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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

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

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR  
(Not present.)

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

16 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD  
17 MEETING HELD JANUARY 26, 2011.

18 MS EVANS: Are there any comments?

19 If not, received and filed.

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE

21 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION

22 HELD ON MEETING HELD JANUARY 26, 2011.

23 MS EVANS: Are there any comments?

24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. CONTROLLERS'S

1 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31,  
2 2011.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE  
6 SCRANTON FIREFIGHTERS PENSION  
7 COMMISSION MEETING HELD JANUARY 26, 2011.

8 MS EVANS: Are there any comments?  
9 If not, received and filed.

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE  
11 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD  
12 JANUARY 26, 2011.

13 MS EVANS: Are there any comments?  
14 If not, received and filed.

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. AGENDA FOR THE  
16 ZONING HEARING BOARD TO BE HELD MARCH 9,  
17 2011.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. AGENDA FOR THE  
21 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD  
22 FEBRUARY 23, 2011.

23 MS EVANS: Are there any comments?  
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. CONTRIBUTIONS WERE

1           MADE TO BE USED FOR MANPOWER IN THE CITY OF  
2           SCRANTON'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT BY  
3           THE FOLLOWING CITIZENS: DORIS & DAVE CHASE  
4           \$20.00, WATSON CRAMER \$50.00, WATSON CRAMER  
5           \$50.00, STEVE & BONNIE PRUNELLA \$3.00,  
6           WILLIAM CRAMER \$3.00, STAN BURLINGAME \$3.00,  
7           ELIZABETH CRAMER CRUMLE \$3.00, CAROL & DONNA  
8           HAGERTY \$10.00, HELEN, WH CRAMER \$25.00,  
9           ANNIE EKTERMAN \$10.00, SCRANTON LACKAWANNA  
10          COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION \$50.00.

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

13                   MS. EVANS: Once again, we thank all  
14                   of the individuals who and organizations who  
15                   have contributed to the Manpower Initiative.  
16                   We appreciate any donations that you make  
17                   regardless of how small, how large, it makes  
18                   a statement that our police and our fire are  
19                   very important to the people of this city.  
20                   Received and filed. Clerk's notes.

21                   MS. KRAKE: This evening, Mrs. Evans  
22                   and Council, I'm going to be reporting on a  
23                   Pennsylvania Economy League meeting that I  
24                   attended today on behalf of city council.  
25                   During that meeting, the business

1 administrator went over the cash report and  
2 he told us that come July there is a raise  
3 to be given per the Court award for police  
4 and fire of 3 percent as part of the monies  
5 they haven't received over the past ten  
6 years, and his words were, "If the real  
7 estate money doesn't come in, there will be  
8 a huge deficit in the budget."

9 I asked the Pennsylvania Economy  
10 League, who was represented by Joe Boyle, if  
11 at any time they had recommended to the city  
12 what to do if the police and fire unions had  
13 won their cases, and he said that if the  
14 awards came down in the middle of the year,  
15 such as this, apparently, then they were to  
16 go immediately to a financial institution  
17 and borrow the money.

18 So I then turned to Ryan McGowan,  
19 business administrator, and asked him if he  
20 was going to borrow the money, and he said,  
21 no, he was going to lay people off.

22 So I asked him who he is going to  
23 lay off, and first he said, "Well, I haven't  
24 decided yet," and then he said, "Well, it  
25 will be layoffs across the board. It will

1 be everyone, every department."

2 And I said, "Well, what about when  
3 you borrowed or I should say stole the \$2.9  
4 million from the worker comp in 2009 and  
5 then paid it back 2010?"

6 In other words, pointing out to them  
7 how they have funds available for when they  
8 choose to have funds available. And he  
9 said, "Well, we did that in 2010, also."

10 And I said, "Well, what did you use  
11 the money for?"

12 He said, "We used it for salaries."

13 Apparently, they used that money in  
14 2009 for salaries, paid it back in 2010 with  
15 our 2010 real estate taxes that were already  
16 earmarked for monies other than that in our  
17 2010 budget, per the mayor, and then  
18 apparently he did it again in the end of the  
19 2010, and then was going to, I don't know  
20 how pay it back in this year.

21 Now, as sad as that was, the worst  
22 part was Lisa Moran, the Human Resources  
23 Director, started laughing. Laughing at the  
24 part about massive layoffs. The business  
25 administrator also started laughing, and the

1 person from Pennsylvania Economy League, Joe  
2 Boyle, was trying to hold back laughter.

3 Apparently massive layoffs are funny  
4 to them. They made comments, Lisa Moran  
5 did, such as, "What do you think, we have  
6 bags of money? Where did you think we are  
7 going to get the money from," and  
8 continually in this vein.

9 I had to excuse myself. I wasn't at  
10 all happy with this conduct and it was very  
11 unprofessional. In fact, in speaking about  
12 it, it's a little unnerving again. You  
13 know, I am reporting that to council this  
14 evening. They falsified their budgets --

15 MS. EVANS: That was going to be my  
16 question to you --

17 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

18 MS. EVANS: We, in 2010, just became  
19 aware that they had tapped into the worker's  
20 comp trust fund, we never learned the reason  
21 until today.

22 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

23 MS. EVANS: To balance a budget and  
24 pay salaries, and then I learned once again  
25 that in 2010 they dipped into that fund and,





1 intend to dip into the real estate taxes  
2 immediately to pay back or to fill the hole  
3 that they secretly created in 2010?

4 MS. KRAKE: I'm actually speechless.

5 MS. EVANS: So that the real estate  
6 taxes then would come up short for what they  
7 have -- what the appropriations are within  
8 the 2011 budget, and that is no way, that is  
9 no way to run a city. Concealing the  
10 finances and falsifying budgets.

11 MR. JOYCE: And if I might add,  
12 Mrs. Krake, I apologize to you that you had  
13 to be subject to unprofessional conduct, if  
14 you were, I do not know, I was not at the  
15 meeting. However, in regard to Ms. Moran's  
16 comments as far as if she said, "What do you  
17 think we have, bags of money?"

18 Well, it seems like they have had  
19 bags of money for the last nine years to do  
20 whatever they want, and this has been a  
21 customary procedure that money has been  
22 dipped into or borrowed out of this fund or  
23 borrowed out of that fund in the case of the  
24 worker's comp trust fund. So it's  
25 interesting, and I find it very curious,

1 that they would borrow out of this fund to  
2 fund the salaries of city employees in the  
3 past and then pay it back next year, but  
4 they wouldn't be willing to do so until tax  
5 monies came in later in the year this time,  
6 and I wonder if that is specifically because  
7 it may involve laying off more cops and more  
8 firefighters. It's just curious  
9 observation.

10 MS. EVANS: And it doesn't seem to  
11 be though, also, in keeping with the mayor's  
12 reinstating of four foremen's positions in  
13 the DPW. One would think, since he is well  
14 aware of what he has done, though council  
15 was not, that the last thing he could afford  
16 to do in those circumstances would be to  
17 reinstate people with, I don't know, I'm  
18 going to say approximately \$16 an hour and  
19 full benefits who are working full-time, so  
20 it seems like certain departments may be  
21 targeted, while others are by passed.

22 I also find it shocking that the  
23 administrators present at this meeting and  
24 those representing the Pennsylvania Economy  
25 League and the Department of Community and

1 Economic Development would find massive  
2 layoffs to be comical. I find it appalling  
3 because they are laughing basically at the  
4 people of this city and this isn't a game.  
5 They may feel it's a game, and they are  
6 playing a very dangerous game here, but it  
7 is not a game.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans took the  
9 words right out of my mouth, I'm appalled at  
10 what Mrs. Krake just reported. And again,  
11 they are laughing -- they are laughing at  
12 the taxpayers of this city. They are  
13 supposed to be professionals, they are  
14 supposed to look at their budgets and  
15 prepare for the future, it just seems like  
16 it's a joke to everybody that's running  
17 this, and again, I'm appalled. I just can't  
18 believe that this happened and PEL sits idly  
19 by.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, it's not only  
21 insulting to the taxpayers, but more so, it  
22 makes it impossible to develop an accurate  
23 budget when the administration is playing a  
24 game of chance with millions of dollars from  
25 a worker's comp trust into a budget, they

1 are pulling it out of other places, taxes  
2 that are allocated for specific  
3 expenditures, it's a very dangerous game of  
4 chance.

5 MR. JOYCE: And if I might add,  
6 there was no where in the operating budget  
7 that was submitted that indicated that money  
8 would be transferred to the worker's comp  
9 trust fund out of the budget in any line  
10 items.

11 MS. EVANS: Well, we thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: It's a gapping hole.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes, apparently so.

14 MR. JOYCE: Apparently so.

15 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, thank you  
16 very much for informing city council and the  
17 citizens of Scranton. If I could just  
18 return to one issue though, PEL suggested  
19 that in the event a shortfall should occur  
20 this summer in order to prevent layoffs the  
21 city should approach banking institutions to  
22 borrow the money that is required?

23 MS. KRAKE: Yes, they did. That was  
24 their suggestion.

25 MS. EVANS: Okay. Well, is there

1 anything else we have tonight under clerk's  
2 notes?

3 MS. KRAKE: No, that's it.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

5 MR. JOYCE: And finally, I would  
6 just like to add, you know, this is some  
7 appalling information and, obviously, we  
8 have the money to hire people that were cut  
9 out of the council's amended budget, we have  
10 the money to pay for memberships for  
11 conferences, for dues and subscriptions, for  
12 hotel stays in Washington, D.C., with  
13 funding that wasn't there, so I can't  
14 understand why workers would be laid off in  
15 the event such as this. That's all.

16 MR. ROGAN: I would just say if the  
17 mayor wanted to layoff the four DPW foremen  
18 that, as Mrs. Evans mentioned, weren't in  
19 the budget, I would be in support of that.  
20 They are not in the budget, they shouldn't  
21 be working, and if he wanted to make further  
22 cuts in middle management or further cuts at  
23 the DPW I would also support that, but if  
24 Mayor Doherty thinks he is going to cut fire  
25 and police he has another thing coming.

1                   You know, this council has stood  
2                   firm that we need to keep our neighborhoods  
3                   safe, you know, police and fire protection  
4                   are the two most important jobs of this  
5                   government and that's what I believe and I  
6                   will stand by that until the day I'm off  
7                   this board.

8                   MS. EVANS: Do any council members  
9                   have announcements at this time?

10                  MR. JOYCE: Yes. On a lighter note,  
11                  there will be a "Social for Saunders" on  
12                  Saturday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ice  
13                  Box Sports Complex located on 3 West Olive  
14                  Street across from Memorial Stadium. There  
15                  will be food, refreshments, a 50/50 raffle,  
16                  basket raffles, a silent auction and  
17                  entertainment provided by EJ the DJ who is  
18                  very talented and very well-known throughout  
19                  the area. A \$20 donation can be made at the  
20                  door or tickets could be pre-purchased at  
21                  Gerrity's Supermarket or Bottler's Tavern on  
22                  200 Delaware Street in Jermyn, Pennsylvania.  
23                  And that's all.

24                  MR. ROGAN: I have a couple of  
25                  announcements to make. The first one is an

1 announcement for residents of the City of  
2 Scranton who use a gold card at Sure Save  
3 markets. The Hyde Park Neighborhood  
4 Association is part of a promotion that --  
5 well, not a promotion actually a charity,  
6 that the Sure Fine and Western Family  
7 products are doing. If you sign up on the  
8 website, it's [www.mycommunityrewards.com/  
9 suresave/default.htm](http://www.mycommunityrewards.com/suresave/default.htm). If anyone would like  
10 me to repeat that I can -- they could e-mail  
11 or call me and I'll get it to them. 3  
12 percent of whatever you purchase from a Sure  
13 Fine store, Sure Fine products or Western  
14 Family can be donated to the West Scranton  
15 Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and it's  
16 3 percent throughout the whole year and  
17 during special times during the year that  
18 jumps up to 6 percent, and it's not a cost  
19 out of your pocket, you would pay the same  
20 price for your groceries, they will donate  
21 between 3 and 6 percent of the total of your  
22 Sure Save purchases to that group, so if  
23 anyone else is interested they can feel free  
24 to get in contact with me.

25 And the next two were two e-mails I



1 received from Scranton High School, two just  
2 bits of good news. The Scranton Knights  
3 boys basketball team completed a solid  
4 regular season campaign finishing with an  
5 impressive 21 and 2 record. The Knights are  
6 seeking their consecutive District II  
7 championship. Tom Fish, a four-year  
8 starter, played in his 100th career game.  
9 Tim Fish, sorry, which is a school record.  
10 Asin Dickson also broke the season  
11 rebounding record. Dickson is averaging  
12 10.3 rebounds per game. The Knights will  
13 play the winner of Delaware Valley and  
14 Wallenpaupack game on March 2, 2011.

15 And also, two Scranton high school  
16 students are the St. Patrick's Parade Day  
17 official t-shirt winners. Haley Archer,  
18 tenth grade, was the first place winner  
19 designing the official shirt for the parade,  
20 and Casey Freidman, of 10th grade, was the  
21 second place winner and also has the design  
22 printed on the "T". They will be for sale  
23 on-line and at Scranton High School on March  
24 4, and that's all.

25 MS. EVANS: And I might add, that

1           Scranton High school has quite a record of  
2           first place finishes for annual parade day  
3           t-shirt contest.

4                       I think, too, Mrs. Krake, with the  
5           agreement of my colleagues on council, I  
6           would like to honor the Scranton High School  
7           boys basketball team for their  
8           accomplishments with proclamations, and I  
9           would also like to honor the West Scranton  
10          girls basketball team for their  
11          accomplishments by proclamation as well. If  
12          we can set that up sometime over the next  
13          several weeks and contact the schools for  
14          the appropriate information regarding each  
15          of the team's players.

16                      Saints Peter and Paul church, 1309  
17          West Locust Street, in Scranton, will hold a  
18          pierogi and clam chowder sale every Saturday  
19          before and after the 4 p.m. mass, and on  
20          Sundays before and after the 11 a.m. mass  
21          during the Lenten season. Pierogies are \$6  
22          per dozen and clam chowder is \$7 per quart.  
23          There will also be a bake sale and basket  
24          raffle on Palm Saturday and Sunday before  
25          and after masses. These delicious food

1 items make meal planning much easier  
2 throughout Fridays in Lent.

3 On Thursday, March 23, 1967, James  
4 T. Reddington was killed in action in  
5 Vietnam. Jimmy's immediate family have all  
6 passed away leaving his legacy to his fellow  
7 marines and Weston Field friends to ensure  
8 he is remembered properly. The Board of the  
9 Central City little league where Jimmy  
10 played is going to rename the field  
11 Reddington Field in his honor. This  
12 wonderful gesture on the board's part will  
13 guarantee his name and memory are not  
14 forgotten.

15 On Saturday, June 4, 2011, at the  
16 League's field day a plaque's marker with  
17 his photo will be dedicated at the Dick Moon  
18 Holmes Complex at the top of Wood Street.  
19 They are asking for a donation of any amount  
20 to help defray the cost of this plaque  
21 marker that will be affixed to the little  
22 league building.

23 Again, Jimmy was born and raised in  
24 the Weston Field section and this ceremony  
25 will honor one of our own. Any tax

1           deductible donations should be made out to  
2           the "Central City Little League Reddington  
3           Fund" and mailed to: Central City Little  
4           League, 2003 Greenridge Street, Dunmore, PA,  
5           18512.

6                           And finally, as per the Rules of  
7           City Council, please submit all requests in  
8           writing and be sure to include your contact  
9           information. This will allow our office  
10          staff the ability to contact you if they  
11          require further information while processing  
12          their request, and that's it.

13                          MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, could I --  
14           I didn't know we were doing basketball  
15           tonight, but I would like to offer  
16           congratulations to the Holy Cross boys  
17           basketball team. They are seeking their  
18           fourth consecutive Class AA District title.  
19           They are in the semi-finals tomorrow morning  
20           against Riverside High School, and there is  
21           one Ryan McGoff that is member of the team,  
22           and I'd like to wish them luck and success  
23           tomorrow evening. Thank you.

24                          MS. EVANS: And I will second that.  
25           Great luck and success to Holy Cross, my

1           alma mater.

2                       MS. KRAKE:   FOURTH ORDER.   CITIZENS'  
3           PARTICIPATION.

4                       MS. EVANS:   Our first speaker  
5           tonight is Giovanni Piccolino.

6                       MR. PICCOLINO:   Good evening, fellow  
7           Scrantonians and City Council, may God bless  
8           us all.   My name is Giovanni Piccolino, I  
9           live and work and own a business in the City  
10          of Scranton, and though I'm fully aware that  
11          Rome was not built in a day, and even our  
12          creator needed time to get things right, but  
13          there is lot of positive signs of a taxpayer  
14          friendly government finally in the City of  
15          Scranton.

16                      Mrs. Evans, along with your  
17           supermajority, you have turned a council  
18           full of jokers into a council full of aces  
19           by choosing running mates Mr. Rogan and  
20           Mr. Joyce and appointing Mr. Loscombe, you  
21           guys have created a solid foundation that  
22           has put an end to pay-to-play politics.   You  
23           treat citizens with respect, and we finally  
24           got a tax break.   Well-deserved.   These are  
25           things that we are not familiar with as

1 taxpayers.

2 But all is not wonderful in the City  
3 of Scranton. The snow removal of this past  
4 winter, to put it in I guess one basic word  
5 as a business owner and even as a citizen of  
6 Scranton, it was absolutely horrific. The  
7 Valentine's Day party that we tried to do  
8 for senior citizens was okay, but in light  
9 of it, we had many calls from senior  
10 citizens saying that they really couldn't  
11 get to the pizza shop. Like, we have a path  
12 plowed out, but if someone is to park in  
13 front of the pizza shop then there is just  
14 up and down Lackawanna Avenue by the mall  
15 every where just mounds and mounds of snow  
16 that has not melted, that has not been  
17 removed.

18 You know, I take it for granted, I'm  
19 34 years old, and I can jump over a pile of  
20 snow, but it's not the case in the situation  
21 of elderly people. Also, on Wyoming Avenue,  
22 trying to go to St. Pete's mass is  
23 dangerous. The one entire passing lane you  
24 are opening your door into -- because there  
25 was snow there the whole entire time. You



1 in the city. Center Street right downtown  
2 behind Lackawanna Avenue, there is two ways  
3 for people to come in, off of Adams Avenue  
4 and off of North Washington Avenue, but it's  
5 really only one lane. I think it should be  
6 designated as a one-way, one way or the  
7 other. It's only one lane there, yet from  
8 Washington Avenue you can make a left and  
9 come down the alleyway with the coffee shop  
10 and the former Molly Brannigan's and at the  
11 same time you could make a left off Adams  
12 Avenue and go in, but if there is another  
13 car coming in either direction you have to  
14 pull up on the sidewalk where customers come  
15 or where there is people walking.

16 And last, but not least, for the  
17 Manpower Initiative we would like --  
18 generally down at Buona Pizza we start out  
19 St. Patrick's day t-shirt sale on March 1.  
20 We would like to donate all of the proceeds  
21 of our t-shirt sales through the entire St.  
22 Patrick's Day season, they are pretty  
23 popular, and we make roughly about four or  
24 five on shirts, so everybody come down, buy  
25 a St. Patrick's Day t-shirt and it will



1 short the Manpower Initiative and after St.  
2 Patrick's Day we will give a check to the  
3 city. Thank you very much. Have a great  
4 night.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much,  
6 Piccolino for that generous contribution.  
7 In addition, if you would like to give  
8 Mrs. Marciano any of that information that  
9 you spoke about, if you have any of those  
10 requests, you can provide it to her and then  
11 our office can get busy on that.

12 MR. PICCOLINO: Thank you very much.

13 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Bill Jackowitz.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
17 South Scranton resident and member of the  
18 Taxpayers' Association. Still waiting for a  
19 contribution from the Parks and Recreation  
20 Authority for "Kids Swim Free," 1416 South  
21 Webster Avenue, Scranton, PA, 180505. I  
22 would like to thank all of the generous  
23 people who have donated to the "Kids Swim  
24 Free" program for the past four years.

25 When the citizens of Scranton voted

1 for a strong mayor form of government, did  
2 they also vote to allow the mayor to spend  
3 taxpayers' money without seeking council's  
4 approval? With the strong mayor form of  
5 government that's Scranton residents voted  
6 for and approved, is only the city  
7 controller, business administrator and OECD  
8 director approval required?

9 What I do not understand is where  
10 does the mayor get the right to spend  
11 taxpayers' money on himself or anybody else  
12 for that matter? If he wants to go on trips  
13 and give ECTV money, then he should reach in  
14 his big pockets and start writing checks on  
15 his own personal account, not taxpayers'  
16 checking accounts. Some of the items were  
17 removed from previous budgets or amounts  
18 were decreased, but yet Mayor Doherty  
19 continued spending the money with total  
20 disregard for the approved budgets and cuts.

21 For eight years Mayor Doherty had a  
22 rubber stamp council, minus two, Bill  
23 Courtright and Janet Evans. Mayor Doherty  
24 stated publically, "All I need is three  
25 votes."

1 Well, he had his three votes. That  
2 all changed in 2010 when the voters of  
3 Scranton elected three council members and  
4 pledged to be watchdogs. The first action  
5 the new council did was appoint Mr. Loscombe  
6 as the fourth watchdog for the citizens.  
7 Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci went away and  
8 Mr. McGoff remained as the only Doherty  
9 rubber stamper.

10 We know longer have to listen to Ms.  
11 Fanucci's sermons and speeches about how  
12 good of a job OECD Office was doing and how  
13 all the loans were being paid back and  
14 up-to-date which, by the way, was not  
15 actually the case, citizens later found out.

16 Currently \$11 million investigation  
17 ongoing by US government HUD. Telephone  
18 calls and conversations in the hallway is  
19 not the way transparent government works.  
20 That is the way a backdoor government works.

21 I'm a bit offended that Mayor  
22 Doherty did not write a check to "Kids Swim  
23 Free" while he was in charge of the  
24 checkbooks. Mayor Doherty, there were still  
25 time. Write a check made payable to "Kids

1 Swim Free," mail to 1416 South Webster  
2 Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18505,  
3 before the checkbook is taken away from you.  
4 Make some children happy in Scranton.

5 I hope Mrs. Aebli and  
6 Mrs. Novembrino have answers to why all of  
7 these unnecessary checks were written on  
8 taxpayers' checking accounts using  
9 taxpayers' money. Also, past business  
10 administrator, Mr. Renda, and current  
11 administrator, Mr. McGowan, need to provide  
12 answers to the taxpayers of the Scranton.  
13 Just my opinion.

14 What I have learned sounds somewhat  
15 like money laundering with unregulated  
16 taxpayers' money which Mayor Doherty had  
17 control off along with Mrs. Aebli and city  
18 controller, Mrs. Novembrino. Investigations  
19 to be expanded by HUD and find out what  
20 really happened, just my opinion.

21 My bet is Mr. Jefferson and Mayor  
22 Doherty had some kind of deal for not paying  
23 the taxes and it went bad with council. For  
24 once, council took the time to investigate,  
25 not take somebody's word or chance meeting

1 in the hallway. Are we expected to believe  
2 that Mr. Jefferson did not know about the  
3 back taxes? First, the title company would  
4 research to guarantee a clear title and his  
5 lawyer should have done a title search,  
6 also.

7 By the way, who is Mr. Jefferson's  
8 lawyer on this matter? Anybody we know?  
9 Obviously, Doherty made promises but  
10 couldn't keep them. Job well done,  
11 Mr. Kolajeski.

12 Mr. McGoff, you and the other two  
13 Doherty council members voted in the past in  
14 an ordinance requiring that delinquent  
15 taxpayers must pay additional fines and fees  
16 in order to meet their tax burden with the  
17 city. Do you feel that Mayor Doherty's  
18 action are justifiable by having someone  
19 from the OECD office promise Mr. Jefferson  
20 that he would not have to pay back taxes,  
21 fines and penalties, that you, Mrs. Gatelli,  
22 Ms. Fanucci, defended vigorously stating  
23 that all must pay their fair share of taxes  
24 to the city. Should the mayor send someone  
25 to a developer to make such promises,

1 Mr. McGoff, I hope you answer that, please,  
2 during motions.

3 And the sidewalk deal, assuming now  
4 they realize they couldn't get the tax  
5 relief, so how about hitting the grant fee  
6 bag again. It appears that the sidewalks  
7 have already being completed, let's say the  
8 cost is \$100,000, they ask for \$150,000, it  
9 goes for back taxes. Not a bad deal if you  
10 find the right partner to work the deal  
11 with, assuming that is what happened.

12 We need the feds here ASAP.  
13 Interesting, how this investment works.  
14 Money is put up and somehow paper losses are  
15 incurred that are applied to the investor's  
16 taxes. Intriguing, to say the least. It  
17 must be nice to have friends in high places.

18 Good health is the most important  
19 aspect of life. Freedom is the second most  
20 important aspect of life.

21 I see where Mr. Brazil is  
22 complaining to the Times-Tribune again about  
23 money, I'm almost finished, but maybe they  
24 should not have rehired the four supervisors  
25 who were eliminated from the budget. I hope

1           they are out plowing and picking up the  
2           garbage.

3                       I see where Mr. McGowan is talking  
4           to the newspaper and blaming city council  
5           for removing Mr. McGoff, Ms. Fanucci's and  
6           Mrs. Gatelli's ridiculous fees for  
7           delinquent taxpayers. Mr. McGowan, go to  
8           the mayor's office and ask him why he made  
9           the deal with Mr. Jefferson then come to  
10          city council meeting and tell the public  
11          what Mayor Doherty's answer was. And,  
12          Mr. McGoff, I hope I get an answer from you.

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

15                      MR. TALIMINI: Good evening. Joe  
16          Talimini, citizen of Scranton. Number one,  
17          I want to say one thing, I am appalled and  
18          thoroughly disgusted. Based on what Mrs.  
19          Krake, if it's true, and I have no reason to  
20          believe it's not, this mayor should be  
21          indicted for fraud.

22                      We have right now a city official  
23          who is under indictment by the federal  
24          government for misuse of federal funds. If  
25          this is true that those funds are held in

1           escrow and they were missed, that is  
2           mismanagement of funds. I think we should  
3           call upon the District attorney and the  
4           State Attorney General to investigate the  
5           Doherty administration, and that is your job  
6           as legislator's section. There is no reason  
7           in the world for them to misuse funds like  
8           that.

9                         We have a man, like I said, he is  
10           facing a 16-count federal indictment for  
11           misuse of funds, even though he paid the  
12           funds back, he has been indicted by the  
13           federal government and will stand trial in  
14           April unless he cops a plea out of it, and I  
15           think that's what he's going to do.

16                        Now, the other thing I would like to  
17           do, and what I came here for, number one,  
18           are the city pools going to be open or are  
19           they not, does anybody know?

20                        MS. EVANS: We are assuming the city  
21           pools will be open, however, because the  
22           mayor has dipped into the summer casual  
23           worker's account in order to pay the  
24           salaries and benefits of the four foremen he  
25           reinstated, obviously, there will be far



1 less funds available in this account this  
2 summer. Meaning, there will be a far fewer  
3 lifeguards and fewer summer casual workers  
4 in terms of the high school students and  
5 college students.

6 Now, that signals that one, two  
7 pools possibly will not be in operation this  
8 summer. We did send a letter to the mayor,  
9 to Mr. Brazil, requesting a response what is  
10 the mayor's intention, what pools will be  
11 closed, but like every other request that's  
12 been sent to the mayor there has been no  
13 response.

14 MR. TALIMINI: Well, I have read the  
15 Home Rule Charter. I see nothing in the  
16 Home Rule Charter that gives the mayor the  
17 dictator's power that he has assumed, and  
18 unless council does something I can assure I  
19 will, and I will ask on the fellow citizens  
20 to back me up on this that Chris Doherty is  
21 going to answer to these actions as far as  
22 what Mrs. Krake said and as far as this  
23 misuse of funds.

24 And as far as this goes, if I may,  
25 I'd like to read a letter I got from a very

1           dear friend of mine in Paris, if I may.

2                         It says: "Dear Joe, we are sorry to  
3           hear of Scranton's inability to provide for  
4           it's children. As you know, both Jack and I  
5           grew up in poverty and because of my medical  
6           problems we were unable to have any children  
7           of our own. However, we feel very strongly  
8           that in a nation as rich as the United  
9           States, there is no excuse for political  
10          leaders to turn their backs on the nation's  
11          children. It is sad that so many  
12          politicians only think of themselves and  
13          their contributors when it comes to doing  
14          the job for which they were elected.

15                        Would you please call on the  
16          citizens of Scranton, and especially the  
17          businesses and professionals who benefit  
18          from political affiliation, and doing  
19          business in your city to please make a  
20          contribution to the cause for these  
21          children. The revelers who will soon be St.  
22          Patrick's Day in your city, could surely  
23          afford the price of a couple of beers  
24          towards helping repair the city pools and  
25          allow the children to swim this summer.

1                   We are soon to embark on our own  
2                   celebration, Carnivale, and I can assure you  
3                   that our citizens would never allow such a  
4                   condition to exist in this country."

5                   This incidentally came from France.  
6                   "There is no reason it should exist in  
7                   yours. Please accept our donation of \$10 US  
8                   to kick off any campaign to save your pools  
9                   and to preserve the rights of children to  
10                  enjoy the amenities which Scranton should  
11                  offer them. I regret we could not make a  
12                  larger contribution, but our medical bills  
13                  have been enormous. As you know, we both  
14                  spend considerably and helping poor children  
15                  in underprivileged nations. I'd hate to  
16                  think the United States is one of them.

17                  Perhaps if more people took an  
18                  interest in our children there would be less  
19                  likelihood for them to get into trouble.  
20                  Every industry and business in your city,  
21                  including the colleges and the universities,  
22                  should be more than willing to help out in  
23                  this cause. None of them are really so  
24                  desperate that they couldn't afford to  
25                  support their own children.



1           wonderful woman who has never been able to  
2           have any children of her own.

3                         And in addition to which, she sent  
4           me a \$10 bill and I'd like to add my own \$10  
5           to that to Mr. Jackowitz and the "Kids Swim  
6           Free" program, and I thank you people very  
7           much.

8                         MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

9                         MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you,  
10           Mr. Talimini.

11                        MS. EVANS: Before I call the next  
12           speaker, I do want to clarify an issue that  
13           was raised by Mr. Talimini regarding the  
14           worker's compensation trust fund. A city, I  
15           believe, is able to take money from that  
16           fund as long as it might be 70 percent,  
17           Mrs. Krake, do you remember the percentage  
18           of which must remain funded at all times?

19                        MR. JOYCE: 75.

20                        MS. EVANS: 75 percent.

21                        MR. JOYCE: I believe so, but I  
22           would have to look back on that.

23                        MS. EVANS: And according to  
24           government officials, the remainder can be  
25           borrowed for use by a city as long as it is



1 where the city keeps robbing Peter to pay  
2 Paul, and it's unfortunate.

3 MS. EVANS: I think it also bespeaks  
4 the fact that truly there hasn't about a  
5 balanced budget. Budgets, in fact, at least  
6 for 2010 and 2009 were never balanced  
7 budgets. Yet, they are provided to council  
8 proposed to be such, so it's a very  
9 troubling situation.

10 Our next speaker is Mr. Ron Ellman.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. ELLMAN: I have to apologize for  
15 everybody because last Tuesday I got in  
16 about 12:00, 12:30 and Ms. Rosie was  
17 watching Jay Leno and she looked up at me  
18 and said, "Where you been?"

19 I said, "Council."

20 But she changed tactics on me, she  
21 said, "In that shirt?"

22 I said, "Yeah, this shirt."

23 She said, "You slob. You look like  
24 a fool. You got food all over your shirt."  
25 She said, "People will think Rosie dresses

1           you funny."

2                       So I want to apologize because it  
3           looked -- you know, my shirt looked all  
4           right to me, but probably at lunch time  
5           anyway, and I want to apologize to Ms. Evans  
6           for some jerk that wrote the letter saying  
7           that you referred to the University as  
8           deadbeats. I'll take that credit for that.  
9           I think you are too much of a lady to do  
10          such a thing, but I'm not above that. Those  
11          people haven't done for me. I'd like to  
12          know what they have done for the city  
13          besides ruined the tax base, you know. I  
14          have no use for them.

15                     We got a bunch of people overseeing  
16          the University that never work, never pay  
17          taxes, they just haven't done a thing that I  
18          know of for this city except take houses off  
19          the tax roles. You know, they have to pay  
20          an electric bill, a gas bill, water,  
21          insurance, sewer bill, but they don't think  
22          they have to pay the people of this city for  
23          all of this property they have taken away.  
24          That's why I don't have anything good to say  
25          about them.



1                   You know, the University has  
2 reserves that are far in excess of their --  
3 excess of their requirements. How can they  
4 still be a nonprofit with all of the money  
5 that this place has? There is something  
6 wrong.

7                   Well, I got a question then I'll sit  
8 down, I was talking to a young man in  
9 Wilkes-Barre Sunday and he told me that he  
10 have to pay quite a bit of money on their  
11 maintenance for their levies down there for  
12 the flood control, do we have to do it up  
13 here? I told him -- he asked me, I said, "I  
14 no have no idea, I don't know."

15                   Why I think of it, last week three  
16 houses went off over \$150,000 to two  
17 nonprofits. See, you can't make a budget  
18 with that going on, it's just impossible.

19                   I know you people have heard that  
20 our esteemed governor dropped the insurance  
21 for 42,000 low income people. This is just  
22 unconscionable. It's just terrible. The  
23 salaries that that NEIU that -- what was it  
24 that Rosetti? He was getting \$2,000 a week  
25 salary and \$4,000 a week benefits. This is

1           just -- it's unheard of for people to make  
2           money like that for our little community  
3           situation. And the governor got to take it  
4           from 42,000 people to somebody like that.  
5           That organization, each child is over  
6           \$22,000 because of all of the expense -- all  
7           of the give-aways in it, you know. People  
8           ought to be writing some letters to their  
9           congressmen about what goes on there. I  
10          don't know.

11                     You know, I'm not your enemy. I'm  
12          not. I have created a lot since I have been  
13          talking up here these years, ut, I'm not --  
14          I'm not the enemy. Jefferson is your enemy.  
15          If he ever had to work an honest day he  
16          would starve to death. Rinaldi with his  
17          million dollars sidewalk, there is your  
18          enemy. Paul Mansour buying and selling  
19          houses the last 15 years and not paying a  
20          penny in taxes on nothing, he is your enemy,  
21          not Ronnie. I paid my taxes last year and I  
22          am willing to pay them again this year, you  
23          know. I don't like the idea.

24                     But every week, you know, I get up  
25          here and I listen to -- I listen to other

1 people out here that have suggestions and it  
2 hurts to be disappointed, you know, whether  
3 it's a baseball game or whatever, to see the  
4 city -- I walked around last week downtown  
5 there is so many empty stores and all. It's  
6 hurts. It's -- you know, what do you do  
7 when there is just nothing left to do? It's  
8 just nobody seems to have suggestions that  
9 are -- to bring us out of all of this debt  
10 and everything.

11 And I had a message for you from a  
12 meter maid unofficially, she said to give  
13 them a bonus plan and they'll get you your  
14 tickets instead of this other situation.

15 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,  
16 Mr. Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: I said that'd be all  
18 right with me. Again, I apologize for my  
19 dirty shirt.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

21 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
22 Doug Miller, Scranton.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to begin  
25 tonight by asking council once again if we

1 received a response from DPW regarding the  
2 request I had made about the clearing the  
3 crosswalks by the school?

4 MS. EVANS: I don't believe we  
5 received that response.

6 MR. MILLER: Okay, isn't that a  
7 shock? Who is the chair on the Department  
8 of Public Works, if I may ask?

9 (Mr. McGoff raises his hand.)

10 MR. MILLER: Mr. McGoff, okay? Mr.  
11 McGoff, have you made any attempts to follow  
12 through on any requests that relate to your  
13 committee?

14 MR. MCGOFF: I have spoken to  
15 Mr. Brazil at times. He told me that work  
16 would be done as -- or in a manner which,  
17 you know, they could. I do not know if, in  
18 fact, any of the work has been completed,  
19 that you requested or that you asked about.  
20 I don't know. Have you checked to see if  
21 any of it has been?

22 MR. MILLER: Well, I haven't checked  
23 because I don't believe it's my  
24 responsibility. I made a request as a  
25 citizen and I would hope that you, as the

1           Committee on the Department of Public Works,  
2           would look into that. I don't believe it's  
3           necessarily my responsibility to do that. I  
4           made the request and I'm hoping that the  
5           problem can be solved.

6                   MR. MCGOFF: If you requested it I  
7           assume that you could go and see if had, in  
8           fact, been done.

9                   MR. MILLER: I made the request to  
10          council and I would think that someone who  
11          deals with that committee would be able to  
12          help solve that problem. You know, it's an  
13          issue that's been going on at the school for  
14          awhile in the winter months, and I just  
15          don't think that children should have to,  
16          you know, slipping and falling crossing to  
17          go to school.

18                   And, you know, we have been playing  
19          a lot of games here with getting response  
20          responses from department heads and I just  
21          think it's -- it's a disgrace, and I think  
22          it's a disrespect to the residents of this  
23          city that we can't get answers to simple  
24          questions. I mean, it's just unbelievable.  
25          It really is. You know, I'll -- hopefully

1 next weekly we'll having something new, I'm  
2 not expecting that to happen, but, as I  
3 said, I can only ask.

4 Regarding the Chamber building I  
5 would like to reiterate my statements from  
6 last week, I urge council to continue to  
7 stay the course on this. I don't think we  
8 should be approving a \$3 million loan when  
9 these individuals owe taxes \$75,000 worth.  
10 The newspaper --

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to correct you,  
12 Mr. Miller, that's a grant, not a loan.

13 MR. MILLER: I apologize, a grant.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just so it's --

15 MR. MILLER: Thank you for  
16 clarifying that. The newspaper did state  
17 today -- or not today, but yesterday that  
18 the property may end up being placed on the  
19 county tax sale in the future, but as I  
20 stated in the past, I am all for  
21 development, and I don't criticize anyone  
22 who is willing to come in here and invest in  
23 our community. However, what I don't  
24 support is free rides. We have been giving  
25 a lot of those away for many years and the

1 taxpayers have suffered for far too long,  
2 they are struggling to meet their needs, and  
3 it's not fair to them, and that leads into  
4 the \$250,000 that the same group would like  
5 for the sidewalks.

6 As I said last week, I don't  
7 understand what the deal is with this. From  
8 what I understand, the sidewalks are brand  
9 new. What do they intend to do with this  
10 money?

11 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Miller, I have  
12 response before we vote from OECD. I will  
13 tell you upfront the response wasn't too  
14 clear, but it is a response, nonetheless.

15 MR. MILLER: Okay. It's pretty hard  
16 to get clear responses around here and, you  
17 know, you all know that, so I'm sure we will  
18 be going back and forth with that for quite  
19 sometime. But I just don't believe we  
20 should be giving money away. As I said, we  
21 go down there, the sidewalks are brand new,  
22 they are going to go and rip new sidewalks  
23 out and give these people money? It's  
24 another handout and it's just not fair to  
25 the residents of this city.

1 I'd like to address the UDAG  
2 funding, I believe it's 6-B on the agenda  
3 this evening. You know, Mrs. Evans, you  
4 exposed a heck of a lot last week. I really  
5 want to commend you for that because you  
6 know what, in the past, that never would  
7 have occurred. Just would have been another  
8 thing swept under the rug and we would have  
9 found out about it years down the road.

10 You know, it's the disturbing and to  
11 hear and read some of the things that this  
12 money was spent on, I mean, I'm looking at  
13 an article here from "Go Lackawanna" and  
14 they listed specifically some of the things  
15 that this money was spent on. Over \$100,000  
16 on luncheons, dinners, donations, hotels,  
17 etcetera, but I think the most appalling was  
18 over \$16,000 paid to Carl Greco for alleged  
19 legal services. You know, how many millions  
20 of dollars did we pay this individual over  
21 the years and what have we got in return?  
22 Nothing.

23 \$29,000 for dues for League of  
24 Cities. I believe the mayor stated that  
25 ever the city in Pennsylvania is part of it,



1 so we have to be as well. Well, I  
2 understand that every other city is  
3 involved, but, you know, we are a distressed  
4 city and if we can't be in this League of  
5 Cities because we are distressed and we need  
6 to cut back, well, then maybe we need to sit  
7 out for a year. I don't think the League of  
8 Cities is going to be offended because  
9 Scranton, Pennsylvania, is not in the group.

10 As council stated last week, these  
11 funds should be used for the needs of the  
12 people. We should be investing this into  
13 the neighborhoods. We should be paving our  
14 streets. We should be fixing our curbs and  
15 sidewalks. The every day requests that you  
16 hear from people on the street, that's what  
17 people want to see.

18 You know, and the other thing that  
19 was quite disturbing to me was why would the  
20 city controller sign this off? Why the  
21 mayor could just walk upstairs, hand a piece  
22 of paper, and Mrs. Novembrino can sign off  
23 on this, and perhaps we can send a letter to  
24 Mrs. Novembrino through her office  
25 requesting her to answer why. Why did she

1 do that? What was the reason for it? Why  
2 are we squandering this money? And I think,  
3 Mrs. Evans, last week you said it best, the  
4 checkbook is closed.

5 Let's see, the other issue tonight  
6 and the last issue is regarding an article  
7 that I read in the Scranton Times today  
8 regarding potholes and subsidences. You  
9 know, I kind of found this comical to see  
10 this, because it seems as if the Times is  
11 trying to make this a new issue, like we  
12 don't know we have potholes and subsidences.  
13 I think the question that the Times should  
14 be asking is what are we going to do to  
15 solve the problem? Why haven't past  
16 councils stepped up to the plate and found  
17 solutions to the problems? Because their  
18 intentions were to squander money on pet  
19 projects and be rubber stampers. But I know  
20 we now have a council that's committed to  
21 solving this problem. Mr. Rogan, you stated  
22 it, Mr. Loscombe, you also stated it, that  
23 the OECD funding that we have available that  
24 should be used to invest in paving streets  
25 when the weather breaks and repairing our

1 curbs and sidewalks because that's what the  
2 residents of this city want to see  
3 happening.

4 You know, I support our parks  
5 because I believe it was mentioned that this  
6 money should be invested in parks. Well, I  
7 support them and I know a lot of people do  
8 and I know you do, but I believe the  
9 majority of the residents would like to see  
10 that money spent in their neighborhood.  
11 There is blight, we are condemning homes, we  
12 are tearing things down, and they would just  
13 like to see council use this money to  
14 benefit them, and I'm sure you will do that.

15 And one more comment, if I may,  
16 Mrs. Evans? I'd just like to, as I made a  
17 suggestion in the past to council to make  
18 government for accessible and accountable,  
19 that you would still consider holding town  
20 hall meetings in the future. I believe that  
21 it would be an asset to you to allow  
22 citizens to come forward and discuss issues  
23 for you to gain more information so you can  
24 improve the quality of life in the city, and  
25 that's all for tonight. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Miller.  
2 Does anyone else care to address council?

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
4 Dave Dobrzyn, member of the Taxpayers',  
5 resident of the Scranton.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: I'd like to report a  
9 hole forming on Elm Street above the rail  
10 tunnel.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Where's that?

12 MR. DOBRZYN: That's the back of  
13 Nichol's Plaza, McNichol's. It's directly  
14 above the rail tunnel and it looks like a  
15 sink hole so there is a lot of water getting  
16 in there and if that rail tunnel ever  
17 collapses it's going to be a massive amount  
18 of expenditure.

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. Dobrzyn, if you can  
20 provide that to Jamie Marciano, please, that  
21 would be very helpful.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: All right. Okay, last  
23 week we had a person in here that was  
24 improperly and anonymously -- an anonymous  
25 statement was made about her -- as far as

1 blight, and some things concern me. I mean,  
2 I see in the paper that, you know, there is  
3 a lot of this anonymous tips being  
4 encouraged, and I feel that instead of  
5 anonymous they should be confidential. You  
6 know, you don't want to be -- have the name  
7 out so you don't have a neighborhood problem  
8 or whatever, if there is a person causing  
9 the problem in the neighborhood, but therein  
10 again, people that report inaccurate  
11 statements and if they are poorly  
12 investigated they could lead to some real  
13 problems especially in the case of police  
14 enforcement like drugs or whatever. We have  
15 a policy that SWAT teams are serving search  
16 warrants and so forth. I mean, if I called  
17 911 and reported a fire on Alder Street and  
18 there wasn't a fire, I think I would be  
19 hearing about it, so, you know, people  
20 should be willing -- if they are willing  
21 to at least have their name kept  
22 confidential they should be willing to give  
23 a name so we don't have serial pranksters  
24 and so forth causing some bigger problems we  
25 don't need that.

1                   And is the WFT newsletter -- or  
2                   letter for the grant, is that -- I could  
3                   pick that up sometime during the week, but  
4                   it's getting down to the wire.

5                   MS. KRAKE: During the week would be  
6                   fine, Mr. Dobrzyn.

7                   MR. DOBRZYN: What's that?

8                   MS. KRAKE: Sometime during the week  
9                   would be fine.

10                  MR. DOBRZYN: Okay. Okay. I'll  
11                  look up your number then and get in touch.

12                  Okay, well, it looks like we are  
13                  down to what is it, "B", 7-B. I agree with  
14                  most of the statements that have been made  
15                  already tonight. That has a familiar ring  
16                  on it there, you know, we all -- a quarter  
17                  of a million dollars in taxes and a quarter  
18                  of a million dollars being asked for the  
19                  sidewalk that's already finished. I don't  
20                  see where the proposition is coming from  
21                  there.

22                  Now, finally, for our beloved golden  
23                  parrot award. Be advised, citizens of the  
24                  America, that the oil companies have donated  
25                  an average of \$650,000 per member of

1 Congress since 2008, so if you wonder where  
2 are your gas prices coming from and the  
3 silence about them, well --

4 And I also like to give a golden  
5 parrot to the children's children's debt  
6 people, I think it's been used a little too  
7 often, and I'd like to point out that  
8 education between kindergarten and 12th  
9 grade cost an average of \$670 billion a year  
10 nationally. Anybody that thinks that  
11 children don't owe society something when  
12 they get out of school and have had all of  
13 these benefits and s-chip and so forth, they  
14 don't deserve a massive \$14 billion debt,  
15 but therein again, you know, if we have to  
16 build schools and everything else, I think  
17 they basically do. They are getting too  
18 many -- too much recognition as children's  
19 children's debt and so forth. A lot of the  
20 things that government does spent their  
21 money on is for their betterment and their  
22 future and it should be recognized. Thank  
23 you and have a good night.

24 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there  
25 anyone else who would like to address

1 council?

2 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City  
3 Council.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

5 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

6 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.  
7 Last week Mrs. Evans read off a list of  
8 expenditures of the mayor. Those funds were  
9 supposed to have come from the RE-RE  
10 funding. Can you tell me if the mayor has  
11 any other accounts that he draws off of?

12 MR. ROGAN: I hope not.

13 MR. UNGVARSKY: That he can -- that  
14 he has personal use of it?

15 MR. ROGAN: I don't know, but I  
16 would hope not.

17 MR. UNGVARSKY: No discretionary  
18 fund?

19 MR. ROGAN: Not that I know of.

20 MR. JOYCE: Besides the general fund  
21 there is no more that I'm aware of, however,  
22 I'm still looking into all of that.

23 MR. UNGVARSKY: In the past, we had  
24 a revolving loan fund and I haven't heard  
25 anything of that in the last two years,



1           could this RE-RE fund be part of that?

2                   MR. ROGAN: I think it's just by  
3 another name, yeah, it's the same thing.

4                   MR. UNGVARSKY: Well, we had money  
5 that we would loan out, it would come back  
6 in, and we would reloan it, but I thought  
7 that was in perpetuity were all of that  
8 money would just keep on circulating and not  
9 be put into an account where the mayor could  
10 draw off of it.

11                  MR. ROGAN: From what Attorney  
12 Hughes explained last week was I guess once  
13 the initial loan is made, it's paid back.  
14 At that point it can only be used for a  
15 loan, but once -- the second time it's paid  
16 back, that's why RE-RE, pay back the second  
17 time, that's when, you know, we had these  
18 expenditures that Mrs. Evans listed last  
19 week.

20                  MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay, I understand  
21 that part of it, but this is a separate  
22 account that we had several years ago, okay,  
23 where the funds would be reused. It was  
24 called a revolving account and the money  
25 would be loaned out and I don't believe that

1                   was part of the RE-RE fund, but I haven't  
2                   heard anything about it in probably the last  
3                   two years. Is there anyway you can check in  
4                   on that?

5                   MR. ROGAN: Sure.

6                   MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay. I thank you  
7                   for that.

8                   MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, don't you  
9                   laugh, buddy.

10                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

11                  MR. JOYCE: Chrissy.

12                  MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, Pat, hope,  
13                  the girls win tomorrow tonight. I hope they  
14                  win like they said. I hope they just don't,  
15                  you know, what you said, Pat, remember?  
16                  West still is the best. Right, Frankie?

17                  MR. JOYCE: That's right.

18                  MR. SLEDENZSKI: You know, West is  
19                  one of the in the city. Remember that.  
20                  Thank you.

21                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy, approach the  
22                  front here, please.

23                                 (Mr. Loscombe gives Mr. Sledenzski a  
24                                 t-shirt.)

25                  MR. LOSCOMBE: I told you I had a

1 surprise for you.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
3 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident  
4 and taxpayer. First, Item 7-B, again, I  
5 believe this is the same amount that was  
6 spent on the -- or at least allocated, I  
7 know, in the OECD budget for the sidewalks  
8 at Linden and Washington and the square  
9 footage there it seems to me the total was a  
10 lot more than what the square footage is in  
11 front of the Connell building, so if there  
12 is nothing urgent about this and since the  
13 project has already been completed I don't  
14 see why waiting another week might -- would  
15 cause any harm to find out what the square  
16 footage, the comparison is and if, in fact,  
17 that the Linden and Washington was done for  
18 a quarter of a million dollars why this one  
19 it if, in fact, is less, why it is what it  
20 is dollar wise.

21 MR. ROGAN: When I went down there  
22 over the weekend it seems -- I didn't  
23 measure it out, but I just took a glance by  
24 and just by looking it looks to be about the  
25 same size as the sidewalks in front of city

1 hall, which --

2 MR. SCHUMACHER: No, but what I'm  
3 saying is just last year, it's comparable  
4 down at the old parking garage.

5 MR. ROGAN: And the parking garage,  
6 I believe, it was all the way around to the  
7 corner.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: It was the corner.  
9 It was all the way in.

10 MR. ROGAN: And those sidewalks are  
11 pretty nice sidewalks, I believe they have  
12 the --

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Stamped concrete.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, and it went  
15 to the building.

16 MR. ROGAN: Stamped concrete. This  
17 was just regular poured concrete.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. So, yeah, I  
19 think there is some issues there. Because  
20 that should be -- at this point since this  
21 is all after the fact there should be an  
22 actual amount, not a forecast amount.

23 Two, I'm happy to report that I did  
24 check into the signalization RFP and the  
25 traffic signal, Mr. McGoff, at Meadow and

1 River is in the RFP that was put out for  
2 bid. What I didn't ask though, and I don't  
3 know maybe some of you checked it out, is  
4 whether it's specifies LED lights, I didn't  
5 think about that when I was doing it. I was  
6 just interested in that traffic signal.  
7 That I would be interested in as well.

8 But the real reason I'm here tonight  
9 is to talk about distracted driving. I'm  
10 disappointed that Mr. Hughes isn't here  
11 tonight because perhaps he would have had a  
12 legal opinion, I personally am a  
13 freedom-loving person and I don't like  
14 restricting people anymore than have to be,  
15 however, I also assume that people act  
16 responsibly, and I know there are currently  
17 11 communities in the State of Pennsylvania  
18 that have enacted distracted driving -- or,  
19 excuse me, they have prohibited cell phone  
20 use while driving, and I don't think there  
21 have been any legal issues as a result of  
22 that. I would prefer not to -- and this is  
23 where legally I don't know if there is  
24 possible, but I would still like to leave it  
25 up to the individual driver the freedom.

1                   However, if they cause an accident I  
2                   think there should be a sizable fine and I  
3                   don't know if that's personal -- or if  
4                   that's even possible if you don't have a law  
5                   against it, but I would ask that you see  
6                   with Mr. Hughes if that is possible and if  
7                   it draw up an ordinance because I know many  
8                   people, including as you are aware myself,  
9                   have suffered damage from someone talking on  
10                  the cell phone and it is out of hand and  
11                  something needs to be done.

12                  I would also like to know, maybe  
13                  Mr. Loscombe knows, whether or not we in the  
14                  City of Scranton track those. I know they  
15                  can't be cited for distract driving because  
16                  it's not illegal, but do we track -- keep  
17                  any statistics on how many distracted  
18                  driving --

19                  MR. LOSCOMBE: At this point I don't  
20                  believe they -- it's part of the report, but  
21                  I don't believe they actually specify it to  
22                  that point.

23                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, maybe you  
24                  could check that out. I would also be  
25                  interested, and if not if they do that, that

1                   would be helpful.

2                   MR. LOSCOMBE: But I agree with you.  
3                   It think the biggest problem today more than  
4                   speaking on the phone is texting and stuff.

5                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, whatever. If  
6                   you are distracted for whatever reason,  
7                   really.

8                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I did see the video,  
9                   thank you.

10                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Did you see the  
11                  video? Good. Thank you.

12                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Very good.

13                  MS. SCHUMACHER: I mean, I thought  
14                  that was pretty powerful, and most of those  
15                  were young people, but I do think we need to  
16                  do something to discourage people or  
17                  encourage people to make the right decision  
18                  and not to those kinds of things when they  
19                  are behind the wheel. I would prefer to let  
20                  it up to people's personal discretion.

21                  MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm definitely  
22                  interested in revisiting it.

23                  MS. SCHUMACHER: I think that needs  
24                  to be revisited. And then I also would like  
25                  to know if anybody -- about a month ago

1           there was an article in the paper about  
2           Corning growing -- their growth is surging,  
3           they expect a 50 percent expansion by 2014  
4           and I wonder if council ever gets involved,  
5           I don't believe the Chamber does, does it's  
6           job, of reaching out to companies that where  
7           we could offer a better deal or at least a  
8           good deal, and since Corning is so close to  
9           here, I don't know if they have the room to  
10          expand by 50 percent up there, if not to  
11          extend a invitation we certainly have lots  
12          of room, and there are other people, I mean,  
13          were I in charge I would have a committee  
14          going to people in California, to businesses  
15          in California that are hurting, being forced  
16          out of business, and telling them they got a  
17          welcome place to come to if they would like  
18          to relocate and maybe save businesses and  
19          help the city.

20                   And even for that matter, that  
21           Methadone clinic that was talked about in  
22           Dunmore, again, I don't personally believe  
23           in substituting one drug for another, but  
24           all you have to do is pick up a paper any  
25           day and we know that we have got a serious



1 drug problem in this city and if it would  
2 help we've got a local of industrial areas  
3 that are served by buses that could  
4 accommodate such a thing, and I would make  
5 an overture to that company. They are not a  
6 nonprofit. Anyway, thank you very much.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
9 Last week it was mentioned that Railroad  
10 Avenue was like a mine field. I would just  
11 like to explain that, for example, I had a  
12 gas leak in front of my home, and the gas  
13 company come right out, very efficient.  
14 Jerry, Mike, Dave and Johnnie were the best.  
15 The gas company men, they did an excellent  
16 job. They should go into the landscaping  
17 business. They put the front of my house  
18 back better than it was before they came,  
19 and the reason I'm saying this is because  
20 you mentioned about the DPW taking care of  
21 Railroad Avenue. You can probably take that  
22 off the list because I'm sure the gas  
23 company is going to put new gas lines up  
24 Railroad Avenue further on this spring or in  
25 the summer, early summer, and they will be

1 paving that road, and they do a great job.

2 Now, Mr. Rogan, I read in the paper  
3 where you thought it was okay that  
4 Mr. Jefferson you forgive his taxes and  
5 penalties on this property.

6 MR. ROGAN: No, not the taxes.

7 MS. FRANUS: I meant the penalties  
8 and fees. Would you also forgive the  
9 penalties and fees from all of the  
10 homeowners that keep this city afloat?

11 MS. ROGAN: I think that the  
12 penalties and fees that were passed by the  
13 previous council were excessive.

14 MS. FRANUS: I'm not talking about  
15 that. I asked you since you were willing to  
16 forgive Mr. Jefferson, would you be willing  
17 to forgive all of the city homeowners in the  
18 city to keep the city afloat by paying their  
19 real estate tax, their wage tax, their EMS  
20 tax, they struggle. See right here? Here  
21 is my tax bill. I paid it. I put a little  
22 bit away each month from my social security  
23 check and when it comes due I have the  
24 money, thank God. Some people don't. Some  
25 people aren't fortunate, they're going to

1           lose their homes because of these penalties  
2           and fees and you're willing to forgive Mr.  
3           Jefferson, a rich developer. Do you think  
4           he is more important or better than the  
5           average home payer --

6                   MR. ROGAN: No.

7                   MS. FRANUS: -- that you supposedly  
8           you are supposed to represent, Mr. Rogan?

9                   MR. ROGAN: Not at all. I just  
10          think -- I think that I would like to--

11                   MS. FRANUS: How do you justify  
12          that?

13                   MR. ROGAN: I would like to see the  
14          project go through, and I think we all agree  
15          that we weren't going to vote on it until  
16          the taxes were paid.

17                   MS. FRANUS: The taxes, I'm talking  
18          about you said you would like to say the  
19          penalties and fees, which I think you said  
20          were 13,000. Well, I don't think that's  
21          right. If you are going to forgive Mr.  
22          Jefferson you should forgive every other  
23          homeowner in the City of Scranton. They are  
24          the ones that keep the city going, not  
25          Mr. Jefferson.

1 MR. ROGAN: Past practice has always  
2 been when a developer would like to do a  
3 project they would pay the taxes, but the  
4 fees and interest would be forgiven.

5 MS. FRANUS: Two wrongs don't make a  
6 right. Just because was in the past doesn't  
7 mean it should be in the future or the  
8 present because these homeowners,  
9 homeowners, Pat --

10 MR. ROGAN: I understand.

11 MS. FRANUS: They elected you --

12 MR. ROGAN: I understand --

13 MS. FRANUS: And you're telling them  
14 you're representing them and not -- -how  
15 could you justify forgiving penalties and  
16 fees for Mr. Jefferson and not for the  
17 homeowners?

18 MR. ROGAN: I understand what you  
19 are saying, but --

20 MS. FRANUS: Not too well.

21 MR. ROGAN: But the \$13,000 that  
22 could be forgiven we would receive more than  
23 that in.

24 MS. FRANUS: And you still would  
25 receive more than that.

1 MR. ROGAN: Not if the building sits  
2 vacant.

3 MS. FRANUS: But you don't know  
4 that.

5 MR. ROGAN: And we hope it doesn't.  
6 We hope he brings the city a check.

7 MS. FRANUS: Well, in the meantime,  
8 if you forgive those taxes for him, you  
9 absolutely must forgive them for others. I  
10 mean, that's discrimination and not just  
11 that you didn't elected by Mr. Jefferson you  
12 got elected by the people in this city that  
13 struggle, like myself, even more so than  
14 myself, that pay their taxes every year,  
15 penalty and fees. Some people have an \$800  
16 bill and when they done with penalties and  
17 fees it's \$2,200. Should they be forgiven?  
18 I would hope so.

19 MR. ROGAN: As I said, I think those  
20 are wrong as well.

21 MS. FRANUS: Well, then, shouldn't  
22 they be forgiven as well if you are going to  
23 forgive Mr. Jefferson?

24 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

25 MS. FRANUS: You are quick to jump

1 on that.

2 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

3 MS. FRANUS: Sure. Well, I don't  
4 think you should be forgiving penalties and  
5 fees. Since you and Mr. McGoff seem to be  
6 buddy-buddy these days, he thinks that  
7 Mr. Jefferson -- well, it's not really  
8 funny, it's true. You both use your phone  
9 for text messages all night to tell you what  
10 to say at the meetings, you don't listen to  
11 council.

12 MR. ROGAN: I get citizen's requests  
13 on my phone during the meetings.

14 MS. FRANUS: If you can't deal  
15 without citizen's request during the meeting  
16 you shouldn't be a councilman. The rules  
17 state you should not use your phone, but you  
18 completely ignore the rules, but --

19 MR. ROGAN: Often times a resident,  
20 something will be said by somebody at the  
21 podium--

22 MS. FRANUS: Yeah, like last week  
23 when you mentioned the party, that was  
24 really important business. If you can't  
25 mention it, you know, you could --

1 MR. ROGAN: The party for senior  
2 citizens?

3 MS. FRANUS: You could mention it.  
4 It doesn't matter what it is, it could have  
5 been mentioned later.

6 MR. ROGAN: It was a charitable  
7 event that I wanted to mention it.

8 MS. FRANUS: Pat, that's not my  
9 point. My point is you shouldn't be getting  
10 text message during the meeting. You should  
11 be obeying the rules, that's all, and you  
12 don't want to. I mean, sure it was an  
13 important message about a senior citizen  
14 party, but I don't think you need to have  
15 your cell phone on when it's against the  
16 rules but you and Mr. McGoff think that you  
17 could do whatever you want to do.

18 So what I was saying before is  
19 Mr. McGoff stated last week that he liked  
20 Mr. Jefferson possibly to make installment  
21 payments for this tax. I don't agree with  
22 that at all. Now, do you agree with that as  
23 well?

24 MR. ROGAN: I would consider it.  
25 It's the first I've heard of it.

1 MS. FRANUS: You would consider it?  
2 First you heard it, you were here last week,  
3 you didn't hear him say it?

4 MR. ROGAN: And I spoke to other  
5 council --

6 MS. FRANUS: Maybe you were texting  
7 somebody. Sorry.

8 MR. ROGAN: I spoke to other council  
9 members about that, also, today. I think a  
10 few of us on council would support that. We  
11 just want the money to come in.

12 MS. FRANUS: Well, I do not think it  
13 should come in in payments. I think he  
14 should pay this like everybody else. You  
15 know, when a person goes to purchase a  
16 property they have to pay all of the back  
17 taxes, the real estate tax back taxes from  
18 the property, so --

19 MR. ROGAN: They should have been  
20 paid at closing, I agree. That's why we  
21 tabled it.

22 MS. FRANUS: Well, if you agree then  
23 if it comes push to shove, he pays his taxes  
24 or let it go. Let it go to somebody else  
25 because this is just like a big bluff as far



1 as I'm concerned.

2 MR. ROGAN: That's what will happen.

3 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Rogan, you have to  
4 start representing the people that elected  
5 you. We do not -- there is more of us than  
6 there is of him.

7 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Franus, I'm up  
8 every day --

9 MS. FRANUS: Ms. Franus.

10 MR. ROGAN: -- going to resident's --  
11 I'm sorry, Ms. Franus. I'm up every day  
12 going to resident's homes, receiving  
13 e-mails, phone calls, going out and about  
14 helping people.

15 MS. FRANUS: And has anyone ever  
16 said to you, Mr. Rogan, "Let Mr. Jefferson  
17 get away with his penalties and fees and  
18 also let him payment plans on his taxes when  
19 we struggle to pay ours every year?"

20 Do they say that to you, Mr. Rogan?

21 MR. ROGAN: Actually, if I had my  
22 computer with me, there was some people that  
23 felt the complete opposite, that we should  
24 be forgiving all of it, and I don't agree  
25 with that. I think that's a fair middle

1 ground in order to see the project go  
2 through and that Mr. Jefferson pays his  
3 taxes.

4 MS. FRANUS: Then every person in  
5 the City of Scranton should go to the city  
6 and say they are not paying any penalties  
7 and fee, because if you do it for one, you  
8 do it for all, and it's -- I think you are  
9 leaning toward big business here and not the  
10 people that you are supposed to be  
11 representing.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Ms. Franus.

13 MS. FRANUS: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
15 would care to address council?

16 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.  
17 Nelson Ancherani, resident, taxpayer and  
18 recording secretary of the FOP, first  
19 Amendment Rights. Before I left the house  
20 tonight to come here, I heard Mrs. Krake  
21 speak about the borrowing of the workmen's  
22 comp money to the tune of \$2.9 million in  
23 2010. It also was borrowed in 2009. I  
24 missed if the \$2.9 from this most recent  
25 borrowing has been paid back.

1 MS. EVANS: I think the \$2.9 million  
2 was in 2009.

3 MR. ANCHERANI: Oh, not in 2010.

4 MS. EVANS: Correct. And  
5 purportedly it was reimbursed into the  
6 account in 2010. I don't have the  
7 documentation for that, we have been told  
8 we'll have to await the audit, the  
9 independent audit of the city, for the Year  
10 2010. In the mean time, however, the  
11 administration once again dipped into the  
12 fund in late 2010 to balance it's budget.

13 And I think what we are saying was,  
14 you know, it doesn't appear -- it doesn't  
15 appear anywhere in the city's operating  
16 budget for either year.

17 MR. ANCHERANI: So we don't know if  
18 that was reimbursed yet? Okay.

19 MS. EVANS: No.

20 MR. ANCHERANI: The use of the money  
21 for salaries and to fill the budget  
22 shortfall for the last two years kept the  
23 city from having deficits. My question is  
24 where was the slimes? They have criticized  
25 this council for your budget, from the

1 get-go, yet, nothing on the administration  
2 budgets, even though the city had to borrow  
3 money to cover salaries and deficits in past  
4 years.

5 So, Mr. McGoff, one of my  
6 predictions came through for last year, the  
7 borrowing of millions. What if that money  
8 is not paid back in year? Does your budget  
9 have a possible deficit if you are unable to  
10 borrow anymore from that workmen's comp  
11 fund? And PEL, are they suggesting  
12 borrowing again if we have a deficit? And  
13 the paid interest, like the 59 million we  
14 are going to pay in interest to pay back for  
15 the Scranton Parking Authority loan of \$35  
16 million, that's a lot of money, \$59 million  
17 interest to pay back. We could have done a  
18 lot more with that.

19 How about the \$1.6 million that the  
20 Single Tax Office couldn't find? Did we  
21 forget that? That \$1.6 million, if we had  
22 it, let's us only be \$1.3 million to borrow  
23 for salaries if needed. And I hope nobody  
24 forgets about the \$300 million in long-term  
25 debt the city owes.

1                   As for the statement about bags of  
2 money and layoffs, I'm not a betting man, I  
3 don't like to lose money, but I bet there  
4 will be layoffs after the summer raises go  
5 through, and my belief, out of spite. Thank  
6 you.

7                   MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Ancherani.

9                   MR. PILCHESKY: Council, good  
10 evening. Joe Pilchesky, 819 Sunset Street,  
11 Scranton. I apologize for not appearing  
12 last week after indicating that I would be  
13 here. As I was preparing my presentation I  
14 received a call from a fellow named John who  
15 had an emergency situation that needed some  
16 legal attention, which was that his home of  
17 30 years was being sold the next day at the  
18 Lackawanna County tax sale. Needless to  
19 say, panic was the word of the day for John.  
20 There wasn't a lot of time to determine  
21 whether or not I might be able to help John.  
22 At any rate, I couldn't fully review all of  
23 John facts and be here at the same time.

24                   I'd like to share with you some of  
25 the elements of this situation that I

1 experienced with John, since they are  
2 insightful and they may assist you and the  
3 viewing public in understanding part of the  
4 process involved where the Tax Claim Bureau  
5 desires to sell your property to recover  
6 past due tax obligations.

7 On January 3 of this year the Tax  
8 Claim Bureau filed about 200 petitions in  
9 county Court seeking the Court's permission  
10 to sell the subject properties. On the  
11 cover of every petition was a schedule that  
12 advised the responding party that an answer  
13 to the petition must be filed by February  
14 10th of 2011, and that a hearing on the  
15 issue would be held on February 10 in front  
16 of Judge Moyle relating to the relief  
17 demanded in the petition which was to sell  
18 your property.

19 John went to the tax bureau when he  
20 received this petition. He talked to  
21 Mr. Kolajeski, who properly told him that it  
22 was the legal matter now and it needed a  
23 lawyer. So John went to his lawyer, who was  
24 already legal counsel in another matter for  
25 John, but his lawyer wasn't in, so his

1 lawyer called the next day and John talked  
2 at length with him at the end of the phone  
3 call, John was of the opinion that the  
4 lawyer was covering John's back. That  
5 wasn't true.

6 John's lawyer did contact the Tax  
7 Claim Bureau, did talk to Mr. Kolajeski, but  
8 the call didn't result in negotiating a  
9 successful closure to the tax problem that  
10 John had. John didn't know that. The  
11 lawyer didn't tell John that he has not  
12 filed an answer on John's behalf to the  
13 petition, and he didn't tell John that he is  
14 not going to showing up February 10 at the  
15 hearing in front of Judge Moyle, so February  
16 10, with no one appeared on behalf of John,  
17 Judge Moyle issued an order directing the  
18 tax bureau to sell John's property.

19 There are two problems with the  
20 order that Judge Moyle issued. The first  
21 problem is that in the first sentence it  
22 indicates that she was satisfied that John  
23 was properly served with the petition, and  
24 there is such a thing as proper service, not  
25 anybody can just hand you the petition.

1 Yet, there is no proof in the record  
2 anywhere that John was ever served properly  
3 with the petition.

4 Secondly, there is no proof in the  
5 file that John was served with a copy of the  
6 order that Judge Moyle issued that directed  
7 the tax bureau to sell his property, and  
8 those are the types of the documents that  
9 would always be in an order because that's  
10 how you can prove that you have communicated  
11 properly to someone that they got notice.

12 In circumstances like that, you have  
13 an issue of being deprived of your rights to  
14 due process. Here, intentionally or  
15 otherwise, an attorney, Tax Claim Bureau for  
16 the attorney -- or the lawyer for the Tax  
17 Claim Bureau and the Court itself kept John  
18 in the dark. Had someone not appearing at  
19 John's home the day before the sale offering  
20 to buy it in advance of the tax sale, John's  
21 property would have been sold the next day  
22 without John knowing what was going on.  
23 Once that happens it's a whole world of legal  
24 expense and trouble to undo that, if it can  
25 be done at all.



1 I prepared for John a petition for  
2 emergency injunctive relief in the nature of  
3 a stay of the tax sale citing a violation of  
4 John's due process rights, because he  
5 certainly had a right to file an answer to  
6 the petition and be at the hearing and, of  
7 course, he thought his lawyer was doing that  
8 and that didn't happen.

9 After ten minutes of explaining the  
10 circumstances to Judge Corbett, who was  
11 very, very sensitive to John's plight and  
12 very, very helpful to him, the sale was  
13 stayed, but the lesson to be learned here is  
14 this, when it comes to covering your own  
15 back in very important matters everybody  
16 should participate in that event. When  
17 served with any legal documents, there is a  
18 docket number on the cover, your entire file  
19 is stored at the Prothonotary's office  
20 located at North Washington and Spruce  
21 Street. It greatly benefits you to check  
22 your file once a week, see what's in there.  
23 You might be surprised at what you find.

24 Had John done that, he wouldn't have  
25 come so close to losing his home, and that's

1 just some advice for those out there who  
2 might be overly trusting of the legal system  
3 and their attorney. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
5 anyone else who would care to address  
6 council?

7 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

8 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, any  
9 comments or motions?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Just to  
11 answer a few questions, first of all, that  
12 if I'm not mistaken when Mr. Jefferson was  
13 here the first time dealing with the  
14 Mulberry Towers, I believe he did say that  
15 at the time of purchase he did purchase the  
16 tax lien at the time of the sale, so he was  
17 fully aware of the taxes that were on the  
18 property, and in any of the questions that  
19 were asked of Mr. Jefferson and in the  
20 ensuing weeks I didn't see there was any  
21 indication that there any deal between OECD  
22 or between the mayor and Mr. Jefferson.

23 So, once again, you know,  
24 misinformation and innuendo kind of form the  
25 basis for some of the questions that were

1           posed, and with no substantive basis for the  
2           questions, it's really impossible, you know,  
3           to provide an answer. When you are dealing  
4           with supposition anything is possible.

5                     The other thing, prior to last  
6           week's meeting, Mrs. Evans asked if I would  
7           look into the -- if I would meet with  
8           members of the administration to discuss the  
9           rental registration program, and I went to  
10          Mr. Seitzinger's Office and we did setup a  
11          meeting, which was subsequently cancelled  
12          because one of the parties could not attend.  
13          We are attempting to reschedule.

14                    But at the time I did speak with  
15          Mr. Seitzinger about the program and he said  
16          at the present time they have increased the  
17          data base for the rental registration units.  
18          What they have attempted to use are lists  
19          from the Department of Public Works that  
20          identify multi-dwelling units to which they  
21          pick up refuse. The problem with that is  
22          that any dwelling, I think, it's over five  
23          is subject to private refuse disposal so  
24          that those properties are not in that  
25          particular list, but he said they are

1 working, that there is -- one of the  
2 inspectors is working on the rental  
3 registration program and trying to identify  
4 more of the properties and letters have been  
5 sent out. They are receiving responses from  
6 property owners that were aware of the  
7 program, that were -- and that are looking  
8 to pay the registration fee.

9 I hope to meet with Mr. Seitzinger  
10 and Mr. Mr. McGowan and the inspector that's  
11 running the program or at least taking care  
12 of the program to see if we can do anything  
13 else that would enhance the collection of  
14 the rental registration fee.

15 And with that, I would also -- I  
16 would ask that perhaps in the coming months  
17 that we as a council, again, I think the  
18 important thing is we do something to look  
19 at the rental registration ordinance and  
20 that we need to do something to improve that  
21 and make it more effective so that the  
22 revenues from -- not only the revenues from  
23 it are improved, but also that it begins to  
24 do what the secondary intent of the program  
25 was and that's to deal with blight and to

1 deal with rental units that are not up to  
2 par and not up to code, and so that we can  
3 start to deal with some of those problems.  
4 And that's all. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff,  
6 and I actually did bring along tonight the  
7 information from Wilkes-Barre that I talked  
8 to you about, so if after the meeting we can  
9 discuss it a little bit further.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

11 MS. EVANS: And I'll give you that  
12 information.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

15 Councilman Rogan, any motions or comments?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes. A few comments and  
17 some information and some citizens'  
18 requests. First I would like to respond to  
19 the questions posed by Ms. Franus. First  
20 one about forgiving the fees and interest to  
21 Mr. Jefferson regarding the Mulberry  
22 project, when this came down there were  
23 people on -- there were a few people who  
24 thought we should have forgiven the whole  
25 amount. I thought that was completely

1           unacceptable, as did the five of us up here.  
2           It was tabled. We are hoping that he does  
3           pay the taxes and the project can move  
4           forward.

5                        Now, I believe the taxes that were  
6           owed were approximately \$75,000 if you  
7           include the fees and interest, 65, 75, and  
8           it was \$13,000 of it was fees and interest.  
9           With the people that will be moving in  
10          there, the fees that we would be getting in  
11          from permits over the course of probably a  
12          year or two we would receive that money  
13          back, and with the tax -- with more people  
14          living in the city and the higher tax base,  
15          that means the burden among the resident's  
16          of the city will be lessened because we will  
17          have more people paying in the same amount,  
18          because the percentage each person will be  
19          paying will be less.

20                       Regarding using my cell phone during  
21          the meeting, I think, although it is part of  
22          the rules, I think we have to look at the  
23          intent of the rule, not the letter of the  
24          rule. Reading of council rules, yes, you  
25          are not supposed to a use cell phone during

1 the meeting. I am not using it to have a  
2 social conversation with a friend, catching  
3 up with a friends from out-of-state, I'm  
4 using it for city business. I know, a  
5 couple of residents that are here right now  
6 text me during the meetings with requests.  
7 I'll forget to mention something that I  
8 talked to them about earlier in the week.  
9 In the case of Mr. Piccolino's party he had  
10 on Valentine's Day for the senior citizens  
11 he texted me during the meeting, "Hey, Pat,  
12 can you announce this for me?"

13 Sure. Although, it is in the rules,  
14 I do not think the intent of the rule was to  
15 stop council people from using their phones  
16 to do their jobs.

17 So back to business, I am happy to  
18 see that in newspaper it is reported that  
19 the administration did choose Joyce  
20 Electrical fore the streetlight repairs. I  
21 did review the bid they were the lowest  
22 bidder and I hope that this legislation will  
23 come down to council as soon as possible  
24 because we have been inundated with calls  
25 and e-mails from residents all throughout

1 the city with streetlights that have been  
2 out for weeks and sometimes months, and it  
3 really does pose a safety hazard.

4 Mr. Miller mentioned town hall  
5 meetings, I would support having town hall  
6 meetings, and as I mentioned before, I  
7 oppose cancelling the meetings for the  
8 summer, but maybe instead of having formal  
9 meetings in chambers we could have informal  
10 meetings all throughout the different  
11 sections of the neighborhood and start in  
12 West Side and North Scranton and Greenridge  
13 and go all around the city one week just  
14 have citizens' input.

15 I have the letter from OECD  
16 regarding the \$250,000, the grant for  
17 sidewalk improvements, and I will read that  
18 right now. It says, "Dear Mrs. Krake: I am  
19 in receipt of your letter dated February 24,  
20 2011. Requesting information requested by  
21 Marie Schumacher, "Is the request for an  
22 increase in the grant funding by \$250,000  
23 for sidewalk improvements to the Connell  
24 building an after-the-fact request."

25 This is the response: "This office



1 submitted a new application to PA DCED for  
2 an additional \$250,000 for sidewalks for the  
3 Connell building in July 2010. The office  
4 had several suggestions with PA DCED and it  
5 was determined that the \$250,000 for  
6 sidewalks could be an amendment to the  
7 previous contract for a total of \$750,000  
8 for HRA. The PA Department of Community and  
9 Economic Development approved an amendment  
10 for the additional \$250,000 for sidewalks  
11 under Section 4-C of the Housing and  
12 Redevelopment Assistance, HRA.

13 Scranton Connell, L.P., received a  
14 loan in the amount of \$500,000 previously  
15 contracted under this contract, No.  
16 C-000045289. According to the contract, the  
17 eligible project costs incurred under this  
18 contract between July 1, 2008, and June 20,  
19 2011, this would include the time frame when  
20 the sidewalks were installed.

21 The additional funding of \$250,000  
22 will be a conditioned until DCED receives  
23 the amended resolution authorizing the  
24 \$250,00 for the sidewalks. Since the  
25 sidewalks are a public right-of-way, this

1 will be a grant instead of a loan to,  
2 Scranton Connell, L.P., as was the \$500,000.

3 I do hope this answers any questions  
4 that city council or the public had  
5 concerning this project. If you have any  
6 questions, please feel free to contact me."

7 I voted "no" on this last week, I'm  
8 going to vote "no" again on this week I'll  
9 save my further comments on this for voting  
10 time.

11 And finally, I have a few citizens'  
12 requests. The first one comes from a  
13 resident who lives on Winfield Avenue. It  
14 was about -- originally, it was ice in his  
15 neighborhood, and luckily since it got  
16 warmer, that problem solved itself, but then  
17 there were some photos and he couldn't park  
18 basically on his own block, it was all ice,  
19 but then he went onto say that in the summer  
20 there is a flooding problem, so I have the  
21 information for you, Mrs. Krake. Can you  
22 please forward that to the DPW?

23 And I also have a request from the  
24 1400 block of Bulwer Street. Sidewalks in  
25 front of the house flooded during recent

1 rain storms. The repair that DPW did last  
2 year crumbled apart allowing water from the  
3 street to flow onto my property and making  
4 it impossible for the resident to walk out  
5 his door. So I have that as well, as well  
6 as the address.

7 I'm sorry, the first one wasn't  
8 Winfield Avenue, it was Duncan Street  
9 between Winfield Avenue and Prospect Avenue.

10 A neighbor has requested that a few  
11 stop signs be evaluated for replacement.  
12 The traffic sign at Price and North Hyde  
13 Park is faded and rusted and difficult to  
14 read. Also, to the DPW, there was a hole  
15 forming on Elm Street behind McNichols  
16 Plaza; and finally, a request of OECD and  
17 the business administrator, does the city  
18 currently have a revolving loan fund, not  
19 including RE-RE. And that's all. Thank  
20 you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman  
22 Loscombe, any motions or comments?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.  
24 Evans. My only comments tonight are going  
25 to deal with the Mulberry Towers, since that

1           seems to be a hot button subject. There is  
2           a lot of misinformation out there, and  
3           again, I think we should clarify some of it.  
4           During the week I try to make myself as  
5           accessible as possible. I mean, between  
6           drug stores, grocery stores, restaurants,  
7           places like that, I do have the opportunity  
8           to see a lot of our residents there and I  
9           welcome them and I applaud those that do  
10          approach me with their concerns. That's how  
11          we find out what the people -- how the pulse  
12          of this city is working and what the people  
13          are interested in and what they need, and I  
14          think all of us are pretty much doing that  
15          on a regular basis.

16                        But over this situation, I don't  
17          think maybe one person personally and maybe  
18          one e-mail were in favor of forgiving the  
19          taxes on the Mulberry Lofts. 99 percent  
20          have been in favor of exactly what we are  
21          doing and I'm just going to read, I found  
22          a -- well, I was presented with an on-line  
23          news blog from a former reporter, I believe  
24          he was with the Times, Lou Marcus, NEPA  
25          Today magazine. And the title is, "The

1           Trouble with City Hall."

2                        "It just dawned on me what the  
3           problem is in this current Scranton City  
4           Council incarnation. It is not that Council  
5           President Janet Evans and Mayor Chris  
6           Doherty are on two different ends of every  
7           issue, it is not that President Evans  
8           controls the vote of three others on city  
9           council giving her a supermajority," and I  
10          would take that back, I mean, we are all  
11          independent minds, we have voted differently  
12          on certain things, but I do think we agree  
13          on a lot of stuff because we feel the pulse  
14          of what we need to do in this city. That's  
15          why we seem to vote as a supermajority.

16                        "It is not that the three members of  
17          city council unfavorably go along with  
18          President Evans and endorse her view of  
19          Scranton, while all that is true, it is not  
20          the problem. The problem is communications.

21                        I have been sitting here for a  
22          couple of days pondering just what is the  
23          real issue here in the latest nonsense  
24          scenario coming from city hall. Today's  
25          dilemma is that developers of the former

1 Chamber of Commerce building in downtown  
2 Scranton is on hold because council is not  
3 inclined to give the developers a  
4 forgiveness on back taxes on the building.  
5 Things have gotten so bad that the county  
6 plans to put the property back on the sales  
7 tax roles for March.

8 So let's bring everybody up-to-date.  
9 The bank foreclosed on a mortgage on the  
10 building because the former owners let it go  
11 to pot. Tenants fled in droves, repairs  
12 were never made, the building fell into more  
13 and more disrepair until pipes broke and the  
14 building flooded. The city wound up  
15 condemning the building. Now, this isn't  
16 some apartment building in the neighborhoods  
17 where it would be bad enough, this is across  
18 the street from city hall, right on the edge  
19 of Scranton's downtown historical district  
20 and smack dab in the mid of the city center.

21 The white night in this story is the  
22 same group that just developed the Connell  
23 building, another aging hulk in the middle  
24 of the downtown into a world class  
25 residential and commercial center. Finished

1 with project one, they moved right onto the  
2 old chamber building."

3 I'm not quite sure that the Connell  
4 is 100 percent complete at this point, but  
5 this is what the writer states. "Following  
6 their previous blueprint of success, a mix  
7 of commercial and residential, now come city  
8 council refusing to setup legislation  
9 allowing the developers to receive a \$3  
10 million grant from the Commonwealth until  
11 they pay their back taxes. So they up and  
12 put the building back on the market claiming  
13 to pay back taxes will throw the financing  
14 out of whack.

15 Now, how did it get from Mayor  
16 Doherty telling me excitedly a month ago  
17 that the developers of the Connell building  
18 are going to go from building two of the  
19 downtown, to me reading in the newspaper  
20 that council spiked the deal? I have a  
21 question to ask here, does city council  
22 realize the job is more than two hours on a  
23 Tuesday night?"

24 Well, Mr. Marcus, you ask my family  
25 that. I think this council has done a lot

1 more review on some of these projects and we  
2 are not going to rubber stamp them. That's  
3 exactly why we are here. I have a question  
4 after -- okay, I'm sorry.

5 "The administration wanted a meeting  
6 with council on another matter and the reply  
7 was, "Come down to regular business when  
8 city council meets in session."

9 I don't recall that request,  
10 however, I know myself and Mrs. Evans have  
11 met with the mayor and his staff on several  
12 occasions. The only reason we would ask  
13 them here because a project is an important  
14 as this with your tax dollars involved  
15 should be held in the public eye, so you get  
16 to ask the questions, as our caucuses have  
17 been, so you could see what's going on with  
18 your tax dollars, not hidden away in an  
19 office down the stairs where it becomes he  
20 said/she said.

21 And I have firsthand experience of  
22 that because of our meeting at the  
23 University of Scranton. All of a sudden it  
24 became a he said/she said. If I had done  
25 that over again, I think we would have had



1           that caucus here, but that's the reason why  
2           city council wanted the meeting here. Okay,  
3           let's see here.

4                         "Whatever happened to being  
5           accommodating? Whatever happened to the  
6           free exchange of ideas for building a better  
7           product? In council's scenario it is, 'You  
8           present your idea, if we like it, okay, if  
9           we don't, it dies.'"

10                        Well, that's probably pretty much  
11           the fact, but it's not as simple as that.  
12           We review everything, if everything is in  
13           order and it's going to benefit the majority  
14           of the taxpayers in this city, it's a go.  
15           If we find something wrong in the backup or  
16           we through the research, like, taxes, back  
17           taxes and stuff like that, deals made on the  
18           side, any of that stuff, it doesn't  
19           necessarily die, we request the additional  
20           information. We give them the courtesy of  
21           tabling an item, giving them the time to  
22           provide us with the additional information  
23           that we require, and if that's not done  
24           then, obviously, they don't have the  
25           information to back it up, that's when it

1 will die.

2 "Whatever happened to the great C's,  
3 communications and cooperation. I hate  
4 bashing city council, I look for ways around  
5 it, but council just manages to get my  
6 hackles up on a regular basis.

7 Now, I don't always agree with the  
8 way Mayor Doherty does business, he could  
9 learn a lesson from the great C's, but at  
10 the end of the day city council just shoots  
11 down good ideas and a mayor delivers on  
12 project after project. Can't argue with  
13 success."

14 Well, I can argue a little bit with  
15 that last comment. Yes, there are a lot of  
16 projects going, but every one of these  
17 projects have been given taxpayer grants,  
18 every one of them. Multi-millions for the  
19 most part, and a lot of them are still  
20 sitting vacant. I think there could have  
21 been a lot more projects completed in this  
22 city if things were looked at a little  
23 sharper in the past. We could have had  
24 probably twice as much development and  
25 decrease the funding to everyone, spread it

1 out a little bit, instead of two, three,  
2 four developers. I think there is probably  
3 50 developers in this area who would be  
4 happy to have some money in their hand to  
5 help do something in this city. That's our  
6 tax dollars.

7 The next one is a letter I just  
8 received today in my mailbox from a resident  
9 right here. It says, "Dear council members,  
10 I'm writing this note with mixed emotions.  
11 I was originally 100 percent in support of  
12 the opinion that the company that purchased  
13 the former Chamber building should, as part  
14 of the purchase agreement, be responsible  
15 for all back taxes, and as such should pay  
16 the city \$72,000 owed to us.

17 However, given the likelihood that  
18 this building will now be sold to a  
19 nonprofit and thus be forever tax exempt  
20 from contributing to our tax base, I believe  
21 that a compromise should be considered. I  
22 now understand that the likely group to  
23 purchase the building will turn it into a  
24 residential halfway house."

25 You see, folks, the scare tactics

1 had are starting, the strong arm tactics.  
2 Extortion, I don't know what you want to  
3 call it, but this is what goes on. I mean,  
4 this gentleman here is scared all of a  
5 sudden because he lives across the street  
6 that there is going to be a halfway house,  
7 and if that's what the mayor wants there,  
8 then so be it. I think there is a lot  
9 better use for that building than a halfway  
10 house at that location, and I think a lot of  
11 other developers would be happy to look at  
12 it.

13 But the residents are getting scared  
14 thinking it's going to be a nonprofit and, I  
15 mean, we are already giving three and a half  
16 million dollars. This property was  
17 purchased on the transfer of a mortgage for  
18 \$10. By doing that, the transfer charges,  
19 the transfer costs the city -- reality  
20 transfer costs were eliminated. That could  
21 have brought in another 55, \$56,000, but the  
22 developer saved that by taking over the  
23 mortgage. That would have gone -- that  
24 could have gone towards our taxes, towards  
25 the taxes he owes on here.

1                   I just don't understand how much can  
2 we dig out of our taxpayers' pockets? If  
3 someone handed me three and a half million  
4 dollars to fix that place and I had the  
5 company behind me and the knowledge, I would  
6 kiss them. But to come back and say, "I'm  
7 going to give it to a nonprofit" or "I'm not  
8 going to sell it, I'm going to give it away  
9 because I can't come up with that tax  
10 money," any one -- and it was stated here  
11 before, any one that purchases a house, all  
12 of the taxpayers here realize that, before  
13 you close on that house the title is  
14 searched. Even if you owe a past garbage  
15 fee it has to be paid at that, a sewer fee  
16 has to be paid at this closing before you  
17 take title. And most importantly, your  
18 taxes. If we -- if we bid and give these --  
19 forgive these taxes on top of that grant we  
20 are going to have to do it for everybody  
21 else that comes into that city.

22                   All I'm doing, and I believe my  
23 colleagues are, is looking out for the  
24 taxpayers here. I believe that tax amount  
25 is a very insignificant amount compared to

1 the whole project. And the gentleman has  
2 received a lot of money on another project.  
3 And trust me, this is not personal. I think  
4 he is a great developer, and if he is a  
5 smart and he loves this city as much as he  
6 touted here at the meeting, how could it be  
7 a problem to just pay the taxes and develop  
8 that? That's where I'm coming from. I am  
9 watching out for your tax dollars, not a  
10 developer's, yours. I'm not looking for any  
11 contributions from these people, these  
12 developers. My contribution is to work for  
13 you people.

14 And I'm just going to finish this  
15 letter, and it says, "Please reconsider your  
16 position on this matter. Forgiving \$72,000  
17 in taxes now not only assures future  
18 property tax revenue, but also the  
19 re-establishment of a business on the first  
20 floor of this centrally located building and  
21 attracting more new taxpaying residents to  
22 our city, as well as our downtown. Perhaps  
23 council can add a caveat or two to the  
24 forgiveness agreement that the owner has to  
25 agree that the building cannot be sold to a

1            nonprofit under penalty of repayment of the  
2            tax revenue, plus interest and costs, or  
3            whatever council can do to stimulate this  
4            community growth at a time when so many  
5            areas of the city are deteriorating."

6            And I agree with a lot of that, but,  
7            you know, we cannot be bullied into this at  
8            this point.

9            "The project is obviously an  
10           important seed, not only in the development  
11           and growth of our tax base, but of the  
12           viabelcy of our downtown, what we are seeing  
13           in our downtown is something that we have  
14           not seen in any of our neighborhoods in a  
15           long time, that is the great desire of many  
16           people to move to this neighborhood.

17           Please take this giant step to help  
18           our city move forward in perception and in  
19           growth in our region before it's too late."

20           And it's respectfully signed "Chet."  
21           I won't say his last name, but I gratefully  
22           respect Chet's letter here. I think I have  
23           explained myself, where I'm coming from, and  
24           I think it's in the best interest of all of  
25           the taxpayers, all of the residents of this

1 city, to have the taxes paid. Now, I don't  
2 believe in forgiving any of the penalties or  
3 back taxes, but I would -- I would agree  
4 possibly to an arrangement, and that would  
5 have to be tied to his disbursements, too,  
6 if possible, because I believe we had -- he  
7 already made an arrangement that he was  
8 going to pay at closing, and that never  
9 happened, so this would have to be ironclad  
10 if I were to agree to something like that,  
11 but I'm looking for full tax in back pay and  
12 if, unfortunately, if it goes to the hands  
13 of a nonprofit we'll have to look at that  
14 down the road.

15 But if Mr. Jefferson truly loves his  
16 city, truly thinks it's the place to be, I  
17 think that tax money is a small pittance  
18 compared to what he can develop there, what  
19 he can gain from that and to show us that he  
20 really is for the city, and that's all I  
21 have to say at this point. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, could I  
24 just -- Mr. Rogan had mentioned something  
25 before about the streetlight situation, I



1           happened to run into somebody that's  
2           associated with MEM, they said that they  
3           were going to call the clerk's office on  
4           Monday, did they? Did anyone contact the  
5           office concerning the streetlights?

6                   MS. KRAKE: Not that I'm aware of.

7                   MR. MCGOFF: Okay. Thank you. I  
8           just wanted to find out if that did happen.  
9           Thank you.

10                   MS. EVANS: I do want to clarify  
11           some statements that have been made this  
12           evening. I'm sure that Attorney Hughes  
13           this, were he here. It was Miss Lori Reed  
14           from the Office of Economic and Community  
15           Development who visited Mr. Kolajeski and  
16           told him that the mayor wanted this taken  
17           off -- he wanted the Mulberry Loft project  
18           Oremoved from the sale and that the owner,  
19           because it was going to be purchased and the  
20           owner would pay taxes -- would pay  
21           delinquent taxes at the time of the closing  
22           on the sale, and Mr. Kolajeski in his duties  
23           and responsibilities with the county, made a  
24           written note of that which was then provided  
25           to city council, so that we do have, as does

1 Attorney Hughes, a copy of that written note  
2 stating that, as per Mayor Doherty through  
3 Lori Reed, the delinquent taxes will be paid  
4 in full at the closing.

5 So for those who misunderstood that  
6 situation, for those who may have thought  
7 Mr. Jefferson made the statement or some may  
8 have thought Mr. Doherty made the statement  
9 that taxes are forgiven, that is, you  
10 know -- those suggestions have been  
11 misconstrued.

12 In addition though, I think I just  
13 wanted to add to what Mr. Loscombe had said,  
14 I think that the current situation puts into  
15 question the developer's solvency. Is the  
16 developer solvent enough to pay the  
17 delinquent taxes to the city, the school  
18 board, and the county? Does he have or is  
19 he willing to come up this reasonable amount  
20 of any own money? And I think perhaps it  
21 appears that in failing to do so is Mr.  
22 Jefferson saying he has so little faith in  
23 his own -- in his own project's success that  
24 he unwilling to pay these taxes. I do hope  
25 that some type of agreement can be reached.



1           should be commended for their actions and  
2           they're greatly appreciated by me as well as  
3           I'm sure mostly all of my council  
4           colleagues.

5                         Secondly, I'd like to make some  
6           comments in response to some of Mrs. Krake's  
7           comments regarding the PEL meeting, our BA,  
8           our HR director, and my responses earlier in  
9           the meeting. In no way do I want people to  
10          think that I'm up here on a mayor bashing  
11          trip. Make no mistake, I admire some of the  
12          work that the mayor was done in revitalizing  
13          the downtown, in the efforts he put forth in  
14          that section of the city.

15                        Where I do feel Mayor Doherty has  
16          failed is in labor negotiations with the  
17          fire and the police unions which has lead to  
18          high court fees, attorney fees, as well as  
19          various arbitration awards that have been  
20          appealed time and time again.

21                        My opinion of Labor negotiations can  
22          be best described by imagining an pendulum.  
23          Prior to Mayor Doherty's administration, the  
24          pendulum may have swung up on this end in  
25          favor greatly of the unions, whereas as when

1 Mr. Doherty took office the pendulum seemed  
2 to swing high on the side of the management.  
3 See, this is where we are failing and the  
4 success, and what I believe will be the  
5 ultimate success to the city in the future  
6 is when that pendulum meets in the middle.

7 Blue collar workers, as well as  
8 labor unions, are part of the backbone of  
9 this country as well as the city. There  
10 should be respect given to them and the  
11 pendulum shouldn't swing in either side.  
12 Management should be considerate of the  
13 unions, and the unions should be considerate  
14 of management as well.

15 And in speaking with various union  
16 members over the past nine years, I believe,  
17 the unions have been very considerate of  
18 management and all they have been looking  
19 for fair and equitable raises, especially in  
20 the police and fire department as well as  
21 their safety concerns, and that's all I'm  
22 going to comment on that tonight.

23 However, I think in the future we  
24 should look to make that pendulum meet in  
25 the middle.

1                   Secondly -- or third, I do have some  
2                   citizens' requests, as I have been walking  
3                   through some of the neighborhoods lately.  
4                   Residents on the 200 block of North Everett  
5                   Avenue report various potholes and cracks in  
6                   the road as well as rough road conditions.  
7                   Mrs. Krake, if you could please notify  
8                   Mr. Brazil of this and ask him if he can  
9                   patch up some of those potholes once the  
10                  weather permits.

11                  Also, residents in the 300 block of  
12                  North Fillmore report various cracks and  
13                  potholes all throughout the block, if you  
14                  can please notify Mr. Brazil of this as  
15                  well.

16                  And third, in speaking with the  
17                  resident who lives off of Newton Road on the  
18                  Gardier Street, she reported to me that will  
19                  is quite a substantial amount of ice on her  
20                  street as well a Newman Road due to the fact  
21                  that someone recently built a house on the  
22                  street and did not put in an adequate  
23                  drainage system, therefore, it has resulted  
24                  in a lot of water runoff, and while I know  
25                  that there is nothing the city can do about

1           Newton Road, since it is a state route, she  
2           did inform me that PennDOT has been trying  
3           to take care of the situation the best they  
4           could by laying down salt as well as trying  
5           to remove some of the ice.

6                     If you could please also notify  
7           Mr. Brazil of the situation on Gardier  
8           Street and ask if he could possibly travel  
9           up there or perhaps someone from the DPW  
10          travel up to the street and handle the  
11          situation accordingly to help in the ice  
12          situation that they are having up there. I  
13          know it's making -- it's causing the  
14          resident to have a great deal of concern  
15          especially in the event that an ambulance  
16          needs to get up there or a fire truck ever  
17          needs to get up there. The roads are  
18          just -- the road is just a sheet of ice and  
19          so --

20                    MR. LOSCOMBE: I can echo what you  
21          are saying because I drive that road every  
22          day, too. I agree. I haven't even it as  
23          bad as it was this year. Everything is  
24          flowing across Newton Road and it's right at  
25          the bend, right at the top of Fawnwood

1 entrance there. It's a pretty dangerous  
2 spot, but PennDOT has been salting it as  
3 much as they could, but at night it freezes  
4 right over. Thank you. I'm sorry, Frank.  
5 I just --

6 MR. JOYCE: No problem. And that's  
7 all I have for tonight.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.

9 MR. JOYCE: You're welcome.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening. City  
11 council received a response from Mrs. Aebli,  
12 OECD director, to Mrs. Schumacher's question  
13 posed on February 22, "Is the request for an  
14 increase of grant funding by \$250,000 for  
15 sidewalks improvements to the Connell  
16 building an after-the-fact request?"

17 And Mr. Rogan has already provided  
18 that response, however, Mrs. Aebli's  
19 response creates further questions regarding  
20 a \$500,000 loan, which is later turned a  
21 \$500,000 grant. Council would like to know  
22 the date of this change and the specific  
23 justification for such.

24 I also note that this correspondence  
25 was copied to Attorney James Mulligan, OECD



1           solicitor. Apparently, Attorney Mulligan  
2           has replaced Attorney Greco since the  
3           professional services contract for Attorney  
4           Greco were halted by this council majority  
5           and replaced by a salaried position of OECD  
6           solicitor in the 2011 amended operating  
7           budget.

8                         This change should provide a savings  
9           of approximately \$135,000 annually. In  
10          addition, should the city retain Attorney  
11          Greco for any other legal services,  
12          professional services exceeding \$10,000 must  
13          be bid and legislation must be sent to and  
14          approved by city council.

15                        As a follow-up to last week's brief  
16          discussion of grant funding for the  
17          Lackawanna County Heritage Valley Trail,  
18          PennDOT awarded \$459,000 in Pennsylvania  
19          Community Transportation Initiative Funding  
20          in early January to the Lackawanna County  
21          Heritage Valley Authority to remedy safety  
22          issues for the trail in Archbald Borough.

23                        Also, I noticed this evening in our  
24          mail, Councilman McGoff, that we received a  
25          response from the Scranton Sewer Authority

1 to our request for their assistance with the  
2 rental registration program and they are  
3 also telling us to work with the Lackawanna  
4 County Assessor's Office. If you might  
5 mention that as well to Mr. Seitzinger. I  
6 think he had stated in the newspaper that  
7 early in the year he had contacted the Sewer  
8 Authority about this and, you know, as I  
9 said, I know council sent the letter, oh, in  
10 January as well I would think and, you know,  
11 maybe this can help with those types of  
12 rental properties as you were describing.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Multi-dwelling.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes, multi-dwelling.

15 Next, I have several items of business this  
16 evening. Mrs. Krake, please send the  
17 following letters on behalf of Scranton City  
18 Council:

19 Number one, a request for any and  
20 all February 2011 RE-RE vouchers from the  
21 office of the city controller.

22 Number two, a request to Mr. Gerry  
23 Cordaro, president, Scranton Lace Affiliates  
24 for a responses to these questions: Why is  
25 Mr. Joseph Casey no longer a partner in

1 Scranton Lace Affiliates? What is the date  
2 of his disassociation with the partnership  
3 and the Scranton Lace Complex project? Was  
4 Delta Development Group assigned to the  
5 project by the State Office of the Budget?  
6 And if not, was Delta Development group  
7 hired by Scranton Lace Affiliates or by the  
8 City of Scranton?

9 Three, a request to City Solicitor,  
10 Paul Kelly, to draft an RFP for an insurance  
11 broker for the City of Scranton and it's  
12 various insurance policies. Please remind  
13 Attorney Kelly that the current contract  
14 with Knowle's Associates is for a term of  
15 six months only, therefore, the process must  
16 begin as soon as possible in order that the  
17 city is not left uninsured at the  
18 termination date of the current contract.

19 Fourth, a request to OECD director  
20 Linda Aebli, for spreadsheets for the years  
21 2008 and 2009 to include any and all funding  
22 that was deposited into and disbursed from  
23 the UDAG RE-RE account as was provided to  
24 council for the years 2010 and 2011, and  
25 attached to her February 15, 2011,

1 correspondence to city council.

2 Fifth, a request for monthly  
3 receiving forms and reports from both the  
4 full-time and part-time animal control  
5 officers in order to track the number of  
6 animals dropped off by the city at Griffen  
7 Pond Animal Shelter.

8 Six, a request for information from  
9 licensing, inspections and permits, can a  
10 condemned structure be sold by it's owner,  
11 particularly if the same owner has a long  
12 history of legal problems and condemnations?

13 Number seven, a request for  
14 information to Mr. McGowan: Business  
15 administrator, does the administration  
16 intend to take 2011 real estate taxes to  
17 reimburse the worker's comp trust fund for  
18 it's withdrawal from the same fund in 2010?

19 Council was not informed of the  
20 withdrawal and requests documentation for  
21 this withdrawal and for the 2011  
22 reimbursement.

23 The Scranton Police Department was  
24 recently awarded approximately \$1.3 million  
25 dollars from the Pennsylvania Labor

1 Relations Board who ruled that the city  
2 administration failed to comply with a long  
3 disputed arbitration over SIT clerks. The  
4 case originated in 2003 and through  
5 continuous appeals by the administration to  
6 rulings previously handed down throughout  
7 the last seven years, the interest on the  
8 latest Pennsylvania Labor Relation's Board  
9 ruling, could very likely amount to half of  
10 the 1.3 million dollars. I have heard that  
11 the administration may layoff police  
12 officers in order to pay this SIT clerk  
13 award.

14 Now, if the mayor had not violated  
15 the police contract the city would owe no  
16 monies to the police department. In  
17 addition, if the mayor satisfied the terms  
18 of the previous awards, the city would not  
19 owe 1.3 million dollars today.

20 Now, to make matters worse, the  
21 mayor may cut police officers to pay for his  
22 mistakes. The unemployment compensation  
23 that would have to be paid to these officers  
24 will amount to roughly half of their  
25 salaries to keep them on the streets of

1 Scranton.

2 In the 2011 budget, city council  
3 worked diligently to reinstate ten police  
4 officers which the mayor had cut in order to  
5 keep the people of Scranton safe. I hope  
6 the mayor does not use public safety layoffs  
7 to pay for his own errors and put the  
8 people's public safety in jeopardy once  
9 again.

10 He has, as we learned earlier  
11 tonight, produced false budgets. He has  
12 secretly taken money from a worker's comp  
13 trust fund without the knowledge and consent  
14 of Scranton City Council in both 2009 and  
15 2010 in order to balance his budgets, and he  
16 intends to institute massive layoffs to pay  
17 Court awards for pay increases and actions  
18 in bad faith resulting from his continuous  
19 court appeals.

20 This administration is playing not  
21 only with city budgets, but also with the  
22 people's safety and welfare. It's merely a  
23 game that amuses them as evidenced at  
24 today's PEL's meeting. Perhaps some  
25 politicians view government as a game with a

1 goal to be master of the game. They play  
2 with taxpayers' lives and money to further  
3 their careers and gain the support of the  
4 wealthy and powerful.

5 I am not a game player because I  
6 have great respect and deep concern for the  
7 people of this city. I know their problems.  
8 I know their troubles because I have lived  
9 them. I owe no one but the people and no  
10 one owes me. I do not and will not play  
11 games with budgets, conceal finances, and  
12 then laughingly cut your services and put  
13 your safety in jeopardy.

14 Ladies and gentlemen, government is  
15 not a game to me, rather, it's a weighty  
16 responsibility and a privilege to represent  
17 the people and fight for them.

18 Unfortunately, I believe the  
19 administration has drawn the line in the  
20 sand by playing these games and by laughing  
21 at you, the taxpayers. The majority of this  
22 city council stands firmly with you, my  
23 friends, because you are the winners and  
24 losers in the mayor's game of chance and  
25 finance, and city council doesn't want you

1 to lose.

2 Finally, I have citizens' requests  
3 for the week: A city resident reports that  
4 streetlights are out at the following  
5 locations: 500 block of Mulberry Street,  
6 all lights out. 100 block of Mulberry, six  
7 of eight lights out. 300 block of Adams, s  
8 six of eight lights out. West Lackawanna  
9 Avenue bridge, all the lights out. Linden  
10 Street bridge, all lights out. North  
11 Scranton Expressway, between Seventh Avenue  
12 and Main, all lights out on outbound lanes.

13 The resident raises a very important  
14 point which is in less than two weeks there  
15 will be thousands of guests downtown on  
16 parade day and evening. With downtown  
17 streets in partial darkness, a serious  
18 public safety issue exists, so I am hoping  
19 that these issues are going to be solved  
20 citywide very soon.

21 A city resident would like to know  
22 why the city is using CGI Communications  
23 from Rochester, New York, to solicit local  
24 businesses to advertise on street banners in  
25 the downtown. As a result, city council



1 wants to know if CGI has a contract with the  
2 City of Scranton. If so, was this contract  
3 put out to bid and when does it expire.  
4 Also, what dollar amount is paid to the City  
5 of Scranton annually.

6 Next, a Scranton resident requests  
7 the status of the North Scranton Junior High  
8 School building. He notes that Senator  
9 Mellow and Governor Rendell awarded a  
10 multi-million dollar grant for redevelopment  
11 of this structure into apartments and office  
12 space. Since the project has been on hold  
13 for over five years, the resident would also  
14 like to know if that grant was received by  
15 Goodwill Industries and Pennrose, the owners  
16 of the building and land.

17 A letter to DPW, a city resident  
18 requests that two large potholes at the  
19 corner of Elm Street and Pittson Avenue are  
20 filled and repaired. He also reports  
21 numerous potholes throughout Elm Street,  
22 North Washington Avenue and Railroad avenue  
23 to Seventh avenue. He asks that these  
24 potholes are also repaired.

25 A Scranton resident requests snow

1 removal on the Harrison Avenue bridge, the  
2 Elm Street viaduct and the Spruce Street  
3 bridge following all snow and ice events,  
4 and that's it.

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. SALE OF TAX  
6 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS  
7 2730 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
8 TAX MAP NO. 16717-030-040 TO THOMAS F.  
9 BARRETT AND TERRI F. BARRETT, 2734 BIRNEY  
10 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505 FOR THE  
11 CONSIDERATION OF \$2,500.00.

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 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
3 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND  
4 DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF  
5 \$4,000.00 FROM SANOFI PASTEUR INCORPORATED  
6 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
7 FOR THEIR CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATIONAL  
8 PROGRAMS.

9 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
10 entertain a motion that Item 5-C 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. JOYCE: Yes. I would just like  
16 to publically thank Sanofi Pasteur for their  
17 contribution that they wish to make to the  
18 city.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would also like to  
20 thank them and commend them for their  
21 continuing donations to our public safety.

22 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of  
23 introduction signify by saying aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. APPROVING AND  
6 AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY EMINENT  
7 DOMAIN, DEED IN LIEU OF CONDEMNATION, OR  
8 OTHERWISE OF THE NECESSARY RIGHTS,  
9 FRANCHISES, LICENSES, EASEMENTS OR  
10 TITLES OF LAND REQUIRED FROM JOSEPH S. SAITA  
11 AND JUDY E. SAITA IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE  
12 CRISP AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

16 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question?

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.  
20 I'm glad to see legislation regarding the  
21 Crisp avenue bridge, it's been long overdue,  
22 but I do have a question, Mrs. Krake, could  
23 we please a send a letter to the city  
24 engineer and OECD asking once 5-D is passed  
25 by council if all of the legal work will be

1 done for the project to begin come spring.  
2 Last I heard that this was the last piece of  
3 legislation and the last really any  
4 paperwork or legal work that needed to be  
5 done before the project could continue, and  
6 I would really love to see this work being  
7 started very, very soon.

8 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to add  
9 that both Joseph Saita and Judy Saita have  
10 signed off on this project, so they are  
11 obviously well aware of it and have provided  
12 authorization. All those in favor of  
13 introduction signify by saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. ACCEPTING A FIVE  
21 HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION  
22 FROM THE GREATER SCRANTON JAYCEES PRESENTED  
23 TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

1 introduced into it's proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Just like I did  
6 with Sonafi, I would like to thank Greater  
7 Scranton Jaycees for their contribution.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: I, too, would also  
9 echo Mr. Joyce's comments and I failed to  
10 thank the earlier contributors that were  
11 mentioned by Mrs. Krake for their donations,  
12 also, for public safety. Thank you very  
13 much.

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. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -  
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 13, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE  
24 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY  
25 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229599 ENTITLED "LAW

1 ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN" TO ACCEPT DONATIONS  
2 AND PAY FOR ALL RELATED EXPENSES FOR THE  
3 TORCH RUN.

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

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

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 6-B.READING BY TITLE -  
18 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 14, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE  
19 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY  
20 ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE ESTABLISHED) ENTITLED  
21 "URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENTS  
22 ACCOUNT" FOR THE DEPOSITING OF REPAYMENTS OF  
23 URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT FUNDS MADE TO  
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON BY THE OWNERS OF  
25 PROJECTS WHO RECEIVED THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1 ACTION GRANT FUNDS.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
5 pass reading by title.

6 MR. JOYCE: Second.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
8 those in favor signify by 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. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -  
16 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 15, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE  
17 - AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE  
18 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE DETERMINED)  
19 ENTITLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT  
20 REPAYMENT ACCOUNT ONLY FOR ECONOMIC  
21 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE  
22 ACTIVITIES AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C



1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION  
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -  
13 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12, 2011 - CREATING AND  
14 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF  
15 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
16 DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED COMMONWEALTH OF  
17 PENNSYLVANIA REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  
18 CAPITAL PROGRAM FUNDS ACCOUNT NO. 12A.0101  
19 FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT  
20 FUNDS ("RACP GRANT FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE  
21 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE  
22 BUDGET.

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. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
20 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2011 -  
21 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
22 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
23 ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO ITS CONTRACT  
24 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
25 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC

1 DEVELOPMENT FOR HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT  
2 ASSISTANCE CONCERNING THE RENOVATION OF THE  
3 CONNELL BUILDING IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE  
4 GRANT FUNDING THEREUNDER BY \$250,000.00 FOR  
5 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS.

6 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a  
7 motion to table Item 7-B.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: There is a motion on the  
10 floor to table Item 7-B and a second. On  
11 the question?

12 MR. ROGAN: On the question, I voted  
13 "no" last week to this legislation and  
14 although tabling it I guess is better than  
15 passing it, I am going to vote "no" on  
16 tabling it not because I support the project  
17 because I think we should give it an up or  
18 down vote and it should be voted down.  
19 \$250,000 for a small piece of sidewalk is  
20 government waste at it's absolutely worse.  
21 It is almost as bad as the infamous bridge  
22 to no where that was made very famous up in  
23 Alaska.

24 I went down this weekend and checked  
25 out the sidewalks, they were nice sidewalks,

1 but they weren't made of silver or gold  
2 so --

3 MR. JOYCE: While I respect  
4 Mr. Rogan's opinion, I would like to table  
5 this for the mere fact that Ms. Aebli didn't  
6 respond back to one of council's request,  
7 however, I do believe that there needs be a  
8 little bit more substantiation just then the  
9 office submitted an application for  
10 \$250,000, and that it's grant funding  
11 because it's on a public right-of-way. I  
12 would like to see some square footage and I  
13 would like to see a little bit more detail,  
14 an estimate of costs that will be incurred  
15 with this.

16 For instance, if you are an  
17 insurance claim's adjustor, not that I am,  
18 you are not going to take the word of a body  
19 shop that says it's \$2.500 to repair your  
20 vehicle that was involved in an accident.  
21 You are going to want to see a breakdown of  
22 what the costs incurred will be and that's  
23 why I may end up agreeing with Mr. Rogan  
24 that it may be a misuse of federal taxpayer  
25 dollars. I want to at least give the office

1 the opportunity to substantiate the \$250,000  
2 by sending us a breakdown of the costs that  
3 will be incurred, and that's all.

4 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to  
5 add, OECD is not in possession of that type  
6 of itemized list and costs list, please  
7 contact Mr. Jefferson in order to obtain  
8 that before next week's meeting because I do  
9 agree this needs to move along and I really  
10 would like to see it go back onto the agenda  
11 next week, regardless of the outcome.

12 MR. JOYCE: And the \$250,000 may be  
13 very well justified.

14 MR. MCGOFF: In the letter that was  
15 sent to us and through all of this, DCED did  
16 approve this grant conditionally. It's  
17 obviously eligible for the funding, but yet  
18 I agree, I think that there should be some  
19 justification for the expense --

20 MR. JOYCE: Right.

21 MR. MCGOFF: -- provided to council  
22 and so I will agree with tabling it.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: And ditto with my  
24 colleagues.

25 MR. ROGAN: I would just add that I

1           respect my colleagues' opinion to seek more  
2           information, but there is no amount of  
3           information that I could be given that could  
4           justify voting for a quarter of a million  
5           dollars for a very small amount of  
6           sidewalks. We are not talking about  
7           sidewalks for a block, it's in front of one  
8           building and one street.

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

11                       MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13                       MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14                       MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

15                       MR. ROGAN: No.

16                       MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so  
17           moved. Item 7-B is tabled. If there is no  
18           further business, I will entertain a motion  
19           to adjourn.

20                       MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

21                       MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
22           adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER