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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Before we begin
4 tonight's council meeting, we have with us
5 some very lovely young ladies and very
6 handsome gentlemen from West Scranton High
7 School. These fine student athletes will be
8 honored here this evening and each and every
9 one of you is a credit to your family, to
10 your coaches, to West Scranton High School,
11 and to the City of Scranton and we are very
12 proud of you here at city council. The
13 girl's team please come up front and girls
14 coaches as well.

15 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring the "LADY
17 INVADERS", players for the WEST SCRANTON
18 HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM; and

19 WHEREAS, the "LADY INVADERS"
20 defeated Riverside High School girls'
21 basketball team on December 29, 2010, in the
22 pre-season tournament to become the TAYLOR
23 LIONS CLUB TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS and finished
24 the season undefeated thereby earning the
25 title LACKAWANNA LEAGUE DIVISION 1

1 CHAMPIONS; and

2 WHEREAS, on March 5, 2011, the "LADY
3 INVADERS" beat Holy Redeemer High School
4 girls' basketball team and, for the first
5 time in the history of West Scranton High
6 School, became the PIAA DISTRICT II AAA

7 CHAMPIONS; and

8 WHEREAS, the "LADY INVADERS"
9 advanced to the second round of the PIAA
10 STATE TOURNAMENT by defeating Danville Area
11 High School girls' basketball team and
12 although the "LADY INVADERS" suffered a loss
13 in the second round of the state tournament,
14 the overall team record for the 2010-2011
15 season is 25 outstanding wins and only 2
16 losses; and

17 WHEREAS, the "LADY INVADERS" are led
18 by Head Coach Leo Ciullo and assistant
19 Coaches Maureen Kenny, Erin Mangan, Mae
20 Keiper, and John Zullo; and

21 WHEREAS, the "LADY INVADERS GIRLS'
22 BASKETBALL TEAM MEMBERS" are Alex Bolsar,
23 Maraya Bowen, Colleen Cadden, Sabrina
24 Coleman, Shannon Dermont, Amanda Greene,
25 Katie Hart, Kelly Hill, Nina Hodanich, Jane

1 Joyce, Nora Joyce, Kelcey Langan, Morgan
2 Matyjevich, Jamaica Miller, Shayna Miller,
3 Macy Nicholson, Jessica Nowakowski, Marissa
4 Pazzaglia, Kat Perry, Jessie Purawic and
5 Jessica Reuther.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
7 on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, Scranton City
8 Council wishes to congratulate "THE LADY
9 INVADERS", their families, coaches, athletic
10 director and teachers for their outstanding
11 achievements and extend our best wishes for
12 success in all their future endeavors.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
14 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
15 Minutes of this Council, as lasting tribute
16 to the "LADY INVADERS", WEST SCRANTON HIGH
17 SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM.

18 (Whereupon the Lady Invaders
19 received their proclamations.)

20 MS. EVANS: And now the Invader
21 boys. WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring the
23 "INVADERS", players for the WEST SCRANTON
24 HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM; and

25 WHEREAS, the "INVADERS" defeated

1 Carbondale High School boys' basketball team
2 to become the JERRY FINAN MEMORIAL
3 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS and also defeated the
4 Riverside High School boys' basketball team
5 to become the TAYLOR LIONS CLUB TOURNAMENT
6 CHAMPIONS in pre-season games; and

7 WHEREAS, the "INVADERS" overall
8 record for the 2010-2011 season was 21 wins
9 and 7 losses; and

10 WHEREAS, the "INVADERS" became the
11 PIAA DISTRICT II AAA Runners up and advanced
12 to the second round of the state tournament
13 by defeating Lampeter-Strasburg, which was
14 the first win in the state tournament since
15 1970; and

16 WHEREAS, the "INVADERS" are led by
17 Head Coach Jack Lyons, assistant Coach Paul
18 Dougherty and assistant Coach Craig Mailen,
19 whose father and uncle were on the 1970
20 state tournament team; and

21 WHEREAS, the "INVADERS BOYS'
22 BASKETBALL TEAM MEMBERS" are Joe Devine,
23 Louis DiBileo, Cullen Fanning, Gene Gantz,
24 Jay Gantz, Patrick Gerrity, Tyler Hughes,
25 Elijah Jackson, Matt Langan, Tim Langan, Tom

1 MacDonalld, Austin Martinelli, Mark Murphy,
2 Brandon Oleski, Aaron Owens, Rich Rescigno,
3 Malcolm Sweeting, and Lamont Wright.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
5 on Tuesday, April, 29, 2011, Scranton City
6 council wishes to congratulate "THE
7 INVADERS", their families, coaches, athletic
8 director an teachers for their outstanding
9 achievements and extend our best wishes for
10 success in all their future endeavors.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
12 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
13 Minutes of this Council, as lasting tribute
14 to the "INVADERS", WEST SCRANTON HIGHS
15 SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM.

16 (Whereupon the Invaders received
17 their proclamations.)

18 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Here.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

1 MR. JOYCE: Here.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

3 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
4 reading of the minutes.

5 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. NO
6 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

7 MS. EVANS: Clerk's notes.

8 MS. KRAKE: We don't have in Clerk's
9 notes this evening, Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
11 Do any council members have announcements at
12 this time? Joyce Electrical, Incorporated,
13 will sponsor a blood drive dedicated in
14 special honor of Leo Welkers on Saturday,
15 April 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the IBEW
16 building, lower level, 431 Wyoming Avenue in
17 Scranton. You may call 1-800-REDCROSS to
18 schedule an appointment to donate.

19 There will be a walk to benefit the
20 American Heart Association at Nay Aug Park
21 on Saturday, April 30, registration begins
22 at 9 a.m. and there is no fee for the walk.
23 However, donations will be greatly
24 appreciated. Young Jack Scarfo, grandson of
25 Mary Ann Rossi, will lead the walk this

1 year. Please support this worthy cause.

2 The Tour De Scranton is an annual
3 noncompetitive bike ride for riders of every
4 age and skill level on May 1, designed with
5 a selection of routes and distances,
6 catering to both the novice and experienced
7 rider, anyone can bring a bicycle and join
8 in the fun. The Tour De Scranton also
9 benefits an extremely good cause, the Erin
10 Jessica Moreken Drug and Alcohol Treatment
11 Fund, Incorporated. The bike ride will be
12 monitored from start to finish by adult
13 volunteers and cyclists at regular check
14 points. It is a safe and enjoyable way to
15 have fun and raise the much needed funding
16 to assist young people who are struggling
17 with the disease of addiction. Each year
18 through this event, scholarships, aid, and
19 drug and alcohol education programs are
20 offered to a variety of worthy individuals
21 and groups in our community.

22 Registration fees are as follows:
23 \$30 on or before April 27; \$35 April 28
24 through May 1; \$50 parents and their
25 children under 12, that is only one charge

1 for the family. For registration on-line,
2 route maps, questions, or volunteer
3 opportunities, go to www.TourdeScranton.com.
4 If you can't participate, donations can be
5 mailed to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moreken, 1328
6 Myrtle Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania,
7 18510. Make checks payable to "Erin's Fund"
8 and please support this very worthy cause.

9 Senior citizens who are members of
10 the West Scranton Crime Watch, ask me to say
11 that they feel Chief Duffy is doing a great
12 job and they hope that he will keep up the
13 fine work.

14 And finally, on behalf of Scranton
15 City Council, I'd like to wish everyone a
16 very blessed and Happy Easter and passover.
17 These holidays usher in a long awaited
18 season of rebirth and freedom and a renewed
19 opportunity to grown in love and service to
20 our families and to each other, and that's
21 it.

22 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
23 PARTICIPATION.

24 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
25 evening is Bob Martin.

1 MR. MARTIN: Good evening, Council.
2 Bob Martin, citizen and President of the
3 Fraternal Order of Police. I'm here tonight
4 to just clarify some of the positions, I
5 spent the better part of the day, I've been
6 on vacation this week and since about 11:00
7 this morning I have been basically defending
8 the position of the Fraternal Order of
9 Police in all of the media outlets,
10 newspaper, TV, even Steve Corbett, and I
11 just want to clear some things up so that
12 the council has a clear understanding as to
13 the position of the FOP in this matter which
14 is the Unfair Labor Practice that was filed
15 with the Labor and Industry.

16 First I want to clarify that this is
17 not the Fraternal Order of Police's
18 initially action. This is a reaction to the
19 action taken by Mayor Doherty in 2002, and
20 that was to remove the position of the Chief
21 of Police from the bargaining unit. The FOP
22 fought that vigorously. We spent a lot of
23 money fighting that and we lost. The mayor
24 got what he wanted, he removed the position
25 of the chief from the bargaining unit, and

1 it's since been that way since then.

2 And part of that is that once you
3 are out of the bargaining unit, that's a
4 conscious decision that this chief made, so
5 much as the first, Chief Elliott, it was a
6 unit clarification and that's what he filed
7 for and that's what the Labor Board issued
8 the order in 2002 and hereby ordered that
9 the superintendent of police is excluded
10 from the bargaining unit and is a managerial
11 employee, so that means he is no longer in
12 the bargaining unit, he is now a managerial
13 employee, he's an administrator.

14 And just to put things, clarify
15 things, this action or reaction by the FOP
16 is not so much against Chief Duffy as it is
17 against the city. In the complaint it says
18 it's against the City of Scranton. The
19 mayor filed for this and he got what he
20 wanted, he got the chief out, the chief's
21 position out of the bargaining unit and this
22 is our response.

23 And again, just to clarify, we don't
24 have a problem with the chief out doing
25 police work if he bumps into work or into a

1 crime in his presence and responds to that
2 he is legally and he is morally obligated to
3 respond to that crime being committed in his
4 presence, but the exception we take is that
5 when he crosses over the line, as on March
6 27, and he actively goes out on patrol,
7 essentially what he said in the newspaper,
8 and seeks out a crime and then takes action,
9 that action upon himself.

10 I mean, that in itself is -- that's
11 where the exception is filed with the Labor
12 Board, but we are talking the position that
13 the mayor wanted this, we are just holding
14 his feet to the fire. We absolutely have no
15 qualms with the chief doing whatever he is
16 doing, with the exception of crossing over
17 that line and, of course, the city is using
18 that to just make the union look bad, and
19 probably the action admittedly makes us look
20 a little foolish or frivolous, I guess you
21 could say, however, my response to that and
22 the response Mr. Corbett this afternoon, the
23 mayor would not allow us if we violated any
24 of the Labor statutes I'm sure he that he
25 wouldn't step aside and just let that go on.

1 And beyond that, it's basically our
2 position that we want -- this could be
3 negotiated, same as our contract, basically
4 maybe it's a tool. Someone says does that
5 mean -- Corbett asked me that this afternoon
6 and I said, "I couldn't have said it better
7 myself."

8 Chief Duffy just happens to be a
9 part of this collateral damage in all of
10 this, and they are making all of the mileage
11 of it they possibly can. The point is the
12 mayor could have negotiated this in the
13 beginning, he could have negotiated it now.
14 We sent him a letter January 6, 2011, let's
15 sit down, work this entire process out, come
16 up with one nice, neat package and we'll all
17 live happily ever after and, of course, we
18 never heard again.

19 They have approached us, asked us to
20 have some discussions and we have had some
21 intermediate discussions that just, you
22 know, really just kicked some ideas around
23 and it was nothing to anything that had any
24 substance to it and, of course, at that
25 meeting I predominantly brought up the

1 processing center. That's one of the
2 biggest things I want to be able to
3 negotiate. I want that work back. I want
4 the taxpayers of the City of Scranton to
5 enjoy the fruits of the labor their police
6 officers and reap the money. The county and
7 the mayor have corroborated that they are
8 getting three quarters of a million dollars
9 annually processing the prisoners, and it's
10 understandable, it's a long and complicated
11 case as any of these cases are, just as
12 complicated as this, that the state wants to
13 unify all of these things, but we could have
14 been part of that and we also could have
15 enjoyed some of the revenue source that
16 comes from that.

17 They get \$300 a prisoner. We supply
18 the majority of our all of the prisoners.
19 We just won that. The Labor Board said,
20 "You are absolutely right, the city
21 violated."

22 But they can't do anything about it,
23 they can't go against the judge's order. We
24 petitioned the judge again to sit down and
25 ask them to look at this so that we can

1 force the city to negotiate that so much as
2 we can get our work back and maybe we can
3 save some of our young men and woman on the
4 bottom of the ranks so that they don't have
5 to live with the threat of layoffs.

6 Three-quarters of a million dollars in the
7 budget, how far would that go? Would that
8 make a difference?

9 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

10 MR. MARTIN: I would hope it would
11 make some difference, so again, for all of
12 the beaten up I've taken today, if I've
13 embarrassed the FOP or the Board of the --
14 executive board embarrassed the FOP by
15 taking this action, so be it. But again,
16 the whole thing is if you want to sit down
17 call the mayor. If the mayor wants to let
18 the chief back in the bargaining unit tell
19 him to give me a call, we'll be happy to
20 discuss it and negotiate it.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Can I just -- you are
23 trying to say that this is all the fault of
24 the mayor that the chief went out and did
25 police work?

1 MR. MARTIN: I'm saying that the
2 mayor removed the position from the
3 bargaining unit and it's no longer -- he is
4 no longer the bargaining unit member and,
5 no, I'm not -- yeah. In sense, yes, I am
6 saying that with the exception, see, you are
7 trying to get the mileage out of it, you are
8 trying to get the mileage out of it to make
9 the FOP look bad. I'm telling you that the
10 Labor Board -- the Labor Board issued an
11 order that says he is not a bargaining unit.

12 MR. MCGOFF: How is the mayor trying
13 to make the FOP look bad?

14 MR. MARTIN: Well, the whole point
15 of the thing is that it's not so much0.

16 MR. MCGOFF: This is something that
17 happened in the distant past and now you are
18 filing a grievance because --

19 MR. MARTIN: We filed one against
20 Chief Elliott --

21 MR. MCGOFF: -- the chief did a --
22 went out and did police work?

23 MR. MARTIN: And he is doing an
24 excellent job, but the part of that,
25 Councilman McGoff, is that if he is out

1 there actively looking for it, can I ask you
2 if you were the bottom guy on the seniority
3 list that was threatened to be laid off in
4 December and your family might go out on
5 unemployment and you read the newspaper
6 every day, every day Chief Duffy is in the
7 newspaper and he is out there and he is
8 doing a good job, that's fine, how about the
9 young man and woman that's working
10 midnights. How about the young man and
11 woman that's out there working in the rain?
12 How about the young man and woman that's out
13 there in the trenches working, and how about
14 the young man and woman that makes off duty
15 arrests all the time? Are they on the front
16 page of the newspaper?

17 MR. MCGOFF: So now you are - now
18 it's a matter of publicity?

19 MR. MARTIN: You don't think so?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I think what the police
21 should have done was offer a commendation to
22 the chief, you know, for the work that he
23 did rather than filing a grievance.

24 MR. MARTIN: Have you ever heard me
25 ever say anything bad about the chief in

1 public, Mr. McGoff? I praise his work.

2 MR. MCGOFF: This certainly was.

3 MR. MARTIN: It's not meant to be.

4 This complaint says it's against the City of
5 Scranton, it's not against Chief Duffy or
6 the work that he performs. I think he does
7 a good job and so do all of the members of
8 the FOP. To the best of my knowledge, I
9 think they do, and we all support the chief,
10 and I'm not here to bash the chief, but what
11 I'm here to do is I'm trying to save the
12 taxpayers some money. I'd like the mayor to
13 sit down and negotiate a package with us so
14 we can -- they came to us and they asked us
15 for help, but they never asked us for any
16 substance. We are willing to help them, we
17 are willing to sit down and help them out of
18 this mess any way we can.

19 So basically, basically this is a
20 tool to get the mayor to sit down and
21 negotiate. If he wants to negotiates the
22 fact that the chief can go out and do
23 bargaining unit work he can throw that into
24 a nice big contract as far as I'm concerned.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. MARTIN: Thank you very much for
2 your time.

3 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is
4 Giovanni Piccolino, and maybe just a very
5 brief comment on Mr. Martin's presentation.
6 Now, the one thing that occurred to me in
7 all of this is the fact that we mustn't have
8 enough police officers if the police chief
9 has to use his days off to go out and
10 address crime actively, that says something,
11 and yet the administration is looking at
12 severely cutting the police ranks. I don't
13 know then what should occur, should every
14 police officer be working on every day off,
15 seven days a week around the clock, in order
16 to combat the crime levels that we have
17 experienced in Scranton. Mr. Piccolino?

18 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, city
19 council, and fellow Scrantonians. My name
20 is Giovanni Piccolino. I live, work and own
21 a business in the City of Scranton. I'm
22 just going to make this brief. I'd like to
23 comment on 7-A about the removal of parking
24 meters located in and around the CMC. I
25 think that's a great idea, and I also think

1 that city council should consider moving all
2 of those parking meters they just placed
3 around General Dynamics. I think that's one
4 of the few industries that we have in this
5 city and these gentlemen and ladies who are,
6 you know, on the assembly lines making
7 military weapons and shells and what not, I
8 mean, I highly doubt they have the time to
9 run out and throw a couple quarters in the
10 meters and, quite frankly and honestly, I
11 drive by there ever day and not one of those
12 spaces is ever occupied, so I don't think it
13 would be a bad idea to try to remove those
14 and maybe make that permit parking for those
15 people.

16 And I would just like to say God
17 bless everybody, Happy Easter, and I have
18 another \$100 donation to the Manpower
19 Initiative from Buona Pizza food t-shirts
20 sales.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much for
22 the generous donation.

23 MR. PICCOLINO: Good night.

24 MS. EVANS: Good night. Andy
25 Sbaraglia.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
2 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
3 let me start off to say I have been a union
4 member all my life and I'm proud to say I'm
5 a union member, but what the police did
6 basically is cut off their nose to spite
7 their face. People are coming up to me and
8 asking me what is the police force
9 interested in, their jobs or fighting crime?
10 Any police officer, whether it's the chief
11 all the way down the line, or let me mention
12 this, I'll throw in for Kevin Murphy who
13 used to sit up there where you are, he
14 fought crime, too. When there was a purse
15 snatcher he ran them down. It's the duty of
16 every citizen to fight crime wherever it
17 exists if they can and they can do it
18 safely, if they can't.

19 People are coming up to me, I'll
20 tell you, I have never got bad marks like
21 they are now. The police are in really a PR
22 situation with the mayor. He wants to lay
23 them off. Why create something that didn't
24 have to be created? I'm sure he could have
25 went to the police chief and asked him,

1 "Listen, you know, we are trying to keep
2 more people on the force," he came up from
3 the ranks, he was a union member, probably
4 still is, and he went on the stand that to
5 keep people on the force maybe you shouldn't
6 be out there a little this or that, why
7 there is so much PR with the Times, I don't
8 know, other than the fact is they criticize
9 you one day and praise somebody else the
10 next day.

11 I understand the times, this is
12 politics, but it's a shame to play politics
13 with the police protection. This is
14 important. I don't know how many people
15 come up to say, "All them policemen that you
16 keep supporting, are they more interested in
17 crime or are they interested in their jobs?"

18 And I have to say, "Well, it's
19 probably both."

20 They are interested in keeping their
21 jobs because they probably like that type of
22 work, just like I liked the elevator work, I
23 would have liked to kept my job there, but
24 unfortunately, age caught with me, but
25 anyway, I'm sorry, I wish they just would

1 withdraw that grievance, really withdraw it
2 and certainly just go to the police chief
3 and tell him, "Listen, if you want to go out
4 by yourself, we got people on cars on duty
5 everywhere. Let them call and have one of
6 the cars come."

7 And everybody then would be pleased,
8 but the people are not pleased for what
9 happened. First of all, it's going to cost
10 us money. That alone sticks out like a sore
11 thumb. Grievances should not be filed if
12 you can talk to people. That's the last
13 resort. And to file a grievance for
14 fighting crime, that becomes ludicrous. One
15 should never have a grievance for fighting
16 crime, especially if you are a police
17 officer.

18 It's just bad, and I'm sure they
19 told you that, too, Janet. I'm sure a lot
20 of people told you that and a lot of people
21 told me, too. Well, we'll do what he can
22 and we hope that maybe they just withdraw
23 the grievance and meet with the chief and
24 talk to the man and say, "You know, you are
25 a union member just like the rest of us.

1 You came up through the ranks, you
2 understand everything, and no matter what
3 when this mayor is gone you will still be
4 back in the ranks". Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
6 Mr. Sbaraglia. David Burgerhoff.

7 MR. BURGERHOFF: How you are doing?
8 I'm David Burgerhoff. I'm from North
9 Scranton. I apologize for not attending
10 more meetings more regularly, however, I do
11 read the Times, my neighbors bring me
12 recordings of the meetings, so I stay
13 abreast of council events and topics.

14 Sadly, I'm here today to deliver my
15 commentary on my sincere dissatisfaction
16 with the progress of the North Scranton
17 Junior High School. For many, many years
18 now residents of North Scranton have had to
19 gaze upon what I believe is a metaphor for
20 the entire City of Scranton and an even
21 bigger reflection of wasted taxpayer dollars
22 and government cronyism. I have been
23 waiting for years for your updates about the
24 project since PennRose was last requesting
25 additional taxpayer funding to pursue

1 construction of a theatre building, a
2 building that is in deplorable condition and
3 that was just a joke and a way to get more
4 funding where they provide no actual benefit
5 to that money being spent.

6 I have tried to contact PennRose
7 myself, I have heard some letters that they
8 have sent here, it's all worthless, it means
9 nothing. It's going to turn out to be the
10 same thing like the Sterling Hotel in
11 Wilkes-Barre, let's just tear the building
12 down and get it done, you know. Council
13 basically to me has been worthless on this
14 issue. My personal belief, like I said,
15 let's just tear town the building and be
16 done with it.

17 You know, I have been told before
18 that when I disagree with legal issues or
19 oppressive nonsensical legislation that it's
20 not Dave's law which implies that it doesn't
21 include any common sense or honesty, and
22 apparently that's not the issue here either.

23 I was compelled to speak here today
24 because when I returned home from work
25 yesterday I found a notice regarding some

1 issues with my property. I will remind the
2 city that this is spring and this is when
3 clean outs normally take place and garbage
4 collection was today. I was also advised
5 that I could have not have any uninspected
6 vehicles in my driveway, even though they do
7 not pose any hazard and are outside of the
8 view of anyone not looking purposely down my
9 driveway.

10 I was informed that if it falls
11 under abandoned or junk even though I insist
12 it is neither. The truck has a value of
13 over \$2,000. Not to mention, although I
14 will, the fact that behind my home is a
15 city-controlled property with more garbage
16 than the Alliance Landfill as well as the
17 blighted school I just spoke of, excuse me,
18 and yet a completely functional vehicle in
19 my driveway must go.

20 I could go on and on about the
21 issues I have suffered from DPW, city hall,
22 NCC, which I assume is the arm now of the
23 city, and finally the police who violated
24 the constitutional rights of a small child
25 from my neighborhood and then threatened to

1 arrest me when I questioned their authority,
2 I'd like to speak to Duffy about that
3 perhaps.

4 But this is not about me, this is
5 about the government not representing the
6 people, but oppressing them. You know, I
7 have often heard it said, "If you enjoy your
8 freedoms, thank the veteran."

9 Well, they may have fought for the
10 country, but it's up to you for fight for
11 your rights. Many fear retaliation from
12 government for speaking out, and I share
13 that concern, but to remain silent would be
14 an even greater burden. I received a letter
15 from a person that stated my words
16 encouraged her to speak out and be resolved
17 in her faith. I hope people will take a
18 lesson from her and all of the people that
19 speak out here every night. It is not just
20 a right, it is a duty.

21 I sometimes get frustrated stating
22 that we elect these people to do the
23 people's business so the people could go on
24 with their business, but I do understand it
25 is our responsibility and our responsibility

1 does not end at the ballot box.

2 I also didn't expect to have to
3 comment on Duffy, but, you know, and
4 amazingly I'm in agreement with Mr. McGoff,
5 it's funny to hear that we would complain
6 about a city worker doing extra work, but
7 normally we can't get them to do any work.
8 And as far as the union, if they are worried
9 about how citizens are looking at it, well,
10 I'm a citizen, I don't like, and this is the
11 worst environment you could have chose this
12 battle.

13 And on top of it, it makes me think,
14 you know, I guess school teachers can't
15 tutor on their own time because they would
16 be going outside of the purview of their
17 job. If my neighbor is a cop and I want to
18 knock on his door because I see an issue in
19 the city I better not, I'm going to have to
20 call him because he would be going out off
21 duty and he might cost someone their job.

22 Well, like Janet pointed out, there
23 is plenty of crime in this city so if we
24 need more cops we need more cops, but the
25 point simply being he is not wearing a cap,

1 he is not going to end all the crime here, I
2 don't think this is a wise battle and I
3 suggest they drop it. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.
5 Burgerhoff. Les Spindler.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Les Spindler, city
7 resident and homeowner and taxpayer. I,
8 too, want to talk about Chief Duffy, and I
9 just verified something with Detective
10 Martin, so what I'm going say is fact. I
11 knew about this, this is the second
12 grievance that was filed. The night before
13 Thanksgiving the chief set up a DUI
14 checkpoint which he was working at, again
15 which he wasn't supposed to do, they filed a
16 grievance, Bob Martin just told me they sat
17 down together, the chief admitted, he said,
18 "I'm sorry, I made a mistake, I won't do it
19 again," and now he just did it again, so his
20 word can't be trusted as I learned on
21 another issue.

22 He thinks he is a supercop, he wants
23 to be a supercop, if he wanted to make all
24 of these arrests he shouldn't have left the
25 bargaining union. He agreed to leave and

1 Doherty newsletter look into more important
2 things, for example, why don't they look
3 into where the \$5 million dollars that Chris
4 Doherty plugged into last year's budget is
5 missing a million and a half dollars. Why
6 don't they look into that where the rest of
7 that money is?

8 Secondly, why did the mayor hide
9 filling \$5 million from the pension fund?
10 Why doesn't Chris Kelly look into that?

11 Thirdly, he is dragging his feet
12 with the Crisp Avenue Bridge project which
13 almost caused two people to get killed last
14 week in an accident. So why doesn't Chris
15 Kelly and the Times-Tribune, a/k/a Doherty
16 newsletter, look into more important stuff
17 like that and try to save the taxpayers'
18 money instead of trying to butt into Mrs.
19 Evans's business.

20 Moving on, an article I think it was
21 in Saturday's Doherty newsletter, about the
22 firefighters placing flyers on the doors in
23 the Hill Section people. Again, I think
24 this is a great idea because just warning
25 people that Mayor Doherty is putting their

1 safety in danger, closing down fire
2 stations, they are just making people aware
3 of this and Chief Davis says it's a scare
4 tactic. Well, it's not a scare tactic, and
5 you can use an example in my area again,
6 Engine 9 is permanently shut down, it's less
7 than a mile from my house, doesn't take an
8 expert to figure out that Engine 7 on
9 Luzerne Street is going to take much longer
10 to get to my house. That's not a scare
11 tactic, that's a fact, so by chief Davis
12 saying it's a scare tactic, he's wrong, he
13 is just another Doherty puppet and it's part
14 of the administration again which Mr. McGoff
15 supports, so I guess he doesn't care about
16 people's public safety either.

17 Lastly, recently I seen letters to
18 the editor criticizing people for come to go
19 this podium and spewing negativity. All I
20 have to say about that is if Chris Doherty
21 and his administration would do something
22 positive maybe we wouldn't be up here
23 talking about negativity. Thank you for
24 your time.

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

1 Lee Morgan.

2 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. MORGAN: Tonight I would just
5 like to really be very -- probably very
6 brief, but what the tax group would like to
7 do is on the 28th of April, and then
8 hopefully the second Thursday after that,
9 sometime in May, we would like to have as
10 many candidates for public office as
11 possible come to council chambers and
12 introduce themselves, give them ten minutes
13 to present why they are running for office,
14 what they would like to accomplish. We did
15 have a meeting with the council candidates
16 at one time and for some reason it just
17 didn't record right, so I would also like to
18 say to Mr. McGoff and Mr. Loscombe, you
19 know, all of the candidates that showed for
20 that I would appreciate if you would
21 consider coming again to allow the voters to
22 have some idea of what you think is
23 important. I don't know if council would
24 allow candidates for various public offices
25 in Lackawanna County to come into your

1 office during your office hours and just
2 sign their name so that we would have some
3 idea of the people that were going to come
4 on the 28th. It's open to Democrats,
5 Republicans, Independents, everybody, even a
6 write-in. I mean, it's just important to
7 bring people forward and I just hope that
8 maybe you would consider allowing us to do
9 that.

10 MS. EVANS: Certainly. As long as
11 the office is open, they are welcome to come
12 in and sign for their attendance at your
13 function.

14 MR. MORGAN: Okay, we intend to --
15 well, we are going to go to the Voter
16 Registration Office tomorrow and try and
17 pull as many phone numbers and contact
18 people, but if there are any candidates out
19 there that know other candidates I would
20 hope you share it with them and ECTV said we
21 could record on a disk for three hours and
22 we intend to try to reach out to everybody
23 and I just think it's important and I thank
24 you for your time.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: What time is that,

1 Lee?

2 MR. MORGAN: It's the 28th of April
3 at 6:30 and we are going to go by the
4 sign-in sheet and work our way from the top
5 to bottom, and we want everybody to come and
6 it's not a thing where -- there is no bias
7 here. You just come for ten minutes,
8 present what you think is important, and we
9 want to hear it. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

11 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,
12 Doug Miller, Scranton.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. MILLER: I'd like to begin
15 tonight, if I may, I'd like to file a
16 Right-to-Know request, if I could leave it
17 with Ms. Carrera, it's regarding PEL. Under
18 Act 47 PEL has been involved with the city
19 since 1992 and I'd like to know what the
20 cost is, if any, to the city to have PEL
21 consulting our finances.

22 MS. EVANS: I can probably answer
23 that for you right now, I don't believe the
24 city incurs any costs directly. They are
25 paid through the State Department of

1 Community and Economic Development and, once
2 again, they are paid with your state tax
3 dollars.

4 MR. JOYCE: Right, and I can assure
5 you that there is no line item in the
6 operating budget for the payment of any PEL
7 employees. It does all come from DCED as
8 far as I know.

9 MR. MILLER: Well, I appreciate
10 that.

11 MR. ROGAN: I would add though that
12 I understand where you are coming from and
13 where my colleagues are, but the people of
14 Scranton do pay tax state taxes so at the
15 end of the day the people of Scranton are
16 paying.

17 MR. MILLER: Absolutely. That's why
18 I asked the question because you never get a
19 service for free, there is only a catch.

20 MS. EVANS: Oh, certainly not.

21 MR. MILLER: And I think the
22 taxpayers need to understand that's going on
23 and that's why I thought it was important
24 for me to ask that question. I'm glad you
25 clarified it.

1 MS. EVANS: I think maybe though, if
2 you direct the request to perhaps DCED you
3 might be able to then determine exactly how
4 much of our state tax dollars have been paid
5 to the Pennsylvania Economy League from 1992
6 through the present.

7 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Well, here
8 we go again, welcome to Scranton. Where we
9 slander whoever we can. This is a Chris
10 Kelly theme song guest starring school
11 directors Lesh and McGuigan who pretend to
12 have medical degrees to diagnose the
13 conditions of others, including Mrs. Evans.
14 Apparently, these presumed wannabe doctors
15 were never taught the meaning of
16 lawyer/doctor and client confidentiality.

17 As a citizen of this city, I totally
18 denounce the actions of these individuals.
19 You can certainly voice your opinions, which
20 we all have a right to do, however, your
21 criticism comes from an empty echo chamber.
22 I was taught a simple phrase years ago,
23 engage the brain before you put the mouth in
24 gear. These folks should speak the truth
25 based on fact and not own substantial

1 allegations, in their case we know it's
2 politically motivated.

3 Transparency has also been at the
4 forefront recently. Council has been
5 accused of being non-transparent. Well, I
6 took the time yesterday to look up the
7 official meaning of transparency in
8 government. It's defined as holding
9 officials accountable, holding open
10 meetings, financial disclosure, and
11 budgetary review. This certainly defines
12 Scranton City Council. You have held the
13 administration accountable, you have
14 conducted numerous open public caucuses, you
15 have disclosed the finances of this city,
16 and you have certainly reviewed the budget
17 going beyond by making cuts from an
18 extremely bloated budget handed down by the
19 administration, and I really want to applaud
20 you for your transparency. I thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. MILLER: Our current financial
23 debacle is not council's doing or it's
24 so-called minions, a term used by Chris
25 Kelly in his Sunday morning column. This

1 mess is the result of years of mismanagement
2 by the mayor and his minions, including
3 rubber stamp extraordinaire, Mr. McGoff.
4 Who allowed spending and borrowing to get
5 out of control, and also along the way
6 included a 26 percent tax increase approved
7 by the mayor's group of minions on the
8 former rubber stamp council lead by
9 Mr. McGoff who made an extreme mockery of
10 this city.

11 You know, I find it quite comical
12 that the administration even had the
13 audacity to blame council for the deficit
14 even though council placed several resources
15 in the 2011 budget to generate revenue as
16 well as relieve some of the financial burden
17 placed on our taxpayers. This includes the
18 rental registration fee, which the LIPS
19 office fails to strongly enforce up to this
20 point, as well at the StreetSmart program
21 which the administration has failed to
22 institute even though other cities in
23 Pennsylvania, including our close neighbors
24 in Luzerne County, who have had success with
25 the program.

1 harassing my property and entering my
2 property. I would like to actually see the
3 rules on what kind of access you guys are
4 allowed to take because he considers my
5 property his accessible point. I guess if
6 you can see down my driveway that gives you
7 the right to walk down my driveway, I'm not
8 so sure about that, you know, so I wanted to
9 make you aware of the property, he tried to
10 tell me it's not controlled by the city, but
11 it's been owned by the city since '65.

12 MS. EVANS: Mr. Bugerhoff, we'll get
13 that information, I'm sure it must be
14 contained within an ordinance and we can
15 provide that to you as soon as we locate it.

16 MR. BURGERHOFF: Thank you.

17 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
18 council, I'm Tom Ungvarsky.

19 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

20 MR. UNGVARSKY: Addressing 7-A. I
21 realize that under good times parking is a
22 problem at CMC, but perhaps there is another
23 solution to the problem. The 109th field
24 artillery has a lot just several blocks away
25 from CMC. All their vehicles have been

1 removed and it is setting empty. Perhaps
2 the workers at CMC could park their vehicles
3 there and seeing as CMC has a shuttle system
4 perhaps they can take them and bring them
5 back from that lot.

6 And as far as that goes, Mr. Rogan
7 had a very good suggestion last week if that
8 one doesn't work out. I realize it's in
9 Seventh Order, but perhaps you could even
10 table it and discuss both of those ideas.

11 Two weeks ago, city council awarded
12 a wealthy developer here \$250,000 to fix
13 their sidewalks. I have no doubt that he is
14 going to use that \$250,000 to pay the back
15 taxes on the old Chamber of Commerce
16 building and reapply for the \$4 million to
17 develop Mulberry Lofts. Each time that an
18 apartment of his is rented out it probably
19 takes away an apartment from a private home.
20 I wish city council would consider those,
21 and while I realize that this \$4 million is
22 from the state, it is still taxpayer money
23 that we are giving. If he wanted a loan
24 that would be fine, but I think it's wrong,
25 we have already given millions of dollars

1 for the Connell building, and I can't see
2 giving him another \$4 million of the
3 taxpayers' dollars to develop loft
4 apartments. Thank you and have a happy
5 Easter.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Marie
7 Schumacher.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Two brief items.
9 First, I would like to ask I guess it would
10 be our finance chair when he is expecting
11 the updated Recovery Plan from PEL?

12 MR. JOYCE: At the present time, I
13 know that PEL is using the 2001 operating
14 budget as the basis for the upcoming
15 Recovery Plan.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's what they
17 said they are going to do.

18 MR. JOYCE: Since nothing has been
19 done at the present time we will be working
20 with PEL hopefully in the future of 2011 to
21 develop the Recovery Plan.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Next, I
23 would like to say that I agree with Tom
24 Ungvarsky wholeheartedly on 7-A. I do not
25 think this should pass tonight.

1 And then finally, I would like to
2 devote the rest of my time to a song I've
3 sung many times before. Back in the 1950's
4 there was a very popular TV game show, it
5 was called the \$64,000 question and it was
6 cut short after only I believe three years
7 of playing due to a scandal involving TV
8 quiz shows in general. Contests were asked
9 a series of questions that concluded with
10 the final question having a top prize of
11 \$64,000. Tonight I want to pursue a
12 \$600,000 question, and that's not really the
13 inflated 1950 \$64,000 in today's 2011
14 dollars, so some background is in order.

15 At the May 18, 2006, council
16 meeting, Mrs. Evans stated, "Good evening.
17 First, I notice that we have held a
18 legislation concerning a redeveloper's
19 agreement with the Ice Box and the SRA for
20 the interest free payments over 20 years. I
21 believe we are going to have a caucus next
22 week with those individuals to discuss
23 in-depth."

24 That's the end of the quote. Now,
25 presumably the legislation referred to here

1 is a resolution that was forwarded in
2 April -- on April 26, 2006, to council by
3 the city solicitor which would sell the
4 property for \$600,000 to be paid in 20-year
5 installments of \$30,000 with no interest.
6 This resolution was tabled and never
7 re-introduced.

8 Midway through the 2006 city
9 council's August recess, a lease was filed
10 with the County Recorder of Deeds for 99
11 years with an option to renew and additional
12 term of another 99 years. I'll get back to
13 that a little bit later.

14 Now, on September 18, 2006, and
15 remember, following the fact that there was
16 a resolution and the filing of the deed and
17 it starts with Mrs. Evans saying, "Yes, Uno
18 Fitness Center currently enjoys KOZ status.
19 Their owners who currently owe our city
20 \$600,000, and I would suggest that we table
21 this loan until such time that the owners of
22 the Ice Box would provide the monies owed to
23 the City of Scranton and then we can
24 entertain such a loan to their tenant."

25 Now, the rest of the colloquy deals

1 with procedure issues, but it ends up with a
2 unanimous -- unanimous vote, so every member
3 of the council felt at that point in time,
4 September now, that the city was owed
5 \$600,000.

6 However, I requested under the open
7 records statute many things and received
8 them, I might add. One was a copy of
9 Resolution 67 of 2002 which set forth the
10 original lease agreement. A memorandum of
11 the lease between BRT Ice and the City of
12 Scranton, that changes the terms, and one of
13 the ways, this is the addendum to the realty
14 tax statement of value on these parcels at
15 BRT Ice.

16 Number one, this is a transfer of
17 property subject to a ground lease for 198
18 years which is a payable at \$1 per year and
19 \$600,000 at the end of the term. That's at
20 the end of the 198 years. According to the
21 present value calculations of Thomas P.
22 Rainey, CPA, attached hereto and
23 incorporated herein by reference, the
24 present value is \$23.89.

25 Now, Solicitor Hughes,

1 unfortunately, is not here this evening, he
2 did make a statement on February 10, and he
3 likened this to the Dutch buying Manhattan
4 for \$24 roughly, the beads and stuff, that
5 probably had a value of about \$24. So my
6 \$600,000 -- well, a few questions first.
7 Under the -- well, just -- the \$600,000
8 question then is which agreement is valid,
9 the one approved by city council or the
10 memorandum attached to the lease which, as
11 reported by Council Solicitor Hughes on
12 February 10, results in a remuneration to
13 the city of \$1 a year for 198 years?

14 And I will put that in writing in an
15 e-mail to Mrs. Krake in the morning, but
16 that is the \$600,000 question.

17 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

19 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
20 cares to address council?

21 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, City of
22 Scranton. I've had several complaints so I
23 took it on myself last night to go out and a
24 reprehensible situation exists which should
25 not exist and it would behoove city council

1 to rectify the situation immediately, there
2 is not a light on the Lackawanna Avenue
3 bridge, not one single light, and the lady
4 who called me last night said her daughter
5 has to cross that bridge every night walking
6 across that coming from work and she nearly
7 got hit by a car last night, and there is no
8 excuse for that.

9 That bridge, I believe, is still
10 under warranty, is it not? It hasn't been a
11 full year yet. I believe there is a
12 warranty involved in that and something has
13 got to be done, and if there is a contractor
14 and there's an agreement and he is not
15 performing it, well, damn it, fire him and
16 get somebody who will do the job. That's a
17 public safety hazard and a very serious
18 safety hazard and it should be rectified,
19 not yesterday but immediately. It's got to
20 be done and I hope you will take that under
21 advisement really quick. Thank you.

22 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Talimini, I don't
24 believe it's the new bridge by the railroad
25 station, it's the bridge above it, because I

1 have posted that complaint several times
2 myself.

3 MR. TALIMINI: It's the new bridge
4 from the bus station all the way over.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: There is no lights on
6 that one?

7 MR. TALIMINI: Not one single light
8 on that bridge last night.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Because the upper
10 bridge has not a single light --

11 MR. TALIMINI: There's not a light
12 on that bridge at all, and if I were walking
13 across there I would be worried about my
14 health and safety, too, especially knowing
15 what the situation is in that neighborhood,
16 but for a young girl to be walking home from
17 work and having to cross there, uh-huh. No.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Krake, if we
19 could just ask Joyce what the status of that
20 is.

21 MR. TALIMINI: That is totally
22 unacceptable. Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: I agree.

24 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Talimini.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,

1 South Scranton resident and member of the
2 Taxpayers' Association.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Basically tonight I
5 want to talk about the occurrences in the
6 last week especially with the newspaper.
7 You know, last Tuesday night at city council
8 meeting there was a lot of information
9 brought forward by a lot of people, mainly
10 council members and citizens and, you know,
11 we learned that business administrators past
12 and present have basically not been truthful
13 with us and they have been padding the
14 figures, they have been padding the numbers.
15 We have heard that money has been
16 transferred from one account to another
17 account. We heard that money was taken out
18 of an account from the 2010 budget and was
19 used in January of 2011 which technically
20 from my understanding, and if I'm wrong
21 correct me, was in violation of the Home
22 Rule Charter, and I believe that the Home
23 Rule Charter is law. If I'm wrong, please
24 correct me, but yet the newspaper decided to
25 concentrate on Mrs. Evans' disability at the

1 school board.

2 We even had two school board
3 members, Mr. Lesh and Mrs. McGuigan,
4 McGuigan, I'm sorry, who are known Doherty
5 supporters and we also know that the
6 Scranton Times are known Doherty supporters,
7 but yet they wanted to make a front page
8 headline story out of this, you know, and
9 plus they are quoted in saying that Mrs.
10 Evans is making \$79,000 a year, well, I'm
11 going to tell you what, if the school board
12 and the taxpayers are paying a teacher
13 \$79,000 a year to work I forget how many
14 hours it was, but it wasn't very many hours,
15 then we have a major problem, and I think
16 the school board should be concentrating on
17 the school board issues and not city council
18 issues and the mayor's issues because, like
19 I said, we have very, much more important
20 issues to be talking about.

21 We have a distressed city for 19
22 years. We have a Pennsylvania Economy
23 League who has done absolutely nothing for
24 19 years to help the City of Scranton out of
25 the distressed city status. We have firemen

1 and police officers who haven't been under
2 contracts since 2002. We have had, I don't
3 know, 25 or 26 arbitration cases that have
4 done before arbitrators and now have gone
5 before Courts and have been appealed, but
6 yet we are going to concentrate about a
7 disability case, which quite frankly, is no
8 one's business or no one's concern.

9 I mean, this city is falling apart.
10 I was just down in a city right outside of
11 Philadelphia today, down in Yardley,
12 Pennsylvania, and I'll tell you what, they
13 are laughing at Scranton. It might only be
14 one little small community, but it's my
15 family, I was at my cousin's funeral tonight
16 -- or this afternoon I should say, and they
17 have all been to Scranton, they even lived
18 in Scranton for one time or another, but
19 they all left. They are laughing at this
20 city. It's a joke.

21 And you know why it's a joke,
22 because of the people. Not all of them, but
23 most of the people who we have elected to
24 public office. We, the people, of the City
25 of Scranton have elected the wrong people.

1 And, yes, Mr. McGoff, I will hold you
2 responsible. You said last week if we
3 wanted to hold you responsible for this
4 mess, well, I am holding you responsible,
5 and you want to know why? Because of your
6 votes. Words are nothing but thoughts,
7 that's all they are. Actions is what
8 counts, and for an elected official your
9 actions are your vote, so when you vote for
10 higher taxes, that's your action. When you
11 vote against the firemen and police officers
12 and public safety, that's your actions.
13 Don't be giving me this google eyes, you
14 voted against them. It's on record. Read
15 the record.

16 You voted for fire station closures.
17 Read the record. Okay? You voted for
18 brownouts. Read the record. Because you
19 voted for every one of them, we had four
20 votes against one, and you were the only one
21 who supported Mayor Doherty like you have on
22 every issue. You have supported higher
23 taxes, you have supported stupid, ridiculous
24 fines and fees on taxpayers, delinquent
25 taxpayers. I mean, you supported it all.

1 So, yes, me, I hold you responsible. I hold
2 Judy Gatelli responsible and I hold Sherry
3 Fanucci responsible, John Pocius
4 responsible, and all of the other cronies
5 who voted lock, step and barrel including
6 Kevin Murphy who voted with Mayor Doherty.
7 That's why this city is the laughing stock
8 of this state. That's why we have been
9 distressed for 19 years, that's why we will
10 remain distressed because we have no
11 leadership, and when someone does try to
12 lead and a new super majority comes in they
13 are crucified by a bunch of Doherty cronies
14 in the Scranton Times-Tribune.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.
16 Jackowitz.

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Jack.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy, how about
19 them West Siders?

20 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Aren't they classy,
21 Janet?

22 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

23 MR. SLEDENZSKI: They're classy,
24 aren't they, Pat?

25 MR. ROGAN: Oh, yeah.

1 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Oh, Jack, next
2 Saturday, on April 30, pay for little league
3 next Saturday, for the kids. Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chris.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Council. You'll
7 probably be sorry you came in so early when
8 you saw me. Well, I had several more people
9 tell me I must have lost my mind in
10 attacking Mr. Jarbola. I wasn't attacking
11 Mr. Jarbola, I respect Mr. Jarbola and I
12 think he has been there long enough and
13 ought to go on up the ladder myself, but
14 what I was attacking is the favoritism and
15 the deals that go in our judicial system,
16 and people say it's been 150 years, like I
17 said, well, you tell them 60 people down at
18 Wilkes-Barre that it can keep going on.
19 These people, they have a responsibility to
20 everybody in this city and I just don't
21 think they do a good job at it.

22 I saw in the paper the other day it
23 said Playboy named the University of
24 Colorado at Boulder the biggest party school
25 in the country. Evidently, they haven't

1 seen all of the drunks going up Mulberry
2 over the weekend. They use that big statute
3 for a toilet down there.

4 Jack, don't hide. I was talking to
5 Johnny Superstar, our dear friend. We were
6 having some cocktails, of course, at the
7 Taurus Club Sunday and he was telling me how
8 you saw the -- his trick getting-- having a
9 hundred dollar bill disappear and come back.
10 He said, "Just like our mayor, but he just
11 knows the disappearing part of the \$100
12 bills, he doesn't know how to get them
13 back."

14 What's this letter say, I'm fired?
15 Well, if I offended council last week I'm
16 sorry, but I just wanted to get it out and
17 I'm not a -- I'm not the one that did wrong.
18 The system failed me and my son and I guess
19 we just have to go to Court and sue Moosic
20 and other people to makeup for his lost
21 time. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

23 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
24 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay, on 5-B through
2 E, please do whatever you can to make sure
3 the Office of Economic and Community
4 Development spends that money wisely and not
5 just on somebody's pet project like has
6 happened in the past. I heard stories about
7 homeless, housing for the homeless where
8 thousands upon thousands of dollars were
9 sunk into just one home and one person got
10 it and he was a favorite son or whatever,
11 and hopefully you can do whatever you can to
12 mitigate that.

13 Now, tonight on this union issue
14 with the police department, I would just
15 like to say that union security is the very
16 backbone of any union contract, without
17 union security. And I was the union steward
18 and chief steward at one time, I constantly
19 had original employees of this company, and
20 eventually I red circled them on the
21 contract, because they would keep coming
22 back and performing work and while they were
23 performing physical labor, there are four or
24 five guys hiding behind a machine not doing
25 their job anyway, but that is the backbone

1 of any union contract, so I have to come in
2 on the side of the police department on that
3 and the union because if one guy can do it
4 then next thing you know we have a half a
5 dozen people running around nonunion
6 performing union job duties and it's not
7 right. Eventually you wind up with an open
8 contract, so I understand why they are doing
9 what they are doing and I'm with them on
10 that. You can't get around it, if you
11 sacrifice your union security you don't have
12 any union, you have an open shop.

13 On that Mattes Avenue and down there
14 by General Dynamics, I had a real brain
15 storm of possibly selling some of those
16 people at a severely reduced rate parking
17 permits, that's some food for thought. If
18 somebody works down there and you want to
19 buy a parking permit and pay a little bit
20 instead of \$2 but -- or \$8 a day or whatever
21 and probably would be a good thing. Maybe
22 we could get a couple of dollars out of the
23 situation.

24 And on this Scranton Times, please,
25 stop appointing yourselves doctor, lawyer.

1 If I were you, I would call Lenahan and
2 Dempsey. I'd fix their butts. It's just
3 ridiculous. I mean, you know, it's -- it's
4 everybody said that. I've had bouts with
5 disability and people say things to you
6 that, oh, well it's okay if you need it.
7 Well, you know, I had congestive heart
8 failure, I took, you know, a cardiac arrest
9 in recovery on an open heart surgery. I
10 have -- I've had back problems, knee
11 problems, aneurysms and so forth, and it
12 looks like they have some kind of medical
13 degree just because you can nurse yourself
14 into getting moving after five or six hours
15 of popping pills and doing whatever you have
16 to do survive.

17 And finally, the golden parrot
18 award, well, back after 9/11 we had troopers
19 and they believed that the plane didn't
20 really fly into the building, and they
21 believed that the government used thermite,
22 it sounds really impressive, to blowup
23 buildings, well, that's the stuff they put
24 on the sparklers for the Fourth of July and
25 President Bush just got barraged by that.

1 give us, we would really appreciate it.
2 With everything going on this time of year
3 and financial everything, but this is for
4 the kids and every penny we make goes to the
5 kids and they need it. We want to get them
6 in camp, we want to get them what they need.
7 Period. So I'm asking everybody just come
8 to our night at the races. Have some fun,
9 have a couple of drinks, eat some foods and
10 make a couple of bets, and do it for the
11 kids, and Happy Easter and thanks.

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

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

15 MOTIONS.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
17 any comments or motions?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Once again, I
19 would like to reiterate what I said before
20 about Chief Duffy. I believe that his
21 actions are commendable and whether it was
22 the intent to embarrass the chief or not, I
23 think that filing a grievance did do that.
24 I think it was an injustice to a gentleman
25 that was doing -- that's attempting to do a

1 good job for the City of Scranton and doing
2 the job for which he was hired. Again, I
3 think it goes to the, you know, no good deed
4 goes unpunished, and I hope that Chief Duffy
5 keeps up the good work and continues to work
6 on behalf of the City of Scranton despite
7 what has taken place.

8 Secondly, last week we spoke about
9 the budget deficit and I asked if we would
10 sit down with the administration and attempt
11 to discuss a course of action for dealing
12 with the deficit. I still think that this
13 is the best course of action rather than
14 waiting for a proposal from the mayor and
15 then dealing with that and then either
16 accepting or rejecting and going back to
17 another proposal, I think that the best
18 course of action would be for council and
19 the administration to work together to solve
20 this problem and I guess I'm asking, again,
21 if anyone on council is willing, you know,
22 to sit down with the administration and, you
23 know, pave the way for a new Recovery Plan
24 rather than, again, waiting for one to be
25 presented that we may not approve. I would

1 hope that some member, you know, other
2 members of council will respond to my
3 request.

4 Also, last week I failed to mention
5 that I did present amendments to the Rental
6 Registration Act to Attorney Kelly and he is
7 reviewing them. We are going to sit down
8 hopefully before the end of this week to
9 discuss, you know, attempt at some of them
10 and perhaps look at some other ideas that he
11 may have and that Mr. Seitzinger may have
12 for implementation of the rental
13 registration program and hopefully within a
14 number of weeks we would -- what I have
15 asked Attorney Kelly to do is to provide a
16 draft of legislation, rather than putting
17 something on the agenda I would rather that
18 he present that as a draft of possible
19 legislation that we can then review, make
20 changes to, and then with those changes then
21 present it to council for a vote rather than
22 trying to amend it as it's presented. So
23 hopefully that draft will be available
24 within the next couple of weeks.

25 Last, I would just like to respond

1 to a couple of things that were said. I
2 don't -- never remember voting on closings
3 or brownouts. I don't know that there was
4 ever anything introduced to council that
5 dealt specifically with that. I did -- I
6 will say I did vote against the mandatory
7 manning legislation, which I believe was
8 improper, and voted against it because of
9 that. I would just like to -- I am grateful
10 for the work that the police and fire
11 departments do on a daily basis. I have
12 never voted against any or voted for
13 anything that would hinder them in the
14 performance of their duties. And with that,
15 I reserve any other comment, anything else
16 that I would say would probably appear to be
17 political in nature and really not -- this
18 is not the proper venue for that type of
19 response, so with that, thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And
21 Councilman Rogan, any comments or motions?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Once again, I
23 would like to congratulate the West Scranton
24 boys and West Scranton girls basketball
25 teams. As a proud West Scranton resident

1 and graduate myself -- that's right,
2 Chrissy.

3 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right, Pat.

4 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to
5 congratulate them, as well as Coach Lyons
6 and Coach Ciullo. Coach Ciullo was my
7 swimming instructor when I attended West
8 Middle School and Coach Lyons was our senior
9 guidance counselor when I graduated high
10 school.

11 Secondly, I received a caper from
12 OECD and initially our office only received
13 one, and then we had to get other copies,
14 and it's a very, very lengthy document, so I
15 will be reporting on that next week. I just
16 started reading it, but it's a few inches
17 thick, so I will be finishing up on that.

18 Last week I talked about the
19 Washburn Street Cemetery, and I know it's
20 been an issue for many, many, many years and
21 I know Charlie Newcomb has been very active
22 about it, he's been in touch with me, but a
23 friend of mine from West Scranton, Frank
24 Stefano, said he really wants to get
25 involved with helping with this situation,

1 and he sent me some pictures, I have them on
2 my phone, of tombstones, he counted
3 hundreds, over a hundred here, that was
4 tipped over in the cemetery. The grass is
5 already becoming overgrown and we are not
6 even really in the spring yet. The roads,
7 some of the roads in the cemetery there is
8 trees fallen in the middle of the road, so
9 people can't drive down to where their loved
10 one's grave is, and it is absolutely
11 appalling that that can happen when people
12 pay to have their relatives buried and
13 hopefully with respect.

14 You know, Hillary Clinton's father
15 was buried in this cemetery. You would
16 think that with the Clintons and all of the
17 power they have that we would be able to get
18 something done, but I would assume she
19 doesn't know about the condition, and it's
20 an embarrassment, it really is, and I hate
21 to put our newspaper reporter on the spot,
22 Josh, but maybe we can head out there and
23 try to get a story going on this to -- you
24 know, let everyone in the community know how
25 bad it is.

1 Next, there has been a lot of talk
2 about the budget deficit the last few weeks,
3 and I just have a few ideas that I would
4 like to put out there. First, I would like
5 to reiterate that I would not support any
6 cuts in police, fire and public safety for
7 the city. And I also believe that the
8 solution is not going to the bank to borrow
9 more money. We have borrowed and borrowed
10 and borrowed and borrowed and, you know,
11 look at government on every level. The
12 United States deficit went from positive to
13 negative. You know, we have borrowed too
14 much money, so these are two ideas that I
15 have to help bring in money to the city and
16 to reduce the size of our budget.

17 The first one is selling the Sewer
18 Authority. Everyone knows about all of the
19 nepotism at the Sewer Authority. It has
20 been where this mayor has stashed people
21 around election years to try to gain
22 support, putting more and more people in
23 that authority year after year after year
24 and the cost is going up and up and up. I
25 have talked to many people in the business

1 community over the last month and they
2 believe that the sale of the Sewer Authority
3 could bring in nearly \$50 million, and that
4 is a low end estimate. With \$50 million
5 brought in we could close the budget gap as
6 well as instituting a citywide paving
7 program with the majority of the streets in
8 this city that need to get paved will
9 finally get paved once and for all.

10 Secondly, and I mentioned this last
11 week, privatizing the DPW. The refuse
12 portion of the DPW can be done easily by the
13 private sector unlike police and fire work
14 which cannot be done by the private sector,
15 garbage collection can. It is in many other
16 towns and many other cities. By privatizing
17 garbage collection, we would have an outside
18 company that comes in and does it which
19 would save a lot of money in the budget, and
20 if we didn't want to go that far, which I
21 would support, we definitely should have an
22 efficiently survey done at the DPW.

23 I have talked to many reliable
24 sources who believe that the garbage pickups
25 can be done in four days in the City of

1 Scranton. If they are done in four days, on
2 the fifth day the guys who normally work
3 refuse could be out fixing the roads, fixing
4 the potholes, attending to other business in
5 the city, and that's of a five-week workday
6 buy one extra day for guys to go out and
7 take care of all of the other needs in the
8 city we would notice an immediate
9 difference, but the first step would be an
10 efficiency study where we would have
11 somebody come in, an expert in the field,
12 which none of us on council obviously are,
13 that could come in and do the report and
14 give it to us and give it to the
15 administration.

16 Mr. McGoff, you mentioned, you know,
17 you wanted somebody to sit down with the
18 mayor, I would be willing to do it, but, as
19 I said, I would not be willing to even
20 negotiate about cutting the police and fire
21 and I would not be willing to negotiate
22 borrowing anymore money, so if that's part
23 of what the mayor wants to do, for me it
24 wouldn't be even worth the time to sit down
25 and try to discuss it. If there are other

1 ways we can go about it without tax
2 increases, cuts in public safety, borrowing
3 more money, I would be more than willing to
4 sit down with the mayor any day.

5 Finally, we have all received a
6 letter from residents about 814 Quincy
7 Avenue, and this is a street, I know we have
8 been contacted by the resident many, many
9 times about this and, Mrs. Krake, I believe
10 each one of us received it, if it's
11 agreeable with everyone else if we would
12 allow the office to forward this down to
13 Licensing and Inspections and ask that they
14 take prompt action.

15 And finally, I would like to wish
16 everyone a very happy Easter. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: And, Councilman
18 Loscombe, comments, motions?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, a few brief
20 comments. First of all, I have a citizen's
21 concern, the 1100 block of Academy Street,
22 this past week there was a seen of an
23 attempted theft of tires from the vehicle
24 and I spoke to someone since then and I
25 guess this is starting to become epidemic in

1 this city, there has been at least six
2 incidents since then where these thieves are
3 jacking up the vehicles and putting them up
4 on cinder blocks and taking the wheels and
5 tires, unfortunately, this was about three
6 in the morning and one of the neighbors
7 happened to witness this and when they went
8 out, they were on foot, they chased them
9 away, they already had one wheel off this
10 vehicle, but this particular area is very
11 dark and I was just wondering what the
12 process is to get a light installed and if
13 we can check on that, Mrs. Krake, because
14 it's a dark area and it makes it prone to --
15 and right across from Lincoln Jackson School
16 in that area, but, you know, hopefully the
17 police will be cracking down on this stuff.
18 It just seems to be another, you know,
19 another situation in the city right now.

20 As Mr. Rogan said, Mr. McGoff, I
21 would be also be happy to meet with the
22 administration. We have attempted to meet
23 with him on several occasions prior, but I
24 will not meet with him until the business is
25 done and accomplished that we have put

1 before them, the StreetSmart RFP's, the
2 insurance broker RFP's, our rental
3 registration, you know, this stuff has been
4 languishing, they are looking how to get out
5 of the deficit they are in, but there is
6 moneymakers there for them that they are
7 just sitting on, so I would request before
8 anything is done and any meeting with the
9 administration that they take care of these
10 situations.

11 I can't really comment too much on
12 it because I just found out about it this
13 afternoon, I don't receive the paper, but on
14 the police grievance I think Mr. Martin had
15 explained the union side, I would like to
16 speak to Chief Duffy who, again, has always
17 been professional, has always been
18 accommodating, and I think I can understand
19 from a labor side, also, you know, you are
20 in a situation where you have a choice to be
21 promoted to a certain position such as
22 chief, you give up the patrolman duties, and
23 again, most of the public don't understand
24 the situation, but the problem being is we
25 fought here to put policemen back on the

1 job. The administration cut ten policemen.
2 As of now, two of those positions are
3 unfilled and the mayor has stated publically
4 in the newspaper that he will not fill the
5 positions as they become vacant. So, yes,
6 the police are worried about their jobs, but
7 the situation goes back years, I believe
8 2002 Sergeant Martin said, where all of this
9 was clarified, what the police chief's
10 duties are and what the patrolman's duties
11 are, but like anybody, anybody comes across
12 the scene of incident naturally they have to
13 react, they have a moral obligation, an
14 ethical obligation, and an obligation to
15 their badge.

16 I think what happened here the
17 problem is when you go beyond that scope and
18 you're actively going around, that puts a
19 different light on it. Not that the chief
20 isn't a great chief, and I understand
21 Mr. Martin has commended him many times.
22 And as far as I think Mr. McGoff said they
23 put it in the paper to embarrass him, I
24 don't believe that it was the union that put
25 it in the paper, I believe the

1 administration passed it onto the newspaper
2 because you know the history with this
3 history with this newspaper and the unions
4 here.

5 But until I get the total picture,
6 until I have sat down with both parties I
7 can't comment any further, I just happen to
8 see the sides that have been presented to me
9 so far and I think it's basically a news
10 article that's making a big thing out of
11 nothing. It's just, you know, the chief can
12 continue on doing what he is doing. I think
13 he is doing a fantastic job and nobody
14 disagrees with that, like I said, and he has
15 been very accommodating. Any time I have to
16 sit down with him or meet with him, it was
17 right there, and he has done anything that I
18 have asked and I know he is working very
19 well with his staff.

20 But, unfortunately, when you get
21 into labor negotiations and stuff like that
22 some of this comes up. It may seem to be an
23 embarrassment on the police department right
24 now, but, you know, anyone that's involved
25 in labor would realize what's going on. The

1 average person has never been involved in a
2 labor or union contract, I don't think no
3 matter what they say they will understand,
4 but I think in the best interest of all let
5 this play out and I think it will be
6 resolved to the best interest of all
7 citizens in the city here, and that's all I
8 am able to say at this time.

9 And as far as anything else, I'm
10 just speechless this week over the newspaper
11 articles of this past week and I can't even
12 comment on them because, you know, what you
13 hear at these meetings, as I said
14 previously, and what you see at these
15 meetings is not what you read about in the
16 newspapers, so we are not going to get
17 anywhere by arguing about it.

18 And finally, I'd like to wish
19 everyone out there a happy and holy Easter.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: And thank you,
22 Councilman Loscombe, Councilman Joyce,
23 comments or motions?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Before I get into
25 what I'm going to discuss tonight, I just

1 wanted to take the time to wish everyone a
2 very blessed happy Easter and a very sacred
3 blessed happy passover as well.

4 With that being said, last week our
5 business administrator, Ryan McGowan,
6 indicated to the Scranton Times that council
7 was aware that a deficit would occur in the
8 2010 operating budget. I'd like to clarify
9 a little bit by saying this statement is
10 completely false. During PEL presentations,
11 PEL did not indicate that there would be a
12 shortfall in the 2010 budget. All PEL
13 indicated is that there were would be
14 shortfalls in subsequent years if the budget
15 was left unchanged.

16 PEL's solution at the time was to
17 increase revenues fees for residents, in
18 addition to reducing administrative salaries
19 by 15 percent while laying off a few city
20 employees. Neither council nor the
21 administration adhered to PEL's suggestions.

22 On January 4 after the 2011
23 operating budget was passed, the business
24 administrator submitted a cash flow report
25 to city council and to the State of

1 Pennsylvania showing actual amounts of the
2 revenues collected and expenditures incurred
3 through the month of October, coupled with
4 his projections for November and December.
5 I have the report right here in front of me,
6 and notice this is coming to us in 2011
7 when, oh, we are supposed to be aware that
8 there was a deficit in 2010 at this point,
9 right? Wrong.

10 In this report the business
11 administrator indicated that in 2010, prior
12 to the tax anticipation note obligations we
13 would receive \$62,798,212 in revenue and
14 incur \$62,771,168 in expenses, which would
15 leave us collecting \$27,044 more than we
16 actually spent, so I guess by the report it
17 doesn't really appear that council knew that
18 there was going to be a deficit in 2010 that
19 occurred from the budget at that time.

20 It was not until the March 1 report
21 submitted by Mr. McGowan that it was
22 discovered that the 2010 operating budget
23 came up significantly short. In the
24 Business Administrator's report on March 1,
25 it was indicated that we only collected

1 \$57,688,628 in revenue, while spending
2 \$62,401,767 in expenditures, obviously, thus
3 leaving us \$4,713,139 short.

4 Because of the strain that the \$4.7
5 million shortfall had on overall cash flow
6 in 2010, the administration did not pay back
7 TAN-B in December of 2010, as was previously
8 discussed last week. The reason for this is
9 that the city would not have had enough
10 money to do so. Therefore, they abandoned
11 the payment until 2011 when revenue from the
12 next years TANS came in.

13 Therefore, with all of being said,
14 when council made budget amendments it was
15 under no impression that the 2011 operating
16 -- or 2010 operating budget would come up
17 short as predicted by the business
18 administrator at that time.

19 So there you have it. Now we are
20 faced with the situation that we are in. We
21 know that (a), the 2010 operating budget
22 came up \$4.7 million short, we know that the
23 business administrator projects that the
24 2011 budget will come up \$3.9 million short,
25 mostly due to faulty health insurance

1 projections that were provided by the former
2 business administrator himself; and (c),
3 that the administration already used revenue
4 from 2011 to pay back 2010 bills to the tune
5 of at least \$11.3 million.

6 While the administration and the
7 Scranton Times, since the Scranton Times
8 basically takes everything that the
9 administration states as true, is trying to
10 purport that council -- that it is council's
11 fault that the city has a deficit. However,
12 it is not.

13 In adopting budget amendments,
14 Scranton City Council amended some revenue
15 sources, the bulk of these revenue sources
16 were real estate taxes, wage taxes, the
17 local service tax, the business privilege
18 and the mercantile. In the tax office's
19 most recent report, the tax office has
20 actually collected and distributed nearly \$1
21 million more in revenue to the city than the
22 previous year from the collection of these
23 taxes, and that's with a tax decrease being
24 factored in.

25 What is more troubling than this is

1 that the administration and the Scranton
2 Times still blames council for the projected
3 budget hole for this year after the
4 administration not only made faulty health
5 insurance projections, but also hired
6 employees back that were laid off in the
7 2011 operating budget and gave them health
8 benefits as casual workers. When this was
9 done, Mayor Doherty stated everything was
10 fine. Everything would be covered.

11 All of what I just said is the truth
12 that the Scranton Times fails to print.
13 However, this week council has become aware
14 of even more activity by the administration
15 that is appalling. While the mayor and his
16 administration is pointing the finger at
17 council and crying that the city is going to
18 run out of money, they are refusing to
19 adhere to the 2011 operating budget because
20 they are not paying the salaries that were
21 reduced in some cases.

22 A request was submitted to the city
23 controller's office to report the bi-weekly
24 pay amounts of the mayor's confidential
25 secretary for 2011. As Mrs. Novembrino, our

1 city controller, indicated for the first
2 three pay periods of 2011 Mayor Doherty paid
3 his confidential secretary at a pay rate
4 that was budgeted by council. However, over
5 the past four pay periods that ha changed.
6 Apparently, as indicated by Mrs. Novembrino,
7 the mayor decided to give the secretary a
8 \$2.40 per hour raise which translates to
9 about \$5,000 a year, while trying to point
10 the finger at council as the scapegoat for
11 the reason the city is running low on funds.
12 Well, my friends, isn't this the pot calling
13 the kettle black.

14 As per today's Scranton Times
15 article, the mayor alluded that the
16 secretary was provided a raise because she
17 now does more work. Hmmm. Well, let's see
18 here, employee head count was reduced in the
19 2011 operating budget. Of course someone is
20 going to have to pick up the extra slack. I
21 would like to ask anyone listening right now
22 that in a period of restructuring who
23 doesn't take on additional work? Welcome to
24 the real world.

25 Also, if the mayor's secretary had

1 time to pick up an additional duty, she must
2 have had a lot of down time. With this in
3 mind, since we now have become aware that
4 Mayor Doherty's has given his secretary a
5 raise in excess of what was actually
6 budgeted for, Mrs. Krake, please submit a
7 Right-to-Know request on my behalf asking
8 the administration to provide regular, not
9 overtime work, for -- or to provide the
10 actual payments in the 4-1 and 4-13 pay
11 dates for all regular nonunion employees.
12 In this Right-to-Know request, please
13 disclose any overtime work that was
14 performed so that we could see exactly how
15 much each of the employees are making since
16 the mayor's confidential secretary's pay
17 rate is now higher than what was budgeted
18 for, we must also question what about
19 everybody else?

20 Guess what, there were people laid
21 off in other departments, I'm sure someone
22 else had to pick up the work. Is everyone
23 else receiving a raise, too?

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, if I could
25 just interrupt for a one second?

1 MR. JOYCE: Sure.

2 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, I'm
3 wondering if we did receive a response from
4 the city controller regarding the four
5 casual workers who were previously DPW
6 supervisors?

7 MS. KRAKE: I don't believe we
8 received them as of today.

9 MS. EVANS: Okay. And I know that
10 our finance chair is indicating that we did
11 receive a response concerning the mayor's
12 secretary.

13 MS. KRAKE: Right.

14 MS. EVANS: If I'm correct here,
15 neither was sent as a Right to Know?

16 MS. KRAKE: That's correct.

17 MS. EVANS: Can we send from city
18 council then a Right to Know on the matter
19 of the four casual workers.

20 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

21 MS. EVANS: You can use the same
22 information that was provided in the
23 original letter to Mrs. Novembrino. And I
24 just wanted to add, Mr. Joyce, to your most
25 recent discussion that ironically, however,

1 it was I believe the administration who cut
2 the position in the Human Resources
3 Department.

4 MR. JOYCE: That is correct.

5 MS. EVANS: It was not city council,
6 so the mayor would have cut that position,
7 the person holding that position had also
8 served as the part-time secretary to the
9 Civil Service Commission, which I believe
10 doesn't even meet monthly, I can't --
11 honestly I can't get my finger on the pulse
12 of when those meetings are, they are
13 irregular at best, but then the duties were
14 assigned to his secretary with additional
15 pay. That's correct?

16 MR. JOYCE: That is correct.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. JOYCE: And I know that
19 originally the four foremen, I believe they
20 were earning \$15.80 an hour plus benefits,
21 I'm not sure if that's changed because,
22 obviously, the salaries of some of the
23 administrative employees seem to be
24 changing, so I'm not sure if -- I'm not sure
25 what people are making, if Mayor Doherty is

1 even paying them according to the 2011
2 operating budget at this point.

3 But to conclude, while the
4 administration continues to point the finger
5 at council for the city's cash flow
6 problems, the facts really do speak for
7 themselves. The administration used 2011
8 revenue to pay off 2010 bills. The
9 administration hired back workers that were
10 laid off in the 2011 budget and refunded
11 their health insurance through they under
12 projected their own health insurance
13 numbers, and the administration is now
14 paying employees at a pay rate higher than
15 what was actually budgeted for.

16 The deficit that the city is
17 currently running is the administration's
18 deficit. The administration is who created
19 a deficit in 2010 and prior years and are
20 the primary reason why there may be a
21 deficit in 2011 due to faulty projections.
22 Though the Scranton Times would like to
23 direct everyone's attention to Mrs. Evans'
24 personal work matters rather than Scranton's
25 real problems, being the deficits the

1 administration has created which have lead
2 to Scranton's cash flow issues, no smear
3 articles about Janet Evans will be able to
4 hide the real truth.

5 And on other matters of business, I
6 noticed that we received a controller's
7 report for the month ending March 31, 2011.
8 I had a chance to briefly glance over it
9 just a little while ago and I noticed that
10 the figures for the real estate tax are
11 different than in the controller's report of
12 what was actually realized by the city than
13 from the tax office's report. So,
14 Mrs. Krake, with this in mind, can you
15 please contact Mr. Courtright and
16 Mrs. Novembrino on my behalf and just simply
17 ask them why the numbers don't match? Is
18 there a difference in reporting cycle that
19 -- or the reporting cycle that we are not
20 aware of.

21 Also, I have a few citizens'
22 requests. I have been informed by various
23 Hill Section residents that there are
24 various potholes and cracks in the 200 and
25 300 blocks of Colfax Avenue there are making

1 travel conditions very difficult.

2 Mrs. Krake, please forward to Mr. Brazil and
3 ask him to repair these two blocks.

4 A resident of Prescott Avenue also
5 reported to me that the 300 block of
6 Prescott Avenue is in very poor shape as
7 many cracks and potholes are making travel
8 conditions difficult. Mrs. Krake, if you
9 could please add this to the letter to
10 Mr. Brazil.

11 And various residents on West Market
12 Street report speeding vehicles on a
13 consistent basis for which they fear it
14 could end up in accidents occurring. If you
15 could please pass this onto Chief Duffy and
16 ask him to handle this -- or this situation
17 as he sees fit.

18 Also, I did notice that we received
19 back from the DPW, let me find it, a memo
20 from Mr. Brazil regarding ATV activity upon
21 the city's levying system. I know that last
22 week Mr. Hubbard approached council stating
23 that there were ATV's driving upon the levy
24 in lower Greenridge and informed us that he
25 had contacted police, however, police said

1 there was nothing that they could do being
2 that the activity wasn't occurring on the
3 street. Well, thankfully, Mr. Brazil passed
4 on this ordinance and there is a \$500 fine
5 for violating this ordinance which prohibits
6 ATV's from driving on levies in the lower
7 Greenridge area.

8 So with this in mind, Mrs. Krake,
9 can you please contact Chief Duffy on my
10 behalf and ask him if the Scranton Police
11 Department can patrol this area and fine the
12 violators of this ordinance who can, because
13 is it just a useless ordinance that has no
14 backing?

15 And with that, I conclude what I
16 have to say for tonight and once again I
17 just wanted to reiterate to everybody have a
18 happy Easter and for our Jewish friends have
19 a happy Passover as well. That's all.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.
21 Good evening. I'd like to thank everyone
22 for your phone calls, e-mails, and cards of
23 support and encouragement throughout this
24 past week. I wish to speak directly to you,
25 ladies and gentlemen, regarding my alleged

1 lack of transparency and accountability
2 propagated by the Scranton Times. It was I
3 who responded to the public in October of
4 2009 and a newspaper article was printed
5 quoting my remarks on October 21, 2009,
6 thus, there was never any secret.

7 I suffered a serious work-related
8 injury and filed a claim for worker's
9 compensation in 2009. My injuries were
10 medically confirmed by both my treating
11 physician and independent medical examiners.
12 I do not collect \$50,500 annually. I
13 receive a statutorily mandated payment of
14 \$32,102.40 after the deduction of a 20
15 percent attorney fee. I also receive a
16 \$12,500 council salary for a total annual
17 income of \$44,602.40.

18 Although, I do receive sustained
19 medical treatment only for my injuries, I do
20 not have comprehensive health care benefits.
21 God forbid if I were to develop pneumonia or
22 any sudden life-threatening illness, I have
23 no health care coverage to pay hospital and
24 physician bills like so many of you in our
25 community, many of whom suffer far worse

1 hardships.

2 Further, I am not the chairperson of
3 the English Department and this position was
4 posted for replacement in 2010. Any
5 statements and cartoons to the contrary are
6 irresponsible and malicious untruths.

7 I am able to attend city council
8 meetings once a week of which all physicians
9 are aware and have approved. The comparison
10 between one council meeting per week and a
11 full five-day workweek is illogical even to
12 those outside of the teaching profession.
13 Teaching requires constant, active
14 supervision, discipline, simultaneous
15 instruction of students possessing a broad
16 spectrum of ability levels, preparation,
17 grading and accommodations for special needs
18 among numerous others. Both federal and
19 state laws mandate these requirements for
20 the education and safety of our students.
21 This work is performed both within and
22 outside of the classroom. People who think
23 that sitting in a classroom for three hours
24 a day or for seven hours daily constitutes
25 teaching are depreciating what our teachers

1 do.

2 I trust these statements satisfy the
3 inquiries of all of those concerned with my
4 personal life and professional career.

5 Next, returning to matters of city
6 business that truly impact the people of
7 Scranton, this city council has achieved
8 more significant accomplishments for the
9 benefit of the people in little over a year
10 than the previous council on which I served.

11 This council majority lowered
12 property taxes by 10 percent and business
13 taxes by 25 percent. It maintained your
14 level of public safety personnel,
15 specifically police and fire, to ensure that
16 the safety and welfare of all Scranton
17 residents.

18 It cut the costs of a bloated
19 administration and presented new revenue
20 generators to address city debt, none of
21 which the mayor is pursuing. It lowered the
22 bidding threshold. Mandated that
23 professional services are bid, and brought
24 accountability to the UDAG repayment
25 accounts by ending Mayor Doherty's frivolous

1 spending throughout the last nine years.

2 This council held developers
3 accountable for their work and for their
4 delinquent taxes and was the first to seek
5 PILOT payments from large nonprofits and
6 increase of contributions.

7 And just as an aside, I listened as
8 many tonight discussed the former
9 Chamberlin, I believe it's General Dynamics,
10 I might add that General Dynamics was
11 approached by both myself and I believe the
12 mayor of the City of Scranton for PILOT
13 payments. To date, no contribution has been
14 made and I did not receive the courtesy of a
15 return phone call that I requested from one
16 of the vice presidents.

17 In addition, this council satisfied
18 the outstanding bills of Chris Doherty for
19 the city's portion of the Lackawanna
20 Heritage Valley Trail and negotiated a new
21 agreement with them and provided increased
22 fair funding to the Griffen Pond Animal
23 Shelter. It also increased funding for
24 blight removal and provided funding for the
25 purchase of a fire engine and police cars.

1 It is fighting for a fair cable
2 contract and it dissolved the Library
3 Authority. It was the first governing body
4 to ban bath salts and synthetic marijuana in
5 this area. This is but a snapshot of what
6 this council majority has achieved.

7 At the same time however, the
8 Scranton Times desperately attempts to make
9 you, the public, believe that this council
10 has done nothing and is incompetence. The
11 editor wrote on April 14, and I quote, "If
12 incompetence were a medical condition,
13 Mrs. Evans' city council would be on
14 permanent disability."

15 Yet, their own reporter fails to
16 report facts presented during weekly council
17 meetings. For example, where is the long
18 promised list of Chris Doherty's invoices of
19 city UDAG funds printed in the Scranton
20 Times? Where is the article reporting that
21 the administration used a 2011 TAN to pay
22 off a 2010 TAN IN violation of the very
23 ordinance that provides for the issuance OF
24 the TANS? When will the reporters ask mayor
25 Doherty how he is able to move city money

1 without ordinances prescribed by the Home
2 Rule Charter and the Administrative Code?

3 Have you ever read an investigative
4 article into the \$11.2 million findings
5 against the OECD Office? Has there been an
6 article revealing the sole source
7 declarations previously approved by the
8 Doherty administration?

9 Each of these issues is documented
10 in black and white and each has been
11 discussed right here during city council
12 meetings, and yet, there have been no news
13 articles or editorials that address these
14 serious issues. It seems that
15 accountability and transparency do not apply
16 to the mayor's office or perhaps Mayor
17 Doherty never pledged any accountability and
18 transparency to the people, which explains
19 the absence of vital financial facts and
20 information in the newspaper, the continued
21 retreat to the Chamber of the Commerce to
22 present the state of the city address, the
23 total absence from council caucuses and
24 meetings to which he is invited, and his
25 refusal to appear at town meetings.

1 Now, let's examine what has made the
2 pages of the newspaper. The very recent and
3 false statements in both the news article
4 and editorial which proclaim that council
5 overestimated revenues and that Mrs. Evans
6 had no suggestions for addressing the
7 Doherty deficit. I recommend that the
8 newspapers should do the following: Listen
9 to the weekly reports of the council finance
10 chair and examine his documentation,
11 particularly data from the Single Tax Office
12 which shows increased revenue in 2010 and
13 2011, as well as Mr. McGowan's contradictory
14 reports then you will have a clear,
15 financial picture of the revenues based on
16 fact.

17 Next, pull the minutes of recent
18 council meetings and verify my statements
19 and suggestions. The reporter never
20 reported them and for whatever his reason
21 seems to have told his bosses that I had
22 none. I listed refinancing debt, the sale
23 or lease of the Scranton Parking Garages
24 after 60 days notice to the Scranton Parking
25 Authority, the privatization of the Scranton

1 Sewer Authority, and the use of the excess
2 funds in the Worker's Comp Trust Fund. This
3 was said several weeks ago during a council
4 meeting during which a Scranton Times'
5 reporter sits throughout.

6 Mr. Rogan on the same evening
7 suggested the privatization of the DPW.
8 Such privatizations are familiar to the
9 mayor since Councilman Doherty agreed to the
10 privatization of the Sewer Authority to
11 solve prior financial ills.

12 At the same time, the administration
13 suggests only layoffs to police, fire,
14 clerical, and DPW employees. While Chris
15 Doherty reinstated his cronies to the DPW
16 budget, awarded them unprecedented health
17 care benefits while categorizing them as
18 casual workers, and used tens of thousands
19 of dollars to pay his dues and subscriptions
20 before the UDAG repayment checkbook closed.

21 He took 2011 TANS and worker's comp
22 excess funds without council's knowledge and
23 approval to pay a 2010 TAN and bills,
24 thereby, causing a significant deficit in
25 2011.

1 He closed the door to revenue
2 generators like StreetSmart Technologies and
3 rental registration and something that
4 hasn't been mentioned by my colleagues this
5 evening, the Office of LIPS and the rental
6 registration program has lost an employee
7 and the mayor refuses to fill the position
8 which, of course, will further negatively
9 impact the rental registration program.
10 Absentee landlords can continue to create
11 problems in our neighborhoods without any
12 accountable and the city will receive no
13 revenue.

14 I have a question for the newspaper,
15 will the Scranton Times live up to it's
16 proud journalist mission, investigate and
17 print these facts in a news article and
18 editorials?

19 Next, city council recently received
20 a report from an inspection team from CC
21 Johnson and Malholtra, PC, regarding the
22 Rockwell Avenue bridge over Leggett's Creek.
23 The team inspected this City of Scranton
24 owned stone masonry arch bridge and has
25 determined 14 high priority maintenance

1 items that have not been completed.

2 According to the report, the
3 structural adequacy of this bridge is
4 questionable. The conditions described if
5 left as is are considered to be an
6 unacceptable safety risk to the motoring
7 public. Significant structural repairs to
8 the arch steam walls, spandrel walls and
9 wigs are needed in order for the structure
10 to remain in service. These repairs are
11 considered to be high priority maintenance
12 activities requiring action to be taken
13 within six months of notification.

14 Mrs. Krake, please send
15 correspondence to the city engineer, CECO
16 Associates and DPW Director Brazil on behalf
17 of city council, we request to know the
18 plans, if any, to address the high priority
19 maintenance items included in the CCJM
20 report, as well as the cost and sources of
21 the funding for these required repairs.

22 Also, please send a letter to
23 Mr. Brazil and Ms. Aebli from city council
24 requesting whether or not they have
25 submitted public infrastructure projects and

1 economic development projects and applied
2 for the Appalachian Regional Commission or
3 ARC and Economic Development Administration,
4 EDA, funding through the Northeastern
5 Pennsylvania alliance. Preliminary
6 proposals are due no later than April 30,
7 2011, and city council hopes these
8 departments have forwarded submissions of
9 any eligible projects.

10 If submission of preliminary
11 proposals occurred, identify the projects
12 and the purpose and estimated costs of each.
13 A response is requested on or before May 5,
14 2011.

15 Next, I received a thorough report
16 and documents from residents of the 1700
17 block of Wyoming Avenue regarding the second
18 phase of the Scranton Meadowbrook Flood
19 Protection Project which would address the
20 collapsed culvert behind a residence at 1713
21 Wyoming Avenue. According to Sharon Lynett,
22 field representative for Senator Casey, the
23 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
24 Protection requested that the governor
25 authorize 12 million for the second phase

1 and Governor Rendell approved the request in
2 his 2010 executive budget which would then
3 appear in the next capital budget
4 authorization bill. When this bill is
5 enacted, the DEP can request the release of
6 these funds through the Pennsylvania
7 Department of the General Services or DGS
8 and the governor's budget office. Released
9 funds will be administered by DGS with DEP
10 serving as the using or reviewing agency.
11 DGS will request proposals for the design
12 and likely hire a consulting engineer by
13 Spring 2011. The construction should be
14 underway for the 2012 construction season as
15 hopefully will be completed by the Fall of
16 2013.

17 In addition, the city must secure
18 easements and rights of way to allow private
19 properties to be accessed so that the
20 project can be constructed. The city will
21 be responsible for contacting residents and
22 obtaining these easements. The time line
23 may increase significantly if one or more
24 property owners are not readily agreeable to
25 construction within their property.

1 Numerous Greenridge properties are
2 affected by the creek, including the Church
3 of the Good Shepard. Funds appear to be
4 available from the federal and state levels,
5 but the city seems to have stalled on it's
6 requirements. This problem has plagued some
7 residents of this area for 40 years and it
8 needs to be continued to be addressed.

9 Mrs. Krake, on behalf of city
10 council please send letters to the
11 Pennsylvania Department of General Services
12 and the governor's budget office requesting
13 a status report and the total amount of
14 funding designated to the second phase of
15 the Scranton Meadowbrook Creek Project as
16 soon as possible.

17 Next, please send a letter to Paul
18 O'Hora, flood control manager, and CECO
19 Associates, city engineer, requesting an
20 update and timeline for completion of this
21 project. Has the City of Scranton contacted
22 residents and obtained the required
23 easements and rights of way for the second
24 phase of this project? If not, when will
25 the city begin to do so? City council

1 requests a written response from the city
2 representatives involved on or about May 5,
3 2011.

4 And I know that you touched on the
5 issue of the ATV's on our flood levies under
6 your motions.

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

8 MS. EVANS: In addition to DPW head
9 Brazil's comments on the issue, we were also
10 able to speak with a city police officer who
11 indicated, of course, there is no
12 trespassing on city-owned property, but the
13 officer also recommended, and I believe
14 wisely so that the city post "No
15 Trespassing, Motorized Vehicles Prohibited"
16 at the flood levy in lower Greenridge.
17 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please send a letter
18 to Mr. Brazil with a copy to Mr. Reed
19 requesting the installation of these signs
20 at the lower Greenridge flood levy.

21 Finally, I have citizens' requests
22 for the week. According to WNEP TV -- to a
23 WNEP newscast yesterday, Connell Park was
24 used by the University of the Scranton for a
25 baseball game. If the University of

1 Scranton owns the South Side Complex, city
2 residents want to know why it is using
3 Connell Park.

4 A child playing at the Tripp Park
5 playground last week was hurt because there
6 is not adequate mulch on which to land below
7 the sliding boards. Residents of Tripp Park
8 request the placement of mulch on the
9 playground and park for the spring and
10 summer seasons before more children are
11 injured, and if we might add to that, I
12 think it is very important that the city
13 look toward maintaining it's current parks
14 and playgrounds before it begins
15 construction on additional locations.

16 The red car was removed from the
17 corner of the Meadow Avenue and River Street
18 thereby debunking the notion of a used car
19 lot, however, residents continue to request
20 a cleanup of that area for Earth Day this
21 week.

22 Residents of East Mountain report
23 that catch basins on East Mountain Road are
24 covered with debris from weekend storms.
25 With additional rainfall in the forecast,

1 the residents requests that storm drains
2 would be cleaned as soon as possible, and
3 that's it.

4 MR. JOYCE: Before we move onto 5-B,
5 I just wanted to address something, I know
6 that Mr. McGoff was stating before that we
7 should meet with the administration and
8 discuss the cash flow issues that are
9 causing some of -- causing some of the
10 projected problems that may happen in the
11 city. As far as recommendations by council
12 for handling the cash flow deficit, council,
13 and I know in particular Councilwoman Evans,
14 already suggested ideas such as a selling or
15 leasing the parking garages, privatization
16 of the Sewer Authority, refinancing debt
17 and/or privatizing the DPW. I know that I
18 have personally looked into the selling or
19 leasing of the parking garages, I had a
20 conversation with Mr. William Padutto, who
21 is the finance chair for the Pittsburgh City
22 Council, back in the summertime and I have
23 also researched companies that specialize in
24 this sort of thing.

25 In regard to the time that we would

1 meet, I believe the mayor should come here
2 and meet with us. You know, I work during
3 the day eight to five and I already used
4 several vacation days in 2010 going to Court
5 to try to save the city money over council's
6 budget amendments which were ultimately shot
7 down, but guess what happened, there was a
8 deficit in 2010, but at the time the
9 administration said, "Everything will be
10 fine."

11 So since I used my vacation time in
12 2010, I challenge Mayor Doherty to use some
13 of his down time and come here and sit with
14 us to discuss the cash flow issues created
15 and in great part by the 2011 -- or the 2010
16 budget in this forum with us, and that's
17 all.

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. CREATING AND
19 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF
20 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
21 DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED U.S.
22 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
23 ACCOUNT NO. 13A.0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND
24 DISBURSEMENT OF ALL BROWNFIELDS
25 COMMUNITY-WIDE HAZARDOUS ASSESSMENT GRANT

1 FUNDS ("EPA FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE U.S.
2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ("EPA").

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

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question? This
9 is a continuation of a number of special
10 accounts being created within the Office of
11 Economic and Community Development in order
12 to pull apart, if you will, and straighten
13 out funding that has unfortunately been
14 commingled throughout the years. I
15 understand that HUD will be visiting
16 shortly, if it isn't already, to check on
17 the status of many issues at OECD that were
18 brought to light in the audit finding by the
19 Office of the Inspector General, and I think
20 that these accounts are probably measures,
21 additional measures that OECD is taking
22 toward that HUD visit to ensure that at last
23 the accounts are separate and unique to
24 various grants and government requirements.
25 All those in favor of introduction signify

1 by saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. CREATING AND
9 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
11 DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED ECONOMIC
12 DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PROGRAM ACCOUNT NO.
13 14A.0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF
14 ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PROGRAM
15 FUNDS ("EDI FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE U.S.
16 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
17 ("HUD").

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. CREATING AND
8 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
10 DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED COMMUNITY
11 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM - RECOVERY
12 PROGRAM ACCOUNT NO. 15A.0101 FOR THE
13 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF ALL COMMUNITY
14 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - RECOVERY PROGRAM
15 FUNDS ("CDBG-R FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE
16 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
17 DEVELOPMENT ("HUD").

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. CREATING AND
8 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
10 DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED HOMELESS
11 PREVENTION AND RAPID-REHOUSING PROGRAM
12 ACCOUNT NO. 16A.0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND
13 DISBURSEMENT OF ALL HOMELESS PREVENTION AND
14 RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM FUNDS ("HPRP")
15 RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
16 AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD").

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

20 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. AUTHORIZING THE
7 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
8 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AN ADDENDUM
9 TO THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
10 CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE SCRANTON PARKING
11 AUTHORITY BY ADDING THE NEW SUBSECTION 9 TO
12 ARTICLE 1 - POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
13 OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

22 MR. JOYCE: I would --

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

4 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a
5 motion to table Item 5-F.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Too late. We just
7 voted on it.

8 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
9 floor to table Item 5-F, do we have a
10 second?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question?

13 MR. ROGAN: I have two questions.
14 The first one is why and the second one is
15 we just voted on it so why are we tabling it
16 after the vote?

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes, actually this is
18 the way it's written up on our sheet, but
19 the reason why I wanted to table this, and I
20 actually tried to jump in before we voted on
21 it, so I'm not sure of the correct legal
22 proceedings, but I had a brief discussion
23 with Attorney Hughes and from what I
24 understand this is council-drafted
25 legislation and he informed me that he

1 hasn't received some additional information
2 which had an effect on the ordinance. I'm
3 100 percent sure all of what the additional
4 information was, however, I wanted to table
5 the item so that any amendments that needed
6 to be made could be done prior to
7 introduction, and that's the main reason.

8 MR. ROGAN: Well, it is only Fifth
9 Order.

10 MR. JOYCE: It's in Fifth Order I
11 guess then any subsequent amendments could
12 be made next week if it's considered.

13 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to add
14 that we are following the directions of
15 Solicitor Hughes. Is there a problem with
16 that?

17 MR. ROGAN: No, every time before
18 this when we tabled anything we always did
19 it before the vote.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, again, as I said,
21 I am following the advice of Solicitor
22 Hughes. If anyone is dissatisfied with
23 Attorney Hughes' service then you should
24 make that known.

25 MR. ROGAN: No, I think Attorney

1 Hughes is doing an excellent job, I just
2 don't know why in the past when every time
3 something was tabled it was always before
4 the vote and this is the first time we are
5 tabling something after the vote. It's just
6 a question.

7 MR. MCGOFF: When --

8 MS. EVANS: Well, I had --

9 MR. MCGOFF: We're going to fight
10 here.

11 MS. EVANS: No, you go ahead.

12 MR. MCGOFF: When this returns then
13 it would be in Sixth Order since we have
14 already voted on it.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes, yes, so it's really
16 -- there is really no great difference here.
17 You could have tabled it and kept it off the
18 agenda entirely or placed it on the agenda
19 and tabled it until such time as our
20 attorney has the opportunity to address it
21 and he is currently out of town, he will not
22 return until next week at which time I know
23 he will be inundated with work.

24 MR. ROGAN: I just want to clarify,
25 I know it would be the same thing as tabling

1 it next week before the vote.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yeah, I don't think it
3 has any profound impact, we just had a small
4 office error.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yeah.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yeah. So I tried to
7 jump in before that, but we could wait until
8 next week.

9 MR. ROGAN: As long as it's cleared
10 up.

11 MR. JOYCE: We can wait. It's fine
12 with me.

13 MR. ROGAN: As Mr. McGoff said, it
14 would just be in Sixth Order instead of
15 Fifth.

16 MR. JOYCE: Exactly.

17 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
18 tabling Item 5-F signify by saying aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

23 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

1 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO
2 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
3 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
4 FINANCE FOR ADOPTION-ORDINANCE NO. 26, 2011
5 - (AS AMENDED) - REMOVAL OF PARKING METERS
6 LOCATED IN THE 200 AND 300 BLOCKS OF ARTHUR
7 AVENUE, BETWEEN MULBERRY AND LINDEN STREETS
8 AND IN THE 1700 AND 1800 BLOCKS OF MULBERRY
9 STREET AND IN THE 1700 AND 1800 BLOCKS OF
10 LINDEN STREET, AND THE 300 BLOCK OF COLFAX
11 AVENUE, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN
12 THE CORRESPONDENCE AND ON THE DIAGRAM FROM
13 COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER ATTACHED HERETO
14 AND THEREAFTER, TO INSTITUTE DAILY PERMIT
15 PARKING FOR COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER
16 EMPLOYEES.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: At this time I would
18 like to make a motion to amend Item 7-A, as
19 amended, by amending Section II, by adding
20 in quotations, "And shall remain in effect
21 until CMC parking garage is reopened or
22 December 31, 2011, whichever comes first."

23 MR. JOYCE: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.

1 Mr. Loscombe, I appreciate you putting this
2 in ahead of time so we were able to review
3 it, and I will vote in favor of the
4 amendment even though I oppose the
5 legislation for this reason: With the
6 amendment this limits the amount of time
7 these meters will be roped off until January
8 31, 2011, so it takes a bad piece of
9 legislation and makes it not last quite as
10 long.

11 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add
12 that without this legislation the city will
13 receive no money. Whatever monies have been
14 let's say paid by the CMC would go to and
15 have gone to the Scranton Parking Authority,
16 and certainly we discussed the last week why
17 that is certainly uncalled for since the
18 Parking Authority has no labor involvement
19 in the transaction, so you can either decide
20 tonight should the city receive money or do
21 you want the Parking Authority to receive
22 the money?

23 MR. ROGAN: We are voting on the
24 amendment right now; correct?

25 MS. EVANS: Correct.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Could I just make a
2 comment?

3 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it applies,
5 but I should have mentioned it earlier, the
6 police have been ticketing pretty regularly
7 lately up there, there is some ambiguous and
8 obsolete signage on the Linden Street side
9 of the hospital, there is "Loading Zone"
10 signs "No Parking" and you could be ticketed
11 for that, those loading zones were put in
12 when they were constructing the part of the
13 hospital, there are loading zones around the
14 corner on Colfax Avenue now, and there are
15 some "No Parking" between signs and permit
16 parking, so I think we have to have someone
17 look at the signage on Linden Street
18 alongside the hospital and Colfax Avenue and
19 the next block down.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: There have been quite
22 a few tickets given out last week and I
23 happened to see the police officer there
24 today. You know, I mean, he is following
25 his orders, but there is some ambiguous

1 signage there, so we have to correct that,
2 also.

3 MS. EVANS: Yeah, I think if we get
4 in touch with the appropriate parties
5 tomorrow hopefully we can have the
6 appropriate signage installed and what is
7 useless removed.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly. Free up a
9 few more spots there.

10 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. All those
11 in favor of the motion to amend Item 7-A, as
12 amended, signify by saying aye?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
18 have it and so moved. What is the
19 recommendation of the Chair for the
20 Committee on Finance?

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

24 MS. EVANS: As amended.

25 MR. JOYCE: As amended.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.

4 This was brought up in Fifth Order, the vote
5 went 4-1, I was only person that voted
6 against it. In Sixth Order the vote went
7 3-2, Mr. McGoff saw the light, and I am
8 hoping that one of my esteemed colleagues to
9 the left will join us in shooting this down.

10 Passing this legislation is simply
11 having a vote to increase fees for people
12 who visit relatives at CMC Hospital.
13 Mrs. Evans spoke about the money going to
14 the city versus the Parking Authority, but I
15 believe that was covered in the last item
16 that we tabled which said any parking meters
17 which are removed from service as a public
18 park space by an ordinance of the City of
19 Scranton and replaced by permit parking for
20 a period of four months or more shall be
21 excluded from this agreement and all fees
22 for permit parking shall be paid directly to
23 the City of Scranton.

24 That is the piece of legislation
25 that was tabled and if it is brought back on

1 agenda will appear in Sixth Order next week.
2 The piece of legislation that we are voting
3 on now authorizes the removal of 150 parking
4 spots from the Hill Section, the area around
5 CMC, and I personally believe that the city
6 has done more than enough to accommodate CMC
7 in that region. They already have parking
8 at Nay Aug Park, which is a city-owned park,
9 now they want to take away 150 spots that
10 could be used either by -- either we remove
11 the meters totally and move them somewhere
12 else where they could be used by residents,
13 people who visit the hospital or even
14 hospital employees, or leave the meters as
15 they were. The revenue will continue to
16 come in and the Parking Authority will get
17 their cut with the meters in, but it would
18 make it fair for everyone.

19 If somebody who wanted to park for a
20 half hour they would pay 50 cents. If
21 somebody wanted to park for an hour they
22 would pay the dollar an hour rate, instead
23 of parking CMC's garage and paying \$4
24 whether you are there for five minutes or
25 whether you are there for five hours. It

1 may not seem like a lot of money, but it's a
2 matter of principle.

3 MR. JOYCE: Let me ask this, besides
4 those 150 parking spots (a, are there other
5 places where people could park that may
6 visit the hospital; and secondly, I have
7 seen the light and, in fact, I have already
8 seen the dollar sign which could go to
9 saving police and fire jobs to the tune of
10 \$2,000 per space times 150 which is
11 \$300,000, so I would like to ask, do you
12 know offhand how many police jobs that would
13 save? How many cops that could keep on our
14 streets?

15 MR. ROGAN: I would dispute the
16 number of 300,000 though because by removing
17 the meters we are also removing the revenue
18 that would come in from the meters.

19 MR. JOYCE: Well, okay, we could
20 factor off some revenue coming from the
21 meters.

22 MR. ROGAN: So it wouldn't be
23 \$300,000.

24 MR. JOYCE: However, if you factor
25 in what's actually collected up there all of

1 the meters are bagged so I'm assuming that
2 not very much revenue would be coming off.

3 MR. ROGAN: That's the problem that
4 they are bagged. That's what I'm against.

5 MR. JOYCE: Well, I do -- this is
6 what I'm saying, I don't think that those
7 meters are going to be occupied 100 percent
8 of the time throughout the whole course of
9 the day, which is basically what we would
10 need in order to get the revenue that CMC is
11 willing to provide us and if we could have
12 more revenue coming into this city, which
13 would ultimately save police and fire
14 positions, yeah, I have seen the light. I
15 have seen the light of voting this through
16 and saving our police and fire positions
17 rather foregoing the chance to earn some
18 revenue for the city, and that's my opinion.

19 MR. ROGAN: But to be fair --

20 MS. EVANS: Excuse me, please.

21 MR. ROGAN: I was the one that was
22 interrupted.

23 MS. EVANS: Excuse me, I just wanted
24 to say that this legislation represents a
25 compromise. No situation is ideal, but this

1 was a compromise between the CMC Hospital,
2 the City of Scranton and Scranton City
3 Council who brought in Mr. Markowski for a
4 public caucus. I think that sometimes and,
5 in fact, many times it is compromise that
6 leads to the solution and sometimes
7 obstinacy is not the best path.

8 MR. ROGAN: I agree that compromise
9 would be the best path and when we had the
10 representative from CMC in I know I stated,
11 and I believe others stated, that we would
12 be in support of this if the fees in the
13 garage were changed to an hourly rate
14 similar to what the meters were. That I
15 felt was a good compromise, that if somebody
16 wanted to park and visit a relative in the
17 hospital at a meter or at the garage they
18 would pay the same rate. I felt that was a
19 fair compromise, unfortunately, CMC didn't.

20 Getting back to the issue of
21 firefighters and police, I voted for the
22 amendment where the money should go for
23 that, I agree that if we are bringing in any
24 extra money, well, it's not really extra
25 money, instead of it going to the Parking

1 Authority it will come to us, also assuming
2 that the item that was tabled is passed
3 would come to us. I voted for the
4 amendment, I voted for Mr. Loscombe's
5 amendment tonight capping it to December 31,
6 2011, but it is still not the right thing to
7 do. There are other ways to bring in money
8 besides saying, well, you know, we are going
9 to get rid of all of our parking meters in
10 the city and they can park on private lots.
11 I know the vote is going to go down 3-2, we
12 might as well vote.

13 MS. EVANS: And just for the
14 audience's edification, the parking meters
15 are not being removed. The previous system
16 will be enacted once again next year. Roll
17 call, please?

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: No.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: No.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-A, as amended, legally and lawfully
adopted. If there is no further business,
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
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