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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
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.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here. Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
11 reading of the minutes.

12 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. TAX ASSESSOR'S
13 REPORT, APPEAL RESULTS FROM SEPTEMBER 21,
14 2011.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
18 REPORT, APPEAL HEARINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2,
19 2011.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S
23 REPORT, FINAL RESULTS FROM SEPTEMBER 28,
24 2011.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. APPLICATIONS ALONG
3 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
4 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER
5 12, 2011.

6 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
7 If not, received and filed.

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA OF THE CITY
9 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD
10 OCTOBER 19, 2011.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. AUDIT STATUS FROM
14 ROBERT ROSSI & CO AS OF OCTOBER 10, 2011.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. CHECK RECEIVED FROM
18 LUTHERWOOD, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6000.00 WHICH
19 IS PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF
20 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2009.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. RESIDENTS AND
24 TAXPAYERS, RESIDING AT THE 700 BLOCK OF
25 OLIVE STREET IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON

1 RESPECTFULLY PETITION YOUR HONORABLE BODY TO
2 DESIGNATE THE LOWER HALF OF THE 700 BLOCK OF
3 OLIVE STREET AS A "PERMIT PARKING ONLY"
4 AREA.

5 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, will this be
6 forwarded to the Chief of Police and the
7 police department?

8 MS. KRAKE: There is a process in
9 the Clerk's Office and this is just the
10 first step and then that will be one of the
11 following, it will a public hearing and so
12 for forth.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Received and
14 filed. Do we have any Clerk's notes this
15 evening?

16 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And do any
18 council members have announcements at this
19 time?

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have a couple. The
21 Woman's Resource Center will have a memorial
22 exhibit in Friday, October 21, from 10 a.m.
23 to 3 p.m. in the Trolley Museum. Please
24 plan to visit this exhibit. The exhibit is
25 "An Empty Place at the Table" memorial

1 exhibit and admission is free.

2 Let's see, Museum Mayhem, October 2,
3 2011, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Be there or
4 be scared. Fundraising event to benefit the
5 Everhart Museum and creative costume attire
6 is suggested for the special event. It
7 takes place Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. and
8 the cost is \$50 for museum members and \$65
9 for nonmembers. It is limited to adults 21
10 and older. The admission includes all food,
11 beverages and activities, and there are
12 several activities that will be conducted at
13 this.

14 The greater Scranton Jaycees invites
15 you to nightmare on North Washington,
16 Spootakular Halloween party. Open bar, DJ,
17 dancing and light fare. Costumes are
18 encouraged and this function is Saturday,
19 October 22, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the
20 Scranton Cultural Center. Tickets are \$30
21 for nonmembers and \$25 for members.

22 The West Scranton Hyde Park
23 Neighborhood Watch will be conducting the
24 Meet the Neighbor party at Haggerty's Pub
25 and Eatery on Saturday, October 22, from 7

1 p.m. to 10 p.m. It's a busy night. Come
2 join us and celebrate our first anniversary
3 and meet up with old and new friends. \$10
4 donation and penny drafts. 50/50 raffle.
5 Kitchen will be open and entertainment
6 provided, and thanks to everyone who has
7 made our first year a success.

8 The last one, Arts on Fire bond
9 fire. This Celtic Artist Festival at the
10 Scranton Iron Furnaces and that's Friday,
11 October 21, from 8 to 11 p.m. Music by the
12 Tom Petty appreciation band. Tickets are
13 \$15 at the door and \$10 in advance. The
14 event features a bond fire, mural painting
15 and apple bobbing, food and beverages.
16 Food, fun and spirits. And that's it.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. A fundraiser
19 to benefit Dennis Owens, Jr., will be held
20 this Saturday, October 22, from 6 to 10 p.m.
21 at the Greenwood Hose Company, 3727 Birney
22 Avenue, Moosic, Pennsylvania. Mr. Owens, a
23 firefighter for Taylor Fire and Rescue, is a
24 38-year-old father of two young children who
25 was recently diagnosed with a very serious

1 medical condition. Tickets are \$15 and can
2 be purchased at the door or by contacting
3 the Taylor Fire and Rescue. There will be
4 food, beverages and entertainment as well as
5 a 50/50, wheel barrow of cheer and basket
6 raffles. Please help Dennis Owens, Jr., and
7 support this very worthy event.

8 The Boys and Girls Club of
9 Northeastern, Pennsylvania, will participate
10 in a "Lights on After School" nationwide
11 celebration of after school programs this
12 Thursday, October 20, at 5 p.m. at the Boys
13 and Girls Club, 609 Ash Street in Scranton.
14 Parents, media, employers, and neighbors,
15 school officials and others are invited to
16 rally support for safe, stimulating after
17 school programs, and that's it.

18 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER.

19 CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.

20 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
21 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
23 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: When one picks up

1 our local newspaper we have a real dire
2 situation in Scranton, but they blame a
3 council that's been sitting up there I think
4 less than two years, but there was eight
5 years of council before this council so and
6 most of the debt was incurred during those
7 eight years. We sold our golf course which
8 was generating -- you are looking for
9 generating money, that did generate money,
10 but somebody wanted it so it was sold.

11 We sold the South Side Complex. Why
12 we sold it, somebody wanted it. So if you
13 are in the right position you get what you
14 want, but regardless of all of that,
15 regardless, we have almost ten years since
16 this mayor took office. We went through a
17 lot of different councils, but that man has
18 been there for almost ten years. He has
19 been at the helm of this ship. I wish he
20 had used glasses and see which direction the
21 city was going.

22 Whatever his motives were, whatever
23 it was to generate a lot of places and a lot
24 of people who love him and who would offer
25 him something in his political career. I

1 believe that was the motive. No one else
2 would do what he did. It makes no sense to
3 do it because we couldn't afford it.

4 Everywhere you look there is trouble
5 from all his appointees in his different
6 authorities. There are major problems in
7 the authorities and I blame him. There is
8 only one man to blame, the captain of the
9 ship. Don't look for anyone else to blame.
10 He is to blame. He appointed a lot of
11 people to the authorities especially, and if
12 he had -- had he worked with all of the
13 councils passing a lot of legislation that
14 really made no sense, a lot of borrowing,
15 letters of credit, he gave them out as if
16 they were candy bars and now we have to pay
17 and the citizens can't pay.

18 Harrisburg, as you know, tried to go
19 bankrupt. Whether they go or not I don't
20 know. I don't like the direction, but they
21 explained in Harrisburg what would happen if
22 you went bankrupt. They would come in with
23 their appointee, this, that and whatever. I
24 don't believe you are ever going to get out
25 of your liability by declaring bankruptcy

1 because you got a lot of people that you
2 hurt. A lot of institution holds them bonds
3 and so forth and so forth on, so I doubt if
4 bankruptcy is really a solution.

5 Oppression is not a solution either
6 because taxes are oppressive. Somewhere you
7 have to strike a boundary between being
8 oppressive and being needed. All the
9 spending in this city now should be in dire
10 need spending. We shouldn't have any luxury
11 items at all to even consider because really
12 if what they are saying is true we don't
13 have the money.

14 When you don't pay your bills you
15 hurt a lot of people, not only that if you
16 pay a provider he pays his workers, how are
17 they going to get paid if they are not
18 getting paid and money, as you know,
19 generates money. Like they say in Russian a
20 ruble must roll, and the same with Scranton.
21 Dollars got to flow from what pocket to
22 another pocket or the whole economy
23 collapses.

24 It's just sad that we sit before you
25 now, but we came a long time ago and warned

1 you. Not so much your group, because you
2 weren't there, but the previous councils.
3 We have been coming harping and harping and
4 harping and now it's come to fruition. Now
5 it's there. We got to come and bite the
6 bullet one way or the other.

7 I don't believe a solution is laying
8 off massive layoffs in city government, some
9 people may, I don't. Some assets, like I
10 told you, if you were looking for an asset
11 to try to sell it would be the lights. That
12 one you probably could sell back to the
13 electric company, but when you start getting
14 into these authorities, you know, you found
15 that out with the library. You can't even
16 dissolve one, never mind trying to sell one.
17 It just won't happen.

18 So I know you are have to enhance --
19 it's just a shame that you have to enhance
20 revenue because that man was so lavish and
21 cared nothing, little or nothing about what
22 he was doing. He didn't have to do what he
23 did and in the order he did it. No one said
24 we didn't need improvements, but we needed
25 improvements in a very controlled manner.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 (Mr. Joyce took the dais and joined
5 the meeting during Mr. Sbaraglia speaking.)

6 MS. EVANS: Bill Jackowitz.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
8 Council.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
11 South Scranton resident and member of the
12 Taxpayers' Association. Last week I learned
13 that the reason for the 26 percent tax
14 increase was to keep firefighters and police
15 officers and fire stations open and to
16 ensure that all services that the city
17 government is required to provide the
18 citizens would not be interrupted and the
19 city employees would be paid.

20 I also learned that Mr. McGoff could
21 not vote to layoff any police officers or
22 close fire stations until 28 December 2011.
23 That was Mr. McGoff's first opportunity to
24 vote for the layoffs and closures.

25 Also, last week I learned that

1 Mr. McGoff's solutions in solving the
2 current financial problems were to support
3 Mr. Miller when Mr. Miller was Junior City
4 Council president and running for a seat on
5 Scranton City Council.

6 What transpired at last week's
7 meeting was nothing more than hogwash and
8 total nonsense with no regard for questions
9 that were asked by citizens to an elected
10 official. The best part was when Mr. McGoff
11 received either a text message or a phone
12 call after I spoke last week. I could be
13 wrong, but the Rules state that all cell
14 phones must be turned off during the
15 meeting.

16 So again I must ask, what benefit
17 Scranton taxpayers received by increasing
18 taxes 26 percent? Furthermore, services
19 have been cut including closure of the
20 swimming pools, fewer streets being paved,
21 layoffs of public safety workers, bills not
22 being paid on time, no purchases of badly
23 needed fire apparatus and police vehicles,
24 no new hiring of neighborhood police
25 officers, snow plowing of city streets, and

1 the price increases at Nay Aug swimming
2 complex.

3 Most importantly, the City of
4 Scranton has remained distressed and now the
5 Honorable Mayor Doherty wants to sell the
6 parking meters to the Parking Authority and
7 borrow more money to pay the bills. Would
8 the sale of the meters including the meters
9 that surround the Chamberlain plant? My
10 understanding is that those meters generate
11 the most revenue. So far today they have
12 generated \$1.

13 City default not on table. The
14 Honorable Mayor Doherty said bankruptcy
15 could cause potential damage to the city's
16 image and ability to borrow and suggest lost
17 control through a judge. What type of image
18 does a city project when it must borrow its
19 way out of debt, layoff public service
20 employees, and state the solutions is do not
21 pay your bills. Maybe a judge would have
22 more control, common sense and leadership
23 than our current Honorable Mayor Doherty.

24 The Honorable Mayor Doherty
25 suggested why not take them to Court?

1 Sounds like he like it when the judge makes
2 the decision for the City of Scranton. How
3 many times has the city been to Court?

4 I am appalled that elected officials
5 refuse to answer the questions that are
6 asked by the city residents, taxpayers and
7 voters and veterans. I must remind all
8 elected officials that you work for the
9 citizens. You are paid with taxpayers'
10 dollars, public money. If you are prepared
11 to answer a question then just state that
12 you are not prepared. Getting angry and
13 arguing only makes the situation worse.

14 A good leader leads by example and
15 sets that example for others to follow. A
16 weak leader resorts to arguments or just
17 evades the question totally. Those tactics
18 have been demonstrated for four years by
19 past and present city council members and
20 resurfaced at last week's meeting. We live
21 in the land of the free only because of the
22 brave, not the excuse makers or
23 storytellers.

24 We had four years of Gatelli,
25 Fanucci and McGoff, a city council which, by

1 the way, solved nothing and created a
2 financial mess for the taxpayers. We have
3 heard for months about cooperation. A team
4 player does not badmouth their teammates. A
5 prima dona, on the other hand, would do
6 including badmouthing colleagues.

7 Remember, a war fighter, police
8 officer or firefighter would never abandon
9 their partner. On the other hand, a
10 councilman would.

11 Remember, Scranton has been
12 distressed for 20 years with no end in site.
13 The voters of Scranton have spoken, voted
14 for a strong mayor form of the government, a
15 Recovery Plan that has expired, the
16 Honorable Mayor Doherty three times, and
17 numerous Doherty rubber stampers. How come
18 the city remains distressed, public safety
19 downgraded, Scranton assets being sold,
20 elected officials refusing to answer
21 questions and more importantly refuse to
22 meet with each other, badmouth each other in
23 the newspaper, threaten to raise taxes
24 again, and provide few answers to the
25 residence? Not my idea of cooperation.

1 Scranton elections mean nothing.
2 Most are won with intimidation, corruption,
3 most voters vote for a friend or a friend of
4 a friend or a relative. Very few take time
5 to research the background and voting
6 records of the incumbent. If they would, we
7 would have a better government.

8 Again, we talk about cooperation,
9 but we don't see cooperation. We talk about
10 solutions, but we really don't see anything
11 happening. You know, the solutions should
12 have been proposed ten years ago, eight
13 years ago, seven years, six years. They
14 were proposed. They were told right here
15 from this podium by speakers, but we are
16 ignored by the rubber stampers, the Doherty
17 Three. We are laughed at, we were called
18 names, we are arrested, we were searched, we
19 were seized, we were everything, but the
20 most important thing is we were right on the
21 majority of the solutions and ideas that
22 were proposed right here to Scranton City
23 Council and to the Honorable Mayor Doherty
24 and look at where we are now in 2011 and
25 2012 will be worse.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

2 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, council.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MR. ELLMAN: I parked downstairs
6 before Mr. Doherty was standing in front of
7 my car and I invited him up, but he
8 respectfully declined. He didn't say some
9 other time either.

10 Last week Jean Harris from the
11 University, I guess she is a spokesperson
12 among others things, discussed bankruptcy of
13 Harrisburg and how it would be a blemish to
14 this city if we did the same thing. What
15 she seems to completely avoid is that her
16 employer is probably the biggest sole reason
17 this city is in such overwhelming debt. You
18 see, nobody wants to acknowledge facts like
19 that, you know. Every one of these people
20 just don't seem to know that the city is
21 broke. I don't know.

22 Mr. Doherty wants to tear down a
23 building and the school and build a park,
24 does everybody got these hair brained ideas?
25 Of course, a lot of them don't live in town

1 so they don't care.

2 Mr. Angeli from the Lackawanna
3 College he wrote a very nice letter, thank
4 you letter to Keystone College, but he shows
5 his outright disdain for the taxpayers of
6 this city when you went last year and asked
7 for some kind of contribution. You know, he
8 was quick to grab that \$10,000 a year
9 taxpayer building on Wyoming though, you
10 know. I just don't understand anybody's
11 attitude about no one wants to help this
12 city. They're businesses. The University
13 of Scranton is probably one of the biggest
14 businesses in town, you know, you'll never
15 get any money from 'em.

16 Last week. I think it was the week
17 before in the paper, I was reading the
18 Wilkes-Barre paper, I try to buy it when I
19 see it downtown instead of reading ours,
20 Wilkes College is having River Street closed
21 from four lanes to two lanes because the
22 dimwits at the school don't have enough
23 sense to cross streets safely. That's what
24 I have been harping about is going to happen
25 right here on this street. I don't know,

1 last week the article in the paper said that
2 the wide sidewalks are beneficial to us.
3 People only go -- most people go down there
4 in a car or an ambulance. There is nobody,
5 you know, the people, the taxpayers, don't
6 walk down that sidewalk. Yo.

7 U know who is paying for all of the
8 work in Wilkes-Barre, over \$2 million? It's
9 not the college, the taxpayers are going to
10 pay for the college to have wider sidewalks.
11 It just doesn't make sense that these
12 schools have so much power and are
13 contributing nothing to the city. Of
14 course, Wilkes-Barre, from what I gather
15 reading in the paper, got about as poor a
16 mayor as ours. Both of them ought to be
17 arrested for impersonating mayors.

18 When I talk to somebody now and
19 then, I get up in the morning at 5, 5:30 and
20 go have coffee sometimes, one of my friends
21 said that if the council could just talk to
22 business people in town, like, let's just
23 say Mr. DeNaples and Mr. Bolus, even Al
24 Boscov, Mr. Jefferson, talk to some of these
25 successful businessmen and see if they have

1 any idea how to resolve some of these
2 problems this city has.

3 One thing I heard, a famous Yankee
4 said, "Neither a lender or a borrower be."
5 And another thing I have been hearing all
6 week is don't sell the parking meters.
7 That's just a hair brained idea to start the
8 year \$2 million in debt. You know, when I
9 get up here I'm just relating things that
10 people tell me during the week. I talk to
11 eight, ten, 12 people, and it just seems to
12 go in one ear and out the other. I don't
13 know how many people phone you guys and say
14 things to you, probably a good number.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you,
16 Mr. Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: I got one thing to say.
18 I was getting ready to go. Sunday I ran up
19 to get some strawberry milk at the Giant and
20 there's a lady waiting outside for, I guess,
21 her husband or somebody to come in the car
22 with her groceries, she said, "You are the
23 one that goes into city council, aren't
24 you?"

25 And I said, "One of them."

1 And she said, "I really didn't
2 appreciate you bad mouthing the Scranton
3 Counseling last month," because, you know,
4 she went on how much they helped here and
5 everything. She said -- I had my hat on.
6 She said, "You get a haircut?"

7 I said, "Oh, you are talking about
8 the boy with the long hair," I said, "That's
9 Dave." I said, "That wasn't me." I said,
10 "And he shops here often. You are bound to
11 run into him some day, so if get an earful
12 one of these days you know why."

13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: And our next speaker is
15 Doug Miller. And I think, Mr. Ellman, I can
16 trace back farther than the Yankees the
17 quote "Neither a lender nor or a borrower
18 be," it goes all the way back to William
19 Shakespeare Hamlet and Polonius gives that
20 advice to his son Laertes who is returning
21 to college. Go ahead.

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

24 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

25 MR. MILLER: I'd like to once again

1 continue of the ongoing discussion we have
2 been having her on the 2011 financial
3 issues. As you know, last week I did take
4 issue with the mayor and the business
5 administrator traveling to Wilkes-Barre to a
6 donut shop to meet with Mr. Rogan to discuss
7 our finances. And, you know, I'm going to
8 again reiterate my feelings that, you know,
9 the days of closed door meetings and smoke
10 and mirrors is behind us and that we put an
11 end to that when we elected the majority of
12 the council here.

13 Our council majority extended an
14 invitation to the mayor to come forward and
15 to layout his proposal publically and,
16 unfortunately, to this day he has continued
17 to refuse to come forward and he needs to
18 realize that we conduct business here in
19 this room, as I stated, and not in donut
20 shops. You know, unfortunately, as I said,
21 he has continued to fail to live up to his
22 word and be the sixth councilman and extend
23 his hand out to you as you have done so to
24 him on several different occasions now, just
25 not with this one.

1 But I think what I really found
2 appalling tonight is when I found out the
3 mayor was downstairs just a moment ago
4 wrapping up an interview with Channel 16 and
5 yet he couldn't walk up a flight of stairs
6 or take an elevator to come to the meeting
7 tonight. You know, I guess, you know, he
8 didn't smell the coffee or donuts and that
9 chased him away.

10 But his consistent lack of
11 cooperation and his refusal to come forward
12 only prolongs his financial nightmare and it
13 continues to put you in a tough spot because
14 now what it does is it throws it in your lap
15 and now you are responsible for cleaning up
16 this man's mess that he is ultimately
17 responsible for because of the ten year's
18 worth of his fiscal mismanagement. Not you,
19 him.

20 And you know, last week we found out
21 that now one of his brilliant ideas is we
22 are going to stop paying bills, \$7 million
23 worth of bills. Well, I'd like to ask the
24 mayor how long would that last in the big
25 boy world? Not very long.

1 And now it's my understanding here
2 that Mr. McGoff and Mr. Rogan would like
3 Mrs. Evans to place the mayor's proposal on
4 the agenda, a proposal that calls for more
5 borrowing and more selling of city assets.
6 And, again, I would ask you to stay the
7 course in your refusal to place that on the
8 agenda. The issue with this is quite
9 simple, that this mayor has had a reputation
10 of altering any legal and lawfully adopted
11 legislation voted in by council. He has
12 shown whether it was the towing ordinance or
13 just more recently with the CDBG
14 legislation. This is a man who tears out
15 pages, crosses out his signature after he
16 already signed it. So why should we
17 entertain legislation when, number one, he
18 has yet to come forward in a public setting
19 and layout his proposal like a big boy; and
20 number two, this man does what he wants
21 anyway.

22 So no matter what this council tries
23 to do, any amendments you make to try to
24 better the plan and try to solve the problem
25 he is going to go ahead and ignore it as he

1 always does and go and do what he wants to
2 because that's what he does. And I would
3 urge council to continue to hold the mayor
4 accountable as you have, continue to not
5 place this on the agenda until he comes
6 forward, and I know that you are not going
7 to rubber stamp this through because, as I
8 said, those days are over. Past councils
9 would who had and the agenda weeks ago and
10 it would have been voted through. We would
11 have this additional borrowing and would
12 have went and sold off more assets.

13 We are over \$313 million in debt and
14 you are going to tell me that we are going
15 to go on and take on more borrowing, we are
16 going to go and sell city parking meters
17 that generate \$2 million in revenue? We
18 would have generated a heck of a lot more if
19 he had implemented that StreetSmart program,
20 but unfortunately that was sabotaged along
21 with your budget and now we are in the
22 predicament that we are in here.

23 But tonight I would like to make a
24 respectful request of Mr. McGoff, since you
25 do have a close relationship with the mayor,

1 I would just tonight respectfully ask that
2 you invite the mayor to come forward to
3 propose his plan here in a public setting so
4 that we can begin the working relationship
5 that we have all been talking about here and
6 move towards solving our financial problems.

7 But I'd like to quickly go back to
8 last week, not to bring up sour subjects
9 here, but last week I did respectfully ask
10 Mr. McGoff a question regarding his
11 solutions to solving the city's financial
12 problems and I asked this question quite
13 simply because in recent weeks Mr. McGoff
14 has taken it upon himself to criticize the
15 council majority through the newspaper
16 citing vague solutions, lack of transparency
17 a wide range of other statements, and I felt
18 that if you were going to continue to do
19 this and hide behind the newspaper rather
20 than coming forward I felt that it was time,
21 Mr. McGoff, that you publically, since you
22 want to criticize everyone else layout your
23 proposal. And, unfortunately, your refusal
24 to answer the questions spoke for itself.

25 But your consistent criticism of the

1 council through the newspaper is, quite
2 frankly, a cowardly move and the only thing
3 we got out of it last week was your
4 infamous, "We need to work with the mayor,"
5 or "I'm open to anything."

6 But, unfortunately, that still
7 doesn't answer the question, but I'll learn
8 to live with that we are never going to get
9 a real answer out of you because that's what
10 we've gotten for five years. So, you know,
11 when you want to talk about criticizing
12 council through the newspaper, I'd ask you
13 in the future if you have anything to say
14 about your colleagues do it here publically.
15 That's what this room is. It's open for
16 debate and if you want to criticize the news
17 paper you are going to do what you have to
18 do, but I feel that shows a lack of
19 professionalism and if you having something
20 to say, say it to their face here. Stop
21 using the newspaper to get your message
22 through and, as I said, ultimately it's a
23 lack of professionalism.

24 And one last thought, you know, you
25 talked about ultimately council has the last

1 word, and you were quite correct on that,
2 Mr. McGoff, but I think what you forget is
3 we, the voters, ultimately have the last
4 word and in determining whether or not you
5 will even sit in this seat and just like to
6 ask you to remember that, and that's all for
7 tonight. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Sherry Honan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Miller, I would like
10 to clarify my position on putting the
11 mayor's plan on the agenda, I did say that I
12 wanted to put it on the agenda so we could
13 vote it down.

14 MS. HONAN: Good evening.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MS. HONAN: I'm here, this is my
17 first time being here. I'm here because I
18 have been hearing all about this and we all
19 hear about this. About the fire department
20 stuff, I used to be in the fire department a
21 long time ago, and I know that it's just --
22 you don't lay off a lot of firefighters
23 because of it, because that's a job. The
24 first thing I saw today was the newspaper
25 and it was in the front page and there was

1 another one in the second page and it's,
2 like, you shouldn't lay off firefighters or
3 officers or anything like that.

4 And the other thing is I have with
5 -- it's my neighbors where I live, and she
6 has been causing problems and she has a
7 camera on her porch and she likes to yell
8 and scream every single day. Her name is
9 Melissa Weinberg.

10 MS. EVANS: Well, let's keep the
11 names out this discussion, please.

12 MS. HONAN: Well, anyway, she has
13 been causing problems in our neighborhood
14 every single day, and I would like, you
15 know, to see if you guys would, you know, do
16 something about that with her because.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Give Ms. Carrera that
18 information.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes, and actually
20 provide her the information and just a short
21 description of what exactly the problems are
22 that your neighbor may be causing and we
23 could forward that to the appropriate
24 officials.

25 MS. HONAN: Well, she is yelling and

1 screaming and hollering in the neighborhood.

2 MS. EVANS: Well, if we can just,
3 you know, you would be able to speak to Ms.
4 Carrera and put will of this in writing and
5 then if council is able to do anything, but
6 I think in the meantime the best suggestion
7 we could probably provide to you would be to
8 call the police department and if there are
9 any issues involving the property itself,
10 meaning, you know, if there were tremendous
11 amounts of garbage or living room furniture
12 is placed on the front porch, those types of
13 issues are handled by the Licensing,
14 Inspections and Permits Department of the
15 city and in those events inspectors can go
16 out to the home and actually review the
17 situation and discuss, you know, making
18 immediate improvements with the property
19 owners.

20 MR. JOYCE: So if you could like to
21 leave your phone number and e-mail address.

22 MS. HONAN: I don't have a computer,
23 so I can just give you the phone number.

24 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

25 MS. HONAN: But, you know, like I

1 said about the fire department, they
2 shouldn't lay off the firefighters or the
3 officers, you know, because when I lived in
4 Corey, Pennsylvania, because I was a
5 volunteer in Columbus and they were on it
6 every single day and they didn't have no
7 layoffs when they were in the fire
8 department and going to calls every single
9 day. So that's all I have to say. Thank
10 you.

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

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
15 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton,
16 taxpayer.

17 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

18 MR. DOBRZYN: And general pain in
19 the neck. Once again, I seen a few
20 editorials that I found objectionable now.
21 I'm sure that a reporter's job is to just
22 write down what he thinks or what he hears
23 and hand it over to the editor, so and then
24 the editor makes up the story, so I would
25 appeal to the Scranton Times, please, let's

1 see a couple of cartoons about the deficit
2 in the audit that still isn't here how many
3 months late, four or five months late
4 already?

5 MR. JOYCE: Approximately four and a
6 half right now.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, so how can you
8 people do anything without facts? It's a
9 plain and simple equation. And one food for
10 thought with any type of change in the Home
11 Rule Charter, two terms for executives. Two
12 terms. In America in most of our executive
13 and governships it's two terms and that's
14 it. We have one guy from Texas is on his
15 third term, but why I don't know, he can't
16 even put a sentence together now.

17 Now, in Russia I just read an
18 article on Russian politics and a prior
19 president is running again at the end of
20 this term, he already served two terms and
21 how did he get in? (Unintelligible.)

22 So that's all I really have to say
23 except I'd like to bring up a subject of
24 Steamtown, and it could be a couple of weeks
25 from now, but if you people could come up

1 with an endorsement letter and possibly a
2 request that somebody from the area could
3 produce a photo ID and visit the museum once
4 a year or something like that in return, but
5 we need to get to senators and Congressmen,
6 the place is left languishing, it's got the
7 same appropriations since 1992, and it's
8 just not working anymore. There is going to
9 be problems down there and, you know,
10 instead of a nice museum we are going to
11 have what looks like a junk yard.

12 And then finally the golden parrot
13 goes to the senate and congress for -- and
14 Barack Obama for signing the Korean trade
15 agreement. They plan to use \$400,000
16 laborers from North Korea and they pay the
17 government the wages. Now, if they need
18 laborers from North Korea, they must have a
19 zero unemployment situation, so for that the
20 whole pack of them gets a bawk, bawk, bawk,
21 bawk, bawk. I'm tired of hearing about
22 trade packs, please. And anything you can
23 do on that in regard to start shoveling back
24 up the line because they are the reason that
25 this country is in the problem it is.

1 And I'm going to recite something in
2 German for our President Cane -- or
3 presidential candidate Cane on his 999 plan,
4 it's in German though. Nine. Nine. Nine.
5 Have a good night.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
7 anyone else?

8 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MS. FRANUS: Mr. Rogan, do you know
11 when the final vote is going to be on the
12 CDBG program for 2012?

13 MR. ROGAN: The final vote or the
14 amendments?

15 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

16 MR. ROGAN: When the final vote will
17 be or the amendments?

18 MS. FRANUS: No, when will the final
19 vote be for the CDBG 2012.

20 MR. ROGAN: Well, tonight I am going
21 to present the amendments that everybody
22 gave to me and I put them together, and
23 whenever council president would like to put
24 it on the agenda. It had to be 30 days from
25 the public hearing, so any time after that.

1 MS. EVANS: I think according to the
2 timeline Ms. Aebli gave us, we are due to
3 take a final vote next week.

4 MR. ROGAN: I think so.

5 MR. JOYCE: It is because I was
6 looking at it earlier today.

7 MS. FRANUS: I didn't -- did you say
8 next week the final vote would be?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. FRANUS: What would happen,
12 Mr. Rogan, if there is any -- you are going
13 to make recommendations tonight you said?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. FRANUS: What happens if you
16 have any last minute changes, how would the
17 people know?

18 MR. ROGAN: The people would still
19 contact us, they could contact any one of
20 us. What I will present tonight isn't
21 anything firm.

22 MS. FRANUS: So, in other words,
23 people have to call you to ask you if there
24 is any last minute changes, there is no way
25 you are going to make any way for the people

1 to know other than for them to call you?

2 MR. ROGAN: Well, I am going to
3 present tonight what we put together.

4 MS. FRANUS: But I'm talking about
5 the last minute -- if there is any last
6 minute changes because the people won't know
7 before the final vote.

8 MR. ROGAN: Well, I'm hoping there
9 won't be any last minute changes. I did
10 take suggestions from all of my colleagues
11 and I put them together the best I could, so
12 there were a lot of things that we all
13 agreed on and there were some things of
14 didn't, so I tried do my best. And, as Mrs.
15 Evans just said, anything else I will
16 announce next week before the vote.

17 MS. FRANUS: So would anybody have a
18 chance -- if there is any last minute
19 changes could you possibly mention them
20 before the vote --

21 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

22 MS. FRANUS: -- so people can --
23 like, before the people get a chance it
24 speak.

25 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

1 MS. FRANUS: So they will have a
2 chance to speak on the last minute changes.

3 MR. ROGAN: Um-hum.

4 MS. FRANUS: Last week I had an
5 opportunity to speak with Dr. Ramsey, he is
6 a veterinarian. He is not my vet, but he is
7 one heck of a guy. I have a lot of respect
8 for him and I mentioned to him about the
9 giving his time for free neutering for the
10 people with pets, and he mentioned to me
11 that two years ago when he had his own
12 practice he offered the Griffen Pond Animal
13 Shelter one month of free neutering. They
14 called him and told him they were too busy
15 to bring their dogs there. I'm just rather
16 shocked at that and I'm thinking here's a
17 man, here's a veterinarian that loves
18 animals and offered and month of free time
19 if they would just bring the animals in and
20 they told him they were too busy, and right
21 now he can't offer that because he is not in
22 his own practice as he was back then.

23 He also stated to me that anyone
24 that gets a pet from the SPCA, their first
25 visit would be free, and if they have any

1 problems with their animal their first visit
2 he would give them 20 percent discount,
3 which I think is quite admirable, and I
4 think people should serious take him up on
5 this, because it's quite an expense and I
6 think he is being very generous here, and
7 that's all. Thank you very much.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
9 anyone else who would like to address
10 council?

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Hey, Chrissy.

13 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Frankie.

14 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: You are working for
16 Colts now, huh?

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI; yeah. That's right.
18 All right, Jack, I got a problem, Jack, I
19 got a problem with you tonight, Buddy. Down
20 by where I live, Jack, where I live, they
21 would not leave down there. Those people
22 you know of, we'll just check it out for me
23 tomorrow morning?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll check it out.

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Thanks, Jack.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chrissy.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

5 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
6 you have comments or motions this evening?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, please. What I
8 would like to do is make some comments or at
9 least present some information dealing with
10 the rental registration program. In your --
11 you should have received in the mail
12 boxes --

13 MS. EVANS: I did.

14 MR. MCGOFF: -- copies of an amended
15 the ordinance for rental registration.
16 Basically what is contained in that program,
17 the changes that are contained, I'd just to
18 briefly outline, in terms of revenue what is
19 suggested is that the basic cost for
20 certificates -- that the basic cost for the
21 rental registration would be changed. There
22 would be, number one, a site cost of \$50 per
23 site. That would be for every rental site
24 throughout the city. There would a flat fee
25 of \$50 per site and then an additional unit,

1 \$15 per unit cost, so that a person, you
2 know, that owned let's say five properties
3 would be paying \$50 for each of those
4 properties, which would \$250, and then say
5 there were four units in each property then
6 there would be an additional \$60. It used
7 to be a flat unit cost and not on per site.
8 We thought this was a reasonable thing to do
9 and it would help increase, you know,
10 revenue through the program.

11 Also, and I asked Mr. Seitzinger for
12 an estimate on what you thought the number
13 of rental properties were in the city, and I
14 think, Mr. Loscombe, I think he said there
15 was something like 2,800 they estimated.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Conservatively I went
18 with 2,500 rental properties and with, let's
19 say, four units per rental property and so
20 we are looking at perhaps something like
21 close to \$300,000 just from the site costs
22 and the unit costs potential if we were to
23 implement this.

24 Also, included in this is the
25 stipulation that no rental unit or no rental

1 property would be given the certificate
2 unless there was proof of payment of all
3 delinquent taxes, that's property, garbage
4 and sewer taxes, so that also would be a way
5 to encourage the payment of those as well
6 which may result in, you know, an increase
7 in revenue in those areas.

8 And again, I think Mr. Loscombe may
9 have brought was a coordination with the
10 Single Tax Office as well for the payment of
11 mercantile tax by each landlord, which I
12 believe is negligent on the part of many of
13 the landlords throughout the city. So
14 again, you know, some of the ancillary items
15 may be increased in that as well.

16 Also, the secondary part of this was
17 to exercise some control over rental
18 properties and landlords in the city and one
19 of the things that was suggested was an
20 inspection fee for all new registrants, so
21 anybody who has not been registered through
22 the rental registration program would have
23 to be pay a \$150 new -- was it a general
24 inspection fee? I believe there again
25 Mr. Loscombe suggested this as we were --

1 when we met which I think, again, would be
2 not only an increase in revenue, but also
3 allow for city inspectors to make sure that
4 each of these rental properties is, in fact,
5 up to code and habitable and safe.

6 Also, the violations increased,
7 penalties for violations of the ordinance.
8 We suggested and put a little bit more teeth
9 into some of the wording where in many cases
10 it used to say the city may or the
11 inspectors may, it was changed to say
12 "shall" so that closure of properties that
13 don't meet the standards would be more --
14 that we would be able to do more easily, not
15 that we want to close down places, but those
16 places that are not meeting the standards
17 would be subject to those restrictions, and
18 also it includes insurance requirements to
19 receive a certificate, that all insurances--
20 there is a clause in this for adequate
21 insurance for the properties.

22 So the changes, I think, are
23 substantial enough that if this were to be
24 implemented and implemented properly it
25 would accomplish the two goals that we had

1 set out, set for this, and that is to
2 increase revenue from the rental
3 registration, and also to do something to
4 exercise some control over the rental
5 properties throughout the city.

6 The other things that we discussed
7 were the implementation of the program,
8 which I know we are not happy with, over the
9 past year. It is still my belief that if we
10 wished to do this or we wished to see this
11 implemented properly we need to have some
12 incentive for the person running the program
13 and originally my idea was, and we did
14 change it, but my idea was for a coordinator
15 to be hired on a commission basis, and I
16 think through that it would -- it would
17 encourage someone to run the program and to
18 go out and to make sure that this program
19 was run properly and that it did increase
20 the revenues because in that way if the
21 person running -- the coordinator of the
22 program would benefit from the hard work
23 that they put in and so as we go through
24 this my suggestion would be that we revisit
25 the rental registration coordinator part of

1 this as well to see what we can do to make
2 it a more workable program, which I think we
3 all want.

4 And then I guess the last thing that
5 we talked about was whether, and I think I
6 mentioned it last week, was whether we
7 wanted to do this as an entirely new piece
8 of legislation, a new ordinance, or as an
9 amended ordinance. It was the feeling of
10 Attorney Kelly I know and myself, that
11 perhaps the best avenue would be to rescind
12 -- I have the -- repeal 105 of 2007,
13 Ordinance 105 of 2007, and to do this as an
14 entirely new ordinance. That way there
15 would be no conflict between what, you know,
16 somebody would say, "Well, the old ordinance
17 said this, and you know, the new one says
18 this, which one are we following?"

19 This would be -- there would be no
20 controversy, no conflict, it would be an
21 entirely a new ordinance and hopefully
22 would, you know, work better in terms of
23 getting rid of some conflict.

24 The realization is that this would
25 probably be taking a great deal of time to

1 organize and to -- the first six months of
2 putting this together would probably require
3 a great deal of work on the part of, you
4 know, who is ever running this program, but
5 I think the benefits from it would be
6 tremendous and hopefully we can take a look
7 at this and other members of the council can
8 take a look at what was done and if there
9 are any changes that we would like Attorney
10 Kelly is waiting for us to kind of go over
11 it so that any changes we would have he
12 would put into it so that when it came to
13 council it would be with the agreement of
14 everyone so that there would be no need to
15 change or amend or whatever and that we
16 could, you know, get this implemented. I
17 think it's it needs to be done as son as
18 possible so, that one January of 2012 is
19 upon us, then we are ready to move forward
20 with this program and fully implement it.

21 And, Mr. Loscombe, was there
22 anything that you would wish to add to that?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: If it's okay I'll
24 just wait until it's my turn so I don't goof
25 you up.

1 MR. MCGOFF: No, I was finished.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Because I was going
3 to add a few -- I was going to just cover
4 exactly what you said and thank you for
5 inviting me and just give a little bit of a
6 description what we are doing there.

7 MR. JOYCE: If I could just chime in
8 for a second.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Sure.

10 MR. JOYCE: I couldn't attend the
11 meeting, but there were two council members
12 there anyhow, so if I were to attend the
13 meeting would be considered a public
14 meeting, but a few questions I had and,
15 Mr. McGoff, perhaps you might know these off
16 the top of your head. When you said that
17 there is a slight cost of \$50 per site and
18 cost per unit cost, so that would mean that
19 say if someone owns a duplex they would be
20 charged \$50 plus 15 for the two units?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: 50 bucks to start --

22 MR. MCGOFF: Right. It is a defined
23 in here what would be -- who would come
24 under this program. There are some
25 exemptions, if I could find them.

1 MR. JOYCE: And that's the second
2 thing --

3 MR. MCGOFF: One of them is rental
4 units in a premises in which the owner
5 maintains a bona fide domicile and in which
6 there are no more than four rental units not
7 subject to registration. That was been in
8 the ordinance and, you know, has been what
9 is the general practice.

10 There are also exemptions to the
11 ordinance that are in here, rental units
12 defined under the public authorities under
13 the Municipal Authorities Act, elderly
14 multi-dwelling units, but it goes through
15 some --

16 MR. JOYCE: I was assume because I
17 was going to bring up the issues with
18 Scranton Housing Authority and I'm assuming
19 that they are not going to be subject a \$15
20 fee per rental unit.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Right.

22 MR. JOYCE: That's all I have.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

24 MR. EVANS: I think that, you know,
25 this issue is most beneficial as you

1 delineated earlier in terms of addressing
2 blight aggressively in the city and
3 generating increased revenue for a city at a
4 time when it's much needed, but my concern
5 is this, and I am very hopeful about it,
6 will the mayor include this program as
7 council revises it his proposed budget?

8 MR. MCGOFF: It was stated by
9 Attorney Kelly that the mayor is onboard
10 with this, that he would, you know -- that
11 it's acceptable and my assumption is that,
12 yes, that they would be included and
13 implemented as it would be passed by
14 council.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Could I add one -- I
17 guess I'm skipping over one other thing that
18 we had talked about yesterday, that the idea
19 for this program was that it be become a
20 self-sustaining program, that set up a
21 separate account for rental registration,
22 that can be monitored through LIPS, through
23 council, you know, through whatever and that
24 all expenses from -- incurred by the program
25 be paid from the proceeds of the program so

1 that, you know, we are not kind of adding to
2 the financial burden of the city, what we
3 are really to doing is creating the program
4 that will sustain itself and create income
5 that would be beneficial.

6 Also, we talked about the idea that
7 if, in fact, we did put in a rental
8 coordinator or some type of, you know,
9 whether it be salaried or a commission that
10 that, too, be taken from the proceeds of the
11 program. So again, we are not necessarily
12 adding a position to the budget, to the city
13 budget, but, you know, that it would be paid
14 out of the rental registration program. And
15 hopefully that it would become, you know,
16 through the course of time that after the
17 first year that it would become an easier
18 program to maintain and sustain and continue
19 to produce, you know, income for the city.

20 MS. EVANS: But it would still
21 require inclusion in the operating budget in
22 that hopefully it will generate revenue.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Right. Yes.

24 MR. JOYCE: I think the main issue
25 at this point is getting the program started

1 not the idea of the program itself. I think
2 the idea of the program is a good idea.

3 MS. EVANS: A longstanding one.

4 MR. JOYCE: And a longstanding idea.
5 I think it's the implementation phase that
6 proposes the most challenge at this point.

7 MR. MCGOFF: And that is all I have.

8 MR. JOYCE: But it sounds like we
9 are on the right track.

10 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
11 have any comments or motions this evening?

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I guess I'll start
13 with a few comments on the idea of the
14 rental registration as well. I would say I
15 definitely agree with the idea of having
16 rental registration in the city, mainly to
17 combat blight. You know, Mr. McGoff
18 mentioned how it will become a
19 self-sustaining program, which I think would
20 be great. If you are bringing in "X" amount
21 of dollars using that to pay for housing
22 inspectors that were going out and
23 inspecting the rental units and making our
24 neighborhoods a little bit nicer.

25 I also agree with Mr. McGoff that it

1 should be -- the old version should be
2 repealed and it should be replaced with the
3 new ordinance.

4 The only place where I am little
5 concerned is if we are going to do it on a
6 commission basis there has to be a cap. You
7 know, I don't want to see somebody making a
8 quarter of a million dollars a year on the
9 backs of the taxpayer.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: I was going to put my
11 application in.

12 MR. ROGAN: I think we need to
13 either have a reasonable cap on the
14 commission or have a hybrid salary plus
15 commission.

16 MR. MCGOFF: And we talked and that
17 was one of the things that we said that was
18 not -- that's why I didn't say it, maybe
19 this is a proposal as such, that was
20 certainly something that we talked about and
21 considered how it could be implemented, you
22 know, would it be a salary, would it be a
23 commission, would it be something that is,
24 like you said, a hybrid.

25 MR. ROGAN: I mean, I have no

1 problem with somebody getting paid more for
2 bringing in more, which is what we want, but
3 there comes a point where, you know, you
4 can't have somebody making --

5 MR. MCGOFF: The highest paid
6 employee in the city.

7 MR. ROGAN: The highest paid
8 employee should be the mayor.

9 Next, as I mentioned earlier, I do
10 have the proposed amendments that I put
11 together from everyone's ideas regarding the
12 CDBG funding, and I also if anyone
13 afterwards would like a copy I can provide
14 them with a copy. When I put these together
15 I took everyone's ideas, and there were some
16 members that disagreed on some, some that
17 all five just agreed on, they were the easy
18 ones, but the one thing that was important
19 to me while making these decisions is that
20 it's not free money from the federal
21 government, it's your taxpayer dollars that
22 you paid to the federal government given
23 back to the city for us to appropriate, so
24 here are my changes as follows:

25 The Deutsch -- and actually, I'll

1 give you the first numbers to begin with.
2 The total is \$3.2 million projected funding
3 for the city. The deduction of public
4 service was 66,000, the additions were
5 66,000. The nonpublic service deductions
6 were 608,000. The additions were also
7 608,000, for a total of 674,000 and change
8 on both ends.

9 The first applicant, the Deutsch
10 Institute, OECD had them funded for \$15,000,
11 the proposed amendment would be \$20,000 for
12 a change of \$5,000.

13 Cathleen McCawley Center. OECD
14 funding was \$5,000. Council funding bumped
15 it up to \$10,000.

16 LIPS. Demolition of hazardous
17 structures, removing blight in the
18 neighborhoods. OECD had it penned for
19 \$210,000, the proposed amendment would bump
20 that up to \$300,000.

21 The three Section 108 loans would
22 remain unchanged.

23 The 88 Bellevue Youth Program.
24 Initially, OECD did proposed \$7,500, council
25 amendment bumps it up to \$10,000.

1 The United Neighborhood SCOLA
2 Program. OECD had it funded for \$5,000, the
3 amended budget is at zero.

4 United Neighborhood Centers
5 Permanent Supportive Housing, OECD had it
6 funded at zero, it would remain at zero.

7 United Neighborhood Centers
8 Condemnation Assistance. OECD Office had it
9 budgeted at \$96,500, council will keep it at
10 \$96,500.

11 United Neighborhood Project HOPE,
12 \$40,000 and it will remain \$40,000.

13 The Downtown Senior Center, parking
14 lot paving, OECD funded it for zero, and it
15 was kept at zero.

16 The Boys and Girls Club Park It
17 Program, it was budgeted for \$30,000, it
18 will remain at \$30,000.

19 The OECD Adult Literacy Program,
20 budgeted at \$15,000, it will remain at
21 \$15,000.

22 Scranton Police Department
23 Neighborhood Police, budgeted at \$200,000,
24 will remain at \$200,000.

25 Scranton Police Department, police

1 vehicles, was budgeted at zero, it was
2 increased to \$26,500.

3 Dress for Success. Originally
4 budgeted at zero, increased to \$20,000.

5 OECD Administration. Originally
6 budgeted at \$650,000, which was 20 percent,
7 and it was reduced to \$592,000, which was
8 18.5 percent. And there were some members
9 of the council that wanted that lower, some
10 that wanted it higher, and two that were in
11 the middle so we split the difference on
12 that one.

13 The Irish Cultural Society building
14 rehab. Originally budgeted at zero, that
15 was unchanged.

16 The Friends of the Poor Summer
17 Historical Program, originally budgeted at
18 \$10,000, now budgeted for zero.

19 Lackawanna Neighbors Home Rehab.
20 Originally budgeted for \$115,000, increased
21 for a total of \$200,000.

22 St. Joseph's Center, mother/infant
23 program, budgeted through OECD at \$5,000, it
24 will continue to be \$5,000.

25 The Healthy NEPA Senior Suicide

1 Prevention Initiative was budgeted at zero
2 dollars, it was increased to \$7,000.

3 Community Intervention, homeless
4 housing, was budgeted at zero and will
5 continue to be zero.

6 North Scranton Little League,
7 playground project. OECD had this budgeted
8 at \$5,000, it was increased to \$25,000.

9 Vacant Property Review Committee,
10 blight removal, originally budgeted at
11 \$25,000 and it's increased for a total of
12 \$50,000.

13 Neighborhood Housing, foreclosure
14 assistance. Originally budgeted at zero,
15 continues to be zero.

16 First Friday, was budgeted at
17 \$2,000, was reduced to zero.

18 Scranton Parks and Recreation
19 proposed Lincoln Jackson Park. It was
20 budgeted at \$350,000, it will now be
21 budgeted at zero.

22 Weston Field, roof repairs. Was
23 budgeted at \$25,000, is now budgeted at
24 zero.

25 Scranton Forestry, tree removal.

1 Originally it was budgeted at \$25,000, it
2 was increased by \$50,000 for a total of
3 \$75,000.

4 Broadway Theatre, theatre tickets.
5 Somehow it was originally budgeted for
6 \$10,000, it was cut to zero.

7 Scranton DPW, pool and bathhouse
8 rehab, was budgeted at \$175,000, that was
9 reduced to zero.

10 First Night Scranton, tickets and
11 transportation, was budgeted at \$20,000, was
12 reduced to zero.

13 Scranton Public Theatre, Jazzfest.
14 Was budgeted at \$10,000, was reduced to
15 zero.

16 Scranton Public Theatre, cultural
17 program, was budgeted at \$9,000, was reduced
18 to zero.

19 Scranton DPW, paving program, was
20 originally budgeted at \$500,000 and was
21 increased to \$838,000.

22 Arc of NEPA, fire alarm replacement,
23 originally budgeted at zero, continues to be
24 zero.

25 And that is everything for a total

1 of deductions in \$674,000 and a total of
2 additions of \$674,000.

3 And that is all I have for tonight.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman
5 Rogan. Councilman Loscombe, do you have any
6 comments or motions?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a few
8 comments. Thank you. First of all, I would
9 like to thank Mr. McGoff for inviting me
10 yesterday to the meeting with Solicitor
11 Kelly and Mark Seitzinger was also present
12 at the meeting, and I don't want to repeat
13 everything that Mr. McGoff had stated, I
14 just wanted to add a few things.

15 First of all, you did a heck of a
16 job putting the ordinance together. I think
17 all of us at one point in time over the last
18 two years have added some things to it and
19 got it to a point that Mr. McGoff had it
20 brought to yesterday, it was a good meeting.
21 We were able to put our heads together and
22 go over some different items and I think
23 it's going to be the best benefit for
24 everyone in this city.

25 As I have gone around door to door

1 or, you know, citizens complaints and that,
2 the majority of problems that have been
3 brought to my attention have been blight in
4 the neighborhoods, neighbor complaints,
5 stuff like that, which kills the
6 neighborhoods, and a lot of it is due to
7 rental properties that are left either
8 unkempt or, you know, they have unruly
9 tenants or whatever.

10 We haven't had very many tools to
11 fight this and, like I said, it works hand
12 in hand with blight. The neighborhoods go
13 downhill because of tenants and uncaring
14 landlords and blight infuses the
15 neighborhoods.

16 We are not here in here -- this
17 legislation isn't there to be like a gestapo
18 to go and close paces at a whim. It has to
19 be done reasonably and whoever the
20 coordinator is I believe will be a
21 professional that does go and do their due
22 diligence and it's for the protection of
23 everyone. It's for the protection of the
24 neighbors, the residents, the tenants, the
25 landlords and public safety, police and fire

1 who have to respond to these properties.
2 Sometimes they will get into a property and
3 it will be chopped up into a rooming house,
4 but I believe there is a heck of a lot of
5 tools in this ordinance to benefit us all
6 and to start this city back on track to
7 straighten some of these situations out.

8 Like I said, if anyone listens to
9 the police scanners there is lot of problems
10 that are brought on by this, so it may
11 alleviate some of the police and fire
12 problems in the long run, too.

13 Again, we discussed different issues
14 as far as people who have -- are existing
15 and have registered to this point on a
16 regular basis are basically the good
17 landlords. They care about their
18 properties, they maintain them, and they
19 make sure that they are licensed every year.
20 Quite a few of them have gotten through the
21 cracks, so what this is going do is give us
22 an opportunity, as Mr. McGoff said, we can't
23 go back and inspect properties that have
24 been registered, but anyone that's
25 purchasing a new rental property they are

1 going to be subject to the full inspection
2 and that inspection fee and we are going to
3 make sure that all of the codes are enforced
4 and everything is up-to-date in those
5 properties.

6 There is things in our proposal that
7 we are looking at for -- to give ammunition
8 to -- in other words, if someone has a five
9 or six family home and they register as a
10 four, we are looking at a sticker on that
11 property that's going to designate it as
12 four, and if a neighbor happens to know that
13 it is a five or six, it will give them the
14 incentive because they are having problems
15 to call the inspection department and say,
16 listen, they only have four properties
17 listed and they have five or six in there.

18 It will give us an opportunity
19 because some of these apartments are
20 overfilled. There are regulations in our
21 ordinance that are regarding how many
22 unrelated individuals can be in a property
23 at a time. I don't -- I mean, as much as
24 I'm looking at and we are looking at
25 generating revenue, I think the biggest, the

1 biggest benefit to this whole ordinance is
2 going to be the tools and the ability to
3 clean up our neighborhoods and take them
4 back. As we know, a majority of the
5 landlords are from out of town and they are
6 unresponsive. They have to register, they
7 have to register with someone locally that
8 can be served, can be questioned. If there
9 is a police or fire response they are going
10 to have to be there, and answer to the
11 reports.

12 But there is a numerous amount of
13 blight that's in this legislation and again,
14 Mr. McGoff, I commend you, I thought it was
15 a great meeting, I thought we accomplished a
16 lot, and I'll tell you, the ordinance, you
17 know, with very few exceptions, and again,
18 you are always thinking like we did at the
19 meeting about different ideas, I had run it
20 by after the meeting yesterday a couple of
21 my colleagues here and I just have a couple
22 of things that we may be looking at to add
23 to this, just give it some more bite, but
24 one of them is monthly reports containing
25 the new registration and inspections for new

1 registrations and inspections for possible
2 code violation. The code coordinator would
3 be able to update us monthly just like we do
4 now with our animals and that as far as
5 where we stand.

6 Monthly public caucus attended by
7 either the director or one of his
8 representatives, Mark Seitzinger or one of
9 his representatives and the rental
10 registration coordinator. It would us an
11 opportunity to update us on how the program
12 is working in the city, how it's going, if
13 there is any problems, if we have any issues
14 with it or anything.

15 Let's see, another idea we had was
16 an outreach program to educate the public
17 because this is new to a lot of people and
18 we have to educate, you know, through
19 neighborhood meetings, crime watch meetings
20 and any venue that would like to receive
21 information concerning this ordinance, even
22 maybe an initial caucus from here with an
23 explanation of the program because everybody
24 is going to be a watchdog in their
25 neighborhood and it's going to entail

1 everybody, but we have to be able to get
2 this information out to everyone so that no
3 one could be ignorant of what's in this
4 ordinance.

5 Let's see, another idea was
6 application -- to put the application for
7 the rental property right on our website,
8 along with a copy of the ordinance that can
9 be read there, too. Just like you can do
10 with the building permits now, there is
11 building permit applications right on the
12 website.

13 One thing, you know, I thought about
14 and we had discussed, and we still have to s
15 have a discussion on how this coordinator is
16 going to work whether -- you know, that's
17 probably the final hurdle we have to do on
18 this is determine how this coordinator is
19 going to be employed, commission and salary,
20 straight commission, employee, nonemployee,
21 we are trying to get the biggest bang for
22 the buck and, naturally, we are trying to
23 save as much as we can, so I think we will
24 definitely come it consensus on that because
25 this program is critical to us and the city.

1 But I believe for obvious reasons
2 that the rental registration coordinator
3 shall not be a relative of any person
4 currently working for the City of Scranton.

5 Any fines and fees collected shall
6 be deposited on a daily basis and included
7 in the form of a spreadsheet and a monthly
8 report. In other words, nobody is hanging
9 onto the funds or anything like that because
10 there could be problems with that down the
11 road.

12 And finally, if the coordinator
13 and/or city fail to submit reports or attend
14 public caucuses, the position of rental
15 coordinator shall be eliminated. Now,
16 that's got to be tweaked, we have to look at
17 a way of -- all I'm thinking here is that,
18 you know, we have to have transparency, we
19 have to have accountability by the
20 coordinator, and we're all working together
21 with the administration to have this be
22 successful, so if we get someone in there
23 that's not going to be answerable and is not
24 going to do what we request and what was
25 requested of them under the RFP, then their

1 position is going to be eliminated and we
2 will have to go from there.

3 So are just some ideas. If anybody
4 has any additional ideas please give them to
5 pass them onto Mr. McGoff or myself because,
6 like Mr. McGoff said, and I know we all do,
7 we want to have this implemented by the
8 beginning of the year as a benefit to all
9 our residents, and that's all I have to say
10 on that one.

11 MR. JOYCE: If I may interrupt?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

13 MR. JOYCE: Perhaps we could ask
14 ECTV to put something on the peg channel
15 regarding the rental registration program
16 once everything is set and amended, well,
17 actually, once the new ordinance is adopted
18 to give the community a sense of awareness
19 to prevent ignorance by some property owners
20 that are renting out units.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: And just finally, Mr.
22 McGoff, on that if you want to meet with me
23 personally at any time to go over any of
24 this stuff or whatever, because I know we do
25 want to get this expedited.

1 The next thing was I had a couple of
2 complaints from over on North Washington
3 Avenue by the jail. The complaints have to
4 do with the parking. Apparently, in the
5 last week the city has taken it upon
6 themselves to post "No Parking" signs
7 removing probably over a half a block of
8 parking. Now, that area has permit parking
9 for the residents. The parking that was
10 eliminated is for visitors to the jail and
11 employees of the jail.

12 Now, you know, certain staff of the
13 jail have already had parking spots, but
14 this has eliminated a number of parking
15 spots making it more difficult, especially
16 trying to find a parking spot in that
17 neighborhood, for the employees, for
18 visitors, even like clinicians stop at the
19 jail to take care of patients. So with that
20 in mind, Mrs. Krake, I would like to request
21 that we find out from the police department
22 and/or LIPS or DPW, whatever department is
23 involved in this, if there was an ordinance,
24 because I don't recall any ordinance passed
25 to eliminate that parking in that area, and

1 if not I would advise anyone that's received
2 a ticket to just hang onto it until this is
3 resolved because I believe an ordinance is
4 supposed to be passed for change of
5 direction of roads and parking and stuff
6 like that, if I'm not mistaken.

7 This past week also I attended the
8 West Side Crime Watch meeting on Saturday,
9 and I'm not going to elaborate on this
10 because I think Mr. Joyce is going to
11 discuss this; right?

12 MR. JOYCE: I will discuss this.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay, and we did
14 attend that, it was on the Lincoln Jackson
15 School and stuff like that, but Mr. Joyce
16 and myself attended that on Saturday.

17 The other night I attended a
18 Pinebrook neighborhood meeting, and it
19 started at Rescue 1 where the Pinebrook
20 Neighborhood Association presented a plaque
21 to Rescue 1, because that's their
22 neighborhood fire station, and they wanted
23 to show their support because that station
24 has been closing on a temporary basis, also,
25 and leaving them high and dry because Engine

1 15 at the top of the hill at Petersburg has
2 been totally closed, so that area is very
3 vulnerable especially in light of the
4 blighted properties there and they were
5 worried about that, worried about their
6 neighborhood crime and stuff like that,
7 also.

8 But at that meeting I had found out
9 that 12 of our police vehicles at this time
10 are out of service due to various mechanical
11 problems, and I was thinking out loud and
12 I'm not sure last year we had discussed the
13 money that's given the city or supposed to
14 be given the city by the landfill via the
15 agreement for the landfill, and if I wasn't
16 mistaken it wasn't strictly for garbage
17 trucks it was for public safety, also, and,
18 you know, I think we have gotten quite a
19 good fleet of DPW vehicles at this point, I
20 have noticed a few new ones on the road
21 recently, I was wondering if it's possible
22 if they could consider using that money
23 towards the police vehicles this year, which
24 are sorely needed. I mean, you have some of
25 these vehicles where it's two men in a

1 vehicle now, so if we could forward that
2 information I'll provide that with you, Mrs.
3 Krake.

4 Let's see here, and lastly, I won't
5 go through them in detail, but back in -- I
6 apologize, I don't have the date, it was
7 probably back in July that we had submitted
8 a number of Right-to-Know requests to
9 Mr. McGowan based on information on building
10 demolition and stuff like that. I believe
11 there had to be about eight or nine requests
12 and we received a response that they, you
13 know, that they would be responding within
14 30 days, blah, blah, but here we are in
15 October we have no response, we have a
16 response to two out of maybe the eight.
17 What do we do on something like that? Do we
18 have to resubmit it? I mean, isn't a
19 Right-to-Know supposed to be answered within
20 that time? Mr. Hughes, maybe you can answer
21 that or do we bring the department heads in
22 here to a caucus to respond if they don't
23 want to respond to a Right-to-Know.

24 MR. HUGHES: A Right-to-Know request
25 has to be answered within 30 days either

1 submitting the documentation, actually
2 within seven days unless they request
3 additional time, up to 30 days. If it is
4 not produced they have to state the reason
5 why it's not produced. What would have to
6 happen is if there is no reason given or if
7 there is a reason given we would have to
8 take an appeal of that to the Department of
9 Community Affairs in Harrisburg, I have done
10 that on my own behalf at times, so they
11 would have to issue a ruling on that.

12 So, I mean, I don't know when the
13 requests were issued if there was a reply
14 and what was stated, but ordinarily if it's
15 more than seven days they have to say
16 because it's so voluminous that it's going
17 to take extra time to get the documentation
18 and all that, there has to be a reason for
19 it or if they go confidentiality or anything
20 like that for some reason why it would not
21 be given.

22 Often times -- it has to be a
23 written document that is being requested.
24 It must be a written document or something
25 in writing, so that if -- you can't ask for

1 opinions and things like that, so I don't
2 know what the responses were, I think if
3 Mrs. Krake gets that to me we can take a
4 look at it, but there is a definite -- there
5 is an appeal procedure and there is a time
6 limitation, also, for the appeal.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. I believe on
8 the letter he said to allow him 30 days,
9 but, you know, it's well beyond 30 days and
10 we haven't received any response on some of
11 the detailed questions, but I'll make sure
12 you receive a copy to review.

13 MR HUGHES: But, again, the question
14 is you have to request written documents.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Specific
16 documentation. Certainly.

17 MR. HUGHES: So if it's for
18 something that's not in writing, then they
19 can't produce it. That's the whole purpose
20 of the request.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay. So perhaps, I
22 mean, I believe some of them asked for
23 specific documents, but if the others are
24 more generic perhaps we can fine tune it and
25 reapply it. Thank you very much.

1 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, do you have
2 any comments or motions?

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. Tonight I
4 would like to begin by commenting on the
5 annual audit. As you may know, the annual
6 audit is directed by the Home Rule Charter
7 to be completed by May 31. It is now
8 October 18, and we still don't have an
9 audit.

10 The reason that we don't have a
11 completed audit is not any fault of the firm
12 conducting the audit, Rossi & Rossi, the
13 reason that we don't have a completed audit
14 is solely the fault of the administration.
15 Rossi & Rossi has been sending continuous
16 updates of what information the
17 administration needs to provide them in
18 order to complete the audit. To this point,
19 there are many outstanding items.

20 I have sent requests to Mr. McGowan,
21 our business administrator, on a continuous
22 basis asking for updates, however, he has
23 yet to respond to a single request on this
24 matter.

25 There are various purposes of an

1 audit, and I'll just mention a few. For
2 instance, many banks may want to see a
3 completed audit for issuing loans such as
4 TANS. In addition to that, audits identify
5 problems based on a thorough review of the
6 municipalities financial control procedures
7 and make recommendations that a municipality
8 can use to improve it's operations.

9 Also, and independent audit provides
10 valuable information to the community. It
11 assures residents that public funds are
12 being managed by the administration and it
13 alerts them if there are problems, such as
14 poor bookkeeping or mismanagement of the
15 funds that need to be fixed.

16 Why the administration continues to
17 violate the Home Rule Charter by not
18 providing the auditor with the information
19 needed to complete the audit in accordance
20 with the due date is beyond my control,
21 however, this matter needs to be addressed.

22 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake,
23 please contact Mr. McGowan and request that
24 a status update on all outstanding
25 information that is being requested by Rossi

1 & Rossi, and in addition to this if Mr.
2 McGowan fails to answer this request, as he
3 has done in the past, please address this
4 with him at the next PEL meeting next
5 Monday.

6 Secondly, as per city council's
7 request, city controller Roseann Novembrino
8 provided us with a report of PILOTS that
9 have been paid to the city in 2011. As one
10 knows, nonprofit organizations are exempt
11 from taxes. Payments in lieu of taxes are
12 important to our community as they assist
13 the city financially. As of the present
14 time, the city has realized \$33,927.44 in
15 PILOTS, which is a comprised of payments
16 from the Scranton Housing Authority and
17 Lutherwood, which is a senior citizen living
18 facility up in the East Mountain area. Last
19 year the city realized \$204,313.97 in the
20 proceeds from the PILOTS.

21 Mrs. Krake, given the financial
22 position of the city, please send a request
23 to Mayor Doherty and ask him to aggressively
24 seek nonprofit payments. In Reading, PA,
25 the mayor sought out two universities and a

1 hospital and is now receiving generous
2 payments from both. It is my hope that the
3 mayor will follow in the footsteps of the
4 Mayor of Reading and aggressively seek these
5 payments.

6 I know that there are organizations
7 such as the university of the Scranton which
8 usually donate on an annual basis, and given
9 the financial state of the city I think the
10 sooner we get those payments in the better
11 off we will be.

12 Last Saturday, along with Councilman
13 Loscombe, as he mentioned, I attended the
14 meeting sponsored by the West Scranton Crime
15 Watch group, specifically to address
16 neighborhood crime and the proposed park in
17 the CDBG action plan proposed to be built at
18 the former site of Lincoln Jackson school.

19 At the meeting, Chief Duffy was
20 present and presented some very informative
21 information such as the amount of police
22 calls in certain sections of West Scranton.
23 For instance, there were 23 police calls at
24 the A-Plus Minimart in West Scranton in a
25 two-week stand that Chief Duffy studied.

1 Also, there were 14 calls in the
2 14th Street area in that same span. As you
3 may or may not know, these locations are
4 this close proximity to West Scranton High
5 School. From attending past crime watch
6 meetings, it's been expressed that there are
7 problems with gangs in certain
8 neighborhoods, and many of these gang
9 members are teenagers, who may be dealing
10 drugs on our streets and committing various
11 violent acts, such as assaults.

12 And one of my ideas to help drive
13 down crime among teenagers in the city was
14 the institution of a city curfew, similar to
15 curfews in neighboring municipalities such
16 as Dunmore, for instance. My rationale for
17 suggesting this was that it would give
18 police officers probable cause to stop
19 teenagers that may be pedaling drugs in our
20 neighborhood late at night or causing other
21 disturbance.

22 While Chief Duffy did express that
23 he would be all for a curfew, he did also
24 express that it would cause more obligations
25 to our police department, being that there

1 would be additional requirements on police
2 officers when dealing with juveniles. These
3 could make -- these requirements could make
4 an it difficult for officers to answer other
5 calls.

6 Therefore, it's evident that the
7 city could not take a measure such as curfew
8 at this time because it is not adequately
9 staffed to handle it.

10 As you know, Mayor Doherty recently
11 laid off 13 police officers which would make
12 it even more difficult to handle the curfew.
13 While Mayor Doherty laid off these police
14 officers, he still continues to fund other
15 workers that were not even budgeted for,
16 which I see as extremely problematic, thus
17 contributing to the city's problems and the
18 Doherty deficit.

19 While we are on the topic of the
20 Doherty deficit, council president, Janet
21 Evans, and I did work on an alternative plan
22 since Mayor Doherty has refused to appear in
23 council chambers to discuss the parameters
24 of his plan. We believe that our plan is
25 more effective and I'll leave it to

1 Mr. Evans to discuss in greater detail in
2 her part of the motions and comments.

3 In regard to the park being proposed
4 by the 2012 CDBG action plan, in my view,
5 and I am assuming since Mr. Rogan decreased
6 the funding to zero it's in the majority of
7 council's view, if not all, that it's a
8 matter of priority. Construction of the
9 park is marked for \$350,000 of federal
10 funding. This funding could also be used
11 for paving streets in low to moderate income
12 areas as well as blighted home restoration
13 and demolition.

14 While it would nice to have a park,
15 there are questions about the maintenance of
16 the park among local residents as well as
17 expressed at council meetings and the
18 neighborhood meeting. I firmly believe that
19 the site of Lincoln Jackson School can be
20 put to a better use.

21 For instance, Mr. Arthur Russo
22 purchased a former school building on
23 Jackson street, which is the site of
24 Hamilton Hills Apartments, which is an asset
25 to the West Scranton community, as it took

1 care of a building that was falling apart
2 and converted it to upscale apartments that
3 are contributing to the city in the means of
4 real estate taxes and also wage tax revenue
5 of the working residents that reside there
6 and quite possibly even more rental
7 registration revenue.

8 Point-blank, I firmly believe that
9 the \$350,000 can be used for more
10 constructive measures that are more a
11 priority to our city at this time and I am
12 glad that the majority of my council
13 colleagues agreed with that as well.

14 I received a number of citizens'
15 requests over the past week, but for the
16 sake of the time and brevity I will hold off
17 on those for tonight, however, for anyone
18 that sent me a request in the past week rest
19 assured that will be handled by our office
20 and we will be pursuing whatever you sent
21 in, and that's all.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. ROGAN: Excuse me, one moment.
24 Mr. Joyce, if I could just piggyback on what
25 you said, I agree completely and \$338,000 of

1 that \$350,000 was used for paving, so almost
2 all of it --

3 MR. JOYCE: Right. Yes.

4 MR. ROGAN: -- was used for paving,
5 so I think and it was all five of us on
6 council that agreed that that money could be
7 better used in the community and in other
8 ways, and when you go out in the
9 neighborhoods the first thing everyone says
10 we needed is we need our roads paved, so
11 that will definitely go a long way in our
12 community.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you, gentlemen.
14 Good evening. Throughout the last week the
15 Scranton Times has employed scare tactics
16 through it's articles and editorials to
17 needlessly frighten and mislead the people
18 of Scranton and to intimidate Scranton City
19 Council.

20 Let's clear up several issues here
21 and now. First, unlike Harrisburg, the City
22 of Scranton is not in any danger of
23 bankruptcy because it has many available
24 options to solve it's deficits.

25 Second, the \$18 million deficit

1 projected for 2012 by a Scranton Times' news
2 reporter is more smoke and mirrors.

3 Further, the actual deficit will not
4 be addressed through tax increases or deep
5 cuts to public safety, but all other options
6 are on the table.

7 Tax increases and cuts to public
8 safety only serve to harm the people of
9 Scranton by jeopardizing their safety and
10 welfare.

11 Third, Mayor Chris Doherty submitted
12 a bogus 2011 budget to city council that
13 concealed an approximate \$11 million hole
14 and followed up by refusing to implement
15 revenue generators to fill his budget hole.

16 Despite the mayor's documented
17 financial chicanery and mismanagement,
18 Scranton City Council is not engaged in a
19 game of the quid pro quo.

20 Although the Scranton Times and
21 Christopher Doherty view government as a
22 game between, "Mortal political enemies," as
23 termed by Josh Mrozinski and relished
24 promoting it as a blood sport to sell its
25 newspaper, I do not play games with the

1 lives of the people of the City of Scranton.

2 Point your pens at the master of
3 political and financial games and intrigue,
4 the mayor of Scranton.

5 City council will not entertain the
6 mayor's proposed legislation to meet a
7 current deficit because the sale of the
8 parking meters and the Scranton Parking
9 Authority's plan to borrow \$14 million are
10 financially irresponsible and unsound
11 measures. The mayor refused to submit the
12 specific uses, that is, accounts and budget
13 line items for the millions he wishes to
14 borrow. The mayor refused to act as an
15 elected official and publically address the
16 taxpayers and council of the City of
17 Scranton, and most notably, the mayor has a
18 documented record of bypassing council
19 adopted legislation and substituting his
20 own.

21 He ignored and violated the 2011
22 amended operating budget by reinstating DPW
23 supervisors and casual workers, awarding
24 raises and halting new revenue generators.

25 Christopher Doherty refused the

1 seating of two city residents and taxpayers
2 on the Parking and Redevelopment
3 Authorities, while seating other city
4 residents on all city authorities without
5 the consent of city council.

6 Mayor Doherty crossed off his name
7 months after signing legislation and
8 substituted his own contract for the
9 contract legally and lawfully adopted by
10 Scranton City Council.

11 He then submitted his own towing
12 ordinance for enactment following city
13 council's legal and lawful unanimous
14 adoption of an amended towing ordinance.

15 Next, Mayor Doherty laid off 21
16 police officers and firefighters without
17 submitting legislation to city council as
18 directed by the Home Rule Charter and
19 Administrative Code.

20 Most recently, he submitted to HUD
21 and enacted his own 2011 CDBG allocations in
22 defiance of city council's amended CDBG
23 allocations.

24 These ten documented examples
25 clearly demonstrate that the mayor refuses,

1 circumvents and/or substitutes the
2 legislation legally and lawfully adopted by
3 Scranton City Council.

4 Therefore, the only way in which to
5 stop Christopher Doherty from proceeding
6 with the Doherty deficit legislation is to
7 keep it off the agenda. Simply put, council
8 could introduce his irresponsible
9 legislation and vote it down, but the mayor
10 would then implement his legislation as he
11 has done in the past despite the vote of the
12 council. To believe that the mayor would
13 accept a "no" vote is preposterous.

14 Fourth, in regard to the October 17
15 news article, HUD officials, Steven Stein,
16 and Nadab Bynum, both advise city council to
17 submit it's 2011 amended CDBG allocations to
18 Mr. Bynum. Further, Mr. Bynum stated that
19 he would forward both the mayor's and the
20 city council's amended allocations to HUD
21 attorneys for review.

22 I first stated these facts for the
23 record during the October 11 city council
24 meeting. Although it true that HUD does not
25 involved itself in local politics, Mr. Bynum

1 did not consider this to be a matter of
2 politics or a routine process. This is yet
3 another example of inaccurate news reports
4 that caused members of the council to
5 refrain from speaking with the Scranton
6 Times. However, council members continue to
7 avail themselves to reporters and editors of
8 GO Lackawanna and local television news
9 stations because they present accurate and
10 unbiased reports to the public.

11 Also, city council meets publically
12 on a weekly basis while Christopher Doherty,
13 the self-proclaimed sixth councilman,
14 completes his tenth year as mayor having
15 attended only two city council meetings and
16 without having delivered any state of the
17 city address to the people or city council
18 or having participated in any town hall
19 meetings. Instead, he speaks through the
20 Scranton Times. After ten years of avoiding
21 the people of Scranton, isn't it finally
22 time that his supporters and apologists
23 demand openness and transparency from
24 Christopher Doherty?

25 Fifth, Mr. McGoff questions the

1 openness and transparency of this council.
2 My colleague is an intelligent man, and an
3 intelligent man would certainly agree that
4 proposals are not made public before they
5 are formally presented to the parties with
6 whom you seek to forge an agreement. How
7 many times have wealthy developers, for
8 example, refused to disclose potential
9 buyers and tenants. In fact, Mr. Austin
10 Burke, of the Greater Scranton Chamber of
11 Commerce, would not disclose such
12 information to council and Mr. McGoff was
13 agreeable.

14 In addition, Mr. McGoff minimizes
15 the financial maladies of our city by
16 attributing the problem to a power struggle.
17 Perhaps he knows the mayor so well that he
18 can judge his character and actions, but he
19 seems to know little of the character and
20 actions of his fellow council members who
21 have approved over 90 percent of the mayor's
22 legislation and offered numerous and
23 continuous alternatives to those issues with
24 which they disagree.

25 A reasonable man would call for

1 openness, transparency and cooperation with
2 Mayor Doherty to reciprocate for the
3 openness and cooperation provided by the
4 council of which he is a member.

5 Six, the twisted logic of Mayor
6 Doherty and the Scranton Times should be
7 apparent to all. The mayor and the
8 newspaper proclaim Scranton a strong mayor
9 form of the government in which an
10 infallible mayor makes all decisions
11 single-handedly, while city council should
12 approve all legislation unquestionably.

13 If council fails to do so, the mayor
14 over steps the legislative branch of
15 government. However, when a crucial issue
16 arises and the going gets tough, suddenly
17 the strong mayor not only blames the council
18 he says is powerless, but also needs the
19 council to solve the crisis. How do they
20 reconcile this error in logic?

21 If the mayor is all knowing and all
22 powerful, shouldn't he have solved his
23 deficit without the assistance of council
24 which he believes to have no power? At the
25 end of the day, however, city council is

1 trying diligently to help in any way it can
2 within the context of this strong mayor form
3 of government.

4 Since the mayor refuses to act
5 responsibly, council has been actively
6 working towards a better solution.

7 Approximately two weeks ago, Finance Chair
8 Frank Joyce and I participated in a
9 preliminary meeting with local banking
10 officers and pitched our idea to retain
11 parking meters, a city asset and annual
12 revenue stream, while addressing the current
13 deficit.

14 We were advised to develop a formal
15 proposal to be offered at a later date. The
16 proposal was drafted and yesterday council
17 solicitor Boyd Hughes made the formal
18 presentation with my authorization. Late
19 last week, Attorney Hughes was also in
20 contact with an investment banker who is
21 very interested in our proposal. I have
22 asked Attorney Hughes to present council's
23 proposal to the public this evening, and so
24 at this time, I defer to him.

25 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, madam

1 president. I do have handouts here for the
2 public to take a look at while I make the
3 presentation. Council has the handout. I
4 want to try to get this so that everyone can
5 see it.

6 What we have is on line number one,
7 up there from the city's budget this year,
8 the parking meter revenue from this account
9 number or line item, it was estimated \$1.4
10 million, the actual collected up through the
11 end of the July is \$555,709.10, the amount
12 that's forecasted by the business
13 administrator from our March to December is
14 \$592,476.90. That's a total estimated
15 revenue by the end the year from the parking
16 meters of \$1,148,451.

17 You will see that I have various
18 footnotes, footnote number one there is
19 right there, these revenue figures are taken
20 from the business administrator's July tax
21 report. The footnote number two for the
22 estimated revenue that's 90 percent of the
23 revenue that the city receives, so that the
24 actual amount of the revenue is set forth on
25 line number three right there, that would be

1 collected this year would be \$1,276,000.

2 In addition to the budget, the city
3 provided the Parking Authority this year
4 with \$562,235. When I deduct that from the
5 revenue, we come out to the total net
6 revenue just of the parking meters would be
7 \$586,216.

8 What is proposed is that the
9 contract with the Parking Authority to have
10 them have the parking revenue people on
11 their payroll would be terminated in this
12 budget for 2012. As a result, the city will
13 have a total of the entire revenue, 100
14 percent, would be \$1,276,000. We have
15 assumed that the \$562,000 that was paid to
16 the Parking Authority last year for
17 the former city employees did not come back
18 to the city, we would keep that the same.
19 However, we believe that this is extremely
20 overrated for this reason:

21 There is only six employees that are
22 involved in the parking meter revenue, and
23 that's set forth in footnote number three.
24 There are four citation issuers, one street
25 coordinator and one meter repairman. With

1 all those positions back on the city
2 payroll, even if that \$562,000 was just in
3 half, that would free up an approximate
4 \$285,000 that would be in additional
5 revenue. I have not assumed that in these
6 calculations.

7 So what we have been done is that
8 the net revenue of parking meter revenue to
9 the city in 2012 would be \$714,000. What I
10 did, I took under number four, would be that
11 if the city would borrow \$6,500,000 from a
12 bank we would then pledge the parking meter
13 revenue to be secured to pay the loan along
14 with the city's full faith and credit as
15 backup to pay the loan.

16 I then made a calculation that the
17 city would borrow \$6.5 million at 6 percent
18 over ten years. I used a mortgage table, I
19 didn't have an amortization or what would be
20 in a public issue for a bond issue, so I
21 just went to a mortgage table, an
22 amortization schedule, 6 1/2 million at 6
23 percent over ten years would be \$72,163,65
24 per month or \$865,964 a year.

25 We bring in the parking revenue

1 estimated of \$714,000, we would have a
2 shortfall of \$151,965. The 6 1/2 million
3 dollars, which is set forth in footnote
4 number three, I'm sorry, four, this is based
5 on PEL's letter of October 3, 2011. The
6 \$6.5 million really comes from two figures,
7 one is last year, it came from this year's
8 tax anticipation notes, I believe it was
9 "A", which is \$5 million. What happened,
10 when that money came in in January, the Unit
11 Debt Act and council's ordinance was
12 violated, the act was illegal under the Unit
13 Debt Act in that when this year's TAN came
14 in of \$5 million, the mayor took that and
15 had that to pay off last year's TAN. It
16 cannot be used to pay off any of last year's
17 bills. It can only be used to pay off this
18 year's bills and this year's employees and
19 salaries, so that \$5 million was a \$5
20 million deficit last year and as a result
21 when this year's tax anticipation note \$5
22 million of that was taken to pay off last
23 year's bills was an automatic \$5 million
24 hole in this year's budget.

25 The other \$1.5 million came from a

1 statement that I made in council regarding
2 the sale of the city's of 2004, 5 and 6
3 delinquent taxes to Pennstar Bank back in
4 2008. That matures December 15 of this
5 year. The loan is in default and today I
6 was just e-mailed ironically a complaint of
7 Pennstar Bank, it's 168 pages, that is suing
8 the City of Scranton for \$1.5 million.
9 Actually, it's \$1,560,398.80, that's what's
10 due on the note that the city executed with
11 the Pennstar Bank for \$2,296,570. There is
12 interest due of \$227.56 per day from May 19,
13 that's 152 days as of today for a total of
14 interest off \$34,598.12 for a total of
15 \$1,595,987 due Pennstar Bank as of today and
16 going up \$277 per day.

17 So those two figures ironically is
18 the total that PEL says has to be borrowed
19 this year. When we put that together, we
20 then take what is estimated in the city's
21 budget for the parking tickets and parking
22 meter permit fees, that's on line item
23 number five, and that would be used, that's
24 estimated at \$700,000, and that's footnote
25 number six. In the budget this year, it was

1 projected as \$675,019 in parking meter
2 tickets and permit fees for a total of
3 \$25,000 for a total of \$700,000.

4 So we take the shortfall of \$151,965
5 from the \$700,000 of the parking tickets and
6 meter fees, that would leave for this year's
7 budget \$548,000 by the city borrowing \$6.5
8 million for ten years at 6 percent. Paying
9 that off to the bank over a period of ten
10 years we would actually have almost \$550,000
11 of revenue by keeping the meters.

12 At the end of ten years, the city
13 would have received in it's budget a total
14 of almost \$5 1/2 million and at the end of
15 ten years you would have \$1.4 million back
16 into the budget by keeping the parking
17 meters.

18 If you sell the parking meters right
19 now, you have \$6 million to plug up a hole,
20 you don't have any income, and you are never
21 going to have any income and it's going to
22 be gone, the asset is gone. Really what you
23 are doing from a statistical standpoint is
24 it selling it at four times earning. You
25 have an asset that's producing, you know,

1 \$1.4 million or selling it for \$6 million
2 and as a result you are really giving it
3 away in my opinion.

4 I have discussed this with a bank,
5 they are very interested in looking at it.
6 They would rather wait until the city's
7 budget comes out to see what's happening
8 with the deficit. This would clear up this
9 year's deficit and plug up the \$6.5 million
10 hole. The sooner that this could be done,
11 there would be money to the city to pay the
12 bills by the end of the year, have all of
13 it's bill paid and wouldn't end the year up
14 with a deficit.

15 I also discussed it with an
16 investment banker regarding the issuance of
17 a public -- of a bond issue, they are
18 interested in this, also. The one factor
19 that is really not firmed up in this is the
20 interest rate of 6 percent, however, I think
21 it should be somewhere between 6 and 7
22 percent, but I believe that there is enough
23 of leeway in there that that could easily be
24 paid.

25 If anybody on council has any

1 questions, I would be glad to answer them,
2 and I believe this litigation was in the
3 paper this morning.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes, it was.

5 MR. HUGHES: And I got e-mailed a
6 copy of it, I wasted 160 some pages of my
7 copy machine, but we are not directly
8 involved, but at least Attorney Winfield did
9 forward this to me, e-mailed it to me.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes, and I believe that
11 the contract that was negotiated by council
12 and yourself with Northeast Revenue Service
13 provides for the collection of delinquent
14 taxes from 2004 through 2010, and the first
15 \$1.5 million approximately would be
16 designated to repayment of Pennstar Bank to
17 clear up this default and, then that which
18 would be collected beyond the \$1.5 million,
19 of course, would come into revenue to the
20 City of Scranton.

21 So I feel that our solicitor and
22 city council did more than it's part in
23 addressing this default long before it
24 actually occurred. At the time I asked that
25 the administration and the mayor

1 specifically would contact Rhodes and Signon
2 and Pennstar Bank and communicate to them
3 that a new delinquent tax collector had been
4 hired, there were new policies in place,
5 that they would begin working as soon as
6 possible and, you know, what provisions
7 council had provided in this contract for
8 the repayment of that debt.

9 According to go what I read in the
10 newspaper, that conversation evidently never
11 occurred, so I would say the ball now is in
12 the mayor's court.

13 MR. HUGHES: I would state this,
14 that that was a loan in default the minute
15 the papers were signed when was it floated
16 in 2008. There was no way that loan could
17 be ever paid. The total amount of the
18 city's delinquent taxes for '04, '05 and '06
19 were \$2,233,439. Pennstar lent 90 percent
20 of that to the city or \$2,109,000. However,
21 the fees to the SRA, the Scranton
22 Redevelopment Authority, to pay all of the
23 fees involved in that was \$187,000. They
24 added the \$187,000 back to the 90 percent.
25 The total amount lent to the city on

1 delinquent taxes was \$2,296,570. That's an
2 effective 98 percent loan rate, it's 100
3 percent financing on delinquent taxes.

4 MS. EVANS: Which is ludicrous.

5 MR. HUGHES: So that as soon as the
6 papers were signed and before the ink was
7 dry that loan was going to default. There
8 is no way that you could collect 100 percent
9 delinquent taxes for those years, and it's
10 shown because of that amount right now of
11 the \$2,343,000, there is still \$1,560,000
12 that's owed.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. HUGHES: So that that would have
15 to be collected by Northeast Revenue
16 Services between now and the end of the
17 year, which is impossible.

18 MS. EVANS: Correct.

19 MR. HUGHES: So whatever they do
20 collect on 2004, five and six delinquent
21 taxes would go to reduce that amount that
22 Pennstar is suing for, just the 2003, four
23 and five.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. HUGHES: That's all I have.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good job.

3 MS. EVANS: We hope as a council our
4 proposal will be successful and agreeable to
5 Mayor Doherty as well. And, of course, as
6 our solicitor indicated, the banking
7 community would like to see the financials
8 of the city as well to include the most
9 recent audit, which the administration has
10 been holding up now for at least five months
11 and will not supply the requested
12 information to the auditor, and they would
13 also like to see a copy of at least a
14 proposed 2012 budget.

15 Now, city council has taken action
16 in the best interest of the taxpayers of
17 Scranton in an effort to avoid the sale of a
18 city asset, the perpetual loss of revenue
19 and the taxpayers' guarantee of an
20 additional 14 million in borrowing by the
21 Scranton Parking Authority. In order to --
22 there goes some of the greatest people in
23 the city. (Fire engine sirens.)

24 In order for the Doherty
25 administration to obtain 2012 tax

1 anticipation notes, it's imperative that an
2 agreement is forge das soon as possible. In
3 the interim, the people need to know that
4 the city will not declare bankruptcy and
5 city council will not be intimidated into
6 approving irresponsible plans.

7 Next, in response to
8 Mr. Scopelliti's letter to city council
9 regarding it's anticipation shortfall, I ask
10 that Council Solicitor Hughes would draft a
11 letter on behalf of council and forward it
12 to the Scranton Parking Authority with the
13 agreement of my colleagues.

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. EVANS: Also, please include in
17 that letter a reminder of the annual 2011
18 payment in lieu of taxes from the Scranton
19 Parking Authority to the City of Scranton as
20 included in the operating budget. And, in
21 fact, it just occurred to me the 2012
22 payment will be soon due as well.

23 Scranton City Council received a
24 copy of a letter from the East Mountain
25 residents Association to Mayor Doherty on

1 October 13 requesting that a sign be posted
2 at Engine 10 indicating the open or closed
3 status of the firehouse. Further, the
4 letter states, "As a group we are concerned
5 about the temporary closing and oppose any
6 future plans that may as a result in more
7 temporary closing or the permanent closing
8 of Engine 10."

9 With the agreement of my colleagues,
10 I ask Mrs. Krake to forward a letter to
11 Mayor Doherty on behalf of Scranton City
12 Council urging him for the second time to
13 post notice of fire station closings and/or
14 brownouts at Engine 10 and all fire stations
15 throughout the City of Scranton.

16 Next, according to the terms of the
17 construction service agreement between
18 Locust Ridge Contractors and the Scranton
19 OECD, paving of five city streets including
20 the 400 block of Pine Street, Ridge Row as
21 marked, 900 block of Martha Avenue, 300
22 block of North 9th Avenue and the 200 block
23 of Railroad Avenue shall be completed on or
24 about October 31, 2011.

25 And finally, I have citizens'

1 requests for the week, which I will submit
2 to our office to forward to the appropriate
3 city departments later this week, and that's
4 it.

5 MR. JOYCE: If I may interrupt for a
6 second, I just wanted to comment. While the
7 plan that Councilwoman Evans and I came up
8 with may not be a perfect plan, we firmly
9 believe it's an effective plan when
10 comparing it to Mayor Doherty's for the
11 following reasons I am just going to give
12 you right now:

13 One, it doesn't sell away a city
14 asset that produces revenue for the city.

15 And two, it doesn't use unfunded
16 borrowing as a means for handling the
17 problem. For instance, approaching the
18 Courts for unfunded more borrowing may be
19 mean that the Court may mandate a tax
20 increase as a means to fund the borrowing.
21 Our plan gives us and the administration the
22 method or the way to determine how the
23 borrowing is funded. As mentioned in the
24 Scranton Times today, council has various
25 ideas in regards to generating revenue in

1 2012 for the budget. Mr. McGoff and
2 Mr. Loscombe provided some insight in the
3 rental registration program, for instance.

4 In addition to what it has been
5 mentioned, council would also like to see a
6 payroll expense tax on businesses, as I
7 mentioned last week with the phaseout of the
8 business privilege and mercantile taxes, as
9 well as the commuter tax and an amusement
10 tax, and with all of these initiatives we
11 firmly believe that we could fund the
12 borrowing of this money to get us out of the
13 hole that we are in right now.

14 MS. EVANS: And I think maybe just
15 quickly I'll add, with the implementation of
16 the StreetSmart Technologies Parking
17 Program, the city very likely according to
18 this statistics and proposals provided by
19 StreetSmart, could have doubled it's parking
20 meter and ticket revenue from approximately
21 \$2 million a year to \$4 million year. The
22 mayor, unfortunately, chose not to implement
23 that. If, however, the mayor would now
24 agree to do so, it would enable the city to
25 not only address it's deficit more

1 appropriately, but -- in the future that is,
2 but in addition the city would have the
3 capability to make payments on the proposed
4 loan at a much faster rate, which that, of
5 course, would drive down the overall cost of
6 interest while still bringing revenue into
7 the city annually.

8 So it my hope as well, I have
9 discussed this that with the banks as well.
10 They thought it was a very fine idea and
11 could not understand why it had not
12 implemented. It's something they would like
13 to see done as well so that the city
14 can stand on more financially solid footing
15 in 2012.

16 MR. ROGAN: I guess I'll make a
17 very, very brief comment as well. I will
18 say more next week since as most of us this
19 is the first time I did see this proposal.
20 As I stated in the past, and I believe we
21 all have, that the sale of parking meters
22 it's a terrible idea for the city. Again,
23 I'd have to look through these numbers a
24 little bit more and talk to my colleagues
25 about it. I would hope that somehow an

1 arrangement could be worked out where future
2 cuts can be worked in the proposal as well
3 where the city's budget is capped in the
4 future at a certain dollar amount. But
5 again, they are all discussions we can have
6 and I will be reviewing this and talking to
7 all my colleagues.

8 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
9 could just two quick items. I don't believe
10 I mentioned it, but if the parking meters
11 are sold the city would also lose the
12 revenue from the bag meters and also from
13 the parking tickets, so that's the \$1.4
14 million that would be gone forever.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. HUGHES: And you'd be coming
17 back in 10 years. And ironically the other
18 day, in fact, it was yesterday, I had to go
19 to the Clerk of Judicial Record's Office, I
20 pulled up to a parking meter, I go to put a
21 dollar, four quarters in, and there is I
22 think one hour left on the meter. So I just
23 put the quarters back in my pocket and I
24 went in and I came back out and I was in
25 there for a half an hour and when I left

1 there was still a half an hour on the meter,
2 so somebody else came up and got a half an
3 hour. I think with StreetSmart were in
4 there at least would have been two dollars,
5 you know, at least two dollars that would
6 have been there that wasn't there, and then
7 the other person that had to come and put
8 money in the meter so they get the free half
9 hour, but that's my experience.

10 MS. EVANS: And there would have
11 been a high level of accountability for all
12 of the dollars brought in through the
13 StreetSmart Parking Program, and that seemed
14 to have been an issue for the Scranton
15 Parking Authority, they preferred to keep
16 their hands on the money and to keep this
17 outside resource away from the money, but it
18 certainly would have been our preference to
19 have that type of daily accountability for
20 every dime that's coming from meters and
21 tickets into the City of Scranton.

22 In addition, I think in terms of the
23 parking revenue, not only would it make
24 changes that our solicitor explained, but it
25 would advance capabilities for those who

1 park by, for example, allowing you by use of
2 your cell phone to obtain additional minutes
3 or hours at your parking meter without
4 having to leave, let's say, your place of
5 business or restaurant in order to fill the
6 meters once again.

7 So it's utilized successfully in
8 Easton, in Wilkes-Barre, I forget how many
9 other municipalities throughout the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as in
11 larger municipalities such as Dallas Texas,
12 San Francisco, California, it is a highly
13 successful and proven company who had a sole
14 source declaration for it's use and that
15 sole source declaration was not accepted by
16 the Mayor of Scranton, and think it's very
17 clear that the reason this was not
18 implemented was because the mayor had a plan
19 long, long ago and that plan was to sell the
20 parking meters and to try to take care of
21 the Scranton Parking Authority in the
22 process.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: At your expense.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes, at all our
25 expenses. Mrs. Krake?

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
2 EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT EASEMENT FOR
3 INGRESS AND EGRESS AT THE CORNER OF MARION
4 STREET AND NEW ROSS AVENUE AND TO ANNEX SAID
5 LANDS TO BE CONVEYED BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON
6 TO RONALD F. KITLAS AND MARY ANN KITLAS.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

11 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: 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: SIXTH ORDER. NO
22 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO
23 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

24 MS. EVANS: If there is no further
25 business, I'll entertain a motion to

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adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER