

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 23, 2010

LOCATION:

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

AMELIA NICOL, 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)

2 MS. EVANS: Please remain seated  
3 for a moment of reflection for our  
4 servicemen and women throughout the  
5 world and for all those who have died  
6 in our community over the last week,  
7 particularly Cecelia Carrera, aunt of  
8 our assistant city clerk, Cathy  
9 Carrera, and her dear family and many  
10 friends she leaves behind.

11 (Moment of reflection observed.)

12 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Here.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

20 MR. JOYCE: Here.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mrs.

22 Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with  
24 the reading of the minutes.

25 MS. KRAKE: 3A. MINUTES OF THE

1 PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE

2 MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2010.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any  
4 comments?

5 If not, received and filed.

6 MS. KRAKE: 3B. MINUTES OF THE  
7 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION  
8 COMMISSION MEETING HELD OCTOBER 27,  
9 2010.

10 MS. EVANS: Are there any  
11 comments?

12 If not, received and filed.

13 MS. KRAKE: 3C. MINUTES OF THE  
14 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION  
15 MEETING HELD OCTOBER 27, 2010.

16 MS. EVANS: Are there any  
17 comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. KRAKE: 3D. MINUTES OF THE  
20 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD  
21 OCTOBER 27, 2010.

22 MS. EVANS: Are there any  
23 comments?

24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. KRAKE: 3E. MINUTES OF THE

1 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND  
2 HELD OCTOBER 27, 2010.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any  
4 comments?

5 If not, received and filed.

6 Clerk notes?

7 MS. KRAKE: We do not have  
8 clerk's notes this evening.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs.  
10 Krake. Do any council members have  
11 comments at this time?

12 Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just one. Help  
14 us help Walter Little in his battle  
15 against diabetes. Wally has played  
16 basketball his whole life from Tech  
17 High School, Class of 1972, to Holy  
18 Cross League, Boys Club. Since 1987  
19 Wally has been solely playing defense  
20 against the silent killer, diabetes.  
21 He's a true inspiration to all of us  
22 who know and love him. Please join us  
23 in making an effort to defray his  
24 medical cost from this crippling  
25 disease. The benefit will be held

1                   Saturday, November 27th, 5 o'clock to  
2                   8 o'clock at Rocky's on Jefferson  
3                   Avenue. Donations are \$20 and  
4                   refreshments will be served. Thank  
5                   you.

6                   MR. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe?

7                   MR. LOSCOMBE: That was the same  
8                   one that I had. That's all I had.

9                   MR. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, any  
10                  comments?

11                  MR. JOYCE: Yes. The 9th Annual  
12                  O'Malley Free Christmas Party for  
13                  Children from preschool to fifth grade  
14                  will be held at Keyser Valley  
15                  Community Center on December 12th from  
16                  one to 3 p.m. Festivities include  
17                  Santa photos, pizza from Goodfellas, a  
18                  coupon from McDonald's on Keyser  
19                  Avenue, candy canes, and a children's  
20                  meal from the Texas Roadhouse. Please  
21                  make reservations by December 9th by  
22                  calling 346-1828 and leave a message  
23                  with the number of children that will  
24                  be attending.

25                  Also, the Knights of Columbus

1 will hold an all you can eat Santa  
2 breakfast on Sunday, this Sunday from  
3 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. at the Holy Rosary  
4 School Auditorium in North Scranton.  
5 Tickets are \$6 for adult and \$3 for  
6 children, three to ten. Children, two  
7 and under, they're free. Photos with  
8 Santa will also be available and  
9 that's all.

10 MS. EVANS: As a result -- or I  
11 should say really it appears we have  
12 numerous speakers this evening, and as  
13 a result, I ask that you adhere to the  
14 five-minute time limit in order that  
15 all speakers may be heard by city  
16 council.

17 Sunday for Sandy, a benefit to  
18 raise funds for Sandy Marino, a first  
19 grade teacher at Prescott School will  
20 be held this Sunday, November 28th, at  
21 the Tripp Park Community Center from  
22 two to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are  
23 available at all Scranton schools and  
24 at the door.

25 Although reports of the local,

1 state and national economies signal  
2 slow recoveries and ongoing financial  
3 problems bring concern, particularly  
4 here in Scranton, we have much for  
5 which we can be grateful, the love and  
6 strength of family, the loyalty and  
7 support of good friends, the freedoms  
8 enjoyed in daily life and the goodness  
9 inherent in our neighbors and in each  
10 one of us. Amid this season of Santa  
11 parades, shopping, decorating and  
12 celebrating, it's easy to forget to  
13 give thanks for most of what we still  
14 have and to share what we have  
15 abundant or meager with others who  
16 have greater need and less good  
17 fortune. Too often we ask for what we  
18 want rather than what is needed, and  
19 when it is received, we forget to give  
20 thanks and we move onto our next  
21 issue. Throughout my service on city  
22 council I've learned a priceless and  
23 simple lesson. There is no greater  
24 gift that can be given or received  
25 than to help others who are in need,



1           whether it be multitudes or just one  
2           person. I thank you all for the many  
3           gifts you have given me; your faith,  
4           your confidence and your support and I  
5           am very grateful to have been elected  
6           to serve and represent you. I wish  
7           you all a very happy, blessed and safe  
8           Thanksgiving.

9           MS. KRAKE: Fourth order,  
10          citizens participation.

11          MS. EVANS: Our first speaker  
12          this evening is John Judge.

13          MR. JUDGE: Good evening, city  
14          council. My name is John Judge. I am  
15          the secretary with IFF, Local 60,  
16          Scranton firefighters and obviously a  
17          city resident.

18          I was here last week and spoke to  
19          you briefly, about five minutes on the  
20          proposed cuts of the Fire Department  
21          by Mayor Doherty, and last week I told  
22          you that we could start investigating  
23          how this is going to play out as far  
24          as what it's going to mean for public  
25          safety within the City of Scranton.

1 Over the last week several of my  
2 brothers have started to gather  
3 numbers, response times and start to  
4 plug into some different data bases,  
5 what it's effectively going to mean  
6 for the public safety in the City of  
7 Scranton. And I brought some numbers  
8 tonight and while we're still in the  
9 process of developing a comprehensive  
10 packet for city council and we're  
11 going to give it to the mayor as well  
12 and the school board, it's not  
13 finished at this point but it will be  
14 by next week and we'll present that to  
15 you hopefully beforehand so you have  
16 the ability to look it over then and  
17 if you have any questions we'll be  
18 more than happy to answer.

19 Some of the numbers I did look  
20 at, however, with 27 positions that  
21 are being cut by Mayor Doherty in this  
22 2011 budget, it seems like they're  
23 going by numbers so what I did is I  
24 brought some numbers here tonight.  
25 And the first number is \$401,000.

1           That number represents the amount of  
2           money that city has spent to train the  
3           27 firefighters to get ready to take  
4           off the payroll here and are not going  
5           to be able to respond to emergencies  
6           within the city. The city  
7           firefighters attend a comprehensive  
8           training program at the Harrisburg  
9           Area Community College for eight  
10          weeks. They're brought back here,  
11          they go to the Emergency Medical  
12          Technician School, 160 hour school and  
13          then they're trained continuously.  
14          Our training is constant. We trained  
15          doing high-rise classes downtown which  
16          is ironic. This was something that  
17          was scheduled well before any of these  
18          cuts were going to be -- were told to  
19          us. We're downtown in a downtown  
20          business district where most of our  
21          high rises are doing training how to  
22          effectively suppress fires in those  
23          buildings. Mayor Doherty came out  
24          this week and he finally said, yes,  
25          this is going to effect response times

1 in the City of Scranton. But he said  
2 safety will be maintained. It will be  
3 the same level of safety will be  
4 maintained. It will more safety.  
5 What he fails to tell you is who is  
6 going to be operating more safety is  
7 us by putting three people on a piece,  
8 that's who is going to be operating  
9 more safely. We have two on some of  
10 our outlining engines and I will bump  
11 to three -- effectively the three  
12 engine companies -- the three  
13 companies that are going to close will  
14 no longer be there to assist us. One  
15 of the things we're trying to do is  
16 get actual scenarios that have  
17 happened and give the times so that  
18 you guys will know what those times  
19 are going to mean, those difference in  
20 response time. I can tell you just,  
21 for instance, today I was working  
22 today on a day shift. I was working  
23 for a rescue company that is located  
24 Wyoming Avenue which he is proposing  
25 to close. We had a rollover accident

1           on Interstate 81 up in between the  
2           Dickson City exists, between the mall  
3           and Main Avenue. It came as a bad  
4           accident, we requested additional  
5           manpower which Engine 8 brought us two  
6           more people. We were on the road 30  
7           seconds and a box alarm came in for a  
8           business, I believe, it might have  
9           been a business or school in the 200  
10          block of West Market Street. So the  
11          engine that was going to be there,  
12          that would have been the first was  
13          Engine 8 -- well, Engine 8 was coming  
14          with us on this accident with  
15          injuries. The next three pieces of  
16          equipment, do you know which ones they  
17          were? All three pieces that the mayor  
18          is proposing to close. Engine 4,  
19          Engine 9 and truck four were the three  
20          pieces of equipment that would be  
21          responding to the 200 block of West  
22          Market Avenue. That's one of the  
23          problems we have here. It's a  
24          fundamental change in the way we  
25          operate and we're getting no direction

1 from the supposedly leadership in this  
2 city. It's a week has gone by since  
3 he's put this budget out and still we  
4 have nothing. The way we operate now  
5 in a second alarm fire, we would have  
6 all the engines with the exception of  
7 one engine to respond. That engine  
8 effectively stays in the city, stays  
9 in service, covers any additional  
10 alarms, and we wait for recall of our  
11 membership. That's no longer. You  
12 get a working house fire here, we're  
13 going to be taxed to our limit. Our  
14 one truck only that's going to be  
15 running out of headquarters, it's not  
16 going to the make it in some of the  
17 streets and the city residence. This  
18 is a larger truck that is designed for  
19 operation in the downtown area. The  
20 truck over on the other side of the  
21 rive, truck four which he's proposing  
22 to the close is specifically designed  
23 for North Scranton and West Side.

24 We will have these numbers for  
25 you by next week. We'll get them to

1           you, and we're going to be out there  
2           as well. We're out there right now,  
3           downtown business district and we'll  
4           be down there throughout this. The  
5           only thing that we have is knowledge  
6           and we're going to pass that on  
7           everybody so that you guys can make an  
8           informed decision.

9           MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Judge.  
10          Andy Sbaraglia.

11          MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
12          City of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.  
13          We wouldn't have all these debates if  
14          it wasn't that the city was in a bad  
15          financial state. For eight years --  
16          well, probably closer to ten years,  
17          I've been coming before council and  
18          screaming that the sky is falling.  
19          You know, I felt that sky gets closer  
20          and closer to falling. I'm not going  
21          to get into anything with you unions  
22          because I'm a union person too, a 100  
23          percent, but we have to balance the  
24          financial status of the city versus  
25          the amount we can pay out. I don't

1 know how you're going to do that  
2 because how do you put a value on  
3 someone's life or property. But  
4 you're going to have to do it. I hope  
5 you're as good as some of them people  
6 in the old days Solomon who he had all  
7 that knowledge or you're going be  
8 stuck with it. Now it's the budget  
9 that's creating the problem. We all  
10 know this, the financial status of the  
11 city. The parking authority is  
12 notorious. There's all kinds of  
13 problems there. I didn't see the  
14 audit on the parking authority. I  
15 don't know if you did see the audit  
16 but somewhere along the line, I don't  
17 believe they're going to come up with  
18 the money to pay off their bonds  
19 again. That means they'll have to  
20 borrow again. I looked at some of the  
21 things from the mayor's budget, their  
22 parking revenue, they estimated it to  
23 be 1,440,000 but yet they only  
24 collected this for nine months,  
25 997,780,000 is what they collect,



1 almost half. I don't understand that  
2 because I was told they got all kinds  
3 of money out of those parking meters.  
4 Speaking of parking meters, all the --  
5 well, you see it. They took the  
6 parking meters from the university  
7 that were on that street there. They  
8 decided that it was detracting from  
9 the U. So we lost that revenue. And  
10 in doing that down there, it's no  
11 longer -- I guess it's General  
12 Dynamics now, they stuck them there.  
13 They haven't generated I don't think a  
14 dime and I don't think they ever will.  
15 And I don't blame the people for doing  
16 it. You know, you've got meters  
17 there, you're making X amount of  
18 dollars and the city wants \$40 -- at  
19 least \$40 for working per day. Yeah,  
20 it's eight hours -- no, it's not that  
21 much. That's per week. It's a  
22 quarter -- I think a dollar an hour  
23 now. So it's eight dollars per day  
24 and five days is \$40. I don't know  
25 why they did that, because we're

1 already in it for probably for a lot  
2 of money. A lot of the people that  
3 work there are Scrantonians. They're  
4 people that work that is paying all  
5 these other bills, plus even the  
6 people out of town, I think they're  
7 paying \$52 bucks and that service fee  
8 and they have to pay that. So I don't  
9 know what you're going to do. My best  
10 bet is change the way you regulate  
11 taxes. Place a fee on it for Fire  
12 Department, for the Police Department  
13 and some of the other departments  
14 because I read they're doing it that  
15 somewhere because somebody had a fire  
16 and the firemen refused to go because  
17 they didn't pay their tax on it. And  
18 I think that gives you your solution.  
19 Because instead of crying for these  
20 nonprofits, they would have to pay.  
21 And that's really what you want. You  
22 want to broaden the tax base and I  
23 couldn't understand all that  
24 \$11 million till I couldn't see some  
25 of them down for 29. That's

1           ridiculous.  Somebody in that  
2           department should be really shaken up.  
3           You should have an accurate report on  
4           delinquency at all times, not from  
5           1929 or 1913.  That's how you come up  
6           with how much money you're going to  
7           get if you have delinquency like that.  
8           I don't know what the answer is to  
9           that but somewhere along the line  
10          you've got to put your foot on his  
11          neck and say bring it up-to-date so we  
12          can understand it at any time, and I'm  
13          really -- I wish you luck on your  
14          dilemma.  I don't know how I would do  
15          it.  I would have to go back and read  
16          Solomon again and see if he would give  
17          me the answer.  Thank you.

18                 MS. EVANS:  Thank you, Mr.  
19                 Sbaraglia.  Ozzie Quinn?

20                 MR. QUINN:  Good evening.  Ozzie  
21                 Quinn, president of the Scranton  
22                 Taxpayers Association.

23                 MS. EVANS:  Good evening.

24                 MR. QUINN:  Last Thursday evening  
25                 the Scranton Lackawanna Taxpayer's

1 Association voted unanimously to  
2 support retention of all police and  
3 firefighters and all stations, engines  
4 and trucks. This was based on what we  
5 felt was the response time even though  
6 we are working on the study now, we  
7 also know from past experience  
8 emergencies and lack of manpower. So  
9 we wish them a lot of luck. To put it  
10 in prospective. If a child was born  
11 the first week of January in 2002,  
12 Mayor Doherty took office, that child  
13 would be next January, first week,  
14 ten-years-old. That's the last time  
15 they received a pay increase. You  
16 imagine that, their families. That's  
17 unbelievable. A child could be the  
18 third, fourth grade and nothing. And  
19 yet the mayor has spent millions upon  
20 millions from taxes, mercantile taxes,  
21 property taxes, wage taxes and fines.  
22 And the good old as Mrs. Evans calls  
23 it Doherty debt. We're about 148  
24 million -- I think you got the audit  
25 debt, did you?

1 MS. EVANS: Not yet.

2 MR. QUINN: Well, you know, where  
3 did all that money go and yet these  
4 gentlemen, these firefighters and  
5 police didn't get a raise and now they  
6 come up with an award and where are we  
7 going to raise the ten million. Well,  
8 Mr. Doherty should have thought about  
9 that when he was doing that  
10 refinancing and the loan meeting. You  
11 know, Mr. Connors left office on  
12 December 31st of 2001, he had a  
13 surplus of 2.1 million dollars in the  
14 operating budget. Mr. Doherty is  
15 going to be looking at probably a five  
16 million deficit in 200011 unless you  
17 people can come up with some magic  
18 here. Also at that period of time,  
19 2001, we were \$30 million in long term  
20 debt. As I said, now we're 148  
21 million dollars in long term debt. I  
22 mean, this mayor and this  
23 administration has been nothing but  
24 harmful to the firefighters, the  
25 police and the City of Scranton. All

1 he cared about and spent millions,  
2 mind you, without contracts to Nay Aug  
3 park contractors, professional  
4 contracts, lawyers, forget it, and we  
5 don't forget, the taxpayers. We're  
6 the ones that end up with the burden.  
7 So I ask you, please, as Andy said, I  
8 hope you can do something about it  
9 because these guys and these women,  
10 you know, their child might  
11 ten-years-old and they still haven't  
12 got a raise. Thank you very much.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
15 Scranton resident, member of the  
16 Taxpayer Association.

17 Oral deposition of Mayor  
18 Christopher A. Doherty, dated on the  
19 14th of September, 2010. This was in  
20 regards to the federal lawsuit that  
21 was filed by the two female Scranton  
22 police officers which, by the way,  
23 they won and costing the taxpayers  
24 \$153,000. "Christopher A. Doherty,  
25 having been first duly sworn was

1 examined and testified as follows:

2 Question: Have you ever read the  
3 lawsuit in this case, Mayor Doherty?"

4 Mayor Doherty's answer: "No, I  
5 have not.

6 Question: So you don't know what  
7 this lawsuit is about?"

8 Mayor Doherty's answer: "Well, I  
9 know. I've read in the papers about  
10 suing the city.

11 Question: So you've never  
12 actually taken the time to read the  
13 legal pleadings in this case?"

14 Mayor Doherty's answer: "That's  
15 correct.

16 Question: First of all, can you  
17 tell me, please, what your official  
18 position is with the City of  
19 Scranton?"

20 Mayor Doherty's answer: "I'm the  
21 mayor of the City of Scranton.

22 Question: How long have you been  
23 the mayor?"

24 Mayor Doherty's answer: "Roughly  
25 eight and a half years.

1                   Question:  When you did you first  
2                   become mayor?"

3                   Mayor Doherty's answer:  "January,  
4                   2010.

5                   Question:  Have you ever had any  
6                   training or education in sexual  
7                   harassment?"

8                   Mayor Doherty's answer:  "No, I  
9                   have not.

10                  Question:  Have you ever sought  
11                  any training or education in sexual  
12                  harassment?

13                  Mayor Doherty's answer:  "No, I  
14                  have not.

15                  Question:  Could you tell me,  
16                  please, what your responsibility as  
17                  the city's mayor are as you understand  
18                  it?"

19                  Mayor Doherty's answer:  "I'm the  
20                  elected leader of the city.  I serve  
21                  for a period of time and it's my  
22                  charge to run the City of Scranton.  
23                  I'm responsible for the day to day  
24                  operation of the city, make sure  
25                  services are provided to the people of



1           our city and make sure that they're  
2           provided in a timely manner and  
3           hopefully provide a vision for the  
4           city and to, you know, improve the  
5           city during the time that I am the  
6           mayor.

7           Question: So you're the chief  
8           executive officer of the city?

9           Mayor Doherty's answer: "Yes, I  
10          am.

11          Question: And in the course of  
12          performing your duties, you delegate  
13          any duties?"

14          Mayor Doherty's answer: "Yes, I  
15          have my department heads and they run  
16          their different departments.

17          Question: And in the delegation  
18          of these department heads, are they  
19          made in writing or is it orally?"

20          Mayor Doherty's answer: "Orally.

21          Question: Let me just state and  
22          you reach agreement on some people  
23          whose names are going to pop up in the  
24          course of these proceedings. Lisa  
25          Moran?"

1 Mayor Doherty's answer: "She's  
2 the Director of Human Resources.

3 Question: How long to the best  
4 of your knowledge has she held that  
5 position?"

6 Mayor Doherty's answer: "That  
7 period that I've been in office so  
8 eight and a half years.

9 Question: And do you know what  
10 her educational background was?"

11 Mayor Doherty's answer: "She's a  
12 college graduate. I couldn't tell you  
13 what college she went to.

14 Question: You know what degree  
15 she held?

16 Mayor Doherty's answer: "I do  
17 not, no.

18 Question: Do you know what her  
19 major was?"

20 Mayor Doherty's answer: "Do not  
21 know.

22 Question: Do you know if she had  
23 any experience in training in sexual  
24 harassment?"

25 Mayor Doherty's answer: "Well I

1                   knew she worked at HR at the Mall at  
2                   Steamtown.

3                   Question: She worked at the Mall  
4                   at Steamtown doing what?

5                   Mayor Doherty's answer: "Human  
6                   resources. She worked in personnel.

7                   Question: And did she have any  
8                   other experience that you know of?"

9                   Mayor Doherty's answer: "Not  
10                  that I'm aware of.

11                  Question: Okay. Incidentally,  
12                  what employer at the Steamtown Mall is  
13                  your understanding she worked for?"

14                  Mayor Doherty's answer: "I'm  
15                  assuming she worked for Boscov's, the  
16                  people who own the mall.

17                  Question: You assume?"

18                  Mayor Doherty: "Hum.

19                  Question: You don't know?"

20                  Mayor Doherty: "I would say she  
21                  probably worked for him. They own the  
22                  mall.

23                  Question: If she worked at  
24                  Boscov's at the Mall of Steamtown in  
25                  human relations, what was her

1 capacity? Was she Director of Human  
2 Relations?"

3 Mayor Doherty's answer: "I don't  
4 know.

5 Question: She was the director?"

6 Mayor Doherty: "That is my  
7 understanding.

8 Question: Then beyond that, you  
9 have no knowledge of what her  
10 experience was in human relations?"

11 Mayor Doherty: "Right.

12 Question: And you have no  
13 knowledge of what courses she's took  
14 in school?"

15 Mayor Doherty's Answer: "Right."

16 Question: Who is David Elliott?"

17 Mayor Doherty: He is the chief  
18 of police.

19 Question: Is he or was?"

20 Mayor Doherty: "He was the chief  
21 of police.

22 Question: Did you appoint him as  
23 the chief?"

24 Mayor Doherty's answer: "Yes, I  
25 did.

1                   Question: And could you tell me  
2                   at the time of his employment what  
3                   experience Mr. Elliott had in  
4                   supervision of employees?"

5                   Mayor Doherty's answer: "He was  
6                   corporal in the department.

7                   Question: Beyond being a  
8                   corporal, did he possess to the best  
9                   of your knowledge any experience in  
10                  the supervision of employees?"

11                  Mayor Doherty's answer: "No, I  
12                  don't have any other knowledge besides  
13                  being a corporal."

14                  May I finish?

15                  MS. EVANS: If you can finish up,  
16                  please, within a minute.

17                  MR. JACKOWITZ: This is briefly  
18                  about a minute.

19                  "Question: Okay. Subsequent to  
20                  being appointed as chief of police, do  
21                  you know if Mr. Elliott sought or  
22                  obtained formal training in the  
23                  supervision of employees?"

24                  Mayor Doherty's answer: "Not  
25                  that I am aware of.

1                   Question: Do you know whether he  
2                   had obtained any training in  
3                   administration of sexual harassment  
4                   programs?"

5                   Mayor Doherty: "Not that I'm  
6                   aware of.

7                   Question: Now, in the scheme of  
8                   things, has Scranton -- you said that  
9                   there were no written delegation of  
10                  authority. Was Mr. Elliott a person  
11                  to whom you delegated responsibility?"

12                 Mayor Doherty: "Yes. He was the  
13                 head of the Police Department.

14                 Question: Okay. What  
15                 responsibility did you delegate to  
16                 him?"

17                 Mayor Doherty: "He was in charge  
18                 of the day-to-day running of the  
19                 department.

20                 Question: Would that include  
21                 supervision?"

22                 Mayor Doherty: "Yes.

23                 Question: All police officers?"

24                 Mayor Doherty: "Yes.

25                 Question: Would that include

1 supervising the plaintiffs in this  
2 case?"

3 Mayor Doherty: "Yes.

4 Question: Do you know a  
5 gentleman by the name Raymond Hayes  
6 might be?"

7 Mayor Doherty: "Yes."

8 I will continue next week with  
9 Mr. Hayes and continue on with this  
10 deposition. As you can see, the  
11 leader of our city had no idea who he  
12 appointed to key cabinet positions and  
13 it gets better. You have two more  
14 installments coming.

15 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening,  
17 council.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. MORGAN: You know, I'm glad  
20 that there's two public access  
21 channel. I sat and listened to a lot  
22 of that. And the other thing is  
23 sitting there and watching the Griffin  
24 Pond Animal Shelter come in here. I  
25 hope there will be some real

1           consideration given to them. I  
2           adopted a few animals from there and I  
3           know that they do a really great job.  
4           I mean, I've been in their building  
5           looking for stray ones before and I  
6           know their heart is in the right  
7           place, and I just think money is  
8           really tight. I don't know what you  
9           can do for them but, you know, I'm  
10          sure you'll try to do something if you  
11          can.

12                 On a different issue, I think we  
13           find ourselves in a very difficult  
14           position here in regards to public  
15           safety and public services. The city  
16           does have an overwhelming debt. There  
17           can be no doubt about that. I made  
18           myself rather clear about the times  
19           that I really don't think the PEL  
20           moved in the best interest of the  
21           city. What I would like to see happen  
22           is I'd like to see three  
23           representatives of the Fire Department  
24           and three representatives of the  
25           Police Department and the same from



1           the Department of Public Work come to  
2           the Scranton Lackawanna Taxpayers' and  
3           Citizens' Association and explain to  
4           the people in this city exactly what  
5           they do. I'd like to see a little --  
6           I'd like to see the city and the mayor  
7           come together in some way if it's  
8           possible and I'd like to see this not  
9           breakdown into a -- I can't say a turf  
10          war. I just think it would really for  
11          lack of a better terminology just try  
12          to bring council and the mayor  
13          together to really sit down, and I  
14          think the major problem of the city is  
15          all the debt we have and we've given  
16          up so much. And I'm not here to speak  
17          for the unions. That's not my point  
18          here. My point is that the residents  
19          have a right to a certain degree of  
20          public safety, and I don't think this  
21          is a union versus the city scenario.  
22          I think this is the residents of this  
23          city having the right to have public  
24          safety being a priority here. We've  
25          given up so much before, in '92 when

1 we decided the course we were going to  
2 take and then we've given up so much  
3 and to be honest with you, I just  
4 can't see that we can absorb the loss  
5 of these firemen and policemen and you  
6 may not agree, the mayor may not  
7 agree, the people at home may not  
8 agree. But we can't allow all our  
9 services to keep diminishing. I think  
10 that when you call a fire truck or a  
11 policeman or you need infrastructure  
12 repairs done for the city, you have to  
13 have the people there to provide the  
14 service. I wouldn't want to be a  
15 fireman or policeman. I'll be really  
16 honest with you. Who wants to go  
17 running into a burning building or  
18 face some guy committing an armed  
19 robbery or -- you know, when you sleep  
20 at night, you want to know that people  
21 are patrolling the streets and when  
22 you call a fire in, somebody is  
23 coming. And I just think we have to  
24 find other solutions for our problems  
25 and they aren't too easy, we've

1            listened to them talk about the mall  
2            downtown. We all understand where  
3            were you are nationally. We're in a  
4            loft of trouble. I personally in my  
5            own opinion believe it's time to go  
6            the Court of Common Pleas and ask for  
7            some relief from the Court. I know  
8            everybody disagrees. I just think  
9            that we can't compromise public  
10           safety, we can't -- we can't change  
11           the place where we are. I know  
12           council is determined what they're  
13           going to do in regards to preparing  
14           their own budget. I think we'll see  
15           that when the time comes and when  
16           council has prepared their budget and  
17           present it, but I just don't think  
18           it's time to give up anymore  
19           employees. It's not about the union.  
20           It's about the people and that's all  
21           it's about. And I just think that if  
22           the people in this community had a lot  
23           better idea of what their public  
24           servants doe for them, maybe their  
25           opinions would be a little different.

1 But there's so much negative press out  
2 there, and I just think it's time for  
3 a reality check and that's why I hope  
4 that they would come to the Scranton  
5 Lackawanna Taxpayers' and Citizens'  
6 Association, sit down. Let's not talk  
7 about the union. Let's talk about the  
8 people who serve us. And I just hope  
9 that we can find a settlement for the  
10 union contract. I don't know if  
11 that's going to happen. It's been a  
12 long time. But I'm just going to hope  
13 that everybody in this city will be  
14 open minded. I mean, I just -- I've  
15 walked a lot of this city and they  
16 really feel they're entitled to public  
17 services and I just -- how far -- how  
18 much can we give up? You know, where  
19 is the line between fiscal digit  
20 budget constraints and safety? Where  
21 is that line? I think we've closed  
22 that line before and we've asked these  
23 people that serve us to sacrifice and  
24 I think they have. We've asked  
25 residents to sacrifice and I think

1           both parties have sacrificed enough  
2           and I don't know if you appreciate  
3           what I said are not but I appreciate  
4           your time. Thank you.

5           MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6           MR. ANDERSON: Council, how are  
7           you? My name is Derrick Anderson. I  
8           am a resident of Scranton. I'm also a  
9           patrolman with the Police Department  
10          here.

11          Before I begin, I'd just like to  
12          present you with something, something  
13          that was created -- obviously  
14          everybody knows Facebook. There was a  
15          group that was created, keep our  
16          police and firemen. As of now there's  
17          over 720 members, all on -- as far to  
18          my knowledge city residents. So I'd  
19          like to provide to you, this is copy  
20          for you to take a look at it. Okay.

21          I'm not going to spend too much  
22          time up here. There's just a couple  
23          things that I feel being in a grouping  
24          where, you know, within the city  
25          there's over 30 to 40 of us in this

1 possible situation with these layoffs.  
2 It's a terrible situation. I wish  
3 none of us had to be in it. I'm in it  
4 as well, all of our families are in it  
5 and it's just a difficult situation.  
6 But I'd just like to express a little  
7 bit. It's a tough decision for you  
8 obviously, and you guys have a lot to  
9 do. Hopefully it's going to be  
10 something that is worth it for the  
11 city. I haven't been here too long.  
12 I only moved here about three years  
13 ago. I've been employed with the city  
14 for two and a half years. Within that  
15 time frame, you know, I've come to --  
16 it's my home now. You know, this is  
17 where I plan to be, this is where I  
18 want to be. I have a house. I'm sure  
19 many other people that are in the same  
20 boat as I am, just built a house,  
21 beginning families, children, just got  
22 married, and for them it's just a  
23 tough decision because they are in the  
24 same exact boat as many people are in  
25 across the county in these types of

1 situations, and I just wanted to put  
2 it out there and, you know, just show  
3 that some people in the city here, not  
4 dealing with the administration, just  
5 people, general people and the public  
6 actually do care and, you know, show  
7 that that obviously through the web  
8 site had no problem, you know, keeping  
9 their faces out there. So thank you  
10 for everything and hope everything  
11 works out. Thank you.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
13 counsel. Les Spindler, city resident,  
14 Lackawanna taxpayer. Bill Jackowitz  
15 talked a little more than anybody else  
16 said tonight. Lee Morgan hit the nail  
17 right on the head, but I just want to  
18 talk a little bit about public safety.  
19 The headline in Chris Doherty's  
20 newsletter, fire cuts -- talks about  
21 public safety, the school district is  
22 behind the firefighters and the police  
23 officers. They could see that if  
24 these cuts are made, public safety  
25 will be in danger, how many lives will

1 be in danger. I don't know how the  
2 mayor thinks that he can do with less.  
3 It's just doesn't make any sense. If  
4 these cuts are made, then everybody  
5 better get your guard noses to help  
6 the firefighters out because they're  
7 just not going to be able to handle it  
8 and our safety will be in danger. I  
9 guess they announced last week, I live  
10 very close to engine nine, if that's  
11 gone, the next engine well be back on  
12 Luzerne Street and in a fire, seconds  
13 count, every second counts, and there  
14 will be lot more damage to my house, a  
15 truck coming from Luzerne street is  
16 just over on Main Avenue. We're about  
17 a half a mile from where I live. In  
18 that article Stu Renda said, "We need  
19 more money." Well, Stu if we need  
20 more money, why don't you give back  
21 some of the money that you're being  
22 overpaid. That will be a start.

23 Something else. Last Thursday,  
24 the West Scranton Hyde Park Crime  
25 Watch had a meeting and Chief Duffy



1 was there, and he spoke about the  
2 officers being cut and he said, "A  
3 plan existed for a smaller force, and  
4 how police are deployed, more  
5 important than their number." To me  
6 that doesn't make any sense to me.  
7 Again, I don't know how you do more  
8 with less. The more firefighters and  
9 police officers we have on the street,  
10 I know I'm going to be a lot safer and  
11 I think everybody else will, too. I  
12 know that I have a lot more to say but  
13 since I have more time, I'm going to  
14 put a plug into my daughter and one of  
15 her classrooms are doing something for  
16 school. It was in yesterday's paper.  
17 I'll read it word for word. John  
18 Cabrini and Brook Spindler will spend  
19 Thanksgiving morning walking ten miles  
20 from the Laurel Run Freight Station in  
21 Pittston to the Radisson in Lackawanna  
22 Station in Scranton. Walk Up the Line  
23 for Hunger is the pair's senior  
24 project. John and Brook are looking  
25 for donors to sponsor their walk per

1 mile. All the proceeds will go to the  
2 Feed a Friend program. Pledges can be  
3 sent to West Scranton High School,  
4 1201 Luzerne Street, Scranton, PA,  
5 18505. Checks and money orders can be  
6 made payable to the high school. I'm  
7 so proud of my daughter for doing  
8 that. It's a great cause. My  
9 daughter and John -- John is our  
10 neighbor. And I just hope they make  
11 lots of money. It is a great cause  
12 and I just want to end with wishing  
13 everybody in the city a happy healthy  
14 Thanksgiving. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Les. If  
16 you can state your name, please.

17 MS. HALLOCK: Sure. Tracy  
18 Hallock, taxpaying citizen.

19 MS. EVANS: Resident of Scranton?

20 MS. HALLOCK: Resident of  
21 Scranton. What Mayor Doherty may not  
22 realize is that what's on paper in one  
23 thing; in reality, it's quite  
24 different. The drastic impact these  
25 types of public safety cuts have on

1 citizen is profound. To operate the  
2 city soundly, the nationally  
3 recognized average is 2.2 police  
4 officers per 1,000 citizens.  
5 Approximately 72,000 citizens live in  
6 the City of Scranton placing that  
7 number of necessary officers at 158.  
8 Currently we have approximately 146  
9 officers right now. How can we afford  
10 to go even below that number? Of  
11 course, to everyone hearing cuts in  
12 public safety, red flags go up and for  
13 a good reason. It saves money but at  
14 what price. Violent crimes jumped  
15 19 percent in 2009 in addition to  
16 drugs, gang activity, increased  
17 juvenile crime and recession related  
18 crimes. At what point does it become  
19 more important to bail out Boscov's.  
20 Layoffs can hurt a police office for  
21 years to come. The younger officers  
22 are likely to lose their jobs and this  
23 creates an additional void of future  
24 leaders. And effective police  
25 presence deters and reduces crime. A

1 study by Rand Corp advises policy  
2 makers to consider both the tangible  
3 and intangible costs of reducing a  
4 city's public safety protection.  
5 Police and Fire Department personnel  
6 are an investment in the city's  
7 future. Other cities that are trying  
8 to do the same thing are seeing the  
9 effects of reduced public safety and  
10 the number are not appealing. The  
11 crime rates are up already. There are  
12 some suggestions that have come -- I  
13 have across through my research that  
14 have been successful in other areas.  
15 One is a half a cent sales tax  
16 increase, half a cent. And San Diego  
17 generated 103 million dollars from a  
18 half a cent. I'm not saying that a  
19 city of our size compared to San Diego  
20 can generate the same revenue but it  
21 would be something. Another is how  
22 about 11 million dollars in back taxes  
23 that is owed to the city. Would that  
24 not be able to cover the salaries of  
25 some public employees. And perhaps

1            maybe the federal government might  
2            want to step up to the plate instead  
3            of bailing out other countries since  
4            we are paying taxes to them. I would  
5            be willing to go around -- I know  
6            someone brought up Facebook which is a  
7            very popular social network. I would  
8            be willing to go around for city  
9            council to get signatures on people  
10           not supporting the budget and maybe  
11           getting some other suggestions from  
12           citizen that are unable to make it  
13           here to the city council meetings. At  
14           your request, I would have no problem  
15           to do so. I appreciate your time and  
16           enjoy the holiday. Thank you.

17           MS. EVANS: Before I call the  
18           next speaker, I just want to clear up  
19           one remark that Miss Hallock made.  
20           The agreement that has been requested  
21           by the Steamtown Mall has no effect  
22           whatsoever on the city's operating  
23           budget. The monies paid are federal  
24           funds, HUD funds through Section 108  
25           so it's -- in other words, whatever

1           the result, whatever the decision of  
2           the Steamtown Mall and the City of  
3           Scranton, it does not impact the  
4           city's operating budget. It impacts  
5           OECD and community development block  
6           grant funds which are given to the  
7           city by the federal government.

8           And next, Anthony Shields.

9           MR. SHIELDS: Hello.

10          MS. EVANS: Hello.

11          MR. SHIELDS: My name is Anthony  
12          Shields and I'm a current resident and  
13          taxpayer in the City of Scranton. I  
14          am also a Scranton police officer.

15          Police and firefighter protection  
16          for citizens and business owners  
17          alike, with these proposed lay offs  
18          have a hazardous work environment  
19          would result for the officers that  
20          remain. Police will now be faced with  
21          a challenge to provide protection to  
22          others while we are going to be short  
23          staffed with officer's safety in  
24          jeopardy. Our main job is to serve  
25          and protect the public on a daily

1 basis and we do that without  
2 hesitation. I'm not asking the public  
3 to address the council to voice their  
4 concerns on the proposed cuts in their  
5 public safety. Although jobs are on  
6 the line, my main concern is  
7 availability to provide service to the  
8 City of Scranton that the citizens are  
9 entitled to. Decisions are being made  
10 that may affect the safety and well  
11 being of the people and the masses. I  
12 can't stress enough the importance of  
13 the proposed budget which suffers a  
14 major blow in public safety and I  
15 encourage the people to speak out and  
16 let their invoices and concerns be  
17 heard.

18 One question I would like council  
19 to consider is who is effected more by  
20 the newly proposed budget, the 70  
21 people that will be losing their jobs  
22 or the 70,000 people who live in the  
23 city that deserve to be protected.  
24 Thank you for your time.

25 MR. HALLOCK: My name is Chris

1 Hallock, taxpayer citizen and Scranton  
2 Police Office.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. HALLOCK: Good evening. In  
5 the proposed budget, it calls for ten  
6 officers to be taken off the street,  
7 some of which have served for a year,  
8 some over three years. As for myself,  
9 I've been honored to serve the city  
10 just over a year now. During the past  
11 year I've been called onto the run  
12 into passion is where I have wasn't  
13 running away. I've been called to  
14 protect the great citizens of this  
15 city, its intruders, drugs, gangs,  
16 whatever danger may arise. I've been  
17 called on to protect the great  
18 businesses that a call Scranton home.  
19 Every shift, myself along with the  
20 nine fellow officers set to be laid  
21 off placed their life on the line to  
22 protect this great city. We all knew  
23 going into this profession that, you  
24 know, it's a dangerous one, it  
25 requires risk and sacrifice. Knowing



1 the dangers involved, we still go out  
2 there, every shift and place our lives  
3 on the line. Never have we asked for  
4 a thank you, we don't ask for an  
5 award, we don't ask for our name in  
6 the paper, we don't ask to be  
7 interviewed by the news stations. We  
8 simply along with the other fine men  
9 and women serving for this city, we  
10 just took an oath to protect the  
11 citizens and our fellow partners. But  
12 now time comes where unfortunately we  
13 have to ask the city for something.  
14 That something is just the community  
15 to support us. We need you to be the  
16 voice and united together. We need  
17 the simple message to keep our city  
18 safe. Without strong community  
19 support, the Police Department will  
20 not succeed. It's also my belief that  
21 without a strong Police Department the  
22 community will not prosper. The  
23 community and Police Department need  
24 each other. If one fails, they both  
25 lose. Recently you may have heard

1           some people have tried saying it's not  
2           the size that's matter, it's how you  
3           use it. I think we've all heard that  
4           before. I also know the citizens of  
5           Scranton know better than to believe  
6           that. I ask those here at the meeting  
7           I ask those watching at home, if your  
8           house is being broken and your life  
9           and life of your loved ones are in  
10          danger, do you want one officer or y  
11          two officers come to your house or do  
12          you want three or four? Do you want  
13          one or two officers in your patrol  
14          then to deter crime and watch over  
15          your house or do you want three or  
16          four? I ask the great citizens of  
17          this city to speak out. I ask them to  
18          allow me along with the nine fellow  
19          officers to continue to protect this  
20          great city. If you believe in a  
21          better Scranton, I ask that you to  
22          come to these meetings, I ask that you  
23          write to the mayor, I ask that you  
24          write to the congressmen, I ask that  
25          you write to the governor and tell

1           them Scranton deserves its safety.  
2           Tell them you refuse to allow the life  
3           and the life of loved ones to be put  
4           in danger. This is bigger than  
5           dollars and cents. This is about  
6           safety of remaining officers to be  
7           left doing a job undermanned in unsafe  
8           working conditions. This is about the  
9           citizens that lives will be put in  
10          jeopardy. And most importantly this  
11          is about the integrity and the future  
12          of city. All I ask for the citizens  
13          is that they have a voice. If you  
14          believe in something that is worth  
15          fighting for, let's fight for what is  
16          right and I thank council and everyone  
17          here at the meeting and everyone  
18          watching at home for your time and I  
19          ask for your support to help the city,  
20          not for me, for everyone. Thank you.

21                 MS. EVANS: Charles Newcombe.

22                 MR. NEWCOMBE: Good evening,  
23                 council.

24                 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25                 MR. NEWCOMBE: I also want to

1 speak on the budget with the cuts. As  
2 a taxpayer in the City of Scranton, I  
3 do not have any family members that  
4 are employed by the city. I'm just a  
5 taxpayer in the City of Scranton. We  
6 have two homes in the city that we're  
7 responsible for. I pay thousands of  
8 dollars in taxes a year and I'll tell  
9 you what, like these fine police  
10 officers said before, somebody is  
11 breaking into my house or, God forbid,  
12 one of my houses is on fire, these are  
13 the people that I expect to see. I  
14 don't expect to see Stu Renda and I  
15 don't expect to see any of the people  
16 on the administration. I expect to  
17 see these people first. I think what  
18 has to happen here is no cuts. We pay  
19 our business administrator \$85,000 a  
20 year, and if you remember what his  
21 salary was over the past few years  
22 that he got up to point, a ridiculous  
23 amount of increase. What I think has  
24 to be done here for some money is you  
25 have to look at, as far as I feel, the

1            mayor should be the CEO of the city at  
2            \$50,00 a year and that's what he  
3            makes. Everybody in his cabinet  
4            \$85,000; \$65,000, those people should  
5            be brought down right underneath the  
6            mayor's salary. Stu Renda should be  
7            cut in half to \$45,000. If he doesn't  
8            want to do it, we'll find somebody t  
9            hat will. Anybody that takes these  
10           kinds of money on the administration  
11           that are home laying on their couch  
12           watching TV when the buildings are the  
13           on fire and the people are shooting  
14           guns in the street, these are the  
15           people that we need first, not the  
16           administration. We're worried about  
17           parks, we're worried about everything  
18           else. I want to know when I lay my  
19           head down at night and I'm sleep, I  
20           want to know that my streets are  
21           covered and our houses are covered for  
22           the fires. I don't want all my money  
23           going to administrations. And we have  
24           to take into consideration of how  
25           ridiculous. There is a raise in this

1 budget from what I understand, I  
2 didn't read it, for the police chief  
3 and the fire chief.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. NEWCOMBE: Just think how  
6 stupid that sounds when you want to  
7 lay off these people and give these  
8 people a raise, sitting in an office,  
9 and I think if I'm not mistaken and I  
10 do 30 years of labor experience, if  
11 these chiefs -- two chiefs are granted  
12 a raise, I believe the retired chiefs  
13 that are home sitting on their couch,  
14 they also get half because that's the  
15 way that works in the city. So if you  
16 give somebody -- that's what happened  
17 the last time. I came to the podium  
18 and everybody said no and they  
19 investigated it, guess what, every  
20 dollar I said is going to happen,  
21 happened. So if somebody gets a  
22 \$14,000 raise, if I'm not mistaken, I  
23 could be wrong, the retired chief, one  
24 or the other gets 50 percent of that  
25 in his pension. So that the last time

1           this happened, I believe the retired  
2           chiefs and firemen, they got like \$600  
3           more in their pension so take into  
4           consideration. I just think that it's  
5           totally ridiculous. We do not need  
6           these cuts. The mayor to look at, you  
7           know, we just had an election in this  
8           country and what happened was the  
9           people told the government, whoa, back  
10          up, too much spending, too much money,  
11          take a different course and that's  
12          what I think has to be done here in  
13          the city. I don't want to see any  
14          cuts in the police or firemen. I  
15          don't want my insurance to go up on my  
16          homeowner's because we closed  
17          firehouses knowing that we have  
18          business administrators and everybody  
19          riding around in cars that is supplied  
20          for them making \$85,000 a year. The  
21          mayor, the administration should be  
22          paid 50,000, that's what he does, I  
23          believe the Home Rule Charter, that's  
24          what his salary is set by that. But  
25          everybody underneath him, no one

1           should make more than the  
2           administration. They should make 45,  
3           \$46,000 and you could take that money  
4           from their salaries and maybe put it  
5           into the budget. But I don't want to  
6           see any cuts. These are -- like this  
7           gentleman said before, everyone that  
8           have to go in the street everyday, you  
9           know, they're not the ones that can  
10          sit in an office and somebody said,  
11          Oh, did you hear what happened in West  
12          Side? Yeah, it's terrible. They're  
13          the ones that have to come over and  
14          Green Ridge, West Side, whatever. So  
15          as far as I'm concerned as a taxpayer  
16          in this city, like I said, and I'm not  
17          one of those people that owes four  
18          million dollars. That's horrendous.  
19          My taxes are all paid up. I pay  
20          property tax on two homes, and I want  
21          to protect them. And the only people  
22          I want to protect is when you do your  
23          budget, I hope that you're going to  
24          make into consideration that there  
25          will be no cuts in public safety. I



1 don't want to see these men and women  
2 taken off the streets. But what I do  
3 want to see done is like the  
4 government just said in our last  
5 election, stop the spending, stop the  
6 waste, and you know what, do the right  
7 thing for -- this is the first time  
8 we're going to have a chance to do the  
9 right thing where everybody will  
10 get -- even if you cut these people's  
11 salaries, they're still going to have  
12 a job. These people will not have a  
13 job and their families won't be  
14 covered. Ten years, 2000, these  
15 people haven't had a raise so you  
16 can't blame from 2002 until now, you  
17 can't say it's the union fault. They  
18 haven't gotten any raises. The fault  
19 is that money is going to contractors,  
20 money going to Nay Aug Park, business  
21 administration at \$85,000, raises for  
22 your chief and fire chief, no cuts, no  
23 brakes. These are the people that I  
24 want to protect me. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Matt McDonald.

1 MR. MCDONALD: Good evening,  
2 council.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. MCDONALD: Matt McDonald,  
5 city resident and Scranton  
6 firefighter. I just wanted to  
7 follow-up with some census facts that  
8 I prepared for last week but I ran out  
9 of time. Scranton has over 35,000  
10 residential structures in the city.  
11 Sixty-two percent of those structures  
12 were built prior to 1940, pre World  
13 War II, 62 percent. The average in  
14 Pennsylvania is 30 percent of the  
15 residential structure prior to '94 and  
16 the statistics only go back to 1940  
17 and I would venture a guess that a  
18 large majority of that 62 percent is  
19 around the turn of the century. I  
20 pointed out we have a very old city  
21 where our homes are very close  
22 together. And there was a fire in the  
23 Hill section, I think May of 2009, and  
24 it gave a great example of what we as  
25 firefighters face when we get to a

1 structure fire. This fire was a very  
2 large fire for us to fight, and the  
3 news crew just happened to be in the  
4 area and they saw exactly what we saw  
5 when we pulled up. The one house was  
6 an apartment building that was fully  
7 engulfed in flames and the two  
8 structures on either side because  
9 they're literally feet apart, a lot of  
10 the homes in the City of Scranton are  
11 literally feet apart. You can stand  
12 and touch both structures. The two  
13 houses on the other side were started  
14 to burn as soon as the engine company  
15 pulled up. So just imagine that was  
16 Engine 15 first to territory. Just  
17 imagine that their second engine  
18 company downtown was not there to  
19 supply water. You cannot put a fire  
20 out like that with 750 gallons of  
21 water. You can't do it. So I would  
22 hate to see what would happen in that  
23 fire if we didn't have the structure  
24 we have right now.

25 So each engine company now if

1           this budget throws goes through, there  
2           will be five engine companies and each  
3           engine company will protect five  
4           square miles of the city -- over five  
5           square miles, and in those five square  
6           miles on average 15,000 residences.  
7           So that's one engine company  
8           protecting 15,000 residents in the  
9           City of Scranton. I just -- I don't  
10          know. This budget was crafted by  
11          obviously by the quotes in the paper  
12          by Stu Renda, business administrator,  
13          who, to my knowledge, doesn't have any  
14          fire experience. The mayor doesn't  
15          have any firefighting experience.  
16          They didn't rely on any studies that  
17          were done. One of the speakers last  
18          week, I believe there's been five  
19          studies done over the past few years.  
20          They didn't rely on any of those  
21          studies. As dangerous as the latest  
22          study was, this even goes a step  
23          beyond that in eliminating a third of  
24          our apparatus in the city without even  
25          doing a study or, you know, taking

1           into aspects the study that was done.  
2           Also laying off, in effect, a third of  
3           our Fire Department. Two years ago  
4           there was a 150 firefighters. If this  
5           budget goes through, there will be a  
6           110. In 1992 there was 200  
7           firefighters. So since 1992, nearly  
8           half of the Fire Department manpower  
9           will be eliminated. I don't think the  
10          size of the city has shrunk, I don't  
11          think that many of the buildings -- I  
12          don't think half the buildings or half  
13          the residents have left the city.  
14          Again, I said it last week that I'm  
15          very concerned over these cuts, and  
16          this just goes to show you that there  
17          was no public safety taken into  
18          account when they drafted this budget.  
19          There was a quote in one of the papers  
20          stating that prior to -- could I  
21          finish. I'll be 30 seconds.

22                 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23                 MR. MCDONALD: Prior to the  
24                 recent court award that basically  
25                 gives firefighter employees a cost of

1 living raise, they were only going to  
2 eliminate 15. Where that number  
3 comes, I don't know. Because of this  
4 and they knew that these awards were  
5 coming because of this now they have  
6 to lay off 27, it's unacceptable.  
7 It's just unacceptable. And, again,  
8 thank you for listening to me tonight  
9 and have a nice Thanksgiving.

10 MR. EVANS: Mr. Dobzyn?

11 MR. DOBZYN: Good evening,  
12 council. Dave Dobzyn. I'm president  
13 of the Scranton Taxpayers'  
14 Association. I also don't support any  
15 of these cuts that are for the firemen  
16 employees. The question is if you're  
17 victimized by somebody, what measures  
18 do you have to take to prevent this  
19 stuff if there's no police around and  
20 a lot of times they can't do what they  
21 like to do without catching it before  
22 it happens. If I have to, I prefer to  
23 criminal activity yourself to repel an  
24 attack. So that's been my experience  
25 more often than not by the cops get

1           there, but a lot of other people don't  
2           have that option and I really don't  
3           support any cuts on either fire or  
4           police oh whatever you can do.

5                    Last year, for instance, on  
6           Monroe Avenue because they didn't want  
7           to call off overtime or something,  
8           three houses burned instead of one.  
9           And I thought about that if it was  
10          happening to my house, I'd probably  
11          walk out and try to put Ray Hayes  
12          under a citizen's arrest. You know,  
13          it's just like, come on, get him here.  
14          The house is catching fire and we've  
15          got two others going on top of this so  
16          now on Monroe Avenue, you've got one  
17          big empty lot. Maybe one of  
18          nonprofits would like it some day, who  
19          knows.

20                   Also now moving along. If under  
21          motions, what is it, 5A, B and C or B,  
22          C and D, is the to repeal some of the  
23          Northeast criminal conspiracy -- I  
24          mean, Northeast Credit Collections?

25                   MS. EVANS: The first piece of

1           legislation is to repeal the ordinance  
2           of 2007. I think it was filed Council  
3           No. 82 that contained the 23 fees,  
4           costs, fines, et cetera, that will be  
5           repealed.

6           MR. DOBZYN: Right.

7           MS. EVANS: Following to augment,  
8           I believe, to replace that will be  
9           introducing it tonight, however, we'll  
10          still investigating it and in the  
11          future we may well amend it or vote it  
12          down.

13          MR. DOBZYN: Right. Great,  
14          great, because that probable causes  
15          more taxes to not be paid than the  
16          cost of the taxes themselves.

17          And finally about two weeks ago  
18          the U.S. government went into Pakistan  
19          and rescued nuclear material to build  
20          800 atomic bombs and which is by the  
21          right next door to Chetznia and you  
22          have lots of fanatics over there and  
23          so forth, so. Jon Kyl, an Arizona  
24          senator was currently resisting the  
25          STAR treaty and he gets the golden



1                   parrot award because he got everything  
2                   he asked for and he's still resisting.  
3                   It's just to make things look bad. So  
4                   shame on him, golden parrot award.  
5                   Have a good night. Thank you.

6                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob  
7                   Martin.

8                   MR. MARTIN: Good evening,  
9                   council.

10                  MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11                  MR. MARTIN: Bob Martin, city  
12                  resident, supervisor in the Police  
13                  Department, FOP president. I just  
14                  want to -- some of the numbers that  
15                  I've been hearing kicked around. I  
16                  just want to set the record straight.  
17                  I spoke with the newspaper last night  
18                  at length. First thing we have to  
19                  remember is, and I was here in the  
20                  fall or late summer and council was  
21                  talking about and requesting at test  
22                  be given so we can hire. We were  
23                  short then. We were short six  
24                  officers by the city's numbers. I'm  
25                  not -- I mean, they don't always jive

1 with us but it was the city's number  
2 of six officers short. Now we're  
3 talking about laying ten more off. So  
4 now we're down 16. And then, of  
5 course, the 13 moving to the CommD  
6 program for the neighborhood beat  
7 patrol officers and, you know, I'm  
8 still a little skeptical about that.  
9 There's a plan on paper, I attended a  
10 staff meeting and it looks good on  
11 paper but I fear that once it gets out  
12 on the battlefield, once it gets  
13 deployed, that it's not going to work  
14 as well as we hoped. Of course, a lot  
15 of that is going to be -- a lot of  
16 that is based on the fact that that  
17 has to be monitored very, very closely  
18 by the supervisors on each shift to  
19 make sure that there's no violations  
20 of the HID agreements or the HUD  
21 grant. So I worry about that because  
22 if we're down that many, we're down  
23 ten, something happens to that funding  
24 through SIKO, the federal government  
25 and/or, you know, some errors in

1           calculations, what happens then? Then  
2           we're really stuck. Then we're really  
3           make some deep cuts. I just -- I have  
4           a whole bunch of statistics here. I  
5           can't follow-up any better than Miss  
6           Hallock did. She was splendid with  
7           the numbers. I mean, of course,  
8           there's, you know, the professionals  
9           and the powers to be would argue that  
10          it can be debated all day long, Kansas  
11          City study in terms of police presence  
12          and crime, the part of the study came  
13          out seven to three and there's no  
14          correlation for that but I disagree  
15          with that. You still can't do more  
16          with less. You can't do, you know,  
17          have officers answering calls. The  
18          part of the plan that was presented to  
19          us, there's a number of officers,  
20          there are, there's a lot of detectives  
21          on day shift, there's a lot of other  
22          officers, special duty officers going  
23          on but somebody's going to lose focus.  
24          If you have a drug unit that is doing  
25          drug operations, all of a sudden they

1           have to be shifted, there's an  
2           emergency because we don't have enough  
3           people, they have to be pulled.  
4           Obviously they're going to lose focus.  
5           They're department is going to suffer.  
6           I don't care what you say. Once you  
7           start pulling people and today's crime  
8           is wide open because there's so much  
9           more opportunity with the internet,  
10          with fraud, with all these other  
11          things, and they're all specialized  
12          crime, they're difficult, they're  
13          extremely difficult to investigate and  
14          track down these perpetrators with  
15          internet, crime and fraud. Identity  
16          theft, I mean -- and that takes  
17          special training. So, I mean, and so  
18          some of the numbers that I have  
19          basically in 2003, we had 159 officers  
20          on the city working. In 2003, the  
21          last part of 2003, juvenile crime,  
22          155. That's all juvenile crime; 2010,  
23          519. That's a pretty big increase  
24          with never mind the correlation and,  
25          of course, now we're down to what

1 we're looking 2011, possibly a 138  
2 officers. And just it continues to  
3 spiral, and we have to be very  
4 cautious here. We have to watch  
5 because once it's deteriorated, like  
6 Wilkes-Barre, Wilkes-Barre went down  
7 to 60 officers, they're still  
8 struggling to get back. I mean,  
9 that's plain and simple. All the  
10 studies in the world, you can see  
11 that. That's a plain fact. You can  
12 see that on your TV every morning when  
13 you wake up. And so I'm asking  
14 council. I won't take up too much  
15 time. The last thing I want to say is  
16 how proud I am of these officers, very  
17 professional, they come up here. I'm  
18 proud to represent them, I'm proud to  
19 be their supervisor and they're in the  
20 field there. There's a feel for a  
21 real human, the human touch, and then  
22 from a practical standpoint, look at  
23 the investment. These officers just  
24 started out. They're on one, two,  
25 three, four years. Look at the

1 investment that this city has made to  
2 get their careers where they are now  
3 in terms of training. They've got to  
4 go through Act 120, they go through a  
5 background investigation. What it  
6 cost the city just to run background  
7 investigations and I heard something  
8 that really tore at me this afternoon.  
9 Someone came to me, just a casual  
10 conversation in the Roll Call Room and  
11 said that some of these officers, I  
12 mean, they're at the point where  
13 they're disgusted. I said and I tell  
14 them, "Don't lose faith. We're still  
15 going down the road." And once  
16 they're laid off, they're coming back.  
17 And I said, "Whatever comes out of  
18 some of these court arguments, they  
19 may be vacancies, they're coming back.  
20 And the thing that tore my heart out  
21 was someone said, "Maybe they don't  
22 want to. They don't want to relive  
23 this next year and the year after." I  
24 mean, that's the human part, that's  
25 the practical part and then you have

1 to think about the investment that's  
2 already made with these officers to  
3 get them where they are now and we  
4 could possibly lose that. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone  
7 would like to address council?

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
9 council. Marie Shumacher, citizen and  
10 member of the taxpayer's organization.

11 First I'd like to take issue  
12 with a couple of things.

13 Mrs. Evans, last week you said  
14 that the Scranton Sewer Authority had  
15 received a PennVest loan despite not  
16 being a member of SAPA. What counts  
17 are the grants that we may or may not  
18 receive because we're not part of  
19 SAPA. Also you said that SAPA is not  
20 priority for city council at this  
21 time. I understand that. For the  
22 next three weeks I expect it's going  
23 to be budget all the time and that's  
24 the proper thing but I hope at the  
25 beginning of next year SAPA will be

1           revisited. I think it's important.  
2           I'm concerned about the liability of  
3           not having our ordinances up-to-date,  
4           of not have having an updated  
5           comprehensive plan. I find no funding  
6           for a new comprehensive plan in the  
7           budget so that increases our  
8           liability. I also am upset about the  
9           liability when I read -- this was the  
10          delinquent property tax article in the  
11          paper. Mr. Renda said, "Placement of  
12          liens is a subjective decision." And  
13          I think the laws are supposed to be  
14          administered equally, and I would  
15          think this city would be liable to a  
16          lawsuit if the administrator of our  
17          city as well, we just pick and chose  
18          and it's whether we place a lien is  
19          subjective. We did that study awhile  
20          back, I believe it was last year on  
21          the demolition of homes over a period  
22          of and how few had liens placed  
23          against them. I don't think we can  
24          afford anymore lawsuits. We can  
25          barely afford what we have and I think



1 we have to cover our behinds and in  
2 the case of the liens, I think we need  
3 a policy. We need something in an  
4 ordinance that makes it not  
5 subjective. I'm not saying that in  
6 some cases liens should not be placed  
7 but on the other hand those have to be  
8 specified and called out in ordinance  
9 to protect us taxpayers. I also do  
10 still have my checks to pay the SAPA  
11 fees here so it still will be good  
12 next year and, again, I hope that will  
13 be taken up.

14 I would also like to suggest that  
15 maybe this year instead of our local  
16 legislators and maybe our school board  
17 directors, instead of or maybe in  
18 addition to writing a letter to Santa  
19 Claus, write a letter to their local  
20 legislators because I don't see how  
21 you can get out of these things, some  
22 of these things without help from  
23 Harrisburg. House Bill 1275, the  
24 proposal to eliminate the school  
25 property tax would not only help free

1 up money to be reinvested in our  
2 community and make it easier for  
3 taxpayers to pay their county and city  
4 bills, but the other thing that it  
5 does is reduces or eliminates the  
6 local taxes so immediately our wage  
7 tax, the 3.4 that everybody looks at  
8 would go down to 2.4. So that is a  
9 big plus. Then you guys only have to  
10 work on the other 1.4 percent and get  
11 that and then we would be in  
12 equilibrium with the surrounding  
13 municipalities and maybe we can get  
14 some business. And in that regard,  
15 too, I do want to maybe take some  
16 issue with what Mrs. Evans said  
17 tonight and I hate doing it, but if we  
18 don't use our HUD money for economic  
19 development, we don't get wage taxes  
20 from jobs that are not created, and we  
21 don't get business and mercantile  
22 taxes from businesses if we don't get  
23 them here. And to the extent that one  
24 person is left or one entity is  
25 covered for by HUD monies that would

1 otherwise be spent in another area, it  
2 does effect our operating budget  
3 because that's where the taxes end up.

4 I also think in that letter to  
5 Santa Claus in addition to begging  
6 them to support 1275 or whatever it  
7 will be called in the next  
8 legislature, I think we need some Act  
9 55 clarification. We currently have  
10 something like in the neighborhood, it  
11 changes obviously from day-to-day,  
12 something like a 1,100 tax exempt  
13 properties in the municipalities in  
14 Scranton. Act 55, a lot of people  
15 think tax -- being a non profit  
16 equates to be being property tax  
17 exempt but it's not. That's an IRS  
18 thing and it only applied to federal  
19 taxes. It's up to the state of who is  
20 exempt on property taxes. There's  
21 no -- if we exempt only for purely --  
22 for pure charitable acts and I think  
23 you guys need to split up the  
24 properties between the city and the  
25 school district and take a look and

1 see which ones will meet the Act  
2 criteria. Thank you.

3 MR. NEWCOMBE: Charlie Newcombe,  
4 homeowner, resident of Scranton.

5 I'm here to speak on the budget  
6 first. I want to thank this council,  
7 more importantly Mr. Loscombe, along  
8 with Representative Murphy for the  
9 continuing and Mr. Skeleton from the  
10 Sewer Authority for working on fixing  
11 the problems in Keyser Valley and  
12 hopefully that won't stop of what I  
13 have to say about the administration.  
14 Quick story. I'm going to condense it  
15 down to a minute.

16 Last Wednesday I came home and in  
17 the process I saw a group of teenagers  
18 breaking into my neighbor's vehicle.  
19 I immediately called the Police  
20 Department and nobody showed up.  
21 Twenty minutes later the children or  
22 call them kids, the teenagers were  
23 trying to get into other vehicles in  
24 the neighborhood. Called the police  
25 back and nobody showed up. My

1 neighbor and I took care of the  
2 situation on our own and talked to the  
3 children and found out where they  
4 lived and talked to their parents.  
5 But that could have been a very bad  
6 situation. It shouldn't have to be  
7 that way. I called then an hour and  
8 45 minutes later after no police  
9 arrived to be told that the police  
10 were too busy, and that they got  
11 pulled to an emergency that was going  
12 on at the same time, but a police  
13 officer could come over and take the  
14 report. That is completely  
15 unacceptable. It's not the Police  
16 Department's fault there's not enough  
17 men and women to defend the city, it's  
18 the administration's fault that  
19 there's not enough men and women to  
20 defend the city. When I write out my  
21 check to the city of Scranton every  
22 year to pay my taxes and I'm about to  
23 get another tax bill because I'm in  
24 the process of purchasing another  
25 home, I want the protection that I'm

1           paying for. And what happened there  
2           is completely unacceptable.

3           The engine company that's in my  
4           neighborhood in the Keyser Valley  
5           section is Engine 7. I was -- my  
6           family and I were involved in a very  
7           bad accident almost 18 months ago and  
8           when I say in two minutes, I'm not  
9           exaggerating. It took two minutes for  
10          that engine company to get there and  
11          my wife and my two kids were stuck in  
12          the vehicle and those men were there  
13          in two minutes. That's what I want.  
14          If God forbid my house is on fire, it  
15          would take four minutes for the  
16          adequate amount of staff to get there  
17          to get my kids out of the house, four  
18          minutes. That's less time than I'm  
19          standing at this podium talking.  
20          That's what I want. Four minutes. It  
21          is unacceptable to close fire stations  
22          and tell me that it's better for the  
23          residents of this city. How is it  
24          possible? My children next year will  
25          be going to the new school in Tripps

1 Park. The closest station to there  
2 would be Engine 9 and truck for on  
3 Main Avenue. You're telling me that  
4 you're going close, not you in  
5 particular, but the mayor is saying  
6 that he's going to close that station  
7 and put my kids at risk to wait for  
8 longer for the Fire Department to get  
9 there and other hundreds of kids,  
10 completely unacceptable. You have  
11 people that work at this  
12 administration that started off as a  
13 nuts and bolts salesman that now run  
14 the parking authority making \$85,000 a  
15 year because they knew the right  
16 people and you're telling me that you  
17 have to get rid of ten police officers  
18 and almost 30 firemen. That's wrong.  
19 Cut those people's salary below 50.  
20 If they don't like it, they can go get  
21 a job somewhere else. If this budget  
22 goes through, I want a refund in my  
23 taxes because I'm paying the same  
24 amount of money for less protection.  
25 Stu Renda, you read in the newspaper

1                   that you need more money. It just  
2                   doesn't make any sense to me that you  
3                   can actually think that you are going  
4                   to be able to close firehouses and  
5                   save people. If you want more money,  
6                   why don't you start looking at the  
7                   budget, cut money, and get more police  
8                   officers on the street. If you take  
9                   Stu Renda's salary and cut it in half  
10                  and you take Mr. Scopelliti's salary  
11                  and cut it in half, that's two police  
12                  officers you can put back on the  
13                  street. Tell me how that doesn't make  
14                  sense. It's irrational to me that  
15                  people would think this way. I had  
16                  the opportunity to buy a house  
17                  anywhere. I chose to stay in the City  
18                  of Scranton. One of the reasons that  
19                  we chose to buy our house in the City  
20                  Scranton is because I want the  
21                  protection that I will be able to get.  
22                  I have nothing against volunteer  
23                  firemen. They are to be held to the  
24                  same regard as everybody, actually I  
25                  hold them higher, the firemen and



1                   policemen in my book. But in the City  
2                   of Scranton, these people will be at  
3                   your house quicker than a volunteer  
4                   Fire Department, and I looked at that  
5                   as one of the factors in purchasing a  
6                   home to know that I can get that kind  
7                   of protection in the City of Scranton.  
8                   And now you're telling me after I have  
9                   children and after I made an  
10                  investment to the city to stay here  
11                  and purchase two properties, you're  
12                  telling me that now you're going take  
13                  that away from me. That is completely  
14                  unacceptable. I ask this council to  
15                  look line-by-line in this budget and  
16                  get rid of all this bloated  
17                  administration and their salaries. If  
18                  these people don't like it, they can  
19                  go work somewhere else. There is not  
20                  a company in the world that has a seat  
21                  that the employees make more money  
22                  than the CEO. This mayor had the  
23                  opportunity after the last council t o  
24                  increase his salary and he  
25                  specifically said he's fine with

1           \$50,000 a year. Then the people that  
2           work for you should be happy with the  
3           \$50,000 a year, too. So I ask this  
4           council, please, do not cut these men  
5           and women of the Police and Fire  
6           Department because I want those people  
7           come rescue me, not these people that  
8           sit behind a desk everyday to come and  
9           protect me, because I think we have  
10          the best police and fire Department in  
11          the country. Thank you.

12           MR. ROGAN: If I can just one  
13          comment before the next speaker comes  
14          up.

15           Mr. Newcombe, I couldn't agree  
16          with what you said more. From day one  
17          when I was on council and we went to  
18          court to amend the budget, the thing  
19          that bothered me the most about the  
20          budget is that we have Mayor Doherty  
21          making \$50,000 a year, you have a  
22          business administrator making \$35,000  
23          a year more than the mayor who is the  
24          CEO of the city. And the mayor's  
25          budget doesn't do anything to cut

1                   those salaries. The only cuts the  
2                   mayor is making is in public safety  
3                   and in the other city employees. He's  
4                   not making any cuts in administration.  
5                   And we have a business administrator  
6                   making \$85,000 a year, yet we have to  
7                   cut ten police officers, 20 some  
8                   firefighters. If we dropped him to  
9                   45, that would be \$40,000 freed up in  
10                  the budget. That's a job right there.  
11                 I think that the people of Scranton,  
12                 and I have in the last two weeks in  
13                 going to neighborhood association  
14                 meetings and I've spent more time on  
15                 the phone and more time talking to  
16                 residents in the last week than any  
17                 other week is people are up in arms  
18                 about this proposal. It is absolutely  
19                 the wrong thing for the City of  
20                 Scranton. To let these administrators  
21                 keep making their excessive salaries  
22                 but at the same time cut the people  
23                 who keep our families safe. I have a  
24                 letter and I'm going to read it later  
25                 from the school district, from the

1 school board sent to the mayor, copy  
2 to city council opposing the cuts in  
3 public safety, and I'll comment more  
4 on it later but you really hit the  
5 nail right on the head.

6 Next speaker, please.

7 MS. SMITH: Hi. Good evening.  
8 My name is Rachel Smith. I am not a  
9 resident of Scranton. I do attend  
10 school here in Scranton at Lackawanna  
11 College.

12 I don't have a prepared speech.  
13 I just would like to speak upon the  
14 cuts. I was not always a productive  
15 member of society. Since I had my  
16 daughter, she was born now I have  
17 totally changed my life around, and I  
18 see and I have seen the drugs, the  
19 illegal drugs, the things that come  
20 into Scranton. You can't afford those  
21 cuts. I'm not saying that the police  
22 don't have it under control and, you  
23 know, if I could change the things  
24 that I've done in the past, I would  
25 and, you know, I'm sure we could have,

1           should have but I feel that Scranton  
2           is a filter. We have the halfway  
3           houses where people come from all  
4           over, criminals, and if you've ever  
5           heard the expression, fake it to make  
6           it, that's what a lot of people do  
7           just to get in and out of the halfway  
8           houses. And then from there they  
9           come, their families come and the  
10          drugs, the guns, the illegal  
11          activities, the robberies. Can  
12          Scranton really afford to cut  
13          officers?

14                 As far as the Fire Department, my  
15          daughter attends a day care in  
16          Scranton. If there's a fire, do we  
17          really have to wait for fire response  
18          to come from West Side? It will be  
19          burned. Fire is instantaneous,  
20          instant. So I just speaks on behalf  
21          of, you know, my daughter and for her  
22          future because she's changed my life  
23          completely, and I hope that, you know,  
24          Scranton can see you cannot afford to  
25          cut the police officers and you cannot

1           afford to cut fire. That's all I  
2           have. Thank you.

3           MR. SLEDNESZSKI: Buddy, right in  
4           the open. Remember that these firemen  
5           are friends of mine, like everyone of  
6           them are, everyone of them. Keep  
7           their jobs. Let's keep -- we need a  
8           Fire Department. No more officers,  
9           cops do, everybody. Keep it in the  
10          city. Let's keep them.

11          MR. LOSCOMBE: Right.

12          MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else  
13          who would like to address council?

14          MR. ELLMAN: Ron Ellman. How  
15          could you start without me? I was  
16          looking for a parking space. I don't  
17          have any signed place like council  
18          does out there, signed for parking.

19          I have a message for some of the  
20          forgotten people in the city called  
21          taxpayers. It's about Boscov's.  
22          People have had enough of Al Boscov.  
23          They don't want anymore to be in the  
24          banking and loan business. You know,  
25          this company is completely mismanaged

1           year after year after year and it's  
2           not up to the taxpayers to keep saving  
3           it. You know, this is the same figure  
4           on almost the same problem that is at  
5           the Radisson. We gave up the lien, we  
6           lost a million dollars. You cannot  
7           give up the lien on this place. Let  
8           him go to the bank. He can go to the  
9           bank, whatever he wants to do. But we  
10          cannot support businesses no more.  
11          You loss almost a quarter million  
12          dollars in Michael's. He's going to  
13          sell \$50,000 glass frames, remember  
14          him? You know, how can anybody give a  
15          loan to someone if they don't sell  
16          \$50,000 glass frames to the City of  
17          Scranton. You've got this hot head  
18          from Denise's, hairstylist. He stood  
19          right here yelling at people. He  
20          could have went to the bank but he  
21          didn't. He says he's going to have  
22          eight to ten jobs, whatever. He never  
23          hired a person. He got a crooked deal  
24          downtown with Scranton council to  
25          sitting in on that for exaggerated

1 prices to fix their hair so we're not  
2 getting nothing out of him. It's just  
3 doesn't end. And the taxpayers have  
4 had enough, you know, especially you  
5 had these guys sitting here making six  
6 figures. Tell them to cut their  
7 salaries in half and see how many want  
8 to stay with Boscov's. It would be  
9 like rats getting off the sinking  
10 ship. You know, to sum it all up,  
11 Boscov's is just a dinosaur trying to  
12 keep up against K-Mart and Walmart and  
13 Target. They can't do it. And the  
14 mall, the mall is something that it's  
15 just lived it's time. We should have  
16 sold it a couple of years ago. Like I  
17 mentioned it to the university and we  
18 wouldn't have them taking hundreds of  
19 acres of houses off the market. I  
20 think sometime you people think I'm a  
21 fool when I say things. I stood right  
22 here on a Thursday and said it's time  
23 to have an investigation of Scranton  
24 Housing and Dave Baker and the next  
25 day is when they took and picked up



1           the books. A couple weeks ago I stood  
2           here and said it's time for Al Boscov  
3           to do something about the money he  
4           owed us because I knew what was coming  
5           in the paper the next day. I wouldn't  
6           own a house like I do and drive around  
7           in a Cadillac. That's a damn fool  
8           that somebody called me. It's really  
9           the handwriting that's on the wall. I  
10          told you, I talked to people working  
11          at Boscov's say they're just dying.  
12          Oh, well. You people sit there and  
13          you listen but you don't hear  
14          sometimes. The city is just crying.  
15          It's crying, I'm telling you. I know  
16          that I've aggravated myself with  
17          council tonight but my allegiance is  
18          to the people of this city, not Al  
19          Boscov. He's trying to waive 70,000  
20          people against these guys crying about  
21          500 jobs. I hate to see 500 jobs lost  
22          but we can't support it. You know,  
23          just passing the time of supporting a  
24          business because the loss of jobs.  
25          Before I leave, I'd like to say I've

1           passed a lot of people when we were  
2           talking and people wouldn't mind a tax  
3           increase for the fire and police. I  
4           haven't heard one person say they  
5           wouldn't mind a tax increase but if  
6           you talk about giving a tax increase  
7           to pay those 50 people that have been  
8           hired since Doherty took office and  
9           they just explode, you know, they  
10          don't want to hear that.

11                 I'd like to say something  
12           positive before I leave. I phoned  
13           Jack Liptka the other day and I  
14           complained about this druggie house on  
15           Alpha Street and, I mean, he was over  
16           there immediately like a half hour,  
17           took the electric meter out and chased  
18           the people out. They park across the  
19           street about a block away. It's  
20           ruining the neighborhood. It's just a  
21           biggest bunch of undesirable filth you  
22           could have in your neighborhood he got  
23           rid of them. And I'd like to say how  
24           much I appreciate Mr. Seitzinger and  
25           Jack coming by.

1                   And one other thing. The garbage  
2                   men forgot my papers and I phoned  
3                   downtown, and I'm not exaggerating,  
4                   I'd say in two minutes a truck came by  
5                   and got my things because I was  
6                   putting a coat when I went outside,  
7                   they had already gotten it. It just  
8                   surprised the hell out of me that they  
9                   listened to my phone call and I want  
10                  to thank -- I don't know who I talked  
11                  to but somebody in sanitation. That's  
12                  very, very good service. Thank you.

13                 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14                 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city  
15                 council. My name is Dave Gervasi, a  
16                 resident and taxpayer. I'm president  
17                 of the firefighter union. I have not  
18                 much to say tonight but I just want to  
19                 say a few things we may not have  
20                 talked about.

21                 My colleagues that have come up  
22                 here, some of the police officers that  
23                 have come up here saying that these  
24                 decisions that were made for this  
25                 budget, the mayor's budget, they

1                   weren't very thoughtful in their  
2                   creation, and it has to do more with  
3                   numbers than it has to do with safety.  
4                   What is the safety impact of some of  
5                   the decision that are made in this  
6                   budget. I'm hear to tell you that  
7                   I've been working very closely with a  
8                   whole bunch of our guys in the Fire  
9                   Department and we've looking over  
10                  numbers and looking over the response  
11                  times, real numbers, factual  
12                  information, and it's actually worst  
13                  than we thought. I don't know how to  
14                  prove to the people out there when the  
15                  mayor makes -- just comes out and says  
16                  these thoughtless statements, "Don't  
17                  worry. Everything is going to be  
18                  okay." That's based on what? I mean,  
19                  two days ago he made a statement in  
20                  the paper and I quote, "The response  
21                  times will be the same." I'm assuming  
22                  he meant the response time will be the  
23                  same as they are now after the  
24                  closures are made. Yesterday the  
25                  administration official which I

1           assuming it's Stu Renda, the business  
2           administrator since he seems to be  
3           calling the shots in the Fire  
4           Department these days, he made a  
5           statement, I don't know if it was him.  
6           It said the administration official.  
7           All of the lines in the article before  
8           that were him talking, and he says,  
9           "The second due apparatus, there  
10          probably will be delays." Just so you  
11          understand. That statement makes no  
12          sense whatsoever. So the mayor is  
13          saying nothing is going to change, the  
14          response time is going to remain the  
15          same. A day later the administrator  
16          official says that the second  
17          responding companies, there's going to  
18          be a delay. Well, just so you  
19          understand, folks, the second  
20          responding, you have to understand the  
21          first responding companies are no  
22          longer going to be there. So  
23          obviously the second responding  
24          companies are going to be your first  
25          responding companies and it's

1 obviously going to be a delay. Some  
2 of the numbers that we have worked up,  
3 we don't have our comprehensive study.  
4 It will done in a few days. We're  
5 going to supply the entire study for  
6 you. Real life situations for  
7 sections of city and it doesn't look  
8 good. It doesn't good look pretty  
9 knowing how fast fire advances, it  
10 doesn't look good at all for many  
11 large pockets of the city, and we're  
12 going to have that done for you soon.  
13 But just to reiterate, when the  
14 administration makes these statements,  
15 I mean, we just scratch our heads and  
16 we just can't believe them. They  
17 don't have a plan. They have no plan  
18 whatsoever. And I'm not going to try  
19 to scare anybody because already the  
20 mayor sympathizes, we doing scare  
21 tactics, we're going to come here and  
22 we're going to tell you exactly what's  
23 going to happen with his plan.

24 One of the things that we've done  
25 and I have to credit our former

1 president, Dave Shriver, he's real  
2 good with the stats and he has a  
3 spreadsheet put together. He had it  
4 done actually awhile ago. He updated  
5 it with the new changes that were made  
6 with the mayor and the 27 cuts. The  
7 mayor says he wants to close three  
8 companies, truck company and two  
9 engine, impossible, mathematically  
10 impossible you can put us on three  
11 shifts. There's a minimum of four  
12 companies closing with a 110 guys,  
13 minimum of four. It's impossible to  
14 just close three companies. It  
15 doesn't work. The numbers don't work.  
16 If any given day somebody is off  
17 injured or somebody has a flu and  
18 calls in sick, there will be five  
19 companies closed that day, five, not  
20 three, five. So, again, they don't  
21 know what they're talking about. We  
22 will supply that information to you  
23 and you'll see it in black and white  
24 to a mathematical certainty.

25 In closing, I was home a little

1 while ago, I had some things to do at  
2 home, I really haven't been there much  
3 in the last three or four days since  
4 the budget came out. I sat at home  
5 and I was watching TV and I saw these  
6 young men from the Police Department  
7 come up and I thought, That's nice we  
8 can put a face on those union police  
9 officers. If you look in the back,  
10 there's four of the finest guys that  
11 I've ever worked with that run the  
12 Chapman block. Let's put faces on  
13 them. My friends I have here, Dick,  
14 A.J., Mike, one of the funniest guys  
15 you'll ever meet and one of the best  
16 fireman you'll ever meet, just ask  
17 him, Gary. These people are the salt  
18 of the earth. These police officers  
19 that came up before, I've worked with  
20 these guys at fire scenes. These guys  
21 with no equipment will run into a  
22 building if they get there before us  
23 in a burning building. We scream at  
24 them all the time because they  
25 shouldn't do that because they will



1 get themselves killed but they're  
2 brave and they care and they do it.  
3 We're going to throw these guys out on  
4 the street because the mayor didn't  
5 preplan for a cost of living for the  
6 Police and Fire Departments. I  
7 haven't heard anybody come up to this  
8 podium yet or anybody say anything in  
9 the paper other than this council, why  
10 are you cutting the most essential and  
11 vital services in the city and nobody  
12 is talking about the fact -- nobody is  
13 talking about paying too much for  
14 projects that the mayor has done,  
15 nobody is talking about any of that,  
16 but they want to cut these guys.  
17 Well, I hope people take a good hard  
18 look next couple weeks at the facts,  
19 the truth, the facts and figures and  
20 hopefully you'll see more and more of  
21 these fine gentlemen that are on the  
22 Chapman block and you'll realize who,  
23 who in this city cares more about the  
24 citizens, the mayor who ran us into a  
25 300 million dollar debt or these guys

1 at any given time will run into a  
2 burning house, run into harms way for  
3 you, for old guys like me in the  
4 department. It's a shame. Thank you.

5 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,  
6 Nelson Ancherani and I'm last tonight,  
7 taxpayer, resident and city employee.  
8 I am the recording secretary for the  
9 FOP, first amendment rights.

10 This evening is the first reading  
11 of the 2011 budget presented by the  
12 city to you for your approval or to  
13 amend. Sixty-nine positions are  
14 slighted to be eliminated by the city,  
15 69 positions that are estimated to  
16 save the city 2.3 million. It was  
17 only a number of months ago that  
18 county judge ruled against council  
19 when you tried amend the 2010 budget.  
20 That budget would have saved -- that  
21 amendment would have saved the city  
22 approximately 700,000 and eliminating  
23 only 11 positions. Cutting 11  
24 positions by council was going to  
25 compromise the safety of the city and

1           it's residents according to the city.  
2           Remember this, May 5th, 2010, Times  
3           Tribune, Josh Mzrozinski and I'll  
4           quote, "On Monday, Judge Robert  
5           Mazzoni granted Mayor Chris Doherty  
6           request for an injunction preventing  
7           council from implementing amendments  
8           would have trimmed the 7.9 million  
9           2010 budget by 694,986. Council's  
10          four members super majority proposed  
11          to eliminate 17 positions and reduce  
12          the pay of 13 positions by as much as  
13          38 percent. Judge Mazzoni ruled  
14          council doesn't have the authority  
15          under the Home Rule Charter to make  
16          changes to the budget midstream. The  
17          ruling also stated that the council's  
18          amendments would have a direct impact  
19          on the health, welfare and safety of  
20          the citizens of the City of Scranton.  
21          With harm resulting from the city  
22          being unable to deliver services."  
23          End of the quote. Everybody should  
24          remember that. And I'll repeat,  
25          "We'll have harm resulting from the

1 city being unable to deliver  
2 services." What is the safety  
3 situation going to be when 69  
4 positions are going to be eliminated  
5 if 44 of them are going to be public  
6 safety personnel. We're up the creek  
7 without the paddle. From the Times  
8 Leader, 11-21-10, quote from the  
9 mayor. "Renda, the architect of the  
10 budget setting that weekly with the  
11 Department of Community and Economic  
12 Development and the PA Economy League,  
13 the city's recovery plan coordinator  
14 to formulate the budget." Wow, we're  
15 shafted again. PEL, what's the price  
16 of safety? Can you put a dollar  
17 amount on safety? No. None of us  
18 can. Renda is trusting PEL, DCED, as  
19 I said, we're in trouble, only more  
20 trouble. PEL couldn't get out of the  
21 stress since 1992. How about that  
22 from making sure they had a paycheck.  
23 The state sanctions Connors at bequest  
24 of City Councilman Doherty and yet  
25 they allowed the city to give out

1 raises and hiring new hires spending  
2 25 million in the process, 25 million,  
3 no sanctions; 300 million plus long  
4 term debt, no sanctions. No sanctions  
5 by PEL, DCED but they got paid their  
6 big salaries. How about this quote by  
7 Renda, "We recognize that this is a  
8 terrible year for the economy for our  
9 local area. We made that commitment  
10 early that we weren't going to raise  
11 taxes. In order to do that we are  
12 going to have to run a little leaner."  
13 How about that from someone who got  
14 \$46,000 more now since he started  
15 working for the city in 2003. He  
16 started out making \$39,000 in OECD and  
17 is now making \$85,000, a \$46,000  
18 raise. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
20 who cares to address city council?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. EVANS: I thought he was.  
23 Mrs. Krake?

24 MS. KRAKE: 5A. Motions.

25 MR. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you

1           have any motions or comments at this  
2           time?

3                   MR. MCGOFF: Please, very  
4           quickly. Last week I did comment on  
5           the budget that was sent to us and I  
6           will reiterate what I said is that  
7           budget is not constituted. I am not  
8           in favor of it, I am not in favor of  
9           anyone being put out of a job at  
10          this -- in these economic times. It  
11          is a nonissue. I don't think it's in  
12          the best interest to the city or  
13          anyone to be put out of the work, and  
14          I would hope that we can arrive at  
15          some type of resolution so that we can  
16          keep people in their jobs and also at  
17          the same time continue to find the  
18          services that are necessary to the  
19          city.

20                   The second thing I'd like to -- I  
21          assume that Mr. Rogan is going to  
22          announce a benefit for Wally Little.

23                   MS. EVANS: He did.

24                   MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. And one  
25          of the things that I -- when these

1            thing are presented at council because  
2            of the publicized nature of council,  
3            very often some of these very worthy  
4            events are also publicized because of  
5            who presents them. I would just like  
6            to say that I just want to -- I've  
7            known Wally Little for quite a long  
8            time, played basketball against him  
9            with him at various times. This is a  
10           very worthy cause. He's a great guy  
11           and in need of our help and it's not a  
12           political -- this has, you know, no  
13           political overtones whatsoever and I  
14           would hope that everyone can, you know  
15           support, this benefit in some way.  
16           And I guess that goes for all of the  
17           things that are mentioned by council  
18           members. We don't do this -- we don't  
19           mention those as, you know, political  
20           items. They are things that we feel  
21           are necessary, you know, to benefit of  
22           individuals and to people in the city.  
23           So hopefully we don't read anything  
24           into it that's not supposed to be  
25           there and that's all I have. Thank

1           you.

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

4                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you.  
5           I'll be brief in the essence of time.  
6           Everyone knows where I stand pretty  
7           much on the budget, and we are working  
8           diligently day after day gathering  
9           information to come out with the best  
10          plan for the residents of this city.

11                   Mr. McGoff, I did hear that  
12          Mr. Little can still beat you on one  
13          on one. I'm not sure.

14                   MR. MCGOFF: Probably.

15                   MR. LOSCOMBE: And just finally,  
16          I had a meeting the other day with Tom  
17          Tell, a representative from Kevin  
18          Murphy's Office. Basically on the  
19          flooding issues, again, they're not  
20          just in the Keyser Valley. We have  
21          different areas but as Charlie alluded  
22          to before, we have been getting  
23          cooperation from the sewer authority  
24          on a lot of these projects and from  
25          the state, but I would like -- we have



1           several issues that can we have  
2           resolved with our own Department of  
3           Public Works but we haven't been able  
4           to get a meeting together with the  
5           director. So I was wondering Mrs.  
6           Krake if we can pursue that again and  
7           see if we can get Mr. Brazil along  
8           with representatives from Kevin  
9           Murphy's Office and our city engineer.  
10          Some of them are minor issues that can  
11          be taken care of right away but, you  
12          know, they're just blistering,  
13          dragging on for years now. And that's  
14          all I have to say. Thank you.

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

18                 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Rogan is back so  
19                 if you want to do it in that order.

20                 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan?

21                 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.  
22                 I apologize. I was out in the hall  
23                 talking to somebody. I guess first  
24                 I'll start with a few comments on the  
25                 budget. We've received a letter from

1 the Scranton School District and I  
2 wanted to read that. It was addressed  
3 to the mayor and it was copied to city  
4 council.

5 "Dear Mayor: On behalf of the  
6 entire Scranton School Board of  
7 Directors, I'm writing concerned of  
8 your proposed 2001 budget which  
9 includes sizeable reductions in the  
10 number of public safety personnel,  
11 fire stations and engine companies.  
12 That concern of the board of directors  
13 is the potential negative impact that  
14 these actions can have on the city's  
15 ability to protect the health, safety  
16 and welfare of our 9,700 students and  
17 more than 1,300 employees. By  
18 reducing the number of firefighters  
19 and policemen and by eliminating fire  
20 engines and closing the fire station  
21 on Wyoming Avenue, the board of  
22 directors are questioning how these  
23 reductions will impact the response  
24 time it will take to get the schools  
25 located in the city. These reductions

1 will undoubtedly have an impact on the  
2 city's ability to protect the health  
3 and safety and welfare of all it's  
4 citizens. As a taxing body ourselves,  
5 the board of school directors realizes  
6 its responsibility to be good stewards  
7 of city taxpayer dollars especially in  
8 these difficult economic times.

9 However, the board of directors also  
10 realizes that the primary  
11 responsibility mission is to provided  
12 the highest quality of public  
13 education possible to the students and  
14 their care at the most economic cost.  
15 Likewise, the City of Scranton is  
16 being insured that its citizen have  
17 the highest quality of services  
18 available to protect the health and  
19 safety and welfare of the citizens and  
20 the most economical cost. On behalf  
21 of our students and employees, the  
22 board is asking you to look for  
23 alternative ways of reducing your  
24 costs without compromising the health,  
25 safety and welfare of our citizens.

1           Once again we realize that this is not  
2           an easy task but protecting the  
3           health, safety and welfare of our  
4           citizens must be a top priority for  
5           all of us. We appreciate your time  
6           and consideration on this important  
7           matter." Signed William F. King,  
8           Superintendent. And it was also  
9           copied to the fire chief, the police  
10          chief, the mayor and us.

11                 Now I find it interesting how in  
12          the beginning of the year when council  
13          made amendments to cut administrative  
14          positions in the mayor's budget  
15          reducing the business administrator's  
16          salary, reducing waste at the top  
17          levels of government without cutting  
18          police and firefighters, the courts  
19          ruled that we hurt the health, safety  
20          of welfare of the residents. Now,  
21          what I think is really going to hurt  
22          the safety of the people of Scranton  
23          is the mayor's budget. And it's  
24          interesting because most issues that  
25          we deal with on council, we hear from

1 both sides. For instance, SAPA is one  
2 of the most hotter issues lately. We  
3 have some people who come to council  
4 support it and some who oppose it. We  
5 receive e-mails from people on both  
6 sides of the issue. In the last eight  
7 days since the mayor's budget has come  
8 down, I have received probably a 100,  
9 between calls, e-mails and people just  
10 stopping inn on the street, a 100  
11 people plus that have commented on the  
12 budget and out of all those people not  
13 one person said, Pass the budget the  
14 way it is. The people of Scranton do  
15 not support this budget. This budget  
16 is as far as I'm concerned can be  
17 thrown out. It's garbage. We  
18 cannot -- I've said this for few weeks  
19 now and it's something I strongly  
20 believe in and I know it's getting  
21 redundant. But the number one job of  
22 government is to keep people safe.  
23 That's truly what I believe. How Stu  
24 Renda and the mayor can send us down a  
25 budget that cuts police, cuts fire,

1           cuts the necessities the people of  
2           Scranton need without touching the  
3           administrative salaries which have  
4           gone up dramatically over the past ten  
5           years where the police and fire  
6           haven't even seen a raise, with Stu  
7           Renda making \$85,000 a year.

8           Obviously when he writes out his  
9           budget, he's not going to cut his  
10          salary but if I have it my way when we  
11          do our amendments, city council will.

12                 One final comment on the budget.  
13           And I know that this week and when I  
14           talked to my colleagues we talked  
15           about his week's vote on the budget,  
16           we have to vote to introduce it to  
17           move it to the next step in the  
18           process. If we don't -- for instance,  
19           if we voted no this week, the mayor's  
20           budget will be dead and we wouldn't be  
21           able to put our amendments in it. So  
22           even though and I'm not speak for my  
23           colleagues but I think we're in  
24           agreement here that we do not want  
25           this budget to pass, we have to vote

1           yes as being a procedural vote to move  
2           it to next week so the amendments can  
3           be made. And far as the amendments  
4           go, I know I was talking to Mr. Joyce,  
5           we sat down at length on Saturday,  
6           relaxed a little bit, talked for a few  
7           hours about the budget. And it seems  
8           that we're all in the same page here  
9           with what we want to do. It's about  
10          public safety and that's it on the  
11          budget, I guess. I'm sure there will  
12          be more to come in the next two weeks.

13                 I have few other concerns I would  
14                 like to address. Last Thursday  
15                 Councilman Loscombe and myself  
16                 attended the Hyde Park Neighbor Watch  
17                 meeting and there were many issues  
18                 that were brought up. One of them was  
19                 the idea of a curfew for juveniles and  
20                 it was brought up by a couple members  
21                 that were there, and it seemed to be  
22                 something that council could consider.  
23                 I wanted to mention it. And Chief  
24                 Duffy seemed to be supportive of it.

25                         So, Mrs. Krake, would you please

1           send a letter to Chief Duffy  
2           requesting a meeting with Mr. Loscombe  
3           and maybe we can go and meet with him  
4           and talk about it and we can report  
5           back to the neighborhood group what  
6           the chief says about it. He believes  
7           it would be good tool to be able to  
8           stop juveniles in the streets and, you  
9           know, stop them from getting into  
10          crime at night. A few citizens  
11          requests regarding blight. The first  
12          one is 459 Phelps Street. Windows are  
13          broken, boards are falling off the  
14          porch, the yard is a mess and the  
15          residents say small children sometimes  
16          play in the yard. Will you please  
17          forward that to licensing and  
18          inspections.

19                 And the next four are all from  
20                 the Hill Section from one resident.  
21                 I'll just read off the addresses  
22                 because I have the background  
23                 information. I know we're running  
24                 late; 513 Shultz Court, 515 Shultz  
25                 Court, in between 513 and 515 there's



1 a house without an address that was  
2 burnt out. And all these houses have  
3 been boarded up and for years this is  
4 persistent problem. So if we can send  
5 those as well as Mr. Seitzinger.  
6 Could you please send a letter to the  
7 mayor, OECD and Mr. Swanson asking if  
8 there's set date for construction to  
9 begin on the Crisp Avenue Bridge  
10 project.

11 And finally can you please send a  
12 letter to Mr. Brazil asking him if he  
13 had considered odd and even system for  
14 streets sweeping and snow removal.  
15 That's is another request from the  
16 Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch.

17 And I should have mentioned this  
18 earlier but I wanted to announce it.  
19 The next week meeting of the West  
20 Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch  
21 will be December 16th at 7 p.m. in the  
22 basement of St. Pat's Church. And,  
23 you know, last Thursday when we were  
24 there, it was a very nice crowd.  
25 There was probably about 75 people

1           there and it's great to see people in  
2           the community getting involved. It's  
3           great to see a full house here at city  
4           council. This is what democracy is  
5           about. It's about people coming and  
6           speaking their mind and you really can  
7           get an idea of what people want out of  
8           government by going to the people and,  
9           you know, the people we talk to at the  
10          neighborhood watch they're concerned  
11          about crime and they're concerned  
12          about this budget, they're concerned  
13          about response sometimes being longer  
14          for firefighters to get to their house  
15          and certainly fewer police officers on  
16          the street and somebody who lives in  
17          West Side myself, I have seen some of  
18          neighborhoods have changed just in the  
19          short amount of time since I graduated  
20          high school till now. For instance,  
21          my brother is a senior at West High.  
22          The group of people -- many of the  
23          students there now are people that  
24          have grown up in Scranton. You know,  
25          lived here their whole lives. They

1           have a different mind set. They come  
2           from a lot of people who are moving in  
3           from New York and New Jersey and that  
4           could be good thing if they have a  
5           sense of community that the  
6           Scrantonians have. When I was in high  
7           school and I'm sure many of you had,  
8           everybody knew everyone, even in  
9           elementary school. Everyone's family  
10          knew each other, we looked out for  
11          each other. That's what is great  
12          about our community but when we  
13          elements moving in from other areas,  
14          people involved in drugs, people  
15          involved in gangs, that's why we need  
16          police officers on our streets. So I  
17          guess I won't talk too much longer.  
18          That's all I have.

19                 MR. EVANS: Thank you. Mr.  
20                 Joyce, any comments or motions?

21                 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I want to  
22                 inform everyone of the status of four  
23                 audits. We received a notice from  
24                 Rossi and Rossi, our independent  
25                 auditor, and they've informed us that

1 they've received responses from the  
2 attorney letters, however, they have  
3 requested additional information from  
4 city solicitor, Attorney Kelly, for  
5 approval amounts indicated and there  
6 responses for cases that have been  
7 settled in 2010 that pertains to 2009  
8 an before. They were not provided  
9 with the necessary information to  
10 report the proper accrual by December  
11 31st of 2009. Therefore, after  
12 receipt and review of this necessary  
13 information, the will issue a draft  
14 audit report for preparation and they  
15 will have an exit conference with the  
16 city's management. Now, everyone here  
17 from time to time speak about the  
18 audit and how late it is. Now, just  
19 to give you a potential of how this is  
20 impacting us and why do we need this  
21 in a timely fashion. Well,  
22 subsequently received in our office on  
23 November 17th we received a letter  
24 from DCED, and it states, "According  
25 to our records the Department of

1           Community and Economic Development,  
2           DCED, has not receive the following  
3           required filing from your  
4           municipality, the 2009 municipal audit  
5           and financial report. And the primary  
6           goal's requirement --" as they  
7           state -- "is to make sure that the  
8           annual financial report, the  
9           information is complete and accurate  
10          for all Pennsylvania local  
11          governments. The information is used  
12          by the legislative and executive  
13          agencies for legislative policy and  
14          funding considerations as well as many  
15          outside organizations for research and  
16          comparative analysis. The fulfillment  
17          of our responsibility of filing this  
18          annual report will greatly assist our  
19          efforts in that regard and in order to  
20          strength accountability measures for  
21          the AFR filing DCED institute our  
22          police involved in fall of 2007 to  
23          place a hold on DECD grants to those  
24          municipalities who have not filed AFR.  
25          In December of 2009 municipalities

1           that have not submitted their 2008  
2           AFRs we're notified as of January,  
3           2010, they would be ineligible for  
4           funding assistance until such time  
5           DECD received the delinquent report.  
6           So where at point where receipt of the  
7           2009 data is critical to complete DCED  
8           statutory on responsibilities. Our  
9           2009 AFR is requested no later than  
10          December 31, 2010, at this point. In  
11          absence of the 2009 data will DCED  
12          informs that they'll have to rely on  
13          prior financial information which will  
14          not accurate reflect our  
15          municipality's current financial  
16          position for legislative policy and  
17          funding considerations. Our  
18          municipality will also continue to be  
19          ineligible or DCED grant funding until  
20          this report is filed." So obviously  
21          you could see I'm not sitting up here  
22          every week or every other week talking  
23          about the status to be a pest or to  
24          criticize the administration like some  
25          people may want to believe. I'm up

1 here saying this because this is  
2 important. This is important because  
3 it determinates a lot of different  
4 measures. It determination, for  
5 instance, just what I just described  
6 grant funding that we're currently not  
7 eligible for until we have this  
8 information in.

9 Another matter that was brought  
10 to my attention this week, a South  
11 Scranton resident phoned me earlier  
12 and informed me of a recurring problem  
13 that's going on in some of the  
14 apartments in the South Scranton and  
15 the University of Scranton area. In  
16 short, he advised that there are more  
17 than four apartments in a building or  
18 house, the landlord is responsible for  
19 contracting private hauler for waste  
20 removal. Personally I didn't see the  
21 ordinance, yet I'm not sure if it's  
22 four, maybe five or six but anyhow te  
23 problem that lies is what happens is  
24 what he's informed me about is that  
25 some landlords actually have more than

1 required amount of units, however,  
2 they're only claiming that they have  
3 the maximum amount of units so they  
4 wouldn't have to hire a private hauler  
5 to haul away your trash. Now, one  
6 thing that I want to say, it's not  
7 fair to the residents of Scranton that  
8 this is happening because you might  
9 have a landlord in a building with  
10 seven tenants that's paying four  
11 apartment fees while you may have a  
12 household where you as a private  
13 residence are you may be in a family  
14 situation have to pay the garbage fee  
15 for one household. So anyhow I think  
16 this is worth looking into because the  
17 DPW is currently picking up trash for  
18 these landlords who has seven or eight  
19 units and claim they are four. Maybe  
20 we should look into amending that  
21 ordinance so that we bump the number  
22 up to six, eight, whatever it may be,  
23 so that these landlords could be held  
24 accountable and pay the necessary fees  
25 to the city for the amount of garbage



1           that is actually being collected that  
2           they're current avoiding by paying a  
3           four unit rate. With this in mind,  
4           Mrs. Krake if you could please  
5           research this ordinance and I'll be  
6           glad to help you, and if you could  
7           place a copy of it in my mailbox and  
8           also all the other members of council,  
9           it would be greatly appreciated.

10           Finally, I'll comment on the  
11           budget. I'll be very short. I'll be  
12           very concise. Over the past week or  
13           so I'd say I've put in about 30 plus  
14           hours as the finance chair of this  
15           council. Looking into this budget and  
16           Lee Morgan always comes up here and  
17           states we should look at it line item  
18           by line item. I've actually looked  
19           into it further than that down to the  
20           expenses that are incurred to generate  
21           a line item down to the cost that  
22           we're paying for water coolers and  
23           coffee makers in City Hall, everything  
24           because at this point we're in a  
25           situation where the mayor has

1                   compromised public safety and  
2                   something needs to be done. And mark  
3                   my words amendments will be made to  
4                   this budget. Obviously as Pat said  
5                   I'm voting for it tonight to pass it  
6                   through so we could make those  
7                   amendments, and I'll be speaking with  
8                   all of the other members on council  
9                   because this is something that as a  
10                  council we have look into. It's a  
11                  serious matter. You know, a lot of  
12                  the newspaper would like to say, you  
13                  know, we're the union's council  
14                  sitting up here. It's not about the  
15                  unions. It's about the safety and  
16                  it's about the wellbeing of the city.  
17                  And I'll tell you what, I care too  
18                  much about this city to let it go  
19                  downhill. I will not let this city  
20                  down by passing the budget that was  
21                  put in front of us. I will do  
22                  everything that I can to make the  
23                  amendments necessary to do what's in  
24                  the best interest of the people of  
25                  this city and that's all I have for

1                   tonight.

2                   MS. EVANS: Good evening. I  
3                   would like to begin with an  
4                   announcement that I neglected to make  
5                   earlier. The Pancreatic Cancer Action  
6                   Network, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre  
7                   affiliate will sponsor an Awareness  
8                   Night with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton  
9                   Penquins on Saturday, November, 27,  
10                  that would be this Saturday at  
11                  7:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$22.50 per  
12                  person and includes red zone sitting,  
13                  a meal voucher, a Penns hat and a  
14                  raffle ticket. For tickets, please  
15                  call Chris Sutski at 570-970-3607. Be  
16                  a hero in the fight against pancreatic  
17                  cancer.

18                  Next, the Scranton Parking  
19                  Authority Board approved it's 2011  
20                  budget at its monthly meeting  
21                  conducted last week. According to the  
22                  2004-2006 and 2007 SPA prospectuses  
23                  and pursuant to and operating  
24                  agreement between the authority and  
25                  the city, prior to each fiscal year

1 the Scranton Parking Authority will  
2 submit a budget city council for  
3 approval. Although Mr. Scopelliti  
4 provided a copy of the 2011 budget to  
5 City Council's Office on  
6 November 19th, the legislation to  
7 adopt this budget has not been  
8 submitted yet to city council by  
9 Attorney Paul Kelly who serves as both  
10 the city solicitor and the solicitor  
11 of the Scranton Parking Authority and  
12 whose dual employment presents a clear  
13 conflict of interest. Nevertheless,  
14 Attorney Kelly must submit the  
15 Scranton Parking Authority 2011 budget  
16 legislation to the Office of City  
17 Council on/or before Monday,  
18 November 29th for adoption and  
19 amendment by Scranton City Council.  
20 The parking authority is top heavy  
21 with administration, some of whom  
22 should not be paid by the City of  
23 Scranton. Just as the city must cut  
24 its budget, the Scranton Parking  
25 Authority must also realize cuts.

1                   Therefore, council Solicitor Hughes  
2                   has notified Attorney Kelly of the  
3                   requests for budget legislation in  
4                   accordance with the prospectus of the  
5                   2004-2006 and 2007 bond issues and  
6                   operating agreement. If Attorney  
7                   Kelly in his capacity as either city  
8                   solicitor or Scranton Parking  
9                   Authority solicitor fails to submit  
10                  the legislation, city council will  
11                  advise the trustee of the guaranteed  
12                  revenue bonds, J.P. Morgan Trust  
13                  Company, among other pertinent parties  
14                  that the parking authority is no  
15                  longer in compliance with the terms of  
16                  the three prospectuses. In addition,  
17                  it's important to note that the  
18                  prospectus in the operating agreement  
19                  state that the parking authority  
20                  operates the parking facilities on  
21                  behalf of the city through a lease.  
22                  The lease may be terminated by the  
23                  city at any time upon 60 days written  
24                  notice to the authority. Thus, it  
25                  appears that the city may have the

1 ability to terminate this lease for a  
2 better financial opportunity to lease  
3 parking garages to a private firm.

4 This type of transaction could create  
5 substantial new revenue for the City  
6 of Scranton. Also noteworthy is  
7 council Solicitor Hughes discovery in  
8 prospectus that the city shall be  
9 entitled to set aside and transfer to  
10 the general fund as a payment in lieu  
11 of taxes an amount not to exceed  
12 \$25,000 per year. The parking  
13 authority has made no contributions  
14 during the life of these bonds.  
15 Therefore, city council will deduct  
16 \$25,000 for monies paid to the  
17 authority for fiscal year, 2011, and  
18 each year thereafter.

19 Next, PennDOT has invited local  
20 governments to submit applications  
21 under the Automated Red Light  
22 Enforcement Transportation Enhancement  
23 Grant's Program for which n  
24 approximately seven million dollars  
25 will be available in calendar year,

1           2011, for congestion and safety  
2           related projects. Application should  
3           be submitted electronically by  
4           November 30th with a hard copy mailed  
5           to the state. Eligible enhancement  
6           projects include retiming of existing  
7           traffic control signals, upgrading  
8           modernization or improvements to  
9           traffic control signals, pedestrian  
10          safety improvements at signalized  
11          intersections such a count down timers  
12          easily accessible and quick response  
13          push buttons, crosswalks striking and  
14          pedestrian signing among numerous  
15          others. These projects are solely  
16          needed in Scranton and in light of  
17          Scranton's financial condition, the  
18          administration should aggressively  
19          seek these funds.

20                 Mrs. Krake, please contact Mr.  
21                 Brazil and Mr. Renda to obtain a copy  
22                 of the city's application for the ARLE  
23                 Grant Program and if the city has  
24                 failed to apply, council requests an  
25                 explanation for that decision.

1                   In addition, the city was  
2 notified on November 19th of critical  
3 and high priority bridge maintenance  
4 items by C.C. Johnson and Mel  
5 Horteror, bridge inspector for PennDOT  
6 engineering district 4-0. The Parker  
7 Street Bridge over the Lackawanna  
8 River was listed as a critical  
9 priority where action must be taken  
10 within seven days to post a weight of  
11 five tons based on critical condition  
12 of the prestressed box beams as well  
13 as two additional measures. With  
14 regard to the Elm Street Bridge, a  
15 weight limiting posting of 20 tons is  
16 required based on the serious  
17 condition of the prestressed box beams  
18 and also all required signage is  
19 missing. Again, this is listed as a  
20 critical priority which must be  
21 addressed within seven days of  
22 notification.

23                   Mrs. Krake, please contact Mr.  
24 Brazil tomorrow and forward him a  
25 follow-up memo as well to comply with



1 is CJM notification. Council requests  
2 a report for its meeting of  
3 November 30th, 2010.

4 Fortunately I have but one  
5 citizens request this week. The  
6 streetlight on Ferdinand Street  
7 remains in need of repair and if our  
8 office could please contact Mr. Kerns  
9 of MER for an update on this issue  
10 which council will then present  
11 publicly.

12 Finally, council continues its  
13 work on the mayor's 2011 proposed  
14 budget and will present its amendments  
15 to the public in December. The mayor  
16 has created a monumental financial  
17 disaster and willingly chose not to  
18 plan for the impact of his  
19 mismanagement and ill fated decisions.  
20 He wished to be headed to Harrisburg  
21 as governor or a state senator before  
22 his actions caught up to him and long  
23 before the distressed status could be  
24 lifted. Because of the mayor's  
25 financial mismanagement, his budgetary

1 cuts that jeopardize the health,  
2 safety and welfare of city residents,  
3 his lack of cuts to his political  
4 bureaucracy, his salary raises to  
5 select department heads and his  
6 shuffling of still other management  
7 positions to keep his political  
8 contributors employed by the city and  
9 municipal authorities. This council  
10 has a challenge of significant  
11 proportions that far exceeds any  
12 budget and any issue faced by prior  
13 council's in this decade. Council  
14 will amend the mayor's budget to  
15 reflect significant changes that  
16 benefit the people of Scranton.  
17 Further, Scranton City Council will  
18 conduct a public hearing in Council  
19 Chambers next Tuesday, November 30th,  
20 at 5:45 p.m. to hear and consider  
21 public testimony and suggestions  
22 regarding the mayor's 2011 proposed  
23 budget. And that's it.

24 Mrs. Krake?

25 MS. KRAKE: 5B. REPEALING FILE

1 OF THE COUNCIL NO.82, 2007 ENTITLED  
2 "APPROVING PENALTY, INTEREST AND FEE  
3 SCHEDULE FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT  
4 REAL ESTATE TAXES".

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
11 am extremely pleased to vote to repeal  
12 this draconian ordinance which was  
13 adopted by previous council in 2007.  
14 As minority council member, I voted  
15 against this ordinance at the time and  
16 thereafter twice tried to amend it in  
17 order to save homeowners of 23  
18 penalties, interest fees and the  
19 sheriff's sale of their homes. With  
20 the departure of NCC we finally see  
21 the lifting of these extreme measures  
22 that financially benefited only NCC.  
23 Is there council on the question?

24 (No response.)

25 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of

1 introduction, signify by saying aye?

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5C. APPROVING  
10 PENALTY, INTEREST AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR  
11 COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE  
12 TAXES AND REFUSE FEES.

13 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
14 entertain a motion that Item 5C be  
15 introduced into its proper committee?

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. JOYCE: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
19 will be going in favor of introduction  
20 of this legislation tonight, however,  
21 because council is examining and  
22 researching this ordinance, it may  
23 amend or vote no at a future meeting.  
24 Since delinquent tax collection will  
25 be returned to the city treasurer's

1 office in 2011, the need to charge  
2 exorbitant and unnecessary costs to  
3 delinquent taxpayers no longer exists.  
4 The vast majority of 23 penalties,  
5 interest and fees imposed by the 2007  
6 ordinance were paid not to the city  
7 coffers but to NCC itself. Our goal  
8 is aggressively delinquent taxes. It  
9 is not and should never have been to  
10 make it financially prohibitive or  
11 impossible to pay delinquencies.

12 All those favor of introduction  
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 5D. APPROVING FEE  
22 SCHEDULE FOR DELINQUENT TAX SEARCHES,  
23 DELINQUENT AND CURRENT REFUSE  
24 SEARCHES, AND LIEN/CONDEMNATION  
25 SEARCHES.

1 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
2 entertain a motion that Item 5D be  
3 introduced into its proper committee.

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
7 will be voting in favor of  
8 introduction of this legislation  
9 tonight. Council continues to  
10 research this ordinance as well and  
11 will have the opportunity to amend it  
12 or vote no at subsequent meetings.

13 All those in favor of  
14 introduction signify by saying aye?

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 5E. APPROPRIATING  
23 FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY  
24 GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING  
25 ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2011 TO

1 AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2011 BY THE  
2 ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING  
3 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2011.

4 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
5 entertain a motion that Item 5E be  
6 introduced into its proper committee.

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.

11 As I mentioned before, this vote is  
12 not a vote in support of the mayor's  
13 budget. It's simply a vote so can we  
14 move to the next stage to the  
15 legislative process council can amend  
16 it.

17 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to  
18 add that I will be voting in favor of  
19 introduction tonight only because the  
20 legislation must be introduced in  
21 order for it to be amended. As my  
22 colleagues stated, I am not in  
23 agreement with the mayor's budget and  
24 this vote to introduce is merely a  
25 parliamentary act.

1                   Anyone else on the question?

2                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Just ditto.

3                   MS. EVANS. All those in favor  
4 signify by saying aye.

5                   MS. EVANS: Aye.

6                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8                   MR. JOYCE: Aye.

9                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

12                  MS. KRAKE: 5F. ACCEPTING THE  
13 RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL  
14 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB") AND  
15 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
16 APPROPRIATENESS FOR REEVES AWNINGS,  
17 623 LINCOLN AVENUE, JERMYN,  
18 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR TWO TRADITIONAL  
19 STYLE 9'+ 4" AWNINGS WITHOUT SIDES AND  
20 WITHOUT VALANCE INSTALLED OVER WINDOWS  
21 AT 410-412 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON,  
22 PENNSYLVANIA.

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



1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question?

4 Attorney Hughes, I need your advise.  
5 Since I engaged Reeves Awning for the  
6 setup and removal of awnings for my  
7 home, do I have a conflict of interest  
8 by casting a vote.

9 MR. HUGHES: I do not think that  
10 would not be a conflict merely because  
11 you employed them to install your  
12 awnings and take them off, I don't  
13 think has any bearing on this.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.  
15 Anyone else on the question?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
18 signify by saying aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 5G. AUTHORIZING THE  
2 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
3 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
4 CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES  
5 WITH PENNSYLVANIA CLAIMS SERVICES,  
6 INC. FOR THE THIRD PARTY  
7 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY'S  
8 WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

9 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
10 entertain a motion that Item 5G be  
11 introduced into its proper committee.

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question?

15 MR. MCGOFF: Do we know if this  
16 was the lowest? I saw that there were  
17 five bids. Do we know if this was the  
18 lowest bid?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I do not know if it  
20 was. I can research that.

21 MS. EVANS: I don't either. We  
22 can find that out for you next week.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I think that that  
24 would appropriate to find out what the  
25 bids were and in fact is the lowest

1 bid provided.

2 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Mrs.  
3 Krake, can you follow up that this  
4 week so that we're prepared for a  
5 proper vote next week.

6 MS. KRAKE: Certainly.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone  
8 else on the question?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of  
11 introduction signify by saying aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 6A. READING BY  
20 TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 47 2010 -  
21 AN ORDINANCE - CREATING AND  
22 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.  
23 02.229596 ENTITLED "COMCAST EG GRANT"  
24 FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF  
25 GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE

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

4 MS. EVANS: You heard reading by  
5 title of Item 6A. What is your  
6 pleasure?

7 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6A  
8 pass written by title.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 6B. READING BY TITLE  
20 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 48 2010 - AN  
21 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO  
23 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CABLE  
24 FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY  
25 OF SCRANTON AND COMCAST OF

1 COLORADO/PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA,  
2 LLC.

3 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading  
4 by title of Item 6B. What is your  
5 pleasure?

6 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6B  
7 pass written by title.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question?

10 MR. MCGOFF: This is the  
11 amendment.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. MCGOFF: As amended last  
14 week.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes, as amended last  
16 week. That is correct. Thank you.  
17 Thank you very much.

18 All those in favor signify by  
19 saying aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 7A. FOR  
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
4 RULES - FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO.  
5 47, 2010 - AUTHORIZING THE CITY  
6 OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE  
7 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
8 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A  
9 PERMIT TO INSTALL AND OPERATE TRAFFIC  
10 SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION OF S.R.  
11 3011 KEYSER AVENUE AND S.R. 3002  
12 (RANSOM ROAD)/CONTINENTAL STREET FOR  
13 THE REHABILITATION OF KEYSER AVENUE  
14 FROM JUST SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION  
15 WITH OAK STREET IN TAYLOR BOROUGH TO  
16 THE INTERSECTION WITH FERDINAND STREET  
17 IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

18 MS. EVANS: As chairman of the  
19 Committee on Rules, I recommend a  
20 final passage of Item 7A.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question?  
23 Last week an extensive discussion was  
24 held with the city engineer regarding  
25 possible negative impacts to adjacent

1 homeowners. City Engineer Brian  
2 Swanson stated that there were no  
3 reported or foreseeable issues,  
4 however, the problem in the 1100 block  
5 of Main Avenue of which I'm aware  
6 continues to be pursued by Council's  
7 Office, therefore, I would be voting  
8 to approve the four pieces of  
9 legislation for traffic light  
10 installation on tonight's agenda.

11 Role call, please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce?

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans?

21 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby  
22 declare Item 7A legally and lawfully  
23 adopted.

24 MS. KRAKE: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES – FOR

1 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 48, 2010 -  
2 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
3 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
4 THE APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
5 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
6 TRANSPORTATION FOR BRIDGE OCCUPANCY  
7 LICENSE REQUIRED IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
8 THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT S.R. 3002 RANSOM  
9 ROAD AND CONTINENTAL STREET TO  
10 ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSED SIGNAL  
11 CONDUIT/WIRING TO BE ATTACHED TO THE  
12 ADJACENT BOX CULVERT OVER LUCKY RUN  
13 (BMS NO. 35 3011 0120 0259).

14 MS. EVANS: As chair for the  
15 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
16 passage of Items 7B.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.



1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby  
6 declare Item 7B legally and lawfully  
7 adopted.

8 MS. KRAKE: 7C. FOR CONSIDERATION  
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
10 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 49, 2010 -  
11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
12 MAKE APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH  
13 OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
14 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT  
15 TO INSTALL AND OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS  
16 AT THE INTERSECTION OF S.R. 3011  
17 KEYSER AVENUE AND S.R. 3014  
18 (DALTON STREET) AND DIVISION STREET  
19 FOR THE REHABILITATION OF KEYSER  
20 AVENUE FROM JUST SOUTH OF THE  
21 INTERSECTION WITH OAK STREET IN TAYLOR  
22 BOROUGH TO THE INTERSECTION WITH  
23 FERDINAND STREET IN THE CITY OF  
24 SCRANTON.

25 MS. EVANS: As chair for the

1 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
2 passage of Item 7C.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby  
17 declare Item 7C legally and lawfully  
18 adopted.

19 MS. KRAKE: 7D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR  
21 ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 50, 2010 -  
22 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
23 MAKE APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH  
24 OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
25 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT

1 TO INSTALL AND OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS  
2 AT THE INTERSECTION OF S.R. 3011  
3 KEYSER AVENUE AND S.R. 3003  
4 (JACKSON STREET)/JACKSON STREET FOR  
5 THE REHABILITATION OF KEYSER AVENUE  
6 FROM JUST SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION  
7 WITH OAK STREET IN TAYLOR BOROUGH TO  
8 THE INTERSECTION WITH FERDINAND STREET  
9 IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

10 MS. EVANS: As chair for the  
11 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
12 passage of Item 7D.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

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

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVAN: Meeting adjourned.

(Proceedings adjourned at 9:07  
p.m.)

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 taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

---

Amelia Nicol  
Official Court Reporter