, but I am going to

1 make sure that they get taken down and the  
2 people they prosecuted they're sitting next  
3 to them for what they had did. Mr. Minora  
4 is on the District Attorney's Office, I  
5 fought the District Office in numerous  
6 cases, they didn't do nothing. Nothing.

7 My church tested everybody while I  
8 was being dragged out they wanted to see who  
9 the antichrist was. Well, there is a lost.  
10 People running are supposed to be protecting  
11 the elderly? This is a wrong, it's inhuman  
12 in the United States. But I wrote a letter  
13 to Tricky, I have facts and everything.  
14 Under the database they have me like I'm  
15 crazy. This is -- this is righteous anger,  
16 righteous anger, so here I have these Common  
17 Pleas Courts multiple, multiple, they are  
18 going to face the justice system, the right  
19 justice system. I'm telling you, you're a  
20 school teacher while you are sitting back  
21 and you knew all of this I think you are  
22 afraid of your job and afraid something is  
23 going to happen to you, too. And I don't  
24 blame you in a way because they are a  
25 raunchy, no good, you know what, criminals.

1           Criminals.

2                       So all I got to say is ring that  
3 bell for freedom, I'm going to clean up this  
4 place. This is going to be right to the UN,  
5 from the UN it's going to be sent back to  
6 here because I'm not going to put up with  
7 common district attorneys giving medical  
8 records to the District Attorney's Office  
9 that I've been raped and they sit there  
10 cluelessly not doing a thing.

11                      It's because Phyllis Bernadette  
12 Fatima Yasmine was raped by a Jewish man and  
13 it's not all the Jewish people, it's one  
14 jerk. Thank you.

15                      MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis.

16                      MS. HUMPHRIES: Thank you, and this  
17 is the breast from him. My man, I love him,  
18 and it will be never burn a religious  
19 document ever again in the City of Scranton.

20                      MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21                      MS. HUMPHRIES: God bless you. And  
22 if they turn off the wires they are going to  
23 have to answer to the secret service.

24                      MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
25 that would like to address council? Mrs.

1                   Krake?

2                   MS. KRAKE: 5-A. Motions.

3                   MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have  
4 any comments or motions at this time?

5                   MR. MCGOFF: Nothing at this time.  
6 Thank you.

7                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Joyce,  
8 do you have any comments or motions at this  
9 time.

10                  MR. JOYCE: Yes, just a few, on  
11 tonight's agenda will be voting on the  
12 receipt of two separate \$1,000 contributions  
13 to our fire and police department from  
14 Sanofi Pasteur, and also as we said earlier  
15 that we received two payments in lieu of  
16 taxes from two separate nonprofits. One of  
17 these two nonprofits, at this time I just  
18 want to thank Sanofi for the contributions  
19 to our fire and police department and also  
20 for contributions that they made in the  
21 past.

22                  Regarding other matters, as you  
23 know, we have public hearings tonight to  
24 discuss the amendment to allow for the  
25 bidding of professional services, however, I

1 just wanted to say that I'm very, very  
2 pleased that we are taking the steps  
3 necessary to put professional services out  
4 to bid. This is something that this council  
5 heavily pursued. As you recall from a  
6 previous meeting, I mentioned over \$6  
7 million between the years 2002 to 2010 have  
8 been spent in funding professional and  
9 unclassified services, which is an average  
10 of about \$672,000 a year. By passing  
11 legislation to bid out professional services  
12 we will be make being the right move.  
13 Bidding out professional services cannot  
14 only end up in a reduction of costs in the  
15 long run, but it will also give more vendors  
16 a chance to participate in the city process  
17 and it will also promote transparency. So  
18 once again, I just wanted to address how  
19 pleased I am that we are moving forward and  
20 taking these steps.

21 With that, I have a few citizens'  
22 requests: First, is dealing with Greenbush  
23 and Reese Street, and if you don't know  
24 where these two streets are they are two  
25 streets coming to and from the Career

1 Technology Center up in North Scranton. I  
2 have received several complaints from both  
3 residents and employees from Career  
4 Technology Center that the road is very torn  
5 up, there is a various potholes and that  
6 despite some efforts made to patch these in  
7 the past I think it just keeps coming apart  
8 and many of the employees and residents in  
9 this area are seeing some damage done to  
10 their cars as a result. Mrs. Krake, if you  
11 could send a letter over to Mr. Brazil  
12 asking them to address the situation, and  
13 also if you could inquire of him whether or  
14 not there are any plans to pave these two  
15 streets in the very near future. As I  
16 understand from speaking with some  
17 residents, these streets haven't been paved  
18 in yearly 30 years.

19 Also, I have been informed by a West  
20 Scranton resident that someone has  
21 inadvertently removed a condemned property  
22 sign posted on a residence at 403 North  
23 Decker Court. Mrs. Krake, if you can also  
24 send a letter over to Mr. Seitzinger to ask  
25 him to have the sign replaced, and also one

1 final -- well, one other request a South  
2 Scranton resident has informed me that the  
3 lot located at 1013 South Webster Avenue is  
4 causing various neighborhood issues. This  
5 is an abandoned lot and the resident has  
6 informed that the weeds and grass have grown  
7 so high that they are up to the next door  
8 neighbor's window just about and this is  
9 becoming a haven for various rodents, rats,  
10 possums, snakes and skunks and the resident  
11 expressed that she does have some young  
12 children and they play in the yard and, you  
13 know, if you have a backyard the last thing  
14 you want coming in your backyard near your  
15 kids is a snakes, a rat or some sort of  
16 creature to that nature, and it's very  
17 unfortunate.

18 The resident did explain that she  
19 spoke to Mr. Liptai who spoke to Mr. Oleski  
20 and said that nothing would be done with the  
21 property until next spring or possibly next  
22 summer, however, I think with the nature of  
23 this situation in that it's ongoing if we  
24 can add that to that letter Mrs. Krake and  
25 ask if something could be done about this

1 location sooner rather than later.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Joyce, I spoke to  
3 Mr. Oleski today concerning that property.

4 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

5 MR. MCGOFF: And I also visited the  
6 lady who -- the resident who sent the  
7 letter. The problem -- it is a bad sight  
8 and the explanation that I received was that  
9 they couldn't do anything with it because it  
10 was even know it was a vacant lot it was  
11 privately owned. They had sent a registered  
12 letter to the owner, that registered letter  
13 had been returned. The assumption that they  
14 were making was that the perhaps the owner  
15 was deceased and they were trying to track  
16 down who is currently responsible for that  
17 property.

18 In addition, they have not gone onto  
19 any private property this year, this summer  
20 for a number of reasons.

21 MR. JOYCE: Right. I understand.

22 MR. MCGOFF: And so Mr. Oleski  
23 indicated that he would -- he was in the  
24 process of trying to locate the owner. If  
25 they could, you know, appropriate measures



1 would be taken, if not he would look into  
2 some alternative measures.

3 In speaking with the next door  
4 resident that I received the e-mail, I also  
5 indicated to her that perhaps someone  
6 looking for some community service as  
7 Mr. Rogan had indicated last week, my  
8 grandson being one of those, that perhaps  
9 there is some way that we could address that  
10 before spring and summer set in and she  
11 seemed pleased with that resolution or, you  
12 know, up to that point.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much for  
14 the information. I actually tried to phone  
15 the person myself, but I received a  
16 voicemail, but I did correspond back and  
17 forth through the e-mail, so I'm glad that  
18 you were able to get in touch with her and  
19 get some resolution -- well, get on the path  
20 to resolution to this situation.

21 And also one last remark, a resident  
22 wanted to report that a couple of potholes  
23 that need to be filled in and he called the  
24 DPW, however, he said nothing has been done  
25 yet so if we could add this to the request

1 from Mr. Brazil. The locations are by the  
2 handicap parking meter in front of the  
3 Medical Arts Building on the corner of River  
4 Street and South Webster Avenue, the corner  
5 of Cedar Avenue and Birch Street and right  
6 by the Nativity Church on the 600 block of  
7 Orchard, and that is all for tonight.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.  
9 Mr. Rogan, any comments or motions at this  
10 time?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. Before  
12 I go into what I had prepared, as Mr. McGoff  
13 and Mr. Joyce mentioned, you know, a lot of  
14 the neighborhoods where there are properties  
15 that are abandoned, that are condemned, they  
16 are not taken care of and the city can't go,  
17 you know, do the work, but I would  
18 definitely like for next spring and summer  
19 to work with the magistrate's office, to  
20 work with the local schools for people that  
21 need community service hours and we could  
22 have some sort of program or if they are  
23 doing community service going around to  
24 these vacant lots, you know, using weed  
25 whackers and raking and cleaning them up and

1           that way we really will help the communities  
2           and help the neighborhoods look nicer and  
3           people will get community services hours as  
4           well. I know -- I'm pretty sure to graduate  
5           high school in the Scranton school  
6           district --

7           MS. EVANS: Yes.

8           MR. ROGAN: -- you need ten hours?

9           MS. EVANS: Fifteen last I heard.

10          MR. ROGAN: Fifteen hours.

11          MR. MCGOFF: Slave labor.

12          MS. EVANS: It increased.

13          MR. ROGAN: So if we can have  
14          students from the school district that would  
15          a great service to the community in cleaning  
16          up blighted neighborhoods.

17          MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add to  
18          that though, that in talks with nonprofits,  
19          Lackawanna, for example, who insisted that  
20          they are unable to make a financial  
21          contribution, but is looking to do types --  
22          various types of in-kind contributions this  
23          is one of the projects that's been presented  
24          to them and is being sent to their Board of  
25          Directors to see if their students as well

1           would be interested in a maintenance program  
2           for those types of properties throughout the  
3           city, so among all of those resources we  
4           should be able to take care of it.

5                       MR. ROGAN: Yes, that would be great  
6           and, you know, the issue of, you know, high  
7           weeds and that will pretty much be over  
8           within the next month with the cold weather  
9           coming, but come spring it comes right back.  
10          It's not something that's going to go away.  
11          And if, you know, I don't know what the  
12          school district's policy is if they need to  
13          have a supervisor, but if that's the case I  
14          would be willing to go out and help out  
15          myself.

16                       I met with Chief -- I met with the  
17          chief today, and we discussed many issues, a  
18          few of them I can't comment on publically  
19          because they are pending investigations, but  
20          one of the main ones that we have been  
21          taking about for awhile is the tent city  
22          down near in the Pinebrook neighborhood and  
23          the chief reported that he was in contact  
24          with the railroad police and they sent down  
25          officers to warn all of the homeless who are

1 camping out there. One person was arrested  
2 for a prior warrant and he mentioned if --  
3 he said that they will periodically be  
4 checking up and after they are warned when  
5 they come back if they don't leave they will  
6 arrested.

7 The sex offender checkups with the  
8 US Marshall's Office are going to continue.  
9 The last checkup all of the sex offenders in  
10 the city were in compliance and, you know,  
11 that's done through the Marshall's Office  
12 and, you know, that's something, you know,  
13 that's very important for me because I  
14 talked to many neighbors and they are  
15 concerned, you know, because the previous  
16 council did pass a law, I believe it was  
17 1999, that limited where sex offenders would  
18 live in this city and it was a law similar  
19 to one in Allegheny County that was  
20 challenged and was struck down, but these  
21 checkups are great because it let's them  
22 know that the people in the neighborhoods  
23 are watching, the police are watching, and  
24 Scranton is not a safe haven for sex  
25 offenders.

1                   Just general comments on my meeting,  
2                   Chief Duffy seemed very enthusiastic about  
3                   his position as chief. We spoke for a good  
4                   hour, hour and a half about a few issues,  
5                   some of it we had -- plan from other council  
6                   members and myself, from neighbors and  
7                   others just came up in conversation and he  
8                   really does seem to have an interest in  
9                   cracking down on crime in the neighborhoods  
10                  and I think that's exactly what we need from  
11                  the police department.

12                  And finally, I have a comment and a  
13                  few requests. It was announced that there  
14                  will be a candidate's forum with Mr. LaPolla  
15                  and Mr. Murphy, and I would hope that ECTV  
16                  would broadcast that on a regular basis so  
17                  that the voters could be informed going into  
18                  the voting booths on election day.

19                  And my two requests are, the first  
20                  one is I hope that -- I hope I don't have to  
21                  keep talking about this, the Crisp Avenue  
22                  bridge in West Side it seems again it's  
23                  stalled. Mrs. Krake, could we please get in  
24                  touch with Mr. Swanson and Ms. Aebli and see  
25                  what the status is?

1 MS. EVANS: We actually have some  
2 legislation that was sent down today by the  
3 administration and I believe it's through  
4 OECD for additional funding for the project  
5 that will be placed on our agenda next week  
6 for introduction, so the financial end of it  
7 is being addressed.

8 MR. ROGAN: Okay, that's great.

9 MS. EVANS: So we should be in good  
10 shape.

11 MR. ROGAN: So that will be in next  
12 week's agenda?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. ROGAN: Good. And the second  
15 one is the light on the corner of North  
16 Frank and Jackson Street is out. There is  
17 no number on the light pole, but it's on  
18 that corner, and that is all. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
20 evening. On Tuesday, October 12, at 5:30  
21 p.m., Scranton City Council will conduct a  
22 public caucus with Pennsylvania Economy  
23 League at it's request. Aspects of a  
24 revised Recovery Plan will be presented and  
25 discussed by PEL.

1                   Next, the Mulberry Poets and Writers  
2 Association presented a check for \$100 to  
3 the City of Scranton and Lutherwood  
4 contributed a \$6,000 check as it's payment  
5 in lieu of taxes. City council is grateful  
6 for these voluntary contributions and hopes  
7 that other tax exempt organizations will  
8 follow their example of fair share donations  
9 based on size and budgets.

10                   In addition, as a follow-up to  
11 council members discussions with local tax  
12 exempt organizations, letters were sent  
13 requesting decisions regarding monetary  
14 donations as well as community service  
15 contributions. Also, letters indicating  
16 continued interest in scheduling meetings  
17 were sent by council's office to nonprofits  
18 such as Johnson College that failed to  
19 respond to council members request for  
20 meetings. Council will update you regarding  
21 nonprofits as progress or lack thereof  
22 occurs.

23                   Finally, I must comment on an  
24 October 3 Scranton Times newspaper article  
25 regarding ECTV and city council. The



1 reporter seems to have not only a knack for  
2 omitting important facts, but also a flair  
3 for fiction. I twice told him that city  
4 solicitor Paul Kelly, representative of the  
5 administration in Comcast negotiations,  
6 stated that ECTV will pull the plug on  
7 Channels 19 and 21 by September 30 if it did  
8 not receive the money from Comcast grant.

9 Further, Council Solicitor Boyd  
10 Hughes made this statement publically in  
11 response to questions from Councilman McGoff  
12 at a recent city council meeting. Yet,  
13 Mr. Brozinski persists in writing that I  
14 came up with that idea that ECTV would pull  
15 the plug.

16 It was not my idea, my invention, or  
17 my threat, rather, it was Attorney Paul  
18 Kelly who made that statement to Attorney  
19 Boyd Hughes and Attorney Hughes informed me  
20 of that statement the same day that it was  
21 voiced. I repeated the statement to you,  
22 ladies and gentlemen, at a September city  
23 council meeting.

24 Attorney Kelly is a talented and  
25 experienced lawyer and as such I'm sure he

1 would never fabricate such a statement. Did  
2 the newspaper reporter ever ask Attorney  
3 Kelly who made that statement to him? To  
4 date, nothing was ever written that answers  
5 that question. In fact, Mr. Brozinski never  
6 even reported that Attorney Kelly made that  
7 statement.

8 The Comcast contracts and ECTV were  
9 discussed at length during the September 14  
10 city council meeting. The facts and  
11 timeline were provided, yet not a word  
12 appeared in the newspaper about it.

13 Further, Mr. Brozinski is well aware  
14 that ECTV has failed to provide financial  
15 accountability and transparency to city  
16 council and the citizenry. He heard a  
17 specific list of items at council meetings  
18 and heard me repeat the list to him by  
19 phone. This is not investigative, objective  
20 reporting, ladies and gentlemen. A  
21 newspaper has the ability to be a powerful  
22 force for good within government and  
23 society. It does so by investigating, by  
24 examining evidence, finding truth and  
25 reporting it objectively. It's not

1 satisfied merely to print he said/she said  
2 statements.

3 A successful newspaper publishes  
4 facts and supporting evidence. Slanting  
5 newspaper articles to benefit a select  
6 individuals or groups does a great  
7 disservice to the reader and mocks the  
8 mission of a once great media giant, the  
9 printed word. It is a bleak day when truth  
10 can be read mainly in obituaries and sports  
11 scores of the newspaper.

12 Unfortunately, for all of us  
13 Scrantonians, the only remedy to this malady  
14 is the type of strong, healthy competition  
15 that existed decades ago between the  
16 Scranton Tribune and the Scranton Times, a  
17 daily competition that once educated,  
18 informed and engaged readers, and that's it.

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. ACCEPTING A ONE  
20 THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION  
21 FROM SANOFI PASTEUR PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF  
22 SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE  
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
13 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND  
14 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY  
15 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO PERFORM AN ANALYSIS  
16 OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
23 wanted to say that in connection with  
24 funding from the United States Department of  
25 Housing and Urban Department for CDBG, HOME

1 and ESG programs, HUD requires that  
2 municipalities undertake fair housing  
3 planning which includes performing an  
4 analysis of impediments to fair housing  
5 choice. This contract is in the amount of  
6 \$13,850 and funding will be taken from the  
7 HOME program.

8 Finally, the city and OECD  
9 publically sought requests for proposals for  
10 awarding this contract and under no  
11 circumstances shall the city and OECD be  
12 liable to pay more than \$13,850. Community  
13 Development Services is headquartered in  
14 Maryville, Tennessee.

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

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: Sixth order. 6-A.

23 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 41,  
24 2010 – AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING THE  
25 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON,

1 PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION 6-14 CONTRACTS,  
2 SUBSECTION (C) TO PUBLICLY BID FOR  
3 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

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

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

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
15 have it and so moved.

16 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
17 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 42, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE-  
18 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY  
19 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229597 ENTITLED "POLICE, FIRE  
20 AND AMBULANCE REPORT FEES" FOR THE RECEIPT  
21 AND DISBURSEMENT OF THE REPORT FEES  
22 COLLECTED PER FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 28,  
23 2010 (AS AMENDED).

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

1 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
2 pass reading by title.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION-  
13 RESOLUTION NO. 39, 2010 - ACCEPTING A ONE  
14 THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION  
15 FROM SANOFI PASTEUR PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF  
16 SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

17 MS. EVANS: What is the  
18 recommendation of the Chair for the  
19 Committee on Finance.

20 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the  
21 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
22 passage of Item 7-A.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question? On  
25 behalf of the Scranton Fire Department and

1 City Council, we thank Sanofi Pasteur for  
2 their generous contribution in aid of our  
3 tremendous City of Scranton Fire Department.  
4 Roll call, please, Ms. Carrera.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: I would like make a  
15 motion to take Resolution No. 38-2010 from  
16 the table.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
19 believe that Mr. Rogan would like to take  
20 from the table legislation that council did  
21 table last week concerning the appointment  
22 of Mr. Teserovitch? Yes, Mr. Teserovitch,  
23 to the Ethics Commission. All those in  
24 favor signify by saying aye?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.



1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -  
7 RESOLUTION NO. 38-2010, APPOINTMENT OF GENE  
8 P. TESEROVITCH, 1514 THACKERY STREET,  
9 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER  
10 OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION. MR. TESEROVITCH  
11 WILL BE REPLACING WAYNE EVANS, WHO RESIGNED  
12 ON AUGUST 11, 2010. MR. TESEROVITCH WILL  
13 FULFILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MR. EVANS.  
14 HIS TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 12, 2013.

15 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
16 Committee on Rules, I do not recommend final  
17 passage of Item 7-B.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.  
21 Since the recommendation was "no" that means  
22 a "yes" vote is in favor of your  
23 recommendation?

24 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

25 MR. ROGAN: And a "no" vote would be

1 in favor of the appointment?

2 MS. EVANS: That's correct, and the  
3 reason that I did not provide my  
4 recommendation as Chairperson of Rules is  
5 that Mr. Teserovitch though given ample  
6 opportunity, a two-week period in which to  
7 submit his resume and cover letter to  
8 Scranton City Council, failed to do so.  
9 Roll call, please.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: No.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Here. I hereby declare  
18 that Item 7-B has not been adopted. If  
19 there is no further business, I'll entertain  
20 a motion to adjourn?

21 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

22 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
23 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER