

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

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
16 TIME.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: We had one response from
19 Lackawanna College concerning some of the
20 services that we would offer to the city in
21 lieu of taxes. It's a very long.

22 MS. EVANS: Actually, I will address
23 some of that under motions.

24 MS. KRAKE: Very good. Thank you.

25 .

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MS. KRAKE: We also have several
3 Right-to-Know requests that are fast
4 approaching the 30-day deadline. They are:
5 Have all UDAG loans been paid in full? If
6 not, please make a list of those that have
7 not, the dollar amounts for UDAG and OECD --
8 that OECD will realize in 2010, '11, and
9 '12.

10 Are there any remaining funds for
11 prior year grants for CDBG, if so, what is
12 the dollar amount and so forth?

13 In 2002, have there been any
14 projects that were approved for funding but
15 not implemented. If so, what are those
16 projects and so forth, breakdown of them.

17 Community Development Block Grants,
18 Parks and Recreation, all of the items that
19 OECD had requested had been requested --
20 excuse or the city had originally requested
21 for CDBG and we had asked for a breakdown of
22 each one of those with the administration
23 and planning costs.

24 MS. EVANS: And you did say that
25 they are all close to the 30-day deadline,

1 have any surpassed?

2 MS. KRAKE: Yes. We had two more
3 that were not received, but the one that
4 passed was a copy of any and all permits
5 issued to the University of Scranton that
6 would comprise the \$2 million in revenue
7 that was received by the city as per the
8 administration's remarks.

9 MS. EVANS: If we can give that,
10 please, to our solicitor and he can pursue
11 that appropriately and legally.

12 MS. KRAKE: We received no response
13 from business administrator Stu Renda
14 concerning the cap on the liability
15 insurance for the City of Scranton.

16 We also received no response in so
17 far as the request what would be the
18 required to get the city's pension fund to
19 50 percent, and also why hasn't our audit
20 been completed by Robert Rossi in a timely
21 fashion.

22 MS. EVANS: We'll put those into
23 Mr. Renda's file.

24 MS. KRAKE: That's it for clerk's
25 notes.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
2 council members have announcements at this
3 time?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I just have a couple of
5 things that were in our mail. This one is,
6 unfortunately, November 15 and 16, so it's
7 Pizza for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness
8 Fundraiser being conducted by the Pancreatic
9 Cancer Action Network. I attended an event,
10 it was Cheers for a Cure at Whistles on
11 Saturday night conducted by the same group.
12 It was very well attended and it's a very
13 worthy cause, but this one is you can order
14 pizza, it's 50 percent of all sales at Pizza
15 by Pappas will go to the Pancreatic Cancer
16 Action Network, and the only remaining date
17 is tomorrow, I guess this evening and
18 tomorrow, but that's Pizza by Pappas on 303
19 North Washington Avenue.

20 And the second thing we had in our
21 mail was the Sweet on the Albright.
22 Albright Memorial Library is conducting a
23 fundraiser. They are selling Gertrude
24 Hawk's candies and posters and other things.
25 I imagine that any information you would be

1 able to get at the library itself. Those
2 were in my mail.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Rogan,
4 any announcements?

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just one. This
6 Thursday, November 18, from 7 to 8 p.m. the
7 West Scranton Crime Watch will meet. They
8 will be meeting in the basement of St. Pat's
9 Church and they will be discussing blight
10 and absentee landlords and I encourage all
11 my fellow Westsiders to attend, thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, any
13 announcements?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have nothing this
15 evening. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce?

17 MR. JOYCE: I have no announcements
18 either.

19 MS. EVANS: The Scranton/Lackawanna
20 County Taxpayers' Association will meet this
21 Thursday, November 18, at 6:00 p.m. in
22 Scranton City Council chambers.

23 There will be a community meeting to
24 discuss the sale of Mercy Hospital tomorrow
25 evening, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. at St.

1 Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Avenue in
2 Scranton. Learn about CHS and other
3 potential buyers and help to plan the next
4 steps to protect the interest of patients,
5 employees and our community. The meeting is
6 open to everyone.

7 The Albright Memorial Library
8 presents the "Little Red School House, An
9 American Icon" with Author Jonathan
10 Zimmerman, this Thursday, November 18, from
11 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the periodical's room
12 located in the reference department of the
13 library. Jonathan Zimmerman is a professor
14 of Education and History at NYU Steinhart
15 School, a former high school teacher and
16 author of four books. He is also the
17 recipient of NYU's distinguished teaching
18 award and a frequent contributor to national
19 newspapers and journals.

20 Mr. Zimmerman will ask the questions
21 how and why the little red school house
22 became an American icon and how across the
23 political spectrum everyone envisioned a
24 school house that they needed to see. For
25 reservations call 348-3000 or register

1 on-line at www.Albright.org/events.

2 Sunday for Sandy, a benefit to raise
3 funds for Sandy Marino, a first grade
4 teacher at Prescott School, will be held on
5 Sunday, November 28, at the Tripp Park
6 Community Center from 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets
7 are \$10 and are available at all Scranton
8 schools and at the door.

9 Finally, we congratulate the West
10 Scranton High School Invaders football team
11 for it's crushing victory over Dallas High
12 School in Saturday's District II, Class AAA
13 semi-final game and we wish West the best of
14 luck this Saturday as they face Abington
15 Heights in the championship game. Go get
16 'em, Invaders. And that's it.

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

19 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
20 evening is Matt McDonald.

21 MR. MCDONALD: Good evening,
22 Council.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

25 MR. MCDONALD: My name is Matt

1 McDonald, I'm a lifelong resident of the
2 City of Scranton, Scranton firefighter and
3 I'm vice president of Scranton Firefighters'
4 Local 60.

5 To say that I'm concerned about the
6 recent budget proposals of the Doherty
7 administration concerning the fire
8 department and police department is an
9 understatement. Like I said, I have lived
10 in this city for 35 years, I have my family
11 who still lives here, I have many friends
12 and every citizen of the city I'm concerned
13 about. I took an oath when I joined the
14 fire department to protect the citizens of
15 the city and I feel it's our job to come
16 here and explain the dangerous cuts that the
17 Doherty administration has proposed.

18 Let me start off by briefly
19 explaining the difference between the fire
20 apparatus that run the city. There is a
21 fire engine, which is the backbone of the
22 fire department. A fire engine carries --
23 in the city carries 750 gallons of water,
24 carries supply hose, carries attack hose to
25 attack fires and applies zones -- excuse me

1 to get water from fire hydrants into the
2 fire engine.

3 Now, there is on a typical fire two
4 engine companies would be dispatched
5 immediately, the first-in company on scene
6 we refer to as the first-due engine company
7 and what they do is they start the fire
8 attack. They pull the attack line and they
9 start fighting the fire.

10 The second-due engine company that's
11 immediately dispatched that establishes the
12 water supply, stops at a fire hydrant, when
13 the firefighter gets out takes some of the
14 large diameter hose which is four inch,
15 pulls it off the back and connects it to the
16 fire hydrant. They go down the street and
17 they attach it to the first fire company
18 that got there because there only 750
19 gallons in there and that's only a few
20 minutes that that engine first due in
21 company is able to put the water on the
22 fire. It only takes a couple of minutes,
23 two or three minutes that we have.

24 The second piece of apparatus is the
25 ladder company. We currently staff two in

1 the city. One at fire headquarters and one
2 over at Engine 9 on Main Avenue. Their job,
3 they have many jobs of the fire, but one of
4 their jobs is to do ventilation inside of
5 the fire. We all know that most of our
6 stuff today is made out of plastics.
7 Plastics burn faster, burn hotter, they
8 release toxic chemicals into the air and
9 we -- that needs to be ejected out of the
10 residence.

11 So what they do is they either
12 horizontally ventilate by breaking windows
13 and letting out heat and poisonous gas and
14 smoke escape from the building or they can
15 also vertically ventilate, cut the roof
16 which gets it out, also. They throw ladders
17 so residents could escape out windows and
18 firefighters could get in to get people,
19 again, many jobs that they do.

20 The third apparatus is the rescue
21 company. Their main job of the fire is to
22 search for people who can't get out of the
23 building who are either incapacitated or
24 just disoriented in getting out. Again,
25 talking about the new age we are in here

1 with plastics and everything, people don't
2 last as long as they used to in fires
3 because of the poisonous gases and the heat
4 that's generated by these fires that burn
5 today.

6 So when this administration wants to
7 close two engine companies, a ladder
8 company, and then move a rescue -- the
9 rescue company over to Main Avenue so you
10 don't have to close down that firehouse,
11 dangerous is not the -- is a word that comes
12 to mind because all those jobs have to be
13 done simultaneously within a few minutes of
14 the fire coming in. We work in seconds and
15 minutes in this job, you know, the first
16 engine company gets on scene, the rescue
17 company gets there, and the fire truck gets
18 there and they have to do all of those jobs
19 all at once. If you take one piece of that
20 pie out, if the first due engine company
21 gets on scene and they don't have water
22 because the second engine company is not
23 there or is ten minutes away in another part
24 of town then they have pull out, the fire
25 can progress, the rescue company can't get

1 in to try and see if there is people in
2 there to get them out.

3 So, again, when we talk about fire I
4 don't think people understand, you know,
5 they see some of these movies out there
6 where, you know, these fires they go in and
7 they put them out. It's -- Jack understands
8 that these jobs need to be done
9 simultaneously within minutes of us coming
10 in.

11 My point is here, I'm getting a
12 little off track here, but my point is that
13 in this proposal he is proposing to cut
14 Engine 4, which is at fire headquarters, and
15 Engine 9 which is over in Main Avenue.
16 Engine 4 protects the entire downtown area.
17 It protects the lower Hill Section. It's
18 first due in the lower Hill Section, lower
19 South Side, Pinebrook, parts of Weston
20 Field. Engine 9 also is second due in the
21 city -- into the downtown area.

22 I did a list today of over 30
23 residential multi-level units in the city
24 along with nursing homes, schools, and
25 motels and hospitals that Engine 4 is the

1 first due in that. If you take away Engine
2 4, and I understand what they are doing is
3 they don't want to close the firehouses, but
4 a truck company is different from an engine
5 company, so where are these engine companies
6 going to come from? If we have something
7 happen at Mulberry Towers across the street
8 here we are going to be waiting for Engine
9 15 to come up the hill, Engine 10 on East
10 Mountain, and that delay is just -- it's
11 just unacceptable. Do I have -- could I
12 continue with what I have here? I have a
13 few more things.

14 MS. EVANS: If you can finish up in
15 a minute or two, please.

16 MR. MCDONALD: Surely. An
17 interesting fact I came over today, it's
18 actually a grim fact by the United States
19 Fire Service it states that citizens over 65
20 years old are twice as likely to die in a
21 fire. The population of Scranton of 65 or
22 older is 20 percent, and a large chunk of
23 that is this downtown area and these
24 high-rise buildings.

25 So again, that's a grim fact that

1 this is a very scary situation for our
2 citizens, the most vulnerable citizens in
3 the city and we are taking two of the first
4 due engine companies out of service. I have
5 more, but I'm sorry that I kind of got off
6 topic and just thank you for listening to me
7 tonight.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

9 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. John Judge.

10 MR. JUDGE: Good evening, Council.

11 My name is John Judge and I'm a Scranton
12 firefighter and the secretary with IFF Local
13 60, been serving my union for about six,
14 seven years now. I kind of have a unique
15 take on some of the things that have
16 happened with the budget and I think my
17 position is a little unique because I have
18 been on both sides of it. I was a police
19 officer in the city before I switched over
20 to the fire department and some of the
21 things that I see with this most recent
22 budget are like my -- Matt had stated are
23 very troublesome and worry us very greatly.

24 If we just look at the two engines
25 that the mayor is proposing to cut, I find

1 it interesting, like Matt stated, that all
2 of the properties that we have downtown and
3 all of the money that's been put in in the
4 last -- Id move back home about nine or ten
5 years ago, all of the money that's been
6 dumped into the downtown area for
7 revitalization projects and you can see the
8 downtown area, new buildings everywhere,
9 these are the two, first two pieces of
10 apparatus that are due to any of the
11 properties downtown. Engine 4 and Engine 9
12 would be vital to the overall success of the
13 operation.

14 One of the things that I do across
15 the -- actually across the state and I have
16 been in Texas and Delaware, I teach for the
17 fire service, so I feel I have some pretty
18 good knowledge on how this is going to
19 hinder our operations the way that they are
20 structuring. The properties that we have
21 downtown with these two engines closed, what
22 we are going to do as a union is we are
23 going to put information out there. People
24 are going to tell you and you are going to
25 hear it on the news and in the newspapers

1 that the union is using scare tactics. This
2 is not scare tactics. We are being
3 realists. If the administration does not
4 want to be responsible for the public we are
5 going to do it for them. We are going to
6 investigate how this is going to effect the
7 public, we are going to investigate how this
8 is going to effect our members.

9 Unfortunately, Mr. Loscombe was a
10 firefighter back when they had 210 people.
11 We are now down with this mayor we will be
12 down to 110. In I believe '92, early 90's
13 it went from 210 down to 150, now we are
14 down to -- going to be down to 110 if the
15 mayor gets his way on this. With that 110
16 number he expects to be able to keep open
17 all of the pieces with the exception of
18 those two engines I mentioned and one of our
19 ladder trucks.

20 It's not that -- we have done the
21 numbers, the numbers do not add up. What is
22 going to happen is there is going to be
23 overtime incurred because of the numbers,
24 and the problem that we have with this is if
25 you are going to build a house you just

1 don't build the house and then decide who is
2 going to move into it. They are working
3 backwards here. You have to work -- you
4 have to look at see what's required of this
5 area, 26.2 square miles the city, 70,000
6 residents, plus residents. The coverage
7 area that we are responsible for.

8 Right now we run minimum pieces of
9 equipment in our opinion with -- there is
10 five engines, they run only two. Is it
11 dangerous? Yes, it is. Unfortunately, the
12 fire service every time we have an
13 administration that wants to cut the fire
14 service we learn to do more with less.

15 Unfortunately, this puts us in a
16 position where we can no longer do that same
17 job with that less -- those less numbers.
18 We need these firefighters on the streets to
19 protect these citizens. What we will be
20 doing over the next several days and weeks
21 is we are going to look and take a realistic
22 approach at how this is going to effect the
23 safety of the public and we are going to
24 disseminate that information. If it means
25 hitting the streets, that's what we are

1 going to do. If it means press conferences,
2 that's what we are going to do.

3 The city has done studies, you guys
4 are in possession of the one that PEL did.
5 If you look at that PEL study what did the
6 city take out of that and put in their
7 budget? Nothing. All of the recommendation
8 that come from that study which we disagree
9 with on several factors they are not even
10 using any of those recommendations. They
11 are looking at it from a purely fiscal
12 standpoint and disregarding the overall
13 safety of the public and the members of this
14 fire department and this union will not
15 tolerate it and we will fight it every step
16 of the way to ensure that every person that
17 lives or works in the city or travels
18 through it will be safe at all times. We
19 will to our best to develop the information
20 and pass it onto council as need, but just
21 looking at these numbers that we have looked
22 at they don't add up. It's not going to
23 work.

24 Any questions that you have for us
25 we would be more than happy to answer, meet

1 with council, whatever it takes, but we'll
2 make sure that we'll be responsible for the
3 safety of the public at this point if the
4 administration wants to disregard it. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. JOYCE: I have one question for
7 you, in the budget that was sent down by the
8 administration there was only \$100,000
9 allocated for overtime for firefighters, I
10 believe. Currently as of 9-30 this year I
11 believe there has been somewhere in the 800
12 to 900 thousand dollar range spent on
13 overtime and your estimate, since I know
14 that you are a very knowledgeable resource
15 regarding the fire department, is this
16 \$100,000 figure accurate and what would you
17 say the overtime expenses would be due to
18 such staffing reductions that the mayor is
19 proposing?

20 MR. JUDGE: The numbers that we
21 looked at, the \$100,000 -- and here is our
22 biggest concern on that, we feel that the
23 \$100,000 that they have put in there if
24 something happens where we have members off
25 injured because they are taking perfect

1 numbers in their budget with no members that
2 are off injured. Currently we have six
3 members that are off injured, backfilling
4 them, our fear is that what he will do is
5 possibly close additional companies and
6 that's where we are seeing the numbers not
7 working.

8 As to what the actual overtime
9 numbers will be, with three of those
10 companies closed already if you just
11 continue to close companies we still think
12 he is going to develop overtime and it may
13 not be as much as what's in the budget this
14 year, but it's going to be substantial, and
15 if you remember everybody likes to point at
16 all of the overtime the firefighters are
17 making. When this happened, when they
18 reduced the numbers back in the 90's, and it
19 was before my time, that was kind of how
20 this got structured. This is really
21 structured as 165 person department at this
22 point. We are running, we were running
23 until 2008 with a 150 and the mayor through
24 attrition has now got us down to 137
25 firefighters and now wants to take another

1 27 down. I know that Times says there is 34
2 positions cut, and I would assume if you
3 looked at the budget from last year they had
4 funded 144 firefighters, and if you take 34
5 from 144 that's where they are getting the
6 110 number, but we have had some members
7 leave this year for different reasons.

8 So is the overtime number -- I don't
9 know because we don't know what their
10 intentions are. They are not -- they are
11 not letting us know and I'll be honest with
12 you, I don't think they know. Every study
13 that we have seen we have talked to, you
14 know, our higher ups as far as our deputy
15 chiefs, assistant chiefs and our captains,
16 none of our chiefs have been consulted and
17 not even the fire chief. He is not told
18 what's going on. He is told this is what
19 you are going to work with and he has to
20 implement it. Not having a say in that I
21 think that's inappropriate and it's
22 dangerous.

23 Chief Davis is responsible for our
24 department, he should have input into how
25 the department is structured and how it

1 works. We have people that are just
2 counting beans upstairs that are making
3 these decisions and it's not realistic, but
4 we are going to get you the numbers. We are
5 going to make sure the city stays safe one
6 way or another.

7 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, the point of
8 information there --

9 MR. JUDGE: Sure.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I know he asked it was
11 budgeted in 2010 overtime was \$400,000 and
12 actual as of September 30 was \$665,000 so --

13 MR. JUDGE: Correct.

14 MR. MCGOFF: -- obviously \$100,000 is
15 not even going to come close.

16 MR. JUDGE: No, I would imagine not,
17 not unless he intends on closing additional
18 companies and that's our fear at this point
19 that some additional companies will be
20 closed. The way we operate now, although
21 it's not ideal, it's known to us and we make
22 it work. We have looked at the numbers and
23 operating anything less than what we have
24 now is going to be dangerous to our members
25 and the public and we are just not going to

1 stand for it, it's that simple.

2 MR. ROGAN: I have one question as
3 well.

4 MR. JUDGE: Sure.

5 MR. ROGAN: And actually, maybe
6 Councilman Loscombe you may want to chime in
7 on this because I know you served on the
8 fire department and worked in the insurance
9 industry as well, over time as we see more
10 and more cuts in fire protection in the city
11 could homeowners see increased rates?

12 MR. JUDGE: I think you will bigger
13 reductions -- or your bigger increases are
14 going to be your businesses through the ISO
15 rating, the Insurance Services Organization
16 rating. I think that's who is going to end
17 up seeing the bigger hit or the businesses,
18 and I know from experience my family owns a
19 business in this city, probably one of the
20 older businesses in the city, been in
21 business for as long as I know, my
22 great-grandfather started it and I know one
23 of the things that cripples his business is
24 being able to compete with, you know,
25 businesses outside of the city because of

1 the heavy mercantile tax, so then you are
2 going to increase their insurance as well h
3 it's going to hinder them even further. In
4 a day like today you all know that small mom
5 and pop businesses are being thrown to the
6 wayside because it's tough to compete with
7 these bigger businesses.

8 MR. ROGAN: And a time when we are
9 trying to attract more businesses and more
10 people to the city I think the last message
11 we want to send to people outside the area
12 who might open a business in Scranton or who
13 might move their family to Scranton is that
14 the government is cutting police and fire
15 protection.

16 MR. JUDGE: Yes.

17 MR. ROGAN: It think that's the last
18 message we want to send.

19 MR. JUDGE: Yeah. I absolutely
20 think it is. Like I said, we will continue
21 to come here every Tuesday night if we have
22 to. We will be on the streets. It's not
23 scare tactics. Anybody that wants to
24 challenge the information that we put out
25 there I would be more than happy to educate

1 them, that's what we are trying it do. We
2 are here to educate you. I have an
3 obligation to my union to make sure that
4 they stay safe when they're working. I have
5 a 137 brothers that I'm not going to let
6 anything happen to, it's that simple.
7 Nobody is going to -- nobody is going to
8 hurt my family. That's my family, 137
9 brothers and nothing is going to happen to
10 the citizens here either. I won't allow it.
11 Thank you.

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

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Rogan, just to
14 answer your question to make it more clear,
15 yes, any downward change in our ISO rating
16 will affect every homeowner and business
17 owner in the city.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes, because I remember
19 when the initial recovery plan went to
20 battle one of the lines the administration
21 at the time used was we are going to face a
22 tax increase if they don't pass it. What
23 happened was obviously the Recovery Plan was
24 passed, previous council and the mayor
25 increased property taxes anyways and now he

1 wants to cut more police officers and more
2 firefighters and in the end if that -- if we
3 do cut them and the rates for fire insurance
4 go up for homeowners in the end the
5 homeowners pay anyway and we don't have the
6 protection.

7 MR. DESTEFANO: Good evening,
8 Council. Gary DeStefano, Scranton
9 firefighter and resident. I guess I'm here
10 this evening to discuss with you the
11 ill-conceived notion that this is actually a
12 plan put forward by this administration to
13 reorganize the fire department. How anyone
14 can say a longer response time with less
15 apparatus and less manpower is going to be
16 more efficient for this city, I do not know.

17 On a personnel note, just so
18 everyone could think of it this way, I'm a
19 resident of the Hill Section because now
20 there are no engines in town, Engine 4 and
21 Engine 9 on the other side of the river
22 Engine 15 will be your first due engine more
23 than likely to downtown Scranton going on
24 all of the calls, all of the alarms,
25 everything else it involves. What happens

1 to the residents of the Hill Section when
2 their engine is no longer there when it's
3 out on a call in center city? What do we do
4 then? Where will the next engine company be
5 coming from for their protection?

6 Do you see the great hole that this
7 created by reducing those two engine
8 companies? Will the people in the Hill
9 Section now have to wait for the engine in
10 West Scranton on West Market Street to come
11 across town or possibly South Side? How is
12 that -- how is that -- how is that more
13 efficient? I just don't understand how you
14 could think that it isn't planned. It seems
15 to me it is a, oh, somebody crunched the
16 numbers, they sat down and said, "We need to
17 save this amount of money from the fire
18 department," and then somebody got out a
19 calculator and divided and they said, "Okay
20 we now have 110 firefighters. That's all we
21 need," with no rhyme or reason how they are
22 going to operate. No plan really other than
23 to save money we are now going to have 110
24 firefighters. That's about all I have. Do
25 you have any questions?

1 MS. EVANS: No.

2 MR. DESTEFANO: Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Jack
4 Gaffney.

5 MR. GAFFNEY: Good evening, Council.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. GAFFNEY: My name is Jack
8 Gaffney, I'm a resident of the city, I'm
9 also a firefighter and newly elected second
10 vice president of the Local 60 Union for the
11 firefighters. Excuse me if I'm a little
12 scatterbrained, our heads have been spinning
13 for the past day or so. Just to piggyback
14 off of a couple of things these guys said.
15 Gary was mentioning response times.
16 Firefighting, and Mr. Loscombe could attest
17 to it, it's basically a job of what if.
18 What if your house catches on fire, what are
19 you going to do? What if your first due
20 engine isn't there, what are you going to
21 do? This is a job where like Matt was
22 saying we require -- our job requires us to
23 perform every second. Fire doubles every
24 few seconds. When that first engine isn't
25 there and it's coming from wherever, there

1 is an -- Engine 15 has to come into town now
2 to go on all of the alarms where is that
3 second engine coming from? If it has to
4 come from East Mountain now it has to come
5 all of the way down into town because it
6 can't go over the Harrison Avenue bridge.
7 What are you going to do?

8 As far as overtime, we were talking
9 before, I never thought I'd have to say --
10 let me start over and say I never thought
11 this day would come after being on the job
12 almost eight years and I have to defend
13 myself and the people that I work with to
14 you people and to the citizens. It's
15 exhausting when you run into people on a
16 daily basis and in the back of your mind
17 you're defending yourself before you even
18 open your mouth. It's exhausting.

19 You are talking overtime. We were
20 \$265,000 over budget by the end of
21 September. Understandable when are you 13
22 men short. Scranton Times sees us as being
23 worth \$89,000 per man. Do the math. 89
24 times 13, the city is getting off pretty
25 cheap. Do we make anywhere near \$89,000? I

1 don't. I wish I brought my paycheck with
2 me.

3 I'm watching the news last night,
4 the 11:00 news on Channel 28 and the mayor
5 sits there and says, "Let's be honest, each
6 firefighter the average makes \$67,000 in the
7 city."

8 Unless I make tens of thousands of
9 dollars in the next six weeks I won't come
10 anywhere near it. It's public record. Go
11 check my paycheck. I don't know where they
12 are getting these figures.

13 On a personal note, I live in North
14 Scranton. Engine 8 is the first company to
15 my house. Second engine is Engine 9, which
16 is one that he wants to close. The truck
17 company that comes to my house and everyone
18 else in North Scranton is the truck company
19 he wants to close. How long are those guys
20 on Engine 8 going to be at my house by
21 themselves? I might be one of the guys.
22 You can't fight a fire with only a couple of
23 guys. We require, as I said, we require for
24 everything to happen simultaneously as Matt
25 said. Everyone has a job to do, we all know

1 what to do and we are not standing here
2 saying, you know, keep Engine 4 and keep
3 Engine 9 open, don't get the idea we want
4 another engine to close, we are working on a
5 bare minimum right now. Our backs have been
6 bending for years. For years.

7 Since 1992 this department is down
8 100 guys if the mayor gets his way January
9 1. A hundred men and women. We can't
10 perform as a -- to go below the bare
11 minimum. There is no perfect math as John
12 was saying. It doesn't work that way. The
13 numbers don't match.

14 Getting back to Engine 9, I have
15 three children that go to Neil Armstrong
16 School, the first two pieces of apparatus
17 that would arrive at Neil Armstrong School
18 are two of the three that he wants to close,
19 Engine 9 and Truck 4. There should be every
20 parent in here from North Scranton
21 complaining about that. I can't imagine
22 that these people would not want to get
23 involved. What is enough? We will not --
24 we'll try to not let that happen. You
25 cannot allow that to happen. I don't know

1 what the price of getting out of distressed
2 status is, but the lives of my three
3 children isn't the price and every other
4 parent, every other parent that has a child
5 at Neil Armstrong School those two
6 companies, Engine 9 and Truck 4 will not be
7 there in the time that they would be today
8 come January 1. That's dangerous.

9 I never fully understood everything,
10 as I said, almost on eight years, I guess
11 the wool is off my eyes now. I can see a
12 lot clearly now and it's dangerous for the
13 citizens, for the 137 or the 110 which
14 ironically I would be number 110. What do I
15 say to the guy that's right behind me?
16 "Sorry. I feel sorry for you."

17 My cousin is one of the 27, what do
18 I tell him and his kids? It's not right and
19 it's not safe, and as I said before we will
20 do everything that we can to not have this
21 go through and I am asking you personally,
22 because I know some of you personally,
23 please do not allow this to happen not as a
24 firefighter as a parent and a citizen you
25 cannot allow this to happen. Thank you for

1 your time.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
3 Gervasi.

4 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
5 council. My name is Dave Gervasi. I'm also
6 a citizen and life-long resident of
7 Scranton, I'm the president of the
8 firefighters' union.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. GERVASI: There is not many more
11 things I can say to my colleagues that
12 aren't already brought up because I'm
13 proud of these guys. You can see the
14 emotion on them the last two days and
15 worried about our 27 firefighters that the
16 mayor wants to knock off our rolls.

17 Just a few points I think that
18 weren't made tonight that I would like to
19 bring up, the mayor made a statement the
20 other day that he has to get out of
21 distressed status and he is blaming -- he is
22 blaming cuts on the police and firefighters
23 and the Court order that was just issued.

24 Let me just take everyone back when
25 I started speaking here years and years ago

1 when I said in the end what Act 47 is going
2 to do for the citizens it's going to be
3 raise their taxes and it's going to cut
4 their services. You are going to get less
5 services, less public safety for more money.
6 Not a good deal. All we asked, the police
7 and the firefighters, was for a cost of
8 living adjustment because for the prior ten
9 years we received three raises and a bonus
10 for the prior ten years. We were only
11 making, police and firefighters, only making
12 74 percent of what the comparable
13 firefighters were making in every other city
14 in the state, some doing well, some in
15 distressed status, but the mayor had to
16 spend \$3 million fighting because he wanted
17 us to have no basis, firefighters no
18 raises -- or police no raises in 12 years.
19 For 12 years that's what he wanted and
20 that's what the Pennsylvania Economy League
21 wanted. So we lost, we can't stop the
22 firehouses from closing now, only you and
23 the citizens can do that because we lost
24 that part, but we did win something after \$3
25 million in Court battles, we got a cost of

1 living adjustment over 12 years. That's all
2 we got. So now apparently the mayor is so
3 angry, he is so angry that we got a cost of
4 living adjustment and he couldn't starve us
5 out or a statement that he made to a former
6 councilman that he will make us have our
7 houses foreclosed on, he actually said that
8 once about cops and firemen, so I guess he
9 is so angry now that we got a cost of living
10 adjustment that he is going to put
11 everybody's lives in danger. He is going to
12 lash out.

13 There was four studies done since
14 one 1992, four studies by professional
15 people, and this administration hasn't taken
16 the advice of any of them. They have spent
17 probably \$40,000 doing studies, hiring
18 experts, and they haven't taken any advice,
19 so we get the cost of living adjustment and
20 the mayor lashes out and he decides he is
21 going to close Engine 4, Engine 9 and Truck
22 4. We looked at each other and said, "This
23 can't be possible. This is insane."

24 The most vulnerable of our
25 residents, the elderly, the infirmed, the

1 young, and our students they closed the two
2 companies that protect these buildings,
3 these institutions and these residences.
4 Like, is he purposely trying to get people
5 killed including my fellow firefighters who
6 is going to be waiting at a burning building
7 for maybe five or ten minutes before we get
8 establish a water supply so our rescue and
9 our truck companies can actually do their
10 work?

11 City council, please, you need to
12 know that companies have closed in the past.
13 They have not closed any firehouse in the
14 City of Scranton in over 50 years. There is
15 reason for that. Because you can't.
16 Because you are going to decide when you
17 close that house which neighborhood you are
18 going to get people killed in, and I don't
19 think anybody ever wanted to make that
20 decision until this mayor got mad because we
21 got a cost of living raise.

22 Response times are going to suffer
23 terribly. Terribly. I'm asking you at this
24 time to please do not let the mayor throw
25 caution to the wind, and please don't let

1 the mayor get people hurt, please don't let
2 the mayor get our firefighters and our
3 police officers especially killed. Our
4 police officers, I mean, has anyone looked
5 out their window in the last ten years? Are
6 things getting better in Scranton? Is crime
7 going down in Scranton? And they want to
8 knock off our cops, too? This is insane,
9 and I think the mayor if he is so concerned
10 about getting out of distressed status he
11 ought to chop off some of the crony fat that
12 he put in these authorities and all of these
13 crony middle management jobs that he put in
14 this building maybe we should chop those off
15 first, but no, we are going to chop of the
16 people that inspect our buildings, the
17 people that chase the bad guys out of our
18 back yards, and the people that rescue
19 people when they are trapped in cars or they
20 are trapped in their houses when it's on
21 fires. Those are the people he is going to
22 punish.

23 Please, don't let this happen. Let
24 him cut or if you need to cut, cut where it
25 doesn't matter, it doesn't matter to the

1 average citizen out there. Please don't let
2 him cut our people. Please. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Andy Sbaraglia.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
5 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
6 I'm going to talk a little about
7 subordination, a dirty word that got us
8 where we are now with Boscov's. For ten
9 years I have been telling the council and
10 the lawyer why do you support subordination?
11 Why take a good loan that we are guaranteed
12 to get our money back and drop it behind
13 another loan making it almost impossible
14 sometimes to get our money back? But it
15 never sunk in, but I hope that it sinks in
16 now as you see what's happening with
17 Boscov's.

18 Boscov's sold the leases I believe
19 for 20 million awhile back so he got a good
20 chunk of money, he kept the building, but he
21 sold the leases, that's the money that the
22 stores get and so forth to pay. So he is
23 out of that. But them loans, now he wants
24 us even to subordinate them even. Well, I'm
25 against subordination, but we are already

1 subordinate so we are struck. What happens
2 if the mall closes or goes under? It ruins
3 everything. So it's a simple problem.

4 Unfortunately, you got to do what
5 you got to do, but subordination that's what
6 you didn't have to do and them councils
7 before you that did that put us where we are
8 now, and we'll continue if you use that word
9 at all it should be like a curse word
10 because all you are doing is taking money
11 that the people of Scranton is guaranteed to
12 get and taking a gamble, well, it's actually
13 throwing the dice and we all know what
14 happened with the Hilton.

15 I came before you a long time ago,
16 well, not even, but the other council when
17 they were crying that they are going
18 bankrupt, you know what I tell them? Let
19 them go bankrupt. Someone else will come
20 in. That hotel costs us \$33 million.
21 Someone would have took that on the bargain
22 table and we would have been still protected
23 on our loan, but now we have to makeup that
24 loan and God knows how many other loans and
25 it's a continual process.

1 You got to watch and protect the
2 people of Scranton when it comes to finances
3 anyway you can. Nelson says there is a lot
4 of talk about police and firemen, I won't
5 get into that, but he did mention four
6 studies. Get them. Get them four studies
7 and study them and see what their
8 recommendations was at this time and then
9 you have to let the chips fall where they
10 may.

11 Now, this isn't something that was
12 done just now. He wanted to do this back
13 when they had the Recovery Plan and any of
14 you that studied the plan and knew what
15 happened at that time knew that he wanted to
16 do this, it just took him that long to
17 finally get the authority to do it. Whether
18 it should have been done I don't know. I'd
19 like to -- Brian Reap he wanted to do
20 attrition. He said we can reduce these by
21 attrition and there was no reason why he
22 couldn't have done that, and as it is now he
23 probably would have been down whether we had
24 the protection we need. That's the sad part
25 about it, it's the protection we need.

1 You know, Scranton is 25 square
2 miles and we take in part of Taylor, I think
3 and part of Dunmore and somewhere else,
4 maybe part of Taylor, too. No, Dickson
5 City, I think part of Dickson, but the
6 problem is we get storms here. We all
7 remember a few years ago when they couldn't
8 get that piece of equipment up there off of
9 St. Ann's Street, so that we got to watch,
10 too. You can't just say this city is -- our
11 road are terrible to begin with, but it can
12 be become almost impassable and that time
13 has to be figured into your formula. What
14 would happen during the very bad storm? How
15 long would it take the apparatuses to get
16 from different locations to a fire?

17 And that's important because I think
18 we lost a child there if I remember right.
19 Whether we would have lost them or not I
20 have no way of knowing if the roads weren't
21 bad, but that's something you have to take
22 into account. It's not just manpower here
23 or manpower there. As a union
24 representative they have to do what they do.
25 As a taxpayer I have to look at the total

1 cost for the whole system, and so do you,
2 and I know it's a tough decision because you
3 got to put everything in a balancing act and
4 that's the trouble with life. Everything
5 has to be balanced out. You got good, bad
6 and sometimes indifference, but I'm sorry
7 you're in this position really.

8 I wish somebody had listened to
9 Brian Reap eight years ago when they did the
10 Recovery Plan and we probably wouldn't have
11 been where we are now. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

13 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'
14 Association. Good evening. I guess the
15 mayor wants to drop the public safety bomb
16 on everyone and it's ashame because of the
17 fact that it's a vindictive move against the
18 police and firemen and against the majority
19 of the city council and it's so obvious it's
20 -- you can fall over it and yet, yet please
21 don't let them do it.

22 I'm not here tonight to go into that
23 any further, but it does relate to what's
24 going on because it's mismanagement. In
25 March of this year there was litigation

1 MR. QUINN: I want you to, you know,
2 to look at that memo, who it's from and who
3 it's to, and the subject is: "The City of
4 Scranton, PA., did not administer it's
5 Community Development Block Grant in
6 accordance with HUD requirements."

7 Now, there is a lot to it. There is
8 33 pages, 150 applications were not approved
9 by HUD's Office of Inspector General in
10 Pittsburgh and it amounts to \$11.7 million
11 and that's a lot of money, and there is no
12 doubt about it, and if it -- and in the
13 audit they say if they do not come up with
14 the documentation what are you going to do,
15 restructure the -- what they gave out? In
16 essence they are saying, "Where did this
17 money go? We don't know if it was stolen or
18 what."

19 But the fact is that if they don't
20 get that \$11.7 million back it's got to be
21 city taxpayers' money, so add that to your
22 budget, also.

23 Now, on page ten, it's more or less
24 the conclusion, and of this, okay, and I
25 just want to point out something here, in

1 the conclusions it says, "The Office of OECD
2 informed us that the conditions identified
3 in the audit occurred because responsible
4 city employees did not fully understand all
5 of the HUD requirements and, therefore, did
6 not allow them. They informed us that they
7 are going to forward to and they attempt to
8 send the city records properly identified in
9 CDBG funding and funding from sources other
10 than HUD and were not separate and
11 identified during the audit period.

12 Officials also agreed that they need
13 to maintain adequate supporting
14 documentation tied to the county records and
15 adequately monitor their subrecipients.
16 Officials also stated they were hopeful that
17 this audit would now help responsible
18 personnel understand the importance of these
19 requirements."

20 That is unbelievable. I know that
21 the executive director, and I'm not picking
22 on the executive director, has worked 20, 25
23 years over there in OECD. Don't know the
24 regulations? To me this is tantamount to
25 what Mayor Doherty is throwing at you in

1 that budget and what he has been doing since
2 he has been elected with this debt of
3 mismanagement. Total mismanagement. You
4 don't know where this money is. It scares
5 me. It frightens me.

6 It goes onto say, "The city could
7 not demonstrate that it used more than \$11.7
8 million in CDBG funds for eligible
9 activities that met the agenda of the
10 program."

11 And then it goes on to
12 recommendation, it says, "Provide
13 documentation that the \$11,735,924 was used
14 for eligible activities that met the intent
15 of HUD approved budget item or repayed them
16 from nonfederal funds."

17 No documentation, no applications,
18 no monitoring. Now, how many times has the
19 mayor said about economic development the
20 jobs he has created? No monitoring.
21 Nothing in the files about this. This is --
22 that's lie. That's an outright lie. It's
23 fraud. No subrecipient agreements. Can you
24 imagine that? Can you imagine that? I
25 mean, they were -- the auditors were there

1 from January to August 10 then they had an
2 exit audit and they met with the OECD then
3 they had OECD replied to the audit findings,
4 six pages they wrote in here and HUD would
5 not accept it. They are filled up to here.

6 Last year I tried to speak to the
7 former majority, Mr. Doherty's majority
8 about another audit that was going on for
9 years after year after year, millions of
10 dollars, and Sherry Fanucci, the
11 councilwoman in charge of Community
12 Development Block Grant called me a liar.
13 She said I was living with the 1970
14 regulations. Well, shame on her.

15 You know, it's just deception. This
16 mayor is just trying to deceive us. He is
17 trying to deceive us with his public safety
18 issue, and he is deceiving us with this CDBG
19 grant and I ask you don't let him fade
20 away -- let this fade away, please. Have a
21 meeting with HUD or with the Inspector
22 General's Office and get to the bottom of
23 this, okay?

24 As a matter of fact, one of the
25 findings in here, the SRA executive director

1 who coincidentally said he was going to
2 resign in December, now I know why, okay?
3 Why? Because he is president of the
4 consulting firm and guess who is consulting
5 him? His consulting firm is getting paid by
6 the SRA \$130,000 and they say that's a
7 conflict of the interest. You are not
8 getting around that. Please, \$11.7, let's
9 get to the bottom of this. Thank you very
10 much.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.
12 I'm sure everyone on council will read this
13 very carefully and I am quite surprised,
14 particularly since I recall during the Court
15 hearings when the Mayor of Scranton had sued
16 Scranton City Council I believe Mrs. Aebli
17 testified that HUD had been in and an audit
18 had been done and OECD was -- well, OECD
19 passed with flying colors, and I remember an
20 article in the Scranton Times newspaper
21 saying the same thing. I have to question
22 where the Scranton Times is getting it's
23 information from because just for the very
24 few articles I have a perused as you spoke
25 -- or sections that I should say, this is a

1 quite revealing and very frightening.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MR. QUINN: Yes. You know what?

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Quinn, for giving us this.

6 MR. QUINN: Certainly. I was going
7 to say something, I lost my train of
8 thought. The only reason I'm afraid I
9 brought that up and I didn't let anybody
10 know about this here until -- I got it
11 yesterday afternoon because of the fact that
12 they are sitting on this down there and over
13 on Spruce Street. Spruce Street? They
14 sitting on this and you people are blind to
15 it. Blind to it. Mr. Rogan, you are the
16 community development director, did anybody
17 contact you on this?

18 MR. ROGAN: No.

19 MR. QUINN: I didn't think so. You
20 know, and they are sitting on it and no one
21 would ever know about it unless somebody
22 brought it out. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: That might tie in well
24 with the fact that we are having such
25 difficulty obtaining information from

1 OECD --

2 MR. QUINN: Why would they give you
3 information?

4 MS. EVANS: -- regarding UDAG, CDBG,
5 etcetera.

6 MR. QUINN: They are caught with
7 their pants down.

8 MS. EVANS: Marie Schumacher.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
10 Council. I'm going to hold my budget
11 comments until I have had a little bit more
12 time to review the budget, but I hope we
13 will hear tonight the date for the public
14 hearing so we can get some more information.
15 However, I also hope during motions we will
16 find out the status of the audit report
17 which is a little bit critical to evaluate
18 the budget.

19 First, a couple of personal issues.
20 The streetlight at the corner of East
21 Mountain Road and Seymour Avenue pole number
22 57909N45267 has not functioned in over a
23 month. Does the contract with the Municipal
24 Energy specify how many days they have to
25 respond after a report? If not, it

1 certainly should because that's totally
2 unsatisfactory. I have been calling every
3 day and you get no place with them.
4 Absolutely no place.

5 Also, driving while on the cell
6 phone has been banned in Harrisburg,
7 Philadelphia, Eastern Pennsylvania Township,
8 which includes Allentown, Erie Township,
9 Conshohocken, Hollow Hill Township, York and
10 Lebanon Cities. All have ordinances against
11 driving while using a cell phone, and I
12 think it's time that Scranton stepped up to
13 the plate and got it's own ordinance.

14 I was personally affected this
15 summer when I was taking a guest from
16 Georgia up to McDade Park to go on the coal
17 mine tour, got rear ended by a car between
18 the person who hit him and went into me and
19 I have subsequently heard so many, and I
20 followed up to see if this person was
21 arrested because I was upset, not because it
22 happened, accidents do happen I realize
23 that, but the first words out of this young
24 woman's mouth were, "Well, I was on the
25 phone."

1 Didn't ask if anybody was hurt.
2 Then the second thing she said was, "Do you
3 know what this going to do to my insurance?"

4 And then the third thing was, "Do
5 you know how long ago they had this
6 vehicle?"

7 I mean, just -- it's got to stop.
8 It's just got to stop. There is just too
9 many -- too many, and you can do it. These
10 other places have done it and I would
11 certainly hope that you would get it done
12 maybe even by the end of this year, but
13 certainly if not first thing next year.

14 Next for Mr. Loscombe, back when we
15 were discussing the Mulberry Street project,
16 which I still hate, you had said that the
17 part of that you believe was a change in the
18 turning radius on the truck route from
19 Mulberry Street to Jefferson Avenue, and it
20 was about maybe three weeks ago at a council
21 meeting I was coming to a council meeting,
22 but I was going to the library first, I was
23 in the curb lane on Jefferson Avenue, there
24 was fortunately -- there was nobody in the
25 left-turn lane, an empty auto carrier came

1 up Mulberry Street and I had to back up to
2 let that person out. If it had been
3 probably an hour earlier I don't know how
4 that many people would have been -- that
5 many vehicles would have been able to make
6 that turn, you know, back up to let this guy
7 make the turn, so I would like to know what
8 happened to that? Why do we not have -- why
9 has that turning radius not be changed? It
10 is a truck route and it's understandable, it
11 connects the expressway with Route 81.
12 Something --

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll answer you after
14 you are done.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Something needs to
16 be done there. Next, Ice Box. It's been
17 many, many moons since I asked for the
18 ordinance that allowed the were deed to be
19 filed under I would say false circumstances,
20 and until I'm proven otherwise I still say
21 that there never was legislation to allow
22 what they did changing it to what, up to 99
23 years or 198 years? I can't even remember.
24 I think it was 198 years. I don't know
25 whatever happened to that, but I would

1 certainly be interested in knowing.

2 I would hope tonight you would share
3 your plans for what you are going to do with
4 respect to the capital budget during motions
5 if you are going to come up with your own or
6 how you are going to proceed? I think it's
7 time because I'm -- and I'm concerned
8 because I'm starting to get mixed messages,
9 I think thought things were going to change
10 when we got the new council. So far nothing
11 there.

12 Council amended the services
13 billing -- billing rules in September and I
14 thought it was to get the best price,
15 however, in the case of 7-B on last week's
16 agenda we didn't get the best price, we took
17 the highest price, and I'm concerned not
18 just about that item, but I am concerned
19 about stifling future bids. How many -- it
20 cost money to make -- to prepare a bid and
21 how many companies do you think are going to
22 continue to sharpen their pencils and submit
23 bids to the City of Scranton or any of it's
24 authorities if, in fact, the lowest price
25 that qualifies is not selected? I've got a

1 whole bunch more, I will be back. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. EVANS: Ms. Schumacher, a
4 Right-to-Know request was sent regarding
5 your request for the memorandum of lease 30
6 years and we included many of your concerns
7 and we received a response from Mr. Renda
8 which states, "Due to the extensive nature
9 of your request, it's under review at this
10 time. The city expects to respond within
11 the next 30 days. Additionally, please be
12 advised that the cost per copies is 25 cents
13 per page."

14 And this response was received by
15 our office on October 20 which would then I
16 believe give Mr. Renda until November 20 to
17 provide the response to us.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Was that on the Ice
19 Box?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: But that was --
22 wasn't that -- I was asking for when the
23 ordinance passed, so wouldn't that be a
24 council could check the ordinances? I don't
25 know. We can talk later.

1 MS. EVANS: If you would like to see
2 this.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: After the meeting.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. ROGAN: Ms. Schumacher, I would
6 also like to mention, you mentioned the new
7 council voted for the highest bidder, I did
8 not. I'm part of the new council, but I
9 didn't vote for the highest bidder.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just give
12 you some quick answers. On the Jefferson
13 Avenue turning lane, they built that, we did
14 receive the blueprints, they built that as
15 it was on the prints, however, the west side
16 on Mulberry Street is supposed to have a
17 turning lane which is not there at this
18 point. What they have to do is put stop
19 strips back from the light to allow enough
20 room for a vehicle to turn that corner as
21 you see at other major intersections.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I thought
23 that was why they bought that property so
24 they could change that corner and change the
25 radius, but whatever.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, that was on their
2 plans that were approved prior to us being
3 here which was my concern, also, but they do
4 have a turning lane shown.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: That is the truck
6 route. I don't think the truck route
7 extends on Mulberry Street, the truck routes
8 goes -- connects to 81 if I'm not mistaken,
9 but I've been wrong before.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: In fact, we will find
11 out what the status is on that, why they
12 haven't initiated that yet, that turning
13 lane on Mulberry Street.

14 As far as the lights, we put a
15 request in last week because we had a
16 concern and I did get call that all of the
17 requests that we put in to have the lights
18 replaced were done, so I'm sure we will get
19 that one taken care of this week.

20 And quickly on the phone ordinance,
21 I was looking into that last summer and we
22 are awaiting for the state because the state
23 has an ordinance I believe if you are under
24 18 it doesn't have a lot of teeth, but we
25 cannot enforce our own ordinance any

1 stronger than the state, so all of these
2 cities that have it it's there, it's a token
3 ordinance, it may scare some people, but
4 really if they took them into Court they
5 wouldn't get anywhere.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't know. I
7 suggest you check with the City of York and
8 the City of Lebanon. Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Krake, if you could
10 please send another request to Mr. Renda
11 regarding the whole capital budget issue
12 asking to please submit to us a more
13 detailed comprehensive capital budget
14 update, and that is all.

15 MS. EVANS: And I'll just quickly
16 add that the audit has still not yet
17 arrived, and again, this requires the
18 cooperation of the administration and I
19 think we have all realized quite enough
20 about the administration in the last ten
21 months.

22 MR. JOYCE: And before we begin the
23 next speaker, if I could add what the
24 auditor is still looking for is two attorney
25 letters that have not been received and --

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Name names.

2 MR. JOYCE: Pardon?

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I said name names.

4 Which attorneys?

5 MS. EVANS: It's not indicated.

6 MR. JOYCE: It's not specified, so I
7 don't want to pinpoint anyone in particular,
8 however, I do want to say that the lowest
9 bidder in the whole case of the audit also
10 did include the possibility for hidden costs
11 if time obligations were not met, so I do
12 want to say that sometimes the lowest bidder
13 isn't the most responsible bidder, and I
14 think that we all agreed upon that even
15 though we had some differences in opinion on
16 the second bidder vs. the third bidder.

17 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
19 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
20 homeowner and taxpayer. I don't know what
21 else to say that wasn't already said
22 tonight, but this mayor I think has totally
23 lost his mind. I have said all of the time
24 I don't want to see public safety people
25 eliminated. He wants to eliminate 27

1 firefighters, ten police officers, two
2 housing inspectors, it's -- I don't know how
3 the mayor just doesn't care about the safety
4 of the citizens in this city. I think
5 he would be killing people as has been
6 stated before if he lays off all of these
7 people. I hope, I pray council doesn't do
8 this. He made no cuts in management, he
9 made no cuts in management's salaries, but
10 he wants to lay off public safety people. I
11 have said it before he was taken what,
12 Engine 9 on Main Avenue, that's probably
13 about ten blocks from my house, it could be
14 at my house in less a minute. If they close
15 Engine 9 I was told Engine 7 from up on
16 Luzerne Street would be the next truck
17 there, that will be a lot longer than Engine
18 9 so I ask council please don't give let any
19 of these layoffs happen. Let's make some
20 cuts, let's cut the fat at the top, make
21 some cuts in management and management
22 salaries.

23 He wants to eliminate housing
24 inspectors, we only have four right now.
25 Are we going to have two inspectors to

1 inspect 26 square miles of houses? I don't
2 know how anybody could ever do that.

3 So I hope this council will do the
4 right thing and don't let the mayor get away
5 with this because if they say it's a scare
6 tactic then you know what, I'm scared.
7 Because I live in an old house and I don't
8 want to be waiting there for minutes and
9 minutes for the fire truck to get to me.

10 Moving on, my sister-in-law asked me
11 to speak about something tonight, there are,
12 multiple traffic problems at the
13 intersection of Wyoming and Mulberry and I'm
14 not going to go over all of them, she has
15 them typed up very professionally, I will
16 give them to Cathy.

17 I have something else. There was an
18 article in the paper a week or two ago, SRA
19 awards downtown project, and it was an
20 improvement project awarded to a Dunmore
21 company, Herbert, Rolland and Grubick by the
22 SRA on the corner of Wyoming and Linden for
23 \$25,000. I wonder does anybody know what
24 that project is? Right now it's just a hole
25 in the ground. It would be great if

1 something happened there. It says the
2 project, but \$25,000 I don't know what could
3 happen for \$25,000, so that's something else
4 I have written down, also.

5 Lastly, I brought this up a few
6 months ago I brought it up quite often about
7 the stolen DiBileo signs almost a year and a
8 half ago, and I know council did send a
9 letter to the chief, I spoke to the chief
10 personally. Has anyone been -- was there
11 any response yet?

12 MS. EVANS: We never received a
13 response.

14 MR. SPINDLER: I know it's been
15 almost two months since I spoke to the chief
16 and he said he was going to speak to
17 Sergeant Martin and Sergeant Martin was one
18 of the detectives involved in that and I
19 haven't heard anything, and I am trying to
20 give this chief the benefit of the doubt,
21 I'm hearing some goods things about him, but
22 I see the picture in the paper this morning
23 with the mayor that leads me to doubt that
24 he is going to be for the people. And he
25 said he was going to speak to the Sergeant

1 Martin, I don't think he did that either,
2 and I don't think he is going to do anything
3 about this. I hope I'm wrong because I have
4 been told there is a two-year statute of
5 limitations on this, which is up in May or
6 June I think. So, like I said, I hope he
7 proves me wrong and does something about
8 this, but I don't think he will and I just
9 think he is another -- I don't want to say
10 maybe, I don't know if he is another Chief
11 Elliott or not, but I think he listens to
12 the mayor and the mayor is not going to let
13 him arrest the two city workers that are
14 identified on the videotape.

15 If that was me that did that I would
16 probably be in jail already because I'm not
17 a Doherty crony and I think he is just going
18 to cover up for his Doherty cronies and,
19 like I said, hopefully I'm wrong. If I'm
20 wrong I will come here and apologize
21 publically, but we'll see what happens.
22 Thank you for your time.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Spindler, if I could
25 just say something in all due respect to

1 some of the cuts that were made in the
2 budget, there were a few middle management
3 positions or coordinator positions cut out
4 of the Parks and Rec Department and I do
5 want to add that these are the same
6 positions that we had taken out or similar
7 positions that we had taken out of our
8 amendments less than a year ago that the
9 administration claimed would cause
10 irreparable harm to the City of Scranton, so
11 I guess that view must have changed
12 downstairs on the first floor.

13 MS. HUMPHRIES: Praise be Jesus,
14 Mary, Joseph and all his holy firemen,
15 policemen and ambulance people.

16 MS. EVANS: Your name, please.

17 MS. HUMPHRIES: My name is Phyllis
18 Bernadette Fatima Yasmin, also known as
19 Phyllis Bernadette, Jesus and Mary of the
20 third order of Carmelite. I'm in allegiance
21 to Mary, the knights of Immaculate and I am
22 an Catholic, but I'm involved with
23 Ecumenical unity. I hope I can see this
24 right because my eyes are a little bit
25 blurry.

1 Let's see, draped in a coat that can
2 withstand the heat. With a helmet on the
3 head, boots on his feet. He came through
4 the perfect constellation while standing in
5 the huge devastation. An appreciation rose
6 in his heart. For this wild picture perfect
7 works of art created by God and feared by
8 most men. He considered it a treacherous
9 sin to run away from such a beautiful chore
10 because such a day he does alone, but a
11 certain fire because of his size came with
12 risk, but he more decent prize, but because
13 he can save a live he is so close. He knew
14 it was frail, he knew it would fail, but he
15 put that behind him and answered the call.
16 There was a child on the third floor
17 somewhere veiled in smoke. Maybe he could
18 find him there alive and well without his
19 strength.

20 This was written, it's not
21 completely finished, but I'm going to sing
22 this song and I'm singing to everybody and I
23 made it into a song and I hope they don't
24 mind, and it's about our firemen. They are
25 a perfect gentleman. There is so many fires

1 if you sing it. Well, we're going to sing
2 it.

3 (The following is sung.)

4 When I am called to duty, God,
5 whatever flames may rage, give me the
6 strength to save a life, what ever be the
7 name. Let me rescue a little child before
8 it is too late or save that no other person
9 from the harbor of that day. Enable me to
10 be alert and hear the weaker shout, and
11 quietly and efficiently to put the fire out.

12 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you,
13 Phyllis.

14 MS. HUMPHRIES: There is more -- I
15 will stand --

16 MS. EVANS: No, actually, this is in
17 honor or Robson.

18 MS. HUMPHRIES: I want to see my
19 colleague, to give the best in me, to guard
20 my friend and neighbors and protect their
21 property. And if I my call to duty I have
22 to lose my life, please best with your
23 protecting hands my child and my wife.

24 (Singing ended.)

25 Mrs. Robson and all of the fire

1 department families, my heart goes out about
2 you, it's kind of tough, but we got to do
3 it.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman, member
6 of the Taxpayers' Association. Council, you
7 want me to sing, too?

8 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

9 MR. ELLMAN: It's very evident
10 tonight that we need more police and more
11 firemen, not less. If they want to delete
12 something they ought to start with the
13 mayor's office and those 50 people he has
14 hired to since he's been in. You know, \$3
15 million or so he has padded the payroll
16 with. That's a hard act to follow, isn't
17 it?

18 Last week, somebody told me that I
19 over stepped the boundaries of good taste,
20 bad mouthing everybody. I don't think I
21 did. Mr. Blake took a bribe and Al Boscov
22 gave it to him, Paul Sorvino has beat us out
23 of \$500,000, it's just nothing but
24 corruption and I just can't imagine a man
25 run for office owing taxes and they allow

1 it. This is terrible what I have been
2 reading about Smith. I bet he doesn't miss
3 a Friday getting to pick up his check, but
4 he doesn't seem to believe in taxes.

5 Did you all read anything about that
6 NEIU, the salaries? This is outrageous.
7 The one, was it Dr. Rosetti, he is leaving
8 office and wants a half a million dollars
9 and the other bird is in there for 16 weeks
10 he made \$7,500 a week salary plus his
11 expenses, and he had \$60,000 benefits for
12 vacation and sick time in 16 weeks. This is
13 unheard of.

14 And I bet you -- I bet they got
15 along perfect without anybody running that
16 office. There is people out here that have
17 the Access card that can't get any kind of
18 medicine and any kind of pills, and here is
19 a man got \$60,000 in 16 weeks of medical
20 benefits. If that's not graphic corruption
21 out of Harrisburg it's just the epitome
22 example of it. This is terrible.

23 And then I caught somebody said that
24 they are tired of listening to me crying
25 about the University and the medical school,

1 we wouldn't be in such a pinch if they
2 hadn't taken \$50 million or so off our tax
3 rolls the last 15 years. I ate out tonight,
4 as you can see on my shirt, the bill was
5 \$81. You know who paid for it? I did.
6 That bunch from the medical school go over
7 to eat at wherever, the bill was 400 or 500,
8 you know who pays for that? Me and you and
9 the people out there and these people over
10 here, and this medical school thinks they
11 are above us. They don't owe no excuses,
12 they don't owe any explanation where the
13 money is going, what they are doing with it,
14 you know, it's time that they have a
15 thorough investigation because it's about as
16 corrupt an organization as there ever was.

17 I even think that couple of weeks
18 ago I didn't hear it, I heard that Corbett
19 tried to find out something from them and
20 they told him to go to blazes.

21 About the sidewalks last week, I
22 have complained about them, on the 2000
23 block and the 2100 block of North Main
24 Avenue there is three or four illegal
25 rooming houses. There is so many cars from

1 these rooming houses they are parked in the
2 sidewalk, they even double park in the
3 street at times at night. On my trip back
4 from the Taurus Club I had noticed that and
5 nothing is being done, you know? I have
6 complained about it on the sidewalks where
7 you cannot use it. These are sidewalks not
8 parking lots. These cars need to be towed
9 because they are all from -- half of them
10 are from New Jersey. They don't care how
11 many tickets you give them. It's brought a
12 caliber of people to that area that nobody
13 else wants in their part town.

14 If you sit just for a minute at a
15 light you will see a lot of going on on
16 Market and Main. It's degenerated, just
17 there is break-ins and everything going on
18 around there.

19 And I don't know if anybody ever
20 reads Scott Lynett's articles in Sunday, he
21 has a column, last week he said that the
22 policy of his newspaper since 1954 has been
23 not to take sides politically. Can you
24 believe that? That's in print last week.
25 Go look at it if you don't believe me. Then

1 in the next to last paragraph he says
2 something about they have a column for
3 people who voice their opinion called the
4 letters to the editor. Evidently Pat
5 McKenna didn't know about this. He censors.
6 When you don't print a letter from me or
7 Marie or Ozzie Quinn or many others because
8 they oppose what you have written in your
9 editorial you are censoring us and
10 censorship is an enemy of newspapers and Pat
11 McKenna practices censorship. He told me
12 personally not to submit any letters.

13 See, you ring that bell on me, you
14 never do it on them.

15 MS. CARRERA: It's six minutes.

16 MR. ELLMAN: I'd like to say just
17 one thing in leaving, that's about Corporal
18 is it Gridal? This is such a tragedy. This
19 just makes me feel so bad and I have been
20 hearing about that bunch of depraved
21 degenerates that go around imposing and
22 disrupting these funerals. It's just so
23 bad. It's just so heartbreaking. I'm so
24 against this war and we can't win it, it's
25 just -- one American life isn't worth that

1 whole country and all of those people in it
2 to me. Thank you.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

4 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
5 Well, you know, I think we have got a
6 serious dilemma in the city not a fireman,
7 never been a fireman, but I do know that I'm
8 not here to speak for firemen, I just want
9 to say that I think the residents in this
10 city pay taxes for a reason and they are
11 entitled to services. My opinion is much
12 different than this council, I have
13 expressed it many times and I'm sure that a
14 lot of you don't agree with what I say, but
15 that's America and everybody is entitled to
16 their opinion, but I think we have to
17 sometimes separate opinions from facts, all
18 right?

19 And the fact is that the residents
20 of this city deserve to have a fully
21 functional department of public works, a
22 fully functional fire department and a fully
23 functional police department and I just
24 think that the city has been where it's been
25 for a long time, you know, it's not going to

1 make any sense to take shots at this council
2 or previous councils because wherever we are
3 this is where we are. The residents of this
4 city to their own demise voted for a
5 Recovery Plan that I read when it was
6 produced that in my opinion wasn't a
7 Recovery Plan.

8 Now we have the PEL, my opinion is
9 probably much different than this council, I
10 think we need to sever our relationship with
11 them. I wait to see what council will
12 propose in it's only budget. There is no
13 doubt in my opinion that this city is in
14 trouble. There is no doubt in my mind that
15 the mall at downtown Steamtown is in very
16 serious trouble.

17 I mean, I tried to speak on the
18 issue of what was going on with the knew
19 Wal-Mart and the shops that are there and
20 about what's going on outside of the city.
21 All of the communities outside of this city
22 are eating this city's lunch. Our tax base
23 is continuing to diminish, our population
24 base is continuing to diminish, I just hope
25 and I know that council has a deaf ear to

1 SAPA. Nobody wants to hear about that
2 anymore, but you know what I really hope in
3 your heart you take one more look at that
4 document, sit down with these people
5 because, you know, the truth of the matter
6 is whether we agree or not everything we are
7 doing now is not working. We have got an
8 awful lot of debt, but we don't have an
9 awful of solutions, so we need a new plan.

10 I mean, I think we need a new start.
11 I think the solutions on the table now are
12 not acceptable. You know, I do understand
13 the union came in here and they are talking
14 about their brotherhood and protecting their
15 jobs, but to be honest with you, you know, I
16 think as a council that shouldn't be your
17 concern, and that may sound like a negative
18 statement, but I think your concern should
19 be the residents of this city and I think
20 they deserve that protection. I think these
21 people who work for the city deserve a safe
22 work place and I just can't see to continue
23 cutting our labor force as being any kind of
24 solution to any of our problems whatsoever,
25 it's mismanagement.

1 I don't want to stand here today and
2 say where it started and what all the
3 solutions are. I'd like to hear what your
4 ideas are. I'd like to have a -- I'd like
5 to see a council that's more open minded and
6 more willing to consider new ideas. I see
7 what's happened nationally, this country is
8 in an awful lot of debt and now this country
9 is starting to say on the upper echelons of
10 our government, Washington, that we are
11 becoming a third class country. We are
12 becoming a banana republic. We have
13 borrowed a ton of money we can't pay back
14 and now we are trying to say that all of the
15 money we raided out of social security,
16 well, we are going to have to make people
17 wait longer to retire. We are going to have
18 to hold the wrong people accountable, and I
19 think it's time to start holding the people
20 accountable who made the decisions or if we
21 can't do that let's have the people making
22 the decisions now be more open minded and
23 maybe hopefully make better decisions.

24 You know what, a lot of times people
25 will do a study, sometimes I really don't

1 have much good to say about a study because
2 too often the person who is paying for it is
3 getting the results they want, so I think
4 that that's why it's so important to be open
5 minded and independent and, you know, like I
6 said, I may not agree with this council, but
7 to be honest with you, you are a very
8 important part of this government and so is
9 the mayor and I'd like to see a point where
10 the city and the police and fire can sit
11 down at a table and come up with a solution
12 without the Courts and maybe possibly
13 without attorneys in a major degree and
14 maybe we need to start over again, but the
15 last person we need to punish are the
16 residents of this city. Too many have left
17 and too many aren't coming here and I hope
18 you consider what I say. Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Dave
20 Dobrzyn.

21 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
22 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton and
23 member of the Taxpayers' Association. Okay,
24 with all of this I just had a brain storm
25 with DPW, also, and ten years ago when I

1 lived way out in the country I paid \$2.25
2 per bag to have my trash removed on a
3 privatized basis, and I figured out what my
4 trash output it is here currently, and at
5 that rate, which is ten years ago in the
6 country, it would be about \$350 a year. So
7 DPW wasn't represented tonight but hopefully
8 we won't be cutting any people that help to
9 haul the trash either, that's recycling
10 included and, by the way, the recycling
11 there was so many scandals constantly that
12 occurred because the recycling went right on
13 the truck with the garbage.

14 So, in other words, they is only to
15 two people in our house and everything gets
16 recycled so you are looking at \$351 for two
17 week people for a year for trash and that
18 would be minimum.

19 Now, Lackawanna Junior College I
20 read twice in the paper this week, I wish
21 somebody over there would police their
22 students. The man I bought my house from in
23 Scranton once had a bar and he left it in
24 control of his co-owner who was supposed to
25 buy him out, well, a few years ago that bar

1 was torn down because of an incident, it was
2 on Pittston Avenue, I think it was called
3 the Frat House. You might remember that,
4 John, because you have been around for
5 awhile. Okay, so I wish they could find
6 some students that could be behalf
7 themselves instead of acting like intercity
8 gangland punks or something. We don't need
9 to spend our police resources chasing them
10 around.

11 Now, on this fire and police, one of
12 the things that I thought of with all of
13 these overtime, also, is when do they get a
14 time out? What do you do, get home from a
15 shift at midnight and get called in at 2:00
16 in the morning and how does that affect your
17 effectiveness, you have a policeman that
18 might have to pull a gun to apprehend
19 somebody or whatever or a fireman going into
20 a flaming building, so I don't think anybody
21 that conducted a study on that realizes.

22 I had a job one time that I worked a
23 lot of overtime and one night I got home in
24 the fall and somebody, my wife woke me up
25 because somebody arrived and I jumped up and

1 started chewing her out because it was 7:00
2 and I wasn't on my way to work. It was 7:00
3 in the evening. I had gotten home around
4 five and I was working from like six in the
5 morning until five at night or sometimes six
6 at night and I jumped up and I started
7 screaming at her in front of these guests,
8 "What in the -- what you are doing to me?
9 I'm late for work."

10 And once again I would like to thank
11 ECTV for at least listing the times for the
12 different forums and stuff, but I felt that
13 was a positive thing before the election.

14 And the Taxpayers' is having a
15 meeting this Thursday and we are from what I
16 understand we are going to be trying to
17 round up money for food pantries and stuff
18 at the end of the year.

19 And finally, the golden parrot award
20 goes to Justice Alito who likes to attend
21 political rallies and Mr. Hughes can holler
22 at me about this if I'm wrong, but under the
23 canons of jurist's behavior he is in
24 violation of number two and five. They are
25 not supposed to be politically orientated

1 people, they are not supposed to engage in
2 politics, so bawk, bawk. Have a good night.

3 MR. ROGAN: Bill Jackowitz.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Oh, by the way, please
5 resign, Mr. Alito.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
7 South Scranton resident, member of the
8 Taxpayers' Association. I would like to
9 start off by thanking all of the people who
10 attended the Veteran's ceremony on Veteran's
11 Day not only at the Lackawanna County
12 courthouse, but all Veteran ceremonies that
13 were conducted and held nationwide.

14 I also would like to thank the six
15 organizations responsible for the freedom
16 that we as Americans enjoy every day. The
17 United States Army, Navy, Marines, Air
18 Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.
19 Most people do not realize the amount of
20 casualties that the merchant marines sustain
21 during combat action, especially during
22 World War II and also the amount of POW's,
23 prisoners of the war, that were merchant
24 marines. Thank you to all branches of the
25 military service.

1 Courage. You're a 19-year-old kid,
2 you are critically wounded and dying in the
3 jungle somewhere in the central highlands of
4 Vietnam, it's November the 14th, 1965. LZ,
5 landing zone, x-ray. Your unit is
6 outnumbered eight to one and the enemy fire
7 is so intense from 100 yards away that your
8 CO, commanding officer, has ordered the
9 Medivac helicopters to start coming in.

10 You are lying there listening to
11 enemy machine guns and you know you are not
12 getting out. Your family is half-way around
13 the world and you will never see them again.
14 As the world starts to fade in and out you
15 know this is the day. Then over the machine
16 gun fire you faintly hear the sound of a
17 helicopter. You look up to see a "Huey"
18 coming in, but it doesn't seem real because
19 no Medivac markings are the helicopter.
20 Captain Ed Freeman is coming for you.

21 He is not a Medivac, so it's not his
22 job, but he heard the radio call and he
23 decided he is flying his helicopter down
24 into machine gun fire anyway. He drops the
25 helicopter in and sits there in machine gun

1 fire as they load three of you at a time on
2 board. He makes ten trips and takes 29 of
3 your buddies out of there safely. No one
4 knew that the captain had been wounded four
5 times in the left arm and left leg. Most
6 would not have made it out if not for
7 Captain Ed Freeman, Medal of Honor
8 Recipient.

9 Council President Evans, you are the
10 captain and the four remaining council
11 persons are the crew of the "Huey" Scranton,
12 Pennsylvania. The landing zone is Scranton,
13 Pennsylvania, and the casualties are the
14 taxpayers and the citizens of Scranton. The
15 enemy is the current administration headed
16 by Mayor Chris Doherty.

17 No one other than Mayor Chris
18 Doherty is responsible for the financial
19 disarray of the City of Scranton, but yet he
20 wants to attack the citizens and taxpayers
21 by reducing our public safety tremendously.
22 City council has the responsibility to
23 provide for the protection of the citizens
24 of Scranton. Our mayor has shown over eight
25 and a half years that he is not concerned

1 with the citizens, his only concerns are the
2 real people of Scranton. Those are not my
3 words, those are his words.

4 There needs to be cuts to the
5 budget, 75 million dollars is way too high
6 especially since the mayor wants to cut 27
7 firefighters, ten police officers and close
8 fire stations. This cannot and should not
9 happen unless the mayor makes deep cuts into
10 his home boys and home girls who are have no
11 show jobs and no qualifications for the
12 current positions and high salaries.

13 Remember, city council, this
14 taxpayer citizen is counting on you to do
15 the right thing for all, not just the
16 Doherty real people. I am going to put my
17 faith with the 2010 Scranton City Council
18 just like that 19-year-old soldier and the
19 29 other soldiers put their faith and lives
20 in the hands of Captain Ed Freeman and his
21 helicopter crew.

22 Do the right thing for the City of
23 Scranton. Remember, a city is composed of
24 taxpayers, residents and workers who depend
25 upon their elected officials to provide

1 protection and safety for them and their
2 families. The time has come for Mayor Chris
3 Doherty and his real people to face the
4 music. The citizens of this great city have
5 done their part, now the time has come for
6 the elected and appointed officials of the
7 City of Scranton to do their part. Cutting
8 administrative and police and fire are not
9 the answer. Cutting the overpay,
10 underqualified cabinet members will help
11 tremendously. If anyone really wants to get
12 an insight into the leadership of the City
13 of Scranton read the sworn deposition of
14 Mayor Chris Doherty, former police chief
15 Dave Elliott, and former director of public
16 safety Ray Hayes. No wonder why the city
17 has been distressed for 19 years with no
18 progress in sight.

19 The hiring practice in this city is
20 atrocious, but then again, qualifications
21 and experience do not matter. The words of
22 a past city council president and now the
23 words of the current mayor of Scranton,
24 "What matters he is my friend and another
25 one of my friends recommended him for the

1 job without having any management or
2 supervisory skills whatsoever."

3 What a town I live in. If you don't
4 believe me, read the sworn depositions of
5 Mayor Christopher A. Doherty, ex-police
6 chief David Elliot and ex-public safety
7 director Ray Hayes if you think I'm not
8 telling you the truth. They had no idea
9 what qualifications these people had.
10 Myself included have come here week after
11 week stating that they had no
12 qualifications, we were laughed at, we were
13 called names, we were even called Legion of
14 Doom, but you know what? We were right and
15 all you got to do is read sworn depositions
16 by the leader, the executive officer of this
17 city, Mayor Christopher A. Doherty who has
18 been in charge of this city for eight and a
19 half years and didn't even know that there
20 was a sexual harassment program in his own
21 city. Had no idea that his human resource
22 manager what qualifications Lisa Moran has.
23 Had no idea what qualifications Ray Hayes
24 had and had no idea what qualifications
25 David Elliott had. If you don't believe me,

1 read the deposition. It's 110 pages long.
2 Read it. Find out for yourself. This was
3 the leadership that this city has been under
4 for eight and a half years.

5 Council, do not, please, remember
6 Captain Ed Freeman, do not, do not sell the
7 citizens of Scranton short.

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

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Jack.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, this week is
13 the big one. I hope we are going to win
14 this one, Jack, because the last time we
15 blew it, remember?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI: This week is the
18 one. They're a good team. Everybody come
19 out. Everybody. Everyone in City of
20 Scranton. West is best, Jack, remember
21 that.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris.

23 MS. HALLOCK: Good evening, how are
24 you?

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MS. HALLOCK: My name is Tracy
2 Hallock, I'm a taxpaying citizen, an alumni
3 from the University of Scranton with both my
4 bachelor's and my master's and a current
5 adjunct instructor of history at Lackawanna
6 College and Keystone College.

7 I recall when a public servant was
8 elected by the people for the people and I
9 don't think the Mayor Doherty is living up
10 to his end of the bargain on that at all.
11 He has kind of like a child not getting his
12 way throwing a little tantrum and instead of
13 saying, "I want your toy," he is going to
14 layoff 27 firemen and ten police officers.
15 I have never been one to say I want, want
16 want, you know, to hear, I want increases in
17 education, I want increases in
18 transportation, but I don't want to pay the
19 taxes. It kind of doesn't balance out
20 there, but, I mean, I probably might get
21 jumped outside of the building when I leave,
22 but I have never been one to say I wouldn't
23 pay for a raise in taxes when it comes to
24 public safety. Safety is a major concern.

25 Me and my boyfriend recently just

1 bought a house in the St. Ann's area and
2 that's a relatively safe area, so I thought.
3 My car within one year has been broken into
4 three times, mirror smashed off of my car.
5 My neighbor's car was stolen right out of
6 their driveway and with like -- this crime
7 is not coming down at all. And I believe
8 who is going to be held responsible for that
9 when it only increases more when you are
10 cutting police officers and who is going to
11 respond to the fires and these lives? Are
12 they going to hold the children and families
13 accountable that elected him? I mean, I
14 just think something needs to be resolved.

15 I'd like to be able to sleep at
16 night knowing that I'm not going to open my
17 door to let my dog out in the morning and
18 there is going to be somebody that trying to
19 invade my home. I just ask please prior to
20 your decision think about all of the people
21 that this is affecting, and as Andrew
22 Jackson once said it takes no special talent
23 to work in the government. I'd like you to
24 prove him wrong. Thank you. That's all I
25 have.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. HALLOCK: Chris Hallock. I'm a
3 taxpaying citizen and Scranton police
4 officer. About a year ago, just a little
5 over a year ago, I signed an oath to protect
6 the city just like the firemen did and it's
7 just -- it's scary knowing that if myself
8 and nine other of my other brothers get laid
9 off that the rest of my brothers are going
10 to be out there on the street low staffed
11 without a backup unit coming, you know, with
12 the quick response and that scares me
13 because when you take an oath you take an
14 oath to protect the citizens of the city and
15 your brothers. They become your brothers,
16 like the firemen stated, you work with these
17 people, you knew these people, you are with
18 so much and you get to meet their family
19 and, you know, I just don't want to see one
20 of my fellow coworkers going home -- or not
21 going home to his family because, you know,
22 the backup units weren't there, and as the
23 fireman said, you know, what's one unit
24 going to do if the other one is not there?
25 What is one man going to do in a bar fight

1 of 15 people? It's a very scary situation
2 knowing that your backup, you know, is far
3 away, and with these cuts it only means that
4 backup is going to be farther away.

5 And I'm not saying anything that you
6 guys don't already know, but I'm a firm
7 believer in having a voice and I wouldn't
8 feel right if I just sat back there and let
9 other people speak for me.

10 As for the firemen, not only are the
11 police officers my brothers, the firemen
12 are, too. When there is a structure fire we
13 are dispatched, we have to help them. If we
14 can't close down streets, if we can protect
15 their hoses that come from the hydrant, you
16 know, they are in danger, too. If we arrive
17 at the scene first, which happens many
18 times, I mean, we are not equipped to fight
19 fires, so I mean, if you cut -- if they cut
20 the firemen it puts the police at danger, if
21 they cut the police it puts the firemen in
22 danger and the citizens I just ask that, you
23 know, I have faith in this council that we
24 will find a better way to save the money and
25 work the budget out and work with the mayor.

1 I'm not going to badmouth anyone,
2 that's not my style, I think the mayor has
3 done great things for the safety, but I
4 think there is better ways and there has to
5 be a better way than putting the citizens
6 and the workers of Scranton in danger. It's
7 just we are talking about lives here. We
8 are talking about families that need their
9 father and mother and we are not just
10 talking about money. Money comes and goes,
11 lives you can't put a price tag on, but
12 thank you for your time and I have full
13 faith that these layoffs will not happen and
14 we will be able to resolve this in a more
15 appropriate manner. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

18 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.

19 Nelson Ancherani, resident, taxpayer --

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MR. ANCHERANI: -- police officer,
22 First Amendment Rights. I'm also the
23 financial secretary for the Fraternal Order
24 of Police. I wrestled with what I was going
25 to say tonight, but I'm going to say that

1 I'm here to support the fire and police, and
2 I'll come right to the point. The 2011
3 budget was presented to you yesterday. I
4 lost three of my predictions, one swoop I
5 lost them. No tax increase, but poor PEL,
6 you know, they are not going to get what
7 they wanted, no multi-million dollar loan
8 and no increase in the budget, but, hey, if
9 the taxpayers' save money, that's good;
10 right?

11 But at what price does this budget
12 come to us? What is the price of safety? I
13 guess that we'll find out in the near
14 future. When I said what's the price of
15 safety, I'm going to say what about
16 Wilkes-Barre? We could ask about that.
17 They went down to 60 policemen, I believe,
18 and look at the hole that they dug
19 themselves into. They will never get out of
20 that. That's where we are heading if we
21 knock off police.

22 The budget is now \$2.3 million less
23 than this year's budget or the 2011
24 proposed, losses 69 positions, police lose
25 ten, fire loses 34, and clerical they take

1 another big hit again.

2 Council, you have a big job ahead of
3 you, it's an important one. You have to
4 balance the budget, but not only in monetary
5 issues, also in human issues, safety issues.
6 You are not to blame for the unions recent
7 Court decision, raising employee wages, but
8 it will fall on your shoulders balancing
9 employee and taxpayers' concerns. I know
10 that you can do it. You can overcome the
11 obstacles and road blocks out there. It's a
12 big job, but we, the people, the little
13 people, the taxpayers, the disrespected have
14 faith in you to do what's right.

15 Council, get ready to be blamed for
16 the troubles of the city's finances. Some
17 of you have been here for 11 months and you
18 are going to get blamed for the proposed 69
19 layoffs even though in the beginning of this
20 year you tried to save \$700,000 for the
21 taxpayers. You came no where near cutting
22 69 jobs in your attempt at 2010 budget
23 amendments, but stand in line for the blame
24 game. Police and fire have you beat. We
25 get blamed for the point that we have to

1 develop thicker skin than everybody else
2 from offenders, from taxpayers, and from our
3 captain of the ship.

4 And, oh, by the way, who do we blame
5 for the \$300 million long-term debt? Three
6 guesses, not you, not us, so who is does
7 that leave? I would get into the issues
8 today right now, but we have to leave here
9 today, sometime today. The editorial in
10 this morning's paper from the slimes titled,
11 "Budget brings key recovery issue to head."

12 It says, "Most of the controversy
13 since the city entered the state distressed
14 city program in 1992 has involved the public
15 safety unions. The planned police and fire
16 reductions surely will be the most
17 controversial of those plans."

18 Yes, but the police safety union,
19 public safety unions wages have remained the
20 same over the years, not going up, staying
21 static, but I don't see that it in their
22 editorial. Not climbing, not escalating
23 upwards like the former budgets and the 25
24 percent 2007 tax increase and the
25 multi-million dollar loans.

1 "The proposal is, of course, not a
2 done deal --" this goes back to the
3 editorial, "it goes to city council members
4 of the which regularly have condemned the
5 administration for one-time revenue sources
6 and occasional borrowing."

7 Yeah, right, occasional. Back to
8 the editorial, "But it has had that
9 supermajority for all of 2010 and has done
10 little, if anything, much less layout a plan
11 for budgetary balance that is does not
12 include staffing reductions even though the
13 municipal unions are a key constituency of
14 the majority members. Personnel costs are
15 nearly 75 percent of the overall municipal
16 budget."

17 It's a service. It's not a
18 business. It's a service. How can the
19 ordinary people go out there and have their
20 own police department? The city has to do
21 it -- or fire department, the city has to do
22 it.

23 Back to the editorial and then I'll
24 finish, in order to achieve budgetary
25 balance without the proposed position

1 reductions council would have to come up
2 with about \$4 million and since the
3 administration's budget would establish new
4 baseline it would have to find that \$4
5 million every year going forward."

6 Stop the pork. That's all. That's
7 all we have to do is stop the pork, the
8 unnecessary spending. The mayor wants to
9 get out of distressed in three years. What
10 about the 19 years behind us? Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
12 anyone else?

13 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, comments or
15 motions?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First, last
17 week it was mentioned that Jeff Brazil, the
18 Director of DPW was supposed to be at a
19 caucus and did not attend -- or was not
20 here. It was not because of the refusal of
21 the mayor to allow him, I talked to Mr.
22 Brazil during the week, he was not able to
23 attend last week's caucus for personal
24 reasons and I spoke to Mrs. Evans before the
25 meeting and told her that Mr. Brazil

1 indicated that he would more than happy to
2 attend in the -- you know, any caucus in the
3 near future.

4 The second thing, the gentlemen that
5 were here presenting the presentation on the
6 mall at Steamtown, it seems like it was
7 a little bit of a deja vu. We heard that a
8 number of years ago and at the time I was
9 obviously supportive of, you know, what we
10 did, but even at that time I felt that we
11 were being held hostage by the mall that if
12 we didn't do something that, you know,
13 economic doom was upon us and it just seems
14 like that's happening again.

15 I do realize the need for a downtown
16 mall is there. It is something that is kind
17 of the backbone of the downtown economy, but
18 I just question at this time at what expense
19 we can continue to kind of subsidize the
20 mall. I hope that we can come to some
21 resolution, and he I hope that, you know,
22 obviously hope that the mall stays
23 operative, but it just seems as though we
24 are kind of between that rock and a hard
25 place again it's not a comfortable position

1 to be in.

2 Last thing I'd like to just comment
3 very briefly on is the budget. I heard
4 quite a bit tonight on the -- obviously the
5 public safety part of it, and I would just
6 like to say that I don't know anything
7 about, you know, the intricacies of public
8 safety. Certainly the people that spoke
9 know a whole lot more than I do about what
10 it takes to respond to a fire or to a police
11 call, but I would like to say that as this
12 budget is now constituted there is
13 absolutely no way that I could vote for it,
14 but my displeasure with it is not so much
15 public safety because I don't know what that
16 -- as I said, I don't know what that is or
17 how that works, but my displeasure with the
18 social and economic impact that laying off
19 69 people will have on the city.

20 In 1975 I walked the picket line
21 with the Scranton Federation of Teachers in
22 the last major strike that the city had,
23 that the school district had, raises were
24 given, at the end of the strike 60 people
25 were laid off, I just happened to be one of

1 the 60, and I kind of have a little bit of
2 empathy for people looking at the
3 possibility of losing their jobs. It's not
4 a very comforting thought.

5 At the time I was married and had
6 three young children and it was a struggle
7 and I look at what this budget is doing as
8 it was sent to us and, you know, some of the
9 people who are likely to lose jobs and I
10 know that they, too, are in the same
11 position I was, you know, 35 years ago, and
12 I hope that in the coming weeks we can do
13 something to salvage as many of those jobs
14 as possible, if not all of those jobs.

15 I don't know how we are going to do
16 it, but ideally I just can't see voting for
17 a budget of any kind in which this many
18 people or anybody losses their jobs, so
19 hopefully in these next few weeks we can
20 work together and we can arrive at something
21 that is acceptable and does not hurt the
22 City of Scranton either safety wise or
23 socially or economically, and that's all.
24 Thank you.

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

1 Mr. Rogan, any comments or motions?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. A few
3 other comments then I'll get into the
4 budget. First of all, Boscov's, you know, I
5 would agree with what Mr. McGoff said in
6 that it does seem like we are somewhat being
7 held hostage that they are saying if we
8 don't go along the mall might be shut down
9 and we'll lose our money. You know, I think
10 the mistake was made when initially the city
11 bailed out the mall, Boscov's. You know, we
12 settled on the federal level last year with
13 the bank bailouts, it doesn't work. It's
14 not the government's job to be bailing out
15 private businesses, but enough of that.

16 And again, my one issue every week,
17 the Crisp Avenue bridge. It's in the
18 newspaper it's not going to be pursued until
19 spring now. Year after year after year this
20 project keeps getting put off and it makes
21 me wonder why the administration keeps
22 pushing this off. It seems like everything
23 from West Side keeps being put on the back
24 burner, but we need to help the whole city,
25 but when you look at South Scranton and we

1 get the OECD reports all of the neighborhood
2 revitalization programs, cracking down on
3 blight, they are in South Scranton. We need
4 to spread it around and, you know, there's a
5 lot of talk about public safety tonight.
6 People who live on West Mountain there is
7 only one way up and down the certain part of
8 that mountain now because the bridge is out.

9 Now, if something were to happen and
10 we had a major snow storm or the road was
11 closed or, you know, another accident and
12 there was a fire, somebody needed an
13 ambulance up there with the Crisp Avenue
14 bridge out it makes it very difficult for
15 somebody to get up there. I hope the
16 administration really is going to do the
17 project come May, but it seems they just
18 keep pushing it off and pushing it off and
19 we have the federal dollars. They are not
20 even -- you know, it doesn't even come out
21 of Scranton's budget.

22 But moving onto our budget, I would
23 like to make a comment first about the
24 budget in general and then about a quote
25 that was in the Scranton Times. First of

1 all, in general I think the budget is just
2 completely unacceptable. To cut 27
3 firefighters, ten police officers, housing
4 inspectors, clerical workers, the public
5 safety sector in our city is the backbone of
6 the city. Without a strong police force,
7 without fire protection, people don't want
8 to live in an area. Why would anyone move
9 to Scranton if they knew the government was
10 cutting police officers, cutting fire
11 protection? We need to send a message that
12 we care about public safety, that we want
13 more police officers on the street, we want
14 neighborhood police officers like this
15 council has pushed for. That's what we
16 need. We can't afford to cut ten police
17 officers. We are having all of these
18 problems now, imagine with ten less guys on
19 the road.

20 And I believe somebody mentioned the
21 editorial in the Times and there was a
22 mention that municipal unions are key
23 constituents for the new majority. And let
24 me be clear, I am not a union member, I will
25 probably never be a union member, but I

1 support the city unions because I see what
2 is happening under this administration and
3 more so than supporting the unions it's
4 supporting the people because the unionized
5 police and fire, police and fire, are the
6 people that are going to be at your house if
7 there is -- if there happens to be a fire,
8 if there is crime in your neighborhood. It
9 doesn't matter whether it's union or
10 nonunion, it's whether the city needs it or
11 the city doesn't.

12 Mr. McGoff mentioned just before
13 that he couldn't vote for a budget because
14 of jobs being cut. Now, I'm all for cutting
15 jobs, but I'm for cutting wasteful jobs,
16 cutting the fat, cutting from the
17 administration. For instance, in the police
18 department, the mayor wants to cut ten
19 police officers but the superintendent of
20 police, the chief, is receiving a \$12,000
21 raise.

22 In the fire department the mayor
23 wants to cut 27 firefighters, but he is
24 giving the fire chief a \$14,447 a year
25 raise. That doesn't make sense. As

1 Mrs. Evans said, you said in the past many
2 times, we have too many chiefs and not
3 enough engines, and that couldn't be clearer
4 from this budget. The mayor's priorities
5 are completely out of whack and I remember
6 clearly the last campaign when I was running
7 for council all of the red signs "Tell Mayor
8 Doherty keep our fire houses open," and I
9 believe the mayor made a pledge not to close
10 firehouses and in this year's budget he
11 wants to close firehouses.

12 But, you know, obviously we will be
13 working on changing this budget, nothing
14 specifically. We have only had it in our
15 hands for a day, but that is all for now.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
17 Loscombe, any comments or motions?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you, Mrs.
19 Evans. I'm not going to elaborate tonight,
20 but I do want to comment on the budget and I
21 will elaborate more when I have a chance to
22 digest this book of fiction disguised as a
23 budget. I find it ironic, no, make that
24 appalling that this administration dragged
25 us before Judge Mazzoni in the spring over

1 our proposed budget amendments which
2 required administrative salary reductions
3 and a handful of administrative positions
4 removed.

5 Their argument was based on the
6 contingent that our reductions would
7 compromise the health, safety and welfare of
8 the our residents and Judge Mazzoni bought
9 it. I testified, we were all there. At
10 least four of us were taken in by the mayor.

11 I ask you, if this gutting of our
12 public safety departments does not
13 constitute a compromise of the health,
14 safety and welfare, what does? It appears
15 that this administration is more interested
16 in protecting the salaries of the
17 administrative appointments rather than to
18 adequately protect you, the taxpayers.

19 If we pass this budget as it stands,
20 I wonder how the mayor and the other
21 architects of this budget would be able to
22 sleep at night, and I'll have a lot more to
23 say once we go over this. We just received
24 it late yesterday, and that's all I have to
25 say. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
2 Joyce, do you have any comments or motions?

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes. First, I want to
4 start with a few citizens' requests. A
5 resident of Dexter Avenue, which is a one
6 block road in Scranton's west side, again,
7 as Pat alluded to in West Side in the Keyser
8 Valley section, a resident informed me that
9 there are many cracks in the road, potholes,
10 etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, and it's a
11 causing a lot of problems for this resident
12 as well as many of the other residents that
13 live on this street. So, Mrs. Krake, can
14 you please send a letter to Mr. Brazil and
15 inquire whether or not this street can be
16 paved in the near future?

17 Subsequently, a resident of Cayuga
18 Court, which is an extension of Cayuga
19 Street in North Scranton, has informed me
20 that the 300 block of this road is in
21 desperate need of work. The resident has
22 informed me that the conditions on this road
23 are so deplorable that the refuse collectors
24 will not even travel down the street to
25 collect garbage on garbage days and that she

1 is now bringing her garbage to the end of
2 the block. With that in mind, can you
3 please add this to the letter to Mr. Brazil.

4 A West Scranton resident has also
5 informed me that the sidewalks on the West
6 Lackawanna Avenue bridge are in poor shape
7 and in need of repair. Various cracks and
8 disturbance in the sidewalks are making --
9 they are making it very difficult to walk
10 on. Mrs. Krake, can you please add this to
11 the letter to Mr. Brazil asking if these
12 sidewalks could be repaired?

13 I also received another letter from
14 a resident residing within one of the
15 Scranton Housing Authority's communities and
16 this resident has informed me that the
17 Housing Authority currently does not have a
18 recycling program and asks if this is
19 something that we can look into. The
20 resident didn't provide a name or address
21 unfortunately. I couldn't contact the
22 resident back.

23 Unfortunately, city council does not
24 have the authority to tell the Scranton
25 Housing Authority what to do, but in my

1 judgment I believe that it's a very good
2 initiative to start a recycling program
3 amongst Housing Authority communities. I
4 believe this could be something very good
5 for the environment and I believe that it's
6 something that is well needed as currently
7 everybody else is recycling in the city. So
8 Mrs. Krake, with that in mind, if you could
9 please send a letter to Mr. Pelicacci asking
10 him if this is something that they could
11 consider in the near future, and also there
12 is another issue with the Housing Authority
13 that the resident forwarded to me that I
14 will also send to you to mention to
15 Mr. Pelicacci, but it is more of a personal
16 matter for them that I will not say over the
17 air publicly.

18 Also, an employee of Mercy Hospital
19 has informed me that there is a vehicle that
20 parks in front of the hospital in a "No
21 Parking Zone" on a daily basis. I'm not
22 going to go into describing the vehicle
23 here, however, the resident has informed me
24 of the make and model of the vehicle as well
25 as the license plate number, the employee

1 rather, and they're a resident of the
2 Scranton, too, so anyways with that in mind
3 I will provide that information to Mrs.
4 Krake if you could please forward that over
5 to Chief Duffy and ask him if this is
6 something that could be looked into.

7 The last thing I want to talk about
8 tonight very briefly is the budget. Like
9 all of my colleagues, I echo some of the
10 same concerns that they have, actually all
11 of the same concerns. When enacting this
12 budget, I think that in my true heart that
13 public safety, the health, welfare, and
14 well-being of the citizens of the Scranton
15 is of utmost top priority and,
16 unfortunately, I don't believe that this
17 budget reflects that vision.

18 I do realize that the budget doesn't
19 call for any tax increases nor would I ever
20 want to see a tax increase imposed on the
21 residents as well, and immediately when I
22 received the budget I started examining it,
23 I started looking through it, and I
24 definitely see things that I would like to
25 see changed and I will comment on that in

1 further weeks once this becomes an agenda
2 item and also after the public hearing where
3 we will have the opportunity to hear various
4 citizens' feedback on some of the proposed
5 changes, and that is all I have for tonight.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I forgot
8 one thing if I can, I would be remiss if I
9 didn't wish my mother a happy birthday. I
10 probably wouldn't be invited to Christmas
11 dinner. I won't tell you how young she is,
12 but she is the matriarch of our family, so
13 happy birthday, Mom.

14 MS. EVANS: Very happy birthday,
15 Mrs. Loscombe.

16 MR. JOYCE: And sorry, with that in
17 mind I would like to apologize that I didn't
18 wish my mother a happy birthday because her
19 birthday was just a few weeks ago.

20 MS. EVANS: Happy belated birthday.
21 Good evening. First I have an update on
22 payments in lieu of taxes from tax exempt
23 organization. Scranton City Council wishes
24 to recognize and thank Scranton Seventh Day
25 Adventist Church for it's contribution of

1 \$250. According to Miss Kline, treasurer of
2 the church, it is a small congregation, but
3 it wants to help it's neighbors. Further,
4 Mrs. Kline states that the Seventh Day
5 Adventist Church hopes to be able to help
6 again in the future.

7 City council is grateful for this
8 contribution and hopes that other nonprofits
9 will follow their example and step up to the
10 plate during this time of financial crisis.

11 In addition, the Lackawanna County
12 College has notified us that it will make
13 the following in-kind contributions in place
14 of the payments in lieu of taxes:

15 Beginning in 2011, the number of
16 fully funded scholarships for Scranton and
17 West Scranton High School students will
18 increase to two full scholarships per school
19 per year for a total of four full
20 scholarships. At the current tuition rate,
21 these scholarships amount to more than
22 \$84,000 in tuition benefits annually.
23 Lackawanna College will also offer a number
24 of discounted public memberships for
25 Scranton residents at the Ivanish Center.

1 Lackawanna College states that this
2 arrangement would require agreement of city,
3 county and school district tax authorities
4 in order to prevent violation of it's tax
5 exempt status.

6 Finally, the Lackawanna College
7 librarian will contact the director of the
8 Albright Memorial Library to develop a
9 process of granting Scranton residents
10 access to it's Sealy library.

11 Scranton City Council thanks
12 Mr. Mark Volk, executive vice president of
13 Lackawanna College, for these new
14 contributions for the people of the City of
15 the Scranton.

16 Next, city council was notified last
17 week by Representative Ken Smith that the
18 City of Scranton has been awarded a low
19 interest \$17 million loan through the
20 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment
21 Authority or Pennvest to help pay for
22 modifications to the existing waste water
23 system. The estimated total project cost is
24 nearly \$35.4 million. Although, it is not a
25 member of the SAPA, the city and it's Sewer

1 Authority are pleased to have received one
2 of the largest loan allocations statewide
3 and our grateful for the assistance of our
4 State Representative, Ken Smith.

5 Also, I would like to clarify
6 briefly my comments in the Scranton Times
7 regarding SAPA since as is usually and
8 unfortunately the case, most of my
9 statements were not included in the article.

10 In light of the immediate financial
11 crisis and accompanying decisions faced by
12 the City of Scranton, SAPA is not a priority
13 for city council at this time. Further,
14 Scranton already enjoys many items contained
15 within this plan unlike many of the member
16 communities. Scranton must put it's
17 financial house in order and council asks
18 that SAPA members and advocates understand
19 and respect this decision.

20 Next, the mayor's proposed budget,
21 of course, was submitted to the Office of
22 Council only yesterday. Interestingly,
23 several of the mayor's initiatives such as
24 the merger of Parks and Recreation, the DPW
25 and some employee cuts are the same ones

1 contained in council's amendments in early
2 2010 for which the hypocritical mayor sued
3 city council.

4 City council had cut the costs of
5 government in order to work toward lifting
6 Scranton's distressed status.

7 Coincidentally, the mayor voiced that very
8 same reason for cutting 69 employees during
9 his pseudo-event press conference yesterday.
10 I'm curious to know what Judge Robert
11 Mazzone's reaction, if he had one, was to
12 Mayor Doherty's budget cuts.

13 Although, I am flattered that the
14 mayor has modeled his pseudo event after
15 council's Court testimony, and a portion of
16 his budget cuts after our previous
17 amendments, I don't believe that the mayor
18 is being completely forthright with the
19 public. Mayor Doherty's nine years of
20 wasteful spending, legal maneuverings,
21 inability to negotiate fairly and wisely
22 with the police and fire unions, bloated
23 bureaucracy and use of city authorities as
24 political patron protection programs caused
25 this financial crisis and the resulting

1 public safety cuts.

2 In addition, the Commonwealth
3 Court's decision regarding police and
4 firefighters plays a significant role in the
5 mayor's proposed budget.

6 Rather than leasing garages, parking
7 garages, cutting management salaries and
8 department costs, or refinancing debt, the
9 mayor is crippling public safety, slashing
10 services, and jeopardizing the health,
11 welfare and safety of the people of the City
12 of Scranton. Ironically, the mayor posited
13 that the council's February budget
14 amendments representing approximately
15 \$700,000 in cuts jeopardized the health,
16 safety, and welfare of the residents.

17 The mayor created this financial
18 mess and it took him nine years to do so.
19 How did one man inflict such damage? He had
20 a callosus of constant assistance from his
21 loyal apologists at the Scranton Times and
22 his steadfast enablers in the Pennsylvania
23 Economy League and DCED.

24 This council will do it's due
25 diligence and try to help Mayor Doherty

1 clean up his mess without disseminating your
2 public safety. Council will carefully
3 examine each line item of the mayor's budget
4 in concert with the reports presented by
5 city departments and files that contain the
6 2010 work history of the department heads
7 and develop it's final amendments to the
8 2011 operating budget throughout the next
9 few weeks.

10 In addition, council will conduct a
11 public hearing regarding the mayor's 2011
12 proposed budget in the next two to three
13 weeks in order to gather public comment on
14 suggestions. At all times, council remains
15 mindful of your problems, your safety and
16 service needs, and your financial
17 circumstances.

18 Finally, tonight's agenda includes
19 introduction in Fifth Order of legislation
20 for the Comcast cable contract and side
21 agreement and for creation of a special
22 account in which Comcast grants for an EG
23 channel administrator will be deposited and
24 withdrawn. City council hopes to amend the
25 Comcast cable ordinance in order to obtain a

1 decrease in the term from 15 years to 10
2 years and to retain two EG channels rather
3 than surrendering one of our two current
4 stations.

5 Thus, city council will amend the
6 ordinance to delete the side agreement and
7 to stop authorization by the mayor and other
8 appropriate city officials to execute and
9 enter into the cable franchise agreement
10 until the contract term is reduced to ten
11 years and the city retains two EG channels.
12 The city will forego the \$85,000 grant in
13 2013 for an EG channel administrator.

14 Prior to next week's regularly
15 scheduled city council meeting, a public
16 hearing on the Comcast legislation will be
17 held at 6:00 p.m. in city council chambers
18 in order to hear and consider the testimony
19 of the citizens of the Scranton. All of the
20 aforesaid are examples of the numerous
21 continuous efforts put forth by your alleged
22 do nothing council. Ask yourself, who works
23 to improve your quality of life and guard
24 your tax dollars, the Scranton Times or City
25 Council? Who gives you all of the facts and

1 who spins and omits the facts to protect and
2 preserve the mayor? Try as it undoubtedly
3 will, the Scranton Times cannot erase Mayor
4 Doherty's singular responsibility for this
5 financial tsunami, his failed leadership,
6 and his financial mismanagement, meager
7 incomes, lack of jobs, empty buildings,
8 abandoned development projects,
9 washboard-like streets, rising crime, gang
10 infiltration, a 25 percent tax increase,
11 broken promises and now the closing of city
12 fire stations and cuts in police manpower.

13 This is the concrete evidence, the
14 reality that the people of Scranton
15 experience in their daily lives. A year's
16 supply of ink and editorials from the
17 Scranton Times will not succeed in hiding
18 the truth. After nine years of the Doherty
19 administration the people of the Scranton
20 are wiser than the newspaper recognizes.
21 And that's it.

22 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. CREATING AND
23 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
24 02.229596 ENTITLED "COMCAST EG GRANT" FOR
25 THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS

1 AVAILABLE TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON THROUGH
2 THE RENEWAL OF THE CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
3 WITH COMCAST.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE
19 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
20 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CABLE
21 FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON AND COMCAST OF
23 COLORADO/PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA, LLC.

24 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

1 introduced into it's proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, I
6 would like to make a motion to amend the
7 Comcast cable ordinance that the mayor and
8 other appropriate city officials are not
9 authorized to execute and enter into the
10 cable franchise agreement and separate side
11 agreement negotiated with Comcast, including
12 all the terms and conditions contained
13 therein, and attached to the Ordinance and
14 marked as Exhibit "A" and incorporated
15 herein by reference thereto until a separate
16 side agreement negotiated with
17 representatives of Comcast entitled "An
18 agreement between the City of Scranton and
19 Comcast of Colorado/Pennsylvania/West
20 Virginia, LLC is deleted from the cable
21 franchise agreement, which is attached
22 hereto as Exhibit A and until Article 2.2 of
23 the franchise cable agreement, Exhibit A, is
24 reduced from fifteen (15) years to ten (10)
25 years and under Article 7.2, Educational and

1 Governmental ("EG") channel of the cable
2 franchise agreement, Exhibit A, is increased
3 from an Educational and Governmental ("EG")
4 channel, to two (2) EG channels, one for
5 educational programming and one for
6 governmental programming.

7 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
8 floor, is there a second?

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
11 those in favor of the motion to amend Item
12 5-C signify by saying aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
18 have it and so moved. All those in favor of
19 Item 5-C, as amended, signify by saying aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25 have it and so moved.

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
2 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
3 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
4 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
5 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
6 OF S.R. 3011 KEYSER AVENUE AND S.R. 3002
7 (RANSOM ROAD)/CONTINENTAL STREET FOR
8 THE REHABILITATION OF KEYSER AVENUE FROM
9 JUST SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION WITH OAK
10 STREET IN TAYLOR BOROUGH TO THE INTERSECTION
11 WITH FERDINAND STREET IN THE CITY OF
12 SCRANTON.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. AUTHORIZING THE
3 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
4 TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION TO THE
5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
6 TRANSPORTATION FOR BRIDGE OCCUPANCY LICENSE
7 REQUIRED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRAFFIC
8 SIGNAL AT S.R. 3002 RANSOM ROAD AND
9 CONTINENTAL STREET TO ACCOMMODATE THE
10 PROPOSED SIGNAL CONDUIT/WIRING TO BE
11 ATTACHED TO THE ADJACENT BOX CULVERT OVER
12 LUCKY RUN (BMS NO. 35 3011 0120 0259).

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

16 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. AUTHORIZING THE
3 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
4 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
5 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
6 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
7 OF S.R. 3011 KEYSER AVENUE AND S.R. 3014
8 (DALTON STREET) AND DIVISION STREET FOR THE
9 REHABILITATION OF KEYSER AVENUE FROM
10 JUST SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION WITH OAK
11 STREET IN TAYLOR BOROUGH TO THE INTERSECTION
12 WITH FERDINAND STREET IN THE CITY OF
13 SCRANTON.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-G. AUTHORIZING THE
4 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
5 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
6 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
7 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
8 OF S.R. 3011 KEYSER AVENUE AND S.R. 3003
9 (JACKSON STREET)/JACKSON STREET FOR THE
10 REHABILITATION OF KEYSER AVENUE FROM JUST
11 SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION WITH OAK STREET IN
12 TAYLOR BOROUGH TO THE INTERSECTION WITH
13 FERDINAND STREET IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. NO BUSINESS AT
4 THIS TIME.

5 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
6 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
7 FOR ADOPTION- FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 46, 2010 -
8 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
9 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
10 ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE
11 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA")
12 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
13 ("DHS").

14 MS. EVANS: What is the
15 recommendation of the Chair for the
16 Committee on Finance?

17 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
18 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
19 passage of Item 7-A.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

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

MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

If there is no further business, I
will entertain a motion to adjourn?

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER