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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here. Roll call, please
14 dispense with the read of the minutes.

15 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. NO
16 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

17 MS. EVANS: Clerk's notes, please.

18 MS. KRAKE: We received a response
19 from OECD. We received a response on
20 October 13 and per Director Aebli she said
21 she is in receipt of letters dated September
22 22, 27, 29th of 2010 requesting a breakdown
23 of program delivery costs for each grant
24 from January 2004 to October 18, 2010 and
25 the administration and planning costs for

1 letter September 30 asking if any projects
2 that were approved for funding were not
3 implemented.

4 We did not receive a response from a
5 letter sent October 1 with questions
6 concerning the 2011 proposed funding
7 applications. Are there remaining funds for
8 prior year grants for CDBG, HOME and ESG, if
9 so, what are the total dollar amounts? How
10 is the 15 percent public service amount
11 determined? How is the 20 percent
12 administration loan determined? What income
13 was realized for each grant, interest,
14 income, payments, etcetera.

15 MS. EVANS: This is causing problems
16 and delays for city council in that we asked
17 for information approximately a month ago
18 and it has not been received, and so I
19 believe representatives of council will meet
20 with Mrs. Aebli as soon as possible and in
21 addition to that, Mrs. Krake, if another
22 question could be posed at the time of this
23 business meeting what is the dollar amount,
24 if any, of UDAG funds utilized since the
25 previous report and for what purpose were

1 they used?

2 MS. KRAKE: Okay.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MS. KRAKE: We received a response
5 from Marywood University concerning payments
6 in lieu of taxes. We received a response
7 from Joseph Arvey, vice president of
8 business affairs and treasurer. He tells us
9 the University's position is that it will
10 not provide a cash payment in lieu of tax to
11 any municipality or taxing authority.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. KRAKE: We did not receive a
14 response from Director Seitzinger concerning
15 a condemned house next to the lot at the
16 intersection of Meadow Avenue and River
17 Street.

18 We did not receive a response from
19 Director Seitzinger for a request on 521
20 Maple Street, and our fifth request on
21 Meadow Avenue and River Street remains
22 unanswered. Also, our request on 403
23 Stafford Avenue also is unanswered.

24 MS. EVANS: And those will go into
25 the files --

1 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

2 MS. EVANS: -- of the appropriate
3 department heads, please.

4 MS. KRAKE: Next, we did not receive
5 a response from Director Brazil concerning
6 the streets Greenbush and Reese Streets that
7 have not paved in over 30 years.

8 We did receive 13 responses from
9 Director Brazil for a variety of letters we
10 sent over the past month and a half. If you
11 would like, I would read the responses
12 quickly?

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. Please.

14 MS. KRAKE: Okay. This is in answer
15 concerning the flap gates. He tells us when
16 the river rises these gates close to order
17 to stop the river from backing up into these
18 areas. This is the purpose residential
19 flooding will occur at these locations. I'm
20 not really sure what that means, but that's
21 how he wrote it.

22 MS. EVANS: Let's get further
23 clarification on that because it's clearly
24 ambiguous.

25 MS. KRAKE: Clogged storm drains on

1 Mulberry Street and catch basins in East
2 Mountain area he tells us these were taken
3 of on October 13.

4 He tells us he will contact the
5 contractors regarding the road conditions in
6 the 900 and 1400 blocks of South Webster
7 Avenue.

8 The cracks in the surface at 115
9 Pequest Drive will be addressed this week,
10 that being the week of October 15.

11 The potholes at various locations
12 will be addressed this week, that's the same
13 week. We had mentioned Medical Arts, the
14 handicapped parking on the corner on River
15 and South Washington and corner of Cedar and
16 Birch and the 600 block of Orchard.

17 MS. EVANS: Very good.

18 MS. KRAKE: Traffic signal at
19 Mulberry and Harrison Avenue has been fixed.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, that was fixed
21 many weeks ago and I'm sure everyone on
22 council and everyone who travels through
23 that intersection in the City of Scranton is
24 well aware that that was fixed long ago.

25 MS. KRAKE: We asked Penman and

1 O'Neill Street be paved, he tells us this
2 had been paved.

3 Replacing the sign at Cosmo
4 Iacavazzi Way, he tells us this has been
5 take care of.

6 He tells us overgrowth and garbage
7 would be referred to LIPS, License and
8 Inspections, however, we sent this letter to
9 him about the garbage that is there.

10 MS. EVANS: If we can resubmit that
11 to him so that he can respond to the DPW's
12 responsibility, and the other issues can go
13 to LIPS.

14 MS. KRAKE: We did a send a letter.

15 MS. EVANS: Very good.

16 MS. KRAKE: This is permit parking
17 signs need to be replaced. He told us that
18 was taken care of on October 4.

19 Replace the stop sign at the corner
20 of Hemlock and Stafford. He tells us this
21 is taken care of.

22 Our request that catch basins be
23 cleared of debris, he tells us they
24 continuously keep an eye on these and clean
25 the basins.

1 And finally, the dead end sign at
2 North Boulevard and Lafayette, he tells us
3 this sign was installed on October 1, 2010.

4 MS. EVANS: Very good.

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

6 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Krake, if you could
7 please reforward the requests about
8 Greenbush and Reese Street as well.

9 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

10 MR. JOYCE: Perhaps he just missed
11 that since he replied to the other requests.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Do any council members
14 have announcements at this time?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a couple.
16 The West Side Falcons are hosting a
17 Halloween bash on Friday, October 29, from
18 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. It will be a \$10
19 donation per person. That will be held at
20 Haggerty's Tavern, 421 North Main Avenue,
21 Scranton, Pa, and they said wear your
22 costumes. If you don't have one don't worry
23 about it.

24 They are also looking for volunteers
25 to help out with setting up the West Side

1 Falcons field and working the stand during
2 their playoff game that they're hosting at
3 their field on Saturday, October 23.

4 "Make a Difference Day Breakfast".
5 It will be a pancake, sausage breakfast
6 donated by Friendly's in Dunmore and it
7 benefits the St. Francis of Assissi Kitchen.
8 This will be held on October 23 from 8 a.m.
9 to 12 noon at St. Peter's Lutheran Church
10 Social Hall at Ash Street and Taylor Avenue.
11 It is handicap accessible. Tickets are \$5
12 for adults, children under three \$3 and the
13 phone number is 346-9294 or 344-2701.

14 And lastly, the Dante Literary
15 Society will hold it's annual fall rigatoni
16 and meatball dinner on Saturday, October 23
17 from 4 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The cost of the
18 dinner is \$8.50 for adults, and \$5 for
19 children under ten. The menu for the dinner
20 includes rigatoni and homemade sauce,
21 homemade meatballs, salad, bread and cake.

22 The Dante Literary Society is
23 located at 1916 Prospect Avenue and you can
24 reach them by telephone at 342-1770. They
25 hope to see everyone Saturday, October 23,

1 for a delicious meal shared with family and
2 friends, and that's all I have. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry that I was
5 not able to attend last week's meeting. I
6 would just like to offer congratulations to
7 the Steamtown Marathon Committee, Bill King,
8 Jack Marks, John McGovern, Jim Cummings, the
9 officers of the Steamtown Marathon Committee
10 and also the countless volunteers that
11 worked the race. It was a beautiful day, a
12 great race. Two records were set that day,
13 one in the women's and one in the men's
14 division. The women's division winner, if
15 you didn't read, was Heidi Peoples from
16 Scranton who took about almost five minutes
17 off of the previous record, and a great
18 race. A number of people -- a number of
19 city people qualified for the Boston
20 Marathon, so all in all it was a great race
21 and these people should be commended for the
22 great work that they do. And all of the
23 work that is done by the Steamtown committee
24 is volunteer. All of the proceeds go
25 directly to any -- any profits or any

1 proceeds go directly to St. Joseph's
2 Children's Hospital. I was at the dinner
3 prior to the race and they presented a check
4 for I think it was \$26,000 to St. Joseph's.
5 So, again, congratulations to those people,
6 and that's all.

7 MS. EVANS: Does anyone else have
8 announcements?

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Scranton School
10 Director Patrick O'Malley will be having his
11 tenth annual Halloween party for children
12 from grades preschool through fifth grade
13 this Sunday from 1 to 3 at McDade Park.
14 Festivities include food, candy and pictures
15 with the Wicked Witch of the West. To
16 attend this event please RSVP by calling
17 346-1828 and they ask that you leave a
18 message specifying the number of children
19 you will be bringing, and that's all.

20 MS. EVANS: Prior to this evening's
21 council meeting, a public caucus had been
22 scheduled with Mr. Robert Markowski,
23 director of facilities management of
24 Community Medical Center in Scranton to
25 discuss permanent parking arrangements on

1 public streets surrounding CMC.

2 Mr. Markowski did not appear for that public
3 caucus and because of the schedule of
4 Scranton City Council over the next two
5 months it will be unable to reschedule with
6 Mr. Markowski until the new year.

7 The Scranton/Lackawanna Taxpayers'
8 Association will host a 115th Legislative
9 District Candidate's Forum this Thursday,
10 October 21st at 6:00 p.m. in Scranton City
11 Council chambers. Incumbent Representative
12 Edward Staback and challenger Theresa Kane
13 will attend. Tune into Channels 19 and 21
14 for future broadcasts of this forum prior to
15 November 2, general election day.

16 The Deutsch Institute will host it's
17 annual celebrity champagne brunch on Sunday,
18 November 14, 2010, at St. Mary's Center in
19 Scranton from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are
20 \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and
21 under, and free for children five and under.
22 Tickets are available at the door and checks
23 may be made payable to the Deutsch Institute
24 Foundation.

25 The Scranton-Wilkes-Barre affiliate

1 of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network will
2 hold it's "Cheers to a Cure" fundraiser on
3 Saturday, November 13,2010, at Whistle's Pub
4 and Eatery in Scranton beginning at 6 p.m.
5 Tickets are \$25 and are available at the
6 door or in advance by calling Taran Jones at
7 570-498-9488. "Cheers to a Cure" is an
8 evening filled with live music, food,
9 drinks, basket raffles, prizes and a silent
10 auction. Proceeds will benefit pancreatic
11 cancer research and awareness, and that's
12 it.

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

15 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
16 evening is Bob Martin.

17 MR. MARTIN: Good evening, Council.
18 Bob Martin, president of the FOP, taxpayer.
19 I come tonight just to inform council and
20 the taxpayers, especially in view of our
21 caucus this last week that we attended with
22 PEL and listened to their presentation, I
23 would just like to say the next day, the
24 following day on Wednesday, the 13th, we won
25 another grievance arbitration which involved

1 the SIT clerks. If you remember the SIT
2 clerks -- now, don't confuse us, there is a
3 lot of things flying around out there.
4 There is one SIT clerk that's sitting on the
5 Labor Board, before the Labor Board awaiting
6 a decision. This was the arbitrator's
7 decision on our grievance of the two SIT
8 clerk positions that were cut from the 2010
9 budget, and the arbitrator ruled in favor of
10 the union and said that these positions need
11 to be reinstated. And basically, the city
12 the administration has done that when we
13 filed for arbitration they took the steps to
14 immediately -- they hired those individuals
15 and put them back in place.

16 The impact in terms of the financial
17 shouldn't be that significant, I mean, even
18 though any -- at this point as far as I'm
19 concerned any financial impact is
20 significant to the taxpayers of Scranton,
21 especially giving the lengthy of the
22 litigation that we have been in for the last
23 nine years. It just keep mounting and
24 mounting and mounting and I don't have any
25 idea what the intentions. I wanted all

1 week, I didn't hear anything from any of
2 the -- from the city, it wasn't in the
3 newspaper, I don't know if no one has picked
4 up on it or not.

5 I feel obligated to keep everybody
6 informed, especially as this culminates
7 towards the Supreme Court on November 30
8 and, of course, with our caucus with PEL, so
9 with that, you know, even the city at this
10 point, even though they replaced those
11 individuals we still have some -- we still
12 have some issues with the fact that they are
13 not utilizing them properly. Those
14 positions are SIT, which is the strategic
15 implementation team, were put in there to
16 replace the 17 officers that we gave up on
17 the contract years ago, and they were put in
18 there to do their duties of making the
19 reports, typing the reports and putting them
20 out and the city just put them in there and
21 they are actually performing other work, so
22 I just wanted to inform you that there may
23 be additional litigation.

24 I spoke to Chief Duffy this
25 afternoon and he was interested in sitting

1 down, he and I will discuss that, but where
2 we go from there. He is down there, I give
3 him a lot of credit, he is doing a really
4 good job, he is working hard. He has been
5 dealt an awful hand to deal with it, but he
6 is dealing with it as best as he can.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. Martin, if I could
8 ask you a quick question, please. Could you
9 tell me what is the number, if any, of
10 retirement or resignations in the police
11 department in the last year?

12 MR. MARTIN: Combined retirements
13 and resignations in the last year?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. MARTIN: I'm not really sure.
16 Probably I would have to guess probably four
17 or five. So, I mean, we are down in numbers
18 significantly in those terms, and we met
19 this afternoon, our bid board will be posted
20 November 15, it's posted annually, and we
21 have had two meetings with the chief and, as
22 I said, he is doing the best he can with
23 what he is dealt with.

24 We sat down and he is trying to
25 shift manpower around. We are extremely

1 short. We have -- we are short at least
2 six. I have asked him about the COM-D
3 positions if he could consider putting those
4 up as we did with the previous agreement
5 with Chief Elliott and he said that he would
6 and we would consider that anyway. I didn't
7 get any definitive answers, again, they're
8 dealing with a lot of issues, and again, you
9 know, at that meeting the FOP protested the
10 bid board for 20111 because we are
11 significantly short personnel.

12 And we did it based on that and
13 based on the fact for of the 2008
14 arbitration award that came down. We
15 aggrieved it that way, and I just wanted to
16 reiterate there are protests.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Martin, would you
18 per chance know when the Civil Service
19 Police test will be given?

20 MR. MARTIN: The previous meeting
21 today on the bid board with Chief Duffy he
22 indicated to us that he was sending a
23 remember to the Civil Service requesting
24 that a corporal's exam be given and also an
25 entrance exam be given and I think he

1 mentioned this afternoon that he had done
2 that, and I'm not sure what the response
3 was, but he had done that.

4 MS. EVANS: Okay. I would imagine
5 that letter would have been sent to very
6 likely the mayor and the Civil Service
7 Commission, but it is an issue that council
8 has been following and asking about since
9 early summer and we have been stonewalled on
10 an answer up to this point.

11 MR. MARTIN: Well, I can say that he
12 may -- he told me this afternoon, I believe
13 it was mentioned at this meeting, that he
14 made the request and where it goes from
15 there I don't know.

16 MS. EVANS: Very good. And that
17 does not -- I should clarify, that does not
18 include Chief Duffy, but in terms of the
19 Civil Service Commission and the
20 administration we have been stonewalled.

21 MR. MARTIN: We are basically six
22 officers short just on a regular roster in
23 terms of overall manpower and, of course,
24 we're short the COM-D positions, also, as
25 well. I mean, those are very significant

1 psychological and all of those testing they
2 have to go through and then, of course,
3 ultimately there's a background
4 investigation that's completed. Once that's
5 completed then, of course, if the officers
6 are -- the individuals or the candidates
7 have been hired are they Act 120
8 certificate, if they are not Act 120
9 certified then the city is obligated to send
10 them to Act 120 certification, and that
11 takes six months in itself, and depending
12 upon how that comes out and what officers we
13 have at the end of that, that's when they
14 would be hired.

15 I mean, my best guess would be, look
16 and see, we are at the end of the October,
17 the time the process went through we are
18 looking into early spring, April, May. It's
19 a possibility that some of those officers
20 could really hit the street and be put to
21 work.

22 MS. EVANS: And if the test had been
23 administered in September, as council had
24 hoped, we could have had these officers on
25 the street in the beginning of the new year?

1 MR. MARTIN: Yes. That's possible.
2 You know, if it had been moved up, but I
3 know that I believe that the request was
4 made. I don't know where it went from
5 there. That's all.

6 MS. EVANS: No where.

7 MR. MARTIN: Well, I don't know.
8 The request was made today or at least last
9 week it was indicated to me. Which again,
10 we are trying to deal with extreme shortages
11 in terms of personnel and we allowed
12 shifting -- our contract, you know, says
13 that there are only so many officers to be
14 on each shift and there has been shifting of
15 personnel to address the peak hours.

16 MS. EVANS: Well, I am pleased to
17 know, thank you, that the new police chief
18 has made that request for the testing.
19 That's certainly good news for all of us.

20 MR. MARTIN: That he has. That's
21 basically all I have, you know, in light of
22 the two arbitrations that they spoke about
23 last week at the caucuses that, you know,
24 they went to Common Pleas Court, Common Plea
25 Court refused to vacate the order, the

1 arbitration award so, again, everyone knows,
2 and again, these arbitrations that keep
3 adding up and adding up and I am just -- I
4 am so afraid what's going to happen with the
5 Supreme Court in terms of the taxpayers in
6 the City of Scranton. They are going to
7 bear the burden and it's going to be an
8 unbearable burden, and it doesn't even have
9 to be a total loss for the city.

10 I mean, if we even come out of that
11 with some of the -- some of the things and I
12 just see a prudent Court looking at some of
13 the things that this administration and PEL
14 and DCED are looking to achieve, I just
15 don't see a prudent Court approving all of
16 that. You know, I could be wrong. Our
17 losses won't be near as dear as it will be
18 to the taxpayers because, I mean, the
19 backpay, the backpay arbitration the briefs
20 were due, I had my phone went off the other
21 day I believe they were due like on the 6th
22 of October. So, you know, sometime in the
23 30 day, 45-day period from the 6th of
24 October we are going to be looking at a
25 decision from the arbitrator on the 2006,

1 2007 backpay which in those just initial
2 numbers for police and police only were
3 close to \$3 million.

4 And I don't know that -- I didn't
5 see any provisions at all from PEL about any
6 of these things, whether they are small,
7 big, large or in the middle. There was no
8 provisions that I saw that they presented
9 that if they -- I mean, they just -- nobody
10 is --nobody is looking at the consequence of
11 this if there is failure, nobody is looking
12 at the overall picture, you know, and that's
13 my question. What if? If this
14 administration fails even on the small scale
15 in the Supreme Court where is the provisions
16 and where is this money going to come from?

17 MS. EVANS: Well, that's why I
18 believe it is best to postpone the revised
19 Recovery Plan until we have those answers
20 because the impact, as you stated, will be
21 highly significant. I posed the questions
22 regarding the number of returns and
23 resignations to you because it's my
24 understanding that between those numbers
25 within the police department and additional

1 numbers that are even higher within the fire
2 department for 2010, those numbers -- well,
3 actually, numbers that appeared in the 2010
4 budget were used for PEL's projections and
5 it turns out those numbers are inaccurate
6 because they did not take into account the
7 retirements, resignations, etcetera, that
8 occurred in 2010. So, you know, at this
9 point in time those figures themselves
10 aren't even accurate.

11 MR. MARTIN: And that said, we are
12 already six officers overall short and, of
13 course, PEL's proposal was to -- five more.
14 I'm telling you, it's an awful struggle on
15 the shifts to get everybody out there on the
16 street to keep all of these basis covered.
17 I mean, it gets harder and harder every day.
18 If you could attend some of these meetings
19 that we this afternoon, you know, the shift
20 commanders they are struggling to get
21 manpower and, I mean, the calls just keep
22 coming. It's like shoveling water out of
23 the ocean, and we have to have the proper
24 manpower to sustain what we are sustaining
25 now.

1 I mean, it's in the front page news
2 Chief Duffy has rightfully so targeted to go
3 after some of these problems areas and, of
4 course, it is drugs and, I mean, that's
5 tough to target and it's a tough fight and
6 it can't be done with just a few people, it
7 has to be done organized and with enough
8 people to do it safely.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes, I agree. Thank
10 you, Mr. Martin.

11 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Krake, based on
13 what Mr. Martin has said, I was wondering if
14 we can send a letter to the Civil Service
15 Commission and the mayor based on the latest
16 information to respond as to the request of
17 the police chief and when they are going to
18 be giving these Civil Service Exams to let
19 us know at their earliest convenience.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Jean
22 Suetta.

23 MS. SUETTA: How you are doing?
24 Jean Suetta, Scranton, Pennsylvania. I'm
25 here.

1 MS. EVANS: Welcome.

2 MS. SUETTA: You know, I died and
3 almost went to hell. The devil and God had
4 a little party there and the devils says you
5 can't come down here because he didn't want
6 no competition. My God said my work isn't
7 finished on earth, so when are we going to
8 get the Lace Works cleaned up?

9 MS. EVANS: We can look into that
10 for you. I think right now --

11 MS. SUETTA: They are going to
12 dedicate this flood thing and you got that
13 jungle over there.

14 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree. I agree.
15 I think the project at the Lace Works is
16 currently on hold, however, because the city
17 could not -- or the city would not release
18 funds for that particular project until the
19 completion of the flood project and since I
20 know it's close to closure, but we haven't
21 reached that stage yet. There really hasn't
22 been any movement on that renovations of the
23 Lace Works, but I think what I hear you
24 asking me for would be a clean up?

25 MS. SUETTA: Yeah, why can't we take

1 the guys from the jail, they will go up and
2 clean it just to get out and get fresh air.
3 They have crews like that. It ain't going
4 to cost the city nothing. Get the county,
5 you know, the rapists, the murderers, I
6 don't give a shit, just clean it up. Why
7 not? They work at the recycling place. Why
8 can't they come out and clean the Lace Works
9 up?

10 MS. EVANS: Well, I would imagine
11 that the county would have to become
12 involved in any type of arrangement like
13 that, we don't oversee the county prison.

14 MS. SUETTA: I don't care who gets
15 involved. I'm sick at looking at the jungle
16 now that I'm better, you know?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes.

18 MS. SUETTA: I want to thank my
19 friend Sue Healey for getting me to the
20 hospital when she did or I would have been
21 dead four hours, a great thanks. And Dee
22 Gavin for taking my dogs and Joe Lucas for
23 letting them out and Bob Gavern and Bev for
24 watching my house while I was in the
25 hospital. And they got wienerschnitzel up

1 at Cooper's, I had lunch with Jack this
2 afternoon. And Greenbush and Reese, those
3 streets are like Ho Chi Minh. They are
4 worse than Albright Avenue and that's pretty
5 bad.

6 MR. JOYCE: I agree with you. I
7 have heard various complaints from residents
8 and also employees that at the Career
9 Technology Center about those streets
10 countless times other and over.

11 MS. SUETTA: Well, my friend lives
12 on Reese and she has a disabled boy and she
13 as a hard time going up and down the street.
14 They haven't been paved since Moby Dick was
15 a minnow. Anything else? I'm in an
16 argumentive mood.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks for dessert
18 today. Jean bought me dessert at Simon's on
19 Market Street.

20 MS. SUETTA: You got to go to
21 Simons. They have the best food.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Jean.

23 MS. SUETTA: No problem.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's why she
25 mentioned the wienerschnizel because we were

1 talking about it.

2 MS. EVANS: Oh, I see.

3 MS. SUETTA: And coming down I seen
4 they have it Cooper's. I got watch they're
5 going to be dinging and dinging me over
6 there. Thanks everybody that prayed for me.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes. All of us did.

8 MS. SUETTA: And good thanks to
9 Julie Yevitch, too. All right, I'm done.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MS. SUETTA: Lace Works. Prisoners.

12 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, if we could
13 send a letter to the DPW asking them for a
14 cleanup of the area surrounding the old Lace
15 Works. Thank you. Next speaker is Les
16 Spindler.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
18 Council, Les Spindler, city resident,
19 homeowner and taxpayer.

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Last Thursday on
22 Channel 16 news they talked about
23 Wilkes-Barre mayor Tom Layton presenting his
24 2011 budget which included no tax hikes, no
25 layoffs, and just recently they hired six

1 police officers, new police officers.
2 Meanwhile, PEL wants the City of Scranton to
3 layoff police officers, layoff firefighters,
4 layoff DPW workers, hit us with a 21 percent
5 tax hike, raise the garbage fee, raise the
6 parking fees, all I hear is how bad off
7 Wilkes-Barre is they are much worse than us.
8 From the facts I just stated, it sure
9 doesn't sound like that. Maybe we could
10 switch mayors and get Tom Layton to come up
11 and run our city and Wilkes-Barre hasn't
12 been distressed for 18 years.

13 Moving on, the corner of Lackawanna
14 Avenue and Seventh Avenue coming over the
15 West Lackawanna Avenue bridge into the city,
16 I was wondering if council could look
17 whoever it would be, I don't know if that's
18 city or PennDOT, putting a traffic light up
19 there with a left-turn signal. I was at
20 that light last week, there was five or six
21 cars in front of me and it took four light
22 changes until I was able to make a left
23 turn. It's impossible to make a left turn
24 coming into the City from West Scranton on
25 that bridge, and I think it would be a great

1 thing because traffic gets backed all the
2 way up over that bridge. It's terrible. I
3 think that definitely needs a left-turn
4 arrow.

5 MS. EVANS: If you can provide that
6 information.

7 MR. SPINDLER: I have written.

8 MS. EVANS: Very good.

9 MR. SPINDLER: I got to get my
10 glasses on, I can't read my own writing. A
11 few months ago there was a gentleman here,
12 he lives on the 500 block of Quincy, and he
13 asked about a permit parking sign. I bumped
14 into him today and he said it was supposed
15 to have been put in two weeks ago and it
16 wasn't put in yet. He asked me to mention
17 that tonight.

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

19 MR. SPINDLER: Does anybody know
20 what's being built on the 300 block of
21 Franklin Avenue, it used to be the old
22 Holiday Manor? Something is being built
23 there. It's not very important, but --

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: As far as I know it's
25 something to do with the Tobyhanna Army

1 Depot bank or credit union.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, okay. Thank you.
3 At least something is being built not
4 another hole in the ground.

5 Okay, a few weeks ago, there was a
6 new dog park opened in the Abingtons, the
7 cost of that dog park was \$7,000. It's one
8 acre. Our dog park in South Side was
9 \$350,000. How do you have such a disparity?
10 I think something made a lot of money on
11 this deal. A \$7,000 dog park compared to
12 \$350,000. Something wrong with this
13 picture.

14 That's about all I have to say, but
15 while I have some more time I would like to
16 give a little plug to the West Scranton
17 football team. I'm going to steal Chrissy's
18 thunder tonight. There's a huge game Friday
19 at Memorial Stadium, they are playing
20 Abington Heights. They are both undefeated
21 in the conference and the winner of that
22 game will have a leg up on winning that
23 conference, so I want to ask all my fellow
24 West Siders to show up at that game and
25 let's pack Memorial Stadium and root the

1 Invaders onto victory.

2 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. West is
3 best. Thank you, Mr. Spindler. Is there
4 anyone else who cares to address city
5 council?

6 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
7 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10 MR. BOLUS: You know, it's kind of
11 sad to hear the police department tonight
12 about issues that are going on, but what is
13 more disappointing to me today was seeing
14 the news about the big drug busts the
15 Attorney General just brought out. These
16 drugs have been going into the street for
17 three, four years, millions and millions of
18 dollars. My question to the AG,
19 Mr. Corbett, is why did you wait this long
20 to take the drugs off the street? How many
21 families have been destroyed for political
22 reasons that two weeks before a campaign you
23 come forward and announce this major drug
24 bust that you have known about for three
25 years out of Newark, everywhere else.

1 Credit cards have been stolen, families have
2 been destroyed, God knows how many thefts
3 the Scranton Police Department had to deal
4 with and other issues related to these
5 drugs. Why didn't they take them off the
6 street two years ago. You are looking for
7 the big fish.

8 Come on, let's get realistic. This
9 is the real world. The people they took off
10 the street today will be replaced by the
11 same clowns tomorrow. It's not changing.
12 Why do we have politicians wait until the
13 last minute to say they are doing so much
14 for us people when it's only for their own
15 sole benefit. That's disturbing to know how
16 many kids, babies, their lives have been
17 destroyed by deformities and other medical
18 issues because Tom Corbett let the drugs
19 stay on the street or other police agencies
20 let these drugs stay on the street. And I
21 would hope people really take a hard look at
22 who should run the state and the real reason
23 they should run it, and that's for the
24 people not for themselves.

25 You know, we listened to the

1 hospital about the hospitals. We listened
2 to about the way medicine has changed and
3 the government and stuff, but the real issue
4 here is fiscal mismanagement. We had the
5 West Side hospital, many of you may remember
6 in the City of Scranton. It closed. The
7 sanitarium, it closed. We have hospitals
8 that have had problems, they're tax exempt,
9 they have all of the free rides, they get
10 grants, they get all kind of money from
11 donations and everywhere else and they can't
12 make it. You go an ER and your arm is
13 hanging off, remember, your head is laying
14 on the other stretcher, they still want to
15 know what insurance you have before they
16 even put you in the room. They are
17 guaranteed their money no mater where it
18 comes from.

19 We in the business community have to
20 go out and make things happen. You do in
21 your own homes. You don't have grants or
22 people donating to you every day. Why are
23 they sitting here crying and blaming the
24 economy and everything else for their own
25 mismanagement, especially the Catholic

1 hospitals.

2 If you recall, I came in here and
3 purchased the Holy Cross church for \$35,000.
4 They are giving this away, the complex over
5 there for \$3. That's mismanagement of
6 funds, mismanagement of assets and that's
7 happening in these hospitals. The whole
8 organization whether it's Catholic or it's
9 civil is mismanaging the funds. It's all of
10 the people at the top that are making
11 hundreds of thousands of dollars and
12 forgetting about the worker bees at the
13 bottom that really make the money happen,
14 and that's why they are broke, that's why
15 they are in trouble, and I don't think
16 people should feel sympathy for them, they
17 should go make the changes that are
18 necessary like Tobyhanna just did. The
19 works is slowing down 150 people take a
20 hike.

21 Businesses merge every day, read the
22 Wall Street Journal and pay attention to the
23 real community out there. There is merges
24 of a daily basis. What changes for the
25 hospitals? Not a darn thing, but their

1 mismanagement of funds and they can't come
2 here crying, they are getting their free
3 ride.

4 Just like the University, they are a
5 free ride, but they need more money they
6 raise tuition. They are getting everything
7 they need, it's for free.

8 Which brings up another issue, I was
9 in Philadelphia last week and I met with an
10 attorney down there and I brought out the
11 issue of what's going on here in the city
12 and other cities with KOZ's and nonprofits
13 and how do you resolve the problem? Well,
14 this attorney has been involved in solving
15 problems, and I came here before council
16 tonight to tell you that there is a hope out
17 there and there is a crusader who is not
18 motivated by Scranton politics, he is not
19 controlled buy Scranton politics or any
20 other politics and would be willing to come
21 and sit with this council if you are
22 interested in him coming up here, and if you
23 are that's why I came here tonight, tomorrow
24 I can supply the phone number and the
25 attorney's name and you can make that

1 decision. From what I gained from him, I
2 think it would in our best interest to have
3 them come here, whatever it costs to bring
4 him here and listen to what he has to say,
5 because he was a well of information and I
6 believe he may be the path that we need to
7 take to resolve our issues in this city once
8 and for all.

9 We've harped about KOZ's, we've
10 harped about nonprofits, and they just thumb
11 their nose at us. Well, I think we could
12 end that now or it's going to be the other
13 way around where we don't have to worry
14 about where our money is coming from or are
15 they going to pay their fair, it's time.
16 It's been long overdue.

17 And I think candidates that are all
18 running, whether it's in Scranton or any
19 other township or municipality should go
20 before the councils. Stop telling people
21 want you think you are going to do or you
22 are going to come up with this fabricated
23 idea how are you going to change the world,
24 you are only one person. Go there and talk
25 to the councils, ask them what they think a

1 representative or a congressman or anybody
2 else should do to help the people in this
3 community. That's where they need to go to
4 get their information. Not out of a Cracker
5 Jack box and think people are just going to
6 believe what comes out of their mouth. It's
7 not going to happen. You need to come to
8 the people and let the people tell you what
9 their problems are and then go do something
10 about it if you want to a political official
11 or whatever it is and represent the people.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.
14 Does anyone else care to address council?

15 MS. HUMPHRIES: Thank you for these
16 papers. I am a citizen of Scranton and
17 citizens of the United States. You don't
18 know if they are going to shoot you here
19 with hugs and kisses. My name is Phyllis
20 Bernadette Fatima Yasmin Humphries, third
21 order of Jesus and Mary called Israel, too.
22 Last week when I spoke it's true what he
23 said, congratulations for wherever he is
24 here, he is a wonderful speaker, he should
25 be running the place here, I thank you so

1 much for bringing these to me because I am
2 of an eighth grade education, but I am
3 gifted. It says the word "citizen" it
4 doesn't say "citizen of Scranton."

5 I'm a United States citizen. I'm a
6 survivor of violent abuses especially in the
7 City of Scranton. One of the things comes
8 out and says do not insult. If I ever
9 insulted you in any way I apologize, but I
10 have invited everyone to my house, even
11 previous council, to sit rationally as a
12 human with blood running through your veins
13 and your heart to sit and talk to me to see
14 what's really going on. I have been
15 exonerated from a mental disorder, but I'm
16 posttraumatic. What I have to say is I have
17 to weed everybody out in the political arena
18 after September 11 because I was entrusting
19 my country and numerous people to get the
20 people out of the buildings, I'm not a
21 terrorist, I'm gifted.

22 In the process they waterlogged me
23 mentally, about two weeks ago I went to get
24 my papers released for the citizens of the
25 City of Scranton and government officials

1 and church which would invade my privacy,
2 but I don't care because I have don't have
3 nothing to hide. When I got there, I'm
4 handicapped, the places were blocked, the
5 cars --only one veteran's thing is on the
6 car at the CMC Hospital, and I sat for two
7 hours with my sister's car which she needed
8 and I had my brother's walker in the car, he
9 is disabled.

10 So when I went in there was nobody
11 to avail to check anything, but then they
12 all flew out around me, they were probably
13 at Dunkin Donuts or something, God only
14 knows what in the emergency room, and the
15 next thing I know I asked them to get an
16 administrator come so I could speak because
17 she doesn't have eyes all over her body and
18 she doesn't know what's going on through my
19 life and what I know what has happened to
20 numerous people, not only me, to speak for
21 these people.

22 The next thing you see is the
23 security guards coming. They hold me in
24 Room 29. They wouldn't let me get my food
25 out in the car, I'm a diabetic, for eight or

1 nine hours. In the meantime my brother went
2 to another hospital. I finally got -- they
3 called the Scranton Counseling Center, which
4 I'm suing them, the guy was Russian Orthodox
5 and laughing, but then somebody expected me
6 to shut down silently, I will never shout
7 down silently when they have done something
8 to me that's bad and to other people.

9 By the time I got out of there
10 Dr. DeNaples was there, he didn't even know
11 what was going on. I think they are trying
12 blackball Dr. DeNaples to tell you the
13 honest to God's truth. Did DeNaples asked
14 me, he said, "Why don't they give you when
15 you want the medical records?"

16 And he was like confused with the
17 situation, so he said, well, Scranton
18 Counseling Center is going to come and they
19 got you on a 302. Well, guess what, I
20 evaluated everything. I'm the big
21 investigator, they called me the female Dick
22 Tracy. There was no Court order, there was
23 nothing from any of the District Attorney's
24 Offices, I was held against my will because
25 the Virgin Mother appears to me, she is

1 imprinted in my x-rays that exonerates me
2 anything, I think that what they really
3 should do, I went to the DA's Office today I
4 wanted to get PFA's, it's like a joke,
5 right?

6 In the process of I was sent from
7 one place to another, I don't want to tell
8 you. I met a beautiful -- where I live the
9 Dickson City is the most a beautiful people
10 there that are my kind of people, not saying
11 nothing of the City of Scranton and insult,
12 but you know and I know what's going on.
13 They are supposed to investigate the
14 buildings. There is people dying, there is
15 fungus and mold, I brought the documents
16 down to Mayor Doherty. In all of my
17 striving I always say and my mother would
18 always say, "Keep on going and forgive no
19 matter what."

20 Well, you find out your family are
21 your enemies, you found out your neighbors
22 are your enemies and you find out the
23 government is your enemies. I have actually
24 went up, and everyone that I sent papers to
25 even with President Bush and when the Air

1 Force One came and when I told them what had
2 to be done and I showed them my medical
3 records I was escorted by eight military
4 police to Mulberry Towers. A letter was
5 sent to President Bush, and I got a
6 beautiful letter back, then the second one I
7 show revealed I wasn't crazy.

8 What happened there was I did a
9 whole history of my life from 16 on, what
10 transpired with me. I have been a victim of
11 the government, I feel as a manipulative, as
12 a rat in a maze because the gifts I have as
13 God again the people that I know that are
14 running the country and the town are going
15 to be exposed. It's two weeks before, I am
16 not a vengeful person, but I think when you
17 put your hand on the Bible, Koran, whatever
18 you want to call it and you are taking a
19 stand as like a parent to us, to protect us,
20 to do well for our country, you better
21 believe you should walk straight, hold your
22 head up high and pray to whoever your God
23 its and abide by the commandments of the
24 God.

25 God has been trying to be taken out

1 of our church, our country, it's
2 communistic. I was supposed to go to one
3 more place today, but you know what? I gave
4 up. I gave up. I called Interpol and I
5 told them everything and you know what they
6 told me? Leave the country, which would be
7 possibly treason, leave the country and file
8 suit against your own country, which I will
9 die for my country.

10 So I would like invite you to people
11 to make a date, me come back with 13 books
12 this high, look at my records and I want
13 you, Mrs. Evans, as the lady here,
14 publically, which is a verbal contract, send
15 a letter to these places. Clarks Summit
16 State Hospital --

17 MS. EVANS: Phyllis.

18 MS. HUMPHRIES: CMC Hospital, Moses
19 Taylor Hospital, Bellevue Hospital, Court
20 ordered out by a judge with paper I have
21 that they should never, ever put me in a
22 hospital again. This is never going to
23 happen again. There is people that are in
24 these places and they being held for their
25 own --

1 MS. EVANS: Phyllis?

2 MS. HUMPHRIES: It's wrong.

3 MS. EVANS: Phyllis -- thank you.

4 MS. HUMPHRIES: And I loves you all
5 and that's the way it's done. Please do
6 what you could. I'm giving you full force,
7 Mrs. Evans, and this city to get my records
8 released, get them out here and I'm going to
9 get to Turkey here to stuff and you are
10 going see what's really going on. It's got
11 to end in morality, rapes, attacks and
12 corruption.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis.

14 MS. HUMPHRIES: God bless ya, and
15 thank you. Thank you for the paper.
16 Citizen. I'm an American citizen. Remember
17 that.

18 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
19 cares to address council? Could.

20 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
21 Dave Dobrzyn --

22 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: -- resident of
24 Scranton. Last week I heard something about
25 parking permits. Did that have anything to

1 do with the people who live in neighborhoods
2 in front of my house or your house or with
3 PEL?

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: At the PEL meeting?

5 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. I didn't fully
6 understand that. I was curious about that.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I didn't get all of
8 details on that aspect of it at the meeting.
9 I don't know.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay, I'll keep it in
11 mind and try to find out about it. I'd just
12 like to say that their attitude was totally
13 unacceptable and with --

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: If you are talking --
15 I'm sorry to interrupt you, if you are
16 talking about where they said \$15 parking
17 fee or something I believe that was the rate
18 now there's a fee per parking in parking
19 with the parking garages have to pay the
20 city.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Oh, I see.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe they are
23 looking at increasing that. That's what I
24 understood from that if that's what you are
25 saying. Sorry.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. That's
2 comforting at least. Their proposed tax
3 increases are crazy and you can't have all
4 of these bills going up 10 percent every
5 year, it just can't go on. So many people
6 are losing their jobs due to trade packs and
7 stuff that's -- as far as I'm concerned
8 that's the biggest problem in the country
9 and it's a national problem and it's not for
10 here, but therein again, all politics aren't
11 local.

12 I was thinking when Sergeant Martin
13 was talking, what's the worst case -- does
14 anybody know what the worst case scenario
15 would be and probably changes every couple
16 of months, but for the fire and if they won
17 every arbitration and on these raises and so
18 forth, what would be the worse case, is it
19 like \$5 million, \$10 million or \$3 million
20 or --

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't think we have
22 a final number. It's still tough to
23 determine, but 00.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: It grows every --

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: You're probably

1 looking at 4 to 5 million dollars.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, it grows every
3 year. I was interested in maybe somebody
4 could -- or the unions could sit down with
5 the calculator and figure out what's going
6 on so we don't get hit surprise, surprise.
7 We are talking about a 10 percent now we
8 need a 20 just for -- okay, I'm going to
9 keep it short tonight. A little advice with
10 voting, follow the money, vote for the guy
11 with the most attack ads against him and you
12 can't go wrong because you know he is
13 rubbing somebody the wrong way. Have a good
14 night.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: No award tonight,
16 Dave?

17 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
18 would like to address council?

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Oh, the Golden Parrot.

20 MR. JOYCE: Prior to that,
21 Mrs. Krake.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: We have a lot of
23 senators that are criticizing the stimulus,
24 but they are passing it out amongst their
25 peers and stuff and one or the other,

1 please. They get the golden parrot. Bawk,
2 bawk, please.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks. I'm sorry.

4 MR. JOYCE: That's okay, I'll save
5 it for Fifth Order.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
7 Council, Marie Schumacher.

8 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: I guess I have a
10 lot of little things tonight so I'm going to
11 start with the drugs as well because I
12 cannot understand how much -- I do
13 understand that there has to be a long
14 period of surveillance before an arrests is
15 made, therefore, we know that the police
16 also know who the buyers are. If there were
17 no buyers there would be no sellers and I
18 don't know is it city policy that we don't
19 arrest drug buyers, just sellers? I
20 really -- I think that has to change. We
21 have got to start arresting and pushing the
22 buyers as well as the sellers.

23 MR. ROGAN: I agree with you 100
24 percent, Mrs. Schumacher. You mentioned
25 this when -- probably about three or four

1 months ago and now that we have a new chief
2 maybe that will change, and I will bring
3 that up.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

5 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I certainly hope
7 so. Then I guess I didn't here anything
8 tonight, no response yet from the legal
9 department on the BRT Ice contract with
10 substantiating data?

11 MS. KRAKE: No.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Any
13 action on the capital revised budget?

14 MR. JOYCE: No, not at this time. I
15 was actually going to bring that up later as
16 well.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: A couple of weeks
18 ago I suggested you at least get something
19 from the controller because I know in the
20 past the controller has also had a capital
21 budget. Did anybody do that? No?

22 MR. JOYCE: Not at this time. I'll
23 take that into consideration.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then last year
25 it was the former council, but I believe the

1 vote, maybe Mr. McGoff will remember, to
2 review the Home Rule Charter since the five
3 years had long well-passed, but nothing was
4 ever done. I believe the council has to
5 vote to put place it on the ballot and I
6 would like to ask, obviously, it's certainly
7 too late for the general election, but I
8 would hope that that would get onto the
9 ballot for the primary election next year
10 because I think there are some things that I
11 have observed could be changed.

12 And then I would like to
13 congratulated Mr. McGoff on finishing in
14 such a good time at the Steamtown Marathon
15 and also what it did for our city. I did
16 read a letter to the editor from an
17 out-of-towner who was obviously so impressed
18 that they took the time to write that letter
19 congratulating all of the volunteers and
20 saying what a special event it was, so I
21 thought that was a plus for the city.

22 And another plus for the city, I
23 think we welcomed a new company that started
24 Mac computer store down on Wyoming Avenue,
25 I'm sure all Mac users, including all of our

1 students will be happy to see that store.

2 A couple of other things on painting
3 and lines, the 400 block of Lackawanna
4 Avenue as you go towards the 500 block I
5 have already had my automobile accident for
6 this year, so I would like to avoid the
7 second one and there is a faint -- I did
8 notice it the other day in the lane closest
9 to the curb there is a faint right-turn
10 arrow, but nothing in the left lane that I
11 could see. I think that's totally worn
12 away, but people, and you can't blame the
13 people, some of them around the state, some
14 are local going straight from that right
15 turn over only lane, and something needs to
16 be done whether it's something overhead, I
17 think, I don't know how the light is down
18 there, but that is sorely in need of a
19 right-turn arrow and a straight arrow so
20 people know when they are -- when they are
21 traversing there.

22 And then another similar incident is
23 Meadow, again, Meadow Avenue at Moosic
24 Street. There are three lanes when you are
25 coming whatever direction that is, I guess

1 that be would be east sort of, on Meadow
2 Avenue, there is a right-turn only, there is
3 a straight and there is a left turn lane.
4 All of those have gone away as well as the
5 dividing line, there is only a single lane
6 going the opposite direction toward River
7 Street, and there used to be yellow lines
8 there so you knew and now it's sort of a
9 crap shoot. You know, you just point your
10 car and go wherever you want because all of
11 that paints long worn off, and I think that
12 needs some attention.

13 And I was noticing today or
14 yesterday on grassroots.com and article from
15 I believe it was maybe Allegheny -- or
16 Pittsburgh, that's where it was, it was the
17 City of Pittsburgh saying they had some --
18 he had a proposal to get money into the
19 pension fund because it turns out they are
20 going to be less than 50 percent at the end
21 of the year, and if you are not 50 percent
22 at the end of the year the state takes the
23 pension fund over, so I wondered coming -- I
24 know we are protected or at least it's my
25 belief that he are protected because of our

1 distressed city status, but does anybody
2 know in dollars and cents what it would take
3 for us to get to 50 percent?

4 MR. ROGAN: I'm not sure. I think I
5 believe I read that article as well. Was
6 that rejected by their council or maybe I
7 read about something?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: They were going to
9 lease the garages.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, he wanted to
11 lease the garages and they turned that down
12 and they have their own -- city council has
13 their own scheme. I mean, we will see how
14 it place out, but that's -- what I would
15 like to know is how much that it would take
16 for Scranton to get to the 50 percent level
17 because, obviously.

18 And then one other quick one, and
19 I'm looking forward to the public hearing
20 next week, I assume that's still on with PEL
21 or it is PEL, right? A bunch of questions
22 there, but I hope when you people are
23 looking at the budget I know you have said
24 in most recently in rejecting the SAPA plan
25 that the city's problem in attracting jobs

1 is our taxes, so I certainly hope to see
2 that you all put your money where your mouth
3 is and at least start reducing those
4 mercantile and business taxes or the wage
5 tax, whatever you feel is holding business
6 back, so that we can see if it goes down and
7 business does come in or if there is
8 something else, and the rest I will hold for
9 next week. Thank you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
11 else who like to address council?

12 MR. JOYCE: Also, before you leave,
13 Mrs. Schumacher, I wrote down your request
14 about the 400 to the 500 block of --

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Lackawanna.

16 MR. JOYCE: Lackawanna Avenue, yes.
17 I didn't -- I wasn't able to write down the
18 other one fast enough if you could please
19 provide them to Mrs. Carrera.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: If she can provide
21 me a piece of paper I can.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes, and we will send
23 those out and hopefully they are will be
24 addressed.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy.

2 MR. SLEDENZSKI: What's up, Frank.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Jack, this
5 week, Buddy, you think we can win this one
6 or what? We better win this one.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: You better suit up
8 this week.

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Oh, I am going to
10 suit up real good this time. Well, guys,
11 good luck Friday. Let's win this one.
12 Bring it back to West Side where it belongs.

13 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

14 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

15 MR. ELLMAN: Many years ago when I
16 was a little Ronnie in Memphis they had a
17 football game around Thanksgiving every year
18 called the blind game. At halftime they
19 turned out the lights and everybody in the
20 stadium, I guess it was four or five
21 thousand like our stadium, everybody there
22 would light a wooden match and you can't
23 believe how illuminated it would get from
24 all of these single matches.

25 What I'm getting at is how

1 significant each of us is in making up the
2 whole, you know, the rest of us. My two
3 boys don't want to vote. They say one vote
4 is not important. I hear this all the time.
5 One vote is so important. Everybody's vote
6 is important, you know? I think it was
7 Towanda or somewhere I saw where somebody
8 won by one vote a couple of years ago when I
9 was watching that on television, but it's --
10 you know, people die for people so we can
11 vote and it's just taken for granted, you
12 know, it's shameful. I would like to see
13 everybody get out and vote or more people.

14 And I don't want to see young people
15 listen to endorsements. They are just
16 opinions like all of us got, you know. I
17 was listening to that WLIK yesterday when I
18 walked the dog I was listening to that over
19 the hill journalist I guess he calls himself
20 Corbett, and he gets mad if you don't agree
21 with him, you know, he is not knowledgeable
22 enough to have rebuttals, so he yells and
23 screams and tells it's time for a
24 commercial, but he is endorsing that
25 complacent dinosaur and he gets mad if

1 someone calls in saying something about
2 Barletta. That shouldn't be. He should --
3 I remember Andy saying it's wrong to take
4 these signs off during election, and I agree
5 with him whether, you know, he is going to
6 vote for him or not. That's enough.

7 Last week I was whining about Paul
8 Mansour having 16 pieces of property and
9 nothing being done except it's investment
10 property evidently. He sold one last week
11 \$175,000. I'd like to know what proof there
12 is that money is going back into this phoney
13 Lackawanna County Institute and what it's
14 going to be used for, but I can't find out
15 from nobody. Nobody will tell me a thing.
16 This is like the medical school, they don't
17 think they owe any explanations where they
18 spend money, what salaries are, I never seen
19 such, you know, I tried to -- like I said, I
20 have tried to find out things here in town,
21 nothing, you know, it's not hidden they just
22 don't tell you. What are you going to do?

23 You know, right there you've got a
24 fine attorney sitting there, it seems to me
25 if the ACLU can get -- find loopholes to get

1 people off murder row and out of prisons
2 Mr. Hughes can find some loopholes to close
3 these phoney people like Paul Mansour and
4 all of the rest of them. We got a third of
5 the taxable properties gone, there is a way,
6 right there is the easiest way in the world
7 start terminating, start challenging these
8 nonprofits that they are not nonprofits.

9 Nobody 13 or 14 years sitting there
10 with property that's doubled and what are
11 you going to do when he closes shops and
12 disappears with a million dollars or
13 something of taxpayers', you know, we
14 haven't gotten a penny and Paul Mansour is
15 getting rich off of it. It's not right.

16 You know, I don't know the man and I
17 wouldn't know him if I saw him, but he
18 shares one thing with the University of
19 Scranton and that's this outrageous
20 delivered indifference to the people of the
21 city, you know, of what's best for the city.
22 He is sharing it with destruction of our tax
23 base. These properties need to be put back
24 on the payroll. There is no reason in the
25 world, you know, tell that poor lady that

1 you talked about last week that she has to
2 have a fundraiser to help pay her house and
3 I think she was 78 years old. That
4 shouldn't be in this country, in this city.
5 We shouldn't have to have fundraisers to
6 save someone's home.

7 What did you do that for? Well,
8 please, you know, when I get up here I'm not
9 very articulate, is that the right word, but
10 I have people all week long I just chatter
11 to them all week long and I hear all of
12 these things, and like little messages. I
13 don't make these things up. These people
14 tell me, and people like the council, but
15 they just haven't seen nothing.

16 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Everybody is on your
18 side.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

20 MR. ELLMAN: There isn't time. You
21 know, there isn't time to put something on
22 your agenda, we got to have something about
23 taxes and now. I mean, it's just out of
24 hand. Next month or two months there is a
25 lot of people that don't have the money to

1 pay taxes because I have talked to them, you
2 know, it's just around the corner.

3 MS. EVANS: We know. Thank you,
4 Mr. Ellman.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Help us.

6 MS. EVANS: We are doing our level
7 best, believe me.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Oh, I believe that.
9 The city doesn't, you know, like I said,
10 this lady she didn't have any time left, all
11 of those people in the newspaper they didn't
12 have any time left and people like Paul
13 Mansour they are getting rich. They are
14 laughing at you and me and the people out
15 there and council and that's ashame. That's
16 just ashame that he is allowed to do this.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

18 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
20 would like to address council?

21 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.
22 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer,
23 First Amendment Rights. In less than a
24 month the proposed 2011 budget is due to be
25 presented to council by the city. My

1 prediction is that PEL's proposed 21 percent
2 real estate tax increase will be
3 incorporated by the city into the budget.
4 It's my belief that PEL was laying the
5 groundwork for the city to put it in the
6 budget. To balance the budget because of
7 the 5.2 million deficit a loan will have be
8 secured. That's prediction number one two.
9 Number three, a record budget.

10 I hope I'm wrong and the taxpayers
11 are up the creek without a paddle unless
12 council comes to the rescue. You can do it.
13 You can present a 60 million budget that
14 pays for city services and the long-term
15 debt. Long-term debt that will carry over
16 to our children and grandchildren.

17 We have to remember that the city is
18 a service, not a business. You have the
19 power to stop the pork spending, like a
20 \$350,000 dog park, especially when one
21 Borough in the Abingtons just spent less
22 than \$8,000 for a dog park. What could the
23 city have done with \$342,000 savings? You
24 can stop the bleeding and have mercy on the
25 taxpayers. You can role back the raises to

1 favorites from 2002 through 2009 to a 7.5
2 percent level. Level the playing field.
3 We, the people, are counting and you.

4 You saved the city over \$700,000
5 only to get sued by the administration.
6 Don't get disillusioned, keep working for
7 the taxpayers. It will be tough, but you
8 can do it. The 25 million that was given
9 out in raises and new hires that's why we're
10 over the damn now.

11 What about the editorial in the
12 slimes on Sunday? The unnamed editorialist
13 who called council speakers names.
14 Halloween will be here at the end of the
15 month, so I guess it is fitting for them to
16 hide behind their masks and not put their
17 names to their fantasy editorials. The days
18 of journalistic integrity disappeared when
19 the Scranton Tribune closed it's doors for
20 the final time and we ended up with one
21 tabloid.

22 They said council recoiled in
23 horror, that's what the editorialist said.
24 Did I miss something? Did I miss a recoil?
25 But at least you are not hiding behind an

1 editorial page. I'm going to quote, "PEL,
2 unlike the council majority, is not
3 convinced that doing nothing and complaining
4 about the mayor will produce recovery."

5 That's the end quote. PEL did
6 nothing for 19 years except collect
7 paychecks and if the city comes out of
8 distress PEL goes into distress.

9 "The PEL proposal notes that 73
10 percent of the city's expenses, more than 48
11 million are from employees."

12 That doesn't convince me. We have
13 to remember, the city is a service. The
14 city supports police service, fire service,
15 DPW service and clerical backup. The city
16 is not a business. We are not in retail or
17 manufacturing. The city provides services
18 for the people, we, the people, who pay the
19 bills through whatever taxes or fees we
20 paid.

21 If you use percentages, what was the
22 percentage of the green or black fish pond
23 that cost \$1.2 million? How much has that
24 fish pond raised for the city in the last
25 eight years?

1 How about the paying some outside
2 attorneys fighting the unions \$600 an hour.
3 How much are of a percentage have outside
4 attorneys costs us?

5 Another quote, "The bigger problem,
6 however, is that council has resisted the
7 administration's longstanding Recovery Plan
8 while protecting it's favorite constituency
9 without proposing anything better. The
10 current budget season not next year is the
11 time to tackle it."

12 Council has their chance this year
13 and we remember your budget last year that
14 saved over \$700,000. Anyway, where was PEL
15 when the city violated the Recovery Plan
16 from 2002? Council, stay the course, don't
17 cave in. We, the people of the City of
18 Scranton, are counting on you to do the
19 right thing. Thanks.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
22 council.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. GERVASI: I came down to observe
25 tonight, but after Nelson's speech I thought

1 of a few things I wanted to say last week at
2 the caucus and I didn't get a chance to say
3 because of time constraints. I would like
4 to focus your attention on last week, it was
5 during PEL's presentation when they said,
6 "Here is the whole pie of the city's
7 budget --" I'm sorry, "The city's
8 expenditures," and they showed what was
9 approximately three-quarters of the pie was
10 salaries, and then they showed you the two
11 little parts of the pie that were
12 nonemployee, nondepartmental expenses and
13 regular nondepartmental expenses and I
14 believe those two small parts of the pie
15 calculated to, according to their records,
16 13 percent and 14 percent of the entire
17 budget.

18 I think what you need to understand
19 about the presentation is, number one, if
20 you look at the salary part of that pie, the
21 salary part of that pie is no different than
22 any other municipality in any country in the
23 civilized world. It's no different. What
24 you need to do when you look at that salary
25 is you need to breakdown the components of

1 that salary piece of the pie. You need to
2 look at the fire department nine years ago
3 and look at it today, what it costs today
4 and you will find out it's been static. You
5 need to look at the police department
6 portion of that big part of the pie and look
7 at what it was ten years ago and what it is
8 today. Static. And you need to look at
9 unionized clerical workers of the City of
10 Scranton what it was ten years ago and you
11 will find out that today it's down probably
12 33 percent from what it was ten years ago.

13 If you look at the DPW, that's
14 actually less except for the DPW
15 administration which there is a huge boost
16 in the last eight years, but if you break
17 all of that down you will find out that the
18 same amount of money, approximately the same
19 amount of money or actually a little bit
20 more was actually going to that big part of
21 the pie in salary, but if you break it all
22 down you will find where it's going to.

23 It's going to created jobs in middle
24 management positions and increased salaries
25 for cabinet members and small raises from

1 DPW and clerical and no raises until last
2 year for police and firefighters. Then when
3 you look at those two small pieces of the
4 pie I believe, I'm not positive about this,
5 but I believe that one pie of the pie,
6 nondepartmental expenses used to be about 3
7 or 4 percent, now it's 14 and nonsalary,
8 nondepartmental expenses I believe used to
9 be 7 percent and now it's 13, so when you
10 look at the difference between 9 years ago
11 and today you will find out where all of the
12 money went because fees have been raised,
13 municipal services tax came into effect two
14 years ago, 26 percent tax increase, the
15 mayor raised the people's taxes, it was
16 unnecessary, and we have proven that in
17 arbitration over and over again.

18 All of this extra revenue came in
19 and you got to look at where it went and
20 when you are looking to save money you need
21 to go and find out what departments are lean
22 and mean, meaning look at what departments
23 have been bloated and have not increased and
24 ballooned in the last nine years, and there
25 I would suggest you will find out where your

1 savings should be because a lot of those
2 position were not there and there is lot
3 less of a positions of the public service
4 that were there that were no longer there
5 and I think, I would hope that you would
6 contemplate that as you going through the
7 budget process because, frankly, it's a sad
8 thing that the fire department is down 13
9 people from what it used to be and the
10 police department -- police officers are
11 literally leaving, they are just leaving for
12 better jobs because everybody else pays more
13 and it's a sad legacy from this
14 administration and I would hope you would
15 contemplate that when you are doing your
16 budget process. That's where the money is
17 and that's where the money went, and if you
18 are going to look for cuts I would hope you
19 make cuts in those areas. That's all.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
24 cares to address council? Mr. McGoff, any
25 comments or motions?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Please. First, I
2 received this in our mail about a property
3 at 521 Maple Street. Have we been in
4 contact with LIPS or anyone on that or have
5 we received any information?

6 MS. KRAKE: Yes. We did send a
7 letter and they did not respond to the
8 letter.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Okay, I'll try and look
10 into that tomorrow and see what the current
11 status is and what the city is planning to
12 do with that property or what -- if there
13 any plans with that.

14 Secondly, it's on our agenda tonight
15 for the reappointment of someone to HARB I
16 believe.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I would like with
19 council's permission, I know we have gone
20 over this idea of submission of resumes and
21 all and it's become -- I think that it's a
22 reasonable request to be made. I know I
23 voted for the appointments despite the fact
24 that many of them had not submitted things.
25 I would like with our approval, everyone's

1 approval, to send a request to all of the
2 authorities and boards in the city that all
3 current members of the authorities and
4 boards submit a brief resume to council or
5 to the city so that it can be kept on file
6 so that everyone is aware of who is on these
7 particular authorities or boards and what
8 their qualifications are and then when a
9 reappointment dose come before council the
10 information is already there and we don't
11 have to go through this whole process of,
12 you know, searching out a resume. I just
13 think it's a good idea. First of all, if
14 that meets with everyone's approval, I would
15 ask that --

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. MCGOFF: -- Mrs. Krake, if we
18 could send, you know, something of that
19 nature to, you know, the proper authorities
20 and boards.

21 MS. KRAKE: Sure.

22 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not looking to do
23 this with any contingencies attached that,
24 you know, if you don't submit it, you know,
25 I'm going to somehow vote to remove you or

1 anything, I just think it's a good idea and
2 it's something that probably should have
3 been done, you know, in the past and
4 hopefully we will get a decent response on
5 that.

6 Also, the third thing I'm looking at
7 a paper that we received for the audit
8 contract for fiscal years 2010 through 2013.
9 Has that gone before council and been voted
10 on, those contracts?

11 MS. EVANS: No, it has not.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Does it need to be?

13 MS. EVANS: We can certainly look
14 into that, but in the meantime there have
15 been problems with the contract between the
16 administration and their selection. In
17 fact, Attorney Hughes, perhaps, you could
18 provide briefly with an update or a briefing
19 on where the contract for the new auditor
20 stands -- or the new audit contract, I
21 should say.

22 MR. HUGHES: Yes. I didn't bring
23 the letter that I sent today, but last night
24 around 4:00 I received a 50-page fax from
25 the Solicitor's Office regarding the

1 contract with Rossi. I reviewed it today, I
2 sent -- there was major differences in the
3 contract with Rossi, and the one that had
4 been previously signed. There were two --
5 actually, three new clauses, two of which
6 were really applicable to Rossi and stricken
7 out of the agreement, basically due to
8 breach, and he had stricken that out and the
9 Solicitor's Office said that they would not
10 agree to that.

11 However, the way that it was drafted
12 it's unilaterally drafted that if Rossi
13 doesn't perform they're in breach of the
14 agreement. It's my understanding that if
15 Rossi did not submit the audit by May 31 of
16 this year as required because various city
17 departments did not give Rossi sufficient
18 information.

19 I put this in a letter to Attorney
20 Kelly and, of course, it just didn't appear
21 right and unilateral that they could
22 terminate it and then if he was in default
23 there was a clause that he would be
24 responsible for paying various expenses of
25 the nonbreaching party, which would be the

1 city, which would really breach them if they
2 are not furnishing them the proper
3 information.

4 Attorney Kelly responded to, you
5 know, to my letter late this afternoon.
6 It's going to be up to Rossi. I certainly
7 think that he can cover himself that when he
8 sends letters out to various departments of
9 the city that he would give them the date as
10 to which to respond timely so that he could
11 complete his audit, but that's his decision.
12 I called Mr. Rossi. They were in meetings
13 with -- the entire staff were in a firm
14 meeting, so he didn't have to time to
15 discuss that with him, but I'm not
16 advocating a position. It's certainly up to
17 Mr. Rossi, but I don't think any
18 professional or anybody wants to enter into
19 a contract that it appears that the language
20 could immediately -- could be utilized
21 against you to be breached, to be in breach,
22 when you really aren't in breach because of
23 the other party's failure to provide the
24 required information.

25 I know how I would handled it. I

1 mean, he could certainly have various
2 letters requesting documentation by a
3 certain time, if it's not there just send
4 another letter, so the real fault would be
5 on the department of the city that's not
6 furnishing the information timely. That
7 would be his decision. Council -- let me
8 put it this way, the contracts are drafted
9 by the law department, not by council, we
10 are a legislative body only, not an
11 executive body. Those contracts are drafted
12 by the solicitor's office and these -- there
13 were three new clauses that weren't in the
14 previous contract and I can understand why
15 Rossi when he signed the contract put a line
16 through them and then put his initials there
17 that he wanted these deleted.

18 That's going to be up to them, but I
19 certainly think that it's council's
20 prerogative and actually under the Home Rule
21 Charter council hires the auditor not the
22 administration and this is exactly, you
23 know, where we are right now.

24 MR. MCGOFF: There are -- excuse me,
25 there are two things that -- first of all, I

1 was unaware that we had chosen Rossi to do
2 the next three years. I know Mr. Joyce
3 attempted to contact me at one time and to
4 speak about it, but we never completed that
5 conversation. If my memory serves me there
6 were three bids and Rossi was the highest of
7 the three bids. I was just wondering if
8 someone this evening during motions or in
9 the future could explain the process for,
10 you know, the selection of Rossi to perform
11 the audit and why the other two -- the two
12 lower bids were rejected.

13 Also, I know in the past we had
14 talked about the idea that a firm couldn't
15 do an audit over -- or a second time and I
16 know that we somehow chose Rossi because
17 they were the lowest bidder I guess it was
18 three years ago. I was wondering if that
19 was something that we had -- that was still
20 in place, also.

21 So I just I guess what I'm asking
22 for is just an explanation of how we came to
23 choose Rossi Certified Accountants for the
24 audit, and that would be all I have. Thank
25 you.

1 MS. EVANS: If I might quickly
2 respond to some of what Mr. McGoff has
3 remarked. We can certainly do so more
4 specifically next week when we have all of
5 the audits in front of us, however, the
6 administration attempted to choose and
7 auditor for the city in violation of the
8 Home Rule Charter, and at the very same time
9 that council was providing it's selection to
10 the legal department, the legal department
11 informed city council it's already been
12 selected and it was not the same firm chosen
13 by Scranton City Council. At that point I
14 informed Mrs. Krake and others that the
15 administration was in violation of the
16 charter and it had no right to make this
17 selection.

18 At that point I know that I had had
19 conversations with Mr. Joyce, I believe
20 Mr. Joyce told me that he was calling every
21 member of council to discuss the firm that
22 would be selected by council and that
23 Mr. Joyce wasn't able to speak with you,
24 that he had called you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I said that.

1 MS. EVANS: And you were supposed to
2 call him back and you never did.

3 MR. JOYCE: No.

4 MS. EVANS: Well, okay, you can jump
5 in at that point, but we selected Rossi &
6 Company for a number of very good reasons.
7 They have been conducting this audit for
8 many years and to I think maybe piggyback on
9 what Attorney Hughes had said, this audit
10 not only has not been completed in a timely
11 manner this year, in my seven years on city
12 council it has never come in by May 31 and
13 it has never been the fault of the auditor.

14 The auditor, and I'm not quite sure
15 if Attorney Hughes is aware of this, the
16 auditor provides a timeline to the
17 administration each year before the auditor
18 begins his work and that timeline is
19 particularly to be followed by the business
20 administrator, and the reports that we
21 receive not only monthly, many times
22 bimonthly indicate to us and to the mayor
23 and to the business administrator that the
24 requirements of that timeline and the
25 requests for those pieces of information

1 have not been met.

2 Now, I am very appreciative of the
3 fact that we have an auditor who is so
4 meticulous and who doesn't take no for an
5 answer and who at all times keeps Scranton
6 City Council in the financial loop. That's
7 something I don't know that council is
8 guaranteed with any other firm. I didn't
9 see anything pertaining to that regarding
10 any of the other firms.

11 In addition to that, the lowest
12 bidder who was selected by the
13 administration their bid contained hidden
14 costs. There was no true definite cost.
15 For example, I do have one of their
16 statements, "The proposed fee assumes that
17 unexpected circumstances will not be
18 encountered during the audit. If
19 significant additional time is necessary, we
20 will discuss it with you and arrive at a new
21 fee estimate before we incur additional
22 costs."

23 So, in fact, there is no defined
24 cost per year unless the audit comes in by
25 May 31, that would be my understanding of

1 it, and we all know that that does not
2 happen and so the costs incurred beyond that
3 are anybody's guess. And the fact of the
4 matter is between I believe the bid of Rossi
5 & Company and the bid in the middle of there
6 is a \$3,000 difference and I think for
7 \$3,000 it's very important to have a high
8 quality of services, especially in terms of
9 this administration. I am wary of undefined
10 costs and I'm also wary of those who do not
11 have experience with cities of this size and
12 who have no experience with this
13 administration and their tactics of
14 prolonging the release of information for
15 ten months into a year. Today is October 19
16 and there is still no audit and Rossi's
17 report tells us that they are awaiting seven
18 letters from attorneys before they can even
19 move ahead with the preliminary financial
20 reports and an exit conference.

21 And this is, as I said, not the
22 fault of the auditor. The auditor is very
23 meticulous. The auditor complies with GASB
24 Standards. The stalemate here, once again,
25 is with the administration even more so now

1 than any of the authorities, but there are
2 authorities, I think it might be the
3 Redevelopment Authority, for example, that
4 does not provide an audit until July perhaps
5 or August to Scranton City Council.

6 Now, obviously, that's not changing,
7 that hasn't changed in all of these years,
8 so I don't know how the administration's
9 choice for the auditor would be able to
10 improve on that, but what concerns me is
11 that: Number one, I don't know how much
12 extra money it's going to cost all of us
13 when that audit doesn't come in by May 31.
14 And number two, my concern is accountability
15 and transparency, and I know in my opinion
16 that we have that with Rossi & Company
17 because they provide constant updates to
18 this council and to all previous council's
19 about information that is required, that is
20 submitted, that has failed to be submitted.
21 And those will are things I believe the city
22 can ill-afford, the taxpayers of this city
23 can ill-afford to put into jeopardy.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Just there is a \$12,000
25 difference between Rossi and the middle

1 bidder.

2 MS. EVANS: That would be over the
3 four-year period.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Right.

5 MS. EVANS: Are there any other
6 questions?

7 MR. MCGOFF: No, that's fine.
8 That's fine.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Rogan,
10 do you have any comments or motions?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. Today
12 right before the meeting I received a
13 monthly OECD report, I didn't have time to
14 fully review it, but I will give a summary
15 next week on the changes from last month to
16 this month and Mrs. Aebli from OECD asked
17 Mrs. Krake, our clerk, why we receive the
18 report and I don't read the entire report,
19 and the reason is because much of the
20 information is redundant. It's the same
21 thing month after month. For instance, the
22 loan portfolio and the multi-year loans each
23 month, it's often the same thing and if at
24 there are changes I will obviously mention
25 them so the public will now, and if Ms.

1 Aebli would like to come and read the report
2 she we would be more than welcome to come
3 during citizens' participation to read the
4 entire report, but as for my part on council
5 I will always keep the public -- keep them
6 informed about changes that are happening in
7 the office.

8 Next, I would just like to make some
9 comments about the proposed Recovery Plan
10 and a few articles that were placed in the
11 Scranton Times. The first one is there is
12 an editorial, I think it was an editorial in
13 this week they called council the "Do
14 nothing council." In the last ten months
15 this council has went to Court fighting for
16 the taxpayers to save them money. We have
17 decreased the bidding threshold to save the
18 taxpayers' money to make doing business with
19 the city more competitive for other
20 businesses. We make police reports free for
21 victims of crimes. We have setup a special
22 account for the purchase of police cars. We
23 have answered hundreds off citizens'
24 requests and attended many neighborhood
25 meetings throughout the area and all of this

1 is without the help of department heads.

2 Now, I would ask the Scranton Times
3 to ask what the past council has done
4 besides rubber stamp everything through,
5 including tax increases and overinflated
6 budgets.

7 In that same article they pretty
8 much support PELS's proposed Recovery Plan
9 for Scranton. Now, this plan should
10 basically just be called a tax plan. The
11 Times says in a different article that there
12 will be a 21 percent tax increase, but, in
13 fact, over four years it would be nearly a
14 50 percent tax increase. Yes, in the 2011
15 proposed Recovery Plan there would be a 21
16 percent tax increase, followed by a 9
17 percent tax increase the next year, followed
18 by a 9.9 percent tax increase the next year
19 and followed by a 9.3 percent tax increase
20 the next year. When you add them all up it
21 comes to almost 50 percent year over year
22 and the Scranton Times keeps using the 21
23 percent number which is incorrect.

24 Obviously the people of Scranton
25 can't afford it. Unemployment is extremely

1 high, the previous council did increase
2 taxes and it's shown that that's not the
3 solution to our problems. We need to find
4 creative ways to save money. We need to cut
5 the fat from the budget. We don't need to
6 keep cutting police and fire protection for
7 our neighborhoods. That is one of the most
8 important jobs of government, to keep the
9 people safe.

10 The administration they had I
11 believe it was just 15 percent in cuts, and
12 that's where we have seeing most of the
13 growth in the budget over the past ten years
14 was in administration, and the article goes
15 onto say that all this council does is bash
16 Mayor Doherty. That's not true. If Mayor
17 Doherty comes with a proposal that will help
18 the citizens I will be all for it and I'm
19 sure my colleagues would. It's about
20 policies. It's not about the people and I
21 just hope the people of Scranton don't buy
22 into what the Scranton Times is selling
23 because it's not -- it's not what's going
24 on, 21 percent one year, 9 percent the next,
25 9.9 the next, 9.3 the next. People can't

1 afford this. Senior citizens are losing
2 their homes. People are out of work and PEL
3 comes in and says, well, this is the
4 solution to your financial problems raising
5 taxes and racing fees? It's just completely
6 unacceptable and I don't understand why the
7 Times is buying into it, and that's all.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any comments or
10 motions?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
12 Evans. I really didn't have anything
13 prepared, but I would be remiss if I didn't
14 discuss the editorial in Sunday's paper,
15 also. For lack of not repeating a lot of
16 it, basically there were a few things in
17 that article that struck me. Down on the
18 third paragraph, "After being presented with
19 the proposal last week members of the "Do
20 Nothing Council," that hit me in the heart
21 because any one that watches this council
22 meeting knows we have done quite a bit in
23 the ten months that we have been here. We
24 don't have to report that in the paper, the
25 people out there know it, I run into people

1 on the street every day, a lot of people
2 know we are working with them on issues, we
3 may not resolve them overnight. Some of
4 them have taken months, but we stick with it
5 and we are working on it and I think a lot
6 more has been done in this last year than
7 has ever been done in four years, so I
8 really resented that, and what point I must
9 see is, obviously, the editorialists never
10 watch council meeting. They must only read
11 that one-line sentence that the reporter
12 puts in the paper about the council meeting
13 the next day because if you don't watch
14 these meetings you wouldn't know what
15 happened at these meetings based on what's
16 reported in the newspaper.

17 There has been many issues that we
18 have discussed of importance here that have
19 been totally obliterated from the newspaper.
20 Some irrelevant news has been put in there
21 in place of it. I don't know what's behind
22 that, but I do believe, and I run into
23 people on the street every day and I tell
24 you if you run into me in the grocery store,
25 in an restaurant, walking down the street,

1 don't hesitate to approach me. That's why
2 I'm out there, that's why they're out there.
3 We are out there to listen to your concerns
4 and if you have a concern you bring it right
5 to me personally or my colleagues here. We
6 are not afraid. We are not hiding from you
7 we are here every week facing you, and so
8 don't believe what you read, believe what
9 you see. This is a live. This is factual.

10 Let's see here. Also, it says,
11 "City council recoiled in horror."

12 I think it was more we recoiled in
13 hidden laughter because we knew exactly the
14 fill in the blank plan they were going to
15 do, raise the taxes "X" amount, raise these
16 fees "X" amount. It's a carbon copy of
17 every plan they've had everywhere they go.
18 They are paid to fill in that blank. All
19 they need is a rubber stamp, and that's
20 basically that end of it.

21 "Since the city first slipped into
22 distress in 1992 a lack of political will by
23 elected city officials has been the
24 principal reason for the failure to emerge
25 from it."

1 Well, a lot of us haven't been here
2 since 1992 on this panel, but I'll tell you
3 something we have been working hard this
4 year and things are going to be changing.
5 Trust me.

6 Let's see here, just a couple of
7 more. Also, the fact that they keep putting
8 in, "The municipal unions are a primary
9 political constituency of the current
10 council just as they have been a primary
11 constituency in the past administrations."

12 Our primary constituency is you, the
13 taxpayers. You are our number one
14 constituency. We are up here working for
15 you. Yes, labor deserves a fair shake, the
16 city and the budget, and they claim 73
17 percent of the budget is based on municipal
18 salaries. Like the speaker mentioned
19 before, that is -- that's what a city is.
20 It's based upon service to you, the
21 taxpayers. It's not a profit situation.
22 It's not a company that's out there making
23 money. We are here to provide you with the
24 best services and I think our employees in
25 this city have given 120 percent, every one

1 of them, in spite of what's been going on
2 over the last several years, in spite of the
3 lack of morale that's befalling them, and I
4 applaud them for doing the job they do.
5 They haven't slacked off, they have given
6 120 percent and they will continue to do it,
7 but they deserve respect, too. But to state
8 that the municipal unions are our primary
9 political constituency that's incorrect.
10 Our primary constituency are you, the
11 taxpayers, and the employees are taxpayers
12 because they have to reside in the city
13 unlike some government entities where you
14 can live anywhere you want and work. The
15 city employees are required to stay in the
16 city and pay taxes, but their base salaries
17 have gone down, down, down. And in the
18 meant time it's all about raising taxes.

19 They have never been creative. If
20 it wasn't for this council to take the
21 initiative to go after the nonprofits for
22 payments in lieu of taxes it wouldn't have
23 happened, but naturally, you know, according
24 to you read articles in the newspaper that,
25 you know, other people have been out there

1 doing it on their own now, we didn't start
2 it. And then they try the he said/she said
3 thing again just like we had at the
4 University, now I noticed another article
5 the other day in the paper about our city
6 solicitor and what Mr. Hughes had said. And
7 believe me, I was with Mr. Hughes at the
8 University of the Scranton and I know what
9 went on there, so I have my full faith, I
10 wasn't any part to this conversation, but I
11 have my full faith that Mr. Hughes would not
12 have made that public here if it wasn't
13 true.

14 So if you want to come -- instead of
15 saying in this newspaper come to this podium
16 and tell the public here and then we'll
17 discuss it. But it's just ashame that the
18 one newspaper, one daily newspaper we have
19 cannot produce the full facts. Years ago
20 when I was growing up I remember reporters
21 were investigative, they were wrote stories,
22 they didn't have to get things off the
23 national press or just throw in some fluff
24 stories that they have or, you know, cover
25 somebody's back here.

1 You know, I mean, PEL alone with the
2 Times as their accomplice have been the
3 enablers to the violations of the recovery
4 Plan and they have stood by and done nothing
5 and reported nothing. I believe that the
6 "Do nothing" phrase relates more closely to
7 the Scranton Times and the PEL, not this
8 council, and that's all I have to say.

9 MS. EVANS: Councilman Joyce, do you
10 have any comments or motions?

11 MR. JOYCE: Just a few. All save my
12 comments for the editorial a little bit
13 later and start with some business.

14 First off, capital budget. Awhile
15 back council had asked for a status report
16 of all projects from the original capital
17 spending plan that was passed back in 2007
18 which became effective in 2008. At this
19 point in time council has yet to receive any
20 updates and it's now significantly past the
21 two-week time frame that is customarily
22 provided of council's request. With this in
23 mind, Mrs. Krake, can we please resubmit
24 this request?

25 I also have a few citizens; requests

1 that I would like to bring up tonight. I
2 have been informed that there are two
3 condemned homes at the end of Meadow Avenue.
4 Residents are reporting that they see people
5 entering their homes -- or they see people
6 entering these homes on a frequent basis and
7 fear that the homes may be a haven for
8 suspicious activities since residents report
9 finding drug paraphernalia on the street
10 right outside of these residences.

11 Mrs. Krake, can you please send a
12 letter to Chief Duffy regarding this matter
13 and request that our blight control officer
14 can look into this situation. In addition,
15 you if you could please copy Mr. Seitzinger
16 I would greatly appreciate it as well.

17 Secondly, I have been informed that
18 there is an abandoned home on the corner of
19 Ruane and Stanton Street in North Scranton.
20 Residents report that this home has been
21 abandoned for over three years. The grass
22 is never cut, and furthermore, that it's
23 becoming an eyesore in the neighborhood.

24 Mrs. Krake, can you please notify
25 Mr. Seitzinger of this property and ask that

1 he handle this accordingly.

2 In addition, this is more of an
3 ongoing problem, I have been informed by
4 some residents of Saginaw Street that a
5 neighborhood garbage and debris has been
6 coming into the yards due to wind and heavy
7 rains due to the fact that the residents in
8 the Hilltop housing area are not required to
9 have garbage cans.

10 Mrs. Krake, if you could please send
11 a letter or phone Mr. Peliccaci again? I
12 know that he said he was looking into
13 long-term solutions the last time this came
14 up, and if we just get an update on any
15 solutions that may be in the works to
16 satisfy this.

17 Also, a North Scranton resident has
18 informed me that the property on the corner
19 of North Keyser and West Market Street,
20 which was formerly a restaurant, has become
21 quite a problem in the neighborhood. It's
22 high winds are causing roofing and other
23 debris to fly onto the road. Mrs. Krake, if
24 could please include this property into the
25 letter to Mr. Seitzinger.

1 And about the editorial that was
2 written, I really didn't read much of it to
3 be honest with you, and I didn't look too
4 much into it. I speak to many residents in
5 the City of Scranton and I go by what they
6 say and what their concerns are and those
7 are the true people that I represent,
8 everyone in this city, not the opinion of a
9 newspaper, not the opinion of another
10 elected official and in my tenure when I'm
11 on this council that's my pledge. I pledge
12 to represent you in my decision making, not
13 the opinion of the Pennsylvania Economy
14 League, not the opinion of the mayor and
15 sometimes not the opinion of the majority of
16 my council colleagues. I am looking out for
17 your best interest and if the Scranton Times
18 thinks that we should go along and adopt
19 PEL's Recovery Plan, so be it. That's their
20 decision. That's why we live in America we
21 each have an opinion.

22 But personally I do not think it's
23 in the best interest when I see people that
24 can barely toward to pay the taxes on their
25 homes, that live paycheck to paycheck each

1 week that struggle. I don't think in my
2 best interest and in my true heart and in my
3 true judgment that these people can afford
4 these tax increases and that's why I have
5 the comments I have to say about PEL's
6 Recovery Plan, and that's all I have to say
7 about that.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
9 evening. First, city council acknowledges
10 and thanks the Scranton Housing Authority
11 for it's payment in lieu of taxes in the
12 amount of \$20,213.97. Council hopes that
13 other tax exempt organizations will follow
14 the example set by the Housing Authority,
15 Lutherwood and others and will step up to
16 the plate to contribute their fair share to
17 our financially distressed city.

18 Next, I wish to clarify a statement
19 made by Mayor Doherty in the October 17
20 edition of the Sunday Times. An article
21 entitled, "Feud over ECTV deepens," states
22 that, "Mr. Doherty, who believes ECTV should
23 be paid by the city, said the ball is in
24 council's court. We sent the legislation
25 down and they haven't voted on it. That's

1 their job to vote."

2 And that those words are his direct
3 quote. The mayor should check the facts
4 before he speaks. Following the mayor's
5 veto of the Comcast contract in August 2010,
6 no formal legislation for a contract was
7 sent to council. Instead, the legal
8 department provided council with copies of a
9 cable franchise agreement which contains
10 none of council's stipulations under Section
11 VII, services to the community, aside
12 agreement designed by the administration to
13 give up one EG channel in return for an
14 \$85,000 grant and a model ordinance for the
15 aforementioned items.

16 Formal legislation for a Comcast
17 franchise agreement and for an EG channel
18 franchise agreement in compliance with all
19 other legislation given to council's office
20 has not been sent to city council since the
21 mayor's veto, and very likely because the
22 administration is aware that city council
23 will not approve the contract dictated by
24 the mayor.

25 City council insists on full

1 disclosure of ECTV's financial records,
2 invoices and equipment. A fair RFP for
3 potential bidders, a contract for an EG
4 channel administrator, Comcast grants for a
5 new EG channel manager, the return of the
6 second EG channel, and a reduction in the
7 term of contract from 15 to 10 years.

8 The mayor has taken a stand opposed
9 to city council he is against financial
10 accountability and transparency from ECTV
11 and wishes to give Comcast grants to ECTV
12 despite the facts that he himself previously
13 said ECTV would receive no city funding.
14 ECTV had no contract and he ECTV refuses to
15 disclose it's financial records.

16 Mr. Doherty wants a 15-year
17 contract, only one EG channel rather than
18 the current two channels, and according to
19 his proposed agreement he wants to control
20 what is broadcast on the EG channel.

21 Section 7.2 of the mayor's proposed
22 agreement states: "The city shall have
23 complete control over the content,
24 scheduling and administration and all other
25 programming aspects of the EG channel and

1 may delegate such functions or a portion of
2 such functions to appropriate designee."

3 I wonder if the Times Shamrock media
4 monopoly or any media outlet would enjoy
5 taking orders regarding the content,
6 scheduling and administration and all other
7 programming aspects from any mayor or any
8 elected official?

9 The mayor's efforts to protect ECTV,
10 control broadcasting and shortchange the
11 Comcast subscribers are not acceptable to
12 this council. When the mayor and his legal
13 department decide to send legislation for a
14 Comcast franchise agreement to council for
15 it's consideration and adoption it must
16 contain city council's stipulations.

17 The mayor's philosophy of my way or
18 the highway will not produce a new franchise
19 agreement since, indeed, as he says, it's
20 our job to vote and for the first time in
21 nine years he has only one vote to help him
22 control the television channel and lock
23 subscribers into an imprudent deal.

24 As I first stated in the newspaper
25 article, the ball is in the mayor's court.

1 Council cannot vote on legislation it
2 doesn't have and council will only approve
3 legislation that includes it's stipulations
4 for accountability and transparency.

5 Next, I would like to enumerate the
6 accomplishments of this council and respond
7 to the insatiable desire and predictable
8 proclivity of the Scranton Times to ignore
9 facts and jump to conclusions.

10 The transparent process selection in
11 the swearing in of a new council member.
12 Development of state legislation sponsored
13 by Representative Murphy to separate the
14 city tax bill to save city resident's homes.

15 Strong opposition to the proposed
16 flat fee Sewer Authority rate increase which
17 lead to a hybrid rate. The repeal of
18 legislation creating a Library Authority,
19 amendments to the 2010 budget which cut
20 government costs by \$700,000 as required in
21 a Recovery Plan and for which the mayor sued
22 city council. Aggressive pursuit of the
23 Crisp Avenue bridge project. Bidding of
24 professional services. Free police reports
25 for victims of crimes. Establishment of a

1 special police account to purchase vehicles
2 and equipment. Pursuit of nonprofits for
3 payments in lieu of taxes which caused the
4 mayor, in turn, to seek PILOTS for the very
5 first time as required by the Recovery Plan.

6 An agreement with the Lackawanna
7 Valley Heritage Association for back
8 payments the mayor had ignored and
9 maintenance of the city's portion of the
10 Lackawanna Valley Heritage Trail.

11 Restoration of respect and decorum to city
12 council meetings.

13 Public transparent meetings with the
14 Pennsylvania Economy League and DCED for the
15 first time among numerous others.

16 Meetings with state officials to
17 solve city blight and flooding problems.
18 Investigation and approval of economic
19 developments such as the Connell building,
20 the United Neighborhood Center corporation,
21 South Side Revitalization and the Penn
22 Avenue project. A regional purchasing
23 agreement with Lackawanna County. A
24 constant and steadfast investigations into
25 the financial records of the city and it's

1 authorities. The discovery that the Parking
2 Authority budget must be approved and can be
3 amended by Scranton City Council. Solutions
4 to hundreds of problems brought to council's
5 attention by city residents, among numerous
6 others.

7 This being said, in our response to
8 the revised Recovery Plan city council and
9 the mayor will develop a 2011 budget that
10 makes necessary cuts without draining public
11 services.

12 In addition, city council will await
13 the Supreme Court decision regarding police
14 and fire contracts for the years 2002
15 through 2007 which will have a significant
16 impact on the city's operating budgets and
17 structural deficits from 2011 through 2014
18 and also will provide a fact based holistic
19 picture of the city's financial status. The
20 newspaper omits this and other pertinent
21 facts from it's Sunday editorial. Very few
22 cities have emerged from Act 47 distressed
23 city status and over three times that number
24 remain distressed, some for longer than
25 Scranton.

1 The mayor's comment to the Wall
2 Street journal is on target, and I quote,
3 "The state's distressed city program is like
4 a roach motel. You can check in, but you
5 can't check out."

6 However, at the same time last week
7 amid increasingly weaker financial forecasts
8 from PEL incredibly he told the Scranton
9 Times that he thinks we are headed in the
10 direction of petitioning the state for
11 termination from Act 37, yet two
12 contradictory statements in the same week
13 went unnoticed by the editorialist.

14 In addition, while the Scranton
15 Times lays the blame for 18 years of
16 distressed status at the feet of the elected
17 officials, it never mentioned the 18 years
18 failed leadership of the Pennsylvania
19 Economy League. It neglects to report the
20 \$2.9 million surplus in 2002 and the \$316
21 million long-term debt as of 2008 because
22 that's the only audit that we have, the
23 latest audit, I should say, that Scranton
24 City Council has.

25 This historical debt was amassed by

1 the Doherty administration with PEL's annual
2 silence and blessing. It hides millions
3 spent on job creations, management salary
4 increases, and attorney fees throughout the
5 nine years of the Doherty administration.

6 At the same time, the newspaper
7 conveniently omits council's efforts to cut
8 government costs and its suggestions to lease
9 parking garages and replace free parking
10 garages spaces with paid parking.

11 Council has additional plans for
12 generating new revenue which it has
13 researched and developed through 2010 and
14 which it will be pursue in 2011 when legal
15 requirements can be met. The postponement
16 of the revised Recovery Plan until 2011 is
17 just the first step toward these
18 accomplishments which council hopes will
19 receive the full assistance of the
20 Pennsylvania Economy League and state
21 officials.

22 It's all too easy and predictable
23 for the Scranton Times to mistakenly opine
24 that council recoiled in horror at the
25 revised Recovery Plan and will do nothing.

1 In truth, as was said earlier, past
2 proposed tax increases were no the surprise
3 since they were suggested in 2007 and the
4 mayor, and his three council enablers,
5 raised taxes 25.6 percent of the 75 percent
6 proposed by PEL and that occurred in 2008.

7 Simply put, PEL now seeks the other
8 50 percent over the next four years. PEL's
9 recommendations to increase garbage fees and
10 parking meter rates were also anticipated
11 because it offered such suggestions in the
12 past.

13 May I suggest, that the Scranton
14 Times editorialist does his homework.
15 Opinions that are not supported by facts
16 fail to pursue any informed reader and
17 defeat the intended purpose.

18 This brilliant editorialist and the
19 astute Pennsylvania Economy League have
20 recommended merely the very obvious and easy
21 solutions. Raise taxes, raise fees, and
22 continue to do so for many years.

23 Interestingly, however, the Scranton
24 Times does not pay the same taxes as other
25 businesses located in the down town and

1 throughout the city. Although, it's plant
2 it located in Scott Township, and it's
3 business offices are in Scranton, the
4 Scranton Times does not pay both the
5 business privilege and mercantile taxes
6 because it's termed a manufacturer. There
7 are other large institutions in Scranton who
8 enjoy the same privileges and these revenue
9 losses need to be addressed.

10 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we
11 need to change the status quo and determine
12 new revenue sources that won't further
13 burden the little guy, both of which are the
14 solutions that Scranton City Council has
15 been diligently working on throughout this
16 year.

17 Apparently, we are the only ones
18 concerned by your unemployment, poverty,
19 lack of social security increases, low wages
20 and fixed incomes. We are standing up and
21 fighting for you and if you will give us the
22 necessary time and your faith and support we
23 will do our very best to try to steer this
24 ship without 50 percent tax increases and
25 increases in garbage fees and parking

1 meters.

2 Next, city residents request that
3 the DPW would provide garbage collection
4 announcements to the Scranton Times for
5 publication preceding holidays on which
6 collections will not occur.

7 And finally, I found it interesting
8 tonight that Councilman McGoff was so
9 concerned with a \$3,000 annual difference in
10 an audit between two companies when he is
11 the very same councilman who voted for your
12 25.6 percent tax increase. Where was the
13 concern then?

14 And all of the actions concerning
15 the audit occurred today, late today, well,
16 throughout the day and then late today I
17 found out about it. I didn't even have time
18 to notify my council colleagues of what was
19 occurring with this audit, yet curiously
20 after about two months of silence
21 coincidentally Mr. McGoff asks about an
22 audit tonight.

23 And so, Mr. McGoff, I have a
24 question for you, who contacted you today
25 and told you about the conditions of the

1 audit?

2 MR. MCGOFF: It was in my mail
3 received October 6, 2010, in the clerk's
4 office I believe and in my mail. If you
5 would like to read it.

6 MS. EVANS: And this was received
7 October 6 and it's October 19, why today,
8 Mr. McGoff? Who did you talk to today?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't talk to
10 anyone. This is the first I read it.

11 MS. EVANS: Oh, that's the first you
12 read it?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Are you
14 questioning my voracity?

15 MS. EVANS: It's highly coincidental
16 that's all. Highly coincidental.

17 MR. MCGOFF: There is nothing
18 coincidental at all.

19 MS. EVANS: Well, indeed it is,
20 because, as I said, all of the actions
21 regarding that audit were at a standstill
22 for a very long time until this afternoon
23 when it just seemed --

24 MR. MCGOFF: Apparently these
25 contracts were set prior to today, so it

1 didn't all happen today.

2 MS. EVANS: No, but --

3 MR. MCGOFF: Okay, and that's all I
4 questioned.

5 MS. EVANS: -- the revelation --

6 MR. MCGOFF: All I questioned was
7 the choice.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. MCGOFF: It had nothing to do
10 about any legal issues at all. That was not
11 involved in any of the questions that I
12 asked of you, was it?

13 MS. EVANS: Well, I just find it
14 very curious that no one else on this
15 council raised that issue, just you on the
16 very day within hours of the developments
17 with the audit. I think -- I think the
18 public is certainly smart enough to read
19 between those lines.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

21 MS. EVANS: And that's it.

22 MR. MCGOFF: No, excuse me. Are you
23 questioning my voracity?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes, I am.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I think that that's

1 very unprofessional. I told you the truth,
2 I showed you where I got the information,
3 there is no reason to question what I had --
4 what I have said tonight.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, the information,
6 that information you showed me, as I said,
7 from October 16.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Correct.

9 MS. EVANS: Today is the 19th. How
10 many days is --

11 MR. MCGOFF: And so everyone else on
12 this council had knowledge of it. Was the
13 rest of council involved in sending the
14 contracts to Rossi? Was your decision -- -

15 MS. EVANS: No one on council was
16 involved in that.

17 MR. MCGOFF: There was no decision
18 made by Council to use Rossi --

19 MS. EVANS: The decision was made to
20 choose Rossi at exactly the same time as the
21 administration chose Jones Kohanski, and
22 they had no right to do so. They are,
23 however, still pitching for Jones Kohanski.
24 Fifth Order.

25 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. ACCEPTING A TWO

1 HUNDRED FIFTY (\$250.00) DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION
2 FROM MCDONALD'S/MARY JOAN CORPORATION
3 PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE
4 DEPARTMENT.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. APPOINTMENT OF
20 DAVID G. SMITH, PE PLS, 1606 PINE STREET,
21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18510, AS A MEMBER
22 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
23 FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR
24 SMITH'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRES ON OCTOBER 11,
25 2010 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON OCTOBER

1 11, 2015.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

6 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
17 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
18 TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE OPTION BETWEEN THE
19 CITY OF SCRANTON AND DEERE CREDIT, INC. FOR
20 THE BUYOUT OF EQUIPMENT TO AID IN THE
21 DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTY.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -
12 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 43, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE
13 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE
14 COMMONLY KNOWN AS 225 REAR ST. FRANCIS
15 CABRINI AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX
16 MAP NO. 14518-070-03701 TO SHAWN SMITH,
17 224-226 ST. FRANCIS CABRINI AVENUE,
18 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE
19 CONSIDERATION OF \$2,600.00.

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

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

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
9 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 44, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE
10 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 67, 2009
11 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF
12 COUNCIL NO. 123, 2007, ENTITLED, "AN
13 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
14 OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
15 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
16 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
17 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
18 (AS AMENDED) TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
19 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
20 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
21 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)
22 PROGRAM", BY AMENDING THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN
23 AND THE 2008 ACTION PLAN TO INCLUDE NEW
24 FUNDING UNDER TITLE XII OF THE FEDERAL
25 AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF

1 2009 (“RECOVERY ACT”) FOR THE HOMELESS
2 PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM
3 (HPRP) AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
4 GRANT-RECOVERY (CDBG-R) THAT RESULTED
5 FROM THE RECOVERY ACT” IN ORDER TO TRANSFER
6 FUNDS FROM THE CDBG-R ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
7 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,500.00 TO THE
8 CDBG-R CRISP AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 45 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
25 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO

1 ENTER INTO GRANT CONTRACT NUMBER C000047525
2 WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
3 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED")
4 THROUGH THE ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM TO
5 ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CITY
6 OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
10 pass reading by title.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
13 those in favor signify by 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. If there is no
20 further business I will entertain a motion
21 to adjourn?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: And there is no business
24 at this time in Seventh Order, and this
25 meeting is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER