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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
(Not present.)

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here.

13 MS. KRAKE: Third order?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
16 ASSESSOR'S REPORT, APPEAL HEARING RESULTS
17 FOR AUGUST 3, AUGUST 17, AND AUGUST 31 OF
18 2011.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS FROM
22 ROBERT & ROSSI CO. AS OF AUGUST 2, 2011.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. CHECK RECEIVED FROM

1 COMCAST, REPRESENTING THE CATV FRANCHISE FEE
2 DUE TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE 2ND
3 QUARTER OF 2011.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
7 REPORT, FINAL RESULTS FROM AUGUST 17, 2011
8 APPEAL HEARINGS.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MEETING OF THE
12 ZONING HEARING BOARD AUGUST 10, 2011.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. AUDIT STATUS FROM
16 ROBERT & ROSSI CO. AS OF AUGUST 15, 2011.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes, Mrs. Krake, after
19 reading the reports sent to us by Rossi &
20 Rossi, it's evident that the administration
21 still owes our auditor a good amount of
22 information that has been overdue for a
23 little while, actually, quite some time now.

24 Completion of a timely audit is
25 important as I would think most banks would

1 like to see a copy of our audit in an effort
2 to provide us with the best interest rates
3 that we could possibly obtain on items such
4 as tax anticipation notes.

5 With this in mind, please contact
6 Mr. McGowan and ask him to provide us with
7 the status and an ETA of all open items.
8 Thanks.

9 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
10 Received and filed.

11 MR. HUGHES: Madam president, on
12 that, Councilman Joyce, was that to contact
13 Mr. Rossi or Mr. McGowan? I think Mr. Rossi
14 should be contacted to write a letter to
15 council as to the status, and also a copy
16 should go to Mr. McGowan as to the request
17 that had been made to the various
18 departments that had not responded and how
19 many.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yeah. Actually, that's
21 a very good point. Given the items that are
22 overdue right now, Mrs. Krake, if you could
23 please also send or contact Rossi & Rossi
24 and ask them if they received the
25 information in a timely manner from this

1 point when we could expect to see a
2 completed audit for the year.

3 MS. EVANS: And I could add, as I
4 have the September 6 report in hand, that
5 the information requested by Rossi & Rossi
6 dates back to April 15, 2011, and has not
7 yet been received by them. Mrs. Krake?

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. CHECK RECEIVED FROM
9 LUTHERWOOD, WHICH IS PAYMENT IN LIEU OF
10 TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR
11 2011.

12 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
13 Once again, we would like to thank
14 Lutherwood for their generous contribution
15 to the City of Scranton as payment in lieu
16 of taxes. Received and filed.

17 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. AGENDA FOR THE
18 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND MEETING
19 HELD AUGUST 24, 2011.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-I. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
23 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD AUGUST 17,
24 2011.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-J. FINAL REPORT
3 COMMENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE CORNERS OF
5 WYOMING AVENUE AND LINDEN STREET.

6 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
7 Mrs. Krake, on this particular topic, this
8 was a related item, if we could please send
9 on behalf of city council a letter to the
10 mayor inquiring if a lien was placed against
11 that property in order to obtain payment
12 from the owner for the city's portion of the
13 cleanup work performed.

14 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Received and
16 filed.

17 MS. KRAKE: We do not have any
18 clerk's notes this evening, Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
20 council members have announcements at this
21 time?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. A couple of
23 quick ones, first I'd like to wish a happy
24 birthday to my nephew, Eric Mills, and my
25 sister, Cathy Martin.

1 There will be a Rally for
2 Rosencrantz held at the VFW Post 25 on
3 Rockwell Avenue on October 8 from 4 to 8
4 p.m. This will benefit Tom Rosencrantz who
5 is a liver transplant candidate. The
6 donation will be \$15 and if anyone is
7 interested in tickets they can call Tony
8 Walsh at 499-7821.

9 And one more announcement, there
10 will be a fundraiser held on Monday,
11 September 19, 2011, at Kilcoyne's, 129 South
12 Main Avenue in West Scranton, from 6 p.m. to
13 10 p.m. The proceeds will benefit Pat
14 Rogan's brother, Josh Rogan. He will be
15 going to Bachner Eye Institute in Toronto,
16 Canada, to have a procedure called a corneal
17 crosslinking to save his eyesight. He has a
18 progressive degenerative disease of his
19 cornea called keratoconus. It typically
20 strikes people in their late teens and early
21 20's. The procedure will limit the
22 deterioration of his vision and reduce the
23 need for a corneal transplant. This
24 procedure is considered experimental in the
25 United States and is not covered by

1 insurance. The fund will help defray the
2 costs of medical expenses, travel and
3 follow-up care.

4 Josh is a great kid, he is extremely
5 bright and talented, he was on the West
6 Scranton varsity baseball team and graduated
7 and ranked tenth in his class this past
8 year. He is currently a freshman at the
9 University of Scranton attending on a Dean's
10 scholarship and majoring in computer
11 science. Food will be served and there will
12 be a cash bar with celebrity bartenders on
13 hand. Raffle tickets will be sold for door
14 prizes and baskets.

15 If anyone can help out please
16 contact Nancy Artis at 881-1679. Hope to
17 see you all there. Thank you very much.

18 MS. EVANS: Are there any other
19 announcements?

20 MR JOYCE: I would like to say in
21 light of the benefit for Councilman Rogan's
22 brother, I would just ask people to keep
23 Mr. Rogan's brother as well as the Rogan
24 family in your thoughts and your in prayers
25 in their time of need.

1 MS. EVANS: Pat Rogan will not be
2 attending tonight's council meeting. Due to
3 extensive flooding in the district, his
4 office hours have been extended and staff
5 will be helping the residents who have been
6 flooded.

7 In addition, Light the Way,
8 candlelight gathering for families and
9 friends of loved ones who have been lost to
10 suicide. It is estimated that for every
11 suicide there are at least six closely
12 related survivors. In family oriented
13 communities such as ours, the number of
14 survivors is much, much higher. Please join
15 us on Monday, September 19, 2011, at 6:00
16 p.m. at the gazebo to the left of the pool
17 at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. Everyone is
18 invited. This event is free of charge. You
19 are encouraged to submit a photo or poem in
20 honor of your loved one. For more
21 information, call Cathy Wallace at the
22 Advocacy Alliance 570-207-9199 or toll free
23 at 1-877-315-6855.

24 And finally, I ask that council and
25 audience members would turn off all cell

1 phones and electronic devices. Please
2 remain quiet during council meetings in
3 order that council can hear citizens and the
4 audience can hear council's motions and
5 comments. Last week's meeting was
6 interrupted by vibrating and ringing cell
7 phones and audience members complained that
8 they could not hear council members'
9 comments because of talking. Please have
10 consideration for others and abide by
11 council's rules.

12 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
15 Andy Sbaraglia.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
17 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.
18 There is some bad news coming out of these
19 authorities and it's terrible news coming
20 out of these authorities. When the Courts
21 have to come in and tell what contract to
22 pay, something is definitely wrong at the
23 Sewer Authority. That smell that comes from
24 there isn't from what they handle, it's from
25 what this are doing down there.

1 The Parking Authority borrowed 2.8,
2 I think, million to pay off debt, they are
3 on the verge of the bankruptcy. There is no
4 question about it. They can't just keep
5 borrowing to pay off borrowing, it just
6 doesn't work that way in America.

7 The Redevelopment Authority is
8 already bankrupt. Where do we stand there?
9 They are bankrupt and there is no question
10 about it, they can't pay it off. Probably
11 the letter of credit most likely that they
12 got in trouble with.

13 The Rec Authority is strangling the
14 kids of the city placing fees and raising
15 fees while the mayor is closing pools.
16 There is what he said.

17 Now, the Library Authority, I say
18 it's an authority because it didn't get
19 disbanded, you pointed it out very good, and
20 you also said that the deed from the library
21 sits with this Authority. If they wish to
22 sell our library they can. We have to thank
23 Mr. McGoff for that. It was his group that
24 voted in that Authority.

25 Something has got to be done about

1 these authorities. You can't disband them,
2 but I suggest you write to the Attorney
3 General and ask for a thorough investigation
4 of these authorities. Mr. Pilchesky isn't
5 supposed to our protectant, our elected
6 officials are supposed to protect the people
7 of Scranton, not private citizens. I feel
8 disappointed that more work wasn't done on
9 behalf of any city official to stop what's
10 happening down there. With all of the
11 authorities what are we going to do? We are
12 going to wait until the sword falls because
13 it's hanging over our head and that debt is
14 enormous that we would have to assume for
15 the Parking Authority. The Redevelopment
16 Authority I have no idea because they are,
17 as you notice, this are a close click, but
18 you do know what comes out of it eventually
19 a lot of debt.

20 And the Rec Authority, like I said,
21 I don't know exactly why that was even put
22 in. The pool was always available to the
23 people of Scranton, even if they had a
24 nominal feel for that pool, but it was never
25 meant to be a cash cow for the Authority.

1 In fact, if you look at the original people
2 who gave it they said the only thing you
3 were supposed to charge for up there is the
4 amenities, but apparently everything that is
5 up there is an amenity.

6 And the Library Authority frightens
7 me. Those beautiful stain glassed windows
8 if they decide to sell them they can and
9 there is nothing you can do about it or
10 anyone. You can't have all of these
11 separate governments. It's what we got.
12 The best thing for us all to do is to get
13 down to Harrisburg and get them politicians
14 down there to abolish the authorities,
15 that's the only thing you can do. We don't
16 needs private governments everywhere there
17 is, all they are is cash cows and that's not
18 what it was designed for. These people will
19 supposedly caretakers, instead, they became
20 looters. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
22 Mr. Sbaraglia. Our next speaker is Les
23 Spindler.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
25 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and

1 homeowner and taxpayer.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MS. SPINDLER: This was going to be
4 number two on my list, but since Andy
5 brought up Mr. Pilchesky I'm also going to
6 talk about him. You know, some people
7 dislike the man, the man does a great job.
8 Council is aware of the Scranton Sewer
9 Authority accepting a higher bid for work
10 that's going to be done.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. SPINDLER: And Mr. Pilchesky
13 took the Sewer Authority to Court, I don't
14 know if council is aware of that, and he had
15 it overthrown. I'll read part of this. It
16 says, "Judge Peter O'Brien has ruled in
17 favor of the granting a petition for
18 injunctive relief to stop the award of the
19 highest bid to Ronca for \$17,163,000.00,
20 almost \$2.6 million higher than the bid
21 submitted by Falter at \$14,569,101.00
22 relating to a project of the Scranton Sewer
23 Authority."

24 So, it's great that we have somebody
25 like this that steps up to the plate for the

1 citizens of this city, and as I said last
2 week, he took Judge Thomson to Harrisburg
3 five times and has his cases overthrown five
4 times. This guy is amazing on what he does
5 and I don't think it's a bad job for a
6 carpenter, and he really gave it Carl Greco,
7 who represented the Sewer Authority in this
8 case, and again, it's a great job for a
9 carpenter. Thank you, Joe Pilchesky.

10 Moving on, in last Wednesday's
11 Doherty's newsletter they talked about me
12 talking about that deadly fire last week and
13 it said I put the response -- the
14 responsibility of the loss of life on the
15 mayor's shoulders. Well, that's exactly
16 right because the mayor said when he laid
17 off firefighters and shut down engine
18 companies he said the response times will
19 not be affected. As I said last week, it's
20 an out and out lie and I will prove it.

21 In that same article, it said,
22 Engine 4 from Mulberry Street made it to
23 that fire in two minutes and 36 seconds.
24 Now, I have decided to do a test. I drove
25 to the site of the fire from where Engine 9

1 used to be, stopping at two stop signs
2 completely, doing the speed limit, I made it
3 in two minutes. That's 36 seconds less than
4 Engine 4 made it. Now, I mean, they did a
5 great job, I'm not blaming them, when the
6 mayor says response times won't be affected,
7 he's a liar.

8 Engine 9 wouldn't have had to make
9 full stops of two stop signs and wouldn't go
10 the speed limit. I don't know how much
11 faster they would gotten there than I did,
12 but they would have gotten there faster than
13 I did so it's a darn shame that firefighters
14 are being laid off and firehouses are being
15 closed, engines being put out of service, I
16 hope all of this is overturned in Court.

17 And then we have the editorial staff
18 of the Times-Tribune criticizing the
19 supermajority for not okaying a park in
20 North Scranton, which Mr. McGoff okayed
21 also, and not once have I heard Mr. McGoff
22 talk the public safety people getting laid
23 off. We have firefighters laid off, police
24 officers laid off, all Mr. McGoff talks
25 about is parks. People are dying and all

1 you are talking about is parks, Mr. McGoff.
2 Give me a break, will you? Get your
3 priorities in order and I hope the people
4 remember this on election day because you do
5 not belong up there. Parks? Come on. We
6 have people dying and all you care about is
7 parks.

8 Lastly, Mr. Loscombe, I know you
9 probably can't do anything about this, but
10 they were supposed to start work on the
11 Linden Street bridge this month, do you know
12 if that's still on schedule because today is
13 the 13th already?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: As a matter of fact,
15 it's on my list to make a call tomorrow, I
16 think they may have gotten a little behind
17 this last week because of the flooding
18 issues, all their engineers for the bridges
19 have been on bridge inspections, I don't
20 know if that's the excuse, but I will find
21 out tomorrow.

22 MR. SPINDLER: I mean, that backs up
23 traffic on Seventh Avenue by Redner's there
24 terrible.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly.

1 MR. SPINDLER: And it backs it up
2 all over the place and I hope they gets
3 fixed soon because pretty soon they will
4 have an excuse that the weather is too cold.
5 Thank you for your time.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
7 speaker is a Michael Passaro.

8 MR. PASSARO: Good evening, Council.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. PASSARO: Mike Passaro, city
11 taxpayer, life-long West Scranton resident
12 and the reason I'm here tonight is an
13 article appeared in the Scranton Times for
14 the Thursday, September 8, announcing a
15 public announcement for the CDBG, the list
16 of what's proposed and where the money is
17 going to go?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. PASSARO: It seems that some
20 sort of, I don't know, on the mayor's part
21 overt activity that occurred that none of
22 the neighbors from Academy Street, Division
23 Street, South Sumner and Hyde Park Avenue,
24 South Hyde Park Avenue, had any input
25 whatsoever concerning the demolition of the

1 Lincoln Jackson Elementary School and a
2 proposed park and green space.

3 The neighbors were completely left
4 out of it and all of a sudden we see it --
5 we have heard rumors through different
6 channels and now it's, you know, black and
7 white in the newspaper. There is also
8 listed a hearing and, Mrs. Evans, I couldn't
9 kind of make heads or tails of what the
10 deadlines were, there was a September 8
11 deadline and an October 14 and a November
12 something, will all of that be announced
13 like later so people can come and make their
14 objections or --

15 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. We will
16 conduct a public hearing on the city's
17 proposed CDBG allocations and I believe that
18 public hearing is next Tuesday, September
19 20, at perhaps 6:00, 6:00, and so certainly
20 you and all of your neighbors should come to
21 the public hearing and express your
22 concerns.

23 MR. PASSARO: Absolutely. Thank
24 you. It breaks our heart being neighbors
25 that we were completely left out of the

1 equation that Mayor Doherty could just
2 decide that some funds are going here, there
3 and everywhere and the four -- I'm sorry,
4 approximately five block radius around
5 Lincoln Jackson Elementary School there are
6 already three existing parks in addition to
7 the Novembrino Pool Complex. The skate
8 park, which is also the police precinct
9 where the West Side Hospital used to be,
10 Fellows Park, which has a pavilion and is
11 within five blocks, and I'm not exactly sure
12 what the name of the park is, I've always
13 called it the Reverend Bishop Park on Main
14 and Price Street where the little gazebo is.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Allen Park.

16 MR. PASSARO: And by Royal's
17 Hardware, and that park has had -- there is
18 still some old Christmas lights hanging on
19 there on the gazebo, and the fence is
20 completely destroyed, beautiful PVC fence
21 destroyed. Fellows Park had a stabbing
22 recently and there is less, you know, to
23 be as diplomatic as possible, less than
24 quality individuals that hang out at that
25 park. The neighborhood crime watch seems to

1 think that park is all goodness and light
2 and, unfortunately, it's not.

3 The skate park, our skate park, was
4 vandalized. We never showed up in the
5 paper, it was unreported in the newspaper,
6 but e-mails went out to everyone in the
7 crime watch that the skate park was going to
8 be closed on a certain weekend due to
9 vandalism and graffiti and the crime watch
10 members were going to be there to clean up
11 the park.

12 We don't need any more parks. Like
13 I said, in the that five block radius four
14 parks, including the Novembrino swim
15 complex. He wants to put another park there
16 with pavilions and green space and a
17 playground. That's fine if we all lived on
18 Wisteria Lane or in Mayberry. We don't. My
19 area, my block, Academy Street, the pictures
20 that I gave Mr. Loscombe before, my house is
21 in such proximity to the Lincoln Jackson I'm
22 directly across the street. I've put up
23 with -- my entire neighbors, the entire
24 neighborhood has put up with crime and drug
25 deals and public urinations, public sex

1 acts. I have picked up needles off of the
2 porch of the school over the years. That's
3 with the school actually functioning before
4 it closed last June. It's gotten worse over
5 the past summer.

6 The police officers that I have
7 spoke with that have made -- that have
8 responded to my calls in the middle off the
9 night, 3:00, 4:00 in the morning, these
10 roving gangs said, "Don't worry, Mike,
11 things are going to get better, school is
12 going to get back."

13 Things have gotten better.
14 Unfortunately, they haven't gotten better
15 Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. These
16 kids are still roaming the streets, they end
17 up at Fidelity -- the gangs at the Fidelity
18 Bank, Walgreen's, Dibileo Insurance and the
19 A-Plus, and the police will show up with a
20 call, they will get a call for a fight or a
21 drug deal or whatever, and instead of the
22 police saying, "Go home, if I catch you out
23 again you are going to jail or you are going
24 back to your parents," they don't. They
25 just move to another location.

1 And the last location on the
2 little -- on the little route is Lincoln
3 Jackson Elementary School. It's completely,
4 unsecured. There is no fence around the
5 entire property. There is half fences here
6 there, broken fences. The school district
7 when they were moving out they took down a
8 fence that was our only little bit of a
9 salvation between Bob Galderi's house and he
10 is putting up with complete nonsense right
11 now.

12 MS. EVANS: Please finish. You can
13 continue.

14 MR. PASSARO: I have quite a bit to
15 go, but I will definitely come back. We
16 just think that it's unfair that the mayor
17 can just willy-nilly decide to do what he,
18 you know, wants to do on a whim. I invite
19 the mayor personally, he can bring armed
20 Pinkerton guard for all I care to come to
21 stay at my house. Stay at my house and I'll
22 open up a bed and breakfast for him to stay
23 at my house Friday, Saturday and Sunday
24 night and see just exactly how much sleep he
25 gets. He is not going to get any sleep. We

1 sleep like vampires in that neighborhood,
2 four blocks around there, around the school.
3 Drug dealers, gangs, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00.

4 We have also gotten calls from -- I
5 have called dispatch and have been yelled at
6 by dispatch, I have the dispatcher's
7 numbers, I'm not going to reveal those
8 number, but two of -- a male and female, the
9 male told me I was very excited in the
10 middle of the night and I called up and he
11 said, "Calm down or I'm going to hang up the
12 phone on you," which completely boggled my
13 mind.

14 The lady that I spoke with, the lady
15 dispatcher, she said, "You just called here
16 five minutes ago."

17 I said, "Well, nothing is done. You
18 know, somebody needs to get here
19 immediately."

20 And at that point I said -- now, I
21 don't own a baseball bat, I'm obviously
22 handicapped and I'm not going to go out
23 after a bunch of kids, and I said, "You know
24 what --" she didn't know me from anyone, I
25 said, "I'm going to go out after them with a

1 baseball bat."

2 There were three police cars at my
3 home within three minutes looking for me.
4 Why couldn't those cars have gone there? It
5 didn't go out over the dispatch, one of the
6 calls, one of the 2:00 phone calls didn't go
7 out over the dispatch for 26 minutes. When
8 the officer finally got there everything was
9 done and quelled, everything was fine.

10 The officer called into dispatch and
11 questioned what time did the call come in,
12 what time did the call go out, and did the
13 math and it was 26 minutes. He apologize
14 profusely to me. That same evening at 4:00
15 I made another call and that's when the mail
16 dispatcher told me that he was going to hang
17 up on me and I said, "You have a problem
18 here," I said, "That calls aren't even go
19 out over the radio for 26 minutes."

20 And I said, "The officer apologized
21 to me."

22 That made him backtrack so quick he
23 had no words for me. He said, "Sir, I'll
24 send out a car."

25 They did. By the time they sent out

1 a car the kids have already gone. I have
2 witnessed kids running over cars coming up
3 Academy Street and saying, "Watch this,
4 watch this, we did it last night on some
5 other street," and they will gallop up on
6 cars, walk the entire street up and over
7 everybody's cars doing damage.

8 I have taken up enough time, but
9 thank you so much very much.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Could I interject?
12 There is a proposed \$350,000 -- or an
13 application for \$350,000 for the project in
14 2012 CDBG for a park.

15 MS. EVANS: For a park.

16 MR. MCGOFF: And the second thing I
17 had, do we -- in order for that to take
18 place the school district would have to
19 transfer that property to the city, would it
20 not?

21 MS. EVANS: I believe so.

22 MR. JOYCE: I believe so.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I believe so, too, and
24 I don't recall seeing that in anywhere,
25 perhaps we could find out if that has

1 occurred or if it's --

2 MS. EVANS: If you can direct
3 Mrs. Krake on our behalf.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe there was a
5 comment in the newspaper a few weeks ago
6 where Mr. Lesh offered it for a dollar to
7 the mayor to make a park there.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know if there
9 is anything officially done.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: That was the last I
11 heard of it.

12 MS. EVANS: And I do think in light
13 of what Mr. Passaro brought to our attention
14 tonight that we should be speaking with the
15 neighbors in this area to gain their input
16 on the construction of a park. I think
17 Mr. Passaro made a number of very valid
18 points this evening and certainly that is
19 something that has to be seriously
20 considered when council is making it's
21 amendments to the proposed CDBG allocations
22 sent to us by OECD and the mayor.

23 Doug Miller.

24 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
25 Doug Miller, Scranton.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

3 MR. MILLER: Last night I was
4 informed of some very quite frightening
5 news, and I understand that this will be
6 expanded on later on in the meeting, I was
7 briefly informed that yesterday and today
8 there were only five police officers,
9 including a supervisor, assigned to cover 27
10 square miles of the city. My reaction to
11 this news was a deep concern and
12 frustration. Once again, the administration
13 has showed it's lack of respect for our
14 public safety officers as well as the
15 residents of this city.

16 You know, we heard from the speaker
17 moments ago from West Side who talked about
18 what he has to deal with, criminal activity
19 and all of the nonsense and, you know, I
20 really feel sorry for him and, you know, it
21 just goes to show the frustration here and I
22 share it with him and, you know, we might as
23 well go and cut another 21 then. I mean,
24 it's ridiculous. It really is.

25 It's just -- it really upsets me I

1 take this serious and, you know, it's going
2 to take citizens to come up to the podium
3 and express their frustration, well, then
4 that's what's got to happen and hopefully
5 this mayor will once and for all get it
6 through his head that can't keep playing
7 games with the health and safety of the
8 residents in this city, it's gone on too
9 long.

10 You know, we just witnessed the
11 tenth anniversary of 9/11, a day where we
12 reflected on our public safety and since
13 that day public safety officials all across
14 this country have received instant respect.
15 Unfortunately, we can't say the same about
16 this mayor. He puts parks and cronies ahead
17 of our safety, and I believe the voters of
18 this city were informed of this, but
19 unfortunately, they ignored it.

20 Moving onto another issue here, I'd
21 like to go back to the Perry Avenue Park.
22 It's unfortunate that I have to address this
23 because as I stated last week I feel we are
24 wasting our time with this in recent days
25 it's become a big issue in the newspaper and

1 talks with the administration, and as I
2 stated last week I don't feel at this time
3 we should be considering another park in the
4 city. You know, we don't live in Disney
5 World, and I like to use that phrase that
6 Councilman Loscombe brought forth a few
7 weeks ago because, you know, for whatever
8 reason this mayor thinks this is Disney
9 World or Six Flags or Hershey Park, I mean,
10 we might as well just get it over with and
11 build an amusement park downtown. I mean,
12 that's all that's on this guy's mind. Let's
13 cut police and firemen, let's build parks.

14 You know, we heard Lincoln Jackson.
15 I mean, enough is enough. This is just
16 getting ridiculous, it really is. You know,
17 again, priorities.

18 I expressed my concern on this. I
19 expressed concern on the cost of up keeping
20 this proposed park and I know that most of
21 the council shares the same concern as I do.
22 You know, we heard statements from
23 Mr. McGoff who said he doesn't understand
24 why we would throw away free money. Well,
25 let's make this real simple by using a

1 little common sense. The city is facing an
2 alleged \$8 million deficit at the end of the
3 year, and from Mrs. Evans last week we heard
4 that can it could be as much as 15. We have
5 failed to maintain our current parks that we
6 have, we couldn't even operate swimming
7 pools this summer depriving children the
8 opportunity to swim during the summer
9 months. And having said that, how can
10 anyone possibly consider another park?

11 One valid point made by Mr. Evans
12 last week is that if you read the
13 legislation it states that this \$50,000 is
14 part of, again, part of the ongoing
15 development at Perry Avenue. So again,
16 common sense tells you that by reading this
17 legislation there is more costs involved.
18 Where is that money coming from? Where are
19 we pulling that out of? I'd like to see
20 what hat we're going to get that money out
21 of it? The mayor must have some magicians
22 helping him out because he seems to be able
23 to find this money somewhere.

24 Another argument we have heard by
25 Mr. McGoff and Mr. Rogan is that we should

1 be letting residents of North Scranton come
2 forward and give their opinions on this
3 matter. Well, how long have we been
4 discussing this? Months now. The residents
5 of North Scranton have had ample time to
6 come forward. This chamber is open to all
7 residents to come down here every Tuesday
8 and discuss city business. Nobody is
9 preventing them from coming, so to me that
10 is not a valid argument. I find that to be
11 unacceptable.

12 And finally to conclude this whole
13 park's issue here once and for all, you
14 know, Councilman Loscombe read a letter last
15 week from a resident who was concerned about
16 the lack of maintenance of our city parks,
17 and I would hope that this letter would send
18 a message that we must perform at a higher
19 level had we maintain our parks. I know
20 Mr. McGoff didn't want anything to do with
21 that letter, but it's the truth. I have had
22 hundreds of people share similar
23 frustrations to me over the past several
24 years. Our park's system is a mess and, you
25 know, Mr. McGoff, I don't know what parks

1 you travel to, but they're obviously not in
2 Scranton. I think it's time to stop
3 protecting your master and see things for
4 what they really are.

5 And, if I may, I do have a few more
6 issues if I can get those by.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes. Finish, please.

8 MR. MILLER: I'd like to talk about
9 the Parking Authority real quick. Last
10 week, you know, you, Mrs. Evans, had raised
11 some very informative news when revealing
12 that CMC has been making payments to the
13 Parking Authority for quite sometime and
14 they haven't informed the city that this has
15 been going, and I'm certainly hopeful
16 council will take action on this and hold
17 not only the Authority accountable, but it's
18 solicitor, Paul Kelly, who also represents
19 the city, and as I have said before, I find
20 that to be a complete conflict of interest.

21 You know, the politics and the
22 coverups in this town are pretty disgusting
23 and, you know, I really want to thank you,
24 Mrs. Evans, for exposing this because, you
25 know, the Scranton Times you knew they

1 weren't going to reveal this. And as I
2 stated last week, you are all we have when
3 it comes to standing up for the residents of
4 this city and exposing all of the dirty
5 politics of the city government.

6 And finally to conclude, on Sunday I
7 had the privilege of attending the 9/11
8 memorial up at Nay Aug -- or excuse me,
9 McDade, and many local dignitaries were
10 present, including US Senator Bob Casey, and
11 it was a solemn day of reflection on the
12 great men and women who lost their lives as
13 well as the innocent who woke up that day
14 living it as any other day, and I really
15 would like to thank the 9/11 committee for
16 all their hard work in making that day
17 possible. That's all for tonight. Thank
18 you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Miller.
20 Ron Ellman. While we're waiting for
21 Mr. Ellman, I might piggyback quickly on
22 something that Mr. Miller commented on, last
23 week I know Mr. Loscombe made a number of
24 comments regarding the proposed Perry Avenue
25 parks, one of which I thought was a

1 particularly fine idea in that these
2 properties could be sold and houses could be
3 built or a house built on the property and
4 then that property is returned to the tax
5 rolls, and that beautifies the neighborhood
6 and will not require the maintenance of the
7 city, whether it be through DPW, the
8 Scranton police force, additional
9 insurances, etcetera. So I do support what
10 you said last week, Councilman Loscombe.

11 Mr. Ellman?

12 MR. ELLMAN: Council. Last week
13 when I was chastising everybody I forgot to
14 mention that you can't imagine the outrage
15 people expressed at losing our police and
16 firemen. I bet I had 15 different people,
17 you know, bring it up. Yesterday I went to
18 Price Rite to get some peanuts for my
19 squirrels, well, I'll explain the whole
20 thing, this deaf and dumb lady attacked me
21 verbally and she is writing on these little
22 stick on pads and I had them all over me and
23 my peanuts and everything, and she -- you
24 can't imagine how frustrated she was must
25 have been, she is writing as fast as she

1 could and she couldn't argue with me, and I
2 got all of these things stuck together and
3 they were in the wrong order and it was
4 terrible and she -- anyway, she was mad
5 about me being adverse about everybody I
6 talk to from what I gathered.

7 But I was wondering, is this
8 program -- do they have a -- for deaf people
9 or --

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: This broadcast, you
11 mean? Is that what you are talking about?

12 MR. ELLMAN: You know, the writing
13 on the TV set.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Closed caption.

15 MR. ELLMAN: I had no idea. I don't
16 know how she watched the program, I know
17 that much.

18 MR. JOYCE: I'm not sure.

19 MR. ELLMAN: Anyway, she was rather
20 perturbed at me. I was wondering how she --
21 how she got her information. You know, a
22 couple of months ago I noticed the paper
23 said that the 5,000 students at the
24 University spent \$300 a week, you know, the
25 University cited \$100, but let me just take

1 the \$300 figure for 5,000 or 6,000 people,
2 all of that money that they are talking
3 about won't make a dent in the tens of
4 millions of dollars that they have taken off
5 and will take off on the tax base. You
6 know, that money is gone forever and I just
7 don't know why -- what you can do about it.
8 You know, last week I said our taxes are a
9 third more mostly because of them, you know,
10 a lot of these other tax exempt people have
11 come up and all we hear continuously
12 everybody runs for office they are going to
13 solve something. You know, the school board
14 is one of the worst ones, they just do
15 anything to get on the school board then
16 they turn their back right on the people.

17 You know, we got -- I was reading
18 about that \$28 million dollar school, but
19 that's mostly for the 150 tax exempt houses
20 up off Keyser Avenue that got three or four
21 children to a house. They can go through a
22 whole -- from first grade or kindergarten to
23 a kid graduates and not pay taxes.

24 I don't know, you know, why can't
25 you people investigate that plan like

1 Wyoming County has that we -- that, you
2 know, I gave me a letter that we don't have
3 it, but it didn't say we couldn't have it.
4 This city can't survive with the tax base,
5 you know, like I said last week the
6 University took another \$90,000 house off of
7 the tax rolls and they will keep it up. You
8 know, you got the medical school wanting
9 five acres of houses.

10 And people, you know, people aren't
11 dumb. I don't know why I -- people can find
12 some things in me, I don't why they won't
13 phone you guys.

14 MS. EVANS: They do.

15 MR. ELLMAN: I told them I guess
16 there is an answering machine or something
17 here they can phone. I had people just you
18 would think that their voices would get
19 recognized by Mr. Doherty's staff or
20 something, but they just don't want to phone
21 you. I hear that all the time.

22 I saw an ad in the paper I think
23 today where the administration was taking
24 bids on paving. Isn't it late in the year
25 to start talking about paving now or unless

1 it's all goes for South Side again, you
2 know?

3 I think I have said it, every day
4 when I take my dog for a walk I'm on 100
5 year old slate sidewalks and no curbs. You
6 know, right there in Main Avenue it's time
7 somebody did something for our neighborhood.
8 It's deteriorating awful bad in North
9 Scranton, very bad.

10 And I know it's not a police matter,
11 but there is cars going down North Main
12 Avenue three and four times the speed limit.
13 I have watched some motorcycles once in
14 awhile because you can hear them coming a
15 mile away, about a week or so there was two
16 of them racing. It's bad and now school
17 will be starting again and all around Parker
18 Street and Main Avenue there is people
19 completely parked with all four wheels on
20 the sidewalk where the kids got to go out on
21 North Main Avenue to get to the corner of
22 Parker where the school bus is and these are
23 preschoolers, little tiny guys. Then the
24 bigger ones are up on Wells where they have
25 the telephone polls knocked a couple of

1 times and they've had some terrible
2 accidents because there is a curve right
3 there. I don't know why Mr. Murphy or
4 somebody won't do something for North
5 Scranton and put up some stop signs because
6 Mr. Seitzinger said that's a state road and
7 the city can't do it, but they need some
8 stop signs along there to impede, you know,
9 the speeding. Is there somebody you can
10 talk to about it?

11 MS. EVANS: We can contact PennDOT.

12 MR. ELLMAN: It's bad, especially at
13 night. It's like a racetrack from Market
14 Street to Johnson Tech at night. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

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

19 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, council.

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

22 MR. NEWCOMB: Charlie Newcomb. I
23 truly like to stay home on Tuesdays and
24 watch the meetings from the comfort of my
25 home, but sometimes there is just some

1 things that you can't let go. I know Doug
2 came up here before and said that there were
3 five police officers to cover the whole city
4 yesterday and today and I was given that
5 information. I never give out my sources,
6 but if I'm incorrect I'll come here next
7 week and say that I'm incorrect, but there
8 is five police officers on the street
9 yesterday during day shift and today during
10 day shift to cover a 27 square mile radius.
11 It's not your fault, but the man downstairs
12 it's solely -- and, Mr. McGoff, I don't know
13 I never heard you come forward, but the main
14 downstairs solely responsible for this
15 problem.

16 The people at home are the ultimate
17 problem that voted for Mayor Doherty in my
18 opinion because I, for one, stood at this
19 podium for years and told you what was going
20 to happen. Mrs. Evans, when you were on
21 council you turned green telling people what
22 was going to know happen, the unions came
23 here and told people what were going to
24 happen and they voted this man in two times
25 anyway.

1 Let's do some simple things here for
2 the average person to get it at home.
3 Birney Avenue in Moosic, the border of
4 Moosic and Scranton, all of the way if you
5 are looking at the city from the top to by
6 where the mayor lives at Electric and North
7 Washington Avenue, even past there, the
8 Dunmore border, that area by Marywood, I'll
9 guess, we'll go out further. West Mountain
10 by the turnpike by where you live,
11 Mr. Loscombe, all the way to the top of East
12 Mountain, and everything in-between. Think
13 if there is five people covering that
14 radius. It's a disgrace. I'm not including
15 the car 18 they told me that is transport
16 vehicle that that could be pulled to use for
17 emergencies, so let's give the benefit of
18 the doubt and say six.

19 That also includes the sergeant or
20 corporal or lieutenant, whoever is on that
21 day, who is supposed to be responding to
22 calls to assist and make management
23 decisions, they can't, they strictly --
24 they're strictly taking calls the last
25 couple of days. Maybe the numbers change on

1 a daily basis, I only know what I hear.
2 Everybody has a scanner, what you hear and
3 what you are have been told. I personally
4 heard on August 30 Mr. Duffy, Chief Duffy
5 call COM Center on their radio because the
6 dispatcher told the command car that there
7 was there no available cars to cover calls
8 within the city there was a domestic at the
9 time. I heard Mr. Duffy call into COM
10 Center and say that you were sent a letter
11 to not say that over the radio, please call
12 me on the phone.

13 There was a letter that was sent to
14 COM Center that specifically tells these
15 dispatchers not to go over the air and give
16 this information so the public can hear it
17 when they listen. That is a disgrace. It's
18 being hidden. Instead, the supervisors have
19 to call on the phone and decide where the
20 officers have to go.

21 I also have been told that when you
22 look at all of the police officers now
23 everybody is dressed in the same attire.
24 Previous to this from the implementation of
25 the police department in the early 1900's

1 and every other city in the world when you
2 see somebody in a white shirt they are
3 considered a captain or a lieutenant.
4 That's not happening anymore in the Scranton
5 Police Department because the supercop
6 that's in charge decides he wants everybody
7 to be in a blue uniform. To me, that's an
8 insult to somebody that worked that hard to
9 go through the ranks to get that high and he
10 should be ashamed of himself.

11 I have also been told, and I believe
12 everything that I have been told,
13 unfortunately, that Mr. Doherty by the end
14 of the year wants to get rid of 12 more
15 police officers either by attrition or by
16 laying them off by the end of the year. I
17 just -- and then I hear you guys say that
18 they want to build another park in West
19 Side. I don't care if the money comes from
20 OECD or falls from the sky or where it comes
21 from, that's just absolutely ludicrous.

22 I have also been told, I don't know
23 how true this is, but, like I said,
24 whatever, the ultimate goal of this mayor is
25 to have 90 police officers by the end of the

1 next year. Why? Because Wilkes-Barre has
2 it. Wilkes-Barre has 98 full-time officers
3 and I believe somebody told me 15 part-time
4 officers. Part-time officers don't have to
5 be paid benefits, hence, to save money. I
6 don't know how true the 90 numbers is, but
7 he is going by what Wilkes-Barre wants to
8 do. Do you listen to the news? Do you see
9 the condition that Wilkes-Barre is in? I
10 think we are going to be there by the end of
11 the year if we continue going down this
12 path.

13 If I'm not wrong with the 90, I hope
14 I'm wrong, let's say, with getting rid of
15 the more 12 and the 90, so be it, but I was
16 given the information for the five officers
17 plus the desk officer who can't go anywhere
18 and Car 18. Even more scary, if I can quick
19 finish?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. NEWCOMB: In the fire
22 department, like we know, Engine 9 on Main
23 Avenue is permanently closed, Truck 4 that
24 is in there is closed 70 percent of the
25 time, according to brownouts. That leaves

1 you with no protection in that fire station.
2 What they have done is transfer Rescue 1
3 over to there to kind of make it look like
4 that something is there. There is a brand
5 new school that my two children go to that
6 is blocks away from that fire station that
7 692 kids from the age of three up into the
8 age of ten attend that school and there is
9 no fire protection for that area and the
10 people in Tripp's Park should be outraged
11 that stuff like this is happening.

12 Worst yet, Engine 10 on East
13 Mountain is being browned out, so just think
14 if something was to happen on East Mountain
15 the closest fire station that would get
16 there is from here. Those people on East
17 Mountain should be scared half to death, and
18 I'm not telling you this to be scared
19 because it's the guy's downstairs fault.
20 I'm just an average guy. I'm not a firemen
21 or a cop, I don't know, I'm just thinking as
22 a general area how scary it is.

23 And unfortunately, there was a
24 tragedy last week because somebody didn't
25 have a fire smoke alarm in your house.

1 Please go get one. If you can't afford one
2 I'll bring one to your house, but it's not
3 your fault but the average person at home
4 needs to know how bad it truly is going to
5 get. We have been lucky so far that nothing
6 major has happened, but there is calls that
7 are going unanswered and being closed out by
8 sergeants because there is no police
9 officers to take the call. It's completely
10 unacceptable.

11 There is a minimum manning clause
12 that I remember from coming to those council
13 meetings that the first thing this mayor
14 wanted to do when he took over was to get
15 rid of 12 officers on the street and he
16 tried to include the COM-D officers as part
17 of that 12 and was taking to Court for it
18 and I believe he lost. Why you would want
19 to decreased the amount of police officers
20 on the street and then go put money into
21 parks is insane to me. Yeah, it's OECD
22 money, but you have to pay DPW to fix those
23 parks.

24 I have a car that has less than
25 7,500 miles on it and I had to get it

1 aligned twice and you are telling me that
2 you are going to put -- instead of going out
3 and fixing potholes you are going to want
4 people to maintain parks that we can't even
5 take care of now? Look at Connell Park and
6 you tell me if that park is being taken
7 care.

8 On a final note, I've come to this
9 podium before about the Washburn Street
10 Cemetery, the citations were revoked. I
11 want to thank GO Lackawanna for pushing the
12 issue in the article that they did a few
13 weeks ago. On 10-12-2001 Mr. Radar donated
14 \$200 to the Friends of Christopher Doherty.
15 On 5-1-2009, another 500 bucks, and on
16 6-1-2009, 500 bucks. Not a lot of money,
17 but it seems to me like it's enough to get a
18 citation pulled.

19 If you look at the county records,
20 Mr. Radar lives directly next door to the
21 mayor's brother and directly across the
22 street from Mr. Greco. I'm just making an
23 assumption, but you put the pieces of the
24 puzzle together and you tell me what's
25 happening.

1 And finally, is there any note on
2 the problem in Keyser Valley in general with
3 the water, I know we had a caucus here, I
4 think it was almost a year ago and
5 Mr. Brazil said all he needed was \$50,000 to
6 fix the problem and I talked to
7 Representative Murphy's office and Mr. Tell,
8 he can't get anywhere with this city. I
9 don't know what's happening. DPW hasn't
10 been cut.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could answer
12 that for you, Charlie, actually last week I
13 met with Mr. Tell and a couple of neighbors
14 from South Side who were having the same
15 problems that we were working on, we are
16 supposedly, and it's not confirmed yet, but
17 through Kevin Murphy's office,
18 Representative Murphy's office, they are
19 requesting Mr. Brazil, possibly the mayor,
20 if he will attend.

21 MR. NEWCOMB: Good luck with that.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: And PennDOT to attend
23 the meeting in their office next week
24 because it's beyond the point where nothing
25 has been done, nothing has been responded

1 to, even the minor stuff that we have looked
2 at for DPW to respond to. I'm not faulting
3 the employees, I mean, they are directed to
4 do what they have to do.

5 MR. NEWCOMB: Right.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll discuss that a
7 little bit later, but for some odd reason,
8 and you have seen it here, I mean,
9 Mrs. Krake used to read the responses, that
10 is the one department head that is the most
11 unresponsive to this body I think of
12 anybody, which is upsetting. I mean, it
13 affects a lot of people.

14 MR. NEWCOMB: I sat right next to
15 the gentleman at this table during a caucus
16 and he said right to us that this problem
17 will be taken care of within a matter of six
18 weeks, and that's almost a year ago. Its
19 beyond unacceptable by now.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly, and we have
21 a minor situation on Wall Street where the
22 fatal fire was that that's been there since
23 Mr. Parker was the city engineer, gave the
24 directives on what to do, it's just a minor
25 fix, and we can't even get that done at this

1 point, so all of these projects, we have a
2 volume like this, are going to be addressed
3 at that meeting and we are either going to
4 get an answer, something is going to be done
5 or we are going to have to pursue other
6 avenues.

7 MR. NEWCOMB: And I apologize if
8 anybody gets offended, but it's more
9 important to me for DPW to be out in the
10 neighborhoods fixing the problem than
11 cleaning up a park and another park and
12 another park. It's insane already and it
13 has to stop. I mean, and I feel bad for
14 this council, and I'll step down, but I feel
15 bad for this council because I really don't
16 even know why you are here because if you
17 make a budget that seems to work and nobody
18 follows it, I hate it. It upsets me you are
19 wasting your time. You could be home with
20 your families and just let the city go where
21 it's going to go, because if you do a budget
22 that keeps cops and firemen on the street
23 and reduces taxes and nobody follows it
24 what's your purpose?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: They don't follow it

1 and then turn around blame us.

2 MR. NEWCOMB: I don't understand how
3 it's your fault that police and firemen are
4 getting cut when people are going to court
5 to try and save it and judges are even
6 saying that it's wrong, but I just -- I
7 just -- it's -- something has to stop. So
8 can we go to that meeting, do you know?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Certainly. I'll
10 check it.

11 MR. NEWCOMB: If you would let us
12 know that would be great.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I'll get in
14 touch with you. I'll stop back this week.

15 MR. NEWCOMB: And can I do a
16 Right-to-Know if I have to put it in writing
17 to know how many officers who are actually
18 on the street every day?

19 MS. LOSCOMBE: Certainly, yes.

20 MR. NEWCOMB: So we can clear if we
21 have a couple off we can get it in writing
22 to make sure that it's -- it's scary if it
23 is.

24 MS. EVANS: And if you were able by
25 chance to remain after the meeting tonight,

1 I have some -- because I don't want to hold
2 up the other speakers, additional
3 information for you about the flooding
4 situation --

5 MR. NEWCOMB: Okay. I'll hang out.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: -- in your neighborhood.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: You want to request
9 the officers that are on regular patrol.

10 MR. NEWCOMB: I want to know every
11 day of the week how many officers are out
12 there, I don't want to drag out the desk
13 officer, I don't want the sergeants, I don't
14 want the detectives, I want to know how many
15 cars are on the street that are going to
16 respond to calls. That's what I'd like to
17 know. Thank you.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

19 MR. JOYCE: I'll just make one
20 comment before the next speaker comes up, I
21 know that Mr. Newcomb made a lot of
22 parallels to Wilkes-Barre and you believe
23 it's rumored that it may be the mayor's
24 intention to cut the police force to the
25 size of Wilkes-Barre by next year, now, I

1 don't know if that's true or not, I'll
2 blatantly admit that, but cutting the police
3 force to the size of Wilkes-Barre would be a
4 purely illogical decision because the square
5 area of the City of Wilkes-Barre is just a
6 fraction of Scranton, as well as the
7 population, it's just a fraction of
8 Scranton. I'm not even sure if Wilkes-Barre
9 has half of the residents that Scranton
10 does, so I would hope that those are rumors
11 that you may be hearing are incorrect.
12 That's all.

13 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
14 South Scranton resident and member of the
15 Taxpayers' Association. I would like to
16 update the citizens of Scranton on some very
17 important Court cases that have occurred
18 recently effecting the Scranton taxpayers.
19 Also, I would like to acknowledge the
20 efforts that Mr. Joe Pilchesky has put into
21 keeping the administration, past council
22 members, authority members, from ripping off
23 the taxpayers of Scranton more than they
24 already have. I know other people have
25 spoken about this prior to me, but he kind

1 of stole my thunder tonight.

2 As we know, Judge Peter O'Brien from
3 Monroe County ruled in favor of
4 Mr. Pilchesky and the citizens of Scranton
5 with his Scranton Sewer Authority. I find
6 it good, but I also find it bad that a
7 carpenter by trade is in there fighting for
8 us and in the Court battles on a daily
9 basis. I applaud Mr. Pilchesky, I know he
10 has a lot of enemies, I do not go on
11 DohertyDeceit.com because I don't own a
12 computer. But anyway, I applaud him because
13 he is fighting out there.

14 A couple of other things that have
15 happened, the church on Prospect Avenue, the
16 Latino Church on Prospect Avenue, the
17 plumbing inspector issued a citation to the
18 pastor's father amounting to a \$1,000 fine
19 and a 90-day jail sentence for doing
20 plumbing work without a license. Mr.
21 Havrilko, the inspector, never entered the
22 residence or investigated the situation, he
23 just issued the citation without cause.
24 Mr. Havrilko, plumbing inspector, and Gina
25 McAndrew, solicitor, were reprimanded by the

1 judge. The case was dismissed.

2 Mr. Pilchesky just happened to be in Court
3 and helped the pastor's father out. Again,
4 we need to applaud Mr. Pilchesky.

5 Judy Gatelli's lawsuit against
6 Mr. Joe Pilchesky for liable is officially,
7 dead in Court. Gatelli lost on every issue
8 by way of using \$30,000 of Scranton
9 taxpayers' money which was wrongfully used
10 to sue Mr. Pilchesky. Hopefully, a local
11 judge, our friend, Judge Mazzoni, will do
12 his job correctly this time and direct
13 Mrs. Gatelli to repay the \$30,000 back to
14 the taxpayers. Gatelli will finally be
15 required to testify under oath in Court.
16 I've been waiting a long time for that one,
17 too.

18 Residents, "Give kids a park." I
19 see where Josh wrote a story about Perry
20 Park. According to Josh, the residents are
21 angry and want the park. My question to
22 Josh and Councilman McGoff, where are all
23 the residents? I have not seen one person
24 come to a council meeting, step up to the
25 podium and speak about how important Perry

1 Park to the City of Scranton. I have seen
2 and heard several residents come forward and
3 speak against the park and now we have other
4 residents here coming forward to speak
5 against the park in West Scranton.

6 By the way, when Connell Park was
7 built, if I remember correctly Mr. McGoff
8 said that the neighbors were interviewed and
9 surveyed on whether they wanted the park.
10 Why aren't the West Scranton residents being
11 given the same opportunity? Mr. McGoff, you
12 can ask your friend, the Honorable Mayor
13 Doherty, when you are having coffee with
14 him.

15 Remember, the Times-Tribune is not a
16 reliable source of the news. They have on
17 occasion misquoted or just plain lied. How
18 can we support another park in the city when
19 we cannot maintain the current parks in the
20 City of Scranton? Don't believe me, go up
21 Connell Park. Look around Connell park,
22 look at the dog park. Go out and look at
23 what they did to Novembrino, the swimming
24 pools closing them down and we are going to
25 build more parks? Let's be for real for a

1 change.

2 I understand Ms. Fanucci, when she
3 was on McGoff's council, stated that parks
4 was the number one reason why businesses
5 locate to the city, I think she was a little
6 bit off base on that one and along with the
7 people who go along with that statement.

8 We are closing parks and swimming
9 pools now for lack of money, currently the
10 trash is only picked up once a week in
11 Scranton parks. Until residents come before
12 city council and plead their case, no more
13 money for parks in Scranton. Grant, money
14 is taxpayers' money, also. It might be
15 federal tax money, but guess what? I pay
16 federal taxes every year. I don't want the
17 money spent on parks in the City of Scranton
18 and neither it sounds like the residents in
19 West Scranton may not, I hope they come out
20 in numbers on next Tuesday at 6:00 for the
21 caucus and speak their mind. Either for the
22 park or against the park. Let's hope the
23 residents come out and speak.

24 Attorney Finnerty from Minooka
25 Neighborhood Association met with the mayor.

1 He seemed surprised that the mayor and the
2 attorney seemed not to know what he was
3 talking about. Attorney Finnerty, read the
4 Honorable Mayor Doherty's sworn deposition,
5 14 September 2010, that will explain
6 everything for you. He did not know
7 anything about the fact that he was being
8 sued and that the city was being sued or for
9 that matter any of the qualifications of his
10 appointed cabinet members.

11 Most importantly, he was not aware
12 that Scranton had a sexual discrimination
13 policy in effect that he, the Honorable
14 Mayor Doherty, signed into law before the
15 legal suit was filed. So, Mr. Finnerty,
16 don't be surprised because the mayor is not
17 aware of anything that goes in this city
18 except for parks.

19 The SAPA program, let's look long
20 and hard at this program, and I'm not
21 convinced that it will solve Scranton's
22 problems, it may just cause more problems.
23 Scranton is not a very business friendly
24 community, plus anybody who moves into
25 Scranton seems to want freebies, which the

1 taxpayers can no longer afford. The
2 authorities must go, otherwise, the city
3 will be gone for real just like Harrisburg
4 and some cities in Florida.

5 Councilman Evans, the Honorable
6 Mayor Doherty has not mismanaged the city
7 finances like you stated last week, he has
8 manipulated the money, and I must say, he
9 has managed the manipulation very well. So
10 again, it's all by design and plan and so
11 far he is winning. We've got to stop him.

12 As far as the audit goes, here we go
13 again, what's this, ten years in a row now
14 the audit hasn't been turned in on time?
15 It's supposed to be in when, by the end of
16 May I believe? Here we are the middle of
17 September, there is still fighting,
18 Doherty's real people and cabinet members
19 and the department heads and Councilman
20 McGoff, obviously, do not want the audit to
21 be turned in on time because Mr. McGoff has
22 been a council member for five or six years,
23 he has never pushed the mayor to get the
24 audit in on time, he has never pushed his
25 buddies, the department heads, the cabinet

1 members, to get their responses in on time
2 and their numbers in on time so that tells
3 me that he is basically on their side and he
4 wants the audits to be late, he wants the
5 unbalanced budgets, he wants more police
6 officers and firemen taken off the street,
7 but, by all means, let's build another park
8 in the City of Scranton.

9 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

11 Marie Schumacher, city resident and
12 taxpayer.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: I guess I'd like to
15 ask tonight, and maybe during motions
16 somebody will speak on this anyway, is there
17 a date available that PEL will be
18 transmitting the Recovery -- the new
19 Recovery Plan to the council and to the
20 citizens?

21 I don't know if anybody else did
22 this, but recently in the legal section
23 there was a notice of I believe it's an
24 October 4 sheriff's sale, and I counted
25 that, well, there are 40 parcels, 36 of

1 those properties are in Scranton out of the
2 whole county. That tells you the direction
3 that our city is going. More boarded up
4 homes, more -- you know, more people who
5 just can't afford to be residents of this
6 city and we really need to start looking
7 forward and giving people some hope if we
8 expect people to stay here.

9 And right now this taking it a year
10 at a time, I really would be in favor of a
11 multi-year budget so people can get some
12 confidence that we are going in the right
13 direction and not ending the year with a big
14 \$8 million surprise.

15 Charlie Newcomb said that East
16 Mountain residents should be scared half to
17 death. Well, I'm a city East Mountain
18 resident and I'm not scared half to death
19 because I do -- I take my own precautions
20 and I do trust my Lord to protect me, but I
21 am concerned. The fire department response
22 time, I believe it was in the newspaper,
23 that the fire chief said that the most
24 vulnerable would be the East Mountain if
25 anything happened to 10 or if 10 was out. I

1 understand that the backup for Engine 10 is
2 the South Side back on Gibbons Street.

3 Now, Mapquest gives that -- of
4 course, people commute with obeying all of
5 the traffic signals and all of that good
6 stuff, but still it's ten minutes, and ten
7 minutes in case of a fire just doesn't cut
8 it, I'm sorry. East Mountain should be --
9 the people from East Mountain should be here
10 complaining. We have been browned out
11 several days sequentially and it's not a
12 very comfortable feeling to know people are
13 vulnerable, so I just wanted to put that oar
14 in the water.

15 Next, I'd like to go back to the
16 subject of OECD projects for just a little
17 bit. I would like to request council make
18 their amendments to the 2011 allocations for
19 both the CDBG HOME program public in a
20 council meeting at least a week before
21 voting if there are going to be amendments
22 made to what has been suggested to
23 accommodate the cutbacks in federal funding.
24 I would also extend this request to any
25 amendments that council may make to the 2012

1 allocations of funding for CDBG, HOME and
2 ESG programs.

3 As I recall last year, though
4 council amended 18 of the 35 CDBG projects
5 or roughly 50 percent the amendments were
6 revealed and voted on at the same meeting.
7 I would like to see more transparency and
8 allow citizens an opportunity to comment not
9 just on what is sent over from OECD, but
10 what council plans to -- how council plans
11 to amend those.

12 And then again, the report that was
13 spoken of last week, the monitor's report,
14 OECD, it contained this as well as what was
15 exposed last week. "The Architectural
16 Heritage Association acted as a subrecipient
17 to the city and subgranted this funding to
18 the following projects: Scranton
19 Liederkrantz, Incorporated, received \$49,500
20 for facade renovations. Documentation was
21 presented that indicated that four part-time
22 employees were hired. Family income
23 certificates were provided as source
24 documentation."

25 Now, Posh Life, LLC, ironic that

1 they were -- gentlemen from there were here
2 tonight, but they received \$150,000 to
3 create five -- I'm sorry, they received
4 \$150,000 that was washed through the
5 Architectural Heritage Group and I believe
6 that was probably three-quarters of the
7 total funding they received under the CDBG
8 program and Posh Light, LLC, in 2007 had
9 already received \$250,000 in easy grant
10 money, so I would like to recommend that
11 council come up with an ordinance to be
12 apprised of or to seek approval for CDBG
13 recipients subgranting money so that we're
14 all involved and have a chance to comment.
15 I'll save the rest for next week, as I did
16 last. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

19 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MR. MORGAN: I'm running a little
22 late from work today, but I just wanted to
23 come back here today because I assume, Mrs.
24 Evans, that you thought that what I said
25 last week was deceptive in regard to the

1 authorities, and in my opinion I don't think
2 there was any deception there at all.

3 I think that the authorities are a
4 major problem and I, myself, believe they
5 can be abolished and I think that the way to
6 abolish them is that it's time for the
7 residents, and it just didn't have to do
8 with this city, it has to do across the
9 whole country, okay, the residents need to
10 petition whoever the chief executive is of
11 whatever community they live in. If they
12 can't get the response from the person
13 that's running their community, well, then
14 they need to do a grassroots campaign and
15 replace that person. Upon replacing that
16 person, what you do is you change the number
17 of people on the Authority and you only
18 appoint people to the Authority that you
19 know are going to vote to abolish it, and
20 then you have a vote and ask them to abolish
21 the Authority, and what do they do? They
22 vote to abolish the Authority, okay? It's
23 the way around politics, okay?

24 And then when they vote to abolish
25 the Authority then you proceed to abolish it

1 because I think that we can all stand here
2 over 20 years and listen to all of the money
3 the authorities have borrowed and the
4 situation that the city itself finds itself
5 in. Well, we can talk for another 20 years
6 and in that time they will just borrow more
7 money and then all that will happen is, as
8 everybody here is probably well aware of,
9 the city itself is ultimately responsible
10 for that debt, so as that debt continues to
11 grow and grow and grow, we can all point
12 fingers and determine we can't do anything,
13 when in all reality I think it's on the
14 residents of this city or any other city
15 that finds itself in this position to elect
16 people that are willing to abolish these
17 authorities and then to take control of
18 these authorities by appointing people that
19 will guarantee that when they are appointed
20 they will vote to abolish it, because sooner
21 or later you have to have the ability to
22 control these authorities and if it doesn't
23 happen then, of course, you have to play
24 politics and politics is a very, very
25 filthy, disgusting business in my opinion.

1 And I just think that after all of
2 this time in talking about authorities and
3 talking about how this one can't make it's
4 payments and that one can't and we can't
5 control how they are going to borrow the
6 money and we have no oversight or we can't
7 use the power of subpoena to find out
8 anything then maybe it's just time to play
9 the game that politicians play, because to
10 be bluntly honest with you, you know, I have
11 talked to so many people that are only
12 moving a very far distance from Scranton,
13 only to Taylor, hitting a lot of doors,
14 talking to a lot of the residents in this
15 city. They are absolutely besides
16 themselves and maybe they are paying a lot
17 more attention now because a lot of them are
18 unemployed.

19 And, Mr. Loscombe, about I guess
20 Verrastro or whoever that is thinking about
21 moving out of the city they should go to
22 McKinney or they could go across to -- right
23 across the street from the new Maine's
24 market where Ocean Logistics is, where SUCCO
25 used to be, I think they're going. That's

1 right off the interstate, you know?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe he has
3 already made a purchase in Old Forge.

4 MR. MORGAN: No, no, that's fine,
5 I'm just saying in my opinion, look it, I
6 respect every single person and every single
7 person's opinion, but the truth of the
8 matter is that this city is in big trouble,
9 and it's not just here so I don't want to
10 give the people in the City of Scranton the
11 idea that's it's only happening here, it's
12 happening everywhere. We've got public
13 servants losing their jobs across this
14 nation and we've got communities that just
15 have borrowed so much money they will never
16 pay it back.

17 But I just wanted to revisit that
18 issue and say that those authorities can be
19 abolished and the people that I think I hold
20 responsible for where we are isn't
21 necessarily this council, it's the voters,
22 because they have kept voting the same way
23 over a period of time and a person's vote is
24 their power and the people who don't come
25 out to vote I don't know what to say for

1 them, and the people who vote strictly party
2 lines I don't know want to say for them
3 either, I just think we have a lot of
4 problems, but I really appreciate your time.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

7 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

9 MR. JOYCE: Chrissy.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet?

11 MS. EVANS: Hi.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, our game
13 Friday night in Dunmore they double switched
14 it to Saturday night now. It's up in
15 Dunmore. So, guys, West, good luck. Janet,
16 let's come home with it. Right, Frank?
17 West Side is the best, right, Frankie?

18 MR. JOYCE: That's right.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

22 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
23 you have any comments or motions tonight?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I do. Thank you.
25 I guess I'll first address the what seems to

1 be the overriding situation that we are
2 facing and that is the financial situation
3 that we have in the city at this time. It
4 must be election time because I seem to be
5 taking a few shots from everyone, so -- and
6 that's fine.

7 If people would like to blame me for
8 the problems that exist, fine. If you want
9 to blame the mayor, fine. If you want to
10 blame PEL, fine. If you want to blame
11 Governor Rendell, Obama, I don't care who
12 you blame. We still have a problem and I
13 don't care who accepts the blame we still
14 have a problem. We are looking at some
15 scenarios that really are not good.

16 Yes, we heard rumors of more
17 layoffs. No one wants to see that.
18 Possibility of payless paydays, nobody wants
19 that. There is a distinction the
20 possibility of default on the TANS-B, it
21 can't happen. There is the distinct
22 possibility that we will fail to get TANS
23 fore 2012 which means payless -- months of
24 payless paydays and ultimately there is
25 probably a possibility of out and out

1 bankruptcy that exists if we can't solve
2 those problems, and bankruptcy is not the
3 answer, it's not a solution, not one that
4 anyone wants.

5 You know, there are no secret funds
6 out there, there is no magic money that's
7 going to make this go away, there is no
8 magic bullet that's going to take care of
9 our problem. We need to somehow arrive at
10 not only some short term solutions, but also
11 some long-term solutions.

12 I attended a PEL meeting yesterday
13 and while I realize that some people are
14 upset with PEL and find them to be -- and I
15 have actually criticized them at times, but
16 looking back last October their projections
17 for what has occurred were probably the most
18 accurate, and at that meeting yesterday what
19 they were doing was they were looking for
20 answers, they were looking for some
21 solutions. They have already been dealing
22 with the banking communities to try and deal
23 with some of the short-term problems we have
24 and it was suggested during that meeting
25 that perhaps it's time for council and the

1 administration to work together on a budget
2 rather than what's been done in the past.

3 The one thing that was said was that
4 the bank or it was said later by a member of
5 the banking community that if we go through
6 the process that we did last year there
7 is -- there is not a bank in this area
8 that's going to be, you know, looking to
9 provide, you know, any funding for 2012.

10 The suggestion was that we form a
11 joint committee of some sort to work on a
12 budget so that when the final -- when the
13 budget is presented to council that there
14 are few changes, that it's a budget that the
15 banking community and others can look at and
16 see that it's a reasonable plan for
17 short-term and long-term success.

18 I know that a letter was sent to all
19 council members, but specifically to
20 Councilman Joyce, and hopefully he and the
21 business administrator can find time to get
22 together, and whoever else is involved in
23 this -- can be involved in this process that
24 we can arrive at something that's more --
25 something that is more acceptable, something

1 that can be -- can work into the future.

2 As I said, there was a
3 representative from the banking community
4 that came after the PEL meeting and was
5 primarily discussing the Parking Authority,
6 but we did talk about the budget and some
7 other concerns and the banking community
8 said their concern is that they don't --
9 they are not assured that council and the
10 mayor can work together.

11 And I know that, you know, we'll go
12 back and forth on this as to, again, whose
13 fault it is, and as I have said before, I
14 don't think this is the point in time to
15 start assessing the blame. This is the time
16 to take a step forward and to try and find a
17 solution to this problem. They are not
18 concerned with who is to blame. They just
19 want to see answers. They want a plan.
20 They want a plan not only for the end of
21 this year, but they want to see something
22 for 2012, 2013, 2014. They are looking for
23 something that will assure them that they
24 can invest in this city.

25 I know that we also have received a

1 letter from PEL with some short-term
2 suggestions or short-term suggestions for
3 dealing with the deficit, again, I would
4 hope that, you know, we contact PEL and at
5 least consider some of the suggestions that
6 are being made. We are not going to get out
7 of this on our own. Council is not going to
8 solve it on their own, the mayor is not
9 going to solve it on his own, and PEL isn't
10 going to solve it. It has to be a joint
11 effort, otherwise, we are doomed to failure.

12 And I hopefully in the next couple
13 of weeks we can see some progress toward a
14 more cooperative effort, and again, I'm not
15 laying blame on council, I'm not -- you
16 know, I think there is plenty of blame to go
17 everywhere, but we have to take a step
18 forward, we can't continue playing the blame
19 game, we have to come up with a solution and
20 we have to come up with one soon.

21 Last week there was something
22 mentioned about school -- or paving being
23 done at some of these schools or one of the
24 schools by the city, and that was done. My
25 understanding is that the materials for the

1 paving were provided by the district and the
2 work was done by the city. The initial bid
3 for that paving that the school district
4 received was somewhere around \$180,000. The
5 actual cost of the cooperative work done by
6 the school district and the city has
7 somewhere around \$15,000. This saved
8 taxpayers \$165,000. I think this is the
9 type of thing that the city and the school
10 district can do for one another. I think it
11 was something good. It's something that
12 benefited -- it may not show up in our
13 budget, but it certainly shows up in the
14 long run for the taxpayers of Scranton.

15 We also received, since Mr. Rogan
16 isn't here, maybe I'll steal some of his --
17 we received something from OECD on paving
18 bids for the following streets: 400 block
19 of Pine Street, five, six, seven-hundred
20 block of Foster Street, 900 block of Martha
21 Avenue, 300 block of North 9th Avenue, 200
22 block of Railroad Avenue, so once these bids
23 are out and are received paving will
24 continue in the city and hopefully there is
25 more of it. There is still a lot of areas

1 that do need to, you know, taken care of and
2 hopefully that can continue.

3 I though that the park's issue was
4 complete or was finished last week and while
5 I wasn't happy with the decision, it was a
6 decision that was made by council and I
7 wasn't going to, you know, it wasn't -- I
8 realize it wasn't a personal -- you know, it
9 wasn't something personal, it was just a
10 disagreement between, you know, members of
11 council, we voted and it unfortunately
12 didn't go my way, but that's fine.

13 I believe that parks can benefit a
14 community. I believe that they do benefit
15 certain communities, and I thought that the
16 Perry Street park was a good idea and I
17 expressed that opinion. Others disagree,
18 and so be it. That's what democracy is for.
19 And the parks that I, you know, that I have
20 visited, I have been to Connor's Park on
21 numerous occasions, drive by it every day,
22 always people there, Saturdays they have a
23 nice little farmer's market where things are
24 sold, well-maintained, you know, and well
25 thought of by the people in that community.

1 I have been past Barrett Park, been
2 there a number of times, always seems to be
3 kids playing in the park, always seems to be
4 well kept.

5 West Scranton Skate park, I don't
6 know there was some, you know, there may
7 have been some problems during the summer
8 when I was there and the people were having
9 a block party there it was nice, a lot of
10 people there, and the park was maintained.

11 Nay Aug Park I have taken my
12 granddaughters to swimming, I was very
13 pleased and Robinson Park down to play
14 basketball with my grandson, and if I'm not
15 mistaken all of the ones that I mentioned
16 are in the city, so they are not in some
17 alien world.

18 And finally, the CDBG, I was going
19 to save it for later, but maybe since it was
20 mentioned by one of the speakers, we are
21 looking at the amendments to the 2011
22 allocations. I saw these for the first time
23 at 5:00 today and I didn't have an
24 opportunity to go through them and look at
25 them, but I think these are things that

1 should be discussed and available to
2 everyone prior to a final vote. I agree
3 with the speaker, you know, that this is
4 something that, you know, they are community
5 grants and it would nice to at least have an
6 opportunity to have input before the
7 amendments are actually placed for final
8 vote.

9 And with the 2012 grants that we are
10 looking at this evening, also, I think that
11 these should be discussed in caucus by all
12 council members prior to a public hearing
13 and then have a public hearing and following
14 the public hearing make amendments that are
15 appropriate to the discussions that have
16 been held. I think that there should be
17 more input into these not only by council,
18 but also by, you know, the community. And
19 that's all I have. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Before I
21 call on Mr. Loscombe, just two quick things
22 I wanted to mention with regard to the
23 statements Councilman McGoff made regarding
24 a budget and the banks, and actually, that
25 is a situation that I will be addressing

1 under my motions tonight, I think he has
2 overlooked something that's very, very
3 important in this process which is the
4 audit, the independent audit, of the City of
5 Scranton. The bank wants the audit. Well,
6 as we all know, there is no audit because
7 the department heads refuse to provide the
8 information to the auditors.

9 Now, we can conjecture as to why
10 that is and why that has been occurring each
11 year, frankly, I feel it's done purposely
12 and it's arriving later and later and later
13 each year so that banks will not see the
14 city's audits before they agree to provide
15 TANS, before they sign on the dotted lines
16 for loans.

17 I recall during one the last
18 borrowing issues of the city, a bank
19 official, he may have been from PNC, sat
20 right at that table and when I asked him if
21 he had seen the audit of the previous year
22 for the City of Scranton he admitted that,
23 no, he had not. And I asked him on what he
24 was basing that his decision to loan the
25 city additional money and his answer was to

1 me, and we can -- well, I don't know that we
2 had the stenographer for that night during a
3 public caucus, but I'll never forget the
4 answer, it was, "I'm basing it on the
5 mayor's vision."

6 Now, I think it is very important
7 that these audits are done, they are done in
8 a timely fashion, but right now they need to
9 be done yesterday before any bank talks to
10 anybody about anything. Let them take a
11 look at the circumstances of the city at
12 least as much as we can ascertain according
13 to audits.

14 And as for the CDBG's, you know, I
15 have sat here probably longer than anyone
16 else on this council, during all of that
17 time there was really never any concern by
18 previous council presidents to put out
19 amendments made by council weeks in advance
20 or to work on anything publically, and I am
21 not saying that I'm opposed to that, I just
22 find it to be an unusual suggestion at this
23 point in time since we went for all of these
24 years without doing so under the
25 presidencies of other people.

1 I know that Mr. Joyce worked very
2 hard on the amendments that came into --
3 well, actually, they came into our office I
4 believe yesterday and they were completed
5 this afternoon, and city council members
6 were notified immediately at that time that
7 they could come in and take a look, and this
8 is not even Mr. Joyce's committee, but he is
9 the Finance Chair and there are a good deal
10 of regulations that are mandated by the
11 federal government and must be abided by
12 that Mr. Joyce is aware of that, I am aware
13 of and Mr. Joyce, as we all know, was absent
14 from last week's meeting, he had been ill,
15 and I'm very grateful for him that he was
16 able to produce this in this amount of time.

17 And in all actuality, you know, the
18 administration's amendments had been
19 available to everybody since at least July,
20 and short of that or keeping that in
21 consideration, I don't know, you know,
22 because unless Mr. Joyce can, but really I
23 didn't receive any recommendations from
24 council members about what they want to do
25 about anything, so it's always left on this

1 man's shoulders and on my shoulders and we
2 are trying to get this work done to the
3 benefit of the people of the City of
4 Scranton based on your priorities.

5 So we will do our very best to
6 provide this information to you in a more
7 timely fashion if that's what you are
8 seeking, but please understand that, you
9 know, a good deal of work goes into this and
10 it isn't something that can be done quickly
11 and that everyone has the opportunity, the
12 public has the opportunity to comment at
13 public hearings, council members have the
14 opportunity to work on this independently
15 and submit their work to Mr. Joyce or to
16 myself.

17 And with the upcoming CDBG
18 allocations for 2012, actually last week I
19 asked Councilman Rogan if he would take
20 charge of that, so that any suggestions
21 anyone on council may have should be
22 submitted to him, but he should be, you
23 know, as the chair of that committee drawing
24 up I think this year's council allocations
25 with any suggestions that are provided and

1 then it can be reviewed by council members
2 before the final product is produced and
3 presented to the public.

4 And I'm sorry to have taken all of
5 that time, but I thought that it was
6 important to respond to a few of the
7 comments that were made.

8 MR. MCGOFF: May I just --

9 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to -- I
11 agree with you about the audit that they
12 should be more timely, I always thought
13 that, but at the same time I don't believe
14 that an absence of it should prevent us from
15 at least trying to taking a step toward some
16 type of solution.

17 MS. EVANS: No, there has to be a
18 solution, I agree with you, but I think part
19 of that solution, step one of the solution
20 is, hand the information over, get that
21 audit done and let the banks have at it.

22 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not disagreeing
23 with you. The second thing on the CDBG, I
24 would say that in the past, at least the two
25 years that I was president, I remember that

1 we did have caucus meetings to discuss the
2 changes that were going to be made and input
3 was taken from all council members. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
6 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any comments?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, a couple of
8 comments. Thank you. First of all, I would
9 like to say hello to my grandson Sam James,
10 two and a half year old whiz, he makes sure
11 his mother and father puts me on every week,
12 so last week I was waving to somebody in the
13 audience and he thought it was him, so I've
14 got to make sure I do it from now on.

15 But first I'm going give a couple of
16 hats off, I forget to mention this last
17 week, but a couple of weeks ago I was
18 driving through town and I saw all of these
19 young people with the red vests cleaning up
20 in the downtown and I happened to stop by
21 and ask one of them, you know, what was
22 going on, and he told me it was students
23 from the Commonwealth Medical College, they
24 were doing a downtown cleanup. I guess they
25 try and stay busy with a lot of different

1 projects.

2 And my memory was jogged when I
3 watched the news, I believe it was yesterday
4 or the day before, when a bunch of them
5 actually bicycled down to the flood zone, I
6 believe it was in West Pittston, to help out
7 some of the people who were flooded there,
8 so I do want to thank the students from the
9 Commonwealth Medical College for setting
10 that example and to keep up the good work,
11 and I just wanted to acknowledge that.

12 Last week I had discussed the fire
13 on Wall Street, I don't know if I touched on
14 this, but I do want to also give a hats off
15 to Darrell Franmico, he was a firefighter
16 that was laid off just a few days before
17 that fire and a neighbor of the home that
18 was involved, and also the neighbors that
19 assisted him, unfortunately I didn't get
20 their names, they assisted -- they broke in
21 the doors, they actually set up a ladder to
22 try and get up on the porch roof and got
23 some garden hoses there before the fire
24 department responded. However, you know,
25 the flames were too intense for them at that

1 time without the fire there or anything to
2 make entrance, but I applaud the efforts of
3 anybody that puts themselves in harm's way
4 like that.

5 And on the same vein, last week I
6 believe it was, there was a rescue up at the
7 Noy Aug gorge and what made unique is it was
8 an evening rescue. It's bad enough up there
9 in the daytime with the logistics and
10 everything, but this was in the dark.
11 Everything was wet, there were two people in
12 the gorge, and I would like to commend the
13 rescue personnel, from the fire, the EMS,
14 the police, for their involvement in that
15 rescue, and in getting them -- two persons
16 out of the river safely, it could have had
17 tragic consequences, but, did want to give
18 my kudos out to those.

19 Mrs. Schumacher, I just received
20 your e-mail yesterday afternoon, I will have
21 that information for you this week and I
22 appreciate that because it delineates what I
23 have to get for you, but I will get that
24 together for you this week, I had some
25 appointments today so I wasn't able to get

1 them.

2 Doug Miller and Mr. Newcomb both
3 mentioned before about the amount of police
4 on duty on a daily basis, and it is pretty
5 scary and I have been told that myself the
6 numbers and we are still looking into some
7 stuff, but, you know, those of who listen to
8 your scanners and all of that you know, you
9 have to know, because I heard just a few
10 times I have listened the amounts of calls
11 that get backed up. I have heard COM Center
12 call the on-duty -- whoever is in charge on
13 duty, the on-duty sergeant or whoever it be,
14 and say, you know, we have five or six calls
15 hanging, you know, do you have anybody
16 available, blah, blah, blah.

17 Again, you know, that was the first
18 I heard this evening that the chief had put
19 out the word to not say anything over the
20 air. I mean, you know, from what I
21 understand he has put out the word not to
22 have officers come to this podium and speak
23 about the job or anything like that. I do
24 believe that's a violation of your right to
25 free speech. The chief is doing is good

1 job, however, as I stated before, both
2 chiefs are appointed by the mayor, they
3 serve the mayor, but they also serve you.
4 They have a moral and ethical duty to tell
5 the mayor when things are not safe.
6 Unfortunately, that isn't happening and, you
7 know, I know them both personally, I love
8 them both personally. I just think that
9 they have to step back, look at themselves
10 in the mirror and say, "Am I doing what's
11 best for the people I serve or am I doing
12 what's best for my ego?" That's all I have
13 to say at that point.

14 But I received a letter, a
15 handwritten letter this week, and it was
16 unsigned, regarding the West Lackawanna
17 Avenue bridge and the person, unfortunately,
18 I don't have it in front of me, but the
19 person that wrote me the letter stated that,
20 you know, I talked about closing the north
21 sidewalks on the bridge, not I, but the
22 engineer from PennDOT requested that, why
23 don't we close the other sidewalks on the
24 other side because they are just as bad?

25 I realize both sides are treacherous

1 to walk on, there is a major problem there,
2 but the fact is the north side has a big
3 section of the wall that is ready to fall
4 out and that's going to take that section of
5 sidewalk with it. I made this apparent
6 three months ago, I believe it would be
7 three months tomorrow or the next day at a
8 meeting here. We have sent follow-up
9 letters to the mayor, to our city engineer,
10 Mr. Pocius, and to Mr. Brazil, DPW director.
11 He stated in the newspaper days later he
12 knew nothing about it, but if he was aware
13 of it that he would close those sidewalks
14 and barricade that area off immediately.

15 Channel 16 two weeks later came into
16 the story, they interviewed Mr. Brazil, he
17 said he would take care of it. Their way of
18 taking care of it they are going to pave the
19 sidewalks to level them, no statement about
20 that section of wall that's ready to fall
21 out.

22 Well, ladies and gentlemen, it's
23 three months since that was brought to their
24 attention, if someone gets seriously hurt
25 there who is going to pay? Nothing has been

1 touched. They haven't even weed whacked the
2 grass that's growing on there. This is
3 unfortunate and now, I mean, they are
4 looking at borrowing money for Lincoln
5 Jackson school to purchase Lincoln Jackson,
6 well, actually, if the purchase is only a
7 dollar we are looking at the \$350,000 to
8 tear the building down and build another
9 park there.

10 Again, I have said it before, I'd
11 love to see a park in every neighborhood,
12 but parks have to be maintained, they have
13 to be protected, and they have to be well
14 lit in the evening and they can't be
15 hangouts. The newspaper last week did a
16 major story after our meeting stating that
17 the neighbors up there were upset. You know
18 what amazed me was the fact they only had
19 two neighbors in that news article. I had
20 more people than that come to me and tell me
21 they didn't want it.

22 So, you know, I didn't want to go
23 there, but it just seems, again, it's park,
24 park, park. The unfortunate thing is if we
25 do take over Lincoln Jackson school and we

1 do get into the demolition there we may be
2 the fools. Suppose they find a lot of
3 hazardous materials in there, asbestos and
4 stuff. That \$350,000 is a pittance. I
5 think we are the ones that are going to be
6 duped and the school district is going to be
7 smiling, and it's unfortunate.

8 I mean, I don't want to say this,
9 but I have heard rumors that a certain
10 director here has a good opportunity with
11 the school district and it seems they are
12 doing a lot of project for the school
13 district lately coming the beginning of next
14 year. I don't know if that's a rumor or you
15 will find out next year if it's true, but
16 even paving the school parking lot, these
17 sidewalks on the Lackawanna Avenue bridge
18 were supposed to be done three months ago,
19 but they take the DPW crews, again, the
20 manpower will do whatever they are told to
21 do and they work hard. I have seen them
22 tearing down trees and everything, but why,
23 why is our DPW being utilized to fill in
24 private properties on Wyoming Avenue, tear
25 down private dwellings to make parking lots,

1 take care of school parking lots when our
2 whole streets and infrastructure are falling
3 apart?

4 And we have a bid prospect here for
5 five streets, we need a lot more than five
6 streets, and I don't think these are the
7 worst ones on the list. I just think we
8 have to get a direction and we have to get a
9 leader in that department that's going to
10 focus on you, not his benefits or not the
11 benefit of somebody else. It has to be
12 about the people in this city. That's what
13 your taxes are for.

14 But I'm totally disappointed nothing
15 has been done on that West Lackawanna Avenue
16 bridge. They want to thumb their nose at me
17 because I found out about it, that's fine,
18 but they are also thumbing their nose at
19 every one of you. It has nothing to do with
20 me. I found a safety issue and they may
21 think it's a joke, but I had an engineer
22 from PennDOT there with me and he will tell
23 you it was no joke, but this is where their
24 priorities are, ladies and gentlemen.

25 OECD projects, I have inquired about

1 a certain project, and I found out to our
2 dismay that we received a contract, this
3 money is dolled out continuously. We
4 received a contract, but no scope of work,
5 and I have some questions on a project, we
6 requested it, they sent me the same
7 contract, which is just a generic contract,
8 signed, sealed and delivered, doesn't
9 explain the scope of the work. And
10 Mrs. Krake has sent another request and also
11 requested that any of these OECD projects
12 that are given out through grants or
13 whatever we must receive the RFP showing the
14 scope of work that's involved, because
15 ironically I found a few things today, not
16 today, over the past couple of weeks, that
17 may cause a problem down the road, so I want
18 to see in black and white what's there.

19 And just to finish off my comments,
20 I agree a thousand percent with Mr. Morgan
21 when it comes to the authorities and I think
22 our majority feels the same way here. Our
23 hands are tied with the authorities. We
24 have no say what they do. They are
25 autonomous bodies. Mr. Morgan says, elect

1 someone that is going to put someone in
2 there that's going to put someone in there
3 that's going to -- well, it's the mayor who
4 appoints those people. You think he is
5 going to appoint people that are going to
6 abolish the authority? His piggybank? His
7 job bank? I don't think so. It's not as
8 easy as that. And even if you got someone
9 in that position that would agree to that it
10 would take about 15 years by the time they
11 rotated the board to the point where they
12 would abolish their own board. Trust me,
13 that isn't going to happen.

14 Mr. Morgan, you know, he comes up
15 here with a lot good ideas and stuff like
16 that, however, most of them are unfeasible.
17 I mean, he thinks we can get the budget by
18 seven million by just crossing out a few
19 lines, he thinks we can subpoena everybody
20 we want, there are legalities to that, too.
21 I mean, if that was the case I think we
22 would have people subpoenaed here every
23 week. I'm sure of that. But, you know, I
24 mean, I appreciate his thoughts, but there
25 is lot of things that he is saying that

1 can't be done at the level that he thinks it
2 could be done.

3 And again, back on the authorities,
4 it's going to be the public like you in a
5 situation like Mr. Pilchesky did to bring
6 all of these things to light. If you see
7 anyone working for these authorities or
8 anything like that that isn't doing what
9 they are supposed to be doing, that's doing
10 work for other people, that are -- you know,
11 anything that you believe is not in their
12 scope of work, the best thing you can do is
13 be our eyes and ears out there. Report it
14 to us. Call city council office, we will
15 keep a log, we will be able to investigate
16 it, and then we'll have the ammunition to
17 bring it the proper authorities.

18 Until that time, we do have our
19 hands tied. And trust me, I don't think any
20 of us like it up here having our hands tied.
21 It gets very frustrating, but for those of
22 you who really care about this city, who
23 really see what's going on, that realize the
24 facts, that see in reality what goes on here
25 and not what you read about in the daily

1 paper, I think you could all help us. Be
2 our eyes and ears out there with any
3 problems and that will only help us down the
4 road, and I thank you for that. That's all
5 I have to say.

6 MS. EVANS: And thank you,
7 Councilman Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, do
8 you have any comments or motions?

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes. First, I do
10 apologize that I was not here last week, I
11 was ill and I'm not feeling well, but one
12 thing I did want to state, and I know it's
13 past, is I wanted to talk briefly about the
14 anniversary of the September 11 and what
15 happened, and one thing I want to do right
16 now is just give a big thank you to all of
17 the servicemen and women that fight
18 continuously for our country and that defend
19 us and that defend our freedom and our way
20 of life because without them we wouldn't
21 have a city council, we wouldn't have
22 government as we know it.

23 And, also, to all of the
24 firefighters and the police officers and
25 families who lost their brothers and

1 sisters, family members and friends, my
2 thoughts and my prayers with are with you
3 and always will be with you. I'll never
4 forget the moment I heard about what
5 happened that, day being that I went to
6 college in upstate New York a large part of
7 our student body was from the New York City
8 metropolitan area, and I remember the fear
9 in people's eyes, especially knowing that I
10 would say about a fifth to a quarter of my
11 classmates had relatives that worked in the
12 New York City area, and my thoughts and
13 prayers will always be with those people who
14 were victimized by such horrible events.

15 Secondly, before I forget to do
16 this, I would like to make a motion -- I
17 would like to move to appoint Jack Loscombe
18 as temporary chairperson for the Committee
19 for Economic and Community Development.

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

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Can I second myself?
23 I'll second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question? Mr.
25 McGoff just returned --

1 MR. JOYCE; Mr. McGoff, just to
2 reiterate, this is to appoint Jack Loscombe
3 as the temporary chair for the Committee on
4 Economic and Community Development for
5 Mr. Rogan's absence.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Do I need to second?

7 MR. JOYCE: No, someone already did.
8 I just didn't want us to vote and not have
9 you knowing what it was.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

11 MS. EVANS: Anyone on the question?
12 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Following this, I
19 do have a few citizens' requests and the
20 first is on Luzerne Street and it concerns
21 the Cosmo Iacavazzi Way Sign. As you know,
22 Cosmo Iacavazzi was a standout athlete at
23 West Scranton High School and I have been
24 contacted by a family member of the former
25 Cosmo Iacavazzi reported that one of the

1 Cosmo Iacavazzi Way signs was down and,
2 Mrs. Krake, if you could contact Mr. Brazil
3 and make him aware of this, this happened
4 before and I know that they restored the
5 sign in a very brief period of time, so
6 hopefully that could happen again.

7 Also, a resident of Geraldine Court
8 has informed me that there is numerous
9 potholes and cracks in various locations in
10 the court, Mrs. Krake, if you could also
11 list this to the issues to address with
12 Mr. Brazil.

13 Various residents of Dickson Avenue
14 have informed me that there are various
15 sheets of glass in front of the empty
16 parking lot across from the former site of
17 Daron Northeast. Mrs. Krake, please contact
18 Mr. Seitzinger to determine who currently
19 owns this property and ask if the property
20 owner can be contacted to remove the sheets
21 of glass as residents fear that this is
22 becoming a safety hazard.

23 Also, I have received reports that
24 various streetlights are out on the 800 and
25 900 blocks of North Webster Avenue,

1 apparently from resident's reports these
2 lights were damaged in some recent storms.
3 Mrs. Krake, if you could please contact
4 Joyce Electrical and ask them to address the
5 situation as quickly as possible as quickly
6 as can be done.

7 And finally, I'd just like to say
8 based on some of Mr. McGoff's comments
9 earlier tonight, one thing I want to say is
10 that I do realize as well as I think
11 everybody realizes at this point that the
12 city does have issues that need to be
13 tackled. We must make our TAN-B payment
14 before the end of the year and at this point
15 you could lay off the entire City of
16 Scranton and we would not be able to make
17 that payment with the deficit that we are
18 currently facing unless we follow a past
19 procedure of using the next year's TAN to
20 pay the previous TAN, which we do not want
21 to do.

22 And I agree that there needs to be
23 -- looking forward at 2012 there needs to be
24 discussions about the budget between council
25 and the administration, and I did receive a

1 letter from Mr. McGowan, and I was actually
2 speaking with him briefly yesterday, and I
3 would personally like to know what exactly
4 is going to be in that budget and I would
5 like to see PEL's input before a budget is
6 dropped in council's lap laying off 27
7 firefighters and 20 or so police officers.

8 And also, I do agree that working
9 together could possibly come up with
10 effective solutions. Mrs. Evans and I
11 attended a confidential meeting with
12 Mr. McGowan as well as some union -- as well
13 as a union head and Chief Duffy. At that
14 meeting there were various suggestions both
15 by council and by the administration and
16 there was something that the administration
17 has proposed. I was in agreement with about
18 half of it, half of it I was not, but one
19 thing about working together that needs to
20 be done and that hasn't been done is
21 something very simple called honesty.

22 I was at a confidential meeting and
23 I'm not really obliged to discuss exactly
24 what was said, but I would say what was not
25 said. Nowhere or at no time during that

1 meeting were there mentions of "X" amount of
2 firefighters being laid off and "X" amount
3 of police officers being laid off, and never
4 in the past has it been brought to council's
5 attention of money being taken out of a
6 Workers' Compensation Fund without our
7 asking, so I do agree that there needs to be
8 a level of cooperation between the
9 administration and council and that means
10 that the administration must listen to
11 council's suggestions and ideas, and also
12 that the administration is honest with us.
13 And that's all I have to say for tonight.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
15 Joyce. Good evening. The time has come for
16 Scranton taxpayers to focus their attention
17 on the financial status of our city. We
18 face a significant and immediate
19 multi-million dollar deficit and a decade,
20 at least, of financial recovery from the
21 mismanagement of the last ten years.

22 Some, like the newspaper, will work
23 hard to distract you from this crisis with
24 parks and downtown economic development
25 projects. However, facts are stubborn.

1 Regardless of how they are stretched,
2 twisted, and concealed, they remain the
3 facts. Parks cost money to build, maintain
4 and ensure.

5 While the city is struggling at
6 present to repay the \$9.5 million 2011 TAN-B
7 and fill it's deficit, it cannot afford to
8 shoulder any additional costs or enter into
9 any new contract that are not absolutely
10 essential. The last ten years witnessed
11 millions of dollars spent on the creation
12 and renovation of parks, and the capital
13 budget reflects greater funding for parks
14 than of bridges, roads, and curbs.

15 While the Rockwell Avenue Bridge
16 remains in dire need of repair and many of
17 the streets in North Scranton remain in poor
18 condition, the mayor chooses to build
19 another park. However, when the roof is
20 leaking, the foundation is caving in, the
21 siding is crumbling, and the bank is
22 preparing to foreclose on your house, you
23 don't add a koi pond and a jungle gym in
24 your backyard.

25 In 2011, the mayor closed three

1 pools and cut short the summer swim season
2 on August 14, apparently due to lack of
3 funding. He must focus on financial
4 urgencies and prioritize in light of the
5 deficit and recent layoffs of public safety
6 personnel.

7 Now, as you all know, our city has
8 remained distressed for 19 years and 14 of
9 those 19 years passed under the leadership
10 of Christopher Doherty. He served as
11 Finance Chair of a five member city council
12 supermajority for four years and during that
13 time asked the Pennsylvania Economy League
14 to sanction Mayor Connors for his financial
15 actions.

16 Following his four years of battling
17 and overriding the legislation of Mayor
18 Connors, he became mayor and has served as
19 such for ten years during which he enjoyed
20 eight years of strong council support for
21 his financial and political agendas.
22 Christopher Doherty's leadership and
23 financial mismanagement is the common
24 denominator in 14 of 19 years of Scranton's
25 distressed status and the cause of

1 Scranton's unbridled spending, historical
2 debt and deficit.

3 In comparison, I have served on
4 council for eight years, most of which was
5 as a minority member. Our current council
6 majority has served less than two years, has
7 exposed the concealed finances of the
8 Doherty administration, cut wasteful
9 spending, and lowered taxes. These are
10 facts.

11 As Mayor Doherty faces this
12 multi-million dollar deficit, he should
13 acknowledge that continued public safety
14 layoffs will not generate sufficient monies
15 to pay the 2011 TAN-B. In addition, the
16 sale of the city-owned parking meters to the
17 Scranton Parking Authority will not succeed
18 since the Authority is in poor position to
19 borrow \$10 million for such a purchase.

20 The Parking Authority cannot balance
21 it's annual budget without additional annual
22 borrowing and city council would be
23 exceedingly unwise to guarantee additional
24 Parking Authority debt on the backs of the
25 Scranton taxpayers under those

1 circumstances.

2 Consequently, the mayor needs to
3 present city council with an honest,
4 workable plan to pay the 2011 TAN-B and to
5 address the deficit as he is a charged to do
6 by Article 9, Section 909, of the Home Rule
7 Charter, which states: "Should a deficit
8 develop, the mayor shall make
9 recommendations to minimize the deficit and
10 for that purpose council may reduce other
11 appropriations."

12 Should the City of Scranton fail to
13 repay TAN-B, it could jeopardize it's
14 ability to secure 2012 tax anticipation
15 notes or TANS leaving city government with
16 no revenue to conduct business and provide
17 essential services in at least the first
18 financial quarter of 2012.

19 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,
20 the chickens have come home to roost and the
21 mayor's financial house of cards is falling
22 down around us all. Although, he had hoped
23 to exit to any state office before this day
24 arrived, Christopher Doherty remains the
25 mayor of Scranton and must clean up his

1 mess. He can't hand the broom to council
2 since the charter authorizes the mayor to
3 make recommendations to minimize that
4 deficit and the council to deliberate on the
5 reduction of the budget appropriations, and
6 equally notable since he willfully and
7 blatantly ignores the input and legally
8 adopted legislation of this city council.

9 Had he worked with, rather than
10 against, this council, implemented rather
11 than prevented revenue generators, and come
12 clean rather than concealing financial shell
13 games, the city may not have reached this
14 financial point of no return.

15 As council awaits the legally
16 required financial recommendations of the
17 mayor to address the immediate deficit, as
18 council president I am seeking long-term
19 financial solutions in order for our city to
20 regain and maintain financial stability in
21 the future. Scranton has one of the highest
22 wage taxes in the Commonwealth of
23 Pennsylvania and it's additional taxes are
24 higher than most of it's neighbors.

25 Unlike it's neighboring communities,

1 Scranton is also a host to three
2 universities and colleges, the Commonwealth
3 Medical School, two nonprofit hospitals, as
4 well as large county, state and federal
5 buildings. It has no anonymous donors,
6 unlike Dunmore, no landfill business to
7 supplement it's revenues, unlike Taylor, and
8 no thriving business and shopping centers
9 unlike Dickson City and Moosic.

10 Scranton suffers from the highest
11 statewide unemployment figures and a quarter
12 of it's steadily decreasing population lives
13 at or below the poverty level.

14 While the population of many
15 Pennsylvania municipalities have reached a
16 level where they can and should be
17 classified as Class 2-A cities, not one, not
18 even one, has sought to do so. Although,
19 Scranton remains the only Class 2-A city, it
20 no longer has a population to retain this
21 classification. As it continues to support
22 Lackawanna County residents through it's
23 colleges, universities, hospitals, parks,
24 courthouses, post offices, etcetera, all of
25 which have drained the city's tax base.

1 Therefore, with the agreement of my
2 colleagues, I ask Mrs. Krake, with the
3 assistance of Council Solicitor Hughes, to
4 draft and send a letter to the Honorable
5 Thomas Corbett, Governor of the Commonwealth
6 of Pennsylvania, requesting official
7 certification of the 2010 census for the
8 City of Scranton, and do I have your
9 agreement.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. This
13 certification is the first step in the
14 process of changing the classification of
15 Scranton which would ultimately enable our
16 city to levy a commuter tax and a payroll
17 tax. Currently, local banking institutions
18 and the Scranton Times, for example, do not
19 pay business taxes to Scranton, but they
20 would be subject to a payroll tax.

21 As experienced in Pittsburgh, a
22 payroll tax abolishes mercantile and
23 business privilege taxes and lessens the
24 burden on small business while it forces big
25 business to pay it's fair share. Scranton

1 cannot survive by increasing it's current
2 taxes. In order to rebound financially, it
3 needs the ability to institute new taxes on
4 those who use city's properties and services
5 as is done in many Pennsylvania third class
6 cities.

7 Now, we received a written
8 recommendation today from the Pennsylvania
9 Economy League to address the \$8.2 million
10 Doherty deficit, but we have not received
11 the recommendation of the mayor as required
12 by law. We continue to await his
13 recommendations, and I believe that such a
14 critical recommendation should be presented
15 by the mayor to the taxpayers and Scranton
16 City Council in public rather than solely by
17 written correspondence.

18 And I just wanted to -- I don't want
19 to read the entire letter from PEL, I think
20 one paragraph should suffice. "We believe
21 it is imperative that the city make
22 provisions at this time to ensure sufficient
23 cash resources are available in December
24 2011 to satisfy the \$9.5 million TAN
25 obligation due no later than December 31,

1 it's two regular December payroll
2 obligations, and also to meet other December
3 financial obligations.

4 Therefore, we recommend that the
5 city's governing bodies begin immediately
6 the process of an unfunded borrowing in the
7 amount of \$8.2 million in order to meet it's
8 remaining 2011 financial obligations. The
9 legal standards for an unfunded borrowing is
10 contained in the Local Government Unit Debt
11 Act and will require a hearing before and
12 the approval of the Lackawanna County Court
13 of Common Pleas."

14 Now, as I stated, that is the
15 recommendation of the Pennsylvania Economy
16 League. We await the recommendation of the
17 mayor, and once again, that recommendation
18 should be provided in public to all the
19 residents of the City of Scranton.

20 And finally, I have just a few
21 citizens requests for the week. Residents
22 of the 200 block of North Garfield Avenue
23 report that the traffic is going the wrong
24 way on their street as well as on other
25 blocks of North Garfield. They request the

1 installation of street signs on North
2 Garfield Avenue.

3 Residents wish to know the cost of
4 the city's paving of the 300 block of Hamm
5 Court. Now, I realize Hamm Court has not
6 been paved. Several potholes I believe were
7 filled, not all but several, and these
8 residents are hoping that the costs are not
9 to exorbitant, they may be willing to pitch
10 in towards the cost of the DPW doing this.

11 Many residents of Hamm Court placed
12 topsoil in a dirt lot located on this court.
13 Residents will continue to maintain the lot,
14 and also is this dirt lot for sale by the
15 city, and that's it.

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

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. HUGHES: It was discussed before
20 about the borrowing of the Scranton Parking
21 Authority, I know I saw in the paper, I
22 don't know if was this week or last week,
23 \$8.2 million, council has no information
24 regarding this borrowing, I have gone
25 through the prospectuses of the authority's

1 borrowing for the garages 2004, 2006, 2007.
2 I reviewed them, I believe that council
3 should request from the Scranton Parking
4 Authority all information and copies of all
5 documentation regarding that loan, and I
6 have also reviewed the prospectuses. In the
7 prospectuses there is stated to be a fifth
8 supplemental trust indenture dated October
9 1, 2007, between the Authority and the Bank
10 of the New York Trust Company and it amends
11 all of the other trust agreements that
12 previously existed and currently exist on
13 the other bond issues.

14 I tried to obtain a copy of that
15 today and was told that it could not be
16 released by the trustee without
17 authorization from council, so I would
18 request the motion from council authorizing
19 me to take all action and write all
20 correspondence to the trustee, which is Bank
21 of New York, the Philadelphia Office, to
22 obtain a copy of the fifth supplemental
23 trust agreement.

24 I believe that there would have be
25 something in there that would allow the

1 Parking Authority to borrow and how are they
2 going to pay it because all of the revenues
3 of the Authority are pledged to pay the
4 existing bonds and, of course, as you know,
5 this is what is known in the trade as a
6 double barrel bond. Legally, the Parking
7 Authority can never default on the bond
8 because the City of Scranton's full faith
9 and credit and it's taxing power is pledged
10 to those bonds so that in the event there
11 ever was a default the bank could make
12 demand on the city to make payment and the
13 city would have to pay those obligations
14 both in interest and principal as they are
15 due and payable.

16 I think that we should have all of
17 the information as to it's borrowing,
18 obviously, it never came to council, never
19 came to us and the City of Scranton at least
20 is not -- could not have guaranteed that
21 indebtedness or to make any of those
22 payments. I believe it was to Landmark
23 Bank.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. HUGHES: But I think we should

1 have those documents for our review and also
2 a motion to authorize me to obtain --
3 authorizing me to send any correspondence to
4 all of the appropriate persons or entities
5 to obtain the fifth supplemental trust
6 indenture.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes, and with the
8 agreement of all of my colleagues,
9 Mrs. Krake, please send a Right-to-Know
10 request on behalf of Scranton City Council
11 to the Scranton Parking Authority for copies
12 of any and all documentation and agreements
13 regarding the \$2.9 million borrowing between
14 the Scranton Parking Authority and Landmark
15 Bank.

16 Now, as our solicitor spoke I jotted
17 down I believe what the appropriate motion
18 would be concerning the supplemental trust
19 agreement.

20 MR. HUGHES: The fifth.

21 MS. EVANS: The fifth supplemental.

22 MR. HUGHES: I take the fifth.

23 MS. EVANS: And if someone would
24 like to make the motion.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make

1 a motion to authorize City Council Solicitor
2 Hughes to take all action to obtain copies
3 of the supplemental trust agreement from the
4 trustee, or like he said, the fifth; right?

5 MS. EVANS: The fifth supplemental.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: The fifth
7 supplemental agreement. That's my motion.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
17 have it and so moved. Is that sufficient,
18 Solicitor Hughes?

19 MR. HUGHES: Yes.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

21 MR. HUGHES: I will also write
22 probably the bond counsel also, who is the
23 bond counsel that gave the legal opinion,
24 you know, regarding the Scranton Parking
25 Authority bond and see if he has a copy. It

1 took me a long time today, I have talked to
2 people in New York and Philadelphia, I said
3 I have gotten to them by going really it was
4 to San Francisco and then secondly it was to
5 Honolulu by the time it's going round and
6 round and finally I did get some people that
7 were very helpful and one woman, Judy
8 Wisnewski stated she is the person that is
9 in charge of it. She is with Bank of New
10 York office in Philadelphia and I did
11 request it from her and she said that she
12 would have to have authorization before she
13 could release it to me, so that and I also,
14 you know, will go to bond counsel and see if
15 I can get it. If I don't get it there I'll
16 eventually get it.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much for
18 raising those issues. They are very, very
19 crucial at this time. Mrs. Krake?

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
22 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
23 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
24 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
25 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE

1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
2 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
3 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)
4 PROGRAM.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?

11 MR. MCGOFF: And we will be having a
12 public hearing did you say next week?

13 MS. EVANS: Next Tuesday at 6:00.

14 MR. MCGOFF: And, you know, as
15 I briefly looked through the proposals that
16 were sent to us, and if there is concern
17 with a park at Lincoln Jackson I believe the
18 obvious way of dealing with it is to
19 eliminate the funding so that -- but it
20 would be appreciated if we would hear more
21 about the residents objections or favor for
22 the park.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
24 the question? All those in favor of
25 introduction signify by saying aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: 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-C. CREATING AND
7 ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
8 02.229601 ENTITLED "BE PART OF THE SOLUTION"
9 FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF
10 DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
11 AS PART OF THEIR CRIME PREVENTION CAMPAIGN.

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

15 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

1 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 50,
2 2011 – AN ORDINANCE- APPROVING THE TRANSFER
3 OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY
4 OWNED BY E.J. BEARS, INC. T/A E.J. BEARS,
5 997 CORTEZ ROAD, LAKE ARIEL, PA 18436
6 LICENSE NO. R-17757 TO POSH RESTAURANT
7 GROUP, LLC FOR USE AT THE SCRANTON CLUB
8 LOCATED AT 404 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE,
9 SCRANTON, PA AS REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA
10 LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

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

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

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
18 could on this, I would recommend that we
19 waive the Rules of Council and also after
20 reading this to be passed into Seven Order
21 and make it Item 7-C. They are under a time
22 constraint, what has to happen is that once
23 this resolution is passed they can then put
24 their application into the Pennsylvania
25 Liquor Control Board, it would probably take

1 30 to 45 days, which would push them almost
2 to the end of the October, beginning of
3 November, and I know that they have certain
4 parties booked over there, it's critical
5 that he get their liquor license and I would
6 recommend that the Rules of Council be
7 waived so that it can be passed tonight, the
8 mayor could sign it tomorrow, and they can
9 have the liquor license application
10 delivered to the PLCB in Harrisburg.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
12 anyone else on the question? All those in
13 favor signify by saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to make a
20 motion to suspend the Rules and move Item
21 6-A into Seventh Order.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
24 floor and a second. All those in favor --
25 or on the question, I'm sorry. All those in

1 favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: 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: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
8 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 51, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE-
9 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE
10 COMMONLY KNOWN AS PT5/REAR 3118 JONES
11 STREET, TAX MAP NO. 16620-010-006, SCRANTON,
12 PENNSYLVANIA, TO JOHN J. GAUGHAN AND MARIE
13 A. GAUGHAN, HIS WIFE, 99 CRANE STREET,
14 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE
15 CONSIDERATION OF \$2,700.00.

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

18 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-B
19 pass reading by title.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
4 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 52, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE-
5 VACATING THE EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY AND
6 ACCEPTING AND ORDAINING A NEW RIGHT OF WAY
7 TO WIDEN A PORTION OF MURPHY COURT TO
8 INCREASE ITS RIGHT OF WAY TO 22 FEET.

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

11 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-C
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
22 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
23 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
24 49, 2011- AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 40,
25 2010, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE

1 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
2 CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
3 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
4 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
5 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE
6 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
7 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
8 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)
9 PROGRAM."

10 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a
11 motion to amend File of Council No. 49,
12 2011, as per the following:

13 Number one, on the last line of the
14 title after the word "program" inserting,
15 "as amended by Exhibit A attached hereto."

16 Number two, after the third whereas
17 insert, "Whereas, the Community Development
18 Block Grant Programs have been decreased by
19 more than 10 percent, the City of Scranton
20 Office of Economic and Community
21 Development, (OECD), has submitted an
22 amended 2011 CDBG HOME Program and ESG
23 Program of the proposed activities attached
24 hereto as Exhibit A."

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: Are there any questions
2 on the amendment?

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I'm assuming that
4 Exhibit A were the original -- or was the
5 original action plan or part of the original
6 allocations?

7 MS. EVANS: I believe --

8 MR. MCGOFF: As amended?

9 MS. EVANS: Right. The original
10 allocations as amended by the OECD Office.
11 They had not been previously attached so we
12 are amending to attach those.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

14 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
15 the motion to amend Item 7-A signify by
16 saying aye.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

22 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to amend
23 Exhibit A attached to File of Council No.
24 49, 2011, as amended, per the following
25 amendments:

1 Reduction: Reduce Novembrino splash
2 pool by \$150,000. Reduce United
3 Neighborhood Center Project Hope by \$21,850.
4 Reduce United Neighborhood Center
5 Condemnation Assistance by \$9,200. Reduce
6 Cloverfield playground by \$150,000. Reduce
7 Boys and Girls Club Park-It program by
8 \$15,600. Reduce Deutsch Institute by \$300.
9 Total reductions \$346,950.

10 Additions: Increase police vehicles
11 by \$141,000. Increase Pinebrook
12 Neighborhood Association by \$35,000.
13 Increase blighted property removal by
14 \$170,950. Total additions, \$346,950.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: Are there any questions
17 on the amendments?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Actually, since I
19 just saw these a couple of questions, on the
20 police vehicles, we are increasing that by
21 \$141,000, that would make the total if I'm
22 reading it correctly \$291,000?

23 MR. JOYCE: No. We are increasing
24 it from what it was at zero out as per Linda
25 Aebli's most recent worksheet.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, okay, I'm sorry.

2 MR. JOYCE: It was cut out by OECD
3 and we are restoring that in the amendment
4 to \$141,000.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Oh, okay. Thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: No problem.

7 MR. MCGOFF: There was -- the one on
8 the United Neighborhood Centers Condemnation
9 Assistance Program, we are reducing it by
10 \$9,200 and I know that Ms. Aebli asked that
11 not be decreased primarily because the
12 city -- that's to provide housing for people
13 who are put out of condemned structures and
14 my understanding that the city would have to
15 absorb that cost anyhow, if we are to exceed
16 this amount that we are responsible for that
17 anyhow, so that reducing it would then, in
18 fact, it would go beyond as \$40,000 --

19 MR. JOYCE: 40,800 rather than
20 50,000.

21 MR. MCGOFF: That we would be
22 responsible for that amount of money anyhow.

23 MS. EVANS: Well, you have to -- if
24 you want to replace that money you have to
25 be able to take from other public services.

1 I think, you know, what possibly could be
2 done there, for example, just off the top of
3 my head, because I don't have it all in
4 front of me tonight, you know, it's the
5 public services must be kept to a certain
6 percentage and there are limited number of
7 those that qualify under the public service,
8 but I know it could be taken, for example,
9 out of the EOTC.

10 MR. JOYCE: I'll read off some of
11 the public services.

12 MR. MCGOFF: No, that's all right, I
13 was just wondering if we -- that we were
14 aware that that was going to be a -- could
15 be a cost to the city anyhow.

16 MS. EVANS: The 9,000 plus anything
17 above what is provided.

18 MR. MCGOFF: The \$50,000.

19 MS. EVANS: And I'm assuming that
20 the city will provide proper allocations in
21 the 2012 proposal.

22 MR. MCGOFF: I'm trying to remember
23 if it was in there.

24 MS. EVANS: I don't know.

25 MR. MCGOFF: I don't either.

1 MS. EVANS: But I think in addition
2 to that there is a good deal of funding that
3 may be available through CDBG allocations
4 from previous years and all that would be
5 required would be legislation from the
6 administration to council asking for the
7 transfer of unused funds into a category
8 where the funds could be used and are
9 needed.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Like I said, I am just
11 pointing it out, that was something that I
12 saw that was not increased.

13 And the last one, I don't mean to
14 belabor this, the one for the Pinebrook
15 Neighborhood Association, I know that Ms.
16 Aebli said that some of these items were not
17 eligible, did we contact Ms. Aebli to
18 determine if that, you know, was --

19 MS. EVANS: Well, I haven't.

20 MR. MCGOFF: -- this amount was
21 eligible?

22 MR. JOYCE: I did not speak to her
23 personally. I read over all of the
24 documentation that was sent over and the
25 amount that we're restoring back in that

1 account isn't quite as high as it was
2 previously. I know that there were some
3 questions about I believe it may have been a
4 tree trimming and things ever of nature as
5 being noneligible items.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

7 MR. JOYCE: Since we are on the
8 question, I'm sorry, I don't want to
9 interrupt you there.

10 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine.

11 Interrupt. Whatever.

12 MR. JOYCE: Okay. First, I just
13 want to say that making this amendment it
14 involved tough decisions. Personally, I
15 wish no cuts had to be made. Over the past
16 year I, as well as many of my colleagues,
17 had the opportunity to hear many of the
18 concerns of residents and from hearing the
19 concerns of such residents it's evident that
20 people are primarily concerned about public
21 safety in their neighborhoods. This is the
22 primary reason why this amendment is being
23 proposed tonight.

24 Originally funding was in place to
25 purchase five police vehicles to be used in

1 the low to moderate income neighborhoods.
2 In this amendment, 94 percent of that
3 funding was restored.

4 Funding for the Pinebrook
5 Neighborhood Association which oversees a
6 neighborhood in great need of revitalization
7 was restored to a pretty sizable portion of
8 what it was originally funded at.

9 And finally, residents throughout
10 the entire city have expressed blight
11 concerns, especially in West Scranton and
12 South Scranton. In this amendment, over
13 \$170,000 has been restored to the demolish
14 blighted properties. In fact, that actually
15 exceeds the amount that was in the original
16 proposal.

17 I know that the funding for the
18 splash pond and the Novembrino Complex has
19 been cut in this amendment, however, taking
20 care of blight, funding police vehicles and
21 restoring much needed funds to help a
22 struggling neighborhood are all higher
23 priorities than creating a splash pond in a
24 location where there is a pool that can be
25 repaired, if needed. I think this amendment

1 addresses what the people's priorities are
2 in Scranton and blight, public safety, they
3 are two primary issues and they need to be
4 addressed in greater depth. That's all.

5 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? All those
6 in favor of the motion to amend Item 7-A, as
7 amended, signify by saying aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
12 have it and so moved. What is the
13 recommendation of the Chair for the
14 Committee on Community Development?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary
16 chairperson for the Committee on Community
17 Development, I recommend final passage of
18 7-A, as amended.

19 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
5 Item 7-A, as amended, legally and lawfully
6 adopted.

7 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -
9 RESOLUTION NO. 45, 2011- ACCEPTING A FIFTY
10 (\$50.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM A PRIVATE
11 CITIZEN PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON
12 FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

20 MS. EVANS: On the question?

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'd just like to
22 thank the residents who donated the \$50 out
23 of their pockets to help the city out.

24 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please?

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. KRAKE: 7-C, formerly 6-A, FOR
10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -
11 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 50, 2011 - AN
12 ORDINANCE- APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A
13 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY
14 E.J. BEARS, INC. T/A E.J. BEARS, 997 CORTEZ
15 ROAD, LAKE ARIEL, PA 18436 LICENSE NO.
16 R-17757 TO POSH RESTAURANT GROUP, LLC FOR
17 USE AT THE SCRANTON CLUB LOCATED AT 404
18 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA AS
19 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL
20 BOARD.

21 MS. EVANS: Before we proceed with
22 the process of voting on 7-C, at this time I
23 would like to ask if any of the audience
24 members would like to comment on final
25 passage of item 7-C?

1 (No one comes to the podium.)

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

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: As temporary Chair
6 for the Committee on Community Development,
7 I recommend final passage of Item 7-C.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

20 If there is no further business,
21 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

22 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

23 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
24 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER