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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here. Roll call,
14 please. Dispense with the reading of the
15 minutes.

16 MS. CARRERA: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
17 CHECK RECEIVED FOR \$500 FROM THE HARRISON
18 HOUSE PERSONAL CARE HOME WHICH REPRESENTS
19 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES.

20 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
21 We are grateful to the Harrison House
22 Personal Care Home for their generous
23 donation of \$500 to the City of Scranton as
24 payment in lieu of taxes. Anyone else?
25 Received and filed.

1 MS. CARRERA: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
2 CITY PLANNING COMMISSION HELD ON
3 NOVEMBER 17, 2010.

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

6 MS. CARRERA: 3-C. APPLICATIONS
7 ALONG WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
8 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10,
9 2010.

10 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
11 If not, received and filed.

12 MS. CARRERA: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE
13 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION BOARD
14 MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 17, 2010.

15 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
16 If not, received and filed.

17 MS. CARRERA: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE
18 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON
19 DECEMBER 8, 2010.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: 3-F. CONTROLLER'S
23 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31,
24 2010.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 I believe we do not have any clerk's
3 notes for this evening's meeting and so we
4 will move onto announcements, do any council
5 members have announcements at this time?

6 MR. JOYCE: I just have a few. The
7 West Scranton High School Drama students
8 will be presenting a Wizard of Oz Christmas
9 this Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2
10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door
11 and are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students
12 and children over the age of two, and
13 children two and under are free.

14 Also, there will be a pierogi sale
15 on December 9 and 10 at St. John's Bizantine
16 Catholic Church on 310 Broadway Street. The
17 church is asking that anyone interested
18 should preorder by Saturday of this week by
19 calling Joanie at 344-3282 or Barbara at
20 342-8924, and that's all.

21 MS. EVANS: First, I'd like to
22 welcome the Boy Scout Troop from Hickory
23 Street Presbyterian Church who is seated in
24 the balcony at this evening's meeting. We
25 are very pleased to have them in attendance.

1 I understand that they are working toward a
2 badge and that is why they will be observing
3 tonight's meeting, so welcome, gentlemen.

4 In addition, our city clerk,
5 Mrs. Krake, is suffering from a loss of her
6 voice and as a result our assistant city
7 clerk, Ms. Cathy Carrera, will be reading
8 tonight's legislation.

9 Because numerous speakers are in
10 attendance tonight, I ask that every speaker
11 adhere to the five-minute time limit in
12 order that all may have an equal opportunity
13 to be heard.

14 A Family Fun Night will be held at
15 Friendly's Restaurant in Dunmore from 5 to 8
16 p.m. on Thursday, December 9. A percentage
17 of the cash register food receipts will be
18 donated to St. Francis of Assisi Food
19 Kitchen in Scranton. Enjoy a delicious meal
20 and help to feed the poor during this season
21 of giving.

22 The 24th annual performance of the
23 holiday classic the Nutcracker will be
24 presented by the Scranton Civic Ballet
25 Company on Friday evening, December 10, at

1 7:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoon December 12,
2 at 2 p.m. at the Scranton Cultural Center.
3 Tickets are \$15 and \$17 by three and get one
4 free. Tickets can be purchased by calling
5 the Scranton Cultural Center box office at
6 570-341-4111 or Scranton Cultural Center
7 Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. For
8 additional information log onto their
9 website at www.Scrantoncivicballet.com.

10 All dancers and performers are
11 residents of Northeastern, Pennsylvania, and
12 range in age from 7 to 70. The spectacles
13 of the mouse king, sugar plumb fairy,
14 waltzing flowers and snow queen will dazzle
15 the youngsters and warm the spirit of the
16 young at heart. Begin your holiday season
17 with the magic of the Scranton Civic Ballet
18 companies splendid performance of the
19 Nutcracker, and that's it.

20 MS. CARRERA: FOURTH ORDER.

21 Citizens' participation.

22 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
23 evening is John Judge.

24 MR. JUDGE: Good evening, city
25 council. John Judge with the IFF Local 60

1 Scranton Firefighters and the secretary.
2 I've been here the past two weeks,
3 unfortunately, to discuss some of the
4 proposed changes by the mayor's budget.

5 What I did promise the first night
6 that I was here that we would be responsible
7 to the citizens and taxpayers of the city
8 and ultimately take a look at how these
9 changes that the mayor is proposing will
10 affect the safety of both the firefighters
11 and the citizens within the City of
12 Scranton.

13 I told you we would prepare a report
14 to the best of our ability and best of our
15 knowledge. You have received that report I
16 hope, you have it in front of you.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes.

18 MR. JUDGE: Great time and detail
19 and effort went into this report by members
20 of this union, okay? We have taken
21 realistic numbers, facts, and placed them
22 into this document so that you will have a
23 real understanding of how the mayor's
24 decisions will ultimately effect how are
25 department operates come January 1.

1 You could see that we have done some
2 case studies, using some case studies, doing
3 some times and what are average response
4 times to these place -- these locations
5 would be under our current manning and what
6 they will be after January 1 with the
7 proposed cuts that the mayor has.

8 This document serves to show you
9 response times and we talked mostly inside
10 the document regard structure fires, which
11 is one of the primary things that we are
12 charged with as a department in the city.
13 This is not the only type of incident that
14 we respond to. We have stayed pretty on
15 focus with this, but we want to convey to
16 you that there is other emergencies that
17 this department does undertake, and in this
18 day and age post 9/11 this department's
19 responsibilities are astronomical.

20 The numbers that you will see in
21 here once you read the document in it's
22 entirety I feel that you almost need to be
23 shown how this transpires, how a fire
24 transpires and how it progresses to get a
25 full understanding of the what these lapses

1 and now greater response times are going to
2 mean for how we are going to operate.

3 This is a fundamental change in how
4 we operate that needs to be addressed. We
5 will be doing a public hearing, we have been
6 invited by the Scranton School Board on
7 Thursday night at Scranton High at 7:00
8 where we plan on putting on that
9 presentation so that the Scranton School
10 Board members can make an informed decision
11 with how they are going to move towards
12 protecting the students that they are
13 charged with. I would urge any members of
14 council if they can attend it or if they
15 would like us to give us the same
16 presentation here at city council we would
17 be more than willing to do that.

18 A couple of my Commonwealth
19 colleagues from the union will be up here
20 this evening to speak on details of this.
21 This is written towards the layperson, not a
22 firefighter, so it should be well understood
23 by the average reader. Any questions that
24 you have of this document our union is
25 always available to address those. Any

1 questions that you might have beyond this
2 document we'll find the answers out for
3 those as well.

4 We have a very, very smart group of
5 guys that work for this department that have
6 thousands and thousands of hours of
7 training. We have members with associates
8 degrees in fire science, bachelor degrees in
9 fire science, professional levels of
10 certification, master degrees. This is an
11 untapped resource that the city has not
12 drawn from. If they want to know how to
13 better staff, how to better respond to
14 emergencies they have a 137 of my brothers
15 that they can ask any time, okay? We are
16 the experts in the city when it comes to
17 fire protection. Thank you for your time
18 and if there is anything I could do or any
19 questions I can answer please feel free to
20 contact us. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. SETA: Good evening, Council.
23 My name is Bob Seta, I'm with the IFF Local
24 60. I have served as the training committee
25 chairman and served on the safety committee

1 for Scranton Firefighters. If you would
2 just indulge me a second, on behalf of the
3 public safety family, the firefighters, both
4 paid and unpaid professionals, police
5 officers, EMS personnel and public safety
6 dispatchers to extend our deepest
7 condolences to the family, friends and
8 coworkers at Lackawanna Ambulance of EMT
9 John Demkosky who died while on duty
10 yesterday. All of you and John are in our
11 prayers.

12 I'd also like to tell council, I'd
13 like to inform you that the Scranton
14 Firefighters Honor Guard has extended or
15 support to the Lackawanna County Ambulance
16 and they have graciously accepted our offer,
17 so it is our Honor to assist them in their
18 time of need just as they were there for us
19 in our time of need.

20 I would like to briefly address the
21 proposed restructuring of the Scranton Fire
22 Department. I hope you have had an
23 opportunity to review the response analysis
24 that has been compiled and provided to you
25 in an attempt to clarify the implications of

1 the proposed fire department cuts. These
2 cuts are a wholesale change in the way the
3 Scranton Fire Department provides service.
4 The removal of the city's two busiest engine
5 companies from the city's highest density
6 and highest life hazard area, the downtown,
7 goes against sound fire protection
8 practices.

9 The deployment and centralization of
10 resources should be determined by the
11 ability of the fire department to
12 efficiently handle a reasonably anticipated
13 workload. Obviously, the downtown
14 represents this workload that is why our
15 fire companies are configured the way they
16 are. While some of them have mentioned that
17 the current staffing locations have not
18 changed since horse drawn days, they do not
19 point out that there was many, many more of
20 them.

21 The remaining stations are
22 strategically deployed throughout the city.
23 Of the current single company stations all
24 but three were once multi-company stations.
25 The administration states that especially

1 Rescue 1 station in the 900 block of Wyoming
2 Avenue is redundant. Rescue 1 responds to
3 the entire city on vehicle accidents and
4 fire calls making it's location almost
5 optimum and it is not an engine company.

6 Both truck companies and rescue
7 companies work in conjunction with the
8 engine companies, they cannot replace them.
9 Placing these company in the place of engine
10 companies is like placing a screwdriver in
11 your toolbox when only a hammer will do.

12 In regards to the downtown area,
13 commercial, industrial and mercantile areas
14 generally require additional apparatus in
15 the initial alarm. If properties with
16 considerable life hazard are involved, such
17 as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes,
18 etcetera, additional resources should be
19 considered on the initial alarm. Especially
20 large numbers of personnel are needed for
21 search and rescue -- for search and rescue
22 operations in these properties. The
23 required firefighting companies should
24 arrive on scene close enough in time after
25 the initial alarm to operate as an effective

1 team following planned tactical procedures.
2 The removal of the engine companies from
3 this equation is most disturbing and a large
4 building with a high occupant load the best
5 course of action is to quickly extinguish
6 fire since removals of large numbers of
7 people would not be feasible in a short
8 period of time.

9 The fire protection handbook states
10 what a typical initial response assuming
11 interior attack operations capability.
12 That's going to be a major point in that
13 study and that's going to be a major point
14 that -- it's very important everyone
15 realize. There is exposure-based
16 firefighting and there is interior-based
17 firefighting.

18 We currently do interior-based
19 firefighting. We want to go in and find the
20 fire at it's seat and take care of it when
21 it's at his smallest point. Once you go to
22 an exposure-base system you are pulling up
23 and worrying about the single property that
24 we are going to stop it in that property.
25 That property is going to be sacrificed so

1 hopefully we won't have to sacrifice others,
2 assuming interior tech operations
3 capability. This sets the necessary
4 deployment for this capability, this is from
5 the Fire Protection Handbook, as at least
6 four pumpers, two ladders truck, two chief
7 officers, and other specialized apparatus as
8 may be needed. No fewer than 24
9 firefighters and two chief officers.

10 This represents almost exactly the
11 current second alarm deployment for the
12 Scranton Fire Department. The proposed
13 level of service completely eliminates this
14 capability to the point of responding to the
15 most typical of single alarm with structure
16 resident fires will completely delete the
17 available fire companies. The department
18 will not only be unable to responsible to
19 large scale emergencies with the proper
20 resources, there will also be no second
21 alarm capability and there will be no
22 multi-emergency response.

23 Our statistics, and I hope you saw
24 in the study, 23 percent of the time when an
25 alarm is sounded in the City of Scranton

1 there is already one company out on another
2 -- on a separate call. That number is only
3 going to increase. If you reduce the number
4 of the companies and you are still having
5 the same service area they obviously are
6 going to spread that around, so that 23
7 percent is going to rise.

8 What that does is that where you had
9 one company remaining you are not going to
10 have any. If there is one -- the one
11 company that's out if it's your target area,
12 and the study addresses this, in 3-A and
13 10-A, the case studies, you will see what
14 happens when a single company is removed,
15 that would be the first due engine, the
16 losses can be great. I have less than a
17 minute.

18 MS. EVANS: You can finish up.

19 MR. SETA: While I certainly did not
20 want to see my friends and coworkers lose
21 their jobs, it is also the responsibility of
22 the firefighter to worry about the public
23 safety. These cuts will fundamentally
24 change the level of service currently
25 provided to the citizens of Scranton. The

1 citizens have not been informed of the
2 weight of these changes and the firefighters
3 have not been given the slightest guidance
4 as to how to implement these changes.
5 Please put safety first where it belongs.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Seta, the plan
9 that was passed down to us by the
10 administration in no way resembles the plan
11 that we received from PEL. Do you know how
12 this plan came about for the administration?
13 Was it the dart board method where they just
14 sat there and threw a dart and whatever one
15 it hit? I haven't heard who developed it.

16 MR. SETA: If you would like me to
17 speculate, it's a political decision. It's
18 politically very difficult to close a
19 neighborhood fire station, and I certainly
20 don't condone it because the deployment of
21 your current stations is spread as thin as
22 it could be. To close -- if you take the
23 Engine 9 station and place an apparatus in
24 it and think, well, when the public drives
25 by they see that there is someone in that

1 station and that employment will work, well,
2 that's Rescue 1 on Main Avenue with only
3 Truck 2 downtown, when you combine them and
4 you give an alarm at the high school or you
5 give an alarm at downtown Scranton and you
6 are eliminating those first two engine
7 companies from that box, you are removing
8 the firefighting capabilities. The truck
9 company and the rescue company cannot put
10 the fire out, but obviously it's a lot
11 easier to close a station when you think the
12 public is not going to realize what you did.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I spoke today with
14 two of our senior citizens that are starting
15 a fund, I mean, this is coming from their
16 heart because they are in fear of their
17 public safety in the high rise right around
18 the corner here from fire headquarters which
19 will be affected, as you stated, and many of
20 your brothers have stated if --

21 MR. SETA: Right, that was the
22 example I used where a fire in a building
23 such as that, this isn't a scare tactic,
24 this is --

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Reality.

1 MR. SETA: -- the facts of life. If
2 this is a fire in that building on the first
3 or second floor you cannot remove all of
4 those people that quickly. The most prudent
5 course of action is to quickly extinguish
6 the fire, and you are going to -- you want
7 to deploy your resources to the highest
8 hazards. The highest hazards are in the
9 downtown. The study will say that, this
10 will say that.

11 We could talk for days about it, but
12 it's the most obvious deployment. That's
13 why the system is the way it is. That's why
14 your two trucks companies are centrally
15 located. That's why your rescue company is
16 centrally located and that's why your fire
17 companies are deployed in such a way that
18 you can have a fast initial response with a
19 minimal response time for the second company
20 coming into supply sustainable water. If
21 you take the initial engine companies out of
22 the mix, all address part of the study that
23 I'm aware of, a downtown building that had a
24 response time of under three minutes will
25 have a response time of engine companies

1 over five minutes.

2 Now, that doesn't sound like a lot
3 standing here, that was why, as Mr. Judge
4 explained, we would like to show you. The
5 physics of fire growth are very rapid. Fire
6 doubles in size every 30 seconds, and when--
7 it's hard to speak about flash over here
8 with a general audience, but once your fire
9 fighting capabilities put you in a position
10 that you are target time exceeds flash over
11 or exceeds brain death the fire has become
12 so large you need extra resources at exactly
13 a time where we don't have anymore resources
14 left.

15 Most communities -- most progressive
16 communities that search this out and study
17 this you establish your goals at flash over.
18 The chart that's in there explains that to
19 you, that you have your dispatch time, you
20 have your quickest response time for water
21 on the fire. Nothing replaces a truck
22 company, nothing replaces a resident
23 company, nothing replaces the engine
24 company. The truck being there first does
25 not put that fire out, the rescue company

1 does not put that fire out, only the
2 teamwork of the engine companies in
3 conjunction with those specialized companies
4 puts the fire out.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Seta.

6 MR. SETA: Thank you.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr. Seta:

8 MS. EVANS: Bob Martin.

9 MR. MARTIN: Good evening, Council.
10 Bob Martin, President of the FOP, Lodge II.
11 I will only take a few minutes tonight, I
12 don't want to take too much time, but I just
13 want to reiterate some of the things that I
14 spoke about before at the podium, and one of
15 the issues that's a real burr in my saddle
16 is the processing center.

17 The administration chose to give
18 that work away a couple of years ago on a
19 test pilot program, of course, it's grown
20 into where they have taken all of the work
21 now and, of course, they have turned it into
22 a revenue making machine at the fruit of our
23 labor. Our police officers go out and work
24 hard on the street, make the arrest, bring
25 them in and now the county has come in and

1 with the agreement and the -- with the city
2 and the administration turn all of this work
3 over to the county, and again, they are
4 charging \$300 per criminal processing and
5 the last time I spoke, I hadn't updated the
6 numbers, it was 2510 criminal arrests that
7 we turned over to the county and, I mean,
8 that equates to a large sum of money and
9 here we are now we are standing here looking
10 at laying ten officers off, we are going to
11 lose ten jobs and there is very viable work
12 that we should have been doing. We spent
13 three and a half million dollars plus to
14 build the new police headquarters, we have
15 all of the equipment in there that the
16 county has, I mean, I know you have all
17 heard this before and, I mean, that work --
18 we could have very well turned that into a
19 revenue source for this city. We could be
20 doing all of the work that the county is
21 doing for all of the municipalities.

22 I mean, we have been in this fight,
23 it's a labor issue at this point, and I'm
24 confident that we are going to prevail, the
25 Labor Board is going to come down on our

1 side. We petitioned Judge Harhut some 30
2 plus days ago to go before him because he
3 issued an order stating that every police
4 department in the county must bring the
5 prisoners without hearings, without having,
6 you know, hearing a word of our side of the
7 story or where we were coming from or how it
8 was going to affect our police department,
9 and again, he has just plained ignored us
10 throughout this process and we are working
11 on that again, and again, the Labor Board
12 decision is forthcoming, should be not too
13 far off in the future, I think it's going to
14 be in time, because I think even if they
15 split it, if even if they come down with a
16 split decision then I think that the city
17 should immediately look at some of it, and
18 nothing else, I want the work back. I want
19 the work back, and hopefully that's going to
20 be, but I'm thinking if that's not possibly
21 we are going to come up with some shared
22 thing and the city we should be reaping --
23 we should be getting paid for that.

24 On a part-time basis we were going
25 Friday nights until 4:00 to Sunday morning

1 4:00 and one of the questions at one of the
2 meetings came up and said, "Who is
3 collecting the money when the prisoners come
4 back over to police headquarters, who is
5 collecting the \$300 bucks while we are
6 processing the center at headquarters and
7 the center is not doing it?"

8 And they would never answer the
9 question. Actually one of our members was
10 told to sit down and not ask the question
11 again, so now, you know, now it's turned
12 into a full-time suite where they take all
13 of the prisoners, we don't enjoy any of the
14 work, our officers are going to get laid
15 off, we don't get extra-duty out of it, we
16 don't get anything out of it, they have
17 taken it out all, and again, I mean, it just
18 infuriates me that we are going to lose --
19 possibly lose ten police officers,
20 hardworking police officers and it was their
21 stats, their work that provided those
22 statistics to build that processing center
23 and now we are going to lose the work and
24 plus we are going to lose some probably
25 very, very good officers. I mean, I just

1 warrant to reiterate that, and again, the
2 plan that's going forward with cutting us, I
3 mean, we are down to -- we had a very major
4 incident last Saturday night about 3:00 in
5 the morning, I think there was about six
6 officers left on the street, shifts had just
7 changed when the incident came in, extremely
8 dangerous, extremely dangerous when you
9 have-- you know, when you have a several
10 traffic stops going on, you have a major
11 incident happen, if several traffic stops --
12 all of these officers tied up. They are
13 tied up. You can't respond to another
14 emergency if you have suspects stopped in
15 the middle of the street or potential
16 suspects and you are trying to figure out
17 what happened at this major crime and now,
18 you know, and we are down to six officers
19 for that short period, three, four-hour
20 period, I mean, it gest to the point, we
21 have just been running on luck, and I think
22 I'm afraid at some point it's going to run
23 out and someone is going to suffer the
24 consequence.

25 But anyway, I just wanted to bring

1 to light that we are still working on the
2 processing center with the Labor Board to
3 come down with a decision and I'll keep you
4 posted.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. Please notify us
6 immediately of that decision.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just a quick
8 question, of the people that are brought
9 into the processing center, do you know what
10 percentage represents those from Scranton?

11 MR. MARTIN: The people that are
12 brought in?

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

14 MR. MARTIN: The majority of them --
15 we are the biggest dog on the block. 2,500
16 -- everybody else pales. I mean, the next
17 highest is probably in the number like 300
18 and that includes the Pennsylvania State
19 Police, Troop, Taylor, Dickson City, all of
20 them combined together. It's all us. We do
21 the majority of the work, we provide the
22 majority of the people to be processed at
23 that center and then, of course, now we are
24 going to lose ten officers and they are the
25 guys that sent them over to the center in

1 the first place and now they are going to
2 send them all packing. Unbelievable. Thank
3 you very much for your time.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill
5 Jackowitz.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
7 South Scranton resident, member of the
8 Taxpayers' Association. Continuing on with
9 Mayor Christopher A. Doherty's sworn
10 deposition 14 September 2010. Last week we
11 learned that Mayor Doherty appointed Lisa
12 Moran as director of human resources without
13 knowing anything about her educational
14 background and experience in the field of
15 human resources. We also learned that he
16 appointed David Elliott as Chief of Police
17 without knowing anything about his
18 educational background or Mr. Elliott's lack
19 of management and supervisory experience.

20 "Question: Do you know who a
21 gentleman by the name of Ramond Hayes might
22 be?"

23 Mayor Doherty: Yes. He's the
24 former Director of Public Safety?

25 Question: Was that an appointed

1 position as well?

2 Mayor Doherty: Yes.

3 Question: And did you appoint
4 Mr. Hayes?

5 Mayor Doherty: Yes, I did.

6 Question: When did you appoint
7 Mr. Hayes?

8 Mayor Doherty: Eight and a half
9 years ago.

10 Question: At the commencement of
11 your administration?

12 Mayor Doherty: Yes.

13 Question: And what was the -- and
14 what was the or were rather the duties of
15 the Director of Public Safety in the City of
16 Scranton under your administration?

17 Mayor Doherty: He oversaw the
18 police and fire departments. The chief
19 would report to him.

20 Question: So Mr. Elliott would
21 report to Mr. Hayes?

22 Mayor Doherty: Yes.

23 Question: He would not --
24 Mr. Elliott would not report directly to
25 you?

1 Mayor Doherty: He would report to
2 Mr. Hayes; correct.

3 Question: Well, was Mr. Hayes a
4 cabinet position?

5 Mayor Doherty: Yes.

6 Question: Was Mr. Elliott a cabinet
7 position?

8 Mayor Doherty: He reported to my
9 cabinet meetings every Monday. He would
10 give me a police report. Yes, it was
11 considered a cabinet position.

12 Question: So were they equals?

13 Mayor Doherty: No. Mr. Hayes was
14 his superior.

15 Question: And how about Ms. Moran
16 in terms of Mr. Elliott, were they equals in
17 responsibilities and authority within your
18 administration, albeit it different
19 departments?

20 Mayor Doherty: Yes.

21 Question: Did Ms. Moran -- was she
22 a cabinet position?

23 Mayor Doherty: Yes.

24 Question: She reported directly to
25 you?

1 Mayor Doherty: She reported to me
2 and she would also report to the BA, the
3 business administrator.

4 Question: And the BA is who?

5 Mayor Doherty: Stu Renda.

6 Question: So Mr. Renda was a
7 cabinet - was he a cabinet position?

8 Mayor Doherty: Yes, he was.

9 Question: And Miss Moran was a
10 cabinet position?

11 Mayor Doherty: Yes.

12 Question: So while Miss Moran would
13 report to Mr. Renda she was co-equal with
14 Mr. Renda in that she was a cabinet
15 position?

16 Mayor Doherty: She was not a
17 co-equal. She reported to him. He was her
18 superior.

19 Question: So when you held cabinet
20 meetings was -- would Mr. Elliott and Miss
21 Moran attend the entire meeting or only the
22 portion of the meeting in which you wanted
23 them to attend and then excuse them?

24 Mayor Doherty: The entire meeting.

25 Question, were there minutes kept of

1 the cabinet meeting?

2 Mayor Doherty: No.

3 Question: No one kept minutes?

4 Mayor Doherty: No.

5 Question: I was asking you before
6 about Mr. Hayes, and I may have taken a
7 short sidestep, and I apologize.

8 Question: Prior to being appointed
9 public safety director what was Mr. Hayes'
10 employment?

11 Mayor Doherty: He worked for the
12 state police.

13 Question: And what was his capacity
14 in the state police?

15 Mayor Doherty: He held different
16 ranks with the state police. I think his
17 last position was negotiating, hostage
18 negotiator.

19 Question: Hostage negotiator? Is
20 that a rank in the state police or a job?

21 Mayor Doherty: I think it's a
22 position, a job.

23 Question: What made him qualified
24 to be in your mind Director of Public
25 Safety?

1 Mayor Doherty: Well, I thought he
2 an exemplary career with the state police
3 and I thought he would do a good job in
4 managing the two departments.

5 Question: Would you tell me what
6 made Mr. Hayes' career with the state police
7 exemplary?

8 Mayor Doherty: Well, just that the
9 people who had known him and thought of him
10 and knew of his career thought he would a
11 perfect person for the job.

12 Question: Could you be more
13 specific, please? What exactly made him a
14 perfect person for the job?

15 Mayor Doherty: He was a state
16 policeman and that he was in charge of the
17 barracks and I had talked to people in law
18 enforcement. They thought he would do a
19 good job.

20 Question: Who did you speak with?

21 Mayor Doherty: District Attorney
22 Jarbola, and he thought he would be
23 excellent.

24 Question: Anyone else other than
25 District Attorney Jarbola?

1 Mayor Doherty: No, that was it."

2 I know this sworn deposition and the
3 mayor's answers are beginning to sound like
4 you Abbott-Costello routine "Who is on
5 First", but this is the executive officer in
6 the city explaining how he has managed the
7 city departments during his eight and a half
8 years as mayor. No wonder why the city is
9 still distressed and multi-million dollars
10 in debt, but we also must remember those
11 immortal words of a past city council
12 president that qualifications do not matter.

13 Well, they do not matter and now the
14 citizens of Scranton who voted for the past
15 city council members and the mayor three
16 times must suffer the consequences for their
17 vote. In my opinion, the city has
18 mismanaged for the past eight and a half
19 years by Mayor Doherty and the Scranton City
20 Council. Many speakers have spoken on this
21 matter several times only to be laughed at,
22 yelled at, called names, and were told that
23 they were out of order.

24 No, Mayor, and past city councils,
25 you were and are the ones who have been out

1 of order, not the citizens. Look around and
2 see what a mess you have created for the
3 taxpayers in the citizens of the City of
4 Scranton.

5 Now Mayor Doherty and his friends
6 must start answering for their poor
7 decisions and lack of leadership abilities.
8 2010 city council, hold their feet to the
9 fire, no wiggle room allowed this time.

10 Mayor Doherty, appear in public and
11 address the problems of the City of
12 Scranton.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank, Mr. Jackowitz.
14 Joe Talimini.

15 MR. TALIMINI: Good evening,
16 Council. Joe Talimini, citizen of Scranton.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

19 MR. TALERICO: First I'd like to
20 commend you on the fact that you are taking
21 up under Item 6-A-B-C and D a piece of
22 legislation which was very poorly
23 constructed to begin with and was meant for
24 no other reason than to pat somebody on the
25 back. It's about time that the taxpayers

1 got relief in this city in repealing that's
2 ordinances is the main thing. It was
3 something that, Mrs. Evans, I know you
4 fought hard for and you were overruled and
5 it's about time that the people who said
6 they were going to be back here again, even
7 though they are no longer in office, haven't
8 showed up that they got their comeuppance.
9 That's number one.

10 Number two, again, with the budget,
11 there is plenty of room to cut that budget.
12 There are way too many staff members working
13 for the City of Scranton. Way too many.
14 And there are some exorbitant salaries
15 there. Again, I reiterate I did not get a
16 cost of living increase last year and I will
17 not get one this year and I'm a senior
18 citizen, I get a disability pension from the
19 government and I'm not getting a cost of
20 living increase there either, so I have no
21 empathy for these people who are crying
22 because their wages aren't high enough.
23 That's tough. Tighten your belt for a
24 change.

25 Now, you people are the legislative

1 branch of this city, I would like to see you
2 exercise your authority. This mayor has
3 lead this city for eight half years and it's
4 still distressed. If the US military has a
5 problem whenever there is a distressed
6 situation they hang the United States flag
7 upside down to show they are in dire need.
8 I suggest you do the same thing as long as
9 the city is distressed. Turn that flag
10 upside down. We are in distress, we are in
11 trouble, and when that picture goes up on
12 that wall I want his picture upside down
13 because he is the reason we are in a
14 distressed situation, and if you are not
15 going to hang it on that wall, hang it up at
16 Nay Aug Park because that's where he lives
17 practically.

18 Now, it's time to cut costs, the
19 police and the fire, no, don't cut them.
20 Don't cut the police and the fire. As far
21 as their cost of living increase goes, they
22 can live without that, I'm sorry, but they
23 can. I'm not going to be politically
24 correct because this is no longer time to be
25 politically correct. It's time now to face

1 the realities of the fact that this city is
2 in distress, it's going to stay distressed.
3 What they have got coming from the previous
4 time, give it to them, do not cut their
5 services, but by the same virtue nobody in
6 this city, nobody that works with this city
7 deserves a cost of living increase. I'm
8 sorry, but even the President of the United
9 States has ruled that there is wage freeze
10 and that wage freeze should exist here as
11 well.

12 Now, it's time that we stop with the
13 political correctness. Some of you are up
14 for re-election next year, others of you
15 probably don't care, but we just saw \$21.3
16 million spent on TV ads for somebody to
17 acquire \$150,000 a year job. That's
18 ludicrous. Explain to these people out here
19 who work for minimum wage, explain that to
20 these people out here who are living in
21 subsidized housing, explain that to these
22 people out here who cannot pay their rent.
23 That's what I want you to do. Explain that
24 them and if you cannot explain to them then,
25 damn it, act. Stand up to your rights. We

1 elected you here and we expect you to
2 perform.

3 If you have to take this mayor to
4 Court, by God do it. If you have to
5 overrule this Home Rule Charter in Court, by
6 God do it. We are still governed by the
7 constitution of the United States and that
8 takes precedent over the Home Rule Charter
9 and all of this nonsense, this political
10 correctness in this city.

11 And another thing, I'm tired of the
12 damn musical chairs in this city. Every
13 time you turn around somebody losing one job
14 is going to another job is going to another
15 job. We just had an incident with somebody
16 who was in the Sewage Authority and was
17 forced out, got a job with the Housing
18 Authority and has been forced out. Now, how
19 long is this going to go on? I see Ray
20 Hayes' name in here for an appointment, I
21 know you can't do anything about that, but
22 it's damn time we try to figure out why you
23 can't do anything about things like this?

24 There are other people out here who
25 are capable of serving, probably more

1 capable than the ones who are. I'd like to
2 see a little bit more transparency in
3 government, especially from the executive
4 branch which I don't anticipate we are going
5 to see, but I would like to see you people
6 exercise your authority. Your subpoena
7 powers are there, use them if necessary, and
8 if you have to take them to Court, by God,
9 we are behind you 100 percent. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Andy Sbaraglia.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
13 heard a lot of rhetoric tonight, but that
14 ain't going to solve your problem. Your
15 problem is money, M-O-N-E-Y, how to either
16 cut the budget sufficiently enough or raise
17 revenue some way. You notice the mayor put
18 this burden on you now, he usually would
19 sell something, namely, the DPW site. It's
20 too bad you couldn't sell it to somebody,
21 too. That would solve at least 5 million of
22 your problems.

23 With your budget, even with the
24 cuts, you know and I know that's not going
25 to make it. If you did everything you

1 wanted it still ain't going to clear up the
2 problem we are in, probably create a lot
3 more problems.

4 Somewhere you have to look at
5 everything from out of the ballpark
6 actually. Last time I told you last meeting
7 I said, yeah, maybe we should split the fire
8 protection and police protection out of the
9 budget, in other words, I pay "X" amount of
10 taxes, you reserved \$500 from somebody, but
11 I pay probably three times that for the same
12 services that that place gets, but that's
13 the way things are because of the law, but
14 you have to look at things out of the
15 ballpark. Staying in the ballpark ain't
16 going to solve your problem.

17 The city population keeps declining
18 and that's a problem. People keep moving
19 out of the city. People don't want to move
20 into the city, and you saw everything from
21 the mall all of the way down to the
22 residents. Everyone is in trouble. How
23 much of it is caused by where we stand now
24 with the economy, but even where we stand
25 now was caused by political actions that was

1 done years and years ago, some by the
2 federal government and some by the state
3 government. You always said when the mayor
4 took office he couldn't spend money fast
5 enough. All of the building projects went
6 in and he took \$72 million. Why we brought
7 the streetlights, I'll never know, but we
8 bought them, too. Somewhere along the line
9 now we are going to pay for buying the
10 streetlights because I don't think the
11 savings made up for the cost of the
12 acquisition and the person that they hired
13 to take care of it.

14 So, I mean, there has been
15 progression all the way down the line. The
16 golf course supplied money to us, he
17 couldn't get rid of that fast enough. I
18 think they said we were making sometimes
19 \$100,000, sometimes even more pouring into
20 the city from that -- from that little golf
21 course, so he sold it. Where is the money
22 from the golf course now? Sunk into the
23 city budget, the hole that never keeps
24 filling up. It's just a money pit you might
25 call the city budget. It's money just pours

1 into it, decisions pour into it, I can give
2 you 101 things that happened since he took
3 office. I could spend hours just going over
4 the financial problems.

5 I was with Mrs. Evans, we were at
6 night one time in a room going over the
7 budget a couple years ago calling Mr. -- I
8 think he was away that time, our other
9 councilman, and he answered by phone, but
10 anyway, that was done. What was done with
11 it? Nothing. So the problem continues.

12 Now you're into a dilemma of safety,
13 people and so forth and so on. I don't know
14 how you are going to derive that. I mean, I
15 can say, well, Scranton has so many fires a
16 year, Scranton has so many accidents a year,
17 Scranton has so many false alarms a year,
18 Scranton has so many inspections a year, you
19 can do that and say, well, you are going to
20 get to it later to building and naturally
21 it's going to burn, but if their's a person
22 in it they are going to die because nobody
23 was there in two or three minutes to get
24 them out.

25 I can relate a problem, I was

1 working in the federal building and they
2 just put new smoke detectors in and I told
3 my helper, "Whatever you do, don't smoke and
4 miss the overhead," but he didn't listen, he
5 smoked. Before I took down with the
6 elevator down the first floor the firemen
7 were coming in. That's how fast their
8 response was, so I'll never fault the police
9 or the fire for their response time. They
10 are fairly good. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Charlie
12 Newcomb, Sr..

13 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Good evening
14 again, city council. Just like to clear up
15 something that in the previous speaker said
16 about people getting cost of living raise, I
17 understand that people on social security
18 and fixed income, you know, don't a get a
19 raise next year or -- this year or next
20 year, but these men and women of the city
21 haven't gotten one in ten years, so there is
22 a big difference with the cost of living and
23 not getting any in 10 years.

24 I'd just like to touch, Mr. Renda
25 had in the paper, I believe it was last week

1 he made a quote, "We need more money."

2 Well, I don't know, I think a
3 speaker earlier who spoke on about the
4 KOZ's, as we know, I don't know how much
5 money it's going to, we should investigate
6 it. I believe 2011, for 2011 the KOZ's up
7 the Tripp's Park so that should be a good
8 chunk of money coming from them homes over
9 there.

10 And I want to talk about the Chief
11 of Police a little bit. I said at the
12 podium before, and I'm sure Mr. Martin will
13 clear it up, but I don't really need Mr.
14 Martin to clear it up because I could speak
15 for it for myself from the experience, the
16 chief made it very clear, I can't believe
17 that he put it in the paper very proud of
18 Thanksgiving Eve going out and getting DUI
19 drivers. Well, this is the arrogance that
20 you have, first of all.

21 It's in the budget I believe for a
22 \$14,000 raise, and I explained last week
23 what the raises will do down the road to the
24 retired -- the retired people get half, but
25 you are also looking for a \$14,000 raise,

1 you were taken out of the bargaining unit
2 and you are going on the street doing this
3 work. That's an unfair labor practice
4 waiting to happen. I knew that as soon as I
5 read it in the paper. I didn't have to ask
6 anybody, I knew it myself, and if you asked
7 Mr. Martin I'm sure the police are going to
8 tell you that one will be filed, it's common
9 sense.

10 I just want to make it very clear,
11 too, because I was up here talking about,
12 you know, our workers in the city, when I
13 say I don't want you to get rid of any
14 employees, I'm also talking about the other
15 people's jobs that are on the line, too,
16 about clerical and DPW, but I am mentioning
17 about public safety because it's important
18 to me.

19 So you know which way I feel on the
20 budget and I hope the budget goes the way--
21 like I said, I don't want to see anybody
22 lose their jobs, I want to see some major
23 cuts, I want to see some people that are
24 making \$80,000 that I feel don't have the
25 qualifications to do it come down to maybe

1 what the mayor makes and give the city
2 taxpayers a little bit of a break.

3 But here is what I want to mention
4 because we see it in the paper all of the
5 time, and this bothered me this morning when
6 I read this in the paper. And, Mrs. Evans,
7 you can attest to this, I want to say 2004
8 maybe you were at a meeting that myself and
9 a bunch of people attended at Weston Park
10 for a Recreation meeting.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: I got up at the
13 podium and I spoke about something, if you
14 remember, and there was a member on there
15 that did not like what I said at the podium
16 and he challenged me, he wanted me to go
17 outside, if you remember.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: Well, I went
20 outside, as you remember, and when he came
21 around the corner he realized, oh, boy, I
22 think I bit off a little bit more than I can
23 chew, and my point of it is this, if it
24 weren't for those people, and we see it in
25 the paper every day are bullies, okay, and

1 when I read in the paper this morning that
2 Mr. Migliore from ECTV what happened with
3 Mrs. Franus, I understand what the law said
4 and the lawyer did his job and if it says,
5 you know, because it was one time it wasn't
6 whatever, but I'm going to tell you that to
7 me is the lowest part of bullying.

8 ECTV, when this was Scranton
9 Tomorrow or Scranton Today, whatever, they
10 operated, they did a good job here, they
11 operated on no budget, they didn't ask the
12 city for \$90,000, now they want another
13 \$100,000, this was the mayor's project, I'm
14 going to tell you as a taxpayer in the City
15 of Scranton, if it means these cameras going
16 dark I do not want to see them get another
17 nickle of the taxpayers' dollars.

18 Let them go out to the mayor's
19 parties and Nay Aug Park and all these 25 --
20 or \$250 a head gala balls and ask for money,
21 for donations, and all I could say is this,
22 if it was me that night going out into this
23 elevator and the way the world is today
24 followed out to my car or whatever the case
25 was and being called all of these different

1 names I guarantee you as I'm standing here,
2 people know me and what I say, we would have
3 never made it to Court this morning because
4 there would have been no apologies because I
5 would have either gotten an apology out
6 there because you really did a stupid thing
7 or it would have went to a different venue,
8 but I just want to say that I think that was
9 wrong.

10 People have a right just --
11 everybody is not going to agree with what I
12 have to say. I don't agree with some of the
13 speakers, and I'm sure they don't like --
14 but the bottom line is we have a right to
15 say it and nobody should have any
16 repercussions because they say something
17 they don't like. I'm a Republican, all of
18 my friends are Democrats, you five people up
19 there are registered as Democrats, I'm sure
20 I say things that a lot of the Democrats
21 don't agree with and vice versa, but you
22 know what, we all have a right to say, we
23 don't have to agree on it, but I'm just
24 telling you that was a form of bullying and
25 for a man to go after a woman like that in

1 the elevator that's the lowest of low and
2 all I could say he is very, very lucky that
3 it wasn't somebody else because it would
4 have turned into a lot worse than it is.

5 And, like I said, good luck by
6 December 15, keep the police and firemen on
7 the street and don't take the safety away
8 from the citizens.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Marie
10 Schumacher.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
12 again, Marie Schumacher, city resident and
13 member of the Taxpayers' Association. I'll
14 try to give back the time that I took during
15 the public hearing, but still mostly on the
16 budget, I do believe you need to petition
17 the county to complete the reassessment in a
18 fair fashion and hopefully with a different
19 vendor, that would help matters
20 tremendously.

21 As I said last week, you need to
22 petition our state legislators to pass the
23 School Property Tax Elimination Act which
24 would reduce the 1 percent -- eliminate the
25 1 percent wage tax from the school budget

1 which would free up a considerable amount of
2 money.

3 And I would like to reiterate
4 something that Lee Morgan and said because I
5 have had it on my list and never worked my
6 way down to it, but Mr. Courtright as the
7 liaison for the police department used to
8 tell us how many cars were out on a given --
9 during a given week and I was going to ask
10 Mr. Loscombe to begin doing that.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think that would
13 be helpful. I hope, I hope before the 15th
14 I hear back from the city on the \$600,000
15 that BRT Ice owes the city. I still very
16 firmly believe they do owe that, that what
17 was filed was an incorrect document, and I
18 hope that adds \$600,000 to next year's
19 budget.

20 And, you know, it's interesting, we
21 never see a budget that has the actuals for
22 the entire year. When the budget comes it's
23 always actuals for September and the only
24 time we get actuals is when you get the --
25 well, after the audit is received, and Mrs.

1 Novembrino does do her financial, annual
2 financial report, but like this year, here
3 we are, it's a year practically gone by so
4 we still don't even know what the actuals
5 were for last year, but the one thing I do
6 know, again, back to the wage tax revenue
7 issue and in addition to the \$36 million
8 that's missing from the -- or unaccounted
9 for from 2005 through 2008, last year city's
10 budget had 22.4 million in for wage taxes
11 and according to Mr. Courtright the actuals
12 that were transferred were only \$19,720,000
13 and change, so they have, again, this year I
14 don't think the economy has improved and
15 those jobs that were created must have been
16 extremely low paying because the city has
17 another \$21 million in for wage taxes for
18 next year and I question whether those are
19 going to happen here either.

20 I still say the only jobs that have
21 been created in the city are black market
22 and they are selling drugs or hot
23 merchandise. You may be making money and
24 those jobs may be have been created, but I
25 can't see any others.

1 And I would like to say that even
2 after the controller's report that shows
3 rather larger -- from Mrs. Novembrino's
4 financial report for the end of the year
5 there has only been one year since 2005 that
6 we did not end up with a surplus, modified
7 accrual surplus, that is. As a matter of
8 fact -- and that was last year, we were
9 short a million nine, and in 2006 we
10 actually had a \$6.7 million surplus, so how
11 that got usurped in the interim between the
12 end of 2006 and now I think would also be
13 interesting. Thank you very much for your
14 time.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. I
17 really wasn't coming tonight, but
18 fortunately for council I have such an
19 unselfish little bride that she wanted to
20 share me with everybody. She is always
21 telling me go somewhere, go in the kitchen
22 or go outside or so forth, what a woman.

23 Does anybody have trouble parking
24 out front? My car doors hit the concrete.
25 Am I the only one? I see other people open

1 their door and get out. Even when I'm out
2 trying to open the door I hit that curb out
3 front. I'm getting where I don't even want
4 to go anywhere anymore.

5 When I lived in California I had 60
6 Thunderbird convertible, didn't have a back
7 window, and I used to drive 2,000 miles to
8 Memphis, summer and winter, 2,000 home and
9 spend a day or two and be fresh as a daisy,
10 and now here at 39 years old I need a motel
11 room when I go to see the Pioneers down
12 there.

13 Well, maybe I'll say something of
14 consequence. I had some people tell me how
15 despicable that picture was of the bear
16 shooting in the paper, it just doesn't need
17 to be there, and I agree. That's -- the
18 game warden should be fired. Four people
19 chase a tame bear out of the woods and the
20 fifth one slaughters it, that's not hunting,
21 that's not sportsman ship, that's terrible.
22 They should have been arrested. And I have
23 heard some people at the club that hunt say
24 that. It's just a terrible situation and
25 the game warden's fault and the fault of the

1 man that fed this animal. You can't tame a
2 bear and do that.

3 And this old junky house by me on
4 the corner of Parker and Main, they started
5 renting rooms I guess because there is cars
6 galore from the house, so someone come home
7 Saturday night and I guess they were drunk,
8 they parked at this 45 degree angle and just
9 missed the telephone pole, the back end is
10 in the street and the car is against the
11 building so Sunday I phoned. I said how
12 about giving them a ticket or tell them to
13 move it, they didn't do nothing. So Monday
14 I phoned, the dispatcher said that the
15 policeman said the car was all right like it
16 was.

17 I have been complaining and other
18 people have been complaining about cars on
19 the sidewalks, it's not all right like it
20 is, you know. It's not, like I said,
21 inconvenience, it's safety. People are not
22 supposed to be in the street because you
23 people don't know what the significant of
24 all of these illegal parked cars on
25 sidewalks because people are renting rooms

1 and these people that are renting the rooms,
2 I talked to one guy he is from San Diego, I
3 was at the Pioneer's game, he lives up here,
4 there is some boys from Los Angeles, there
5 is a boy from Oklahoma City, you know, why
6 do these young guys come to this city? They
7 are not working. They are going to be a
8 potential problem I'm telling you, and it's
9 as plain as the nose on your face that it's
10 coming and something should be done.

11 Anyway, I'd like to Mr. Duffy to
12 come in here and tell me why I should be in
13 the street and cars could be parked on the
14 sidewalk right there where I walk around the
15 block for 16 years on Troop Street two
16 people got I guess a 7,500 foot driveway to
17 their garage, they both parked completely on
18 the sidewalk where you can't use it anymore.
19 It's everywhere.

20 Oh well, I don't know, this town is
21 going to pot. I got a section eight house
22 by me, the man got a new BMW. Yeah. You go
23 by there. He got this section eight housing
24 got a new BMW, you know. We are paying for
25 that.

1 Down the street I asked Mr. Santolli
2 not to cut that tree down for \$5,000, the
3 city cut it down on private property, you
4 know what the lady did? She has put an
5 \$8,000 roof on her house last month. These
6 people paid for that. I paid for that, you
7 paid for it. That's senseless.

8 Let me say something real quick
9 about last week, this will just take a
10 second, when was the high school built, 12
11 years ago or so?

12 MS. EVANS: Which high school?

13 MR. ELLMAN: Anyway --

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Scranton High School?

15 MR. ELLMAN: -- this woman has been
16 phoning me since before the high school was
17 built, just once in awhile I talk to her,
18 she grew up in a project, she lives in the
19 project now, and all she ever does is argue
20 with me whatever I say up here. Last week
21 she said me and all of these people come up
22 here to talk every week are a bunch of damn
23 fools beating our heads on a concrete wall
24 and it really got me mad, but I started
25 thinking about it when I was walking by big,

1 fat basset hound, you know, look what she
2 got? She is on welfare, she got an Access
3 card, free rent, free insurance, you know,
4 that we pay for, free utilities, free cable,
5 she takes a cab downtown and stops for
6 groceries because she told me that. She
7 probably goes to Denise's and gets her hair
8 fixed free. She is right. We are a bunch
9 of fools and these people it's just time to
10 limit them.

11 When you leave here go through the
12 Midtown apartments and look at the bunch of
13 the nice new cars over there. Go through
14 Park Gardens and look at all of the nice new
15 late model cars. The taxpayers are
16 subsidizing all of this and it's not just
17 right. It's time something was done. When
18 you have -- when you're on welfare you get
19 that sheet every month, I mean, every year
20 to fill out and it asks what kind of car you
21 got, income and all of that, people just
22 getting away with murder. Just like that
23 tree. That lady put a new roof on the house
24 and we paid for it. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les

1 Spindler.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
3 Council. Les Spindler, city homeowner and
4 taxpayer. There is not much more that can
5 be said about the public safety people, I
6 have said for years I'm totally against any
7 public safety people being laid off, you
8 don't have to be a rocket scientist to
9 figure out I know where I live anyway, if
10 Engine 9 is taken off the street it's going
11 to take a lot longer for the engine to get
12 to my house from Luzerne Street than Engine
13 9 would be, and I don't want that to happen.
14 I don't want police officers cut.

15 The people that should be cut are a
16 lot of the people that work in this
17 building. We have a human resources
18 director who is totally unqualified. She
19 has a degree in fashion. We don't need a
20 degree in fashion design as our human
21 resources director. I'd rather have more
22 firefighter and police officers on the
23 street.

24 There was an article the other day
25 in the Doherty newsletter about cameras and

1 Captain Graziano and he said he thinks we
2 need more cameras. I don't think we need
3 more cameras, we need more police officers
4 on the street. There is an example, there
5 is two cameras on Dorothy Street at the
6 playground, one is pointing at the
7 basketball court, one is pointing at the
8 playground, neither one works, so I have it
9 written down here and maybe Chief Duffy
10 could look into that unless he is too busy
11 chasing people that are drinking, but I
12 don't think the cameras are doing any good,
13 we need more people on the street, that's
14 what's going to prevent crime, not cameras.

15 Moving on, recently at this last
16 Planning Commission meeting there was an
17 Attorney David Rinaldi that spoke, there was
18 supposed to be a Sonic built on Olive
19 Street, you know, where the Ice Box used to
20 be and he was looking out for our children,
21 he said children are going to get obese if
22 there is a Sonic built there because they're
23 going to eat fast food, well, children are
24 going to eat fast food no matter if they go
25 to McDonald's or Burger King. A Sonic would

1 be another business that has people working
2 in this city.

3 He wants to put an office building
4 there. That's just what we need is another
5 office building. Has anybody walked around
6 downtown Scranton lately and seen all of the
7 office space that's available. The Southern
8 Union building is almost all empty, there is
9 office space all over. Look at the Mt.
10 Pleasant on Linden Street, that was supposed
11 to be offices, that's empty. We don't need
12 another office building. Would anybody know
13 if this is the same Rinaldi that did the 500
14 block of Lackawanna?

15 MS. EVANS: I don't know if there is
16 a relation.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Because I know that
18 was a Rinaldi, also.

19 MR. HUGHES: No, they are two
20 different Rinaldis, two different families.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, okay. Another
22 article in the Doherty newsletter the other
23 day about ECTV threatening to go off the air
24 if they don't get funding, and to quote John
25 Darcy, "He said it's possible that it can go

1 out of business. It's a possibility if we
2 don't get the money."

3 Well, I have said from day one let
4 them go out of business. They're
5 incompetent, Scranton Tomorrow did a much
6 better job, if we have to not have council
7 meeting for a few weeks I would be happy
8 with that if we get Scranton Tomorrow back
9 and, Mr. Migliore want onto say that they
10 focus on events and activities in the
11 community. Well, if the Chicago White Sox's
12 and Betty Boop cartoons are the community I
13 beg to differ with them because that's the
14 kind of programming they show.

15 I hope when it comes time council
16 gives ECTV a bounce or like I would call it,
17 it was Elect Christ TV. Chris Doherty
18 picked this handpicked committee to pick
19 ECTV, so I hope we get Scranton Tomorrow
20 back.

21 The last thing I have to say, a week
22 from tomorrow, Wednesday, December 8, the
23 Tripp Park Neighborhood Association presents
24 "Meet your Neighbors" at the Tripp Park
25 Community Center from 7 to 10 p.m. It's an

1 evening to get the neighbors to know each
2 other, we're going to have adult beverages
3 and light fare for nothing, so anybody in
4 Tripp Park that wants to attend it's next
5 Wednesday at 8:00 at the Tripp Park
6 Community Center from 7 to 10 p.m. and I
7 hope we get a lot of people there. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Chris Hallock.

10 MR. HALLOCK: How you are doing,
11 Council? Chris Hallock, tax paying citizen,
12 member of the FOP. I'd like to first start
13 off by saying my words up here when I come
14 to the podium are not meant to discredit the
15 city, they are not meant to discredit the
16 mayor, who I stated previously I think has
17 done great things for this city. It's not
18 meant to discredit the police department or
19 Chief Duffy, whose resume speaks for itself.
20 I simply come up here as Chris Hallock,
21 concerned citizen, and member of the FOP.

22 With that said, the last two weeks I
23 have come to this podium I have come to this
24 podium to speak in front of this council, in
25 front of these people, in front of the

1 people watching at home. The council, you
2 people here, and people watching at home
3 have opened your ears and I believe most
4 importantly have opened your hearts to what
5 I have to say.

6 Over the past two weeks I have
7 experienced a lot of support from council
8 and from the great citizens of this city. I
9 received phone calls, text messages, and
10 people have come up to me and voiced their
11 support and appreciation for what I am
12 doing. Many people told me it's brave for
13 coming up here week after week. People
14 telling me it's brave for me to go every
15 shift to put my life on the line to protect
16 my fellow partner and this great city.

17 I would just like to take this time
18 and tell everyone here in attendance,
19 everyone watching at home and tell you,
20 Council, that it is my privilege to serve
21 and protect all of you on a daily basis. It
22 is my Honor to come here and be your voice,
23 to work and fight for your safety. I would
24 like to take this time to thank each and
25 every one of you who have supported not only

1 me, but the remaining officers and firemen.
2 As I stated last week, without strong
3 community support a police department will
4 not succeed in it's goal of a safe
5 community.

6 In an interview with the Scranton
7 Times the mayor of this great city is quoted
8 as saying, "This is an important budget and
9 we feel it's the foundation for the future."

10 The foundation for the future.
11 These pieces of paper and the ink on them
12 are the foundation for the future. With the
13 upmost respect, I strongly disagree with
14 that statement. The foundation of the city
15 are the hardworking men and woman who call
16 this city home. That could be traced back
17 to our heritage of the hardworking coal
18 miners. That's what this city is known for.

19 The foundation of the city are the
20 great citizens who come together in cold
21 weather to celebrate an annual tradition of
22 lighting the Scranton Times tower.

23 These strong community values are
24 the foundation of Scranton. The men and
25 women who go out every day and night to

1 serve and protect this great city they are
2 the foundation, not some pieces of paper
3 with some numbers and words on them.

4 The future of Scranton are the
5 children and our public schools, the public
6 schools that have gangs in them. The future
7 of the Scranton are children who walk the
8 streets of Scranton, the streets that have
9 criminal activity occurring on them.
10 Without a strong foundation, there will be
11 no future. Without the hardworking men and
12 woman raising the future generation and
13 passing on the community values there will
14 be no few fewer. Without the public safety
15 working to provide and build upon a safe
16 community there will be no future.

17 This, the great citizens of the
18 Scranton, this is neither the foundation nor
19 the future. Each and every one of you here
20 and watching at home are the foundation of
21 the future. The men and women who go out on
22 a daily businesses and put their life on the
23 line, they are the foundation and the
24 future. I would like to thank each and
25 every one of you for your continued support.

1 In these hard times we rise up and unite.
2 We must unite as a family. We must unite as
3 a state, and most importantly we must unite
4 as a country. We must unite for the future.

5 This, these pages, are not a
6 foundation for the future. Each and every
7 one of us are. We hold stock in the stakes
8 of this, not pieces of paper or ink written
9 on them. Thank you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
11 would like to address council?

12 MR. ROGALEVICH: Good evening,
13 Council. Roger Rogalevich, Scranton Fire
14 Department, Local 60. Hopefully I can to
15 this in as simple and easy way as I can.
16 This is the NFPA 1710 Standard. It's
17 written by an organization up in
18 Massachusetts that writes consensus
19 standards for the fire service. This is the
20 bare minimum of what fire services should
21 perform, they are standards. The last I
22 checked there was pretty close to 300 NFPA.
23 The City of Scranton abides by a great
24 majority of them.

25 This standard 1710 is titled, "The

1 Standard for the Organization and Deployment
2 of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency
3 Medical Operations and Special Operations to
4 the Public by Career Fire Departments."

5 That's what we are here in Scranton.
6 This standard was adopted on May 26, 2009,
7 and with an effective date of June 15, 2009.
8 Every three years these standards are
9 revised and updated. This standard applies
10 only to a single-family residence structure
11 fire, and they define that as a typical
12 2,000 square foot home with no basement, no
13 exposures, which means there is quite a
14 distance between the buildings, and if you
15 look at it that also has no alley. Most of
16 the houses in Scranton are 35 foot by 30,
17 two-story, which puts you at 2,100 square
18 foot, which is above what this standard is
19 designed to cover.

20 There is quite a few definitions on
21 what structural fire fighting is. The
22 easiest way to explain is I go to work,
23 someone calls 911 their house is on fire, I
24 put my gear on, I arrive in a big red truck,
25 I pull the hose out, go to the house and I

1 put the fire out. They set bench marks that
2 have to be and should be attained to provide
3 the best quality service to keep the people
4 of the community safe as well as the
5 firefighters. They, for some reason, did
6 everything in seconds as opposed to the old
7 standard of minutes, but the first engine
8 company should arrive in 240 seconds, which
9 is four minutes. A full assignment should
10 arrive within eight minutes. That means
11 that your other engine is there, your rescue
12 company is there, your chief officer is
13 there and your aerial ladder truck is there.

14 This standard also goes into great
15 detail to state that fire suppression
16 operations shall being organized to ensure
17 that the fire department suppression
18 capability encompass deployment of
19 personnel, equipment and resources for an
20 initial arriving company, initial full alarm
21 assignment, and additional alarm assignments
22 if the fire is beyond those capabilities in
23 first due companies.

24 And they set some very simple
25 benchmarks on staffing. Engine companies

1 should have a compliment of four personnel,
2 that's the driver, the officer and two
3 firefighters on the back. Rescue companies
4 shall also have four personnel, and truck
5 companies shall also have four personnel as
6 a minimum.

7 Now, Scranton, of course, we all
8 know does not have any of these indicated
9 high hats or occupancies. There is no
10 schools, no hospitals, no special medical
11 facilities like Allied or St. Joseph's, no
12 high-rise residential buildings, no
13 occupancies in neighborhoods with close
14 structural proximity to one another. If you
15 drive up the Hill Section you can see there
16 is six, eight inches, that's more than
17 enough between some buildings.

18 I have been on three fires in my 22
19 years where three or more buildings went
20 because of the closeness of the buildings.
21 Two of those fire were in the daylight hours
22 around noontime.

23 First alarm assignment of dispatch
24 you shall have one incident commander who
25 establishes command outside, that's the

1 chief. One pump operator, that's the guy
2 that stands at the engine, pulls some
3 levers, hooks up the hose into it when
4 somebody finally does leave from the hydrant
5 and supplies the hand lines with water.
6 Four personnel on two hand lines. That's a
7 nozzle man, the person at the nozzle at the
8 end of the hose that controls and opens and
9 shuts it to squirt water on the fire and a
10 backup person because, to be honest with
11 you, if you are putting out 150 gallons a
12 minute through a hose it's a lot of
13 pressure, and if you have a garden hose with
14 really good pressure you hold it with one
15 hand and it pushes you back, now you are
16 putting out 150 gallons as opposed to 15
17 gallons. You can see where two people are
18 needed.

19 It also calls for two backup
20 personnel. One of those personnel is the
21 person that is on the other arriving engine
22 company that is connected to the fire
23 hydrant, those metal things that stick out
24 of the ground to hook a hose up to and you
25 drop the line down the street, and another

1 person helps stretch the hose.

2 Two search and rescue persons. We
3 always try to do things in a buddy system.
4 I go in a burning building at my company by
5 myself because I have just the driver when
6 I'm first in. Search and rescue when the
7 rescue comes they have two people, that's
8 for safety. One searches the room and one
9 stays in the hallway, they come out, they
10 move to the next room, the person that was
11 in the hallway searches the room, it
12 conserves energy, it conserves air, plus
13 you're in constant contact, the other person
14 can be monitoring in case things start to
15 turn very poor.

16 Two persons for ventilation, that
17 means throw ladders and poke a hole in the
18 roof. People don't like when we poke the
19 hole in the roof, we do it for a reason, not
20 because we want to damage your house, we
21 want to get the smoke out so we can see
22 better.

23 One aerial operator that stands in
24 the turntable and moves the big ladder up
25 and down, and a two-person initial response

1 RIT team in case a firefighter goes out.
2 This is for a room and contents fire. If
3 the fire goes beyond room and contents fire,
4 you also need an incident safety officer who
5 comes and just orbits around the fire and
6 makes sure that everybody has their gloves
7 on, their breathing apparatus, he is looking
8 to see if the fire is doing something that
9 is unexpected, it's believed to be in the
10 front room and all of a sudden the fire is
11 in the back. The way the smoke is moving
12 they have very great responsible position
13 that has to be performed, and people don't
14 understand that they see a person standing
15 there just looking at the building what he
16 is actually doing.

17 And your RIT team also increases by
18 two members up to four now because I don't
19 know how most people are, but I know if one
20 of my brother firefighters go down I will
21 kill myself to get him out, but when you
22 pulling somebody it's dead weight and it
23 takes a lot out of you to drag somebody up
24 or down a flight of steps.

25 As I stated, this is for a first

1 alarm response. First engine must be
2 on-scene in four minutes, then every one
3 else must be on-scene within eight minutes.

4 Under the mayor's proposal, I seen
5 the study that was presented to you by
6 Mr. Judge, I do not know of the full amount
7 of scenarios, I was not privy to that, about
8 under the mayor's proposal the eight minute
9 response time I cannot see being met.

10 The way that we operate at present,
11 as I stated, if I am first in on a fire in
12 West Scranton and I pull a line I know
13 within three to four minutes I have six
14 people coming to help me. That's one
15 company of three laying the hose line, the
16 truck company that is scheduled to be
17 eliminated along with that engine company,
18 which is going to be eliminated, are there
19 within three or four minutes in bad weather
20 or heavy traffic.

21 Under the mayor's proposal, I am in
22 the building with the third person, which is
23 great, I'm out of water, 750 gallons a
24 minute, in four, maybe five minutes with a
25 partner. Then we pull outside and we watch

1 your house burn until another engine comes
2 with three guys in maybe eight minutes, but
3 the rescue will be on scene in probably four
4 minutes under the mayor's proposal from
5 Engine 9 to West Scranton, and this also
6 applies to North Scranton and Greenridge,
7 but they do not have the hose to lay from
8 hydrant, they do not have an on-board water
9 tank capable of providing water to suppress
10 a fire, so I will get three more people
11 there that can actually start to do a
12 limited search while I'm running out of
13 water trying to save your house. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
16 council. My name is Dave Gervasi. I'm the
17 president of the firefighters' union.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. GERVASI: As you have heard
20 tonight this is kind of the Reader's Digest
21 version of what everyone will be able to
22 hear on Thursday night at 7:00 at Scranton
23 High School. That night all of the
24 gentlemen you heard here tonight and others
25 will be there to explain factual

1 information. All of the information that
2 you received in that study we are going to
3 expand on that. All of that information is
4 not speculation. All of that information is
5 taken from actual records of response time.

6 What we have tried to do, because
7 it's so hard to break it down to each
8 individual street to let every single person
9 in the city know exactly how long it will
10 take us then what it's compared to now, we
11 have broken it down for the school district
12 and the few here William Prescott School, if
13 you're within four or five blocks of William
14 Prescott School and you hear those numbers
15 you will know how long it's going to take to
16 get to your house. If you hear Scranton
17 High School, when you hear the new school
18 they are building, so any -- Bancroft, any
19 of these schools, any of these neighborhood
20 schools that we will be addressing the
21 changes of what it is now and what it's
22 going to be if the mayor's budget goes
23 through and those engine company and truck
24 company closures happen, take place.

25 This is actual information taken

1 right from past runs that we have been on.
2 We know how long it takes for each
3 individual company to get to certain areas
4 of the city, and you will be able to hear that,
5 and again, that's Thursday night at 7:00 at
6 Scranton high School. If anyone is
7 concerned about this please come down, you
8 will be able to ask questions. I believe
9 the mayor and the fire chief were invited to
10 go, I hope they show up and let the people
11 know their plan, but we know there is no
12 plan. There is no plan whatsoever.

13 One thing that Captain Seta said
14 here tonight, and I think it's very
15 important for everyone to know, these cuts
16 were not made based on any type of impact,
17 safety impact study, these cuts are not
18 being proposed because of fire safety for
19 anyone in certain areas of the city. These
20 cuts were specifically done for a political
21 reason. Closing Engine 4 still leaves a
22 truck company at headquarters. Closing
23 Engine 9 and Truck 4 and putting Rescue 1 up
24 there, which is not an engine company, gives
25 people a false hope that, you know, fires

1 can be put out in the Tripps Park and
2 Bullshead area of the city in a timely
3 manner. Well, it's not going to happen, so
4 these proposals were made simply with no
5 thought involved and how least political
6 damage it can do this administration.
7 What a way to run a fire department.

8 So again, if maybe one of you or two
9 of you can come to this, we are going to
10 explain this in-depth and you will know
11 what's going on. One important thing that I
12 want to break down, you heard all of these
13 numbers tonight, and here is a guy, Captain
14 Rogalevich, he's got a master's degree, he
15 did his master's thesis on staffing and NFPA
16 1710. Nobody ever asked him if these
17 proposals are okay. There is guy who would
18 help the city in a heartbeat for free, and
19 you don't have to pay this guy to do that,
20 but they didn't.

21 But what you need to understand, and
22 it's a very, very important thing that you
23 need to understand with these cuts is right
24 now currently we are able to have a
25 full-blown structure fire, we bang our SRN

1 which bring extra companies in the routine,
2 a second alarm we can still do that and
3 still right now have at least an engine
4 company or two left over to take care of
5 another call.

6 As you heard Captain Seta say at any
7 given incident we have 23 percent of the
8 time one out of every four calls that we
9 have there is an incident going on at the
10 same time. With the proposed cuts that the
11 mayor has, not to get scientific, we are
12 going to be a one fire or one major incident
13 department. Once we're at a burning
14 structure, a burning building with a
15 structure fire that's it. If a second one
16 comes in we have nothing left in the city.
17 Nothing.

18 And as you will also hear on
19 Thursday night, it's something that nobody
20 has been talking about, I mentioned it here,
21 the staffing he is talking about, bringing
22 us down to 110-man department, it's not
23 three companies closing, you are going to
24 hear the horror stories and the response
25 times for three companies closing. It has

1 to be four. Manning it has to be four or he
2 is going to be spending a ton of money on
3 overtime. He doesn't have to spend any
4 machine on overtime, only \$100,000, it's
5 impossible to close just three companies and
6 go to 110 personnel. Not going to happen.
7 So you are looking at four closures not
8 three.

9 So come and learn the facts Thursday
10 night 7:00 at Scranton High School. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. NEWCOMB, JR: Good evening,
14 Council. Again, I talked to a lot of people
15 over the last couple of weeks and they have
16 told me about they don't really like this
17 budget and I have talked to people that
18 supported this mayor over his last three
19 elections and I was quite taken aback when
20 these people told me he is wrong. They
21 applaud council for attempting what they
22 want to do and they are afraid to come to
23 this podium because of the repercussion that
24 they can have for speaking out, I'm at the
25 point in my life where I could care less.

1 It's all about my family and the safety for
2 that.

3 But do we all remember in the heated
4 mayoral election, I know I do, the signs
5 that were up all over the city that said,
6 "Don't take the bait." It had a big fish
7 swallowing a little fish and people came to
8 this podium and they had stated that it's a
9 scare tactic, it's the unions trying to keep
10 their job.

11 The last council that sat here,
12 Mrs. Gatelli, Mr. McGoff, and Mrs. Fanucci
13 all said it's a scare tactic, don't listen
14 to it, it's not going to happen. What
15 happened? Now, all of a sudden, we are in
16 this position.

17 The people talked about the cameras
18 before, \$250,000. Do you remember when that
19 was in the paper? It was about two weeks
20 before the last election when those -- when
21 that was on the front page of the newspaper,
22 that the mayor is getting all of these
23 cameras? What was that for?

24 I have been very fortunate in my
25 life never to have a fire in my house and

1 everybody has been talking about fires. I
2 have had the unfortunate experience of
3 having a flood in my neighborhood two weeks
4 after I purchased my house, and the first
5 people that came there to help me were the
6 men and women of the Scranton Fire
7 Department. At the same time, that I was
8 protecting my property the Crisp Avenue
9 Bridge gave way and the whole neighborhood
10 behind me on Merrifield Avenue was flooded
11 and people had to be rescued from their roof
12 and do you know who did that rescue? The
13 Scranton Fire Department, and you know who
14 was there for days upon days upon days
15 getting that water out of Merrifield Avenue?
16 It was the Scranton Fire Department. Not
17 the mayor, not all of the people that work
18 for him, but the Scranton Fire Department.

19 So everybody is talking about the
20 statistics with the fire, these men and
21 woman also respond to things like this. We
22 are looking at now a possible flooding
23 situation over the next couple of days,
24 these men and women are going to be out
25 there pumping your basements. We can't

1 afford to lose these people.

2 A few years ago I had a neighbor of
3 mine that suffered a cardiac arrest and I
4 did CPR on the gentleman for nearly 25
5 minutes and because the ambulance couldn't
6 find the street and it was a big to-do and
7 we -- I actually went with the family, we
8 had meetings with the county and they
9 literally revamped their whole response
10 system so this never, ever happened again,
11 and the fire department stepped forward at
12 that time, Mr. Gervasi, and I sat at this
13 table with them and they came forward and
14 they said that they would volunteer and that
15 they wanted to put together and they put it
16 in writing a quick response system where the
17 firemen would respond to situations like
18 this within the city so this would never
19 happen again.

20 Everybody was on board with it
21 except for the mayor and he said, "Until I
22 get the contract," or whatever the term he
23 used, "it won't happen."

24 These people have always stepped
25 forward when it comes time for the people of

1 this city to help them and to what they
2 wanted to do. I firmly believe we should
3 still have that quick response system within
4 the city and assist people that need to be
5 done.

6 We also then in turn got AED's to go
7 inside of the police cars. We got a grant
8 from Mr. Kanjorksi's Office, they are no
9 longer there any more. All of this stuff
10 happened for political reasons and it just
11 falls on deaf ears.

12 Where, I'd also like to know, I went
13 through the Christmas lights the other day
14 and I would like to know where the money
15 that's collected from those cars that come
16 through there. Where that does money
17 actually go? Do you know if that goes to
18 the Recreation Authority, is it put in the
19 budget. Do you have any idea?

20 MS. EVANS: I believe it goes to the
21 Recreation Authority.

22 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: To use on their
23 pet projects? So you never see it, in other
24 words, it's just the Recreation Authority's
25 money?

1 MS. EVANS: I believe that's where
2 it goes. I could be incorrect, but I recall
3 having asked that question perhaps a year or
4 two ago and that was the answer I received.

5 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I was curious.
6 When I went through the holiday display the
7 other day and I give a donation and I said
8 to the gentleman, "Here's some money, maybe
9 you can hand it off to your boss and have
10 him keep a firehouse open," and he didn't
11 like that too much, but I was just curious
12 to know where the money went.

13 Also, does the \$52 tax that comes
14 out of your check go to towards the EMS or
15 is that -- does that go to the budget? I
16 don't know where that goes. You remember
17 the \$52 tax?

18 MS. EVANS: It's in the -- it does
19 appear as a line item in the city's
20 operating budget.

21 MR. NEWCOMB: It is specially for
22 public safety or can it be used for
23 anything?

24 MS. EVANS: I believe that much of
25 it is to be designated for public safety.

1 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, I think 100
2 percent of it should be designated, I don't
3 know if it is, towards public safety.

4 And my last two seconds, I'm not
5 going to be here unless something should
6 transpire for the rest of the year, but I
7 want to thank this council for actually
8 listening to the people and taking what they
9 do forward. There's a lot of people out
10 here, and I don't read the newspaper, but I
11 have heard that they have said that you are
12 the whatever council, you don't do things,
13 you have in my opinion accomplished more, I
14 know for my personally for things that
15 needed to get done that any council that sat
16 here before you, and I came to council since
17 I was a junior in high school I had to do a
18 paper on there and nobody ever listened to
19 the people. Nobody. People came before
20 here and they begged with city council not
21 to pass the mayor's budget, nobody ever
22 listened, so I would like to thank you for
23 actually listening to the people and good
24 luck because, boy, you have a big job of
25 head of you over the next couple of weeks.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Charlie, you touched
3 on the QRS, I mean, that's something we have
4 to work on and stuff like that, but I'm a
5 firm believer, and my belief is only
6 enhanced by the action of a gentleman that's
7 in this audience right now, Captain Roger
8 Rogalevich, he responded from Engine 7 back
9 to Keyser Valley, I think it was Merrifield
10 and Price area, a young lady had fallen with
11 her bicycle and the handlebar went right
12 through her leg. She literally bled to
13 death. If he didn't take it upon himself
14 with his skills and his quick response, they
15 got their prior to the ambulance and
16 everything, I'm saying it and I don't know
17 if I ever told him, he literally saved her
18 life.

19 I actually went down with him to
20 Bethlehem, the surgeons, they airlifted her.
21 He called ahead a trauma alert a they
22 happened to have a helicopter at the CMC at
23 that time, but his experience and being able
24 to call ahead they held that helicopter,
25 flew her to Bethlehem, she was literally --

1 they didn't give her a chance down there, it
2 was touch and go, and today she is walking
3 around like nothing happened.

4 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: If I may, I
5 recall that very vivid, it's a block away
6 from my house, and the same gentleman, we
7 were involved in a very bad accident 18
8 months ago, and there is nothing worse than
9 the feeling to be helpless when your kids
10 and your wife are trapped in a car and you
11 can't get them out. He responded on his own
12 with Engine 7 because he knew the Rescue 1
13 was further away and he was literally there
14 within two minutes to be able to ease the
15 situation and help us.

16 So why would you want to change the
17 way that these things are done? And they
18 didn't get dispatched for that, they heard
19 the call, they were there in two minutes and
20 that's the type of services that the city
21 needs to go through with.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: And Captain
23 Rogalevich, I mean, he's a perfect example
24 of the firefighting crew that we have in
25 this city today and they're dedicated and

1 willing to do the extra work as long as --
2 as well as the police department. Over the
3 years, and you could see, he has a master's
4 degree, there is degrees, from the time I
5 was on the department years ago the
6 schooling level has increased dramatically.
7 There is a lot of highly intelligent people
8 on these departments that have a lot of
9 knowledge, a lot of experience and are
10 willing to do whatever they can for the
11 people of this city. That's something that
12 hasn't been tapped into it and that's
13 something I certainly will be looking into
14 myself, and I think the public in this city
15 deserve nothing less and these fine men and
16 women are willing to do it, but someone
17 keeps their thumb on them.

18 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: They keep cutting
19 their legs off, I know.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's all I have to
21 say.

22 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Newcomb, if I could
23 briefly add, the EMS tax, technically, yes,
24 the great portion of that should be used on
25 public safety, it's listed as, you know,

1 everything else is general revenue items,
2 however, the salaries of the police and
3 firefighters far exceed that tax, so
4 technically, yes, the city could say that
5 it's all being used for public safety in
6 this matter.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Jackie. Well,
9 Jack, these guys are doing a good job
10 downstairs. Every one of them are. I'm
11 proud of them all back there and they know
12 it, too. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
14 cares to address city council?

15 MS. CARRERA: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
16 MOTIONS.

17 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
18 you have any comments or motions?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Nothing this evening.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I'll be very
23 brief. I just wanted to share a few of the
24 highlights from the report that was given to
25 us tonight by the firefighters. If we look

1 at the location of the Armstrong School,
2 North Lincoln and Clearview Street, the
3 first due engine there would be no change in
4 response time. The second due engine would
5 take five minutes longer to respond. And,
6 you know, for the last few weeks I'm sure
7 all of us, except for Mr. Loscombe, learned
8 a lot about the fire department because he
9 already knew it, but we have learned that
10 the first truck that arrives only has a
11 limited amount of water, and it's very
12 important for the second truck to get there
13 and hook up the hoses and then move on with
14 extinguishing the fire and the search and
15 rescue.

16 And, you know, a five-minute
17 difference, it may not sound like much if
18 you are watching TV for five minutes, but
19 when your house is burning for five minutes
20 it could mean life or death. It could mean
21 especially in a tight neighborhood like West
22 Scranton and the Hill Section it could mean
23 the difference between your neighbor's house
24 catching on fire as well or if your
25 neighbor's house is on fire your house they

1 are so close to one another.

2 The next case study on here is
3 Audubon School, 1801 Mulberry Street. The
4 first due engine would take approximately
5 six seconds longer, but the second due
6 engine would be three minutes and 24 seconds
7 additional.

8 1801 Mulberry Street, the Audubon
9 School, in this scenario when Engine 4 is
10 out of service the first due engine three
11 minutes and 24 seconds longer, and the
12 second due engine four minutes and 54
13 seconds longer.

14 1002 Albright Avenue, Bancroft
15 School, first due engine one minute and 42
16 seconds longer, second due engine one minute
17 and six seconds longer.

18 Kennedy School, Prospect and Saginaw
19 Street, first due engine there would be no
20 change, the second due engine that would be
21 two minute and 54 second change, so three
22 minutes longer.

23 McNicholl's Plaza School, the second
24 engine again would be a minute later, and
25 there is six of them listed on here, I'm not

1 going to read them all because I know it's
2 been a long meeting and everyone else has to
3 talk as well.

4 Fellow Street, West Scranton
5 Intermediate School, the second engine would
6 be a minute and 30 seconds longer again.

7 Scranton High School, 63 Munchak
8 Way, first engine two minutes and six
9 seconds longer, second engine one minute and
10 54 seconds longer.

11 The Scranton Times building, the
12 first engine would be three minutes and six
13 seconds longer to respond and the second
14 engine would be one minute and six seconds
15 longer to respond. You might want to get
16 that one in the article, Josh.

17 Smallcomb Drive, Allied Services,
18 the second engine would be two minutes and
19 48 seconds longer to respond, and Allied
20 Services has senior citizens live there,
21 people who have problems walking, problems
22 getting around, so it's very important that
23 we have a quick response.

24 Allied Services, if Engine 8 is out
25 of service the first engine would be four

1 minutes and 12 seconds longer in response
2 time and the second engine would be three
3 minutes longer.

4 Now, I didn't read the whole study,
5 obviously, because there is -- it's pretty
6 thick and I would be here all night, but I
7 look forward to attending the presentation
8 at the high school and it just goes to show
9 the importance of keeping these engine
10 companies open and having the guys out there
11 that are going to respond. It's not only
12 fires, just like Mr. Loscombe said, you
13 know, there is many other scenarios where we
14 need our fire department.

15 You know, and also the police
16 department. A family member of mine
17 actually this past weekend had their purse
18 stolen while at a restaurant and, you know,
19 we need more guys on the street combatting
20 crime.

21 And I just want to make a comment, a
22 few people mentioned earlier today that it
23 was the mistakes of the past is why we are
24 in the financial shape we are in now, and I
25 couldn't agree more. You know, if we look

1 back five years, ten years, 20 years, 30
2 years, small savings back then of a few
3 thousand dollars a year, \$10,000 a year
4 accumulated over 10, 20, 30 years would add
5 up to a huge amount of money. We would be
6 in less debt, we would have -- our budget
7 would be smaller now and we wouldn't be in
8 this predicament here where the mayor is
9 trying to cut public safety. I was talking
10 to Mr. Joyce during the week and we are
11 going to sit down and continue to discuss
12 our council's amendments.

13 And I have one citizen's request,
14 it's the permit parking sign was not
15 reinstalled on the 500 block of Quincy
16 Avenue as he requested several months ago.
17 He said there was were several cars parked
18 there without parking permits and wanted the
19 police to be notified to ticket the cars.
20 He would also like the permit parking sign
21 reinstalled.

22 So I have this here, would you
23 please forward this to the chief and to
24 Mr. Brazil as well? And that's all. Thank
25 you.

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

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you. I
5 just have a couple of quick items here.
6 Last week I had met with Kevin Murphy's
7 chief of staff, Tom Tell, on a situation
8 across from Weston Field regarding a worry
9 about the new power lines that are going
10 there, and there was this flyer going around
11 the Providence area, if some of you have
12 seen it or not, but Mr. Tell had given me a
13 call when he received some calls from
14 constituents regarding this, and I was happy
15 to go down there and meet with some of the
16 neighbors.

17 And let's see, who else was there,
18 Rich Beasley from PPL and some people that
19 owned I believe -- just purchased the
20 property across the road. There was a
21 concern, and rightly so when you see new
22 power lines and stuff going in today because
23 of that major project from the Poconos,
24 however, it was explained to me by
25 Mr. Beasley that this was not at all a part

1 of that. Today everyone worries about the
2 EMF's, the electromagnetic fields that are
3 put out my high tension wires and stuff.

4 In actuality, what they are doing is
5 they are replacing some very old polls and
6 wires that were put up in the 30's, and
7 believe it or not, even wires get like water
8 pipes the resistance builds up and the
9 electricity doesn't travel through them as
10 fast, so what they are doing is putting up
11 new lines where the electricity will travel
12 faster, no increase in voltage. They are
13 actually going to be anywhere from 10 to 20
14 feet higher, the wooden polls than the
15 existing polls, so any current
16 electromagnetic fields that were on those
17 old wires will actually be abated because
18 they will be farther away from any of the
19 areas.

20 They do have to put a couple of
21 metal polls on the hill because of the slope
22 to run the wire down, but any of the
23 residential areas they will have the new
24 wood poles and the new -- anyone in the area
25 like Clearview Avenue and that have

1 experienced it already, so he said,
2 Mr. Beasley said everything went fine there.
3 Again, it's not as invasive as digging up
4 the street to put in sewers or gas lines or
5 water lines.

6 And what they do is, he sent me an
7 e-mail today actually, he said, "Jack, this
8 is the letter that goes out to the residents
9 prior to us doing any work in the
10 neighborhood. Later this week we are
11 running two ads that explain what we are
12 doing and where, and he told me to call if
13 he has any questions and also offered to
14 come in to a caucus and explain to the
15 people if there is any question beyond this,
16 basically that's where we are at this point.

17 And the letter that all of the
18 people in the affected areas are going to
19 get, "Dear PPL electric utility customers,
20 I'm writing to let you know about work we
21 will doing in your area. Over the next
22 three to four months PPL electric utilities
23 working with his contractor, Asplundh
24 Construction Corporation, will be upgrading
25 aged power lines and poles in your

1 neighborhood.

2 The project will involve replacing
3 older wood poles. The new poles will be 10
4 to 20 feet taller than the old poles. The
5 increased height is necessary to comply with
6 electrical codes, including those pertaining
7 to grand clearance. Wires on the old poles
8 will be replaced with new wires, but the
9 line voltage will remain the same.

10 The existing lines were purchased by
11 PPL Electric from the former Scranton
12 Electric. They were built in the 1940's and
13 have remained largely unchanged since then.
14 The work is needed because this power line,
15 much of it now 70 years old, is no longer
16 adequate to serve the electric needs of our
17 customers in the city and surrounding area.
18 The project will ensure the customers in
19 this area have reliable electric service and
20 enough electricity to meet their anticipated
21 demand for power well into the future.

22 During the course of this project,
23 we will be make every effort to keep
24 disruptions to a minimum. Some brief power
25 outages may occur during normal working

1 hours when contractors transfer customers to
2 the upgraded system. If you will be
3 affected by one of those outages, we will
4 come to your home and attempt to notify you
5 prior to the outage. They also may be
6 temporary parking restrictions in work
7 areas. In the days before crews start work
8 on your block, an informational door hanger
9 will be placed on your front door. Please
10 read it carefully and feel free to contact
11 me with any questions or concerns.

12 Thanks for your patience as we work
13 to improve the system that delivers your
14 power. Sincerely, Rich Beasley."

15 And this is going on right along
16 Weston Field right now, so I just wanted to
17 alleviate some fears on that issue.

18 I read in the paper this morning
19 that Governor Rendell has vetoed the
20 firefighter cancer bill that was pushed
21 through by Representative Kevin Murphy who
22 has done a lot of work on this here. It was
23 modified, but with the help of Mayor Doherty
24 and 19 other mayors sending a letter into
25 Governor Rendell against this situation

1 Governor Rendell decided to veto it, and
2 it's nothing different than a miner with
3 black lung.

4 As a firefighter, I see many of my
5 brothers that I worked with previously, many
6 of them that are retired that have cancers
7 and diseases that I have never seen so much
8 in anybody. Every time they turn around one
9 of my friends is being diagnosed with
10 something. And it was limited to certain
11 cancers which they feel related to fires.

12 You know, 60 years ago the fires in
13 these properties were all wood. Today there
14 is so many carcinogens and synthetic
15 products in the structure and chemicals out
16 there that these men are going through and
17 it affects them down the road, and that's
18 what this bill was pushed for, but in their
19 distorted figures and everything they were
20 able to convince this governor, who I don't
21 believe has been a friend of labor anyway,
22 to veto this, and I'm saying that from heart
23 as a fellow firefighter, but if I wasn't I
24 would still think they deserve the dignity
25 for what they do in that situation.

1 And I mentioned the donations from
2 -- there was a letter to the editor the
3 other day from Watson Cramer, and he kindly,
4 him and so far he has got another donation
5 for us from Doris Chase, I actually met with
6 them earlier today, too, and they are trying
7 to get a fund together where they are
8 worried about their public safety, as
9 everyone else is, and rightfully so they are
10 right in the downtown in the high-rise and,
11 you know, there is a fear out there, and I
12 assured them that we are working diligently
13 on a budget that will try to give them the
14 best protection we possibly can.

15 And lastly, I'm not going to discuss
16 the budget tonight, I'm saving my comments
17 for next week when I'm sure I will have a
18 bundle of comments on it, and that's all I
19 have. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Joyce,
21 any comments or motions?

22 MR. JOYCE: Just a few. First I'll
23 start with some citizens' requests. This
24 has been a recurring issue that has
25 constantly come up, the whole issue of

1 Greenbush and Reese Street, and it's not the
2 same North Scranton residents that inform me
3 of this, it's quite a few. It's different
4 ones every time and it's just a recurring
5 problem, and if you are not familiar with
6 the two streets, there are two streets, one
7 goes up to the Career Technology Center,
8 it's one-way, and the other one goes down to
9 the Career Technology Center. There is many
10 people there live on these streets, it's a
11 well-traveled area.

12 Anyhow, the residents that I have
13 spoken to informed me that this hasn't been
14 touched in about 30-plus years. I know that
15 council has sent various requests to
16 Mr. Brazil, I don't believe this is one of
17 the matters that he has responded to, so if
18 you could please send a letter over to him
19 and ask him if there is any plan in the near
20 future to repair these two streets. And
21 also, if not, please inquire back as to when
22 repairs can be expected.

23 Also, a North Scranton resident has
24 informed me that the property located at
25 2149 North Main Avenue is in very poor

1 condition and is not well-kept. The
2 resident informs that this property has lead
3 to an increase in rodent infestation in the
4 neighborhood and also in their own personal
5 home. Mrs. Krake, if you could please send
6 a request to Mr. Seitzinger asking him to
7 look into the situation.

8 Also, West Scranton residents have
9 informed me that both 1401 and 1409 Price
10 Street are in extremely poor shape, because
11 of this residents have concerns about the
12 value of their neighborhood as well as
13 various rodent problems that I have heard of
14 in that block. Mrs. Krake, if you could
15 also add this to the letter to
16 Mr. Seitzinger, these two locations.

17 Finally, a South Scranton resident
18 has informed me that there are two condemned
19 properties on the corner of the 100 block of
20 Meadow Avenue where squatters are coming in
21 and out. Also, the resident reports that
22 they see suspicious activities happening at
23 these properties on a regular basis.
24 Mrs. Krake, if you could please add this to
25 the letter to Mr. Seitzinger and also

1 include a copy to Chief Duffy asking him to
2 examine the situation.

3 Finally, I would like to publically
4 thank Doris and David Chase for their
5 generous donation to the City of Scranton
6 for public safety, and also to Watson Cramer
7 who is starting the collection of some
8 donations to help out with the public safety
9 costs.

10 I will be very brief tonight as far
11 as the budget because I will have plenty to
12 say next week, I could assure that. Anyhow,
13 as you know, a few weeks ago council was
14 handed a budget, a balanced budget, however,
15 it was a budget that jeopardizes the public
16 safety and welfare of the human beings that
17 live in this city, kids, senior citizens,
18 middle-aged people alike. It cuts public
19 service, it lowers response times on a fires
20 and it puts less cops on the streets.

21 I have been working tirelessly, I
22 know that all of the other members of
23 council have also been working tirelessly to
24 generate solutions to help fix the problems
25 that instituting this budget will eventually

1 occur if it's adopted, and next week we will
2 present amendments to you about that and
3 those amendments will have all of the
4 considerations that we have heard from the
5 public in mind.

6 So with that being said, that's all
7 I have to say for tonight and next week
8 we'll continue and amendments will be
9 proposed. That's all.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.
11 Good evening. First, I have read the report
12 of the regional inspector general for audit
13 Philadelphia region regarding the operations
14 of the Scranton Office of Economic and
15 Community Development provided to city
16 council by Mr. Ozzie Quinn, president of the
17 Scranton-Lackawanna County Taxpayers'
18 Association.

19 In addition, I have examined the
20 2009 and 2010 invoices of the UDAG account
21 which contains payments for banquet program
22 events, tables of the ten, at local dinner
23 events and donations to ECTV, among other
24 wasteful spending, all of which the
25 knowledge -- or, excuse me, all of which

1 lack the knowledge and approval of the city
2 council.

3 In fact, this re-re account appears
4 to function as a personnel checkbook for the
5 mayor and OECD when these monies can and
6 should be used for necessary and important
7 issues.

8 As a result, I will be taking the
9 following action with the agreement of my
10 honorable colleagues: First, the regional
11 inspector general and HUD officials will be
12 contacted earlier in the new year to attend
13 a caucus to discuss the results of the 2010
14 audit of the CDBG program as well as the
15 loan and UDAG issues.

16 Second, I would like to see
17 legislation drafted by council to require
18 the approval of any and all payment
19 dispersed from any and all UDAG accounts by
20 Scranton City Council. I will not approve
21 any new loans through the Office of Economic
22 and Community Development until such time as
23 council meets with the Inspector General's
24 Office and HUD representatives and the mayor
25 and his administrators will no longer have

1 the UDAG checkbook beginning 2011.

2 Next, council recently selected
3 Rossi & Company to perform the annual
4 independent audit of city council for the
5 fiscal years 2010 through 2013 amid a
6 divided council vote. The annual difference
7 of \$3,000 between Rossi & Sons and Rainey &
8 Rainey was weighed against the demonstrated
9 experience of the auditor and continued
10 cooperation with city council in an
11 environment of administrative and municipal
12 authority secrecy.

13 The following information was
14 recently provided by the auditor and
15 substantiates the wisdom in council's choice
16 of Rossi & Company. According to the
17 auditor, Mr. Renda borrowed approximately
18 \$2.9 million from the worker's comp fund in
19 2009 and transferred it to the general fund
20 without the knowledge and approval of
21 Scranton City Council. Neither the auditor
22 nor city council knows for what purpose this
23 \$2.9 million was used in 2009.

24 When confronted with related
25 questions from the city clerk during a PEL/

1 DCED meeting, Mr. Renda said that he didn't
2 know if this transfer needed to come before
3 city council. However, city council must
4 approve and adopt an annual budget in which
5 worker's comp is included and council must
6 be informed of all transfers of funds
7 through the fiscal year. He also claims to
8 have returned the borrowed money to the
9 worker's comp fund in 2010. However, since
10 the 2010 audit has not yet begun, the
11 auditor cannot determine currently what
12 transpired in 2010 and from what accounts or
13 sources the money was taken in 2010 to
14 return into the worker's comp fund.

15 It is clear, nevertheless, that the
16 administration did not want council to be
17 aware of it's financial maneuverings, and
18 only the auditor was able to determine this
19 and report it to council even before the
20 2009 audit is completed and released.

21 Consequently, council's office has
22 been in contact with the Department of Labor
23 and Industry and financial institutions to
24 determine the current dollar amount in the
25 excess fund, the worker's comp fund, the

1 amount of funding required by law, and any
2 possible over funding of this account.

3 In addition, to Mr. Renda's covert
4 actions, equally troubling is the apparent
5 involvement of PEL in DCED. When Mrs. Krake
6 posed questions to Mr. Renda regarding the
7 withdrawal funds from the comp fund, PEL and
8 DCED officials remained silent. They showed
9 no surprise and asked Mr. Renda no questions
10 about the 2.9 million, neither for what
11 purpose it was used nor when and from what
12 accounts the money was returned.

13 I must question if the Pennsylvania
14 Economy League and the Department of
15 Community and Economic Development have been
16 acting in the best interest of the City of
17 Scranton and it's taxpayers.

18 I question if the City of Scranton
19 has purposely remained distressed in order
20 to strengthen Act 47 distressed city status
21 and weaken Act 111, police fire and
22 collective bargaining in the Pennsylvania
23 Courts, and further, what would happen to
24 the PEL team if Scranton lifted it's
25 distressed status? They lose their jobs

1 here only to scout and encourage another
2 city to adopt distressed status.

3 The 18-year failed leadership of PEL
4 has taken on a new light. It's blessings on
5 yearly borrowing, the 25.6 percent tax
6 increase of 2007, expanding bureaucracy, and
7 the debilitating Doherty debt seems almost
8 logical and predictable now. PEL never
9 stopped this mayor's mismanagement because
10 it seems to have been working in concert
11 with the mayor to keep us distressed.

12 DCED, comrade of PEL, then
13 determined to use our city as it's test case
14 in the Pennsylvania Courts to empower a
15 failed Act 47 and weaken unions statewide.
16 Although this theory has long been floated
17 locally, I endeavor to maintain an open mind
18 and a respect for PEL and DCED in the hope
19 that contracts would be settled fairly and
20 the distressed status would be lifted.

21 However, PEL's knowing and
22 purposeful silence regarding the hidden
23 borrowing of city money lends such credence
24 that what was once a theory now appears to
25 be a very harsh reality.

1 Furthermore, the Pennsylvania
2 Economy League proposes debt refinancing for
3 the 2012 budget, but it fails to recommend
4 the same refinancing in this budget which
5 could have helped prevent the proposed
6 layoffs of 69 employees.

7 Consequently, I have no faith or
8 confidence remaining in our PEL team and our
9 DCED representative, both of whom are
10 blatantly aligned with the Doherty
11 administration, profess pride in wasteful
12 Court cases, and have lost any modicum of
13 objectivity in their actions.

14 In fact, as we learned over a month
15 ago, DCED stood in the way of a 2008
16 contract settlement with the police and fire
17 unions that would have saved this city a
18 significant sum of money and instead took us
19 by the hand back into the Court system.

20 Neither entity serves for the
21 benefit of our city and it's residents and
22 this unacceptable state of the affairs will
23 be addressed by council in the new year as
24 well.

25 I would like to take a moment next

1 to recognize and thank Doris and David
2 Chase, residents of Adams high-rise, for
3 their \$20 contribution to the public safety
4 manpower initiative. I would also like to
5 thank Mr. Watson H. Cramer, Jr. He, too, is
6 a resident of the Adams high-rise and he has
7 turned these donations as a public safety
8 manpower initiative.

9 Now, the Chase's donation represents
10 a portion of the Chase's small monthly
11 income, and because they are renters rather
12 than homeowners they wish to do their part
13 to fund public safety and prevent the
14 crippling cuts proposed by Mayor Doherty
15 which jeopardize the health, safety and
16 welfare of the citizens of Scranton.

17 Scranton City Council is deeply
18 grateful for their meaningful and generous
19 donation. Mr. Watson -- or, excuse me,
20 Mr. Cramer actually wrote a letter to me,
21 which I received tonight in my council mail,
22 indicating that he will be making a donation
23 of \$50 to the city later this week for the
24 public safety manpower initiative, and I
25 thank all of these individuals who are

1 concerned enough about their neighbors and
2 about this city to take from their very
3 small and fixed incomes in order to do their
4 part to maintain public safety within the
5 City of Scranton, and I think that is
6 probably one of the greatest gifts that I
7 have seen during my time on council.

8 Finally, I have a few updates
9 regarding the citizens' requests from DPW
10 Director Brazil. The walk light located
11 near the Guild Studio has been repaired and
12 the "No Left Turn" sign will be removed.

13 Mr. Brazil also states that the
14 paving program has ended for the year, but
15 Dexter Avenue and the 300 block of Cayuga
16 Street will be placed on the 2011 paving
17 list.

18 Lastly, the aerial proximity warning
19 devices, and again, I don't believe we have
20 the proper terminology for these pieces of
21 equipment, are in the possession of the tree
22 crew and Gene Reed, both of whom utilize the
23 bucket truck daily, and that's it.

24 MS. CARRERA: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
25 ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A FIVE MILLION

1 (\$5,000,000.00) DOLLAR PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, TAX
2 AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE OF THE CITY OF
3 SCRANTON KNOWN AS TAN SERIES A, AWARDED TO
4 PENN SECURITY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY;
5 DETERMINING THE FORM AND TERM OF SAID NOTE;
6 AWARDED SAID NOTE; AUTHORIZING AND
7 DIRECTING THE FILING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS;
8 AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE
9 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ANY AND ALL
10 OTHER ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED IN
11 CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF SAID NOTE.

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

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE
2 ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NINE AND ONE HALF
3 MILLION (9,500,000.00) DOLLAR PRINCIPAL
4 AMOUNT, TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE OF
5 THE CITY OF SCRANTON KNOWN AS TAN SERIES B,
6 AWARDED TO THE FIDELITY DEPOSIT AND DISCOUNT
7 BANK; DETERMINING THE FORM AND TERM OF SAID
8 NOTE; AWARDING SAID NOTE; AUTHORIZING AND
9 DIRECTING THE FILING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS;
10 AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE
11 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ANY AND ALL OTHER
12 ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED IN CONNECTION
13 WITH THE ISSUANCE OF SAID NOTE.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. CARRERA: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
4 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
5 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A
6 LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE
7 COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN
8 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.30 IN AN AMOUNT
9 NOT TO EXCEED \$89,500.00 TO AUTO BODY PLUS,
10 LLC TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, I
17 would like to make a motion to table 5-D at
18 this time.

19 MS. EVANS: We have motion on the
20 floor, do we have a second?

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Purpose of tabling it?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, a couple of
25 reasons, I think Mrs. Evans alluded to it in

1 her comments, based on recent audits from
2 the OECD and, I mean, personally I don't
3 know who these people are that are getting
4 the loan, it has nothing to do with them,
5 but I think we have to look over every loan
6 at this point and every grant to make sure
7 every "I is dotted and every "T" is crossed
8 or we may lose more funding.

9 MS. EVANS: As I might add, I
10 discussed earlier tonight I won't approve
11 any new loans through the Office of Economic
12 and Community Development until city council
13 is in receipt of a clean bill of health for
14 OECD from HUD and the regional inspector
15 again of audits.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I understand the
17 concern that council may have over the audit
18 that was conducted at OECD, however, I don't
19 think that it's at this time in our economic
20 distress that we are in, I don't think that
21 this is the time to stop development. This
22 is a something that would create three new
23 jobs, I realize that that's not a lot, but
24 it's still --it's still economic development
25 and I think that to stagnate that would be a

1 disservice.

2 MS. EVANS: And I can see your
3 point, three jobs are very important in this
4 economy and that is why I believe council's
5 wish could possibly be to table this rather
6 than voting it down. It's not a matter of
7 trying to hold up progress or anyone's
8 ability to move forward with businesses in
9 this city, but because there are so many
10 very valid issues that require examination
11 within the Office of OECD, I think it is
12 prudent for us to temporarily set aside any
13 forward movement until we can clear up what
14 has been occurring over the last year or two
15 in the office.

16 MR. ROGAN: I would actually agree a
17 little bit with each of you. You know, why
18 not just move it along this week, have
19 another week to look at it, and then if we
20 still have the concerns table it in Sixth
21 Order next week?

22 MS. EVANS: We won't have any
23 answers by next week because what we intend
24 to do is bring in the gentleman from the
25 Office of Inspector General of Audits and

1 also to bring in HUD representatives to
2 speak with us about what has been occurring
3 in OECD, how it's being addressed and what
4 the city needs to do to insure that. If the
5 funding is accounted for that the programs
6 are being monitored and managed correctly
7 and most of all that they are not going to
8 ever have to repay \$11 million.

9 MR. ROGAN: Well, I definitely agree
10 and I think we all do about the a lot of the
11 problems in that office, we have all read
12 about it, but as Mr. McGoff said, I just
13 don't think simply not lending out any money
14 is the solution in these economic times, and
15 we saw at the end of 2008 into 2009 one of
16 the biggest problems in the economy was that
17 banks weren't lending to small businesses
18 and, you know, small businesses to get
19 started up they need assistance.

20 And I don't know all of the facts on
21 this case to be honest with you, but I think
22 we should give it a chance, let it go to
23 next week and if we still have concerns we
24 can table it next week. Just like the
25 budget, you know, I don't think any of us up

1 here support the mayor's budget, but we have
2 to vote it to next week as a procedural
3 vote. So, you know, obviously, we -- I
4 personally need more information.

5 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
6 the question?

7 MR. JOYCE: I will say this, I
8 personally don't feel comfortable with just
9 moving it along especially, you know, I do
10 agree that we need to be lending out money
11 in certain circumstances to qualified small
12 businesses, but because of the some of the
13 procedures followed in the past, and I know
14 you have read off a list of businesses that
15 have gone bad on loans, so I think that
16 concerns that Mr. Loscombe and Mrs. Evans
17 have are quite valid in this circumstance
18 and if we get the information that
19 Councilman Loscombe originally requested or
20 that he wants to see we would certainly have
21 no problem with possibly suspending the
22 rules in the future I'm sure to move it
23 along if it's something that needs to be
24 approved quickly.

25 MR. ROGAN: Well, I strongly believe

1 before we make any loan we have to make sure
2 everything is squared away, and the bad
3 loans that were made in the past I know
4 myself and those of us we had nothing to do
5 with them, you know, I believe we had a
6 different chairperson of economic and
7 community development and different members
8 on council, but moving it to next week isn't
9 going to harm anything. We have to vote for
10 a budget that every one of us completely
11 disagrees against us and received a
12 procedural vote to move it along. That's
13 all I'm saying is tabling it. We had a
14 piece of legislation that's been of an
15 appointment that's been tabled for almost
16 two months now.

17 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
18 the question? All those in favor of tabling
19 Item 5-D, please signify by saying aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

23 MR. MCGOFF: No.

24 MR. ROGAN: No.

25 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so

1 moved.

2 MS. CARRERA: 5-E. APPOINTMENT OF
3 THOMAS PREAMBO, 510 DEAN STREET, SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY
5 PLANNING COMMISSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR
6 (4) YEAR TERM. MR. PREAMBO'S TERM EXPIRES ON
7 DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL
8 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question?

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I
16 would like to thank Mr. Preambo for sending
17 in a resume. I'm sure everyone received it
18 in their mailbox.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. ROGAN: And I would hope that
21 Mr. Richardson and Mr. Hayes and Ms. Randol
22 will do the same. I will vote "yes" on
23 those three next week as we have in the past
24 to move it to Sixth Order and if their
25 resumes are not submitted I will vote "no."

1 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
2 question?

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I, too, would also
4 like to thank Mr. Preambo for sending in his
5 resume. I do not know this individual
6 personally, but after reading about some of
7 their interests and credentials I will say
8 that this is very well-qualified person and
9 I am glad to vote "yes."

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. I do know Tom
11 personally, and I didn't have to look at his
12 resume, although it's required. I do know
13 he is qualified.

14 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
15 introduction signify by saying aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: 5-F. APPOINTMENT OF
23 JERRY RICHARDSON, 829 CAPOUSE AVENUE,
24 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509, AS A MEMBER
25 OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR AN

1 ADDITIONAL FOUR (4) YEAR TERM. MR.
2 RICHARDSON'S TERM EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31,
3 2010 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON
4 DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. CARRERA: 5-G. APPOINTMENT OF
20 RAYMOND HAYES, 2637 CEDAR AVENUE, SCRANTON,
21 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, TO THE BOARD OF THE
22 SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY. MR. HAYES WILL BE
23 REPLACING FRANCIS NOONEY, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES
24 ON DECEMBER 31, 2010. MR. HAYES' TERM WILL
25 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

15 MS. CARRERA: 5-H. APPOINTMENT OF
16 ELIZABETH RANDOL, 622 SOUTH WEBSTER
17 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505 AS A
18 MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE SCRANTON SEWER
19 AUTHORITY. MS. RANDOL WILL BE REPLACING LEO
20 VERGNETTI WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON DECEMBER
21 31, 2010. MS. RANDOLS' TERM WILL EXPIRE ON
22 DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

12 MS. CARRERA: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

13 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 49
14 2010 – AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF THE
15 COUNCIL NO.82, 2007 ENTITLED “APPROVING
16 PENALTY, INTEREST AND FEE SCHEDULE
17 FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE
18 TAXES”.

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

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

23 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. CARRERA: 6-B. READING BY TITLE-
8 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50 2010 - AN ORDINANCE -
9 APPROVING PENALTY, INTEREST AND FEE SCHEDULE
10 FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE
11 TAXES AND REFUSE FEES.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
15 pass reading by title.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? As I
18 noted last week, city council continues to
19 research Items 6-C and 6-D and both may be
20 amended or voted down in Seventh Order next
21 week. Anyone else on the question? All
22 those in favor signify by saying aye.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

4 MS. CARRERA: 6-C. READING BY TITLE
5 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 51 2010 - AN
6 ORDINANCE - APPROVING FEE SCHEDULE FOR
7 DELINQUENT TAX SEARCHES, DELINQUENT AND
8 CURRENT REFUSE SEARCHES, AND
9 LIEN/CONDEMNATION SEARCHES.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
13 pass reading by title.

14 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

23 MS. CARRERA: 6-D. READING BY TITLE
24 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 52 2010 - AN ORDINANCE
25 - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF

1 THE
2 CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON
3 THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2011 TO AND
4 INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2011 BY THE ADOPTION
5 OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR
6 THE YEAR 2011.

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

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

11 MR. JOYCE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question?

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I
14 know our plan is for the amendments to be
15 made next week, my only concern was if we
16 wait until after citizens' participation to
17 make amendments then the public that was
18 here wouldn't have a chance to comment on
19 council's amendments, so I would request
20 either that, Mr. Joyce, if you would like
21 last time when we amended the mayor's budget
22 I know you did a very nice presentation at
23 the beginning of the meeting -- or opening
24 up public comment again for after the
25 amendments are put in.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Sure. I'm in
2 agreement with that.

3 MR. ROGAN: Great.

4 MS. EVANS: I might add though that
5 despite I think many of the comments tonight
6 by my honorable colleagues, council's
7 amendments to the mayor's proposed budgets
8 may not be ready for the December 7 meeting,
9 may actually be presented on December 14 due
10 to the fact that city council continues to
11 work on the budget not only potential cuts
12 that are occurring and reinstatements of
13 positions, but also potential revenue
14 sources so that council proceed at best as
15 it possibly can under these very unusual and
16 difficult challenges, we will perhaps give
17 ourselves an extra week.

18 MR. ROGAN: Whether it's next week
19 or the week after just so the public will
20 have a chance to address council before the
21 final vote. And I understand every time I
22 go through the budget I find something new.
23 It's a very long document.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MS. EVANS: And I believe that all

1 of us will be voting "yes" to this
2 legislation only so that it can proceed to
3 Seventh Order at which time it will, indeed,
4 be amended by city council. Anyone else on
5 the question? All those in favor signify by
6 saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
14 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
15 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
16 47, 2010 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL
17 CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229596 ENTITLED "COMCAST
18 EG GRANT" FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT
19 OF
20 GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE CITY OF
21 SCRANTON THROUGH THE RENEWAL OF THE CABLE
22 FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH COMCAST.

23 MS. EVANS: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chair for the
25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
6 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 declare
17 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. CARRERA: 7-B. FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
20 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 48, 2010
21 (AS AMENDED)- AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
22 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
23 AND ENTER INTO A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT
24 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND COMCAST OF
25 COLORADO/PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA, LLC.

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

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I really do want
7 to see this get passed. I just wanted to
8 ask do we have any assurance that Comcast is
9 going to agree to this with the changes that
10 we have made?

11 MS. EVANS: I think that Comcast and
12 likely Attorney Cohen will have to discuss
13 the changes because what council has done
14 through it's amendment is to prevent the
15 authorization and adoption of the contract
16 as submitted until such time as the
17 amendments have been included into the
18 contract, meaning, the lowering from 15 to
19 10 years and maintaining two stations.

20 MR. MCGOFF: So we don't know if
21 Comcast is agreeable to this or not?

22 MS. EVANS: No, at this point we do
23 not.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Is there
25 anyone else on the question? Roll call,

1 please.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

13 MS. CARRERA: 7-C. FOR
14 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
15 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO.
16 51, 2010 -
17 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
18 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
19 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
20 APPROPRIATENESS FOR REEVES AWNINGS, 623
21 LINCOLN AVENUE, JERMYN, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR
22 TWO TRADITIONAL STYLE 9'+ 4" AWNINGS WITHOUT
23 SIDES AND WITHOUT VALANCE INSTALLED OVER
24 WINDOWS AT 410-412 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA.

1 MS. EVANS: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chair for the
3 Committee on Community Development?

4 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Community Development, I
6 recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
9 call, please?

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

21 MS. CARRERA: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION-
23 RESOLUTION NO. 52, 2010 - AUTHORIZING THE
24 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
25 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR

1 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH PENNSYLVANIA
2 CLAIMS SERVICES, INC. FOR THE THIRD PARTY
3 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY'S WORKERS'
4 COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: At this time I would
6 like to make a motion to table Item 7-D.

7 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to
8 table Item 7-D on the floor, is there a
9 second?

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Again, reason?

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Reason being you
14 actually mentioned last week you wanted to
15 know if this was the lowest responsible
16 bidder and as we have tried to do some
17 research, I know it was a short week with
18 Thanksgiving and that, the people who were
19 out of town today I guess in Harrisburg we
20 still haven't gotten a response from some of
21 the questions regarding that issue, so
22 basically that's the only -- the only
23 question I have at this time and I know
24 there was some other things that were
25 brought up.

1 MS. EVANS: I think I would be in
2 agreement with Mr. Loscombe, we haven't been
3 able to determine if this is, indeed, the
4 lowest responsible bid. However, to ensure
5 that the city is covered I did learn that
6 the previous third party Administrator's
7 contract expires October 1, however, they
8 have been working for the city on a
9 month-to-month basis since then until such
10 time as the city selects and approves a
11 company for a new contract, so the city
12 worker's comp issue is covered. Anyone else
13 on the question? This is a vote on the
14 motion to table Item 7-D. All those in
15 favor of tabling Item 7-D signify by saying
16 aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

23 If there is nothing further, I'll
24 entertain a motion to adjourn.

25 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

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MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER