

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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HELD:

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2012

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

AMELIA NICOL, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

2

3 JANET EVANS

4 PATRICK ROGAN

5 ROBERT MCGOFF

6 FRANK JOYCE

7 JOHN LOSCOMBE

8 NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

9 JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

10 BOYD HUGHES, ESQ., SOLICITOR

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(Pledge of Allegiance)

FR. JONES: My brothers and sisters, we gather today realizing the fact that God is the giver of all good gifts and as we begin this new year of 2012 let us call upon him with faith and thanksgiving for the reorganization of the members of the our City Council. Let us begin by praying for our great nation of these United States; for our president, Barack Obama; the Congress and all duly elected national officials in the executive, legislative and judicial governance of our country. We pray, too, for our State of Pennsylvania, for its governor, the Honorable Tom Corbett and all the duly elected state officials. We pray also for this great City of Scranton now in its 130th year of existence, for our mayor, the Honorable Christopher Doherty, and for all who assist him in looking after the welfare of our citizens. And now we ask God's

1 blessing upon us and our deliberations
2 for this day and the reorganization of
3 our wonderful City Council, all this
4 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5 MS. KRAKE: In accordance with
6 the Home Rule Charter of the City of
7 Scranton designating the first Monday
8 of January as the date for city
9 council to reorganize, I hereby call
10 this 2012 organization meeting to
11 order. Roll call, please.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Here.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Here.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: Here.

22 MS. KRAKE: At this time I would
23 like -- excuse me. I need to announce
24 that the swearing in of the city
25 controller will happen at the end of

1 our agenda per her request. At this
2 time I would like to ask that as
3 people are called to the podium to be
4 sworn in, it would be appreciated if
5 the judges and elected officials would
6 then sign the documents that Jamie
7 will have ready for you when you are
8 through with any comments you may
9 have.

10 I have before me the Certificates
11 of Election of Jack Loscombe and
12 Robert E. McGoff as city council
13 persons. Will the council adopt a
14 motion to the effect that the
15 certificates be received and ordered,
16 filed and made a part of the minutes.

17 MR. ROGAN: I so move.

18 MR. JOYCE: I second the motion.

19 MS. KRAKE: On the question?

20 (No response.)

21 MS. KRAKE: All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MS. KRAKE: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 MS. KRAKE: The ayes have it and
6 so ordered.

7 I will now ask the Honorable
8 Judge Terrence Nealon to step forward
9 to the podium and administer the oath
10 the office to Jack Loscombe for the
11 elected office of city council.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'd like to have
13 my family approach. Don't forget the
14 Bible.

15 (John Loscombe, sworn.)

16 JUDGE TERRENCE NEALON:
17 Congratulations.

18 MS. KRAKE: I would now ask the
19 Honorable Judge William Nealon if he
20 would step forward to the podium to
21 administer the oath of office to
22 Robert E. McGoff for elected office of
23 city council.

24 JUDGE WILLIAM NEALON: I would
25 just like to say I would like to thank

1 Bob McGoff and the whole family.
2 We've been friends and neighbors for
3 many, many years and even closer than
4 that, his good wife happens to have
5 the maiden name of Nealon so I have a
6 double reason for being happy here.
7 But I don't know if you heard but Mr.
8 McGoff said, "Hi, Red, to me." At one
9 time I had red hair.

10 MR. MCGOFF, SR.: A lot of it,
11 too.

12 JUDGE WILLIAM NEALON: My wife
13 still calls me Red. And whenever
14 we're out with a crowd and meeting
15 them for the first time and she's Red
16 this and Red that. When they usually
17 leave, they'll say, "Well, nice
18 meeting you, Fred." They don't see
19 the curls. As I said, I want to thank
20 Bob for giving me this opportunity,
21 too -- I also have macular
22 degeneration so I have to have
23 something to read. All right.

24 (Robert McGoff, sworn.)

25 JUDGE WILLIAM NEALON:

1 Congratulations.

2 MS. KRAKE: I will now accept
3 nominations fro temporary chairperson.
4 What is your pleasure?

5 MR. JOYCE: I move that Jack
6 Loscombe be appointed the temporary
7 chairperson.

8 MS. KRAKE: On the question?
9 (No response.)

10 MS. KRAKE: All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MS. KRAKE: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 MS. KRAKE: The ayes have it and
20 so ordered.

21 Mr. Loscombe, will you please
22 take over as temporary chairperson.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. We
24 will now proceed with the
25 reorganization. I will now ask for

1 nominations for city clerk.

2 MS. EVANS: I nominate Nancy
3 Krake, City Clerk.

4 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I will ask for
8 roll call, please, Jamie.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: The motion is
20 adopted and I declare Nancy Krake duly
21 and legal elected City Clerk.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: I now call for
24 nomination of a permanent president of
25 council for the ensuing two years and

1 I'd like to nominate Mrs. Janet Tomko
2 Evans as permanent chairperson and
3 President of City Council.

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I will ask for a
8 roll call, please. Jamie?

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: The motion is
20 adopted and I declare Janet Tomko
21 Evans duly and legally elected
22 President of Council.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I now call for
25 nomination of Vice President of

1 Council for the ensuing two years.

2 MS. EVANS: I nominate Frank
3 Joyce as Vice President of City
4 Council.

5 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Roll call, please,
9 Jamie.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: The motion is
21 adopted and I declare Frank Joyce duly
22 and legally elected Vice President of
23 City Council.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. ROGAN: At this time I would

1 like to make a motion that City
2 Council appoint Attorney Boyd Hughes
3 to the position of City Council
4 Solicitor.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: All those in favor
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Opposed.

14 (No response.)

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: The ayes have it
16 and so ordered.

17 MS. KRAKE: I will now ask
18 Councilwoman Evans to come forward to
19 the podium to be sworn in as Council
20 President by the Honorable Judge
21 Terrence Nealon.

22 JUDGE TERRENCE NEALON: And I'd
23 like to thank Janet for the privilege
24 of allowing me to administer her oath
25 for her again and also thank Jack as

1 well. I recall it was two years ago
2 we had some grandchildren around this
3 here but this might be a little
4 more --

5 MS. EVANS: My son is babysitting
6 his children today. His wife is
7 working.

8 (Janet Evans, sworn.)

9 JUDGE TERRENCE NEALON:
10 Congratulations.

11 MS. KRAKE: I will now ask
12 Councilman Joyce to come forward to
13 the podium to be sworn in as Council
14 Vice President by the Honorable Judge
15 Terrence Nealon.

16 (Frank Joyce, sworn.)

17 JUDGE TERRENCE NEALON: Again I'd
18 like to thank Frank. Frank and I had
19 the pleasure of running together two
20 years ago when I ran for retention.

21 (Frank Joyce, sworn.)

22 JUDGE TERRENCE NEALON:
23 Congratulations.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would now like
25 to ask Judge Terrence Nealon to come

1 back up to the podium. We're keeping
2 you busy today and have Nancy Krake
3 join him to be sworn in as our City
4 Clerk.

5 JUDGE TERRENCE NEALON: I usually
6 run Lake Scranton but I won't have to
7 today. I'll be able to take a pass.

8 (Nancy Krake, sworn.)

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would now ask
10 that Mrs. Janet Tomko Evans take over
11 as permanent chairman and President of
12 Scranton City Council. That was a
13 rough ten minute stint.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And it
15 was relaxing for me.

16 We are now ready to consider the
17 Rules of Procedure by which this
18 council will be governed during the
19 next two years. What is your
20 pleasure?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I move that the
22 rules of council be adopted by
23 Resolution No. 1, 2012, as required by
24 the Home Rule Charter.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, would you
2 read Resolution No. 1.

3 MS. KRAKE: Resolution No. 1,
4 2012, adopting the rules and order of
5 business of the Scranton City Council,
6 Scranton, Pennsylvania.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question?

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.
9 I will be voting no on the council
10 rules only because I do disagree with
11 the August recess that is written into
12 the rules.

13 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else
14 on the question?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

23 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

1 The following will be the
2 committee chairpersons for the next
3 two years: Community Development, Pat
4 Rogan; Public Works, Bob McGoff;
5 Public Safety, Jack Loscombe; Finance,
6 Frank Joyce; Rules, Janet Evans.
7 Subcommittees: Pension Review
8 Administration, Bob McGoff; Downtown
9 Revitalization, Jack Loscombe; Boards
10 and Commissions, Pat Rogan;
11 Revenues/Taxes, Frank Joyce;
12 Intergovernmental Relations, Janet
13 Evans. I will now call on each
14 council member for a few brief
15 remarks.

16 Mr. McGoff, do you have any
17 remarks at this time?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First, I
19 would like to, you know, thank the
20 three gentlemen that flank me here for
21 the swearing in, three people for whom
22 I have the greatest respect.

23 Judge Nealon, thank you very
24 much. It was indeed an honor to have
25 you here today to do that and I

1 greatly appreciate it. My grandson,
2 Ryan, was also here. Ryan voted in
3 his first election in November, and
4 I'm very proud to have him with me
5 today to be part of this ceremony, and
6 most of all a thanks to my dad, Bob,
7 Sr. I get very emotional. I really
8 appreciate you being here and again
9 being part of this, and I hope you're
10 here if it happens again. And also a
11 thanks to my family that came today
12 and also my campaign chairman and his
13 wife for being here and friends of the
14 family who helped during this process
15 of getting elected, and lastly a thank
16 you to the voters of the City of
17 Scranton for placing their trust in me
18 to do this job for another four years,
19 and also a congratulations to all
20 those who were sworn in today and
21 hopefully this year will be a year of
22 progress and moving forward with the
23 development of the City of Scranton.
24 And thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan, do you
2 have any remarks at this time?

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes, briefly. I
4 would like to congratulate Councilman
5 Loscombe and Councilman McGoff. I
6 know both of them ran a very hard
7 champaign and as somebody and as all
8 of us up here who have run, we
9 understand how difficult it is to run
10 for public office. And especially Mr.
11 Loscombe, it was his first time
12 running and I ran my first time and I
13 actually lost to Mr. McGoff. And I
14 always joke around that I don't feel
15 as bad now after you were a top vote
16 getter in this election that you beat
17 me in my first run. But
18 congratulations to both of them.
19 Congratulations, of course, to Janet
20 Evans being sworn in for president
21 again, Mr. Joyce for taking the vice
22 president spot. I had the privilege
23 of serving as vice president for two
24 years and now it's Mr. Joyce's turn so
25 I wish him the best as well. Also

1 Mrs. Krake and Attorney Hughes, wish
2 both of you the best and
3 congratulations again on another
4 two-year term for both of you. And I
5 hope as Mr. McGoff said that this next
6 year will be a year of progress where
7 we can do, you know, we can move the
8 city in the direction where we help
9 all the people. I think we have done
10 a good job over the first two years,
11 my first two years, and I hope to
12 continue that and continue working for
13 the people. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, do you
16 have any remarks at this time?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Only about a
18 half hour's worth. No. I'll keep it
19 short. I don't have anything
20 prepared. But I, too, would like to
21 thank my family for being here today
22 and for being here with me the past
23 two years through many of the
24 decisions we've had to made and
25 there's been some tough decisions and

1 I did have the support of my family
2 through all of that. And I'm honored
3 to say I have the oldest member of my
4 family here. I won't tell how old,
5 Mom. To the youngest member, my
6 grandsons, Sam and Andrew. I think
7 Andrew is out in the hall right now.
8 So for that I'm honored, and I'm
9 honored to serve here for that reason.
10 But I'd like to thank everyone who
11 supported me in the campaign, who
12 voted for me and it's an honor and a
13 privilege to be able to serve them for
14 another four years.

15 Two years ago, I believe it was
16 January 12th of 2010 I received a
17 phone call and I was appointed to this
18 position by my honorable colleagues
19 here, and they took a giant leap of
20 faith when they appointed me. I
21 believe there were 23 of us that
22 applied for the position and, you
23 know, I think some of them have known
24 me through different functions and
25 that but, you know, I've never been

1 involved politically or anything at
2 that time. So they took a giant leap
3 of faith in appointing me in hoping I
4 did my best for the people in the City
5 of Scranton and to be perfectly honest
6 with you, I was a nervous wreck here
7 that night when I was sworn in. I've
8 become a little more comfortable since
9 then. But, you know, on a day-to-day
10 basis it's an honor to go out and, you
11 know, you run into people on the
12 streets, in the grocery stores and
13 that's what I love about Scranton.
14 You know, they'll come up to you with
15 their concerns. First, they'll
16 apologize, Oh, I don't want to bother
17 you here at dinner, in the store. But
18 I know just like everyone of my
19 colleagues here, we enjoy that.
20 That's what we're here to serve you
21 for and that's how we find out what
22 the issues are on a daily basis out in
23 the street because we're here working
24 for you. People often say this is a
25 part-time job, we're here one night a

1 week but don't be fooled. You can ask
2 my family. It's a 24-hour job. We
3 get calls, e-mails, concerns at all
4 times of the day and evening, and it's
5 always on our mind but we're
6 passionate about it. You know,
7 sometimes we all don't agree on
8 certain issues but I often say I've
9 been married for 32 years and my wife
10 and I don't agree all the time either
11 and we're still together. We can
12 agree to disagree on issues and I
13 believe our best interest, our hearts
14 are in the responsibility that we have
15 for everyone in the city and this
16 year -- I mean, well, even last year
17 we have some heavy issues that we have
18 to work on together. And, you know,
19 budgetary wise public safety, you
20 know, that's my committee, and that is
21 a big issue right now. As of
22 January 1st we're down to 100
23 firefighters, we're down on police
24 officers and I just have a great
25 concern on that. But I know together

1 we are going to work hard to resolve
2 these issues. And I think, you know,
3 that maybe, maybe the mayor and our
4 council can work a little more
5 together. I know the mayor had
6 reached out to Mr. Rogan this past
7 year and prior to the budget he had
8 reached out to me. I hope that's an
9 new opening that he will work together
10 with us and perhaps we will be able to
11 work on something. You know, I have
12 some ideas, maybe a couple members of
13 council. He doesn't want to come to a
14 public meeting. Perhaps we can have a
15 couple members of council meet with
16 him along with the newspaper
17 reporters. At least there's a report
18 of what is going on. We like to keep
19 everything open and transparent but we
20 have to progress this city and we have
21 some pretty hefty issues this year,
22 budgetary issues and it's going to
23 take us all working together for you.
24 That's what we've been trying to do
25 and as you've seen in the past two

1 years, we've had to make some hard
2 decisions. Nobody likes to cut
3 anybody's jobs or salaries due to
4 economic reasons and reasons I won't
5 go into here, I've gone through them
6 in other meetings with, you know, not
7 following budgetary items and stuff
8 like that. We're in the position that
9 it's worse than it was. And the only
10 way we're going to get any better is
11 if we work a little bit more together.
12 I know we have agendas and we want to
13 get this city moving ahead. And I
14 think with the crew that we have here,
15 I've been very fortunate. They've
16 been my mentors this past two years,
17 they've taught me a lot. I go to them
18 with questions, they ask me questions
19 but they usually have the better
20 answers. But I'm proud to be here
21 with Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rogan, Mrs.
22 Evans, Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Krake and
23 Attorney Hughes and, of course, Jamie
24 from our office here and Cathy who is
25 not here this evening. But I hope to

1 continue the hard work that we've been
2 doing and for 2012 I just hope that
3 things will progress a little bit
4 better, and I know we're all going to
5 be working hard to see that that
6 happens because we have over 70,000
7 people that we're responsible for.
8 And, again, I'm calling for the mayor
9 to cooperate with us and in the best
10 interest of everyone in this city and
11 I'm looking for the next four years.
12 That's all I have to say. Thank you
13 very much. I forgot to mention, I
14 wanted to thank Fr. Joe from St. Ann's
15 for being here and Judges Nealon --
16 it's easier to say it that way -- for
17 giving us the honor of swearing us in
18 here. And, again, Mr. McGoff for
19 running a good campaign, even our
20 candidates in the primary. They're
21 all very good candidates and they have
22 bright futures and I hope they will
23 continue to serve in the best interest
24 of the city and, you know, come up
25 here. I'm an old man so I won't be

1 here long but thanks to everybody.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, do you
5 have any remarks today?

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I'd like to
7 begin first by congratulating my
8 colleagues, Councilman Bob McGoff and
9 Councilman Jack Loscombe as well as
10 their challengers for the campaigns
11 that they ran. I think that they all
12 brought out very noteworthy issues and
13 they -- and my two colleagues sitting
14 here, I'm very confident that they
15 will both do a great job over the next
16 four years. I'd also like to thank
17 Judge Terrence Nealon for swearing me
18 in and also Councilman Rogan for his
19 two years of service as vice
20 president. It will be -- I will be
21 seeking to follow or fill his shoes
22 over the next two years and also Fr.
23 Joe; our City Clerk, Nancy Krake; our
24 solicitor, Boyd Hughes; and also Jamie
25 and Cathy from our office.

1 Over the past two years it has
2 been an honor and a privilege to serve
3 the residents of Scranton. I'd like
4 to thank the residents of Scranton
5 once again for putting me where I am
6 today. I would also like to thank the
7 heroes in the military who continue to
8 fight for our way of life as these men
9 and women allow our government to
10 exist.

11 Finally, I'd like to thank again
12 my family but especially my mother and
13 my late father who I unfortunately
14 lost at an early age and thank both of
15 them over the course of my life, they
16 instilled certain values in me such as
17 to always be honest, to never forget
18 where I came from, to care about
19 others more than myself, to be humble,
20 to work hard and to always give it my
21 all. These core values have guided me
22 through my first two years of service.
23 These core values will continue to
24 guide me in my next two years of
25 service as vice president and finance

1 chair. I will continue to make
2 decisions with the utilitarian
3 approach in making decisions which
4 means the best for all. I will
5 continue to fight for all of the
6 residents of Scranton no matter who
7 they are, whether or not they voted
8 for me and no matter where in the city
9 they are from as everyone in Scranton
10 is equal in my eye. As I look to the
11 future there is much that can be done
12 still to make Scranton a better place
13 to live than it is today. Over the
14 next two years I pledge to put my
15 heart and my soul into making that
16 happen in my capacity as a member of
17 Scranton City Council and also as the
18 Vice President of Scranton City
19 Council. One again thank you all for
20 giving me the opportunity to serve and
21 it has been an honor and a privilege
22 to serve the Scrantonian residents and
23 it always will be and that's all.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. EVANS: Good morning. This

1 is a day to give thanks for our many,
2 many blessings and to examine our
3 past, present and future as
4 Scrantonians.

5 To begin, Scranton City Council
6 wishes to thank the Honorable Judge
7 William Nealon and his son, the
8 Honorable Terrence Nealon for
9 administering our oaths of office and
10 Fr. Joseph Jones, C.P, Parochial Vicar
11 of St. Ann's Basilica Parish in
12 Scranton for blessing this council,
13 these chambers and all of those in
14 attendance today. We thank all who
15 have taken the time to attend this
16 ceremony, demonstrate your support and
17 wish this council continued success.
18 I particularly want to thank the
19 voters of Scranton who chose to retain
20 this council to insure checks and
21 balances, accountability and physical
22 responsibility in city government. I
23 extend my best wishes to Councilmen
24 McGoff and Jack Loscombe as they enter
25 their new terms in elected office. I

1 also recognize Councilman Pat Rogan
2 for his strong, dedicated service as
3 vice president and I congratulate
4 Councilman Frank Joyce, our newly
5 elected vice president of Scranton
6 City Council whose financial work and
7 commitment to this council earned him
8 this honor. In addition, I thank my
9 colleagues for again placing their
10 confidence in me as President of City
11 Council and each of us is fortunate to
12 work with Council Solicitor Boyd
13 Hughes whose sagacious, steadfast
14 guidance and unwavering commitment to
15 the taxpayers of Scranton is
16 unequaled. Council also thanks its
17 three staff members; Mrs. Krake, Miss
18 Carrera and Miss Marciano for their
19 diligent work over the last two years.
20 I am deeply grateful to my dear
21 friends and family, my devoted mother,
22 husband, children and grandchildren
23 for their unconditional love,
24 understanding and support throughout
25 the best and worse of times.

1 Ladies and gentlemen, your
2 council accomplished many goals and
3 kept its pledges to you in the past
4 two years. We decreased real estate
5 taxes by ten percent and business
6 taxes by 25 percent for 2011, lowered
7 the bidding threshold and put
8 professional services out to bid in an
9 effort to assist existing businesses
10 and encourage new businesses to locate
11 in Scranton. We ended wasteful,
12 frivolous spending of UDAG funds and
13 allocated increased CDBG funding for
14 blight removal, paving and for police
15 and fire vehicles. We hammered out a
16 fair contract with Northeast Revenue
17 Service for the collection of
18 delinquent taxes, secured delinquent
19 taxes from wealthy developers,
20 approved state funding for three major
21 redevelopment projects citywide and
22 increased pilot payments to the City
23 of Scranton from \$100,000 in 2009 to
24 over \$200,000 in 2010 and 11. We were
25 the first government body to band bath

1 salts and synthetic marijuana in
2 Northeastern Pennsylvania in order to
3 protect our children and youth. We
4 kept workers employed at the Steamtown
5 Mall and exposed financial
6 mismanagement in city government among
7 other achievements. Most recently
8 city council provided a balanced
9 budget which cleared up five lingering
10 city debts, including the SRA, the
11 SPA, federal CDBG monies, borrowing
12 for 2011 unfunded debt and
13 reimbursement of the Workers' Comp
14 reserve funds and full payment of
15 outstanding bills. Equally important
16 this council decreased Mayor Doherty's
17 proposed 29 percent tax increase to a
18 4.8 percent tax increase while
19 providing funding for the
20 reinstatement of 13 firefighters in
21 2012. We opened the lines of
22 communication and forged cooperation
23 with the banking community, the
24 Pennsylvania Economy League, the
25 Department of Community and Economic

1 Development and the Doherty
2 administration. However, our work is
3 not finished. Many challenges lie
4 ahead, particularly the Supreme Court
5 award of tens of millions of dollars
6 to Scranton Police and fire, the
7 resulting spike in debt service
8 payments and ultimately removal of
9 distressed status. To meet these
10 formidable challenges, Mayor Doherty,
11 his administration, Scranton City
12 Council, the Pennsylvania Economy
13 League and DCED must work jointly to
14 shift the tax burden from our
15 financially oppressed citizens to
16 those who use city services without
17 shouldering their fair share.
18 Together we must seek to implement a
19 payroll tax so that big business pays
20 while small business pays less, a
21 commuter tax in order that county
22 residents who enjoy city services
23 share the costs and an amusement tax
24 to slightly increase the price of
25 entertainment for those who can afford

1 to attend events. The people of our
2 city cannot shoulder the financial
3 challenges 2012 and 2013 alone.
4 Increasing real estate taxes and
5 cutting manpower will no longer be
6 options. Rather, new revenue
7 generators must be pursued. The
8 success of this plan depends upon the
9 combined cooperative efforts of the
10 Doherty administration, city council
11 and PEL. City council stands ready
12 for the future and is the first to
13 offer its cooperation today to meet
14 our city's challenges. May God bless
15 Scranton and its good people as we
16 move forward in this new year. Thank
17 you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. KRAKE: I have before me the
20 Certificate of Election of Roseann
21 Novembrino, city controller. Will the
22 council adopt a motion to the effect
23 that the certificate be received and
24 order filed and made a part of the
25 minutes?

1 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

2 MS. EVANS: We need a council

3 member to move the motion first.

4 MR. ROGAN: I apologize. I move
5 the motion.

6 MR. JOYCE: I second the motion.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question?

8 (No response.)

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

11 MS. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MS. KRAKE: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

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

20 MS. KRAKE: I would now ask that
21 the Honorable Judge James J. Walsh
22 step forward to the podium to
23 administer the oath of office to Mrs.
24 Novembrino for the elected Office of
25 City Controller.

1 (Roseann Novembrino, sworn.)

2 MS. NOVEMBRINO: Honorable
3 judges, honorable council, I feel so
4 privileged to be standing here today.
5 I realize once again I have received
6 the wealth and support of my wonderful
7 family, friends and the people of
8 Scranton who have always year after
9 year supported me. Next to my love of
10 God, family and friends comes the love
11 of my great city. As controller, I
12 will continue an open door policy, I
13 will always, always be available to
14 the people of Scranton. I want to be
15 part of a positive process that will
16 insure the city's future. I will
17 continue to work hard to keep your
18 trust and make you proud. I
19 understand as separate bodies of
20 government we may disagree from
21 time-to-time but our disagreements
22 should be resolved as quickly as
23 possible for the people of Scranton,
24 that common sense and common courtesy
25 prevail. May we keep our eyes on the

1 builders and the planner of Scranton
2 and people who come into our city with
3 dreams and want to obtain them and
4 obtain their goals to make our city a
5 better place.

6 At this time I would like to
7 congratulate Councilman McGoff and
8 Jack Loscombe and I hope you have a
9 wonderful four years ahead of you.
10 And, of course, to my staff who are
11 always, always there for me. And I'm
12 so honored to have everyone here today
13 and thank you so very much. Thank
14 you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Congratulations to
17 you, too, Mrs. Novembrino.

18 MR. JOYCE: Congratulations.

19 MR. ROGAN: Congratulations.

20 MS. EVANS: Congratulations. I
21 will now call for a motion to adjourn.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
25 adjourned. There being no further

1 business, our next regularly scheduled
2 meeting is be held on Thursday,
3 January 12th, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

4 Thank you all for attending today.

5 Please stand for the benediction.

6 FR. JONES: Eternal loving God
7 source of every good gift, we thank
8 you for being with us this day in
9 these deliberations as we move forward
10 for the best of our city. We ask you
11 special blessings now on our
12 reorganized city council members.
13 Help them, Lord, to use their talents
14 for the good of this city and all its
15 inhabitants. Guide them in all their
16 deliberations and may they continue to
17 promote through peace and justice
18 among all our residents. May they
19 always be protective of the integrity
20 of creation and the natural resources
21 entrusted to their care. May they be
22 sensitive to the needs of the poor and
23 the unemployed. May they be vigilant
24 in looking after the welfare of our
25 children as well as our elderly. May

1 they continue to be supportive of new
2 ventures, in improved education and
3 health care systems and may they be
4 open to the rich diversity of cultural
5 and religious traditions already in
6 our midst. And finally, Lord, may they
7 all be enabled by your powerful
8 protection to discharge their duties
9 with honesty and integrity and may we,
10 their fellow citizens pledge them our
11 loyalty, our prayers and our support
12 as they strive to fulfill the duties
13 of their offices for the common good
14 of this great city. Amen.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much
16 Fr. Jones. And, again, thank you all
17 for attending.

18 (Proceedings adjourned at 11:56
19 a.m.)
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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 taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

Amelia Nicol, RPR
Official Court Reporter