

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 22, 2012

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, 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.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

16 AGENDA FOR THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
17 MEETING HELD MARCH 21, 2012.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. CITY OF SCRANTON  
21 2012 CASH FLOWS RECEIVED MARCH 13, 2012 AS  
22 PROVIDED BY PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMY LEAGUE.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. APPLICATIONS ALONG

1 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING  
2 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
4 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
5 clerk's notes this evening?

6 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
8 council members have announcements at this  
9 time?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Just one last comment  
11 on the Holy Cross boys basketball team.  
12 Unfortunately lost last evening in the state  
13 semi-finals to the defending state  
14 champions, lost by two points, had every  
15 opportunity to win, played a great game, but  
16 congratulations to them and to all the  
17 members of the Holy Cross team. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: We are all very proud.

19 MR. ROGAN: Just one tonight, West  
20 Scranton High School will be presenting  
21 Grease March 30 and 31st at 7:30 p.m. and  
22 April 1 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults  
23 and \$5 for students. They may be available  
24 at the door, but hopefully they will sell  
25 out. West Scranton always does a good job

1 with other plays in the school and West  
2 Scranton High School can be called at  
3 348-3626. That's all.

4 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes. The PLCTA, Parents  
6 Loving Children Through Autism will be  
7 holding their Annual Autism Awareness Walk  
8 on Saturday, April 21, at Nay Aug Park in  
9 Scranton's Hill Section. The walk begins at  
10 11 a.m. and if you would like more  
11 information about the walk please contact  
12 the PLCTA at 324-3388, and we also have some  
13 good news from Scranton High School.  
14 Dafne Paramo was awarded a Monsignor Andrew  
15 J. McGowan Hispanic Scholarship to King's  
16 College. Dafne is one of two students to  
17 receive this honor out of 15,000 applicants.  
18 This scholarship will cover full tuition as  
19 well as room and board for four years at  
20 King's College.

21 With this being said, I would just  
22 like to congratulate Dafne Paramo for her  
23 scholastic efforts and her hard work and  
24 dedication.

25 And finally, the Leadership

1 Lackawanna County start group has an  
2 opportunity for artists to participate in a  
3 project runway type of event. They are  
4 currently seeking artists to create signs  
5 for vacant spaces downtown as part of the  
6 live event and then place in the store front  
7 windows. Leadership Lackawanna will cover  
8 the supply costs for artists, so artists of  
9 all levels may apply by submitting samples  
10 of their work and a \$10 applicant  
11 application fee. The application process  
12 end March 27, and anyone interested can  
13 contact Maureen McWiggan at 963-6590, and  
14 that is all.

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, do you  
16 have any announcements?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have none this  
18 evening. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Saints Peter and Paul  
20 Roman Catholic Church, 109 West Locust  
21 Street in Scranton will hold a pierogi and  
22 clam chowder sale every Saturday before and  
23 after the 4 p.m. mass and Sunday before and  
24 after the 11 a.m. mass during the Lenten  
25 season. Pierogi at \$6 per dozen and clam

1 chowder is \$6 per quart. Be sure to pick up  
2 these delicious homemade Lenten treats.

3 Attention Scranton residents  
4 concerned by the future of North Scranton  
5 Junior High School, please e-mail  
6 BHudson@PHFA.org or write to Pennsylvania  
7 Housing Finance Agency, PHFA, Brian Hudson,  
8 211 Front Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17105, by  
9 April 14, 2010 with the following message:  
10 Provide the funding to save the school and  
11 the North Scranton community. We must all  
12 do our part to ensure that the North  
13 Scranton Junior High project is funded by  
14 the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, and  
15 can begin in the near future.

16 The Fraternal Order of Eagles, 493  
17 Meridian Avenue, in Scranton, will hold a  
18 pre-purple day Epilepsy benefit on March 4,  
19 2012, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is  
20 \$5 and includes food, live entertainment,  
21 from 8 to 11 p.m. and basket raffles  
22 featuring autographed books by Cake Boss,  
23 Buddy Valastro. All proceeds benefit the  
24 Anita Kauffman Foundation for the awareness  
25 of the Epilepsy and World Purpose Day. For

1 more information call the Eagle's Club at  
2 961-5495.

3 And finally, on behalf of Scranton  
4 City Council, I'd like to wish Ms. Carrera,  
5 our assistant city clerk, a very happy  
6 birthday, and a happy belated birthday to  
7 Councilman Rogan, he celebrated yesterday.

8 MR. ROGAN: Thank you much.

9 MS. EVANS: And many more. Can you  
10 disclose how old?

11 MR. ROGAN: One-quarter of a  
12 century.

13 MS. EVANS: There you go.  
14 One-quarter of a century.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll sell you half.

16 MS. EVANS: I'll throw in 25 on top  
17 of that. Mrs. Krake.

18 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
19 PARTICIPATION.

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

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
23 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians.  
24 It's nice to hear of all of the people that  
25 are making a buck off the University. It's



1 nice to hear that. They have all kinds of  
2 ways to make a buck, but what are we making?  
3 Everything is trickled down to us. We can't  
4 afford drops of water now. We need a  
5 fountain flowing. You got to look at some  
6 way to get at the University. Maybe a  
7 residence tax. Every one over 18 has to pay  
8 "X" amount of dollars. Everybody that lives  
9 on the University over 30 days would be  
10 called a resident and they would have to  
11 come up with money. We got to get money  
12 directly. I mean, you can't put a gun to  
13 that Chancellor's head, it doesn't work.  
14 You can't tell him this way or that way.  
15 The mafia could do it, but we can't.

16 Another thing we got to look at,  
17 anything that can get money drained in, you  
18 notice the Sewer Authority gets money from  
19 the University. How did they do it? They  
20 supply service. I think it's time for us to  
21 look at the possibility of having the police  
22 service charge and the firemen service  
23 charge. Otherwise, you going to get hit  
24 with so much tax you are going to destroy  
25 the city. You might as well blow it up or

1 follow what I always said. Get me a good  
2 grant, I'll build a damn from the east to  
3 west mountain and I think we can do that and  
4 really flood the city and that would be the  
5 best way to go, because we are drowning now  
6 so what difference if we drown near a damn  
7 or from financial ruin?

8 You also passed legislation awhile  
9 saying anybody that performed a service in  
10 the city is required to pay a tax. How many  
11 lawyers and doctors are performing services  
12 in the city and how much are we getting from  
13 them? I mean, you got to get after every  
14 penny that we can get because I looked at  
15 what your recommendation were, you might as  
16 well put every taxpayer in chains, because  
17 that's what you are doing. You are putting  
18 us all in chains. You got to get after the  
19 University and you got to figure out ways to  
20 get after them, because asking them to give  
21 any kind of a contribution voluntary forget  
22 it. I mean, you just ain't going to do it.  
23 Voluntary contributions is only miniscule  
24 that they give, but you know how other  
25 people are getting the money.

1                   They got housing projects going for  
2                   them, somebody is selling them all kinds of  
3                   material and so forth and so on there is a  
4                   lot of waste, private sector can get money  
5                   from the University, but the public sector,  
6                   unfortunately, is forced now to do the same.  
7                   I hate to do it, but we haven't gotten much  
8                   choice. We are so far into debt and unless  
9                   you want to go bankrupt that's the only way  
10                  out is you get the nonprofits to come up  
11                  with their fair share.

12                  Now, I know the hospitals now are  
13                  nonprofit. I don't know how much we are  
14                  getting from them, I don't know if you  
15                  checked to see how much they are getting  
16                  quarterly from the nonprofit hospitals or  
17                  whatever nonprofit there may be. That  
18                  housing project for the elderly, they claim  
19                  it's nonprofit. I don't know of many  
20                  elderly persons, well, you could come up  
21                  with \$800 if you don't have to pay the  
22                  utilities, but I don't know what that  
23                  project called for, I didn't look at the  
24                  specs on it to see if every individual in  
25                  this project has to pay their own utilities.



1 I have mentioned at a recent council meeting  
2 that I wanted to bring together the three  
3 taxing bodies to discuss properties  
4 belonging to nonprofits, tax exempt  
5 properties that can be taxed and so a  
6 meeting has been scheduled for the first  
7 week in April and members of council will be  
8 meeting with the county commissioners, with  
9 Mr. King from the Scranton school district,  
10 and we will be discussing a joint effort  
11 toward taxing certain vacant property and  
12 for profit properties owned by the  
13 University of the Scranton and others.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, that sounds  
15 very good, but you got to realize that our  
16 whole tax base on residential properties is  
17 13 million. What do you get for a few  
18 other -- even if you get 20 properties  
19 that's a drop in the pocket, you got to go  
20 even greater than that.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes, but it's a start.  
22 Thank you. Our next speaker is Ozzie Quinn.

23 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton  
24 Taxpayers' Association.

25 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

1 MR. QUINN: I'd like to pick up on  
2 the program, the LERTA program, that's  
3 applied to the housing project proposed for  
4 the 1600 block of the Dickson Avenue. Last  
5 week we had some discussion, myself and  
6 Solicitor Hughes, in regards to the LERTA.  
7 I yield to the fact that the schedule  
8 because of the fact that in 1974 they passed  
9 a LERTA program, and I think it's called Act  
10 76 when they started to put it into  
11 existence. But anyway, a lot of companies  
12 in the City of Scranton really received help  
13 from the LERTA program. However, I'm aware  
14 of the fact that at that time it was always  
15 a decreasing sliding scale that they used  
16 and it started at 100 percent abatement,  
17 next year it was 90 percent paid down to  
18 last year it was 10 and then you paid the  
19 full everything, okay?

20 And somewhere along the line when I  
21 was on the Redevelopment Authority I always  
22 thought that Mr. Boscov was going to do that  
23 same thing, but when I left from the  
24 Redevelopment Authority and it was finally  
25 opened up after Mayor Connors was in there

1 and I was surprised when I realized that he  
2 got 100 percent for all of that, you know  
3 what I mean, for each of the 10 years. A  
4 lot of communities, if you research a lot of  
5 communities don't use that ten years, but I  
6 don't want to use it all up on that, okay?

7 I am concerned very much on the fact  
8 that, and I don't believe that they are  
9 using the right zoning there. I was on the  
10 City Planning Commission, I was chairman,  
11 and I used to review with city planner, Don  
12 King, all of the programs and one of the  
13 things we'd go over is the zoning and  
14 whatnot, you know, and I participated in  
15 adoption of the zoning ordinance of the City  
16 of Scranton and whatnot, okay? And I know  
17 that if you go to light industry, there  
18 isn't anything -- any light industry or  
19 heavy industry that gives you the right to  
20 have a variance for housing, whether it be  
21 single family housing or rental housing.

22 The only way -- the only way that  
23 you could have housing is to change the  
24 1,500 block of Dickson Avenue to a  
25 residential area, okay? You can change it

1 to probably another zone, but you probably  
2 have to get a -- maybe there would be a  
3 variance within that, but the best way to do  
4 is would be to change it to residential.

5 And I, myself, as you know,  
6 Mrs. Evans, would like to see that change  
7 because, you know, lo and behold I saw  
8 Mr. Doherty say in the paper, I remember the  
9 dumps and everything down there, but I also  
10 remember Mr. Doherty putting Daron down  
11 there and, you know, I remember going down  
12 there and meeting with the people and trying  
13 to get the Department of the Health when  
14 they came in and DEP and whatnot and people  
15 suffered very much, so it's not that we are  
16 against anything down there, but the fact is  
17 I think it's a wrong zoning, it should go  
18 back maybe to the zoning board, but, that's  
19 a few people, but the fact is I think that  
20 if it was residential or if it was changed  
21 residential and stayed that way until we  
22 knew where we are going, I think the people  
23 would if it was a green area until we knew  
24 where we were going they would be all right.

25 Actually on the master plan, this is



1 an industrial zone, okay? I checked with  
2 that, too, okay? So that's what I wanted to  
3 talk about there, okay?

4 But the second thing I want to talk  
5 about, I want to really give thanks to the  
6 firefighters, the police, the DPW route men  
7 that do the refuse hauling, they work very  
8 hard and whether it's a -- whatever kind of  
9 weather it is they are out there, okay?

10 If you ever -- I know when I was  
11 about 13 years old our house burnt down, our  
12 family home, and if you ever witnessed how  
13 brave a fireman is, okay, and nowadays if  
14 you ever witness since then up to now so  
15 much training has gone now into  
16 firefighting. Now, people say, "Union. The  
17 union firefighters. The union this."

18 I think actually these firefighters  
19 by being in the union it gives them a little  
20 more camaraderie, a little more union, okay,  
21 because when they go into a burning building  
22 if you were down on Langstaff Street or  
23 anything and you seen what happened you  
24 would understand that, okay?

25 And lastly, I to want to thank the

1 city council who hardly ever gets any  
2 approval. You guys a got a tough job and  
3 have an awful lot of hard work so, thank  
4 you.

5 I want to say one thing, if he may,  
6 okay? There is on the agenda tonight on 5-C  
7 you have Rockwell Avenue, they have a cost  
8 overrun, cost overruns. I have always ever  
9 since the back in the 60's with the SRA,  
10 okay, they cost \$1 million to do the  
11 Rockwell Avenue and the engineering is  
12 asking for \$74,000 cost overrun, okay? And  
13 they put a lot of other gobbledegook in  
14 there, okay, I don't know what for, but you  
15 know the fact that should have been in there  
16 beforehand, but I think you should really  
17 look at any future contacts to see just  
18 where -- what percentage and what really  
19 happens with these cost overruns because of  
20 the fact that sometimes the low bidder,  
21 okay, actually might be the one who should  
22 get that or the low bidder gets it, but he  
23 actually is the high bidder after he gets  
24 this cost overrun, okay? So I appreciate  
25 that very much, and I appreciate coming up

1 here tonight.

2 And one other thing I want to ask,  
3 okay, I had looked in last week's paper and  
4 the fire and I saw where they took \$100,000  
5 from legal from city council and I saw where  
6 \$95,000 from federal funds that were not  
7 designated and I scratched my head. I don't  
8 know what that would be from. Now, if that  
9 money was --

10 MS. EVANS: I'm actually going to  
11 address that under motions as well as very  
12 briefly the issue on Dickson Avenue.

13 MR. QUINN: Okay. Why go for a bond  
14 issue if we have that money laying around  
15 here, okay? I mean, I'm glad the firemen  
16 are back to work, I think they all should be  
17 back to work. Thank God for that, but there  
18 must money laying around. Where this guy  
19 has it hidden I don't know. I mean, the  
20 mayor has. Thank you. Sorry about that.

21 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Quinn, I'll answer  
22 the question that you posed to me during  
23 motions.

24 MR. QUINN: I appreciate that.  
25 Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Gerard Hetman.

2 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, council.

3 My name is Gerard Hetman, and I'm here  
4 tonight from the Lackawanna County  
5 Department of Community Relations. This is  
6 my first time speaking in Scranton City  
7 Council and it's our departments first week  
8 of going out to municipal meetings in  
9 Lackawanna County. So I'm here to introduce  
10 you tonight to our Department of Community  
11 Relations, explaining a little bit about it  
12 and also share some of the news and events  
13 that are happening in Lackawanna County with  
14 this first meeting.

15 Again, my name Gerard Hetman. I  
16 have been assigned to Scranton City  
17 government, both school board and Scranton  
18 City Council, Scranton municipal government.  
19 Our job with our department is to foster and  
20 mold and build relationships and make  
21 progress between the Lackawanna County  
22 commissioners and Lackawanna County  
23 government, and the Lackawanna County  
24 taxpayers, Scranton taxpayers, of course,  
25 and local governments whether it be Borough

1 Councils, city councils, Board of  
2 Supervisors, school boards and other local  
3 government organizations and community  
4 organizations as they see fit.

5 We have a staff of four that are  
6 assigned to different parts of Lackawanna  
7 County, all of our municipalities have been  
8 covered, and our goal is to, again, build  
9 and promote positive progress in local  
10 government through the county commissioners  
11 in conjunction with local governing bodies,  
12 such as yourself. I should note we are not  
13 here to get in the way of any existing  
14 relationships.

15 I heard you mention a meeting  
16 before, Mrs. Evans. We are not here to  
17 obstruct that or cause any extra headaches  
18 or red tape, but many governments sometimes  
19 don't always want to reach out to the county  
20 or maybe in the past sometimes the county  
21 hasn't reached out to them. We are here to  
22 change that and we are here for taxpayers,  
23 for local residents and we are here to build  
24 good progress between Lackawanna County  
25 government and the constituents of

1 Lackawanna County through municipal  
2 governments.

3 So at the moment, what will happen  
4 is I'll be here or one of our community  
5 relations coordinators will be here for  
6 every meeting, we will be a regular presence  
7 here, and sometimes we will have remarks  
8 from the commissioners or we will have brief  
9 presentations or talking points from them  
10 about ongoing events they way want to share  
11 with you.

12 Particularly this time we have some  
13 ongoing events without the county such as  
14 the Lackawanna County Conservation District  
15 is having their annual seedling sale, which  
16 is going on to April 15 -- or April 13,  
17 excuse me.

18 Our department actually is trying to  
19 take the lead for the county in establishing  
20 a committee to increase annual attendance at  
21 the annual Armed Forces Day parade in May.  
22 Our Veteran's Office, Veteran's Affairs has  
23 a very strong presence in the parade  
24 actually and participation from marching and  
25 participation. This committee is trying to

1 be aimed in getting more attendance, I don't  
2 know if we'll get St. Patrick's Day, but we  
3 are going to aim for that definitely.

4 And there is one or two other events  
5 going on such as the television show  
6 American Pickers from the History Channel,  
7 will be coming to Lackawanna County in the  
8 near future, so it's a great chance for local  
9 residents to clean out whatever they have  
10 and get it on TV and see what they can get  
11 for it.

12 There is number other programs here,  
13 also, such as one from Penn State extension  
14 listing some of their master gardening  
15 series events, and if I could, I'd just like  
16 to approach and share these with you and you  
17 can distribute them as you wish.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

19 MR. HETMAN: And last, but not  
20 least, the Lackawanna County Planning Office  
21 we are giving these to all of the  
22 municipalities, we are presenting you with a  
23 map, a street map, of Scranton, the City of  
24 Scranton, so you can use this as you see  
25 fit, and I'm actually going to give this to

1           you, if you don't mind.

2                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. This is most  
3           useful. Thank you.

4                   MR. HETMAN: One thing I should note  
5           is we will always be here for the whole  
6           meeting. Some of the meetings that we have  
7           gone to they actually let our coordinator  
8           speak first thinking that they want to  
9           leave. We will be here for the whole  
10          meeting, every meeting, and we will be  
11          around afterwards in case you or citizens  
12          want to talk us. Is there anything I can  
13          answer now though while we are here or any  
14          remarks that you have that I can address or  
15          anything? We're good?

16                   MS. EVANS: I don't think we have  
17          anything at this time.

18                   MR. HETMAN: That's fine. I have  
19          business cards for everybody I'd like to  
20          give to afterward, and again, you will see  
21          me here or you will see myself or one of the  
22          other staffers here for every meeting.

23                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I appreciate the  
24          initiative and we are happy to see you here  
25          and, you know, this is great opening the



1 lines of communications and working together  
2 an, you know, again, if we get the school  
3 board on board --

4 MR. HETMAN: Absolutely.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Because we all  
6 represent the same constituents here and I  
7 think we can accomplish something.

8 MR. HETMAN: That's what we are here  
9 for.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: The lines of  
11 communication are critical.

12 MR. HETMAN: That's exactly what we  
13 are here for. Again, not to get in the way  
14 of anything existing, but to promote new  
15 things and strengthen existing links  
16 sometimes. We are your link to Lackawanna  
17 County, to the county commissioners and to  
18 county services and county government. We  
19 are here to reach out to you, and I'm also a  
20 city resident, a life-long city resident. I  
21 heard you mention Leadership Lackawanna  
22 before, Mr. Joyce, I'm in the current class,  
23 also, not that project, but in that class so  
24 we are here to do good things. Our office  
25 is here to do good things and we are here to

1 work for you. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: I really appreciate your  
4 time and commitment and also your dedication  
5 to boosting attendance at the Armed Forces  
6 Parade. I think that's a very important  
7 parade. You know, so many members of the  
8 Armed Forces sacrifice and -- they sacrifice  
9 so much fighting overseas and it's really  
10 something that we all need to do. We all  
11 need to honor them during that parade. We  
12 have so many other parades in the city and  
13 we get such large attendance at some of the  
14 those other parades it would be nice to see  
15 the Armed Forces parade draw that same  
16 attendance as well.

17 MR. HETMAN: Absolutely. And we  
18 have great participation, it's just a matter  
19 of getting more spectators, more people out  
20 to see it and say thank you. A lot of  
21 people come out already, but we are trying  
22 to get more and more to say thank you more  
23 and more to our veterans.

24 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add  
25 coincidentally, I'm an alumni of leadership

1 Lackawanna. This is going back quite a  
2 number of years.

3 MR. HETMAN: That's all right. 30th  
4 anniversary coming up.

5 MS. EVANS: But I do know that each  
6 class and each group, well, at least in my  
7 day, the class was divided into several  
8 groups and each group developed a project  
9 that benefited the community in some way,  
10 and so I do admire the efforts of Leadership  
11 Lackawanna to better this community and the  
12 surrounding areas.

13 MR. HETMAN: Thank you. That's  
14 great to here.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. HETMAN: Thank you, ladies and  
17 gentlemen.

18 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
20 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,  
21 homeowner and taxpayer.

22 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

23 MR. SPINDLER: My first comments are  
24 aimed towards Mayor Chris Doherty, his  
25 previous rubber stamp councils and all of

1 his supporters. I hate to say we told you  
2 so, but we told you so. Myself, other  
3 members of the Legion of Doom, members of  
4 the fire department, Dave Gervasi, we have  
5 been coming here year after year after year  
6 saying laying off firefighters is going to  
7 cause a dangerous situation. We were called  
8 names, things were written about us in the  
9 paper. They said it was scare tactics.  
10 Well, guess what, we were right. Scranton  
11 is burning down one or two houses at a time,  
12 every week now.

13 About two weeks ago, Mayor Doherty  
14 and Fire Chief Useless said we were broke,  
15 we can't hire firefighters. Now the city is  
16 burning down all of a sudden they came up  
17 with money to rehire 12 firefighters.  
18 That's terrific, but where was this money  
19 before? We were broke two weeks ago now all  
20 of a sudden we have money. And why isn't he  
21 using the \$600,000 that council allocated in  
22 the budget to rehire more? He is going to  
23 Washington to beg President Obama for more  
24 money, and that's all well and good, but we  
25 have money here and these people never

1           should have been laid off in the first  
2           place.

3                       Like I said, we said this for years  
4           and years and years, we were laughed at, it  
5           wasn't a scare tactic, it was a truth, and  
6           the proof is in the newspaper every day.

7                       And as far as this latest fire, the  
8           response time was three minutes, I'm going  
9           to say again, if Engine 9 was on Main  
10          Avenue, Engine 9 probably could have been  
11          there maybe a minute or less because all  
12          they have to do is roll out right down the  
13          hill there and they would have been almost  
14          there, and I think Mr. Loscombe could attest  
15          to that, too, being an ex-firefighter. I  
16          know where that fire was, I know where  
17          Engine 9 used to be.

18                      And speaking of Engine 9, where they  
19          used to be housed, the last two Sundays that  
20          was closed. I went by there the last two  
21          Sundays a big sign, "This firehouse closed."

22                      It was really depressing. I mean,  
23          it's nice that the firehouse on East  
24          Mountain is open, but we need them all open  
25          again or the city is going to continue to

1 burn down.

2 Okay, moving on. In the paper the  
3 other day it was about PEL's options to fix  
4 the debt in the city. A few things I  
5 totally disagree with. The first thing  
6 mentioned was a \$22 garbage fee. We already  
7 pay \$178. We can't take anymore taxes or  
8 fees. This is ridiculous. We cannot have  
9 anymore fees.

10 One more thing I disagree with,  
11 selling city assets. I don't agree with  
12 that. Look what happened with the municipal  
13 golf course and the South Side complex. How  
14 did that work out? The golf course was a  
15 money maker, that was sold. PEL has been  
16 doing this for 20 years now. They don't  
17 want to see us out of distressed status  
18 because then they wouldn't be getting their  
19 money every year.

20 Okay, moving on. This development  
21 that they want to do where Daron Northeast  
22 is, I agree with development in the city and  
23 we need a lot of it, but I said this in the  
24 past, when are we going to stop giving tax  
25 breaks to millionaires? They have enough

1 money, they don't need tax breaks. Let's  
2 give it to the little guy. I work two jobs  
3 myself to make ends meet. I don't get a tax  
4 break. I'd love to not pay my taxes for 10  
5 years. It would be great to develop that,  
6 but they're millionaires. They don't need  
7 tax breaks. Let's take care of the little  
8 guy.

9 Last thing, a story in the paper the  
10 other day about the neighbors where Good Ole  
11 Things is on Lackawanna Avenue and 9th they  
12 are complaining it's an eyesore. It is.  
13 That's been an eyesore ever since it's been  
14 there, and something should be done. And  
15 one thing the warehouse managers -- oh, he  
16 denies any material is outside of the fence.  
17 Well, that's a lie. I just went by there  
18 the other day, there is tons of material  
19 outside of fence right along the Lackawanna  
20 Avenue bridge there. There is these huge  
21 concrete things. Lumber, there is old  
22 lumber there, all over, it's just a fire  
23 waiting to happen there.

24 MR. ROGAN: I drive by there every  
25 day and I know where you are talking about.

1 MR. SPINDLER: With a fire bug  
2 running around and all that old lumber  
3 there, that would go up in a heartbeat.  
4 There is a lot of that stuff outside of the  
5 fence and it's not supposed to be, so maybe  
6 we could send Licensing and Inspection up  
7 there and cite these people because it is an  
8 eyesore, and I think it's a safety hazard  
9 and if I lived there I would be complaining,  
10 as they people are. I think they have every  
11 right to complain. And that's all for this  
12 week. Thank you for your time and go  
13 orange.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

15 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

16 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

17 MR. ELLMAN: I'd like to say a  
18 couple of words about this 121 apartments  
19 that they want to build by Daron Industry's  
20 property. It seems that all of these -- I  
21 don't want to get you people mad at me, but  
22 it seems like you always favor corporate  
23 America over the small taxpayers of this  
24 city, you know. Everybody is getting these  
25 loans and grants and KOZs at our expense,



1           what we don't need is 121 senior citizens'  
2           apartments that cost \$700 because they are  
3           not going to be rented that fast. The next  
4           thing you know they will need more money  
5           just to have apartments open for the public.  
6           It's just a ploy to get in there with the  
7           scene or citizens.

8                     Let's just assume the 121 apartments  
9           will be rented to the senior citizens, I'm  
10          just assuming this, that are already in  
11          apartments through the city, okay? That's  
12          going to leave us 121 vacancies in  
13          apartments in the city that we don't, you  
14          know, there is already thousands of empty  
15          apartments in the city. You get my point  
16          there?

17                    MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18                    MR. ELLMAN: We got apartments --  
19          what you need to do is like Ozzie Quinn has  
20          said so much is give them some tax breaks to  
21          the people that got property now and let  
22          them update it so they could compete on the  
23          mark, you know? I guess most houses in this  
24          city are 50 to 100 years old. I got a map  
25          from 1912 of my neighborhood and it shows

1 the houses around me. Some of them -- you  
2 know, most of them are still there. Just  
3 keep building apartments with grants and  
4 these buildings aren't contributing nothing  
5 to our tax base, it's just senseless.

6 And I talked to so many people that  
7 feel that council just favors all of these  
8 builders like Jefferson, Rinaldi and Joyce.  
9 Everybody -- they have all of these tax  
10 bases, you know, they are not helping us.  
11 It's the little guy that's doing everything.  
12 I just told Jack before the meeting, council  
13 ought to stand in front of one of the  
14 grocery stores like Price Rite or something  
15 for 15, 20 minutes and talk to the people on  
16 the street and see what's going on. This  
17 city is just one step away from being like  
18 Hazelton. We are. We are just going  
19 downhill. We haven't had any leadership for  
20 ten years. People feel that Mayor Doherty  
21 has just brought the city to it's knees.  
22 You know, it's --

23 I just enjoy listening to the young  
24 man up here. I wish we could get more young  
25 people in here, they are the future of this

1 city and the future is where we all got to  
2 live.

3 But, you know, I get dyslexic and  
4 get all excited and everything gets turned  
5 out around in my head. I was going to say  
6 something about the school board, too. I  
7 didn't see anyone jump up here and punch me  
8 in the nose or tell me they are going to sue  
9 me or something when I said they take  
10 bribes, and that's exactly what happened.  
11 There is not a person on that school board  
12 that can apologize enough or word it that  
13 they didn't know. It was their job to know  
14 what entailed being on the school board and  
15 they just took a bribe. That's it. I have  
16 talked to a lot of people that feel the same  
17 way it's time for that school board to go.

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

19 MR. ELLMAN: I got to say one thing,  
20 I know everybody gets peeved at me. Every  
21 day I take my 88 pound basset hound down to  
22 the river and I turn him loose and I walk a  
23 half a mile or so and he smells all along  
24 the water, Tuesday he fell in and basset  
25 hounds can't swim. He had no idea in the

1 world what to do. He was terrified and it  
2 was really funny, you know, because the  
3 water was like a foot deep there, six inches  
4 deep, and he was all over the place and it  
5 was something to see. I tell you, seeing an  
6 88 pound basset hound afraid he was going to  
7 drown. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

9 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,  
10 Doug Miller, Scranton.

11 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

12 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to  
13 quickly comment on a topic that was brought  
14 up earlier regarding the Armed Forces Day  
15 parade. I can't agree with you any more. I  
16 do feel that they need to improve the  
17 attendance down there and I certainly would  
18 support any measure to try and increase the  
19 attendance. We see what we get from the St.  
20 Patrick's Day parade and it truly upsets me  
21 when you go down there and you don't see the  
22 support that they should have because we  
23 need to remember these are the people that  
24 gave us the rights we have today and the  
25 reason we are in this room tonight

1 conducting the business we are conducting.

2           Regarding the fire situation in the  
3 city in recent weeks, we had to deal with  
4 fires in West Side, East Mountain and most  
5 recently over near Weston Field, obviously  
6 response times have been an issue with each  
7 of these fires and we have discussed whether  
8 or not, you know, we need to consider  
9 reopening fire stations and adding more  
10 firefighters to the staff. I think, you  
11 know, the fact that we had to deal with a  
12 ten-minute response to the East Mountain  
13 fire I think truly should be something that  
14 we should be appalled over when, in fact,  
15 the next closest engine company was Engine  
16 10 right on the mountain where response  
17 times would been a minute or less, and those  
18 are things that we really need to sit back  
19 and look at and, thankfully, you know,  
20 tonight we can say that that engine company  
21 is finally reopened and I'm thankful that  
22 the mayor finally did wake up and realize  
23 this.

24           I will admit it is frustrating  
25 though that it did take an incident like

1           this for him to finally wake up and realize  
2           this that, you know, we've had to deal fire  
3           after fire, this is something he should have  
4           known from day one, but as I have said many  
5           times and I will state it until he leaves  
6           office, I personally don't think he takes  
7           public safety serious and I will continue to  
8           have that belief because he has proven it  
9           time and time again.

10                   I'm also pleased that we did decide  
11           to restore 12 firemen. Any time you have  
12           the opportunity to do so and improve our  
13           public safety we obviously need to take  
14           advantage of it, and I'm glad we were able  
15           to come up with the funding, I believe it  
16           was about \$400,000 that we needed to do  
17           this, I'm glad the mayor and the unions were  
18           able to reach an agreement.

19                   Obviously, we always hope we can add  
20           more, this is a start, but hopefully, you  
21           know, later on down the road we will be able  
22           to continue to add more to the staff and  
23           improve the safety of the city. This is a  
24           big city that we need to cover and, you  
25           know, any solutions and any suggestions that

1 we get from people as to how we can add  
2 more, obviously, we always listen to them.

3 Regarding 7-D on the agenda with the  
4 rental registration, I made a few comments  
5 on in this in the past and just briefly  
6 tonight I want to thank you for your  
7 commitment to this and all of the hard work  
8 you put into it. I know Councilman McGoff,  
9 Councilman Loscombe worked hard on this with  
10 the appropriate officials to come up with a  
11 plan that suits the city best. Any time you  
12 have the opportunity to tackle blight and  
13 try to alleviate some of that and improve  
14 the neighborhoods that's something that you  
15 want to undertake and you did that with this  
16 and I'm hopeful it will be successful and I  
17 don't see why it won't.

18 Regarding the nonprofits, listening  
19 to Mr. Sbaraglia before I do agree with him  
20 100 percent on the assessment that he made  
21 that we need to consider a public safety fee  
22 on nonprofits and, again, you know, we bring  
23 up the University of Scranton all the time  
24 and it's not to pick on them, but they are  
25 the best example you can use. This is an

1 institution that, you know, we provide the  
2 police and fire protection to them and  
3 everyone else in the city pays for it. I  
4 think we really need to consider some sort  
5 of fee on them so they are paying their fair  
6 share. I don't feel it's fair that  
7 taxpayers of the this city, who obviously  
8 are struggling right now with everything  
9 else they have to deal with, are paying for  
10 a service that others get for nothing, and I  
11 just believe it's a free ride and it needs  
12 to come to an end.

13 But I do want to commend you for  
14 reaching out to the county and the school  
15 board in hopes to come together and reach  
16 some sort of a resolution to gain revenue  
17 from the nonprofits. Obviously, we know  
18 there is millions out there and we have been  
19 missing out on it for years and if we have  
20 the opportunity to start bringing that it's  
21 certainly going to help the city long-term  
22 with the financial issues we have, so I  
23 appreciate your commitment to that and I'm  
24 hopeful in the end we will be successful  
25 with it and we'll be able to come up with a



1 plan that's beneficial to the city.

2 And finally tonight regarding a few  
3 of PEL's recommendations to the Revised  
4 Recovery Plan, two of them were already  
5 discussed earlier and they were the first  
6 two that jumped out at me. One is a pet  
7 peeve of mine. That's the proposed \$22  
8 increase in the garbage fee. As we all  
9 know, it's already \$173. As I have stated  
10 many times before in the past, I just feel  
11 it's taxation without representation.  
12 That's why we pay our taxes in the city. I  
13 never supported it, I never will.

14 And the second was a selling the  
15 city assets. Haven't we given enough?  
16 Haven't we given up enough in recent years  
17 and when is that going to stop? We have  
18 continued to come out on the losing end of  
19 that consistently and I just don't see what  
20 the benefit of that is. It's just a  
21 one-time revenue source and I don't see how  
22 we reap any benefits out of that. I think  
23 we need to come up with some realistic  
24 solutions. It's not a criticism of council,  
25 you've been doing that, I'm just saying in

1           general we need to come up with some  
2           realistic solutions and I don't think any of  
3           PEL's up to this point have been realistic.  
4           We need to do what's best not only the city,  
5           but the residents as well, and I appreciate  
6           your time. Thank you.

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

9                     MR. LAMANDRE: Good evening,  
10          council. Peter Lamandre, Greater Scranton  
11          Board of Realtors. I'll being very, very  
12          brief. I just want to thank council for  
13          taking some our suggestions into  
14          consideration drafting the rental  
15          registration ordinance and we look forward  
16          to working with council on additional issues  
17          in the future and just, again, we want to if  
18          there is anything we can do we just want to  
19          say that we are here to help and I'll eave  
20          it at that and what's been said over the  
21          last couple of weeks. Thank you.

22                    MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

23                    MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

24                    MR. JONES: I'll say something.

25                    Thank you. After you.

1 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie  
2 Stulgis. I'm here tonight because I have  
3 just had it with the misinformation that's  
4 being fed to the public on the state of the  
5 city and the state of public safety within  
6 the city, and I think it's important that  
7 people are reminded that while now we  
8 suddenly can afford a full compliment of  
9 police and firefighters, we are broke.

10 Well, over the last ten years we  
11 have borrowed literally millions of dollars  
12 and the first eight of those years public  
13 safety was on a pay freeze, and yet that's  
14 when we went millions of dollars in debt.  
15 Where did the money go? Evidently it didn't  
16 go to public safety because their budget is  
17 the same and now here we are ten years into  
18 this leadership, if that's what you want to  
19 call it, and our debt service is more than  
20 what it would cost to not only call all our  
21 firefighters and all our police officers  
22 back but to increase them, which we all  
23 know, at least those of us with common  
24 sense, that that's really the most important  
25 thing, the main reason the people in this

1 city pay taxes, is because they want to be  
2 safe; and secondly, they want their garbage  
3 picked up. Those are the three reasons.  
4 Hum, I think probably the fourth they would  
5 love to see some of these roads get paved,  
6 but we all know that hasn't been done in  
7 years.

8 And it's really sad that the local  
9 media seems to have a problem with anything  
10 the mayor says becomes gospel and there is  
11 no research done into what they print. The  
12 fact that recently we heard about the  
13 exorbitant salaries that police and  
14 firefighters are getting, except, they are  
15 getting those exorbitant salaries, and then  
16 we hear about the, oh, \$40,000 it cost for  
17 each public safety employee for health  
18 insurance. No, it doesn't. I'm on the  
19 Health Care Committee. No, it doesn't. It  
20 doesn't cost anywhere near that. None of it  
21 is true, yet, people in this city really  
22 think that.

23 And they want the public safety to  
24 give concessions. Let me tell you  
25 something, up until the date that the

1 Supreme Court ruled on those contracts both  
2 public safety unions were willing to meet  
3 and did meet with this mayor and did give  
4 concession after concession after  
5 concession. They actually were at the  
6 University for 10, 12 hours at a time for  
7 two straight days and they made deals and  
8 they cut down -- it would have cost the city  
9 no where near what the Supreme Court gave  
10 and he agreed.

11 MS. EVANS: Please, if the audience  
12 members would remain quiet because it's very  
13 distracting for those in the audience and  
14 city council to -- you know, we would like  
15 to give our full attention to the speaker.

16 MS. STULGIS: Thank you. The mayor  
17 agreed that time at the University of  
18 Scranton, agreed with the cuts. The cuts  
19 were enormous. It was an amazing what both  
20 public safety unions are willing to give up,  
21 and days later he changed -- by the way, he  
22 shook hands on that deal, so you know how  
23 good his word is. A couple of days later he  
24 decided, no. Of course, he blamed PEL, but  
25 the truth is that wasn't true. It was he

1           who decided that he wasn't going to go along  
2           with that, that he could do better.

3                       Obviously, he didn't and in the mean  
4           time he spent millions and millions of  
5           dollars and why? And as for previous city  
6           councils they are just as guilty. The  
7           latest ruling by the Courts now on the SIT,  
8           which by the way, has dragged on since  
9           February 14th of 2003, which is the first  
10          date that was filed, and it's been in the  
11          Courts that long so you can imagine how much  
12          money it's cost the taxpayers, only to lose,  
13          and the thing is it would have cost nothing.

14                       I went to him and I told him at the  
15          time, "It won't cost a thing, just stop  
16          doing what you are doing, please."

17                       I went to city council meeting after  
18          meeting after meeting, not you people, and  
19          begged, "Please, just do something. Please.  
20          It's going to cost millions of dollars."

21                       Which, by the way, I was right, it's  
22          millions, "Please just stop doing what you  
23          are doing."

24                       Nobody listened. As a matter fact,  
25          Mr. Pocius found it necessary to berate me

1 quite royally, and here we are. And again,  
2 the mayor keeps doing it and the local media  
3 keeps I don't want to say lying, but that is  
4 sure what it feels like when I read the  
5 paper and know what they are printing as  
6 fact.

7 And I realize your hands are tied,  
8 but I think it's important that we remind  
9 people it's not the public safety unions  
10 involved, it's this mayor, this mayor and  
11 spend, spend, spend, hiring cronies who are  
12 the top bidders and he has done it for ten  
13 years and he has thrown away taxpayer dollar  
14 after taxpayer dollar after taxpayer dollar,  
15 and we have nothing to show for it but a  
16 lack of public safety and rotten roads.  
17 Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

21 MR. JONES: Hi, council. I'd like  
22 to apologize for speaking too loud back  
23 there I, that was my bad. I was talking.  
24 The first thing I would like to say is I  
25 would like this administration to know the

1 difference between a variance and rezoning.  
2 Daron Industries is not zoning for a senior  
3 citizens housing or any kind of apartment  
4 housing or any kind of thousand dollar a  
5 month housing or whatever the hell they are  
6 going to have. I'm sorry, I said hell.  
7 Could I say hell on TV?

8 But, all right. What I'm saying is  
9 just this administration should have at  
10 least some kind of difference between  
11 variance and rezoning. They are two  
12 different words.

13 Also, there has been two different  
14 fires in this town lately, and I don't think  
15 Mayor Doherty has done enough even hiring  
16 back 12 firefighters, they should hire them  
17 back all of them. He should hire back all  
18 of them. They all deserve their jobs back.

19 And what the Taxpayers' Association  
20 is doing is we are putting up a fund for the  
21 victims of Swetland Street fire on March 16  
22 and if anybody would like to donate just  
23 send a check to Taxpayers' Association,  
24 Scranton Taxpayers' Association, 2423 Main  
25 avenue, and that's in the city, and the zip



1 code is 18508, and I'll make sure that they  
2 get to all the residents.

3 MS. EVANS: To whom can checks be  
4 made payable?

5 MR. JONES: Scranton Taxpayers'.  
6 Just make it out to Scranton Taxpayers' and  
7 put in the memo it's for the fire victims.  
8 That way we will be able to separate it out.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. JONES: I thank you very much.  
11 Sorry I'm so nervous, I'm not usually  
12 nervous.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

15 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
16 cares to address council?

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, City  
18 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton  
19 resident, member of the Taxpayers'  
20 Association.

21 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: I, too, would like  
23 to apologize for having little sidebar back  
24 there and hopefully it won't happen again,  
25 but I won't promise that. But anyway, I

1 would like to thank all of the people who  
2 were responsible for getting Engine 10  
3 opened back up in East Mountain, and also  
4 all of the people who are responsible for  
5 getting the 12 firefighters returned back to  
6 duty. Hopefully, we can continue to have  
7 progress and cooperation and continue to  
8 work in this manner.

9 And also, I have had several  
10 Scranton citizens approach me, especially at  
11 work, who were not so much in favor of the  
12 Scranton firefighters. You know what, but  
13 they witnessed them Tuesday night at the  
14 that fire and they were impressed. There  
15 was nothing but outstanding compliments and,  
16 like I said, a lot of these people were  
17 anti-firefighters, but they were very, very  
18 impressed with the way these firefighters  
19 responded and the way they acted and the  
20 professionalism in which they did their job  
21 that evening. Naturally, my answer to them  
22 was, "I have known that all along."

23 So hopefully some citizens in this  
24 city are beginning to really understand, you  
25 know, and hopefully the mayor will wake up

1 one of these days and we need to get all of  
2 those firehouses open and hopefully that  
3 will happen.

4 As far as the senior citizens'  
5 apartments and things like that, you know,  
6 we have an awful lot of apartments in the  
7 city, and just remember, if we get senior  
8 citizens moving out of their houses there  
9 goes taxes because they are going to quit  
10 paying their property taxes and move into  
11 these apartments and we have apartments  
12 being built in Minooka, we have apartments  
13 being built all over the city, and I just  
14 hope that that is taken into consideration  
15 when the vote comes up. Not that I'm  
16 against it, I'm in favor of it, but I'll  
17 tell you what, I'm more in favor of the  
18 taxpayers. I really am.

19 A citizen sent me this in the mail  
20 the other day and some of you old timers,  
21 young guys like Pat and Frank probably won't  
22 remember this, but do you guys remember this  
23 from 2001 when they hung it on everybody's  
24 door? And what it is, I'm going to read it  
25 to you. "Read the so-called Recovery Plan

1 for yourself. It will cut 29 police  
2 officers, beat cops, bike cops, school cops.  
3 It will close fire companies. It will cut  
4 your services and keep your money. Tax cuts  
5 will be prohibited. There are no savings.  
6 Vote "no" on Question 10. Paid for by "The  
7 Citizens for a Safer Scranton."

8 This is from 2001. 11 years ago.  
9 On the flip side in red, "Scranton needs a  
10 discovery plan that builds on our pulses,  
11 our positives, our potential and our power.  
12 Scranton does not need more gloom and doom,"  
13 that's where the Legion of Doom came from.  
14 "We are not in such dire straights. We  
15 ended 2001 in the black. Now we have 109  
16 pages full of worst case scenarios and scary  
17 statistics. It calls our challenges  
18 insurmountable. Reject the flawed plan.  
19 Vote "no" November 5. Paid for by, "The  
20 Citizens For a Safer Scranton."

21 This was 2001. Here we are in 2012.  
22 What has changed?

23 MS. EVANS: We have grown worse.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: We were in the  
25 black; right?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: We had a million or  
3 2 million, which isn't much, now we are \$300  
4 million plus in the red. That changed. We  
5 have firefighters laid off. That changed.  
6 Taxes have gone up twice. That changed. We  
7 had firehouses closed. That changed.

8 The point I'm trying to make is we  
9 have a new Recovery Plan that's going to be  
10 coming forward. This Recovery Plan was  
11 approved by 70 some percent of the citizens,  
12 and I'm going to say out of those 70 some  
13 percent, 69 percent of them didn't have any  
14 idea what they were voting on, and that came  
15 to be true.

16 Like I said, Frank and Pat probably  
17 don't remember this, but I think the older  
18 folks, I hope, will remember this, but the  
19 point I'm trying to make is let's be very  
20 careful with what we do with this Recovery  
21 Plan. The citizens deserve it, the  
22 taxpayers deserve it, they really do, and I  
23 don't want to see a repeat of what happened  
24 11 years ago.

25 And, you know, it's just ashamed, but

1            maybe we are on the right track, we have got  
2            Firehouse No. 10 open and we got 12 more  
3            firefighters on the job and they did -- I  
4            wasn't there, but from what I am being told  
5            and, like I said, there was a lot of  
6            naysayers, and they were there and they were  
7            nothing but very pleased and satisfied with  
8            the response of the Scranton firefighters,  
9            and we need more of that. We need people to  
10           get involved, come out, get involved because  
11           it's their money, and let's hope we do the  
12           right thing for a change.

13                        MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14                        MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
15            Dave Dobrzyn.

16                        MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17                        MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton,  
18            my taxes are paid. Okay, the Galucci's,  
19            former Galucci's on Wyoming Avenue, it's now  
20            the Scranton Music Works and they do offer  
21            some exceptional repairs of musical  
22            instruments so it's something to keep in  
23            mind. It's, like I said, you don't get that  
24            up at Montage, Guitar World or wherever, you  
25            don't get that kind of service, so we need

1 to keep our local people in business.

2 And that gets right at this LERTA  
3 and rents. I'm wondering how somebody that  
4 if you say you made \$30,000 a year you might  
5 get a \$15,000 a year social security  
6 payment, about \$3,000 of that are going to  
7 be required for your medical coverage, you  
8 don't have a choice with Blue Cross, so  
9 unless you have any -- or not Blue Cross,  
10 Medicare, so if you don't have any assets  
11 you don't have to buy the supplemental  
12 insurance, but you surely do if you have a  
13 wife and you have assets or you want to  
14 leave anything to your family because when  
15 Medicaid gets involved it disappears pretty  
16 fast.

17 And that's my concern. You are kind  
18 of between a rock and a hard place here  
19 because I'm sure those neighbors would just  
20 love to see that not turned into another  
21 grease pit or whatever like Daron was run  
22 down there, but the tax free does concern me  
23 a little bit. I purchased a lot about eight  
24 years ago and it's gone from \$330 a year to  
25 \$410, so it keeps going up, and it was a

1 nonbuildable tax delinquent lot, and it's  
2 just increased so much every year that about  
3 every eight years, seven or eight years now  
4 I'm paying the price of the lot over and  
5 over again. I don't plan on developing it,  
6 I just plan on using it for lawn space. -  
7 there is nobody in school from it, there is  
8 no sewer, no anything, no trash or whatever.

9 And last week I pulled a boner, I  
10 said I paid \$100 a month for fire insurance,  
11 it was actually a little more than \$100 a  
12 year. Now, what I'd like to see in some of  
13 these rental regulations is maybe even the  
14 landlord could take that up and try to  
15 charge \$5 a month more or \$10 a month more  
16 for rent and ensure that the occupants  
17 belongings -- that was \$15,000 I got from  
18 that claim and I lived there 12 years, so it  
19 was no more than \$1,300 -- or \$15,000 I got  
20 in a settlement. The insurance company  
21 didn't argue with me. I had to document a  
22 lot of things and do a lot of research,  
23 like, I want to K-Mart and figured out what  
24 a VCR tape was. Well, I had hundreds of  
25 them and they got all wet, so it was like



1           for every VCR tape I got on that list it was  
2           \$2.98 I priced it at K-Mart at that time,  
3           and various other things, like, working  
4           man's furniture set because I was never a  
5           magnet of any degree or whatever.

6                         But the point is that if you carry  
7           fire insurance or renter's insurance, I  
8           mean, and you do have a fire it's going to  
9           pay off ten to one, and I didn't start the  
10          fire I was in work, by the way, but it's  
11          really important that people have something  
12          to recover with, and two days after the fire  
13          I had a check in the mail for \$3,000 of that  
14          money. So, you know, it's just unbelievable  
15          how easy it was as compared to having to  
16          start all over, and at that time I was  
17          sleeping out in my car with my dog because  
18          she wouldn't stop barking, so she was on the  
19          back seat I was in the front seat in the  
20          bucket seat.

21                        Now, this Recovery Plan I see a lot  
22          of privatizing there and it concerns me  
23          because the question I would ask is say  
24          trash removal. We can argue about 22 bucks  
25          a month -- or a year more. For some reason

1 I have that month business fixed in my head,  
2 but will privatized garbage go from \$178 a  
3 year to \$478 a year. It might force some  
4 people to start to do what they should have  
5 with their trash because it's, like I said,  
6 I see ton after ton not being recycled.  
7 Lazy, lazy, lazy people. It's ashame.

8 And don't forget 105.7 WFTE, the  
9 un-Rush station, we don't make nasty remarks  
10 about college girls on that station, and  
11 Alex -- on the golden parrot just quick, 190  
12 American Legislative Exchange Counsel, 196  
13 Americans in this country are making 80  
14 percent of the campaign finance donations.  
15 Shame, shame, shame. The golden parrot is  
16 going to fly over. Bawk, bawk, and have a  
17 good night.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
20 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident  
21 and taxpayer. I would like to begin tonight  
22 by thanking the mayor and the firefighters  
23 for the outcome in their negotiations that  
24 brought fire protection into East Mountain  
25 and backup support for the rest of the city.

1           It's very nice to be able to sleep better at  
2           night.

3                       On the agenda items on 7-D, I am  
4           still strongly in favor of the registration  
5           portion of this should be subcontracted out  
6           to a city vendor that's familiar with a  
7           direct mail and data basis. They could  
8           accomplish in days what it would take  
9           somebody starting from scratch to do in  
10          weeks or maybe even months, so I believe  
11          that should be a portion of it. That really  
12          is a win-win situation because it will get  
13          the best product and the fastest and it also  
14          will provide support to a city business,  
15          which is always helpful.

16                      Next, I do have a question for  
17          Mr. Joyce with respect to I believe it's  
18          Northeast that's doing the delinquent tax  
19          collection? Do they get 15 percent only on  
20          what they -- awhile back you reported they  
21          had reported \$130,453.93 revenue, and it was  
22          about the same time that the judicial sale  
23          was, so do they only get what they collect  
24          or do they get a portion of any delinquent  
25          tax including if it was somebody who paid up

1 to get their name off the judicial --

2 MR. JOYCE: I'm not exactly sure how  
3 it goes with the judicial sales, but I will  
4 research into that and I will definitely  
5 find out the answer. The number that I  
6 reported in previous council meetings as far  
7 as revenue that came in, that was revenue  
8 after they did take their fee out.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and that was  
10 that they had actually collected, not a  
11 third party or a fourth party had collected?

12 MR. JOYCE: Correct. So they  
13 actually collected a little bit more than  
14 the revenue I reported, yeah.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.  
16 And then a question for, Mr. Loscombe,  
17 regarding the alleged offense and employment  
18 status of the alleged defendant in the  
19 Pennsylvania State Police investigation.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: I haven't had an  
21 opportunity since last meeting yet to sit  
22 down with the chief. You know, I was  
23 working on some other issues this week,  
24 mainly on the fire.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: It's really

1           important. You don't even know whether or  
2           not this person is suspended or the  
3           nature -- nothing?

4                   MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

5                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I certainly  
6           hope we have that information next week. I  
7           think that's really urgent and, as I say,  
8           for those of us who have people out there  
9           that we care about that we might have a  
10          renegade firemen -- or, excuse me, not  
11          firemen, they are all good guys, but if we  
12          have a policeman out there who is some kind  
13          of renegade and they are in a car and can  
14          stop somebody we definitely need to know  
15          that.

16                   And then does anyone know the status  
17          of the proper handicap access to this  
18          building? I did come in that way tonight  
19          and I noticed it's still not functioning.  
20          There is no push button, the door --

21                   MR. ROGAN: I haven't heard  
22          anything.

23                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I spoke with Barry  
24          Francis it had to be probably the later part  
25          of last week, and according to him

1 everything was there, the part. There was a  
2 part that had to be ordered that wasn't  
3 local and he said it would take probably  
4 another ten days to two weeks and it would  
5 be here and they are ready to take care of  
6 it, so I will follow-up with him on that,  
7 also, but he did approach me himself in the  
8 hallway and let me know that.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.  
10 As you know, last week I wasn't really sure  
11 if I was going to come back. As a matter of  
12 fact, I was rather convinced that I was just  
13 going to throw in the towel, but then I  
14 slept on it and I woke up thinking, yeah,  
15 Faraday was right, but still try for who  
16 knows what is possible. I hope it's  
17 possible to get this city out of the  
18 position we are in, but I do have my doubts.

19 And last week I was also very  
20 frustrated, quite frankly, after the two  
21 caucuses. What came across to me as you all  
22 fawning over people who are spending an  
23 exorbitant money, number one, of our tax  
24 dollars to create apartments, and when there  
25 are people out there who are doing it

1           privately and spending their own money and  
2           doing it, and when you spend your own money  
3           you do it as economically as you can, not  
4           as, yeah, it's taxpayer money, we just keep  
5           going back to that well, it doesn't matter  
6           if they go into debt as long I don't have to  
7           go into debt or my organization doesn't have  
8           to go into debt.

9                         And the other was, of course, the  
10           one with the LERTA. I believe that the  
11           solicitor, who I totally believe is a very  
12           capable municipal attorney, but I was very  
13           disappointed because I felt he was out and  
14           out lobbying -- I'll finish this thought and  
15           then leave the podium, was out and out  
16           lobbying for and virtually assuring  
17           Affordable Senior Housing Opportunities of  
18           New York that they would be approved for a  
19           LERTA.

20                        Now, as I said, I like Mr. Hughes  
21           and I believe him to be an extremely  
22           well-qualified municipal law attorney, but I  
23           further believe he is a member of the public  
24           as we are and should withhold such comments  
25           until the required public hearing or shared

1 in private with the council members.

2 I wonder where the September 2011  
3 school district vote is even legal and why a  
4 caucus was held with an entity that doesn't  
5 even yet own the property. The LERTA law,  
6 as it was revised in 1988, states,  
7 "Application is to be made at the time he  
8 secures the building permit."

9 Putting the cart before the horse in  
10 my mind's eye is giving an unfair advantage  
11 to Affordable Senior housing and holding the  
12 taxpayers, yes, Virginia, some taxpayers  
13 actually do pay taxes, hostage by basing  
14 their projection on whether or not they  
15 obtain the LERTA. Thank you.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much. Is  
17 there anyone else who would like to address  
18 council? Mr. McGoff?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Very briefly. Last  
20 week Mr. Loscombe and I had a little  
21 exchange over the idea of overtime for the  
22 firemen. I spoke with Mr. Judge on the  
23 phone, president of the union, and in 2011  
24 when offered overtime by the administration  
25 the union declined. When the union declined



1           then in 2012 the administration said, "Well,  
2           we are not going to offer overtime for  
3           absence, we are only going to offer overtime  
4           for fire."

5                         And that has become what has become  
6           the policy now, that in case of, you know,  
7           where there are additional firemen needed  
8           they will be called to a fire and they have,  
9           in fact, been called to fires and there has  
10          been some money taken from the budget,  
11          although it hasn't been a substantial amount  
12          since there have not been that many fires in  
13          which overtime was needed. I didn't find  
14          the exact amounts, but I was told that, yes,  
15          there has been some spent.

16                        So my apologies if I provided  
17          misinformation, but it seems to be the  
18          policy now that, yes, there is overtime  
19          provided for fire, but not for absence.

20                        The other thing that, again, I will  
21          speak more on it when we get to the  
22          legislation, the rental registration  
23          ordinance that is on the agenda or that will  
24          be on the agenda this evening there are a  
25          number of amendments that will be made to

1 the ordinance. These are an incorporation  
2 of ideas that we have heard over the past  
3 couple of weeks from various sources.  
4 Mr. Rogan and I met with and talked about  
5 some things. The amendments that there is  
6 -- that he and I sort of agreed upon were  
7 then sent to other members of the council.  
8 It seems to be that there was an acceptance  
9 by everyone so that we will be putting these  
10 into -- or these will be proposed this  
11 evening. Are there omissions? Probably.  
12 There are some things that may be have been  
13 left out. Hopefully if there is anything  
14 that needs to be addressed we can do that in  
15 the future through further amendments.

16 I know the one that was mentioned  
17 and that we really -- I couldn't find a way  
18 in which to incorporate it into the  
19 ordinance was the problem of closing a  
20 rental property for a third misconduct  
21 report or the problem was that if someone  
22 was actually -- if the landlord was involved  
23 in the process of eviction should he --  
24 should that person be held responsible and  
25 should that property be closed if they have

1           already been taking action. And I just  
2           couldn't -- I didn't know how to word it or  
3           put it in the legislation, so that may be  
4           the first omission that we want to take a  
5           look at hopefully after it's implemented.

6                       And then the last thing I just  
7           wanted to mention, I think if hopefully if  
8           this passes this evening we will then look  
9           at perhaps the hiring of a coordinator for  
10          the program. There is already someone that  
11          is ready to move on this in the LIPS  
12          Department, but I think it also requires a  
13          second person, a coordinator of the program,  
14          to make this work properly and hopefully we  
15          can get to that as well.

16                      And the last thing, I know we had  
17          talked about it before, is it 6-A that is  
18          the repeal of the prior --

19                      MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

20                      MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21                      MR. MCGOFF: -- ordinance are we  
22          going to look to move that to Seventh Order  
23          this evening so that if one --

24                      MS. EVANS: We can do that  
25          certainly.

1 MR. MCGOFF: -- if the new is --

2 MS. EVANS: Would you like to make  
3 that motion?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I will, and we  
5 hopefully move it to Seventh Order. And  
6 that's all I have. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,  
8 Councilman Rogan, do you have any comments  
9 or motions?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. I  
11 guess I'll stick with the rental  
12 registration since we are talking about it.  
13 Mr. McGoff, and I thank you, you were very  
14 helpful when we met for about an hour on  
15 Monday and we worked out much -- some of the  
16 problems I had, and the big one was the  
17 inspection, defining it as a safety  
18 inspection, determining that each rental  
19 unit shall include appropriate means of  
20 smoke detection, hot and cold running water,  
21 heat and electricity. It sounds very  
22 simple. There may be homes out there,  
23 rental properties, that do not have these,  
24 especially smoke detectors, which is the big  
25 one. Everyone should have a smoke detector

1 and check their batteries, so I think that's  
2 a good first step.

3 The eviction exception is something  
4 we are going to have to work on. I do agree  
5 what many have said, if the landlord is  
6 already in the process of evicting a tenant  
7 they shouldn't be held responsible for what  
8 they are doing -- or they are trying to kick  
9 them out.

10 But I think it's a good first step.  
11 There is definitely more work that needs to  
12 be done, but it is a good first step and  
13 hopefully it will cut down on some of the  
14 blight in our neighborhoods.

15 Next, the Recovery Plan was brought  
16 up tonight, the 2001 version by  
17 Mr. Jackowitz, and although I wasn't old  
18 enough to vote at the time I do remember  
19 going to my neighbor's house, who happens to  
20 be a firefighter, to get one of those signs,  
21 the vote "no" for the Recovery Plan. And  
22 going back I remember the propaganda that  
23 the mayor and his political action committee  
24 was pushing was if this doesn't pass we are  
25 going to raise taxes, we are going to be

1           forced to raise taxes. The Recovery plan  
2           passed. In 2007, taxes still went up. So,  
3           know, the mayor sold it as an economically  
4           conservative plan when in fact, he went and  
5           spent more money under the plan than he did  
6           before the plan was enacted.

7                       As far as taxes go, again, you know,  
8           I would like to see them as low as possible,  
9           but everyone has to pay taxes and I think  
10          everyone agrees there is some things  
11          everyone agrees that their tax dollars  
12          should go for, police protection, fire  
13          protection and roads. Outside of those  
14          three areas anything else could be done by  
15          private industry. A private company could  
16          pick up your garbage. Private companies can  
17          do inspections. Private companies can do  
18          many things. They can't provide public  
19          safety, they can't provide police on the  
20          streets or a firefighter.

21                      I would be happy if in the budget  
22          there were three items, police protection,  
23          fire protection and road paving. Outside of  
24          that, what do you really need out of your  
25          city government? They are the three most

1 important things and that's where the bulk  
2 of the tax dollars should go.

3 Unfortunately, the shape we are in, not  
4 because of this majorities' fault, because  
5 of the sins of the past, a big chunk of our  
6 budget has gone for debt repayment, and as  
7 anyone knows who has a credit card, a  
8 mortgage, any type of debt at all, when you  
9 make those minimum payments you are in debt  
10 to the bank for a very long time, and that's  
11 basically what the city is doing. We are  
12 adding onto the debt and paying the minimum.  
13 It's like running up a thousand dollar  
14 credit card bill and sending \$10 a month.  
15 You would paying to the day you die because  
16 the interest is just keeps racking up.

17 So something drastic has to happen  
18 in the budget, we have to make cuts. And we  
19 received, especially over the last week with  
20 all the fires, and we have seen over the  
21 last few years with all the crime that the  
22 area that we could not cut is public safety,  
23 and I am very happy that the firehouse on  
24 East Mountain was reopened. I was pleased  
25 to be there with Councilwoman Evans and

1 Councilman Loscombe for the grand reopening.  
2 It was great to see that fire truck roll in.  
3 It really was. I hope it's something that  
4 we see throughout the city as time goes on.  
5 It's a good first step and, although, I'm  
6 not from East Mountain myself, every time I  
7 go up there before I leave in West Side to  
8 go to East Mountain I think, "Oh, what's the  
9 best way to get there."

10 It's a tricky part of the city.  
11 It's kind of off on it's on, and a fire  
12 truck to get to that part of the city from  
13 another part is very difficult, just as it  
14 for a bus to drive from West Side to East  
15 Mountain.

16 Next, the nonprofits were once again  
17 brought up and I think the distinction that  
18 many people have said is it has to be made  
19 on the nonprofits, and I went to the  
20 University of Scranton. I'm not a  
21 University of Scranton hater by any means, I  
22 got my education there, but if you take a  
23 look, for instance, the St. Thomas building,  
24 you go in there, it's all classrooms, it  
25 should be nonprofit. You go into another



1 building, the upper floors are classrooms,  
2 but the bottom floor they have hoagies,  
3 sandwiches, things of that nature. Somebody  
4 is making money off those purchases, usually  
5 it's contacted out, Aramark is usually the  
6 company that it's contacted out to. That's  
7 a for profit on the bottom floor of a  
8 building that's nontaxable, listed as  
9 nonprofit. The book store in the DeNaple's  
10 Center, as somebody who has bought books for  
11 many years from the University of Scranton,  
12 there is a high markup on books. It's not a  
13 nonprofit. So I think things -- areas where  
14 they are making money should be taxed.

15 The dormitories, I am willing to bet  
16 my last dollar that the amount of money the  
17 school takes in from students for room and  
18 board is more than the actual cost of the  
19 room and board. It's not a nonprofit if you  
20 make a profit, but on the other hand, like I  
21 said, the educational part, the buildings  
22 used strictly teaching, I have no problem  
23 with being nonprofit. I don't think anyone  
24 does, but it's the profit that's being made  
25 by the nonprofit. I know it sounds a little

1 bit confusing, but the profit is being made  
2 to the University of Scranton. There is no  
3 question about it.

4 Also, the parking lots. You know,  
5 they keep expanding every year, and I know  
6 it's been mentioned before, we like the  
7 University to build up instead of out, which  
8 is something I think most people agree.

9 Finally, a few requests. The first  
10 one, Mrs. Krake, if we could send this over  
11 to the Parking Authority I have been  
12 informed by a resident that the parking --  
13 or not the parking, the sidewalks on the  
14 Linden and Washington, these were just put  
15 in a year ago, and they are being torn up  
16 again, they are going to be torn up. The  
17 question is to the Parking Authority is why  
18 they are going to be torn up. They are  
19 brand new sidewalks, I hope that it's  
20 stopped -- or I don't understand what's  
21 going on. Whether there is some other  
22 project or something underneath the  
23 sidewalks that needs to get done, these were  
24 just put in. It seems like a complete waste  
25 of taxpayer dollars for -- to rip them out

1 and put new ones in.

2 Next, since spring is coming around  
3 again we all know the Washburn Street  
4 Cemetery has been in deplorable condition.  
5 Could we also send a letter to Chief Duffy  
6 requesting that the Washburn Street Cemetery  
7 is included in the blight clean up that he  
8 spoke about in the newspaper.

9 These two letters would be to LIPS:  
10 One, asking about if somebody could check  
11 into Ole' Good Things to make everything is  
12 in compliance, and Mr. Spindler brought this  
13 up and I drive by there at least two to  
14 three times a day, I have seen it firsthand.

15 Also, a resident called the office  
16 asking council to check whether there is a  
17 permit issued for work being done on South  
18 Sumner Avenue, I won't list the exact  
19 address in case they are in compliance.

20 And few requests to DPW: One  
21 resident called stated Rockwell Park is a  
22 mess, that there is diapers and litter  
23 thrown all around the park, and on the side  
24 of the road there is litter going all the  
25 way up Rockwell Avenue and it continues all

1 the way down Charles Street. So I would  
2 hope the DPW could get that taken care of.

3 And the following are potholes that  
4 need to be filled in? Hemlock Street at the  
5 intersection of Crown Avenue, the 100 block  
6 of Meadow Avenue by the CVS and River Street  
7 in front of the Salvation Army building.

8 And also if we could also include  
9 Pike Street once again. I did see the  
10 letter went out last time, there still  
11 hasn't been any progress that I have seen up  
12 on Pike Street, and that is it for tonight.  
13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,  
15 Councilman Loscombe, do you have any  
16 comments or motions?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you. I  
18 just want to touch on a couple of issues  
19 that were brought up this evening, and I'll  
20 start with what Mr. Rogan just discussed  
21 about tearing up sidewalks and stuff like  
22 that. It came across my mind the new  
23 blacktop that's being put down in certain  
24 areas and being torn up not long after it  
25 is, Moosic Street and Harrison Avenue there,

1           there is a hole that's been filled in for  
2           quite awhile now, but I'll tell you, it's a  
3           lousy job and, you know, we've had fantastic  
4           weather for them to repair that and I don't  
5           know if that's a Sewer Authority's hole or  
6           not, but if we could find out from our  
7           inspector, I guess it's our paving inspector  
8           or whomever, who is responsible for that and  
9           have them repaired.

10                         But also to extend on that, I would  
11           hope that OECD in their bids with the CDBG  
12           funding for the blacktop in certain areas,  
13           and I'm pretty sure they do reach out to the  
14           utilities beforehand to do any repairs or  
15           find out if any of those streets are to be  
16           torn up to put new lines in or anything  
17           because I know there is some projects going  
18           on through the city, so it would be a waste  
19           of our taxpayer dollars to lay new blacktop  
20           and have them torn up or whenever, perhaps  
21           there could be some kind of a stricter  
22           penalty if the utility comes in afterwards,  
23           after they have been notified, and it was an  
24           existing situation. So that was something  
25           Mr. Rogan got in my mind there.

1                   Also, again, I would like to thank  
2                   Lackawanna County, Mr. Hetman, is that how  
3                   you say it?

4                   MR. HETMAN: Yes.

5                   MR. LOSCOMBE: For coming to this  
6                   meeting, and I look forward to us working  
7                   with you.

8                   MR. HETMAN: Likewise, sir. Thank  
9                   you.

10                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Dobrzyn discussed  
11                  renter'S insurance, that the landlords may  
12                  charge an extra rent or something. The way  
13                  insurance works basically is you have to  
14                  have a interest -- an insurable interest in  
15                  something. The landlords own their  
16                  buildings so they insure their buildings.  
17                  They don't own any of the contents that the  
18                  renters own, so the renters are liable for  
19                  their own renter's insurance, and like you  
20                  said, it's really reasonable. For \$10 a  
21                  month of \$120 a year most rental policies  
22                  will make you whole.

23                  But it actually brought me to a  
24                  bigger issue, tonight we have legislation to  
25                  approve the insurance contracts for the city

1 and apparently I guess only one company  
2 ended up bidding on it, I think maybe it was  
3 because of the massive amount of work there,  
4 next year or we should put out the request  
5 for bids before the end of the year for  
6 April 1 of next year to give brokers time to  
7 do their research and do their due  
8 diligence.

9 But my question is, and maybe  
10 Mr. Hughes can look into this, insurable  
11 interest, I noticed on page seven of the  
12 scheduled properties that we have two  
13 library buildings listed here, the Albright  
14 Library on Vine Street and the Greenridge  
15 Street library, which are insured for well  
16 over \$4 million just the buildings  
17 themselves, not including contents.

18 Since the deeds are in the hands of  
19 the Library Authority, that has taken the  
20 insurable interest away from the city since  
21 we do not have the deeds. I was just  
22 wondering if we could check with them, if  
23 the Library Authority can be billed for that  
24 part of the insurance policy, that was one  
25 of the reasons they wanted to form an

1 authority so they could properly insure  
2 their buildings, but it just doesn't seem  
3 right when all of the other authorities  
4 handled their own insurance and the city is  
5 insuring buildings that don't belong to them  
6 right now. So I was wondering if we could  
7 look into that and maybe at the direction of  
8 our solicitor, Mrs. Krake can send a letter  
9 to the proper personnel on that?

10 MR. HUGHES: I think you are on the  
11 right track. First of all, I think we said  
12 this last year, when this came up to bid,  
13 and I believe you raised it, Jack, that when  
14 the deeds were recorded after council set  
15 forth to terminate or to liquidate the --  
16 actually terminate the Library Authority,  
17 they then recorded the deeds. At that point  
18 in time the City of Scranton was not the  
19 owner, it does not have an insurable  
20 interest in my opinion that it cannot insure  
21 the building. If we had a mortgage on the  
22 property, which we don't, the City of  
23 Scranton received no money for that, it  
24 would be up to the owner of the property,  
25 which would be the Authority, to have the



1 buildings insured with a mortgagee payable  
2 clause payable to the city. That doesn't  
3 happen or that hasn't happened so I think  
4 that -- I do not know who the solicitor for  
5 the Library Authority is, but I certainly  
6 think that a letter should be directed to  
7 the executive director of the present  
8 Library Association requesting that  
9 information as to those two buildings may  
10 have been insured when they are insured for.

11 The City of Scranton does not have  
12 any right and the insurance company in the  
13 event, God forbid, there is a fire and the  
14 building would be destroyed, if the City of  
15 Scranton would put a claim in they would  
16 say, "Your insurance company pay only whom  
17 has an insurable interest in it," and they  
18 can deny paying it, even though we are  
19 paying the premium for it.

20 I also raised a second issue and  
21 it's my understanding that Knowel's  
22 Associates acts as a broker and gets a fee  
23 of \$10,000 for being a broker and approves  
24 the policies to themselves then they get the  
25 commission from the insurance company for

1 placing the insurance, and what we tried to  
2 do this year, and it was my understanding  
3 that even though they said you couldn't do  
4 it and have premiums paid quarterly, that it  
5 would be bid for the remaining nine months  
6 of the year. I'm looking into that as to  
7 whether, and I believe the insurance  
8 companies can put this on a fiscal year  
9 instead of a calendar year, since they have  
10 already accepted the premiums, it's the same  
11 insurance companies. They are just  
12 continuing it now so instead of a 12-month  
13 premium from January 1 is to December 31 --  
14 or insurable year, it's now 15 months  
15 without -- when we bid it, and them being  
16 the only bidder and I think, as you stated,  
17 the time was too short, I do know at  
18 least -- I don't know how many other bidders  
19 came in to select or to pick up a bid  
20 package, but they could not put the bid  
21 together in that period of time in order to  
22 do their due diligence.

23 I think in your comment, and I don't  
24 know, I'll take a look at this legislation  
25 to see if we should put an amendment on that

1 next year this has to put out to bid by the  
2 end the year, and the contract would be  
3 awarded no sooner than March 1, so that  
4 someone would at least will have well over  
5 two months. I'm investigating that now to  
6 see exactly how much time an insurance agent  
7 would need to place this insurance.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

9 MR. HUGHES: And, as I said, I don't  
10 know how many other -- if there were two,  
11 three, four or five other bidders that  
12 picked up the bid package and they couldn't  
13 do it because Knowel's had the inside track.  
14 They just didn't have the time to put it  
15 together and to take it to a company and in  
16 this situation for a bidder to come in and  
17 say, "Wait a minute, you don't have a  
18 insurable interest in this, you shouldn't  
19 really be paying a premium to ensure \$4  
20 million of buildings that you don't own that  
21 you don't have an insurable interest in,"  
22 that it would be a lot of work.

23 I am looking into that to see how  
24 much time an insurance agent would need from  
25 the time he picks up the bid specs in order

1 to develop a bid properly to submit a bid  
2 next year. I do believe that the way that  
3 it was, the bid spec did say it was for one  
4 year, so we are going to be on a fiscal year  
5 basis that we just have to take a look at  
6 the bid and properly award it as it was bid  
7 in accordance with the specs instead for  
8 nine months. Think that would be too much  
9 intermingling in the bidding process.

10 But I think your comment is good and  
11 that Mrs. Krake should write a letter to the  
12 Library association, actually to the Library  
13 Authority. They had it insured somewhere  
14 along the line, they should be the -- we  
15 should have a legal opinion from the legal  
16 department that we do have an insurable  
17 interest. In my opinion, I don't think we  
18 do.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Hughes. Next, rental registration you  
21 have heard some discussion here. I do want  
22 to thank Mr. McGoff and Mr. Rogan this week  
23 sat down and finalized some of the  
24 amendments to the ordinance.

25 Again, it's not going to be a

1 perfect ordinance, there is going to be some  
2 tweaks down the road, but it's at a point  
3 now where, you know, it's time to get going  
4 on it, get it in operation, and we could  
5 work out the wrinkles as we go. And also,  
6 the input from the various building owners  
7 that have called us with ideas and the  
8 Greater Scranton Board of Realtors, Pete  
9 Lamandre, who provided us with some  
10 information and approached the podium  
11 several times to discuss this issue. So,  
12 you know, hopefully after this evening we  
13 are on the right path to tightening up some  
14 of that situation.

15 We discussed PILOTS tonight or  
16 nonprofits, going after the nonprofits.  
17 Anyone that watches these meetings knows the  
18 history of how we feel on receiving money  
19 from the nonprofits. Mrs. Evans and I had  
20 approached the University, other members  
21 here have approached different colleges and  
22 nonprofits, and again, it's easy to come to  
23 the podium and say, you know, assess this  
24 fee or that fee or whatever, but it's not as  
25 cut and dry as that, and I'm sure our

1           solicitor can verify that. We have done a  
2           lot of research, all of us, on our own here  
3           have done a lot of research throughout the  
4           state because that's -- even outside of the  
5           state, but we have to go with the state's  
6           specific laws, and something that we are  
7           going to be able to enact that's going to  
8           stand up to the legal system without  
9           enforcing legislation that we may end up in  
10          Court with and end up losing your taxpayer  
11          money fighting it.

12                        So, trust me, this has been on our  
13          hotplate probably from day one the last few  
14          years here and it's just not something  
15          that's as cut and dry as it may seem.  
16          Otherwise, if would have been a done deal  
17          all over the state already. They have tried  
18          different things in Pittsburgh, they have  
19          tried different things in Harrisburg, some  
20          of the other localities, and I believe  
21          Mrs. Evans mentioned was it Rhode Island.

22                        MS. EVANS: Yes, Providence, Rhode  
23          Island.

24                        MR. LOSCOMBE: So all of this is  
25          great information and we are putting it

1           together, but it has to go through, you know  
2           the legal process to make sure we are going  
3           to get the money without spending your money  
4           in the long run fighting to go get it back.  
5           So, I mean, that's where we are at on the  
6           nonprofits and the PILOTS.

7                     And as far as some of these projects  
8           that have being presented to us in caucuses  
9           and stuff like that, a lot of the projects  
10          that we have been involved in basically, I  
11          think before most of us were on this panel,  
12          had already received -- those are lengthy  
13          processes several years they have already  
14          received their grants or their funding at  
15          that point. It became incumbent upon us to  
16          follow-up.

17                    As you know, Mrs. Evans started  
18          having public caucuses here with many of the  
19          developers that we have to review, and  
20          again, most of them have already been  
21          approved so it was money that was designated  
22          prior to us being here by the state or the  
23          federal government or whoever. They came  
24          here and discussed their projects with us  
25          and what they planned to do. Have they all

1           been up to par? Well, we just had two weeks  
2           ago one that has fallen apart, but I'm  
3           hopeful that, you know, someone will come in  
4           and pick up the boat on that, but for the  
5           most part we have looked over all of these  
6           projects. The Daron Northeast project, they  
7           are looking for a LERTA. From what I  
8           understand this gentleman is putting his own  
9           money in, he is not looking for any federal  
10          grants, local grants, anything like that, he  
11          is putting his own money in. He is building  
12          it in a vacant parking lot right now, which  
13          would still be paying taxes on it, the LERTA  
14          would only be on the building he puts up.

15                 Daron Northeast parcel, with the  
16          building and the rest of it, is still a  
17          taxable entity. It doesn't belong to them,  
18          so we would be gaining -- we wouldn't be  
19          losing anything really because there is tax  
20          on that property right now on the lot and  
21          it's an empty lot. We have to look at these  
22          things for their own merits. Again, I'm not  
23          100 percent sold on it. You know, I think  
24          it's a good project for this area, it's a  
25          good project for that neighborhood, but



1           there is still some things that I have  
2           concerns about as far as, you know, using  
3           local workers, local employees, local labor  
4           and just making sure everything is in order  
5           with the permits and stuff like that.

6                         But we don't take it lightly, we  
7           know it's your money that they we will be  
8           abating the taxes on it and in this  
9           particular case though it's not a tax --  
10          it's not a property that has a building on  
11          it that's paying taxes, and it's a major  
12          personal investment. That's what we like.

13                        If you remember, I believe it was  
14          last year when a developer was getting  
15          millions and he wanted us to forgive his  
16          taxes, we stood up to him. We told him you  
17          are getting money in this hand from the  
18          government and the taxpayers, at least put  
19          this hand in your pocket and pay the taxes.  
20          And then we were told it was going to be  
21          sold to nonprofits so we wouldn't get taxes  
22          or anything anyway. We persevered. We met  
23          with the developer and in time he ended up  
24          paying his taxes. We are here working for  
25          you. We understand. Trust me. Every tax

1           dollar is important, but you know, sometimes  
2           we are going to make decisions that other  
3           people don't understand or don't see that  
4           the long-term fruitfulness of it.

5                     You know, will they all succeed? I  
6           would hope so, but if we don't at least give  
7           them a chance we are not going to get out of  
8           this hole we are in. It sounds like a lot  
9           of money, but we have look at each project  
10          on their own merits and I believe that's  
11          what we are doing here and each developer is  
12          coming in here and explaining their projects  
13          for all of our constituents, and if anyone  
14          else allowed, and like I said, we listen to  
15          you all when you come up to podium here with  
16          your objections or questions and, you know,  
17          we have a heavy weight on us. We are  
18          looking at it as you would. Trust me.

19                    So I would just hope you would give  
20          us the benefit of to the doubt when we do  
21          make decisions on situations like that.

22                    And just lastly, I want to discuss  
23          the fire situation. You know, people were  
24          telling me it was almost prophetic, my  
25          statements last week, on the shorted

1 firefighters and the time responses and  
2 stuff like that, and I was basing that on  
3 the fire in West Side earlier in the week  
4 and, unfortunately, the day after the  
5 meeting we had that fire up in East Mountain  
6 and, you know, it's been awhile since there  
7 were two major fires like that right in a  
8 row, and it shook a lot of people up because  
9 a ten-minute response is crazy. I stated it  
10 last week a five -- four minute response is  
11 crazy. You know, we were noted for three  
12 minute responses in this city and we were  
13 able to save a lot of property.

14 And I'm glad to see that the unions  
15 and the mayor actually had discussion and  
16 worked it out and it got some of the  
17 manpower back, but it's still not fixed.  
18 It's easy to put a few guys in and say the  
19 problem is there. You know, prior to any  
20 cuts on the police and fire departments  
21 things were working like a well-oiled gear.  
22 Now we are finding problems here and there,  
23 and it's only going to continue until things  
24 are done with the proper way. Everybody,  
25 every neighborhood deserves their stations

1 open, deserves their protection.

2 You know, Ann Marie Stulgis was at  
3 the podium tonight, she explained the  
4 scenario over ten years where the budget has  
5 gone and what the police and fire have cost.  
6 Zero, where they were with the grievance.  
7 Bill Jackowitz, he presented the Recovery  
8 Plan information back then, and I remember  
9 that very well. I am one of the older guys.

10 But, you know, it was very serious  
11 and there was a lot of -- you know, they  
12 were settling. 70 percent of people voted  
13 for it, but only 30 percent of the voters  
14 came out and, you know, I think the big  
15 selling point there was if you don't vote it  
16 in your taxes are going up. You know, now  
17 people are paying more taxes, they are going  
18 to paying more on their fire insurance  
19 because as more and more properties are  
20 damaged the ISO ratings are going to change.  
21 We have to have the capacity to respond the  
22 way we did before, and I know we are not  
23 done with 12, we are going to continue to  
24 fight to bring the ranks up to where they  
25 should be. That's what you deserve.

1           You don't know how -- I was at every  
2           one of those fire scenes and how many people  
3           came up to me and said, "You know, what are  
4           we going to do? We can't sleep at night.  
5           We are a nervous wreck," other people  
6           surrounding them. This is no way for them  
7           to live, and it shouldn't be. I want to  
8           correct a statement that was made in the  
9           paper regarding the fire on Langstaff Place,  
10          I believe it was today's paper, that stated  
11          Engine 9 was not opened, but Engine 8 was  
12          working out of Engine 9's station. That's  
13          an incorrect statement.

14                 The building at Engine 9 was totally  
15          closed and Truck 4 and Engine 9 were not  
16          operating out of there. Engine 8 operated  
17          out of their own station on Market Street,  
18          Engine 7 operated out of their own station  
19          on Luzerne Street. The fortunate thing on  
20          response time was both of those companies  
21          happened to be within three minutes there  
22          because they were returning from other  
23          incidents. Otherwise, it would have taken a  
24          bit longer. Perhaps Engine 8 would have  
25          gone, and Engine 7 would have taken a little

1 bit longer.

2 No neighborhood deserves not to have  
3 the protection they had. It worked before,  
4 it should never have been changed. I think  
5 the stations as they are stand are  
6 strategically located for the response  
7 times, and that's a big factor. You need  
8 the response times and you need the adequate  
9 manpower on scene, and that's a fact.

10 When they call overtime in they are  
11 calling men in from home, but the time they  
12 get there it's a half hour, 45 minutes after  
13 the fire has started.

14 I want to commend our firefighters  
15 for the job they have done in the past  
16 couple of weeks. And for those of you, as  
17 Bill said, had seen them in action at that  
18 scene it was something and the police  
19 officers who responded and kept crowd  
20 control because there was quite a bit of the  
21 problem at the one by Weston Field.

22 I want to say I'm sorry to all the  
23 victims of these fires. You know, it's  
24 going to take a long time for them to pick  
25 up the pieces and, you know, it's something

1           everybody is in denial. Nobody things a  
2           fire will ever strike them. When it does,  
3           it's too late. For those of you who have  
4           had that situation you realize that. And  
5           again, you know, insurance for renters is  
6           cheap. At least get that to help you  
7           recoup. You will never recoup your memories  
8           or your valuables, but at least it will help  
9           you pick up part of your life.

10                   And also I failed to mention I want  
11           to thank the firefighters from Dunmore who  
12           responded to every one of these fires in  
13           Scranton, and thank God we have a department  
14           in Dunmore like that. And to the  
15           surrounding areas who manned the various  
16           stations in case another incident came in, I  
17           also commend them, but the work is not done.  
18           We still have a long way to go to provide  
19           the adequate protection and I just hope the  
20           line of the communication continue between  
21           the mayor and the unions, and hopefully we  
22           will have the police back on the beat that  
23           should be there.

24                   Right now we are paying for six  
25           police officers because of the Supreme Court

1 ruling, we are paying for six to have six.  
2 I have stated this before, had he hired two  
3 previously we'd have 15 on the street, 13  
4 being paid by COM-D and two being paid by  
5 the city extra. 15 police officers for the  
6 price of two. Now we have six officers for  
7 the price of six, you know?

8 This is no game. We can't play with  
9 our public safety and I would hope that  
10 better minds prevail and, unfortunately, we  
11 have had these incidents in the past week.  
12 I would hope they don't continue, but from  
13 what I understand the one down by Weston  
14 Field is a case of arson, and I know our  
15 arson investigators along with the state  
16 police investigators are working diligently  
17 on some leads on that situation.

18 But, you know, until we are where we  
19 were, and this goes back, people say, well  
20 the city doesn't have the population that it  
21 had before, the city is the same square  
22 miles, and if you think about from when we  
23 had the biggest population Scranton is  
24 actually expanded. Montage Mountain, the  
25 upper west mountain, the east mountain up



1           towards Viewmont Mall that way. The city  
2           actually is a lot larger than it was when we  
3           had a bigger population. There is a lot  
4           more aging structures, and it's farther  
5           stretches for companies to respond to, so to  
6           use population as an answer isn't it.

7                     It's not like a factory, when  
8           production -- we could slow down productions  
9           when orders closed you don't know when all  
10          hell is going to break loose with the fire  
11          or a police situation, a riot, and the fire  
12          and police are also your Homeland Security.  
13          They have a lot more functions that they  
14          perform today.

15                    But, you know, I'll feeling a little  
16          bit better that there been a little bit of  
17          movement, for your sake out there has to  
18          continue to be some more discussion and some  
19          more movement and the right stories have to  
20          put out there, and I just hope that nothing  
21          happens now and God bless everyone and, you  
22          know, to those again who suffered the  
23          tragedies of the fires after last week we  
24          pray for you. Thank you.

25                    MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman

1 Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, do you have any  
2 comments or motions?

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. And as one  
4 may know, Engine 10 on East Mountain was  
5 reopened following a very serious fire in  
6 the East Mountain area, as Mr. Loscombe just  
7 explained. This is something that was  
8 sorely needed as response times in this area  
9 were abysmal, to say the least, due to the  
10 lack of manpower on the Scranton Fire  
11 Department. I'm very grateful and glad that  
12 firefighters were hired back which, of  
13 course, were budgeted for in the 2012  
14 amendment operating budget.

15 This firehouse should have been  
16 opened all along and it was sorely needed.  
17 I'm very thankful that the residents of East  
18 Mountain can feel safe again. I only hope  
19 this leads to the reinstatement of more  
20 firefighters throughout the city for the  
21 SAFER grant.

22 In speaking with Mayor Doherty, he  
23 projects that we should receive the SAFER  
24 grant around midsummer as an estimate.

25 In addition, with the major fires

1 that occurred over the last nine days in  
2 West Scranton, East Mountain and most  
3 recently the possible premeditated arson in  
4 North Scranton I think we owe all of our  
5 firefighters a very special thank you for  
6 doing what they do. The firefighters in the  
7 City of Scranton have shown special courage  
8 in their efforts to fight these fires that  
9 they have with the resources that they have  
10 and I think that we all owe them our thanks.

11 Getting onto other business, the  
12 2012 TAN. To report, Tax Collector Bill  
13 Courtright has submitted \$1,910,172.47 to  
14 the 2012 TAN lock box. As one may or may  
15 not know, this year there is a special  
16 agreement with the tax anticipation note,  
17 commonly referred to as the TAN. As part of  
18 the special agreement, all real estate tax  
19 revenue is required by the TAN lender to be  
20 placed in a lockbox for final repayment by  
21 June 30, 2012, or until all of the balance  
22 is paid, whichever come comes first.

23 After a brief discussion with Ryan  
24 McGowan, our business administrator, so far  
25 we have paid roughly \$6.3 million on the

1           2012 TAN.

2                   In regard to the RE-RE account, both  
3           Ms. Aebli and Mrs. Novembrino had promptly  
4           responded to Scranton City Council's inquiry  
5           as to how much money is currently in the  
6           UDAG repayment checking account commonly  
7           referred to as the RE-RE account, which  
8           generates revenue from loans that were  
9           acquired from OECD which are repaid back to  
10          OECD as agreed. The amount of money left in  
11          this account is as of March 19, 2012, is --  
12          well, was, \$95,698.28.

13                   Pursuant to requests from city  
14          council and citizens regarding 519 Grace  
15          Street I just wanted to announce that  
16          Scranton City Council through our city clerk  
17          reached out to the law department and we  
18          received a response from Attorney Kelly that  
19          there are no plans for a parking lot at 519  
20          Grace Street and, furthermore, that no  
21          request for permits for a parking lot have  
22          been made.

23                   Also, in the event that anyone does  
24          try to request a permit to obtain for a  
25          parking lot, it has been advised that they

1 would be denied due to the fact that the  
2 city owns the lot.

3 Two weeks ago, Mrs. Quinn, one of  
4 our speakers, asked a question about the  
5 2010 audit on page 21, and it's specific to  
6 OECD, and I spoke with Rossi & Rossi  
7 regarding some of Mr. Quinn's questions in  
8 regard to OECD, and just to begin on page 21  
9 of the audit, I have it right here in front  
10 of me, which is entitled, "City of Scranton  
11 Revenues, Expenditures and Change in Fund  
12 Balances for the Year 12-31-2010," Mr. Quinn  
13 I remembered stated that it appears as if  
14 Rossi & Rossi was bringing up revenues by  
15 using OECD money when it actually wasn't  
16 part of the budget.

17 To elaborate a little bit further,  
18 by GASB standards, Mr. Rossi from Rossi &  
19 Rossi explained that OECD is to be reported  
20 alone, along with nonmajor funds which is  
21 determined by a formula, and major funds  
22 which are listed as general. Everything  
23 listed as general is pretty much the  
24 operating budget itself. Some of what is  
25 listed as nongeneral is also part of the

1 operating budget such as debt service that's  
2 listed on a nonmajor fund by those  
3 standards.

4 On the next page of the audit, which  
5 is page 22, it lists other finance sources  
6 and uses. This is where the TAN is listed  
7 and any operating transfers in and out. For  
8 instance, transfers from the Workers'  
9 Compensation Fund and transfers back to the  
10 Workers' Compensation Fund to pay it back.

11 As far as OECD is concerned, Mr.  
12 Grassi from OECD explained that the total  
13 revenue generated from CDBG, HOME, ESG and  
14 other grants that were received was  
15 \$11,333,680. Along with this they did have  
16 \$5,191 in investment income and \$1,322,910  
17 in programming which added up to \$12,  
18 661,781.

19 OECD also added \$12,681,235 in  
20 expenses, which was slightly above the  
21 amount of income that they had generated  
22 throughout the Year 2010.

23 So in short, this money is not a  
24 part of the operating budget, but it is  
25 reported by Rossi & Rossi, but not as part

1 of any budgetary money.

2 Also, I did ask Mr. Grassi about all  
3 of the findings related to OECD and the  
4 whole issue of citations and Mr. Grassi from  
5 Rossi & Rossi explained that they do not  
6 issue citations and, furthermore, that they  
7 just report what they find. That's all for  
8 tonight.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman  
10 Joyce. Good evening. Like so many of you,  
11 Scranton City Council was very pleased by  
12 the reinstatement of 12 firefighters, the  
13 reopening of Engine 10 fire station on East  
14 Mountain, and the demonstrated cooperation  
15 among the mayor, the IAFF union and city  
16 council. I spoke with Mayor Doherty several  
17 times last Friday regarding this urgent  
18 matter and the funding to make it happen  
19 immediately. For the record, the mayor  
20 reinstates these positions and city council  
21 provides and approves the funding.

22 Further, neither could reopen the  
23 fire stations without the agreement of the  
24 union to decrease the number of personnel  
25 per apparatus from four to three in order to

1 provide increased fire protection for  
2 Scranton residents. Legislation to provide  
3 funding for the 12 positions is being  
4 drafted and will be submitted to city  
5 council for it's approval when completed.

6 The mayor and council identified the  
7 following funding sources for inclusion in  
8 the legislation: UDAG RE-RE funds,  
9 unemployment, salt and snow removal,  
10 overtime and contingency monies, and the  
11 \$600,000 from the prescription health care  
12 savings grant will then be used to reimburse  
13 budgetary accounts.

14 On Tuesday night, I saw firsthand  
15 the devastating fire that ripped through  
16 four homes on Langstaff Place. I watched as  
17 numerous fire trucks and engines arrived and  
18 firefighters simultaneously battled the  
19 smoke and blazes from the ground, atop truck  
20 ladders, inside of the structure and on roof  
21 tops. The response time was very good, a  
22 significant improvement over the two fires  
23 that occurred in West Scranton and East  
24 Mountain last week.

25 Scranton City Council thanks the



1 Scranton and Dunmore Fire Department, the  
2 Scranton Police Department, paramedics and  
3 the American Red Cross under the direction  
4 of Brian Ritsen for their extraordinary work  
5 throughout the last ten days.

6 However, it is clear that additional  
7 firefighters are needed to better provide  
8 for the health, safety and welfare of all  
9 Scranton residents. We await the  
10 announcement of funding from the federal  
11 SAFER grant hopefully during the summer  
12 months which will enable as many of the  
13 remaining firefighters who were cut in the  
14 mayor's budget to return to their positions  
15 and make fire station brownouts an exception  
16 rather than the rule.

17 Also, Councilman Joyce and I met  
18 with Mayor Doherty and Business  
19 Administration Ryan McGowan this week to  
20 review and discuss the Revised Recovery  
21 Plan. The meeting was productive, agreement  
22 was reached on several issues, and the first  
23 steps were taken. Communication and  
24 cooperation will continue and joint  
25 initiatives and recommendations will be

1 submitted to the Pennsylvania Economy League  
2 and the people of Scranton tentatively in  
3 mid-April.

4 Next, it has been come to council's  
5 attention that a zoning change may be  
6 necessary on Dickson Avenue, therefore,  
7 council directs Attorney Hughes to contact  
8 city planner, Don King, to determine if the  
9 various grants to senior housing  
10 opportunities of New York Incorporated was  
11 the correct application of zoning law.

12 Next, I received a prompt response  
13 from Ms. Aebli --

14 MR. HUGHES: Madam Chairman, I'll do  
15 that, but I believe that that variance was  
16 granted more than 30 days ago. Council has  
17 no right to interfere with anything that --  
18 council would file an appeal to the Court of  
19 Common Pleas on it's own, however, it had 30  
20 days after the variance was granted. If  
21 there is -- the only ones that would have  
22 any standing o challenge the decision of the  
23 zoning board would be protestants that  
24 appeared at the hearing, signed in, and  
25 presented testimony against whatever was

1 requested.

2 MS. EVANS: At the zoning hearing?

3 MR. HUGHES: At the zoning hearing.

4 The only people that can take an appeal to  
5 any action of the zoning hearing board,  
6 which is an independent agency of the city,  
7 it has its own solicitor, the only one that  
8 can take appeal would be an aggrieved person  
9 who is a protestant at the hearing who is a  
10 neighbor in th at area and appeared at the  
11 hearing and gave testimony and then could  
12 appeal an adverse decision to their  
13 interest, be it a variance, a zoning change,  
14 if it were a zoning change that would have  
15 be initiated by the Planning Commission and  
16 covered by the Zoning Board to come here  
17 before council and have a hearing to change  
18 the zoning.

19 I don't know that much about the  
20 case, I know very little about the case, but  
21 other than the fact that what Attorney Hane  
22 said was that they already had their hearing  
23 before the zoning hearing board and that a  
24 variance was granted. Any appeal from that  
25 variance would have to have been taken

1           within 30 days of the issuance of that  
2           decision. I'll check it on and I believe I  
3           saw in the paper that at the Planning  
4           Commission meeting last night the Planning  
5           Commission did approve the subdivision of  
6           that parcel into two separate parcels.

7                     MS. EVANS: Do we know who owns the  
8           property?

9                     MR. HUGHES: Right now it's the  
10          partnership of Daron Products, whoever was  
11          the grantee is the owner of the property.

12                    MS. EVANS: Okay, so they own the  
13          entire property.

14                    MR. HUGHES: They own the entire  
15          property, the parcels there. Again, from  
16          what Attorney Higgen testified there is two  
17          parcels, one parcel has the building that  
18          was rehabilitated and reconstructed for the  
19          offices of Daron, then there was the vacant  
20          parcel right next to it. And last night --  
21          or at the Planning Commission meeting, I  
22          believe it was last night, that they  
23          approved the subdivision that 11-acre  
24          parcel, two parcels approximately 5.6 acres  
25          each.

1 MS. EVANS: So this company has not  
2 yet purchased the land?

3 MR. HUGHES: No.

4 MS. EVANS: I guess my last  
5 question, and this is you can even consider  
6 it a hypothetical, for example --

7 MR. HUGHES: You sound like a  
8 lawyer.

9 MS. EVANS: If a board renders an  
10 incorrect decision which it later discovers  
11 to be incorrect it allows the decision to  
12 stand.

13 MR. HUGHES: I haven't investigated  
14 it to that extent, but I believe that the  
15 Zoning Board would have said, based on my  
16 experience and practicing before zoning  
17 boards in Northeastern Pennsylvania, that if  
18 the application were incorrect to grant a  
19 variance they would say, "We cannot the  
20 grant the variance. We are limited by law  
21 as to the type of variances that we can  
22 grant."

23 I don't know what type of variance  
24 they requested even if they did request a  
25 variance, but I would be -- let me put it

1 way. It would be my opinion that the  
2 solicitor for the Scranton Zoning Board  
3 would have said that we cannot entertain a  
4 variance because it's not the correct  
5 procedure, and this is what you have to do.  
6 Just based on my experience of 40 years of  
7 practicing law that that would be what would  
8 have happen, and I can't believe that the  
9 Scranton Zoning Board or their solicitor,  
10 who is experienced, would have said, "Yeah,  
11 we'll approve a variance even though we  
12 can't approve a variance."

13 I'll check on it, but there is  
14 really -- and I believe the only ones that  
15 could have really objected would have been  
16 the neighbors and what you see is that the  
17 neighbors are in favor of the project, so --  
18 but I'll check on it for the next meeting.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Next, it has  
20 come to -- or, excuse me, I received a  
21 prompt response from Ms. Aebli, OECD  
22 director, regarding the paving of Hamm  
23 Court, which I would like to read at this  
24 time quickly. "On March 6, 2012, Tom  
25 Preambo of my staff and I personally

1           contacted a resident living in the 300 block  
2           of Hamm Court regarding the paving of this  
3           court. This office as placed this court on  
4           our list for a potential court to be paved.  
5           When this office begins to generate our next  
6           paving list, Hamm Court will being inspected  
7           in order for this office to prioritize the  
8           streets based on need to be paved.

9                     Please be advised, however, that the  
10           500 and 600 block of Hamm Court is not in a  
11           low to moderate income and will not qualify  
12           for our paving program under federal  
13           guidelines."

14                    In addition, council received a  
15           timely response from Fire Chief Davis  
16           regarding the Rockwell Avenue Bridge, which  
17           I will read. "In reference to your letter  
18           dated March 6, the following is submitted  
19           for your information. Please be advised  
20           since the Rockwell Avenue Bridge has been  
21           closed to fire trucks, we have been going  
22           off West Market Street to Neary Place. This  
23           detour has not changed the response time."

24                    Finally, council received a notice  
25           of high importance regarding Senate Bill 405

1           which could significantly affect the levy of  
2           the business privilege tax. Mrs. Krake,  
3           please send a memo to Mr. McGowan and the  
4           mayor regarding this legislation and attach  
5           the notice from PLCM and PSATC. The BP tax  
6           ordinance must be reviewed immediately. And  
7           that's it.

8                        MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE  
9           MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
10          TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH  
11          KNOWLES ASSOCIATES, L.L.C. FOR INSURANCE  
12          BROKERAGE SERVICES FOR INSURANCE WITH  
13          HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT INSURANCE EXCHANGE  
14          (H.A.R.I.E.) INDIAN HARBOR INSURANCE  
15          COMPANY/XL INSURANCE, PHILADELPHIA INDEMNITY  
16          INSURANCE COMPANY, SAFETY NATIONAL INSURANCE  
17          COMPANY AND SCOTTSDALE INSURANCE COMPANY FOR  
18          CITY INSURANCE COVERAGES FOR THE PERIOD  
19          APRIL 1, 2012, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2013.

20                      MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
21          entertain a motion that Item 5-B be  
22          introduced into its proper committee.

23                      MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24                      MR. JOYCE: Second.

25                      MS. EVANS: On the question? All



1 those in favor of introduction signify by  
2 saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 (Mr. Loscombe not present for the vote.)

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE  
10 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
11 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO SUPPLEMENTAL  
12 ENGINEERING AGREEMENT NUMBER 041746-C WITH  
13 BUCHARTHORN, INC. TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT TO  
14 INCLUDE THE REVISED OFFSET PROVISION; TO  
15 INCLUDE THE REVISED CONTRACTOR  
16 RESPONSIBILITY PROVISIONS; TO REVISE THE  
17 NONDISCRIMINATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAUSE;  
18 TO INCLUDE THE REVISED CONTRACTOR INTEGRITY  
19 CLAUSE; TO INCLUDE THE CONTRACT  
20 PROVISION-RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW 8-K-1532; TO  
21 PROVIDE FOR, UNDER PART II, ADDITIONAL  
22 HOURS FOR UPDATING AND RESUBMISSION OF  
23 PERMIT APPLICATIONS, PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS  
24 AND COST ESTIMATES AND FOR AN INCREASE IN  
25 COST UNDER PART II OF THE AGREEMENT OF

1           \$71,004.03 FOR THE ROCKWELL AVENUE BRIDGE  
2 PROJECT.

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

6           MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7           MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

11           MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12           MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13           MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14           MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
15 have it and so moved.

16           (Mr. Loscombe was not present for  
17 the vote.)

18           MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.  
19 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 26,  
20 2012 – AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF  
21 COUNCIL NO. 05, 2007 (AS AMENDED) ENTITLED  
22 “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION  
23 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;  
24 REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL  
25 PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE

1 OF PROCESS; AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF  
2 OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE  
3 DESIGNATION OF AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR  
4 THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION  
5 OF RENTAL PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING  
6 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS”.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A  
10 pass reading by title.

11 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MR. MCGOFF: Madam President, I  
21 would like to make a motion to move 6-A to  
22 7-E for final vote.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the  
25 table to suspend the rules and move Item 6-A

1 into Seventh Order this evening as well as a  
2 second, is there anything on the question?  
3 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
9 have it and so moved.

10 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
11 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 27, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE  
12 - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT  
13 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF  
14 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD")  
15 TITLED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
16 PROGRAM ACCOUNT NO. 17A0101 FOR THE RECEIPT  
17 AND DISBURSEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
18 BLOCK GRANT COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING  
19 LOAN FUND (CDBG C/I RFL FUNDS) RECEIVED FROM  
20 THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN  
21 DEVELOPMENT ("HUD").

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

24 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B  
25 pass reading by title.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

4 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
9 have it and so moved.

10 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
11 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
12 SAFETY FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 24,  
13 2012 - AUTHORIZING AND ESTABLISHING A  
14 PROCEDURE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF CITY-OWNED  
15 POLICE VEHICLES.

16 MS. EVANS: What is the  
17 recommendation of the Chair for the  
18 Committee on Public Safety?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for  
20 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
21 final passage of Item 7-A.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question,  
25 last week we sent out two letters regarding

1           this legislation, one was in regards to the  
2           memo dated March 12 informing that they were  
3           awarding a bid for the sale of 28 vehicles  
4           and miscellaneous parts to DeNaple's, who  
5           was the highest bidder. We sent a letter to  
6           the mayor and Mr. Dougher asking for a  
7           response on or before March 22, 2012, and  
8           nothing was received.

9           An additional went to Mayor Doherty  
10          and Chief Duffy. "Thank you for your prompt  
11          response to our letter asking for  
12          clarification on the bidding. Council would  
13          like you to provide our office with a list  
14          of the police vehicles that are going to be  
15          sold to the highest bidding scrap yard.  
16          Please provide our office a response on or  
17          about March 22, 2012."

18          Again, no response. So we don't  
19          even know how -- which vehicles are listed  
20          to be sold. Additionally, we don't know if  
21          they already were sold because 28 of the  
22          city vehicles were sold to DeNaples without  
23          any backup of what vehicles were sold.

24          And finally, before voting on this I  
25          would like everyone on council to think of

1           one question, do you honestly believe the  
2           best bang for our buck is by selling them to  
3           a scrap yard or by selling by another bid,  
4           an auction or something of that nature?

5                        So because of these three reasons, I  
6           will be voting "no" on the legislation.

7                        MS. EVANS: I might suggest that the  
8           motion be tabled until council receives  
9           responses that were requested. Is there  
10          anyone else who would like to table, make a  
11          motion to table?

12                       MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a  
13          motion to table.

14                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

15                       MS. EVANS: On the question?

16                       MR. ROGAN: I'll vote to table so we  
17          can get the information. I still don't like  
18          the general idea of scrapping it instead of  
19          auctioning it off, but I definitely think we  
20          need this information before a final vote is  
21          cast.

22                       MR. JOYCE: I agree.

23                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Due to circumstances  
24          this week with the fires and that I haven't  
25          had a chance to sit down with the chief

1           because I have several issues, so I don't  
2           know if I will get there tomorrow, but  
3           Monday I will definitely get there.

4                     MR. ROGAN: Sounds good.

5                     MR. JOYCE: I agree to table. I  
6           think that it's very important that council  
7           engages in doing it's due diligence to  
8           making sure that we vote accordingly.

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

12                    MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13                    MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14                    MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15                    MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16                    MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
17          have it and so moved and Item 7-A is tabled.

18                    MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
19          BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR  
20          ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 25, 2012 -  
21          CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR  
22          THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC  
23          AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED  
24          ENTERPRISE ZONE ("EZ") PROGRAM ACCOUNT NO.  
25          18A0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF



1 ENTERPRISE ZONE ("EZ") PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS  
2 RECEIVED FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
3 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED").

5 MS. EVANS: What is the  
6 recommendation of the Chair for the  
7 Committee on Finance?

8 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the  
9 Committee on Finance, I recommend final  
10 passage of Item 7-B.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR  
2 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12, 2012 -  
3 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 52, 2010, AN  
4 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING  
5 BUDGET 2011 " BY TRANSFERRING \$10,317.99  
6 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299  
7 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING EXPENSES -  
8 CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.  
9 01.040.00040.4190 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
10 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE) TO PROVIDE FUNDING  
11 FOR THE 4TH QUARTER 2011 UNEMPLOYMENT  
12 INSURANCE.

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

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

7 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Madam President, I make  
9 a motion to take File of Council No. 17,  
10 2012, from the table, and place it into  
11 Seventh Order for final consideration.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
14 those in favor signify by 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: 7-D, PREVIOUSLY TABLED,  
22 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
23 - FILED OF COUNCIL NO. 17, 2012, FOR  
24 ADOPTION - ESTABLISHING A REGISTRATION  
25 PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES;

1           REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL  
2           PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE AN AGENT FOR SERVICE  
3           OF PROCESS; AND PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF  
4           OWNERS, AGENTS AND OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE  
5           DESIGNATION OF AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR  
6           THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION  
7           OF RENTAL PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING  
8           PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

9                   MR. MCGOFF: I make a motion to  
10           amend Item 7-D as follows:

11                   Section 1-F, line two, delete "Is so  
12           loud" and insert "Violates Scranton noise  
13           ordinance and that is so."

14                   Section 1-H, after "level" add "by  
15           common hallways and stairs or by separate  
16           stairs."

17                   Section 1-T. In the first line  
18           delete the word "agent".

19                   Section 1-W, after dormitory delete  
20           "room" and insert "facility owned and  
21           operated by a recognized institute of higher  
22           learning whose rooms are."

23                   Section 1, insert safety inspection  
24           as the letter "X" and change tenant to  
25           letter "Y".

1                   Section 1-X, insert the definition  
2                   of safety inspection as follows: "Will  
3                   include, but is not limited to, a  
4                   determination that each rental unit shall  
5                   include an appropriate means of egress,  
6                   smoke detection, hot and cold running water,  
7                   heat and electricity."

8                   Section 1-Y, in the first line after  
9                   the word "who" insert "legally".

10                  Section 5-A. In the second line  
11                  after the word "with" insert "And have a  
12                  safety inspection conducted by."

13                  Section 5-H, line one, delete "90"  
14                  and insert "120."

15                  Section 6-A-8, line one, delete  
16                  "Annually prior to March 31," and insert "By  
17                  June 30, 2012, and thereafter annually prior  
18                  to March 31."

19                  Section 6, first paragraph after  
20                  number eight, line one, delete "person" and  
21                  insert "rental unit".

22                  Section 7-A, in the first line after  
23                  the word "owner" delete the word "or" and  
24                  insert "and".

25                  Section 8, delete "letting property

1 for occupancy" and insert "who let for  
2 occupancy premises".

3 Section 12, delete A entirely.  
4 Letter B becomes A, letter C becomes B,  
5 letter D becomes C, and letter E becomes D.

6 Section 12, letter C, formerly D,  
7 delete "hotels or dormitories" and insert  
8 "Any property covered by File of Council  
9 185, 1994."

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question?

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I  
13 would like to thank Councilman McGoff for  
14 meeting with me this week and also the  
15 Greater Scranton Board of Realtors for their  
16 great suggestions that they offer to us.

17 MS. EVANS: And I would like to say  
18 in addition, this is a collaborative effort  
19 of the entire council, so I do thank  
20 Mrs. McGoff for meeting with Mr. Rogan and  
21 then adding to the amendments that had been  
22 already developed by Councilman Joyce,  
23 Councilman Loscombe and myself. So what we  
24 have before us tonight is really the  
25 blending of everyone's amendments. Anyone

1 else on the question? All those in favor  
2 signify by saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
8 have it and so moved. As Chair for the  
9 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
10 passage of Item 7-D, as amended, at long  
11 last.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to  
15 comment that, again, the idea of the safety  
16 inspection was included so that it would not  
17 hinder the property owners and enforce  
18 unnecessary inspections for properties that  
19 were up to code and operating with the  
20 safety and the tenants in mind. The safety  
21 inspections are going to be done just to  
22 ensure that each rental property is a safe,  
23 living environment for its tenants.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. ROGAN: Just to elaborate off

1           that, one thing that was mentioned at  
2           council was about inspectors going to  
3           people's homes, looking for anything and,  
4           you know, in talking with my colleagues and  
5           Mr. McGoff, I think everyone agreed we just  
6           want to see that the basic safety is met.  
7           Smoke alarms, running water, things of that  
8           nature that every property should have.  
9           Many people in the city don't know that if  
10          you don't have these amenities in your  
11          rental property that you don't have to pay  
12          the rent, put it into escrow, but many  
13          people don't know that. Hopefully there  
14          aren't any properties throughout the city  
15          that don't have running water, smoke  
16          detectors, things of that nature, but, you  
17          know, it's certainly something that should  
18          be checked when the inspections are done.

19                   MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

20                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

21                   MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

23                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24                   MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

25                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.



1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 7-E - FORMERLY 6-A - FOR  
8 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES -  
9 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 26, 2012  
10 - REPEALING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 05, 2007 (AS  
11 AMENDED) ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING  
12 A REGISTRATION PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL  
13 RENTAL PROPERTIES; REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF  
14 RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE  
15 AN AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS; AND  
16 PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF OWNERS, AGENTS AND  
17 OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE DESIGNATION OF  
18 AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE COSTS  
19 ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION OF RENTAL  
20 PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR  
21 VIOLATIONS".

22 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the  
23 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
24 passage of Item 7-E.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
2 call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
13 Item 7-E legally and lawfully repealed.

14 Before I call for adjournment, I  
15 would like to direct our council solicitor,  
16 I know that we have discussed this  
17 throughout the last week, to develop the  
18 amendments to the insurance legislation or  
19 next week's meeting. It's, as we discussed,  
20 a resolution, and so the amendments have to  
21 occur next week.

22 And if there is nothing further,  
23 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

24 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

25 MS. EVANS: This meeting is

adjourned.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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