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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, March 15, 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
(Not present)

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. APPLICATIONS ALONG
15 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
16 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
18 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes?

19 MS. KRAKE: We have several
20 responses this evening. The first is from
21 Ryan McGowan, open records officer and BA of
22 the City of Scranton. He tells us he needs
23 an additional 30 days in order to respond to
24 our request for concerning the moving of the
25 \$2.9 million from the Worker's Compensation

1 Trust Fund.

2 Our next response is from Jody
3 Cordaro, this is concerning the Lace
4 Building Affiliates. We had several
5 questions concerning Mr. Casey. He tells us
6 that Mr. Casey has taken a job in the new
7 Marcellus gas industry and is committed
8 full-time to that role. He was involved
9 with the Lace Building Affiliates from April
10 2010 to November 26, 2010. Mr. Casey's
11 departure from his partnership in the
12 Scranton Lace Complex project was effective
13 by resignation on November 26, and he also
14 tells us that Delta Development was
15 retained, which is who he works for, was
16 retained by the Lace Building Affiliates for
17 the coordination of public funding and
18 historic tax credit execution, and they
19 continue to be a consultant for the Lace
20 Building Affiliates.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake,
22 and I think it is very important that
23 council continues to keep vigilant watch on
24 each of the companies who have received our
25 RACP grants.

1 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
2 from the Scranton Redevelopment Authority.
3 We had asked for an itemized specific and
4 complete list of all costs and coinciding
5 dates of fees for Attorney Carl Greco
6 through the eminent domain cases against
7 Buona Pizza and a Mr. Stadolni. They tell
8 us that copies of all invoices for legal
9 services and fees paid to Carl Greco from
10 August 1, 2006, through the present are
11 available for our inspection and review at
12 the office of the Redevelopment Authority,
13 Suite 81, the Scranton Life building, Spruce
14 Street. They are also tell us that certain
15 information has been redacted from the
16 records made available for our inspection in
17 accordance with applicable law.
18 Specifically, billing records which reveal
19 the nature of the services performed are not
20 public records subject to access and,
21 therefore, such information asked for will
22 be redacted.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
24 We will have someone then visit the office
25 and go through all of the those legal

1 services and fees and make copies of what is
2 appropriate and when counsel has gathered
3 all of that information we will report that
4 to you publically.

5 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
6 from PennDOT, from Keith Williams, in
7 regards to our letter February 10 and
8 pending the arrival of final plans, special
9 revisions and estimate with the city
10 consultants, their name is Traffic Planning
11 and Design. The schedule flood date for the
12 above-mentioned project is the Spring of
13 2011. The estimated completion for the
14 project is claimed to be in the Fall of
15 2011.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MS. KRAKE: And we have two
18 responses from Charles Jefferson. These are
19 concerning the Connell Loft's building. We
20 had requested a copy of the plan review for
21 the grocery store tenant, and he tells us a
22 planned review is not available at this time
23 as plans have not been finalized for the
24 project and as such have not been submitted
25 for review. And that also for Mulberry

1 Loft's, a plan review is not available at
2 this time as plans have not been finalized
3 for the property and have not been submitted
4 for review.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
6 If we could follow-up with an additional
7 correspondence to Mr. Jefferson requesting a
8 copy of the plan reviews when they are
9 produced.

10 MS. KRAKE: Yes, and that's all I
11 have.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.
13 Mr. Rogan is unable to attend tonight's
14 meeting due to illness. Do any council
15 members have announcements at this time?

16 MR. MCGOFF: First, I'd like to make
17 a motion to make Mr. Loscombe acting chair
18 for community development for this evening.

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

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
3 have it and so moved. Thank you,
4 Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: And I do have one thing
6 that I would like to mention. The Matthew's
7 Mission is sponsoring an Easter
8 Eggstravaganza. Matthew's Mission is a
9 local charity named in honor of Matthew
10 Newell who died in the past year. What it
11 is, there is going to be a day of egg
12 hunting, races, games, raffles, pictures
13 with the Easter bunny and other items, it's
14 being held at Harmon Field in South
15 Scranton, Saturday, April 9, at 11 a.m.,
16 with the Easter egg hunt beginning at 11:30
17 a.m. There's a \$2 admission to the egg
18 hunt, rain or shine, and proceeds will
19 benefit people with special needs. And I
20 will give this to someone from ECTV so that
21 it can be scrolled, but that's an Easter
22 Eggstravaganza Saturday, April 9, at 11 a.m.
23 at Harmon Field in South Scranton.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
25 Is there anyone else?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just have one. The
2 Dante Literary Society at 1916 Prospect
3 Avenue will be holding an Italian-style
4 baked fish dinner this Friday, March 18.
5 The cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for
6 children under 12. The menu will include
7 breaded Haddock from South Side Seafood,
8 potatoes and glazed carrots, coleslaw and
9 cake. Dinner is from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.
10 That's all I have. Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: And I would also like to
12 announce that the PLTA, Parents Loving
13 Children through Autism, will be holding
14 their annual walk for autism awareness on
15 Saturday, April 16, 2011, at Nay Aug Park.
16 The registration will begin at 9:30 and the
17 walk will follow at 11:00. The cost to
18 register is \$10 if received by March 25 or
19 \$15 the day of the walk. If you would like
20 to register or register a team of the
21 individuals you may do so by calling
22 341-3388 or you can visit the PLCTA website
23 at www.PLCTA.com, and that's all.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. There will
25 be a benefit for Don Moran on Saturday,

1 March 19, 2011, at Holy Rosary Hall from 5
2 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and are available
3 at the door.

4 A dance-a-thon will be conducted
5 this Saturday, March 19, at the Scranton
6 High School gymnasium from 2 to 9 p.m. to
7 benefit the Four Diamonds fund which
8 supports children who suffer from cancer.
9 Registration begins at 1 p.m., and tickets
10 are \$15 to participate in the dance-a-thon
11 and \$5 to enter, observe, and take part in
12 the many basket raffles.

13 Also, Scranton High School students
14 are still seeking donations of gift cards,
15 baskets, etcetera, from any business or
16 individuals who wishes to make a donation.
17 You can contact Alyssa Auer at
18 ALAUER93@aol.com.

19 I would like to congratulate one of
20 my colleagues, Councilman Rogan. He has
21 been nominated for the Times Leader 40 under
22 40 award, and the award program and dinner
23 will occur on March 28. It is the Time
24 Leader's third annual 40 under 40 event and
25 we are, indeed, very pleased that Mr. Rogan

1 will be honored that evening.

2 Finally, on behalf of Scranton City
3 Council, I wish you all a very safe and
4 happy St. Patrick's Day, and that's it.

5 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
6 PARTICIPATION.

7 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
8 tonight is Matt MacDonald.

9 MR. MACDONALD: Hi. Good evening,
10 Council. My name is Matt MacDonald. I'm a
11 city resident and vice president of the
12 Scranton Firefighters Local 60. The reason
13 I'm here tonight is our membership wanted me
14 to come and tell you about a concern we
15 have. We all know that the mayor has
16 decided to permanently and temporarily close
17 apparatus, fire apparatus in the city. Our
18 concern comes when a firehouse itself is
19 closed down.

20 Over the past -- since the beginning
21 of the year we've had Engine 15, which is in
22 the Petersburg section off the city, the
23 firehouse has been closed down numerous
24 times. We are concerned with this because,
25 well, obviously, we are concerned because of

1 the fire safety. We have another concern
2 because the citizens of Scranton don't
3 realize that the firehouse is closed. Any
4 firefighter will tell you that citizens come
5 to the firehouse for medical emergencies,
6 just I think two shifts ago we had a
7 gentleman -- I work on Wyoming Avenue at
8 Rescue 1, and a gentleman stopped, his
9 friend was having seizure, stopped and we,
10 you know, rendered aid until the ambulance
11 came. So people come all the time for
12 medical emergencies, to report fires. We
13 all know that parents teach their children
14 that a firehouse is a safe haven that they
15 can come there if they are lost or in
16 danger.

17 So with that said, our membership
18 started when the firehouse was closed to put
19 a sign on the door up there that "In case of
20 emergency please dial 911, this firehouse is
21 closed."

22 Unfortunately, the city, I'm not
23 exactly sure, I think the fire chief ordered
24 the deputy chief to have that sign removed.
25 So again, we are concerned and I'm bringing

1 to you that hopefully you could have
2 something done that when the firehouse is
3 closed, and we have the -- that's an issue
4 in itself, but please just notify the public
5 that that neighborhood firehouse is closed.
6 Like I said, it's a safety issue, but I just
7 explained so hopefully there is something
8 that council could do about this.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. And the sign can
10 be just removed daily; correct?

11 MR. MACDONALD: Yes.

12 MS. EVANS: In other words,
13 according to the circumstances.

14 MR. MACDONALD: Sure.

15 MS. EVANS: When a station is
16 browned-out a sign can go up and then, of
17 course, when it's in operation the sign is
18 removed.

19 MR. MACDONALD: Yes. What was
20 happening is the off-going shift in the
21 mornings was putting the sign up when the
22 firehouse was being browned out for that
23 next 24 hours, and then when the shift came
24 in, whether it be the next day or two days
25 later, would take the sign down. If you

1 drive by and it's closed the fire engine is
2 still in there. It looks like it's open,
3 but it's not, there is no one at home. We
4 would hate for some -- you know, somebody to
5 have an emergency go there, be knocking on
6 the door and, you know, wasting valuable
7 minutes so --

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. Yes.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: The other situation,
10 a lot of people may think it's open, too, in
11 the evenings, when the alarm goes off it
12 goes off through all of the stations in the
13 city, activating all of the lights, and the
14 lights have to be reset and shut off by
15 someone in that station, so they could be on
16 all evening so someone would think that
17 there is firefighters in there. I mean, I
18 know how many times people go for
19 emergencies or to verbally report a fire.

20 MR. MACDONALD: Yeah.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I mean, it's a public
22 service that they should be notified that
23 their station is closed at that time.

24 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, please send
25 a letter on behalf of Scranton City Council

1 to the mayor urging him to reverse the order
2 that prohibits public awareness of which
3 fire stations are closed on a given day or
4 night, and in addition, if we could please
5 send letters to each of the city's
6 neighborhood associations and to probably
7 the Scranton School District as well. I
8 think you mentioned children.

9 MR. MACDONALD: Yeah. I know when I
10 was in school my parents taught me if I was
11 lost or if there was, you know -- if I was
12 in danger to go to your, you know, your
13 local fire station if you could.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. MACDONALD: Even adults. I
16 mean, even when, you know, someone is being
17 followed, you know, they tell them to go to
18 the police station and fire station. So,
19 like I said, the membership just wanted us
20 to come here and let you know that because
21 they are concerned that, you know, people
22 thought they were open, especially like
23 Mr. Loscombe said, that when the lights go
24 on at night it appears people are there.

25 MS. EVANS: You would assume, yes.

1 MR. MCGOFF: That's all I have.

2 Thank you very much, Council.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Just out of
5 curiosity, did anyone provide you with
6 reason why the sign was taken down or --

7 MR. MCGOFF: No. The only thing I
8 heard was our deputy chief was ordered to
9 remove the sign and they did. I'm not sure
10 why.

11 MR. JOYCE: Fair enough.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, we do hope that
13 the mayor will take note and reverse this
14 order and I do think it is very important
15 for each of the neighborhoods to disseminate
16 that information among their areas, and I do
17 think as well it's equally important for the
18 school district to be able to notify
19 students that stations may not be opened in
20 the event of any type of emergency that a
21 child may be having. In such cases every
22 second, every minute can count, so it's
23 certainly a safety issue I think that people
24 should be made aware of when a station has
25 been closed for a day or two. Thank you so

1 much, Mr. MacDonald.

2 MR. MACDONALD: Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: And Giovanni Piccolino.

4 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, city
5 council, and fellow Scrantonians, may God
6 bless us all.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. PICCOLINO: My name is Giovanni
9 Piccolino, I live, work and own a business
10 in the City of Scranton. In the last couple
11 of weeks I have been going around to all of
12 my fellow small business owners in the city,
13 just to get their input on why they think
14 that it's kind of tough to do business in
15 the City of Scranton, so I kind of came up
16 with a David Letterman Top Ten list of why
17 businesses choose to stay in the surrounding
18 areas like Dickson City, Taylor, Old Forge,
19 and whatnot and not come into the City of
20 Scranton.

21 Starting with number ten, most
22 businesses move into the outskirts of
23 Scranton like Dickson City because the
24 business climate is healthier there. Like
25 an example again, we have no franchises in

1 the City of Scranton whatsoever, they
2 actually take the time to do the surveys and
3 the logistics and when it boils down to it
4 the bottom line is the lack of services in
5 the overwhelming tax bracket just keeps them
6 away from this city.

7 Number nine, the parking, obviously,
8 is more readily available in these other
9 little towns and customers find safe and
10 secure parking with no extra fees.

11 There is little or no support
12 businesses, such as my own, Coney Island.
13 Everything here seems to be geared towards
14 crony developers and big businesses, and the
15 example of this, I just had a conversation
16 with Tom Moran, the owner of Coney Island,
17 and he had to pay a private I guess plowing
18 company to plow his parking spots, and a
19 city policeman came up to him and said if
20 they -- because he was pushing the snow down
21 Cedar Avenue with this private plower, they
22 told this plowing company if they put their
23 blade on the ground again that they would be
24 arrested. All this gentleman was trying to
25 do was clear out the spaces in front of his

1 business. The city had the audacity to tell
2 him that he cannot push the snow down Cedar.
3 Where else is the snow supposed to go? He
4 is just trying to clear those five, six,
5 seven spots by his business.

6 I also had a discussion with
7 Miss Kelly Haam, owners of Kelly's Pub and
8 Eatery. She has to pay, again, a private
9 plowing company to plow Genet Street which
10 runs right alongside of her. This is not
11 friendly. Coney Island has been there since
12 1921, and obviously, we all know Kelly's has
13 been there a good 15 to 20 years, they are a
14 thriving business. These are things that,
15 you know, and not to mention our situation,
16 everybody already knows that, I don't even
17 have to mention it.

18 The condition of the roads and the
19 streets in the city is deplorable. The
20 other day one of my delivery drivers his car
21 broke down so I was bringing some deliveries
22 and if you guys have a chance to get up to
23 the 400 to around the 600 block of Beach
24 Street, I have never in my entire life seen
25 road conditions like that. I feel bad for

1 the people on Beach Street. I would never
2 take that route again. I have never seen so
3 much potholes and it's just disastrous. And
4 again, not even to mention Lackawanna and
5 North Washington Avenue, you are going in
6 and out and in and out. It's like a pothole
7 slalom.

8 There is a lack of unity in the City
9 of Scranton. There is no real business
10 association geared to small businesses, and
11 the decided lack of cooperation between the
12 city and small businesses. The city does
13 not encourage small business expansion, they
14 would rather choose to subsidize places like
15 Molly Brannigan's, \$800,000, closed in less
16 than two years. Poochie on Spruce Street,
17 hundreds of thousands of dollars, closed in
18 less than two years. Michael's Eyeglasses,
19 \$80,000, Spruce Street, closed less than two
20 years. Martini Bar and Grill, not really
21 quite sure what they received, closed in
22 less than two years. That was the previous
23 city council with you, Mr. McGoff, voting to
24 give, that's roughly \$1 million dollars that
25 you could have gave some of the local

1 businesses like Buona Pizza, Coney Island,
2 Kelly's. You know, we can expand and help
3 out the mercantile tax and all of the other
4 taxes that we pay.

5 There is absolutely no incentive to
6 stay in the city or do any improvements.

7 There is no communication between
8 the city and small businesses. We must
9 subject ourselves to political
10 considerations in order to get anything
11 done. I was not a Christopher Doherty
12 crony, so I was targeted.

13 There is no consideration for the
14 needs and wants of the people. In order to
15 have reasonable dining, leisure or
16 entertainment the people have to leave the
17 city. Even our political leaders and their
18 organizations don't patronize Scranton.
19 Look at the parade day committee, they don't
20 even stay in the city.

21 And last, but not least, we all know
22 it, the city makes it extremely difficulty
23 for us small businesses to survive. Just
24 the permits, I have to thank Mrs. Krake,
25 because the city -- our health permit, our

1 inspection was due February 28. They
2 purposely didn't even come, they didn't do
3 an inspection, they didn't come for the
4 payment or anything, just so that we could
5 be a week behind, so it went from \$200 to
6 \$400, but luckily she informed me to go down
7 there and pay it that day, and I did, and
8 they kind of looked shocked when I was down
9 there. I'm like, "Oh, you don't come and do
10 inspections anymore?"

11 And we got our health inspection in
12 the mail. There no was inspection done
13 whatsoever.

14 I'll just finish up real quickly. I
15 also have the owner of Nickie's Hogies up on
16 Davis Street, right up there, he has four
17 banners that says, "Meatball subs, cheese
18 steak sub and Italian sub," to help out his
19 business. Again, the city as the audacity,
20 not his landlord, the city has the audacity
21 to bother this gentleman for a little banner
22 that lays across his business just so he
23 can, you know, get more business because you
24 really can't tell that it's there unless he
25 has this banner laid across there. And

1 these are all just small little things, this
2 gentleman owns three businesses in the city.
3 He owns one on Swetland and he has something
4 to do with Pajama's Pizzeria down here. I
5 mean, these people are in this city, us,
6 Coney Island, you know, it goes back to Tony
7 Harding and even Preno's kind of getting
8 pushed out of the city. You got to
9 understand, that the core of this city
10 starts with small businesses, then the
11 franchise and everybody else will come into
12 town, because they see that you are
13 successful and that you are thriving, not
14 being pushed out of town. That's all I have
15 to say. Thank you very much.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
17 Mr. Piccolino. Just for your edification
18 and that of the public, the loan for
19 Martini's Bar and Grill, that loan was voted
20 down by city council and so that business
21 did not receive any type of loan through
22 OECD, and I believe that if it hasn't
23 already it will very shortly be open once
24 again in it's same location. Andy
25 Sbaraglia.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Could I make one
2 comment?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Actually two. The St.
5 Patrick's Day Parade Committee does meet in
6 the City of Scranton. They meet at
7 Lackawanna College. You may be referring to
8 the Friendly Sons dinner, the friendly sons
9 of Lackawanna County, have their dinner at
10 Genetti's.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
12 And our next speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
14 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
15 I'm glad you're looking into Mr. Greco's --
16 Attorney Greco's salaries and so forth or
17 what you want to call, but I think you
18 should go a bit further. You should do it
19 to every entity in the city, the
20 authorities. How many lawsuits are
21 currently with the authorities? How many
22 lawsuits are currently with city hall?
23 People either suing city hall or city hall
24 suing somebody else or even appealing,
25 whatever you want to call it? You got to

1 get a total picture of actually what is
2 happening, what all the legalities in this
3 city. I have nothing against the lawyer
4 making a buck, that's what they are there
5 for, but when you're pushing it and pushing
6 it pushing it and some lawyers making
7 enormous salaries, well, then it's time to
8 look. I don't see why they couldn't have an
9 in-house situation within the city, they
10 handle all of the authorities and everything
11 to it. Otherwise, you have a whole legal
12 department within the city, they handle all
13 of the city departments and authorities
14 instead of everyone having their own. No
15 wonder why you can't keep track. Every
16 authority has it's own solicitor and that
17 adds the cost.

18 And I don't even know where the
19 Recreational Authority is getting the money
20 to pay for all of their legal fees. That is
21 it something I'm sort of interested in
22 because certainly they can't be thinking
23 that they can just live off the poor kids
24 that swim in the pool. That's a poor
25 solution. I know they rent a few pavilions

1 out, but something really to be done to look
2 at the total picture of the city.

3 I know you are going to do some
4 eminent domain in there, is a house involved
5 in that for the --

6 MS. EVANS: No, it's not. It's a
7 vacant lot, yes.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: There is no big
9 problem there. I was afraid there was some
10 old woman up there that is going to lose her
11 home.

12 MS. EVANS: No.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's unwilling to
14 leave like me.

15 MS. EVANS: No, no, we wouldn't
16 allow that to happen.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay, so where do we
18 stand on some of the lawsuits that the
19 city -- I know they had to come up -- I
20 didn't talk to about it last week, I know
21 the firemen, the policemen won that sort of
22 salary increase because they didn't go back
23 far enough. I guess that's one of the
24 things that you would appeal, but he has
25 been appealing so many things I can hardly

1 keep track of them. I'm still down there
2 with the clerks for the police department.
3 I don't know if that ever got straightened
4 out.

5 Somewhere along the line we got to
6 get the city in order financially and
7 legality wise. You can't go this way. The
8 way we're going is not the way to be going.
9 I mean, we made lot of bad decisions, I
10 understand that, putting the meters down
11 there at the old General Dynamics or
12 Chamberlain was not a great idea. I don't
13 know why it was done, but it wasn't the
14 best, and it's sorry to say we had to take a
15 huge loss on it. I mean, they are sitting
16 down there. I don't know if we can reuse
17 them, I don't know where we can put them
18 really. How many neighborhoods you want to
19 stick them into.

20 But somewhere the total picture of
21 the city is really, really in a fog. I
22 don't think anybody really knows what's told
23 them what's going on in the city and it's
24 really sad. I'm one of the people that
25 believe in open, honest and efficient

1 government. I believe even though if it was
2 my best friend and he was in trouble and it
3 got into legality I would still report it.
4 You report everything that happens that
5 touches the citizens in the city whether you
6 like to or not, and it's the only way you
7 can actually move forward. Too many
8 mistakes were made in the past and really
9 they were big mistakes.

10 You saw them down there even with
11 the Medallion garage that fiasco of people
12 going in there going to repair it and then
13 rip it down, and then the grouped that went
14 in took a look at the Casey building and
15 shook their heads and said no. You can't do
16 anything with it. It's sad, you know, I
17 mean, Casey was a nice hotel and it was a
18 allowed to get to where it was where it had
19 to be ripped down.

20 I don't -- I worked in there. I
21 worked on the elevators, so I know exactly
22 what the conditions were and even towards
23 the end I worked on the elevators in that
24 building, and you're right. It had fallen
25 apart. I mean, really, really had fallen

1 apart and I think it was even a lot of the
2 things that were in there were taken out. I
3 thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
5 Mr. Sbaraglia. Ron Ellman.

6 MR. ELLMAN: This is what I was
7 going to talk about tonight. Well, was it
8 the Diogenes that was looking for a honest
9 man? Well, he would have a hard time around
10 this place, wouldn't he? I just -- I just
11 have people just telling me right to my face
12 some kind of ridiculous story. As you can
13 see, this paper I gave you is called the
14 Purely Public Charity Act. Now, it lists
15 five obligations for any tax exemption, and
16 there is one in hundreds in this city that
17 could fulfill all five. Now, it's time --
18 it's time to just turn terminate all of
19 these tax cheats. My pet one is Paul
20 Mansour. He doesn't qualify for a one. 15
21 years he has bought and sold property and
22 not paid taxes. He doesn't qualify for any
23 of these obligations that are on the sheet.
24 It's time to terminate him and get our money
25 back, you know. There is probably a million

1 dollars or more that these people are beaten
2 out of the taxpayers of this city. The
3 money is just gone, but there is not a -- we
4 don't need to let them keep going on for
5 another day.

6 This is -- right there is the tool
7 you people just are going to have to learn
8 to use it because it's in black and white in
9 front of you. There is hundreds and
10 hundreds of people out there that say they
11 are nonprofits and church-related businesses
12 and they are not. It takes a good business
13 to qualify for all five of those and there
14 is only one, like I said, in hundreds in
15 this city right now if you get out on your
16 computer that fill that obligation.

17 And next I'd like to say a word
18 about all of the bleeding hearts that feel
19 so sorry for Mr. Jefferson. He sat right
20 here in this very room saying he spent \$27
21 million on that building, all you have to do
22 is go right upstairs. He paid a little over
23 \$40,000 building permit. Do you realize how
24 much money is gone right there. He has just
25 beat the city out of a couple of hundred

1 thousands dollars in building permit money
2 and now he wants to do the same over there.
3 This man just -- he can't do business with
4 people like that. Nobody should have to do
5 business with a person like that. He has no
6 credibility whatsoever.

7 I got to go to the hospital, so I
8 won't know what's going on with the rest of
9 the meeting, but I know you five people care
10 about this city like I do or you wouldn't be
11 up there. You know, there is no doubt in my
12 mind, but you just got to -- you got to
13 remember all of these poor people out there
14 that put you in those seats, you have got to
15 start terminating -- you know, somebody told
16 me one of the Paul Mansour's-- he brags that
17 he's friends with the mayor. I don't think
18 care who he's friends with, the man is no
19 good, he's stolen from the hardworking
20 people of this city by not paying his share
21 like everybody else is.

22 I just hope you can get our taxable
23 properties back on the payroll because that
24 sheets shows right there how many are just
25 beating us left and right out of everything.

1 It's got to end, and I know you people just
2 want to do everything you can. Right there
3 is the tool to do something with. That
4 article four says at that that they have to
5 contribute -- I'll read it to you, article
6 four says they have to relieve the
7 government of some of it's burden. Taking
8 taxable properties off by the hundreds isn't
9 relieving this area of any burden.

10 Please you all -- take some time and
11 talk about that and do something and get
12 these properties away from all of these
13 deadbeats that, you know, that are out
14 there. It's just got to end. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

17 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
18 could?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. HUGHES: I believe that what
21 should happen with this is that this should
22 be sent to John Foley at the Assessor's
23 Office. The City of Scranton does not
24 assess properties. We have no control over
25 a property that's tax exempt or that is a

1 taxable and then goes tax exempt for what
2 the assessment figures are. However, John
3 Foley is now the chief assessor and I would
4 recommend that maybe a quick letter be sent,
5 you know, with this along with the comments
6 and see what Lackawanna County is doing in
7 order to be comparable with Wyoming County.
8 I mean, that's what we can do. We don't
9 have any control over the assessment
10 process, but John Foley is the chief
11 assessor and maybe we can get an answer on
12 that, you know, for you and also Ron and
13 also for the benefit of the --

14 MR. ELLMAN: That's a good start.

15 MR. HUGHES: That's where we have to
16 start. Thank you for bringing it in and I
17 think that would be the way to go.

18 MS. EVANS: And thank you, Attorney
19 Hughes. Mrs. Krake, if you can please send
20 that letter according to our solicitor's
21 specifications.

22 MR. JOYCE: Also, Mrs. Krake, if you
23 could please ask Mr. Foley if there is a
24 form that's comparable that's used in
25 Lackawanna County and if you can, if you can

1 please send us a copy of the forms, so, you
2 know, we are comparing apples to apples here
3 in looking at these things.

4 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Les
5 Spindler.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
7 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
8 homeowner and taxpayer.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. SPINDLER: You know, I just
11 can't believe what I heard tonight. This
12 city administration has just reached an all
13 time low. For the fire department to put up
14 a sign on a firehouse warning people that
15 it's closed and for the fire chief to have
16 it taken down, that's just an all time low
17 in my eyes and it's just more proof, which
18 I've said in the past, this city doesn't
19 give a darn about the safety of people in
20 this city and it's really ashame and I can't
21 believe-- I'm one of the few people that
22 comes here and complains. People should be
23 revolting in this city against this mayor.
24 I have called him, you know, I'm only one
25 person. Everybody should be calling this

1 mayor's office and, you know, complaining
2 about the public safety as being hurt in
3 this city. It's just despicable what's
4 going on.

5 I was angry enough when I came here
6 now that just made me more angry because
7 what I heard last week the mayor is going to
8 appeal his latest arbitration loss and as a
9 taxpayer in the city it just angers the heck
10 out of me. How long is this going to be
11 going on? I don't know how this man gets
12 away with it, but I do know how it's going
13 to go on, he is going to appeal, appeal,
14 appeal until he is out of office and then it
15 will be the next mayor's headache and he
16 has disregarded Court orders. Can I ask
17 Attorney Hughes a question, Mrs. Evans?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Attorney Hughes, is
20 there nothing that can be done? I mean, he
21 has violated Court orders. Can't he be held
22 in contempt of Court?

23 MR. HUGHES: I have no idea what
24 Court orders you are talking about, however,
25 whenever there is any kind of judgment

1 that's rendered an opinion it's an
2 automatic -- it's within the discretion of
3 the mayor to take an appeal and he is
4 exercising the rights as the mayor to appeal
5 these decisions, but by virtue of the fact
6 that he is -- these are Court orders because
7 they are decisions and they make a monetary
8 award where they are an arbitration award,
9 you know, does mean that he is violating the
10 order. He is exercising the rights that any
11 citizens has or any municipal government has
12 to take an appeal to a higher court.

13 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, thank you. I
14 just think it's a darn shame that the
15 taxpayers are the ones suffering and Chris
16 Doherty's lawyers are the ones making the
17 money.

18 Now, more about the mayor. Last
19 week I brought up about StreetSmart,
20 Mrs. Evans, in your comments in answer to my
21 question, that I guess it's up the mayor to
22 implement the StreetSmart program?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes, it is.

24 MR. SPINDLER: And he is not doing
25 it?

1 MS. EVANS: He has not done so to
2 date.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Well, then I have
4 another question for Attorney Hughes, that's
5 in the budget; correct?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Doesn't he have to
8 abide by the budget, Attorney Hughes?

9 MR. HUGHES: It must be 100
10 questions tonight. The fact that the
11 revenue is in the budget, the question with
12 StreetSmart does it have to be bid or is it
13 a sole source contract. That's what it
14 comes down to before the contract can be
15 awarded. It's taken them about two and a
16 half months. I know the City of Easton has
17 awarded the contract for StreetSmart on the
18 basis it is a sole source contract. I have
19 written letters regarding that and also most
20 recently I have written another letter to
21 Attorney Brazil and Attorney Kelly regarding
22 the issue that Attorney Brazil raised that
23 whether under the city's administrative code
24 StreetSmart could be a sole source. I gave
25 them some information on that where it's

1 possible and they are reviewing that it can
2 be a sole source, but that's not our
3 decision.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, thank you. I
5 just think that he is so bitter that his
6 budget didn't get passed and he is trying to
7 make council's budget look bad by not
8 implementing this program and holding some
9 funds back that would have been raised.

10 MS. EVANS: Exactly.

11 MR. SPINDLER: He's just a bitter,
12 angry man and it's unbelievable.

13 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, actually
14 I'm going to be commenting under motions on
15 the situation involving StreetSmart and city
16 government.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Now I
18 have some requests. Well, some questions I
19 made in the past. Oh, I brought this up
20 quite awhile ago and I handed in a request,
21 the streetlights on the McDade Expressway
22 and the Linden Street Bridge, has anything
23 been heard about that?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I was going to touch
25 that on motions, also.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Oh, something
2 else I brought up quite a few months ago,
3 the West Lackawanna County Bridge coming
4 into downtown, I told a story about having
5 to wait for four traffic light changes and
6 asking for a left-turn arrow, anything on
7 that?

8 MS. EVANS: No, we haven't heard
9 anything.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's supposed to be
11 part of the signalization program that they
12 were working on.

13 MR. SPINDLER: And now with Linden
14 Street being closed there is going to be
15 more traffic there, it's going to be twice
16 as bad.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes, it will.

18 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, here is
19 something I got to mention or I won't be
20 able to go home tonight, my wife travels
21 this one way every day to go to work where
22 Amity Court meets Keyser Avenue there is a
23 stop sign there on Amity Court, my wife said
24 it's so faded you can barely see it and it's
25 a safety hazard, and on that block of Amity

1 Court, also, it's filled with real deep
2 potholes and she has to take a detour now to
3 go to visit because they are so bad, and I
4 had that typed up and I made a few additions
5 here, I will give them to Ms. Carrera.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Potholes in the 1700
8 block of West Gibson and someone told me
9 that at 1720 West Gibson a sinkhole opened
10 up at the rear of that property, so it could
11 be from all of the snow and rain we have had
12 lately.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Again, I'll give this
15 to Ms. Carrera.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. We
17 appreciate that.

18 MR. SPINDLER: One more comment, the
19 West Scranton boys play at 8:00 tonight in
20 Bethlehem. I want to wish them best of
21 luck.

22 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

23 MR. SPINDLER: And I don't know when
24 the girls play, the girls won Saturday and
25 they play I guess later on this week.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Tomorrow.

2 MR. SPINDLER: I want to wish both
3 teams best of luck and to piggyback on what
4 Mrs. Evans said, I know you asked to have
5 the Scranton boys team in and the West
6 Scranton girls' team come in, I think it
7 would be a good idea, also, to bring in the
8 West Scranton boys' team, they are having a
9 very fine season and they have already won
10 one state playoff game, so I think they
11 should be brought in, also.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

13 MR. SPINDLER: And best of luck to
14 them.

15 MS. EVANS: And we agree with you,
16 go West. And our next speaker is Marie
17 Schumacher. Ms. Carrera, if we can also
18 provide proclamations for the West Scranton
19 boys' team.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: First I would like
23 to call attention to those people who may
24 not get the newspaper that there was an ad
25 in about a week or so ago that the OECD

1 draft caper is available for review during
2 the standard business hours this week and
3 next, so if anybody wants to do that.

4 And since our backup to the agenda
5 items is still not available on-line, if we
6 can't get in here during business hours we
7 don't have access and I would like to know
8 if 7-D is a pure loan or if it's a loan to
9 grant program. You can answer that during
10 motions.

11 I was also looking through the 2009
12 audit, and some things are rather vague,
13 which is disappointing after we waited so
14 long for it to find things that were vague,
15 so I do -- will give Ms. Carrera a note
16 tonight, but in the questions on note 13, on
17 commitments and contingencies with respect
18 to litigation it says, "Various suits
19 resulting mainly from injuries sustained in
20 accidents on city property."

21 I would like to know how many suits
22 are outstanding and if there is any
23 commonality that could be corrected by
24 changes in procedures that cause these
25 accidents. It says there are two cases with

1 construction contractors, I would like to
2 know who the contractors are and how many
3 open contracts these contractors have with
4 the city. Then there is another, lawsuits
5 over development of phase three of the
6 section of the city. I'd like to know if
7 this is Providence Square, if not what
8 section of the city does this lawsuit regard
9 and what is the potential exposure of that
10 lawsuit.

11 Next, there has been some talk over
12 the weeks about the money that was no longer
13 needed and still available in the account
14 for -- that the Lackawanna County had
15 received for the Lace Company project before
16 they sold the property and it's roughly in
17 the \$200,000, and I have a suggestion, I
18 think there may not be a legal obligation,
19 but I think there is certainly a moral
20 obligation for the city to help over there
21 with the runoff from Tripp Park. As you're
22 aware, the Medallis family, and I don't know
23 them, I wouldn't know them if I tripped over
24 them, but they sued over the years, they are
25 going back to the early 80's, they won their

1 lawsuit and then the developer declared
2 bankruptcy and so what is the recourse for
3 someone when this happens to them?

4 Obviously, the Tripp Park development went
5 through all of the proper procedures, I'm
6 assuming, to get their plans approved, so
7 the runoff must have -- either they --
8 either they didn't comply or the city
9 engineer, whomever had to approve it,
10 approved it in error which would make the
11 city morally responsible and I think that
12 after all of this time the Medallis family
13 certainly deserves something and I would --
14 I don't know what -- how much it would take
15 to fix that problem there, but I think that
16 certainly should be a priority. They lived
17 there for a long time without a problem
18 until that development went in so, and they
19 have the Court case behind them.

20 Next, during motions I would ask,
21 since it seems to be a Solicitor Hughes
22 evening, if he could explain how the
23 worker's comp fund is administered and
24 whether -- what guides borrowings from that
25 fund, if the fund has to remain at a certain

1 level and if there are borrowings allowed if
2 council does have to approve those
3 borrowings.

4 And then I would like to address
5 condemnations. Under a Right-to-Know I
6 requested -- I requested the letter that is
7 given to persons whose properties are
8 condemned and advising them what they have
9 to do, and I will take just a minute to read
10 it: It says, "The above to --" dear so and
11 so, "The above-mentioned property has been
12 condemned since they condemned --" next
13 week.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much,
15 Mrs. Schumacher.

16 MR. JOYCE: If you don't mind me
17 asking, would you be able to repeat the
18 question that you had on 7-D?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes. Is that a
20 pure loan or is it a loan that changes to a
21 guarantee if some specific condition is met?

22 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I'm under the
23 assumption after reading through legislation
24 that this is a pure loan. I'm not sure if
25 there is any stipulations that apply to it,

1 but there were none indicated, so it is a
2 pure loan.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

4 MS. EVANS: And it did include, and
5 I don't remember off the top of my head
6 specifically what it was, but I do recall
7 having read that there was a loan term and
8 an interest rate for each one of those
9 years, so it certainly does appear that it's
10 a loan not a grant.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I certainly
12 hope, so since the parents who utilize that
13 facility get tax credits for paying those
14 people, so we, the federal taxpayers, are
15 paying twice. So thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

17 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,
18 Doug Miller, Scranton.

19 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

20 MR. MILLER: I'd like to go back to
21 the chamber building, it's an issue that he
22 have been discussing here for several weeks
23 now and, you know, I'd just like to take the
24 time to respond to Mrs. Franus' statements
25 that she made I think it was two weeks ago

1 Mr. Jefferson and what he is trying to do
2 here. I'm not against development, like I
3 said, and I know you are not, but we can't
4 continue to keep giving free rides. It's
5 gone on too long in this city and it's lead
6 us to the financial disaster that we are in
7 because we've let this go. Past councils
8 would let this go. You know, prior councils
9 would say, "Okay, you don't have to pay the
10 taxes, here's your \$3 million grant, go
11 about your project, exclude the fees and
12 penalties and everything else and do what
13 you have to do."

14 And you know, they would have gotten
15 an uproar from the residents of this city,
16 but at the end of the day you can't go back
17 on what you did and the taxpayers would have
18 suffered as usual, but I know that we have a
19 council that's not going to do that. You've
20 taken the bull by the horn on several
21 different occasions, not just with this
22 issue, but many other ones in the past, and
23 I know you will stay the course, as I hope
24 you would, and you won't be pressured into
25 voting to approve a grant before the taxes

1 are paid. You won't be bullied and
2 threatened by threats that have been made
3 about selling the building to a nonprofit,
4 don't buy any of you that. We've heard all
5 of that for years and councils and
6 administrations have given into it, and I
7 know you won't do that. The residents of
8 this city work too hard to meet their
9 obligations and it's not fair to them to
10 have someone walk in here and get a free
11 ride, so I just ask you to stay the course,
12 stay bold, and don't let someone get a free
13 ride.

14 I'd like to talk about the fire
15 department, it's been a big issue here, and
16 I just have to address this matter after
17 hearing what I heard tonight. It prompted
18 me to discuss this. You know this an issue
19 that I take very serious and I believe it
20 deserves our complete attention. I truly
21 can't understand why the administration
22 continually plays games with the health and
23 safety of the residents in this city, and
24 now we hear it's affecting schools, as we
25 know it would have, and the safety of the

1 children, and I'm totally appalled to hear
2 that schools aren't being notified when
3 engines are shut down and I just find that
4 completely unacceptable and disrespectful.

5 I think the administration better
6 wise up, and I am not trying to be
7 disrespectful here myself, but I think they
8 need to wise up because there will be a
9 serious price to pay if and when something
10 tragic does occur, and I just hope council
11 will stay the course with this as well and
12 not allow the administration to continue to
13 play games with the health and safety of the
14 residents of this city.

15 You know, this is a very serious
16 issue, and as I said last week, we had an
17 issue at our house that happened to be a
18 false alarm, but it could have been serious
19 and, you know, the people in Tripps Park who
20 have to deal with the closing Engine 9,
21 think of what they're going to go through if
22 and when something happens. We cannot play
23 games with people's lives, and I take it
24 very serious and I'm passionate about it and
25 I would hope you would be the same as well.

1 You know, I listened to comments
2 earlier regarding potholes and lack of jobs
3 and businesses and so on, you know, I kind
4 of sat back and I'm listening to that and,
5 you know, it's as if, you know, we are just
6 announcing for the first time that we don't
7 know that we have a potholes and we have a
8 lack of jobs and we have no businesses.
9 This is something we have known for years.
10 You know, I think what we should be focusing
11 on is how we are going to find solutions to
12 address the problem. It's easy to come up
13 to this podium and condemn everything and
14 complain about this and complain about that,
15 but it's time to start electing people and
16 it's time to start having citizens come up
17 here and offer something. And again, I
18 don't mean that in disrespectful manner, but
19 I just think that we go back and forth in
20 circles that leads us nowhere. We need to
21 start finding solutions to our problems.

22 You know, a lot of people say,
23 "Where do you start?"

24 That's a good question. Where do
25 you start because the list goes on and on?

1 But there is -- we have to start somewhere
2 and the only way we could do that is by
3 having full cooperation from council and the
4 administration. You know, we have to stop
5 treating the cause and we have to start
6 treating the symptom. You know, it would be
7 like going to a doctor's office and saying
8 you had a headache and he gives you an
9 aspirin, well, three days later you come
10 back, "Doctor, I have a headache again."

11 "Well, instead of continuing to give
12 you aspirin why don't we find out what's
13 causing that headache."

14 That's the approach we have take in
15 this city. We can certainly turn the city
16 around, there is no doubt about that, but we
17 need ideas, vision and cooperation, and if I
18 may just one more thought --

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. MILLER: -- regarding the city
21 pools, I would just like to know if we
22 anticipate on hearing any time soon which
23 pools will be in operation as opposed to
24 which ones won't this summer?

25 MS. EVANS: I reported on this I

1 believe within the last several weeks. We
2 have received no response from the mayor or
3 Parks and Recreation regarding that matter.

4 MR. MILLER: Okay. And I, too,
5 would just like to wish the West Scranton
6 boys the best of luck tonight. They have
7 obviously made us very proud to this point,
8 and I just wish them the best tonight, and
9 with that said I'd like to wish everyone a
10 happy St. Patrick's Day. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

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

15 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, City of
16 Scranton. Mr. Piccolino didn't have an
17 opportunity to mention this so he asked me
18 if I would speak on his behalf, he wanted to
19 announce that the Scranton small business
20 association is recruiting new members, they
21 already have 11 people signed up. These are
22 small business owners in this community who
23 are sick and tired of being ignored by the
24 administration and being treated as
25 second-class citizens.

1 The formation of this group was
2 designed to unify the people of this
3 community. Hopefully the same thing will
4 happen with the taxpayers in this community,
5 but these small businesses are getting
6 together and they will be meeting, I believe
7 they are in the process of getting
8 incorporated, I don't know how soon that's
9 going to happen, but I know that that is in
10 the works, but there are 11 people already
11 signed up and it's only been this week, so
12 obviously there is a need for it.

13 Secondly, with regards to the pools,
14 I understand the Novembrino pool is going to
15 be closed, that should be received very
16 happily by the people in this community, the
17 Capouse and Novembrino Pool being closed,
18 I'm not sure of it, but I have heard about
19 it.

20 I'd also like to ask Mr. Brazil and
21 his eminent group, the DPW, why they spent
22 that overtime over the weekend cleaning up
23 for the St. Patrick's Day parade? I think
24 if anybody should pay for the clean up of
25 the St. Patrick's Day parade it should be

1 the bars downtown because they are the ones
2 that benefit. The rest of the taxpayers
3 have to pay and now I understand he is going
4 to be coming in asking for more money
5 because he has exceeded his overtime fund.
6 Well, if he can exceed his overtime fund for
7 one day of celebration to benefit the bars
8 in a four-block area, I think the bars
9 should be the ones who pay for the clean up,
10 and if it takes DPW's overtime money, well,
11 let the bars do it. There's got to be some
12 way to do that.

13 Now, the one thing that's really on
14 my mind is this mayor is bankrupting this
15 city, he is hellbent on running us into the
16 ground and he is doing a very good job of
17 it. Several of us have been researching
18 and, unfortunately, there is no provision in
19 the Pennsylvania State Constitution for a
20 recall that we know of. It's being
21 researched, and he cannot be impeached,
22 according to what they say, but there is a
23 movement underway and anybody who wants to
24 join it can contact me if they would like,
25 but we are going to get this guy out of

1 office one way or the other if we have to
2 run him out of town on a rail because people
3 are fed up with his nonsense, and he can go
4 ahead and make all of his lawyers friends
5 and all of his developers friends as wealthy
6 as he wants to at the taxpayers' expense,
7 but it's that time and it's happening, and
8 that's just a fair warning that the time is
9 coming and if we don't get him before the
10 feds do, I'm sure somebody will. Thank you
11 very much.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
13 anyone else who cares to address council?

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Jackie.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: How come you didn't
18 get on the bus, Chris, to go to the game?

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: I forgot. You know
20 something, Jack, this team, west side is
21 going to be a great team in basketball. You
22 know, I hope they just don't blow this one
23 tonight. I can tell you right now,
24 Saturday's play, Jack, was sensational. Our
25 friends downstairs, our friends down there,

1 Jack, tell them I said good job from me.
2 Tell them from me to you, good job, fellows,
3 I'm proud of you. Every one of yous down
4 there, thank you.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chrissy.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chrissy. I
7 know why you didn't go to the game, I know
8 why you didn't go because you know you have
9 to be here at city council.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right,
11 Janet. That's right.

12 MS. EVANS: How can we have a
13 meeting without you?

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right.

15 MS. EVANS: Priorities, Chris.

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right.
17 Right, jack?

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

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Dave O'Dobrzyn. I
21 saw him the other day.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: I should have sung you
23 a little Irish song I wrote, but I don't
24 think it's suitable for television. Okay,
25 Dave Dobrzyn, member of the Taxpayers'

1 resident of Scranton and so forth. I'd like
2 to thank you for the endorsement last week
3 of the radio station. Everybody from
4 council endorsed it and I appreciate that.
5 I was by Elm Street again near the end of
6 the trolley tunnel, and that hole is getting
7 a little bigger, it's filling up with dirt,
8 so they should possibly talk to somebody
9 with the Rail Authority about that, also,
10 because it looks like it may be a subsidence
11 issue and it's -- it could be pretty serious
12 with the rail service and so forth.

13 I'd like to talk tonight about some
14 library issues, I have had the privilege of
15 attending some computer courses down the
16 library, they are throw in the basement of
17 the children's library, and currently there
18 are bathrooms shut down because of holes or
19 leaks in the roof and so forth, and there is
20 quite a few problems over there, so if you
21 people could possibly approach the
22 commissioners to get some kind of repairs
23 over there, that's getting fairly serious
24 and, I mean, water leaking into a library
25 that's self-explanatory the seriousness of

1 it, so I see in the paper that we are
2 planning construction in other cities and so
3 forth, well, maybe we better take care of
4 what we have it and first.

5 And the fire department, I'd also
6 like to make sure all of the people in
7 Scranton have their smoke detectors
8 up-to-date because of these brownouts and so
9 forth, that's your last defense there.
10 Don't wait until somebody sees smoke pouring
11 out of your windows to get out of the house,
12 and hopefully things will straighten out
13 with that. It's shameful.

14 And now for our beloved golden
15 parrot awards. Our governor has -- our new
16 governor has given all statutory authority
17 to override any regulatory agency to a man
18 named Walker, I don't know his first name,
19 but he is the owner of 13 coal companies and
20 a member of the PA Coal Association, and
21 then there is an organization called Alic, I
22 don't know what it stands for but it's
23 financed by the Coke brothers, third richest
24 people in the country, and they're advancing
25 a 31 states to make it tougher to vote, and

1 since '03 instead of \$35 billion operating
2 capital in the commodities market with
3 Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley we now have
4 \$350 billion and their too bad patterns here
5 tonight because they are Obama contributors,
6 also, so everybody was wondering on the more
7 liberal oriented television stations, news
8 stations while Obama wasn't speaking out
9 against the gas tax and further -- the gas
10 prices increasing and -- well, keep in mind
11 that some of these revolutions in other
12 countries like Egypt are because people's
13 food prices went to 80 percent of their
14 income, so if we think we have it bad in
15 Scranton just be glad you are not in Egypt.
16 Have a good night. Thank you.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
18 South Scranton resident and member of the
19 Taxpayers' Association. Boyd, I got about
20 seven questions for you. Psyche.

21 MR. HUGHES: I have learned.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, just some
23 figures for you, after the parade on
24 Saturday we had 37 people arrested. We had
25 31 people arrested for public drunkenness

1 and then the state police arrested another
2 48 underage drivers and they were arrested
3 by the state police underaged and DUI.
4 That's 48 more than the state police
5 arrested. That was for the St. Patrick's
6 Day parade. Obviously, the bars and
7 restaurants did pretty well or the
8 distributors, somebody did.

9 I agree with what someone else said,
10 I think the sponsors of the parade and the
11 bar owners and the restaurants who make the
12 money I think they should pay for the DPW
13 clean up, and I also believe that they
14 should pay for the overtime for the police
15 officers and the fire department and anyone
16 else, any other city employees who are on
17 overtime, because I don't believe the
18 taxpayers should have to pay for that
19 because not all of the taxpayers attend the
20 St. Patrick's Day parade.

21 Also, I would like to know, and I'm
22 going to submit this letter before I leave
23 here, and I would like for someone to find
24 out how much money the city contributed to
25 the Armed Forces Day parade every year and

1 Democratic Committee it's a joke. Did you
2 read today's paper? It's a total joke.

3 The pools, how many pools are going
4 to be -- how many pools are going to be
5 closed? Somebody already brought that up
6 this year. I hope there is no pools closed
7 this year. They made \$47,000 on the
8 Christmas tree light show, that should all
9 go and pay the pools. Every penny of that
10 because those are donations. Every penny of
11 that should to go for the pools for
12 lifeguards, there should be no lifeguards
13 losing their jobs this year.

14 As far as the potholes go, there is
15 potholes on every street in every avenue in
16 the City of Scranton. Simple as that. I
17 don't know why we waste all of this time
18 reporting potholes every week. You could
19 drive on any avenue, any street in the City
20 of Scranton from the beginning of that
21 avenue to the end of the avenue and I
22 guarantee you, you are going to find a
23 pothole somewhere, and the same thing with
24 the streets. So I don't know why all of
25 this time is wasted on that.

1 I actually seen some people putting
2 up new lights on Moosic Street today in
3 front of Krispe Kreme, I don't know if that
4 was state people or if that was city people
5 or if it was a private contractor, I was
6 unable to get the name off the truck. I
7 don't know if that was state doing it or the
8 city or contractors were doing it, but it
9 was nice to see from lights being replaced
10 on Moosic Street in front of Krispe Kreme.

11 As far as building permits, I
12 brought it up weeks ago, months ago, did we
13 ever get an answer on that? About the \$19
14 and that were paid for building permits for
15 the site up there off the interstate. You
16 guys submitted a letter about two months did
17 we ever get an answer on that?

18 MS. EVANS: I don't believe so.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: Nonprofits. You are
20 never going to get any money out of
21 nonprofits because they don't have to pay,
22 they don't want to, simple as that, we are
23 wasting our time.

24 As far as jobs and stuff like that
25 being created, I have been talking about

1 that for eight years. You know how jobs are
2 created, the Chamber of Commerce creates
3 jobs, okay? That's their job, okay? Now,
4 what we need to do is we need to lower the
5 taxes. You want jobs in this city, you need
6 to lower the mercantile tax, and you guys
7 did do that in 2011, okay, but it needs to
8 be lower. The wage tax needs to be lowered.
9 The street needs to be repaired. I have
10 talked about these issues many times that's
11 what needs to be done to create jobs and
12 bring good paying jobs into this area.

13 Now, okay, one last thing, the
14 demographics in this city are changing
15 compared to the 2010 census, and I talked
16 about this seven or eight years ago at the
17 South Side Neighborhood Association and I
18 told people then, get used to it because
19 it's going to keep changing, and I think if
20 the City of Scranton was smart they would
21 start testing minorities right now for fire
22 department positions and police department
23 positions. I saw where 30 police officers
24 went to a course to learn how to deal with
25 Latinos, well, if you have Latinos dealing

1 with Latinos maybe you don't have to send
2 people to courses, so we need the city -- we
3 really need to start looking at hiring
4 minorities because the city is turning into
5 a minority city and five years from now
6 there will be more minorities in the City of
7 Scranton than there are non-minorities, so
8 we really need to wake up and start changing
9 our attitude because the days of what has
10 been in the past are far over with now, and
11 people need to accept that.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

14 MR. PILCHESKY: Joe Pilchesky, 819
15 Sunset Street, activist and advocate for
16 free speech. Also, good evening, how are
17 you?

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. PILCHESKY: I appeared here
20 three weeks ago and shared with you that the
21 pool house at Nay Aug Park is 1/4 the size
22 required by state and health safety laws at
23 the same time for what's built there, I also
24 explained to you that it cost four times
25 more than what it should have cost. We have

1 an unfinished \$70,000 pool house that costs
2 us about \$280,000.

3 It takes the complicity of a lot of
4 people to make that happen which is why the
5 pool house is appropriately symbolic of the
6 vast corruption of the Doherty
7 administration in terms of greed and the
8 unethical and the criminal mindset to rape
9 the taxpayers.

10 So who are these people? Among
11 those who had to be on board with this level
12 of taxpayer rape are two very prominent
13 watchdogs, the first is the Department of
14 Health located in Wilkes-Barre, which had
15 the duty at law, mandatory duty at law, by
16 the way, to approve the plans and final
17 construction of this building. It may or it
18 may not have issued a permit for the proper
19 plans, but if it did one inspection, just
20 one inspection on what was actually being
21 built, it would have known that the pool
22 house was severely below health and safety
23 standards. Chris Doherty somehow got the
24 Department of Health to turn it's head,
25 which is a very hard thing to accomplish at

1 the state without Senator Mellow's approval.

2 The second watchdog is the Office of
3 the City Controller, which is run by
4 Mrs. Novembrino. It's Mrs. Novembrino's
5 obligation and duty to the public was to
6 assure and receive the building had paid
7 for. Since the taxpayers didn't get the
8 building they paid for, I'm publically
9 requesting of Mrs. Novembrino to appear here
10 at this council and answer the following
11 questions:

12 One, how did we get a pool house
13 less than 1,500 square feet in size when the
14 contracts submitted by our architect Hemler
15 and Canay called for a 2,500 foot square
16 foot pool house?

17 Two, why did the contractor provide
18 for a payout schedule that paid Hemler and
19 Canay \$230,000 of the \$280,000 charged to
20 build the pool house before any construction
21 had begun? It's very rare to find a
22 \$200,000 upfront payment on a \$280,000
23 project, but that happened here.

24 What measures did Mrs. Novembrino
25 take to ensure that the pool house was being

1 built according to all health and safety
2 codes, laws or regulations, that is, to
3 protect the public, more specifically, the
4 children who used the facility.

5 And finally, most important,
6 Mrs. Novembrino, how did Chris Doherty get
7 you to also turn your head on a project
8 involving the health and safety of tens of
9 thousands of kids per swimming season.

10 Did Mrs. Novembrino fall asleep at
11 the wheel or did Chris Doherty instruct her
12 not to get behind the wheel? Whether it's
13 the former or the latter, we are out about
14 \$210,000 in overcharges on this pathetic
15 under built pool house with no way to
16 recover one red cent of it.

17 That being said, I look forward to
18 Mrs. Novembrino, our city controller,
19 appearing here in the very near future to
20 explain to the public how this was allowed
21 to happen. Thank you very much.

22 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
23 cares to address council? Mrs. Krake?

24 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. NO
25 BUSINESS-- 5-A. MOTIONS.

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: First of all, I, too,
4 would like to wish luck to the West Scranton
5 boys' basketball team. They are playing
6 Marie Ferretti, who is the defending state
7 champion and also ranked number one in the
8 state in AAA. It will be a yoman effort to
9 come out victorious, I'm sure, but hopefully
10 they are capable.

11 Just a quick response to a couple of
12 things. While I realize that the clean up
13 from the parade is costly because of the
14 volumes of people that are in the downtown
15 area, that the bars and businesses that do
16 exist there, they pay taxes as well. It's
17 not as if they are given a free ride on
18 this, so it's not completely -- they are not
19 completely not paying for the clean up.
20 They are part of the taxpayers.

21 And very quickly, the last thing, we
22 did receive something from PennDOT on the
23 traffic signalization, it says: "Pending
24 the arrival of the final plans, special
25 provisions, an estimate from the city's

1 consultant, the scheduled let date for the
2 above-mentioned project is the Spring of
3 2011, the estimated completion for the
4 project is planned to be in the Fall of
5 2012."

6 Hopefully that is on time and
7 completed within that time period, and
8 that's all I have. Thank you.

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

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you, Mrs.
13 Evans, just a couple of quick items.
14 Mr. Spindler mentioned and it was on my
15 notes, about the streetlight problem that we
16 have at this time. I believe a contract was
17 just awarded, so it may be a matter of just
18 trying to get it coordinated. I would hope
19 to see by next week some of these major
20 light issues taken care of. And also,
21 Mrs. Krake, if you could see if they have a
22 website set up yet that the residents can
23 report over the website any lights that are
24 out with a pole number, but there are a
25 significant number. I went down Lackawanna

1 Avenue the other night and probably 60
2 percent of the lights on Lackawanna Avenue
3 from the 200 block to the 500 block are out
4 and totally out on the West Lackawanna
5 Avenue bridge, West Linden Street bridge,
6 and the lights heading out of town on the
7 Scranton expressway. We had submitted this,
8 this letter before, but I don't know if it
9 was submitted to this company or the prior
10 company, so if we could follow-up with them,
11 and I would appreciate that.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Loscombe, could I
13 just interrupt a second, I know that that --
14 that the bids were in and that I believe it
15 was approved, but doesn't that have to come
16 before us for final approval the contract?

17 MS. EVANS: I would think so?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Because, as I mentioned
19 before, I think there are -- there are some
20 questions that need to be answered about the
21 way the RFP was prepared and whether it will
22 provide the necessary -- what do I want to
23 say, whether the company will be able to do
24 the maintenance on all of the lights, all of
25 the streetlights in the City of Scranton,

1 all of them. There were some questions
2 about that, so before or when it does come
3 to us I think there will be some questions
4 that need to be answered.

5 MS. EVANS: I can tell you to date
6 we have not received any legislation
7 regarding that contract.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I know.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Perhaps we can send a
10 letter to the solicitor's officer and
11 request information on that, too, if you
12 have legislation there.

13 MS. KRAKE: We actually did receive
14 the contract and it was just for the clerk's
15 signature which verifies the signature from
16 the mayor, and we did speak to Joyce
17 Electrical on that day because it was
18 immediately following the council meeting
19 where we had the requests, and it seemed to
20 me that everyone was under the impression
21 that we would be starting immediately as
22 soon as they received a copy of that
23 contract. So, therefore, I did not get any
24 instructions or any information that we
25 would be getting any legislation. I just

1 think the contract went through per the RFP
2 and the bidding process. If you have any
3 questions concerning that though we can send
4 a letter.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes, let's send the
6 letter so we can clarify this.

7 MS. KRAKE: Okay.

8 MS. EVANS: If there should, indeed,
9 be legislation and if it isn't required why
10 not.

11 MS. KRAKE: Okay.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: And just finally, we
13 had some discussion again here at the
14 meeting this evening regarding the Mulberry
15 Lofts. Last Wednesday, Mrs. Evans and
16 myself were invited to a meeting by
17 Mr. Jefferson, and we met him at the Connell
18 Lofts. We were given a tour of the Connell
19 building. I'll tell you, if anyone is
20 familiar with the old Connell building they
21 have kept the integrity, the architectural
22 integrity, the lobbies, the brass mail
23 boxes, the existing marble, existing
24 doorways, door frames, the historic windows
25 and stuff like that and built their units

1 around that. I was impressed. I think it
2 was a first class job when I was there and
3 we so stated that in our meeting with
4 Mr. Jefferson.

5 Also, at the meeting was Miss
6 Kalinowski, I believe it's his marketing
7 director, I'm not sure if I have the title
8 correct, but we did spend several hours
9 discussing different options. We told him
10 where we stood as we have stated here prior,
11 that we were happy to approve the grant for
12 the Mulberry Lofts' building, however, we
13 still wanted the taxes paid, and this is
14 something come forward everyone is going to
15 have to do the same thing. We are not an
16 open checkbook anymore.

17 Again, he is a professional
18 developer, he has completed the work he said
19 he was going to do and, I mean, we do have
20 developments that were given money in this
21 city that are still sitting vacant and
22 whatever, but we represent the 70,000 plus
23 taxpayers in this city, not certain
24 developers, and again, as I stated, it's
25 nothing personal, Mr. Jefferson did a first

1 class job there.

2 It was a very cordial meeting.

3 Mrs. Evans and myself had a chance to
4 discuss all of the options with him and we
5 left the meeting that day with him knowing
6 the options. He did make a statement, as he
7 stated here prior that the developer has to
8 make money not lose money, and we stated
9 that the city cannot lose anymore money.

10 He did state he was going to meet
11 with the county officials that Friday, this
12 past Friday, and was supposed to get ahold
13 of Mrs. Evans later on Friday from what I
14 understand, I don't believe he has made
15 contact at this point.

16 MS. EVANS: No, to date he hasn't.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: And we also offered
18 on behalf the city, city council -- on
19 behalf of the city council, excuse me, to
20 speak with the county officials and the
21 school district officials and let them know,
22 you know, what our offer was, what we were
23 going to do. But again, we have haven't
24 heard anything. We left the meeting with,
25 you know, great pride in what he has done

1 with that building and hopefully he will
2 continue to do with the Mulberry Lofts, and
3 hopefully the resolution is to everybody's
4 satisfaction, but at this point the ball is
5 in Mr. Jefferson's court.

6 I know he loves this city. He
7 addressed that to us on several occasions as
8 we love the city and we have to look out for
9 what's best for all of the taxpayers here,
10 but I'm just hoping that he would come to a
11 decision soon so that the project can move
12 forward and hopefully, you know, he would
13 look at more development in the downtown and
14 we would be more than cooperative, but we do
15 have to watch the purse strings for our
16 taxpayers, also, and that's where we are
17 coming from, and perhaps Mrs. Evans will
18 address some more when she has her comments,
19 but I think it was a very good, amicable
20 productive meeting and I was happy to have
21 been invited there. And that's all I have
22 to say. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: And thank
24 you, Councilman Loscombe. Councilman Joyce,
25 any comments or motions?

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes. It was brought to
2 my attention that we may have an emergent
3 situation in the Treasurer's Office, in
4 fact, in the collection of the back taxes.
5 I was informed in December of 2010 when the
6 staff in the Treasury performed the tax
7 search, that the delinquent tax information
8 provided by NCC on a designated terminal in
9 the Treasurer's Office was reading close by
10 agencies request and showed a zero balance.

11 Two to three weeks later, the tax
12 clerk found upon performing research there
13 were delinquent taxes owed for some of the
14 properties that previously had a zero
15 balance due. Unfortunately, NCC never
16 instructed the office that all accounts were
17 zeroed out on the opening screen and that
18 further research was needed.

19 Well, obviously, this creates quiet
20 an issue. Once the office became aware of
21 the problem future searches were correctly
22 performed, therefore, prior to this, if
23 anyone purchasing a property requested a
24 search they did not get the current
25 information provided to them as to how much

1 delinquent taxes they owed to the city upon
2 purchase of the property.

3 In the 2011 budget, Mayor Doherty
4 eliminated the tax clerk position in the
5 Treasurer's Office. It was council's
6 assumption that when this position was
7 eliminated that there would be ample
8 manpower available to perform searches.
9 However, as I have been informed, a backlog
10 of dozens of searches have been piling up.
11 Many of these searches are for real estate
12 closings and the payment of delinquent taxes
13 owed obviously brings much needed revenue
14 into the city.

15 With this situation occurring,
16 Mrs. Krake, if you could please send a
17 letter to Mr. Boland and also contact him
18 inquiring if he has the adequate staff to
19 handle the pileup of searches that are
20 currently existing. In addition, if
21 Mr. Boland does not have the adequate
22 staffing due to the administration's
23 elimination of the tax clerk in the office,
24 I would like to remind that the Unemployment
25 Compensation Fund should be approximately

1 \$78,400 over what we should actually use due
2 to the fact that four DPW foremen were
3 reinstated back into the 2011 operating
4 budget by Mayor Chris Doherty.

5 Just to give you a snapshot of how I
6 arrived at that figure, as per former
7 business administrator Stu Renda, the way
8 that unemployment was calculated for
9 positions being eliminated in the budget was
10 to simply allocate half of what the annual
11 base salary was for that position per year.
12 Each of those foremen earned \$39,200, so if
13 you take 50 percent of that and multiply it
14 by four you come up with \$78,400.

15 Okay, that's the first issue.

16 And finally, I have some citizens'
17 requests. First I'd like to address the 300
18 block of Merrifield Avenue. Various
19 residents on the 300 block of Merrifield
20 Avenue have informed me that there are
21 numerous potholes and cracks in the road
22 making for a very bumpy ride. Mrs. Krake,
23 if you could please inform Mr. Brazil of
24 this situation and ask him to repair the
25 road once weather permits.

1 Also, a few residents in the Keyser
2 Valley section of West Scranton have
3 informed me that there is a large pothole at
4 the stop sign connecting Lafayette Street
5 and Cameron Avenue. Mrs. Krake, if you
6 could please also add this to that letter.

7 In addition, various residents of
8 North Scranton as well as a couple of
9 workers at the Career Technology Center
10 informed me that there are numerous potholes
11 and cracks in the road making travel
12 conditions rough for both residents and
13 travelers on Greenbush and Reese Street.
14 This is a recurring issue and I know some of
15 the residents did state that the DPW last
16 year did come up and fill some of the holes
17 but, obviously, as you know, with the
18 plowing and the snow and the ice build up
19 I'm sure that has dissipated and some of
20 those cracks are reopened, so if you could
21 please also add this to the letter to
22 Mr. Brazil.

23 In addition, a few residents in the
24 Bellevue section have informed me that the
25 300 block of Railroad Avenue contains

1 numerous potholes, so if we would please
2 inform Mr. Brazil of this and ask him if he
3 repair this as soon as possible, as this is
4 a very heavily traveled connector between
5 West Side and South Scranton and also into
6 the downtown area.

7 Minooka residents have informed me
8 that since snow and ice is cleared off on
9 Kane Street travel conditions are quite
10 subpar, various cracks in the roads are
11 making very difficult to travel conditions,
12 so if we can add that to the letter as well.

13 A few comments that were made in
14 tonight's meeting, as Mr. Piccolino stated,
15 if you could please add to the letter to
16 Mr. Brazil informing him of the various
17 potholes in the four to 600 block of Beach
18 Street, and also Mr. Spindler reported that
19 the stop sign is heavily faded on the corner
20 of Amity Court and Keyser Avenue, if you
21 could please ask Mr. Brazil to have this
22 repaired as soon as possibly can be done,
23 and also if some of the potholes in the
24 block of Amity Court before the stop sign
25 can be taken care of.

1 In addition, if you could add to
2 this letter as well the 1700 block of West
3 Gibson Street where large potholes are in
4 existence and causing very rough travel
5 conditions.

6 And also, last but not least, with
7 citizens' requests we received a request
8 into the office that on March 4 it was
9 requested that large potholes on Curtis Lane
10 be filled, just if the resident is watching
11 I would just ask that you could be somewhat
12 be patient. I have seen DPW crews out
13 patching up streets and doing various
14 roadwork. I saw them actually on South
15 Sherman Avenue on my way to work today.
16 Usually, they do respond within a few weeks,
17 so I would just ask you be patient with them
18 and as there is a lot of work to be done.

19 Finally, Mrs. Schumacher mentioned
20 in the 2009 audit report under amendments
21 and contingencies that we have some
22 outstanding lawsuits against the city. Mrs.
23 Krake, if you could please send a letter to
24 Mr. Kelly and copy Mr. Renda -- or, I'm
25 sorry, Mr. Renda, Mr. McGowan, and ask him

1 how many suits are currently still pending
2 against the city and also Mrs. Schumacher
3 mentioned that two of the cases were from
4 contractors, if you could please inquire who
5 they are as well as how many contracts they
6 currently have with the city.

7 And last, but not least, I know I
8 said that before, but I wrote one last thing
9 down, Mr. Jackowitz asked about the funding
10 for the Armed Forces parade and the St.
11 Patrick's Day parade, personally I know from
12 budget amendments I did not see a specific
13 line item that allocated any funding towards
14 either one of these events. I could be
15 wrong, but I believe I am not, but I do know
16 that from examining some of the RE-RE fund
17 vouchers from previous years that funding
18 was allocated to various events such as
19 First Night. So, Mrs. Krake, if you could
20 please contact Mrs. Aebli and ask her if any
21 of funding was provided to the Armed Forces
22 parade out of the RE-RE account or any other
23 account in that office, and that is all for
24 tonight.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman

1 Joyce. And thank you for bearing with me.
2 Good evening. Tonight's agenda includes
3 legislation in Sixth Order restricting the
4 spending of the second UDAG repayment
5 account monies. On March 1, 2011, city
6 council requested copies of vouchers for
7 this UDAG RE-RE account from February 2011.
8 While the administration was fully aware of
9 the legislation on council's weekly agenda,
10 it continued to spend these monies, a total
11 of \$17,550 was spent for a \$300 program ad,
12 a table for ten guests at a charitable gala
13 for \$1,250, and a \$5,000 donation to
14 Scranton Tomorrow, among others.

15 As a result, I suggest that city
16 council suspend it's rules this evening to
17 move the UDAG RE-RE second payment
18 legislation into Seventh Order for a final
19 vote this evening before an additional
20 \$20,000 or more is spent in March.

21 The administration faces large
22 budget deficits, Court awards and
23 significant paving needs this year and
24 cannot afford to spend these repayment funds
25 in it's usual fashion.

1 Also, Mrs. Krake, please send a
2 letter to Mrs. Novembrino requesting monthly
3 vouchers from the UDAG RE-RE account
4 effective March 1, 2011.

5 Two weeks ago city council tabled
6 legislation for a \$250,000 grant for the
7 sidewalk installation at the Connell
8 building. Council requested an explanation
9 for the change of a prior loan to the
10 Connell building to a grant and itemized
11 bills for the installation of the sidewalks.
12 We received a response from Mrs. Aebli on
13 March 11, which states that the \$500,000 to
14 Scranton Connell, LP, is a loan, not a
15 grant.

16 In addition, council asked it's
17 solicitor, Attorney Hughes, to review the
18 legislation, and I ask Attorney Hughes to
19 report on his findings at this time
20 regarding the sidewalks located in front of
21 the Connell building.

22 MR. HUGHES: Yes. Madam President.
23 The one thing I believe why this was tabled
24 was Ms. Aebli's letter, I quote the last
25 paragraph, second sentence of the last

1 paragraph on page one, it says, "The
2 sidewalks are a public right-of-way. This
3 should be a grant instead of a loan from the
4 city to Connell, LP as was the \$500,000."

5 It's my understanding, and I have
6 gotten from the Assessor's Office an
7 assessment map of the Connell building,
8 actually it's the 100 block of North
9 Washington Avenue, and this is the computer
10 printout, this is the printout of the aerial
11 photograph of the Connell building, the
12 Connell building is 135 feet, four inches
13 wide, 150 wide deep from Washington Avenue
14 to the alley, and on here there is a green
15 line which shows the public right-of-way for
16 North Washington Avenue.

17 It appears that ten feet,
18 approximately ten feet of the sidewalk is
19 built within the right-of-way of North
20 Washington Avenue so that would be,
21 according to Ms. Aebli's letter, that would
22 be within the public right-of-way. However,
23 let's say about ten feet of the sidewalk
24 area is built within what's known as
25 privilege area, which is the right of the

1 Connell building in this area, which would
2 be private property, so I think that with
3 that, the entire sidewalk is not built
4 within the public right-of-way.

5 I know that when the mall was built
6 on Lackawanna Avenue this privilege area,
7 this ten-foot privilege area we obtained a
8 deed from the PNC Bank which was the
9 successor of Lackawanna and the trustee of
10 Northeastern Bank as the trustee of the
11 Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, and that
12 ten-foot area was outright conveyed to the
13 mall, so that the mall is built within that
14 area. You couldn't build anything in there,
15 which is the vaults, so that the sidewalks
16 at the mall are totally within the
17 right-of-way of Lackawanna Avenue.

18 Here it appears -- here it's evident
19 from the Assessor's map that this ten feet
20 is located within the privilege area which
21 really belongs, I believe, to the Connell
22 building, and only half of the sidewalk is
23 within the right-of-way, so I think the
24 issue to get this legislation back onto the
25 table for a discussion would be to write a

1 letter to Ms. Aebli and ask her to clarify
2 this. I'll give this map to Nancy, Mrs,
3 Krake, so that whether this would qualify
4 for a grant due to the fact that only ten of
5 the 25 feet of sidewalk, now I'm just using
6 an estimate, is within the public
7 right-of-way. Does the fact that the other
8 ten feet is not within the public
9 right-of-way but is used for a sidewalk,
10 does this still qualify as being in the
11 public right-of-way so it can be a grant
12 instead of a loan. I hope I made myself
13 clear on that.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes, you did. Thank you
15 very much, Solicitor Hughes, and in that
16 letter, Mrs. Krake, if you could ask as well
17 what are the requirements of the HRA grant
18 and must all sidewalks be located within the
19 public right-of-way to receive this HRA
20 grant for \$255,000. And if she could also
21 provide a complete copy of the grant
22 requirements with particular emphasis on the
23 sidewalk's eligibility, and I think if I
24 heard our attorney correctly what he is
25 saying is the sidewalks installed at the

1 Connell building are partially privately
2 owned by Scranton Connell, LP, and are
3 partially a public right-of-way, and so they
4 certainly need to examine the grant
5 requirements more closely and if necessary
6 draft new legislation.

7 Next, city council received a
8 response on March 9, 2011, from Attorney
9 Paul Kelly, acting in his capacity as the
10 Scranton Parking Authority solicitor, not in
11 his full-time position of City solicitor,
12 regarding the implementation of the
13 StreetSmart program. Attorney Kelly
14 received and enclosed the opinions of Boyd
15 Hughes, council solicitor, and John Brazil,
16 controller's solicitor.

17 Attorney Kelly states in part: "The
18 decision to implement the system is the
19 city's decision, as the meters are owned by
20 the city. It is my opinion that StreetSmart
21 will have a very difficult burden in proving
22 that is a sole source and it would be
23 prudent and responsible for the city to bid
24 this service out via RFP."

25 Attorney Kelly also includes copies

1 of e-mails between himself and Mr. Chad
2 Randall, COO of IPS Group, Incorporated, and
3 between Ryan McGowan, business
4 administrator, and Mr. Peter Selgato, senior
5 vice president and head of sales from Street
6 Line, Incorporated, in which Mr. Selgato
7 states, "Appreciate the response and receipt
8 of the RFP materials. Hopefully you still
9 need it."

10 While the administration and
11 Attorney Kelly, who is acting as the Parking
12 Authority solicitor and city solicitor,
13 presenting a clear conflict of interest, are
14 contacting competitive companies and
15 circulating RFP materials among themselves,
16 they are preventing the implementation of a
17 test or a trial period, and more troubling
18 they are postponing the implementation of a
19 new source of revenue.

20 Rather than the City of Scranton
21 realizing approximately \$300,000 in new
22 revenue this year, the city will realize far
23 less if any revenue at all because the
24 administration is dragging it's feet.

25 At this time, I ask Attorney Hughes

1 to read or comment on the second letter he
2 forwarded to Attorney Kelly regarding the
3 sole source designation and the increased
4 costs attached to implementation of
5 competitor's companies.

6 MR. HUGHES: Council has a copy of
7 my letter to Attorney Kelly dated March 11,
8 2011.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. HUGHES: And I forwarded that
11 down, everybody has a copy of that. That
12 was written basically in response to what
13 Attorney Brazil wrote and in his letter to
14 Attorney Kelly regarding the sole source
15 bidding. He referred to the Administrative
16 Code Article VI-14 E-2 for sole source
17 bidding. He said it had very limited
18 application and he further stated, and I
19 quote, "But I do not see anything indicating
20 that there is no other company that provides
21 an equally satisfactory alternative. Would
22 you please advise as to whether or not any
23 such information existing/exists."

24 What I did and from my knowledge and
25 quoting my letter back in March 8, from my

1 investigation the City of Easton has
2 implemented the StreetSmart program on a
3 sole source basis. They are very satisfied
4 with it, it was a test of 50 meters, they
5 are expanding it now to an additional 105.
6 Based on my knowledge of the StreetSmart
7 program I put in the letter that, and I'll
8 quote it, "It is my understanding that
9 StreetSmart Technology, LLC, ("StreetSmart")
10 has submitted documentation in it's proposal
11 to the Scranton Parking Authority, SPA, to
12 verify that there is no other company that
13 provides an equally satisfactory alternative
14 which supports it's being a sole source
15 provider. It is my understanding that the
16 StreetSmart is the only company that can
17 integrate vehicle space monitoring with the
18 coin operated parking meter which is what
19 Scranton uses. The other companies, Street
20 Line, MetWorks and IPS Group must integrate
21 their systems either with a multiple space
22 credit card kiosk o with an IPS credit card
23 meter. Multi-kiosks and credit card readers
24 incur additional costs above the cost for
25 vehicle detection such as a percentage for

1 each transaction plus financial institution
2 fees."

3 But, I'm just looking at it, is that
4 it's my understanding, and I don't believe
5 that StreetSmart has what's known as a
6 process patent, but they have integrated the
7 meters with other technical capability to
8 create the StreetSmart system with coin
9 operated meters. The other two people that
10 -- or the other two companies, Street Lines
11 Networks and the IPS group, they basically
12 have another system where it must be a
13 credit card type operation. What I have
14 learned from some other cities that have had
15 some of these other systems is that they
16 actually lose money because of the
17 transactions that were incurred and that the
18 Authority would be charged for the use of
19 the credit card.

20 Whereas, with the StreetSmart
21 system, you can either use the coins or you
22 use the tokens that you buy here at the
23 Treasurer's Office and nothing has to be
24 added to the system. There is no
25 transaction fees on that whereas when you

1 use a credit card that there is the -- there
2 is a processing fee so if somebody puts 50
3 cents on it or let's say a dollar there may
4 be a 14 cent fee, 14 cents deducted from the
5 dollar, plus there might be up to another 25
6 cents from the credit card company deducted
7 from the revenue, so on one dollar that
8 comes in you would be losing approximately
9 40 cents, you would only be getting 60 cents
10 revenue, you wouldn't have that with the
11 StreetSmart.

12 So while there might be competing
13 systems, that when you look at what the
14 specifications are, then the other things
15 that you would have to obtain and the
16 deductions for the processing on the credit
17 card basis, the amount of revenue would be
18 produced, you know, would be much less. I
19 believe the City of Reading had the IPS
20 system in and they because they lost money
21 on it because of the credit card transaction
22 they have removed that system from Reading.

23 I also stated there is two other
24 things, although, I don't believe it goes to
25 the sole source item, that it certainly go

1 would go the qualifications of the bidder in
2 the overall cost to determine which program
3 would produce more revenue for the city, and
4 I put that in my letter, that StreetSmart is
5 the only company that will install their
6 complete system and make it fully
7 operational without any upfront cost to the
8 city, and will also provide a no risk
9 contract here in the city will increase it's
10 revenues above the revenues prior to the
11 installation of the system.

12 I have written many specifications,
13 but the bidding contracts and requests for
14 proposals, while this would not be a sole
15 source item, it would certainly go to the
16 quality and the qualifications of the
17 bidders to the amount of money which be
18 produced by the city on those two items so
19 that's not, as I stated not sole source, but
20 it would certainly aid in determining what
21 the amount of the revenues would be produced
22 for the city.

23 It would appear, I mean, I just want
24 to get this out to Jack Brazil because he
25 did raise that issue and I also referred him

1 to my letter of March 8, which he has a copy
2 of. I haven't heard back from either Jack
3 or Paul since this letter went out, as of
4 today I haven't.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Can I just make a
6 comment, Mrs. Evans?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Again, it's another
9 delay tactic. The city and the Parking
10 Authority desperately need money, yet they
11 are delaying these incentives. I don't care
12 if it's Street Line, Street Light or
13 StreetSmart, all I want is the best product
14 and when you specify granite countertops and
15 you are going to end up with formica, it's
16 going to backfire, and that's what we are
17 looking, the specifications and the
18 provisions that this company can provide us.

19 I have looked at all of these
20 companies, and the one thing that really
21 impressed me is the transparency and
22 accountability that we would have with this
23 company. Maybe that's what they are
24 against. That's just a guess on my part.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
2 Loscombe and Attorney Hughes. And,
3 Mrs. Krake, please send a letter on behalf
4 of city council to the appropriate
5 department requesting any and all sole
6 source designations and contracts awarded by
7 sole source designations from January 1,
8 2002, through March 15, 2011.

9 To my knowledge, no RFP's have been
10 issued by the administration for
11 implementation of a new parking program to
12 increase city revenue. It is March 15, over
13 11 weeks into the new year, and close to the
14 closing of the first financial quarter, and
15 still the administration continues to put
16 off a parking program. When the 2011
17 revenue falls short in this account, the
18 administration will be responsible.

19 I know that Councilman Joyce
20 discussed the issues apparent in the
21 Treasurer's Office. He was discussing a
22 backlog of I believe the approximately 100
23 tax searches, and I don't know if you
24 announced this or not, Mr. Joyce, so forgive
25 me if you did, but if any Scranton taxpayer

1 had requested a tax search he or she did not
2 receive the correct information regarding
3 tax delinquencies. So please contact the
4 Scranton Treasurer's Office as soon as
5 possible for a new tax search.

6 Next, city council received
7 responses from Ms. Aebli, OECD director, to
8 questions posed by Mr. Tom Ungvarsky.
9 Mr. Ungvarsky, I can provide you with a copy
10 of the responses following tonight's
11 meeting.

12 Also, with regard to an issue raised
13 by Mrs. Schumacher earlier this evening, I
14 double checked the backup for the loan that
15 is included in agenda Item 7-D. The terms
16 of the loan are ten years at a fixed rate of
17 5 percent. They do have a requirement to
18 create two new positions, however, what I
19 found particularly interesting and
20 noticeably different from backups I've read
21 over the last seven years, for this
22 particular loan should this business fail to
23 create those two positions within a
24 three-year period then the loan repayment in
25 full is due back to the city almost

1 immediately. I could not detect anywhere
2 throughout the backup, once again, that this
3 loan would every revert -- or not revert,
4 but let's say transform into a grant.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

7 Finally, I have a few citizens' requests for
8 the week. Residents of Mt. Vernon Avenue
9 request that the 2011 paving of the 900
10 block of Martha Avenue as well as Curtis
11 Court. The city promised to pave Martha
12 Avenue 11 years ago but it has only patched
13 holes during the intervening years. The
14 patching doesn't hold and residents of the
15 Mt. Vernon Avenue, which is a one-way
16 street, state that they have themselves
17 patch the holes with dirt and rocks so that
18 they are able to exit Mt. Vernon Avenue by
19 way of Martha Avenue.

20 In addition, residents report that
21 the garbage trucks no longer pick up trash
22 from Martha Avenue due to the impassable
23 road conditions. Please add the 900 block
24 of Martha Avenue and Curtis Lane to the 2011
25 paving list and help these residents who

1 have waited 11 years by paving these alleys.

2 Also, I have been asked to announce
3 that residents report that two street
4 cleaners were working today on East Mountain
5 Road and that's satisfies their request.

6 Also, a resident of the 2200 block
7 of Prospect Avenue reported that the
8 streetlight in front of 2210 Prospect Avenue
9 has been out since December, and I have the
10 pole number, Mrs. Krake, which I will give
11 you after the meeting.

12 Pave the 400 to 600 blocks of Beach
13 Street.

14 And from what budget account is
15 Attorney Carl Greco paid as council for the
16 City of Scranton? I also noticed as I
17 reviewed again the backup for the loan
18 included in 7-B this evening, that the
19 closing on this loan will occur in the
20 offices of Attorney Carl Greco who serves as
21 the council to the City of Scranton. Now, I
22 do understand that Attorney Greco is no
23 longer the solicitor for OECD and his
24 replacement is Attorney James Mulligan. I
25 assume that Attorney Greco continues to

1 represent the Scranton Redevelopment
2 Authority, however, I was not aware that
3 Attorney Greco continues to represent the
4 City of Scranton and since, indeed, this is
5 the case, since it is in the language of
6 this loan agreement I, again, would like to
7 know from what budget accounts Attorney
8 Greco is being paid as council for the City
9 of Scranton.

10 Residents request that the paving of
11 the one and 200 blocks of Mary Lane and the
12 100 block of Yesu Lane. They report that
13 these three blocks have been patched for
14 years while the remainder of the development
15 was paved many years ago, and I believe
16 that's it.

17 MR. JOYCE: If you don't mind me
18 interrupting?

19 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

20 MR. JOYCE: It would be my
21 assumption that if Carl Greco is doing work
22 for the City of Scranton that he would most
23 likely be paid out of the professional
24 services account. That would my best guess,
25 but it would be best to get the answer from

1 them.

2 MS. EVANS: I would agree in that
3 I'm sure that they have designated
4 expenditures for many of their accounts that
5 have to be paid within 201, and I know that
6 council made budgetary cuts --

7 MR. JOYCE: That's true.

8 MS. EVANS: -- to quite a number of
9 these accounts and so that's why I believe
10 we need to learn what specific accounts or
11 accounts from which Attorney Greco was paid
12 so that we can be watching that for yet
13 another budget --

14 MR. JOYCE: Shortfall, yes.

15 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake?

16 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT
17 THIS TIME. SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY
18 TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 19, 2011 - AN
19 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENTS
20 FROM THE SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE
21 DETERMINED) ENTITLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT
22 ACTION GRANT SECOND REPAYMENT ACCOUNT
23 FROM WHICH THE CITY OF SCRANTON CAN MAKE
24 LOANS OR GRANTS WITHOUT THE LIMITATIONS
25 IMPOSED BY THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

1 DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, SECTION 119(f), 42
2 U.S.C. §5318(f).

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

5 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-A
6 pass reading by title.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: 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-B. READING BY TITLE -
16 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 20, 2011 - AN
17 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
18 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE ESTABLISHED)
19 ENTITLED "URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT
20 SECOND REPAYMENTS ACCOUNT" FOR THE
21 DEPOSITING OF REPAYMENTS OF LOANS MADE BY
22 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO BORROWERS WHO
23 RECEIVED LOANS FROM THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT
24 ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT ACCOUNT.

25 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by

1 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

2 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-B
3 pass reading by title.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
13 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 21, 2011 - AN
14 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
15 243, 2003 ENTITLED "ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE
16 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ORDINANCE FOR THE
17 CITY OF SCRANTON REGARDING EMPLOYMENT,
18 HOUSING, REAL ESTATE AND PUBLIC
19 ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR
20 REDRESS OF VIOLATIONS" IN ORDER TO BE
21 CERTIFIED AS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE
22 FAIR HOUSING ACT, AS AMENDED IN 1988,
23 42 U.S.C. §3601, ET SEQ.

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

1 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-C
2 pass reading by title.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
10 have it and so moved. At this time I'll
11 entertain a motion that council suspend it's
12 rules and place item 6-A and 6-B into
13 Seventh Order for final consideration.

14 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
25 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 16, 2011 -

1 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE
2 COMMONLY KNOWN AS 2730 BIRNEY AVENUE,
3 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
4 16717-030-040 TO THOMAS F. BARRETT AND TERRI
5 F. BARRETT, 2734 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,
6 PENNSYLVANIA 18505 FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
7 \$2,500.00.

8 MS. EVANS: What is the
9 recommendation of the Chair for the
10 Committee on Finance?

11 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
12 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
13 passage of Item 7-B.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
16 call, please?

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
2 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
3 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 17, 2011 -
4 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
5 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
6 ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS IN THE
7 AMOUNT OF \$4,000.00 FROM SANOFI PASTEUR
8 INCORPORATED FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE
9 DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR CRIME PREVENTION
10 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

11 MS. EVANS: What is the
12 recommendation of the Chair for the
13 Committee on Public Safety?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for
15 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
16 final passage of Item 7-B.

17 MR. JOYCE: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
19 call, please?

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
6 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 18, 2011 -
7 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY
8 EMINENT DOMAIN, DEED IN LIEU OF
9 CONDEMNATION, OR OTHERWISE OF THE NECESSARY
10 RIGHTS, FRANCHISES, LICENSES, EASEMENTS OR
11 TITLES OF LAND REQUIRED FROM JOSEPH S. SAITA
12 AND JUDY E. SAITA IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE
13 CRISP AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT.

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

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: As acting Chairperson
18 for the Committee on Community Development,
19 I recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

20 MR. JOYCE: Second.

21 MS. EVANS: On the question?

22 MR. MCGOFF: I think maybe again we
23 should mention that the Saitas were in
24 compliance with this.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

2 MS. EVANS: They signed off.

3 MR. MCGOFF: It's a parcel of land.

4 MR. JOYCE: And in Mr. Rogan's
5 absence I would like to say that I'm sure
6 that Mr. Rogan is very pleased that this
7 project is once step closer to being
8 complete as well as the rest of us.

9 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Amen. Roll
10 call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
22 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 16, 2011 -
23 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
24 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
25 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A

1 LOAN FROM THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL
2 REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150-31
3 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000.00 TO
4 LEARN AND GROW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER TO
5 ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

6 MS. EVANS: What is the
7 recommendation of the Chair for the
8 Committee on Community Development?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: As acting Chairperson
10 for the Committee on Community Development,
11 I recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

12 MR. JOYCE: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
14 call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
23 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted. Is
24 there anyone who wishes to address council
25 on Items 6-A and 6-B that have been moved to

1 Seventh Order? Mrs. Krake?

2 MS. KRAKE: 7-E, formerly 6-A. FOR
3 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
4 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 19, 2011
5 - AUTHORIZING THE DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE
6 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE DETERMINED)
7 ENTITLED URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT
8 SECOND REPAYMENT ACCOUNT FROM WHICH THE CITY
9 OF SCRANTON CAN MAKE LOANS OR GRANTS WITHOUT
10 THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE HOUSING AND
11 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974, SECTION
12 119(f), 42 U.S.C. §5318(f).

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

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

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
5 Item 7-E legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MS. KRAKE: 7-F, formerly 6-B, FOR
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
8 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 20, 2011
9 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY
10 ACCOUNT NO. (TO BE ESTABLISHED) ENTITLED
11 "URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT SECOND
12 REPAYMENTS ACCOUNT" FOR THE DEPOSITING OF
13 REPAYMENTS OF LOANS MADE BY THE CITY OF
14 SCRANTON TO BORROWERS WHO RECEIVED LOANS
15 FROM THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT
16 REPAYMENT ACCOUNT.

17 MS. EVANS: What is the
18 recommendation of the Chair for the
19 Committee on Finance?

20 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
22 passage of Item 7-F.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question? I am
25 very pleased to once again say tonight the

1 checkbook is closed and the monies in that
2 account will now be used for the priorities
3 of the people of the City of Scranton.

4 Furthermore, city council will
5 continue to check on the vouchers produced
6 from that account on a monthly basis from
7 now until each of us leaves council to be
8 certain that these funds are no longer being
9 misspent. Anyone else on the question?
10 Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
19 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted. If
20 there is no further business, I'll entertain
21 a motion to adjourn.

22 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

23 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
24 adjourned.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER