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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, May 24, 2012

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT
(Not present.)

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR
(Not present.)

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

3 MR. JOYCE: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

12 MR. JOYCE: Dispense with the
13 reading of the minutes.

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
15 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING
16 APRIL 30, 2012.

17 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
20 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
21 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS REVIEWED AND
22 RETURNED MAY 10TH 2012.

23 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S

1 REPORT, HEARING DATE MAY 9, 2012.

2 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AUDIT STATUS FROM

5 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. AS OF MAY 16, 2012.

6 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

7 If not, received and filed.

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE

9 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD'S REGULAR MEETING

10 HELD APRIL 25, 2012.

11 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

12 If not, received and filed.

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. DEPOSITS MADE BY

14 THE SCRANTON SINGLE TAX OFFICE IN THE

15 AMOUNTS OF \$246,749.88 AND \$33,345.63 TO

16 FIDELITY BANK FOR THE 2012 TAN DEBT.

17 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed. Are there are

19 any clerk's notes?

20 MS. KRAKE: No, Mr. Joyce.

21 MR. JOYCE: Do any council members

22 have announcements?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have none.

24 MR. JOYCE: Do you have any

25 announcements? Councilwoman Evans obviously

1 will not be in attendance at tonight's
2 meeting as her mother is severely ill.

3 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
4 PARTICIPATION.

5 MR. JOYCE: Our first speaker
6 tonight is Scott Thomas.

7 MR. THOMAS: Good evening. Hi, I'm
8 Scott Thomas from the Albright Memorial
9 Library, I'd like to just invite everyone to
10 the third annual Swingin' on Vine block
11 party which is Friday, tomorrow, from 5 p.m.
12 to 8 p.m. and it's in front of the library
13 at 500 Vine Street, and it's a rain or shine
14 event so you don't have to worry about the
15 weather.

16 It's going to be featuring Paul
17 Labelle and the exact change and there is
18 going to be great food and cocktails and
19 raffles, and the tickets are \$15 in advance
20 and that's until 2 p.m. tomorrow and you can
21 get them at the main library on Vine Street,
22 the Nancy K. Holmes branch in Greenridge,
23 and the Library Express location at the
24 Steamtown Mall, and the tickets will be \$20
25 at the door and proceeds to benefit the

1 Albright Memorial Library, so we hope to see
2 everyone there. It's going to be a good
3 time, and I also have some brochures which
4 I'll put on the table outside for a new
5 library program called Lackawanna Valley
6 Digital Archives and I'll just put some
7 brochures out there for that, and that's all
8 I have. Thank you.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

10 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Bill
11 Jackowitz.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
13 Scranton City Council. Bill Jackowitz,
14 South Scranton resident and member of the
15 Taxpayers' Association, founder of the
16 Legion of Doom and also the co-chairperson
17 of the Kids Swim Free program.

18 First of all, I would like to make a
19 comparison tonight. Tuesday night I went to
20 Mohegan Sun arena and I watched the WWE,
21 World Wrestling Entertainment, and as I was
22 sitting there watching the wrestlers and the
23 entertainment I started thinking that this
24 reminds me a lot of politics and
25 politicians. There is lot of comparisons

1 there, like, for example, the ring announcer
2 at the wrestling matches, he is kind of like
3 the campaign chairperson for the people
4 running for office and he or she comes out
5 and they talk about the wrestlers and the
6 entertainment that's about to happen and all
7 of this stuff, so he is kind of like a
8 campaign chairperson for the politicians
9 while they are running for election.

10 Then you got the referees, but we
11 all know that there are no rules in
12 professional wrestling so why do we need a
13 referee? A referee is kind of like the
14 brother or the sister or the nephew or the
15 aunt who is unable to get a job so they get
16 a political appointment, it's basically the
17 same thing, a patronage job because the
18 referee in wrestling really has no
19 responsibilities because there are no rules.
20 Anything goes.

21 You know, and then you have the
22 fans, and the fans are like the people that
23 go to the political rallies and support
24 candidates and they yell, they scream, they
25 make donations, their donations start when

1 they buy their ticket, they pay \$10 for
2 parking, and all the souvenirs that they
3 buy, so they are basically, you know, the
4 supporters of the politicians, okay?

5 Then you got the wrestlers
6 themselves. Now, everybody should know that
7 wrestling is fake. It's not real. Well,
8 the same thing applies to the politicians
9 during their campaign speeches where they
10 promise they are going to do this, they are
11 going to do that, but nothing ever gets
12 done.

13 Look at Scranton, for example.
14 Scranton has been distressed for 7,440 days
15 as of today. 1,062 weeks as of today. 20
16 years and 133 days as of today. Six leap
17 years which means 29 February -- 29 February
18 29s. Six years. Leap year only comes
19 around every four years and we have had six
20 of them. 245 months the City of Scranton
21 has been distressed. That's 20.4 years, but
22 yet we are continually told that things are
23 going to get better, that if elected I will
24 not raise your taxes. If elected I will not
25 approve anymore borrowing. The only person

1 living up to that so far has been Pat Rogan
2 and I hope he continues to live up to that.

3 We can't borrow no more money.
4 Tonight taxes are going to get raised again
5 10 percent. Who is going to pay for it?
6 People talk about the senior citizens can't
7 afford it, you know, my mother can't afford
8 it, my sister can't afford it, my son can't
9 afford it, but yet we still continue to
10 raise them.

11 I see Mayor Doherty is here again
12 tonight. Good evening, Mayor. It's nice
13 seeing you and your cabinet here tonight. I
14 hope you have some answers for us tonight.
15 Oh, psyche, people. He is really not here.
16 Why isn't he here? I mean, what's going on?
17 Why can't the legislative and the executive
18 branch work together?

19 Mr. McGoff talks about it all the
20 time. I see Mr. McGoff is not here either.
21 I think where Mr. McGoff has gotten to the
22 point where he doesn't to hear the speakers
23 talk anymore so he either comes in late or
24 doesn't show up for the meeting. But,
25 again, he is being allowed to do it, I

1 guess, because he does it I don't know how
2 many times already. He wasn't here last
3 week, he got here 45 minutes late. I don't
4 know if he is coming tonight or not. If he
5 does, if he can't tell time then somebody
6 needs to tell him when it is 6:30 because
7 that's what time the meeting starts. I
8 didn't schedule the start of the meetings,
9 you people did. You need to hold your own
10 council people accountable for their
11 actions. I don't know where he is at
12 tonight, maybe he has a legitimate excuse.
13 Mrs. Evans, I'm sorry to hear about her
14 mother. I hope her mother gets better. She
15 has a reason for not being here. I hope
16 Mr. McGoff has a reason. I never heard his
17 reason for why he wasn't here last week. I
18 think someone on council should have asked
19 him. That's what I think. Again, he is not
20 here.

21 But, again, like I said, 245 months
22 are a lot of months that this city has been
23 distressed and now you are going to raise
24 our taxes 10 percent again tonight or if you
25 don't do it tonight maybe you will table it

1 because there is only three of you here, I
2 hope you do anyway, you know, but another 10
3 percent, good luck. I hope people have the
4 extra change in their coffee fund.

5 MR. JOYCE: The next speaker is Andy
6 Sbaraglia.

7 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
8 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
9 I'll say a little on this 5-B, this is to
10 transfer \$940,000 to the Parking Authority
11 to pay for I guess a bond issue, but I also
12 would like to read this article that I cut
13 out of the paper quite awhile ago, but it's
14 still relevant today. "SPA chief won't pay
15 council a visit."

16 This is how long this has been going
17 on. "The Parking Authority, Mr. Scopelliti
18 says, the SPA is a sound ship and all of
19 these problems saying that they are bankrupt
20 are rumors and shouldn't even be anything
21 said about it."

22 Here it is: "The executive director
23 of the Scranton Parking Authority said
24 Monday he will not appear before the
25 Scranton City Council to answer lawmaker

1 questions about his agency's finances, okay?
2 Council invited Bob Scopelliti to a meeting
3 tonight to address a rumor the Authority was
4 in danger of defaulting on the loan."

5 How many times are we going to go
6 through this? Now, obviously, he lied, was
7 lying, and continues to lie about the
8 finances of the Parking Authority. His own
9 words here said that there is no problem
10 with the Parking Authority, but obviously
11 there is a problem with the Parking
12 Authority, and all them rumors that's been
13 going on for years obviously they were true.
14 It's just too bad he refuses to come before
15 you.

16 Like I said before, there is
17 something in there that he wanted to be
18 appointed to the Parking Authority. You
19 should have sent a letter to them requesting
20 the resignation of all of the board members
21 of the Parking Authority. There is no
22 reason you should put up with this
23 incompetence. The Parking Authority board
24 of directors owns the Parking Authority.
25 Scranton doesn't have anything to darn do

1 with it except they are stuck in here and
2 that's what you got to realize. They can
3 borrow money on their own whims and you have
4 nothing to do with that, and they are
5 obviously incompetent and unless you come to
6 grips with that we are in trouble with a lot
7 of trouble.

8 I mean, obviously this money you got
9 for this 5-B is only a drop in the bucket.
10 They are a continual drain on us. I know
11 you can't do much with them other than
12 request they resign, and for all practical
13 purpose you should at least do that, at
14 least be on the books and saying these
15 people have done enough damage to the city,
16 it's time for you to go and we put another
17 board in there.

18 And you know what, by a weird
19 coincidence, if they are resigned you have
20 to replace them, not that it would matter
21 that much, the problems would still be
22 there, but at least you would get honest
23 answers from the Authority, and there is not
24 much else I can say about it, but I have
25 been harping on them for two or three years

1 already. Of course, nobody would pay much
2 attention. I guess they weren't interested
3 in the problems that they can cause the city
4 and they are going to cause the city huge
5 problems. I thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
7 speaker is Doug Miller.

8 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
9 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd like to begin
10 with 5-B on the agenda here tonight
11 regarding the SPA. As we all know, they
12 originally asked for \$1.4 million and on
13 tonight's agenda we are discussing whether
14 or not we want to transfer \$940,000 from the
15 contingency fund to bail them out so they
16 can meet their debt payment by June 1. Yet
17 again, the SPA and it's illustrious leader
18 Bob Scopelliti are looking for another
19 bailout, another handout, and wants council
20 to come to the rescue and save the day as
21 usual and put this on the taxpayers'
22 shoulders once again.

23 Well, as I have stated many times
24 from this podium, we should hand, whether
25 it's the mayor or in this case the Scranton

1 Parking Authority and Bob Scopelliti another
2 dime until they come forward publically. We
3 have made numerous requests for them to come
4 forward publically at a caucus and explain
5 why they need funding, and they just meet us
6 with the usual slap in the face, refuse to
7 answer questions, refuse to cooperate and
8 expect us to come and just hand over money,
9 hand over blank checks.

10 Well, it doesn't work that way.
11 Quite frankly, I don't even feel this
12 legislation should be on tonight's agenda.
13 Why are we continuing to bailout people who
14 don't want to cooperate, who don't want to
15 come forward and explain themselves? We
16 want to continue to put this on the
17 taxpayers' shoulders. Enough is enough
18 already, okay? We have done this for ten
19 years now. Quite frankly, even longer than
20 that.

21 You know, Scopelliti reminds me of a
22 little child on Halloween with a little
23 tricker treat goodie bag, you know, give me
24 some treats, give me some treats. Well, the
25 tricker treat time is over. It's time to

1 come forward and hold yourself accountable,
2 that's what this about. It's about
3 accountability and we have let this slide
4 for far too long.

5 And the other issue I have here is
6 the lack of cooperation in getting responses
7 to questions. Eight months we have been
8 waiting for a response to a letter that
9 Attorney Hughes sent to Scopelliti. No
10 response.

11 The budget they sent down, again, if
12 we even want to call it a budget, the high
13 school class president budget that we
14 received from that Authority. You know, I
15 just feel that, you know, Mr. Scopelliti's
16 is not qualified to run that department. I
17 think we could take a good look at his track
18 record and go back to the Park and
19 Recreation days and the fiascos we have
20 dealt with up at Nay Aug and the pool house
21 and everything else. Davis Trail and the
22 way he ran that.

23 I think he also needs to come
24 forward and explain why he is making \$30,000
25 more than the mayor. Didn't you cut his

1 salary in the budget? Has he explained why
2 he didn't take a pay cut? Has he also
3 explained why he didn't remove the secretary
4 position that was removed from that office
5 in the budget? There is lot of explanation
6 here. Does this sound like someone we want
7 to hand over \$1.4 million to? I don't think
8 so.

9 So I think this council needs to put
10 their foot down and look out for the
11 residents of this city and let Scopelliti
12 know that we are not going to tolerate his
13 games and his politics. He is going to be
14 held accountable whether he likes it or not
15 and I would ask you to vote it down tonight.

16 Moving on, I'd like to address a few
17 issues from last week. Comments were made
18 by Mr. McGoff regarding responses from
19 departments. We were told that we shouldn't
20 be critical of departments and that when we
21 make requests the answers are the work
22 performed. Well, to be honest with you
23 here, when we make a request it's the
24 responsibility of the department to get back
25 to us one way or another. It's not our job

1 to go out there and see if they perform the
2 work or it's not our job to ask them if they
3 made any efforts to get an answer or seek
4 any sort of work, it's their responsibility
5 to do that. We make the requests, they get
6 back to us one way or another.

7 You know, I just think that, again,
8 it goes back to the accountability factor
9 and the lack of accountability that we have
10 and for Mr. McGoff to make those statements
11 I just was baffled by that that he is
12 satisfied with this council not receiving
13 responses. I don't understand how he can be
14 satisfied with that.

15 But tonight I would ask to send a
16 letter to Mr. Dougher, I have an issue here
17 that I have been very frustrated with and
18 that's with Novembrino and Capouse, the
19 Capouse Avenue pool. I understand we have
20 to keep water in the pool, but what I also
21 don't understand is why we don't have those
22 pools covered. It's a liability. God
23 forbid a child were to go over those fences
24 and someone were to get into that pool. We
25 have a problem and obviously in this

1 situation we are in right now we can ill
2 afford that right now, I think, so maybe we
3 can send a letter and ask them why the pool
4 isn't covered. It certainly doesn't make
5 any sense to me.

6 Regarding the SAFER grant, we were
7 obviously made aware today that the city
8 will receive \$8 from the SAFER grant to
9 restore public safety officials within the
10 fire department. This is certainly a
11 benefit for the residents of this city and
12 obviously I'm pleased to have heard this
13 news today. It's ashame that it did come to
14 this point that we even had to apply for
15 this grant that the residents of this city
16 had to go this long with having the public
17 safety jeopardized and this goes back to my
18 point that I just don't feel this
19 administration has taken our public safety
20 serious and I want to certainly thank
21 Senator Casey and his efforts on behalf of
22 us here and, you know, certainly thank
23 council because you did spearhead the
24 efforts to apply for the grant, once again
25 showing your watchfulness on behalf of the

1 taxpayers.

2 And finally tonight, just a brief
3 comment on the Kids Swim Free Program. Just
4 to the concerned residents and businesses
5 out there, I would respectfully ask that you
6 consider making a contribution to support
7 the Kids Swim Free Program this summer.
8 I've discussed with the Taxpayers'
9 Association the idea of transporting
10 children from West Side to Pinebrook and
11 other pools in the city. As I have said
12 before, I don't think it's fair that they
13 are deprived the opportunity to swim. You
14 know, they shouldn't have to suffer this
15 summer, and if you are interested in
16 donating you can make a checks payable to
17 the Kids Swim Free Program and they can be
18 sent to 160 Master's Street, Scranton, PA,
19 18510. Thank you.

20 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
21 speaker is Ozzie Quinn.

22 MR. QUINN: Thank you and good
23 evening. Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'
24 Association. On the agenda 5-E you have a
25 motion there to provide for the property tax

1 exemptions for certain industrial,
2 commercial or other business properties, so
3 on and so on and so on as a tax credit. Is
4 that the LERTA program that you are
5 approving?

6 MR. JOYCE: Is this 5-E?

7 MR. QUINN: Yes.

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes, this is LERTA
9 legislation.

10 MR. QUINN: You are passing the
11 LERTA legislation so it will be on board in
12 case anyone wants to come in and come before
13 city council and the other bodies that has a
14 pass through for a tax credit I think, for
15 instance, Dickson Avenue development, is
16 this what you are passing?

17 MR. JOYCE: That's --

18 MR. QUINN: That is what you are
19 proposing?

20 MR. JOYCE: That's the legislation.
21 To be honest with you, I intend on voting
22 "no" for it.

23 MR. QUINN: Well, I hope so because
24 I appreciate that because when I look at 5-E
25 and you have a 10 percent tax raise for

1 property owners I can't see where you are
2 going to give outsiders a tax credit, they
3 won't have to pay any property taxes for how
4 many years? Ten years you are going to have
5 the schedule, I don't know what your
6 schedule is, and yet the property tax,
7 people who are the bread and butter of this
8 city, are going to be taxed as of January 1,
9 you know? So I hope that, you know, this
10 corporate welfare stops, okay?

11 I want to then go into the fact that
12 you have -- Andy spoke here before about the
13 SPA not showing up here for the caucus last
14 week and now they are asking for a \$1.4
15 million to bail them out for default. It
16 was only a few years ago that about,
17 somewhere in 2008, when Mrs. Evans started
18 to talk about the Doherty debt and she
19 mentioned about the Parking Authority and
20 the Sewer Authority or the Redevelopment
21 Authority and it was determined that, no,
22 no, the tax counsel at that time said they
23 are separate, they are separate in the
24 audit. They don't belong, they are not part
25 of the taxpayers. They are not responsible.

1 Well, we argued that they were and it's come
2 to roost that we are responsible, the
3 taxpayers are responsible for that
4 situation.

5 And the biggest problem was the fact
6 that, you know, this mayor isn't prepared to
7 be a mayor, there is no doubt about it. Ten
8 years of just going downhill, you know, and
9 what are we getting? From the Scranton
10 Times we haven't gotten any investigative
11 reporting in ten years. We heard Andy speak
12 about the fact about Scopelliti saying that
13 in an article that they are to doing fine,
14 okay? We know now that HUD has -- or the
15 Office of Inspector General has an \$11
16 million audit out there findings through
17 June and we know that the Scranton Times
18 never investigated anything that the Office
19 of Inspector General has found.

20 He has said that 50 businesses got
21 loans that were not -- should not have
22 gotten loans, they didn't have the right
23 paperwork, the jobs are created and whatnot,
24 you know? Where is the Scranton Times?
25 They are supposed to be our community paper.

1 No investigative reporting. They just let
2 Mr. Doherty go and go and go, he wasn't
3 prepared, and the fact is we are winding up
4 now with this here big problem of \$26
5 million, which is on your backs, and the tax
6 which is going to be on the people's backs
7 January 1, and what are you going to do
8 about it, you know? The publishers they
9 contribute financially to the Doherty's
10 campaign and they are the only city
11 newspaper, so are they going to write
12 anything wrong about what's going on in the
13 city? No.

14 So what happened? We know what's
15 happened. We know it's come to roost. The
16 Legion of Doom has come to roost. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Lee
19 Morgan.

20 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
21 The first thing I have is, Mr. Rogan, you
22 made a statement about rubber stamping, and
23 know what, I totally agree with you. I have
24 to say that I think that this council is
25 just another rubber stamp council. There

1 was a real need for leadership here. The
2 city is bankrupt, it's been bankrupt for a
3 long time. We can blame the mayor. Me
4 personally, I have gone way beyond that. I
5 don't blame the mayor, okay, I blame
6 council. Not just this council, but all
7 councils. They are the ones that let all
8 this borrowing go on, they are the ones that
9 had the obligation to use their power of
10 subpoenas, which I have never even seen this
11 council use, okay?

12 Council walked away from the
13 Scranton Abington Planning Association's
14 comprehensive plan, offered no plan of their
15 own, I just think it's ridiculous. I really
16 do. I just find it to be so demeaning to
17 the residents of this city to have to
18 continually put up with tax increases.

19 You know, I went to OECD and I got a
20 list of all the homes that were torn down,
21 it's mind boggling and the amount of the
22 condemnations through all of the
23 neighborhoods, but where's all the community
24 development money that could have been spent
25 in the neighborhoods? I mean, you got the

1 people for the North Scranton Junior High
2 School, you got the Scranton Lace coming
3 here, you got all of the projects in the
4 downtown that came here, money was never a
5 problem. Here, you want some, all right?
6 But all of the neighborhoods, well, you know
7 what, I agree with what Bill said. It's
8 like unbelievable. We are lied to from
9 every branch of government from the
10 president right down, all right? And
11 working people get their pay last. The
12 government takes our money out of taxes, our
13 houses are held hostage. I own homes in the
14 people. I regret it to be honest with you
15 because they weren't a good investment.
16 They were an error on my part.

17 I see no leadership in this city. I
18 just see one rubber stamp council after
19 another with a ton of rhetoric, okay. Just
20 take a good look. The Scranton Times
21 finally hit in the last election I paid and
22 put it in the newspaper myself about the
23 city's pension problems. It's going to hit
24 the fan. I don't hear any conversations
25 here. I'm not interested in what Harrisburg

1 is saying, okay? Now they are finally
2 acknowledging that they are going to have
3 the pensions of teachers and all kinds of
4 people currently and in the future, but we
5 are talking about ordinary, every day
6 people, and you know, this grant we are
7 getting, beautiful, but you know something,
8 what are we going to do next year?

9 I have come to this podium for over
10 20 years and listened to rhetoric from one,
11 two-bit politician after another, and to
12 tell you truth, there has been no
13 leadership. I have been in the room with
14 the likes of Barletta, Kanjorski, all of
15 these guys. Yeah, they talk a good game,
16 they stuff money in every one of their
17 pockets, all right, they just have no
18 leadership ability at all. Now it's come to
19 pass now where they are acknowledging that
20 the current slowdown in the American
21 economy, believe it or not, goes back to
22 Bill Clinton when he deregulated the banks
23 and made it possible to sell derivatives.

24 This country is a mess and we just
25 keep getting lied to, and you know as an

1 average working man who goes to work every
2 and would like to retire some day,
3 Disability 2016, bankrupt; social Security,
4 2033, bankrupt. This country we need real
5 leadership, all right, we need a plan and
6 what we really need are leaders and we seem
7 to be very short on that because of the
8 people that run for office they sell
9 themselves for money.

10 Now, me, I could personally speak
11 for myself, I spent \$500 in the state rep
12 race, got 45 percent of the vote. You can't
13 buy me and I won't sell myself, and you know
14 what, the things I believe in I put my own
15 flyer in the newspaper for the council race
16 and paid for that out of my pocket, because
17 you know what? I'm just tired of people
18 owning every politician that we have and
19 it's just the way of a business for America,
20 but there is nothing left. We have seniors
21 that have no money, we are going to raise
22 taxes again, you know I had a business guy
23 tell me today there is nothing left. I had
24 a guy who lives outside the city that was
25 laughing and said there hasn't been anything

1 in Scranton in decades, they stole
2 everything or they sold it.

3 What assets do we really have? We
4 are just spending more debt after more debt
5 after more debt. I can see the Parking
6 Authority being bailed out, but like when
7 Janet said we can't do anything. Yes, we
8 can. We can elect a mayor, appoint more
9 people to those boards under the agreement
10 that when they sit on them boards they will
11 vote to abolish and abolish every one of
12 these authorities, and when this Recovery
13 Plan comes forward it needs to go on the
14 ballot and it has to include the money we
15 owe to the pension plans, it needs to
16 include the money that we lost in Court, it
17 has to be a complete and total Recovery Plan
18 with all of our debts or else it's not a
19 Recovery Plan.

20 I mean, we have got to stop lying to
21 the people who live here because we are
22 almost out of people. Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Gary
24 Lewis.

25 MR. LEWIS: Good evening. My name

1 Gary Lewis. I'm a resident of the downtown
2 and also a consultant specializing in
3 distressed debt and distressed finance.
4 Just like last week, I'm here tonight to
5 talk to you about the state of the city's
6 finances, and again, to encourage you to
7 pursue or at least look into a Chapter 9
8 bankruptcy filing.

9 Tonight the majority of my remarks
10 are going to be lifted directly from the
11 press release that I gave to every member of
12 congress -- every member of council, if only
13 it was Congress, and the mayor about three
14 weeks ago and no one has responded. I sent
15 the same press release to a number of
16 industry periodicals and they actually
17 picked up and Bond Fire printed an article
18 citing my analysis, which was then picked up
19 by the Philadelphia Inquirer. These
20 articles both ran this week. I think it's a
21 little unusual that council is refusing to
22 at least discuss this while people in
23 industry look to my analysis, tell me how
24 good it is and then write articles about it.

25 Using the most recent information

1 available, I completed an analysis of the
2 City of Scranton's finances. My analysis
3 indicates a structural deficit of at least
4 \$10 million in the future periods. This
5 analysis considers the city's actual and
6 projected cash flows from 2010 through 2013.

7 After adjusting for one-time items
8 used to balance budgets in prior years, this
9 analysis indicates that a deficit in excess
10 of \$9 million existed in 2011. When
11 combined with an \$8 million increase in
12 departmental expenditures, the structural
13 deficit in 2012 will approach \$20 million.
14 In 2012, total revenue received by the city
15 will increase by nearly \$4 million over
16 2011. The total will be \$57 million.
17 However, expenditures in 2012 will exceed
18 \$76 million.

19 After accounting for one-time items,
20 specifically expenditures related to unpaid
21 2011 bills due in 2012, actual expenditures
22 that will recur in 2013 are approximately
23 \$66 million. This amount includes employee
24 compensation of approximately \$47 million.
25 47 million dollars of employee compensation

1 in 2012 and future periods includes in
2 excess of \$10 million for health care
3 obligations and in excess of \$10 million for
4 the police department employees alone. The
5 \$8 million in total employee compensation
6 due to the fire department will luckily be
7 covered by this FEMA grant hopefully.

8 If the city continues with plans to
9 issue an additional \$26 million in debt to
10 cover the 2012 deficit, the increase in debt
11 service along with the standard recurring
12 expenditures that will occur in 2013 will
13 exceed \$67 million. The 2013 deficit will
14 be approximately \$10 million and
15 necessitating a massive tax hike. The \$10
16 million deficit cannot be covered by
17 doubling real estate taxes. This is a hole
18 we have wound up in.

19 A Chapter 9 bankruptcy has three
20 primary advantages: One, it pauses all
21 ongoing litigation; two, it voids existing
22 contracts and allows the city to begin
23 renegotiating; and three, it gives the city
24 a chance to refinance, retire or restructure
25 it's outstanding debt.

1 It seems like every year we come
2 across one-time revenue items that magically
3 pop up to help us balance the budget. If it
4 isn't the sale of the municipal golf course
5 it's the sale of the parking meters for \$6
6 million or luckily this \$8t million grant
7 that was announced today. This \$8 million
8 grant in combination with the \$6 million
9 one-time revenue item from the sale of the
10 parking meters will bring total one-time
11 revenue items in 2012 to \$14.2 million and
12 still leave us with a budget deficit of
13 approximately \$9 million. The city must
14 pursue a Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing.

15 To Lee's point earlier, he said he
16 says no leadership in any level of
17 government. I say leadership starts at home
18 and it starts with you. You are the
19 representatives of the City of Scranton
20 residents. It is your obligation to pursue
21 every possible alternative to a tax hike and
22 by refusing to pursue a Chapter 9 bankruptcy
23 you leave the taxpayers on the hook for
24 massive tax hikes that they cannot afford.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
2 speaker is Les Spindler.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
4 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
5 homeowner and taxpayer. Tough act to
6 follow, but I think council should sit down
7 and speak to Mr. Lewis before going any
8 further with the tax hike because he has a
9 lot of good ideas.

10 First of all, it was great news to
11 hear about the SAFER grant today of \$8.2
12 million. I would like to thank Senator
13 Casey for helping to push this through. I
14 don't think without his help it ever would
15 have happened so I hope the firefighters are
16 hired almost immediately and I hope all of
17 the firehouses are all reopened, also.

18 Vice-President Joyce, may I approach
19 council?

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MR. SPINDLER: As you can see, I'll
22 talk about pit bulls again. People might be
23 getting sick of hearing me, but I'm getting
24 sick of people dying from being attacked by
25 pit bulls. I have another example, not here

1 but it was in Ohio, a three-year-old girl
2 died after being attacked by a pit bull mix
3 that was her own dog. I told a story last
4 week, two people in Pottsville were attacked
5 by their own two pit bulls. This is a story
6 where a girl died being attacked by a pit
7 bull mix. Now, I have been coming to
8 council for about six years now asking for a
9 dangerous dog legislation. Nothing has ever
10 happened. These attacks keep happening,
11 sometimes -- eventually somebody in this
12 city is going to be killed by a pit bull.
13 Like I said, my dog was attacked by two of
14 them. Thank god she was okay and I have
15 been coming here since then. We need
16 legislation. Attorney Minora when he was
17 here he said we can't be breed specific. I
18 said, yes, you can. I brought proof last
19 week that Pottsville has a breed specific
20 legislation, so my question is to this
21 council am I wasting my time here or are you
22 ever going to consider a dangerous dog
23 legislation?

24 MR. ROGAN: I would be open to
25 considering it.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I would be open.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I would hope
3 you would.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to address it,
5 Les, definitely. I mean, this is something
6 that I think we have all been considering,
7 but with all of this other stuff in the way,
8 and we have been researching it and just to
9 let you know, I mean, insurance companies
10 actually will cancel your policy if you have
11 certain breeds of dogs. I mean, there is
12 probably five or six, Rottweilers, Pit
13 Bulls, Chows, Dobermans, even some German
14 Shepards. If you have an insurance
15 inspection and they find a dog like that on
16 your property they will cancel your
17 insurance, so something like that, I mean,
18 unfortunately, I am a dog lover, as you are,
19 and unfortunately there is a problem with
20 this particular breed.

21 MR. SPINDLER: I don't like
22 dangerous dogs and pit bulls are dangerous
23 dogs, I don't care what anybody says.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Right, I agree with
25 it's not -- -

1 MR. SPINDLER: And I keep coming
2 here with proof after proof.

3 Moving on, I don't want to take all
4 my time with that. The article about the
5 SPA defaulting on a loan, I hope council
6 sticks to their guns and doesn't give them
7 their money, I want to talk about something
8 that Chris Doherty said. Mr. Doherty said,
9 "Council already has most of the information
10 it is seeking, such as non-issuances that
11 were approved by past councils."

12 The key words there were "Approved
13 by past councils" and that's why we are in
14 the trouble we are now because of Chris
15 Doherty and all of his rubber stamp councils
16 that have all approved all of the debt we
17 are in now, so let them fall on their face
18 and don't give them any more.

19 Another story that was in the
20 Doherty newsletter the other day, potholes
21 dot road to new Recovery Plan and,
22 Mr. Loscombe, something you said, you
23 disagreed with Mr. McGoff and you said you
24 disagreed saying, "The majority only --" I
25 need knew glasses. "The majority only wants

1 what's best for the taxpayers," or something
2 like that. If you are thinking about the
3 taxpayers, Mr. McGoff, with all due respect,
4 why did you vote to raise our taxes for the
5 last two weeks?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Me?

7 MR. SPINDLER: Yes.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: You said Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. SPINDLER: I'm sorry,
10 Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I think I addressed
12 it last week.

13 MR. SPINDLER: I didn't see it. We
14 can't afford any more tax raises in this
15 city.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: We don't have many
17 options in front of us. We have got an
18 option of bankruptcy. What does bankruptcy
19 do? It takes it out of everybody's hands
20 and perhaps your taxes will triple without
21 any say. You won't be able to come here and
22 voice your opinions to anybody because there
23 will be a takeover. We have looked at every
24 option that we possibly could. Had we been
25 here possibly ten years ago maybe things

1 would have been a little bit better. I
2 mean, in two years we have done as much as
3 we can possibly to tighten the situation up.
4 We don't have all of the answers, I'll
5 guarantee you that, but we do have a great
6 solicitor and a great crew here that have
7 been working diligently. The last thing we
8 wanted to -- taxes affect us, also. They
9 affect my mother who lives home alone. You
10 know, I mean, nobody wants to do it, but the
11 banks aren't going to give us any future
12 loans unless we get our own house in order.
13 Unfortunately, it's come to this.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Well, you could get
15 loans, that doesn't mean you have to raise
16 the people's taxes 10 percent for ten years.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: If we get loans. Is
18 that what you said?

19 MR. SPINDLER: You said about
20 getting loans, you can get loans without
21 raising taxes.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: The banks won't give
23 us a loan unless we have the taxes to back
24 them up. That's the problem we are up
25 against at this point. They want to see

1 that we have the ability to bring in money
2 to pay those loans off at this point. They
3 have us against the wall. It's not an easy
4 thing to borrow like it was years ago. And,
5 you know, I'm not here, I don't care if you
6 call me or a rubber stamper or anything, I'm
7 here to do a job that I think is in the best
8 benefit of everyone in this city and when I
9 took this job I knew I wasn't going to
10 satisfy everyone.

11 And, you know, I go from life
12 experiences and nobody knows what I'm going
13 through now financially myself. I'm
14 fighting to save my own home, so I know the
15 pain, I know the struggle, and that's the
16 first it's been out. You will probably read
17 about it in the paper. I did receive a
18 foreclosure notice and I'm going to work
19 hard to do what I can to save my house as
20 hard as I am to save this city, and that's
21 why I'm here.

22 And you can call me any names you
23 want, whatever you want, but I think in the
24 best interest of everyone, even the
25 taxpayers, we have to take the pain right

1 now and we are going to get out of this. We
2 are going to -- we are watching every dime
3 that we are going to be borrowing. We are
4 watching every dime that's going in taxes
5 right now. Something that wasn't done
6 before. This stuff isn't just -- we are not
7 just approving everything and rubber
8 stamping it if you want to say it. We have
9 researched everything. Trust me. My family
10 doesn't see me on a day-to-day basis. These
11 guys are working their tails off, trust me.
12 They are working their tails off to do
13 anything that they can to take the pain out
14 of everyone in this city.

15 But I will sit here and tell
16 everyone I am doing what I know is best in
17 my heart, you know, I made a great sacrifice
18 to my family to be here to fight for you. I
19 don't how much longer I can do that, but I'm
20 doing it because I love this city and if
21 it's raising taxes and I have to pay those
22 taxes I'm looking down the road at a couple
23 of years that we will be in the good -- a
24 much better position, but we have only had
25 two years with quite a few stumbling blocks

1 in front of us to try and right this ship.

2 There is a lot of, you know,
3 communication going on with the
4 administration right now, which is
5 beneficial to everyone. You know, all I can
6 say is you can call me, you can call anybody
7 whatever you want to call them, I know where
8 I'm coming from and I know what my future
9 is. My family lives here, my children are
10 here, my grandchildren and I want them to
11 stay here and I want this city to be what it
12 once was and there is going to be some pain
13 and we are going to be asking our neighbors
14 to pay for some of that pain, we are going
15 to be asking our nonprofits to pay for some
16 of that pain. We don't want to lay the pain
17 on the taxpayers in this city.

18 And the other thing you have to
19 remember, your services for your taxes in
20 this city you are getting the police, the
21 fire, the garbage. You are paying county
22 taxes, you are paying school taxes. Many
23 people don't have anyone in the schools.
24 What are we getting from the county? You
25 know, some parks and stuff like that, but

1 your main services that you rely on
2 day-to-day are paid from the city taxes and
3 what's the smallest part of your tax dollar
4 right now? This is something no one
5 understands. And that's all I could say. I
6 mean, you can be mad at me. You can call me
7 what you want, but --

8 MR. SPINDLER: I'm not calling you
9 anything, I respect you.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's exactly what
11 I'm saying.

12 MR. SPINDLER: As I said last week,
13 you know some people are up for reelection
14 next year and I can't support that is just
15 going to raise my taxes for ten years. Can
16 I have more time, Mr. Joyce?

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes, you can have more
18 time.

19 MR. SPINDLER: I have to talk about
20 the parking garages in the city, my wife and
21 her friend went to the movies last Saturday
22 night, to make a long story short, they came
23 out two hours later, there is no more
24 attendants in the garages, there is machine,
25 for two hours they had to pay \$7 to get out

1 of the garage. That's totally outrageous
2 and they wonder why nobody wants to come
3 into this city? Well, we are chasing people
4 out of this city instead of having people
5 come in. The movie they saw was the second
6 showing and there were ten people in the
7 theatre. You go up to Cinemark those
8 theatres are packed.

9 You can't get people to come
10 downtown and they are charging \$7 to park in
11 the garages and the Parking Authority is
12 asking for more money? They should be
13 disband. This is outrageous. To put
14 machines in there is the most stupid idea I
15 ever heard of. As I said, people want to
16 come downtown to shop, if there is no spots
17 on the street they are going to pay \$7 to
18 park. This is ridiculous. It's more
19 examples of incompetence and this whole
20 administration and it's got to stop
21 sometime.

22 And like I said, all of these
23 authorities are killing us. They should all
24 be disbanded.

25 Lastly, the Mt. Pleasant Corporate

1 Center, Mr. McGoff was a big backer of that
2 a few years ago to have them a KOZ and many
3 of us came here talking against the KOZ, we
4 want to the school board meetings, and
5 Mr. McGoff said, "No, no, nobody will move
6 in there if they don't get the KOZ."

7 Well, somebody is in there now and
8 in 2014 Geisinger from Lake Scranton, the
9 part where the Scranton Carbondale Highway
10 is, that's where I go, they are going to be
11 in there. It's going to be a much bigger
12 building than is on the highway, they are a
13 pediatric center where Dunmore is moving in
14 there.

15 So, Mr. McGoff, you can get people
16 to come into this city without making
17 everything a KOZ, so you and your past
18 rubber stampers are the reason we are in
19 this problem in the city. You rubber
20 stamped all of the KOZs, you rubber stamped
21 all of the borrowing and spending, you are a
22 big reason why we are in this trouble, and
23 that's all I have a to say.

24 (While Mr. Spindler was speaking,
25 Mr. McGoff takes the dais and joins the

1 meeting.)

2 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Ron
3 Ellman.

4 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, council.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

6 MR. ELLMAN: You know, I think you
7 people would need a roll of toilet paper to
8 write all of the problems in this city.
9 It's just out of control. The worst problem
10 is the University of Scranton with all of
11 the property that's been withheld from the
12 tax rolls, you know, it's like when any of
13 us get up here and talk for five minutes
14 that time is gone. It's just -- you can't
15 recover it, it will never come back, you
16 know, there is no way to buy it back.
17 That's how this property is. It's gone
18 forever that these people have taken these
19 millions of dollars, almost 200 pieces
20 property and that one school and they
21 probably spend more money eating lunch at
22 the Radisson than half of the people in this
23 city bring home every week.

24 I see in the paper it says the mean
25 is \$37,000 or \$35,000, that's utter

1 nonsense. You stand in front of Redner's or
2 Price Rite and talk to people that are
3 coming out of the store those are the heart
4 of our city. It's not the 37, it's not the
5 27, it's not \$17,000 and these are the
6 people that are paying for all of the
7 schools that don't have children in them
8 anymore and all.

9 You know, the whole city has just
10 borrowed and mismanaged itself into a hole.
11 I just don't see when I talk to anybody how
12 it could ever recover. We are
13 three-quarters of a million dollars in the
14 hole with the county and the city residents
15 are responsible for it, you know? What are
16 you going to do? I don't even know what you
17 guys voted for the budget, the Democrats
18 haven't had one in three years, I don't know
19 why the city needs one.

20 Well, about the Parking Authority,
21 how could someone stay on the payroll that
22 is so unqualified as Mr. Scopelliti? He has
23 no business being in that job, he has no
24 business being hired there. It's time to
25 let the Parking Authority go, and I'll tell

1 in the paper in foreclosure with millions of
2 dollars? How can we go years and years and
3 not collect money? Then we they do, they
4 make a deal like CMC, they shouldn't have
5 been giving no deal. That property should
6 have been attached or something done ten
7 years ago. Whoever -- you don't let
8 somebody get a half a million dollars behind
9 in their taxes. I saw some businesses and
10 names in there \$120,000, then there is
11 somebody else in there for \$350 that tried
12 to pay his taxes and still owes \$350 and
13 gets his name in there. If they can make a
14 deal with CMC and do away with all of that
15 money, they ought to be able to make a deal
16 with somebody that owes three, four, five
17 hundred dollars on their house.

18 I saw in the paper where they got a
19 new \$24 million business coming to Mt.
20 Pleasant, that means we ought to have a \$24
21 million building permit issued, doesn't it?
22 Of course, if Doherty gets involved he will
23 give it away for \$19 like the last one.

24 I got one -- what happened with the
25 house on Wyoming? I never saw nothing in

1 the -- did they get passed?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: The building for
3 the--

4 MR. ELLMAN: The Women's Resource.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, no, that was
6 turned down.

7 MR. ELLMAN: They didn't get it?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

9 MR. ELLMAN: There is a business
10 that would have paid taxes.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: That was turned down
12 by the zoning.

13 MR. ELLMAN: What sense is there in
14 that? There is a business that wanted to
15 pay taxes taking over a building that's
16 completely useless and some people fight it.
17 You know, I just don't understand how you
18 have to -- how you can take things like that
19 and sit up there. You got the colleges and
20 everybody else living off the taxpayers and
21 a business that wants to come in town that
22 would have been a benefit, you know, we got
23 all of these wealth developers with million
24 dollar sidewalks and \$250,000 sidewalks and
25 empty businesses not doing nothing and

1 something has to be done concrete. The
2 people got to see something concrete done to
3 help them so there is not another 2,000
4 houses next year in the paper. Thank you,
5 Jack. Thank you, all.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. Our next
7 speaker is Gerard Hetman.

8 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, council.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

11 MR. HETMAN: First, if I may just
12 follow-up on a comment made by Mr. Loscombe,
13 I know, sir, the context you were referring
14 to some of the services provided by the
15 school districts --

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I was going to
17 apologize to you first, I just used a broad
18 example.

19 MR. HETMAN: That's fine. That why
20 I say to follow-up on those things, you
21 actually raise a good points in that many
22 citizens are unaware of some of the services
23 provided at the county level and how they
24 impact residents of the county, so I should
25 thank you for raising the point because we

1 should be -- we are all talking about these
2 things and explaining to residents when they
3 have questions about it and just as myself
4 as an example, sometimes services that are
5 provided such as coordinated transportation
6 or Children and Youth Services, things I
7 have been come across personally or my
8 family has come across personally in my
9 life, especially before I took this job, I
10 didn't have a full understanding of the
11 context of those things and how they are
12 provided and what they do for county
13 residents, but there are county residents
14 that rely on those services, sometimes every
15 day.

16 So we are there to answer those
17 questions and any legislator, any staff
18 member of the city or any local government
19 and, of course, any resident of Lackawanna
20 County we are there to answer those
21 questions and if they approach us and, you
22 know, request of us in a respectful and
23 cooperative manner some information on that
24 to explain what happens with that we will
25 certainly try to explain it or we will get

1 the answers and explain to them at the best
2 of our ability and make sure all questions
3 are answered, so thank you actually for
4 discussing that up here.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you for being
6 at our meetings to you know, let us know
7 what's going on in the county.

8 MR. HETMAN: Our pleasure. Thank
9 you. With that in mind, I would like to
10 thank everyone who attended the annual Armed
11 Forces parade in downtown Scranton. I saw
12 Mr. Loscombe, Mr. Rogan, and I'm sure also
13 several of our council speakers, I'm sorry,
14 and, Mrs. Krake. If I miss anyone, I
15 apologize, I know there were a lot of people
16 on the route and it's a decent -- it was a
17 decent lane of parade so I'm sorry if I
18 missed anyone that I forgot to acknowledge
19 but it was good to see everyone out. We had
20 great weather, it was definitely a blessing.

21 And next year, of course, as I said
22 up here-- as I have said up here before, we
23 have only had a few months since our
24 department started to work on this, but next
25 year I don't like to put everyone on notice

1 in a friendly fashion, not just city
2 government, not just the school districts,
3 but downtown businesses any resident that
4 would like to work with us, we are here to
5 work with you and we are always looking for
6 new ways to grow the parade never losing
7 sight of the fact that it is to honor our
8 military men and women and, of course, our
9 veterans and I know several people in this
10 room tonight are veterans and that parade is
11 there to honor them and everyone who has
12 served our nation.

13 But we are looking for ways to grow
14 the event, grow it in a way that benefits
15 out downtown businesses and downtown
16 residents and our city and county as a
17 whole. Let's make it work.

18 With that said, we have information
19 on two events that will be coming up in the
20 next few months that are coming to downtown
21 Scranton, one of which will be here for the
22 first time in several years and to my
23 knowledge maybe the first time ever,
24 although, some people have told me that it
25 was here many moons ago. The first is the

1 annual three-on-three basketball tournament
2 presented by Back Door Hoops in conjunction
3 with the Lackawanna County Commissioners and
4 Johnson College and the Lackawanna and
5 Susquehanna Office Drug and Alcohol
6 Programs. The tournament this year takes
7 place August 4 and 5, Saturday and Sunday,
8 it actually opens on Friday evening, August
9 3, during the First Friday, with celebrities
10 and celebrity games, and I should know if
11 any legislators are looking to put a team
12 together to play the commissioners we are
13 looking for volunteers. So any of us -- my
14 basketball skills are long since gone, but
15 if anybody wants to -- the mayor, there you
16 go, Mr. McGoff, you are our first volunteer.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Actually, we may be
18 putting -- my sons and I may be putting a
19 team in.

20 MR. HETMAN: Great. Perfect. The
21 information can be obtained on this by going
22 to BackDoorHoops.com or calling
23 570-558-3833three. Again, that's
24 BackCourtHoops.com or 570-558-3833, so
25 that's our first one.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Where was that going
2 to be held?

3 MR. HETMAN: It's going to be
4 held -- thank you for -- sorry I didn't
5 mention that, it will be held on the 100 and
6 200 blocks of Wyoming Avenue. So this again
7 for the first time in I believe many years,
8 some people told it was here years back.

9 MR. MCGOFF: The first two.

10 MR. HETMAN: Okay, perfect. Thank
11 you. But I know for many years it was held
12 at Lackawanna County Stadium and the Yankee
13 fields in the lost up there so this
14 returning to downtown Scranton and it's
15 something that we hope is exciting, gets
16 residents excited and bring them some good
17 activity downtown.

18 And the second save the date is for
19 the Scrantastic Spectacular which includes
20 the Philharmonic's concert and also the
21 fireworks show coming Thursday, July 3,
22 that's the evening before, obviously Tuesday
23 July 3, the night before Independent Day, at
24 courthouse square. The concert festivities
25 start at 4 p.m. with the fireworks beginning

1 at dusk. And again, that's all I have for
2 this evening. Again, thank for everyone who
3 came out for the parade. Sorry if I missed
4 anyone, but it was great to see a lot of
5 people out. Next year we are looking for
6 even more success and looking forward to
7 working with everyone to make that a
8 reality. I'll leave these, if you don't
9 mind, and if you could put these up, I have
10 seen a number of our posters for the Arts on
11 Fire Fest and, of course, for the parade
12 before that out in the halls in the windows
13 here if you could put these up in that same
14 breath that would be great. Thank you,
15 gentlemen.

16 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is
17 James Boccardo.

18 MR. BOCCARDO: Hi. I'm Joe
19 Boccardo, I have Boccardo Jewelers. Never
20 been here before, so I apologize, okay? I
21 don't know any of you and I don't know how
22 these things work, okay? My first question,
23 and my first thing is, and I don't need a
24 microphone, my question, first thing is the
25 City of Scranton I have three properties. I

1 live on East Mountain, I own the Boccardo
2 building, okay, on Spruce and Jefferson, I
3 also own 406 Spruce. My taxes are over
4 \$30,000 a year. They are paid, okay? Look
5 it up.

6 Now, this thing with the Parking
7 Authority and the parking, I have a small
8 parking lot, so I have questions. My
9 question is if I rent the spot to someone am
10 I allowed to charge that person the tax that
11 you guys are imposing? That's my question
12 to you. Is this an end user tax that --

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: In other words, can
14 you include that tax in your --

15 MR. BOCCARDO: Yes, sir.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's totally up to
17 you, just like --

18 MR. BOCCARDO: So I have the right
19 to turn around -- like, I pay a sale's tax
20 or collect sale's tax I have the right to
21 pass that tax along to the end user.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm not an
23 accountant, but I would assume just if you
24 were renting your apartment and you want to
25 include the heat or gas or whatever.

1 MR. BOCCARDO: Now, if I have a
2 renter in my building and I give them a spot
3 in my parking lot do I pay tax on that? I'm
4 not collecting it, he is getting a free
5 spot.

6 MR. ROGAN: I would say this, and I
7 voted against the legislation only because
8 we didn't know the answer to that question.
9 We had --

10 MR. BOCCARDO: That's a good
11 question so I want you to figure that one
12 out.

13 MR. ROGAN: We had a business owner
14 come up who posed the same question as you.

15 MR. BOCCARDO: And what's the answer
16 to that? You don't have an answer?

17 MR. ROGAN: I voted against it.

18 MR. BOCCARDO: How could you pass a
19 tax if you don't have an answer? I don't
20 mean to be belligerent here, but --

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, no, these are
22 good questions.

23 MR. BOCCARDO: Here's the next
24 question --

25 MR. MCGOFF: Mr. Boccardo?

1 MR. BOCCARDO: Yes.

2 MR. MCGOFF: It is my belief that if
3 you charge for the parking spot --

4 MR. BOCCARDO: Yes.

5 MR. MCGOFF: If it's a tenant and
6 you charge for the parking spot in addition
7 then it is taxed.

8 MR. BOCCARDO: It is taxed, right,
9 and I can pass that onto the end user, so if
10 the spot is vacant and I'm not collecting my
11 money there is no tax.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Correct.

13 MR. BOCCARDO: Very good. I'm glad
14 you said that. Here is my question, the
15 county rents 14 spots from me, okay? Is one
16 city government allowed to charge a county
17 government the tax? Can I collect the tax
18 from the county to pay you? You should have
19 this answer. You guys passed this law. You
20 passed this ruling, okay? So the county
21 parks in my lot, can I charge them the 15
22 percent is my question? Are they going to
23 pay me a tax to another city government?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: We are without the
25 benefit of our solicitor here this evening.

1 MR. BOCCARDO: Well, I'm asking is
2 one government in this country allowed to
3 charge another government tax, can I collect
4 it from them?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

6 MR. BOCCARDO: Absolutely.

7 MR. ROGAN: I'm not sure because I

8 --

9 MR. BOCCARDO: I'm asking you that
10 question because I don't know. Now, did you
11 guys know that you sent out a letter to
12 Lackawanna County to all of their employees,
13 and I have a copy right here and I'm happy
14 to hand it to you after I read it, I didn't
15 know that you guys sent this out, but it
16 says -- this is, by the way, to all of the
17 county employees, okay?

18 "Dear County Employees, we are
19 pleased to announce the Scranton Parking
20 Authority," and here's where you come in,
21 "The City of Scranton will provide county
22 employees parking at the SPA and city
23 garages for \$80 a month."

24 Now, Medallion charges \$112 a month.
25 By the way, I have to ask that first

1 questions because here's the zinger, if I
2 park with the Scranton Parking Authority,
3 are you charging me tax?

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: The Parking Authority
5 is exempt from that.

6 MR. BOCCARDO: That's right, but you
7 just told me the end user pays the tax. The
8 Parking Authority is only the collector of
9 this tax, okay. So if I'm the end user and
10 I'm parking there you are not charging me
11 the tax, yes or no.

12 MR. MCGOFF: If you can speak into
13 the microphone, we can't hear you.

14 MR. BOCCARDO: Again, I really don't
15 need a mic, but in event I understand what
16 you are saying. What I'm trying to say is
17 the Scranton Parking Authority by not
18 charging the end user tax that's unfair
19 trade practices. Now, here's what's
20 happening with me. The Medallion parking
21 lot charges \$112 a month, they made a deal
22 -- oh, never mind, you made the deal,
23 because it says the City of Scranton here,
24 you can look at this, they want to charge
25 \$80 to the employees of the county, and

1 every employee got this, by the way, okay,
2 they are allowed to park in the Casey
3 Garage, the Electric City Garage, and the
4 Scranton Parking Authority. That's a
5 benefit of \$32 a month per parking spot to a
6 Parking Authority that's in default right
7 now they can't pay their bills.

8 Did you know how many cars
9 Lackawanna County pays, by the way? Do you
10 know how many they park?

11 MR. MCGOFF: No.

12 MR. BOCCARDO: In excess of 300.
13 Multiply that by \$32. Also, they are
14 soliciting my tenants. My tenants are
15 leaving. Why wouldn't they? I'm charging
16 \$110 to park, I'm less than the Medallion,
17 they are going to get it for \$80 and they
18 are not paying the tax, okay? My taxes,
19 once again, are over \$30,000 a year, I pay
20 them, I'm happy to pay them. You are double
21 dipping me on these taxes, okay?

22 You are going to grant them more
23 money to stay in business? Have a set,
24 okay? I'm telling you, because I'm going to
25 pursue this for the crummy 15 spots, and let

1 me tell you another thing, okay, this was
2 signed by the three new county
3 commissioners, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Wansack and
4 Mr. O'Malley. They sent someone into my
5 store and told me if I don't drop the price
6 to \$80 that they are pulling all their
7 county cars. My lot has cameras, it's
8 security guarded, and it's insured because I
9 have a jewelry store. It's fully insured.
10 If something happens to the county cars,
11 guess what? I'm responsible.

12 By the way, you got to park your car
13 on the roof. These county spots include
14 five judge's spots. They wanted to keep the
15 judge's spots. They will not keep the
16 judge's spots. If they pull one car, they
17 pull all of them. I want to know who
18 lamebrain tactics this is. You have never
19 seen me before. I pay my taxes, and I don't
20 complain. I am going to start a lawsuit if
21 this isn't retracted or if you guys don't
22 make up your mind how you are going to
23 charge this tax. But you are letting 300
24 parking spots drop by \$32 when they can't
25 afford to pay their bill. My bill is paid.

1 My taxes are paid. Get your act together
2 because I'm not going to let this drop.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Is there a copy of
4 the letter?

5 MR. BOCCARDO: Yes, sir, I can give
6 you --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I mean a copy of
8 the letter that the Parking Authority
9 supposedly sent to the county.

10 MR. BOCCARDO: This is it, both
11 Lackawanna County, every employee got this
12 --

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I mean they said
14 the Parking Authority approached all them?

15 MR. BOCCARDO: I'll tell you right
16 here it is, "We are pleased to announce the
17 Scranton Parking Authority and the City of
18 Scranton," so you guys didn't even know you
19 gave 300 spots plus \$32 a month less.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: I agree with you. I
21 mean, we are headed --

22 MR. BOCCARDO: You are going to give
23 them money. And, by the way, that to me is
24 restricting trade. You are taking my
25 customer, which I don't blame them, when

1 they are going to go 30 less and no tax.

2 And I'm going to tell you another
3 thing, the tax you cannot decide who is
4 going to pay that tax. If I'm paying it and
5 she is parking in my lot she is paying me.
6 I'm only the middle man. You just said that
7 yourself. It's an end user tax. The city
8 wants to make more money, charge the 15
9 percent to everybody. All of the parking
10 lots. Get 15 percent from everybody, not
11 from me. I'm tired of you putting your hand
12 in my pocket. All I do is pay taxes to this
13 city.

14 You haven't heard the last of me.
15 This is the first time I have been up here,
16 it won't be the last, trust me when I tell
17 you that. I will pursue this for the crummy
18 15 spots that they are taking, and I have a
19 list of people that will go right in. This
20 isn't fair trade tactics. That's the law,
21 fair trade tactics, and that's what you are
22 not doing. Please understand this, revise
23 this immediately or hold up before you start
24 charging this tax, get your ships in a row
25 because you are going to be in trouble with

1 this because the other gentleman that you
2 talked to last week that had the same
3 questions I'm going to go into a lawsuit
4 with him, okay? You guys can't afford it.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Dave
7 Dobrzyn.

8 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Dobrzyn, before you
9 speak I just want to make a few comments on
10 what was mentioned, this was passed I
11 believe about a month ago, the night of that
12 meeting a business owner came in front of us
13 and asked a question. Not one member of
14 council knew the answer, our solicitor
15 didn't know the answer without having the
16 opportunity to do the research, I made a
17 motion that the legislation be tabled until
18 we find the information.

19 MR. BOCCARDO: Then retract it.
20 Then retract it. You guys don't have
21 answers, you guys can't pass something like
22 that.

23 MR. ROGAN: Unfortunately, the
24 motion died for lack of a second, I then
25 voted "no" to the bill because I didn't know

1 what was in it and I think that's what the
2 problem is to people are going to agree to
3 disagree with what's in it. That's fine
4 after it plays out, but we have to know what
5 we are voting on, and that's why I was upset
6 the night of that vote I voted "no". Even
7 though I do think a parking tax may be a
8 good for the city, but not knowing all of
9 the facts I don't think we should vote for
10 it and I think some effort has to be made to
11 clarify the legislation or repeal it.

12 MR. BOCCARDO: Exactly. Yeah, if
13 you are going to charge me tax I'll pay it,
14 but damn sure everybody else better pay it.
15 It's as simple as that because if they
16 don't, again, I have no problem taking you
17 to Court, and I have enough money to do it,
18 okay? I'm going to tell you right now. I'm
19 sick and tired of you putting your hand in
20 my pocket.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I do agree with your
22 case for the inequity there, and we did try
23 to get the Parking Authority, and our
24 solicitor had found case law where we
25 weren't allowed to charge the Parking

1 Authority, which we don't believe it is fair
2 either, there may be a way we can work
3 something around that, but it wasn't our
4 intention to put anybody out of business or
5 have them pay different. We are not
6 lawyers, we have solicitors that are
7 supposed to look over that stuff.

8 MR. BOCCARDO: But you are wrong,
9 then you shouldn't have voted it in. Simple
10 as that, okay? I'm a college graduate, you
11 want me to sit up there? I could tell you
12 how to do your job. I run a business. I
13 don't have time, okay? Don't vote something
14 in when you don't know what's going on.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: We have 70,000 people
16 here to tell us how to do our job.

17 MR. BOCCARDO: I'm not telling you
18 how to do your job, what I'm saying is I
19 wouldn't vote for anything unless I knew
20 what's going on first and if you are going
21 to punish me for being a business man,
22 that's not fair. That's not fair and I'll
23 win in a Court of law.

24 I'm just trying to rebut you
25 because, like I said, I'm happy to pay the

1 tax, make damn sure everybody else does and
2 that's all I'm asking.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I totally understand
4 that and agree with you.

5 MR. BOCCARDO: I don't know if you
6 want a copy of this that you guys gave this
7 big break and these guys are out of
8 business. They are defaulting. If I
9 default, I go out of business. Why don't
10 they? Shut them down. You are giving 300
11 spots \$32 a month cheaper. Figure that out.
12 And they don't have any money and they are
13 trying to solicit my customers. Figure it
14 out.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Mr. Dobrzyn,
16 I apologize.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: That's okay, I wanted
18 him to actually step up to the microphone so
19 it could be heard. You know, we have had
20 enough of that over the years where it
21 wasn't heard.

22 Okay, curb cuts. A few weeks ago
23 Mr. Tobin was in and he talked about curb
24 cuts. Please go out and look at the curb
25 cuts on the corner and that's a fine

1 example. I don't have to the pay for gas
2 this year because I picked enough coal out
3 of the hole that they left behind on the
4 curb cut and I'm well supplied for energy
5 for the winter.

6 Okay, there is a bunch of stuff in
7 the paper on pension stuff, once again I'd
8 like to warn people, Wall Street and Main
9 Street is a small world, and what was it \$30
10 million were lost out of the firemen and
11 police pensions?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't know the
13 exact number.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Somewhere around there
15 and it's like I know I get a little too
16 political, but these public employees better
17 start paying attention to who they are
18 voting for because some day they might have
19 to pry their pension out of our cold dead
20 hands and I hope it's worth it. We are just
21 letting people go on Wall Street and they do
22 what they want and lose money left and right
23 on these pension plans and that's how it
24 gets paid for.

25 I talked once before on profitable

1 nonprofits, final things. Now, we have
2 heard them before up by Linden Street,
3 right, they are on Providence Avenue,
4 Providence Road, and now I read a few days
5 ago that they are in the capital records
6 building, and it was my understanding by
7 talking to somebody a few years ago, and I
8 hope this isn't the truth, that they are
9 listed as a nonprofit because some guy is in
10 some hoopla of a religious order that owns
11 it. Now, I hope if he is getting a free
12 ride down on Providence Avenue he is not
13 getting a free ride of what is that, Ninth
14 Avenue or whatever, Ninth Avenue and then on
15 top of it in Capital Records because that, I
16 mean, I'm not going to holler about 10
17 percent tax because a lot of people that
18 were here, yeah, okay, they have been here
19 week in and week out, but you see 30 percent
20 of the voters at the poles and when you walk
21 up through Nay Aug Park and the old guys are
22 sitting on a bench and you were picking on
23 this guy and you are picking on that guy,
24 too much, he did a beautiful job here, well,
25 that's great but it has to be paid for.

1 And that's what I'm wondering about
2 this zoning idea because it's time we box
3 these people in with the nonprofits and no
4 more. That's it. We can't afford to have a
5 whole county full of nonprofits, they are
6 great institutions and I would be the last
7 one in the world to and a hypocrite to bitch
8 about hospitals, excuse the term, because I
9 have been in them often enough, but Daron,
10 again, when they just keep expanding and
11 expanding and taking more and more off of
12 the tax rolls we have to have the money some
13 day.

14 And last week I heard a little issue
15 about a study with Nay Aug Park, and this is
16 only hearsay, but a few years ago when the
17 people were -- and I don't even think you
18 people were up here at that time, the three
19 of you, the people from the zoo came, the
20 wildlife center, and I said, "Well, gee,
21 didn't the mayor give you guys money?"

22 And they said, "No."

23 And he said, "We were promised
24 \$50,000 a year and we went out and did
25 \$175,000 study on a feasibility of a

1 wildlife center at Nay Aug Park and that
2 bill got paid," and despite the fact that 50
3 grand was pledged to the operators of the
4 wildlife center they never received a dime.
5 So now that's only hearsay, but it's there
6 for you to check out and it is researchable
7 if you go back throughout records. It's
8 really ashamed if that be the case and
9 hopefully that \$50,000 won't be \$49,500 to
10 determine how to spend the last 500 for some
11 study, you know, very studious here in this
12 town for some reason.

13 I'll just make it a second,
14 Mr. Savern doesn't want to pay taxes,
15 denounced his citizenship despite the fact
16 that he was rescued from Brazil, he was
17 kidnaped -- potential kidnap victim and he
18 formed Facebook and he wants to settle in
19 Indonesia, well, Indonesia is predominantly
20 a Muslim theocracy, look up East Themore and
21 find out about the ethnic cleansing, and my
22 advise to him is go ahead and don't lose
23 your head.

24 JP Morgan Chase, don't worry,
25 taxpayers, we don't need a bailout, we got

1 your 401-Ks. And the tea party freshen,
2 they are up to -- 15 of them are up to a
3 million dollars in campaign donations from
4 Wall Street, so I thought that's what they
5 were all about and to begin with, it's like
6 some people said before, you know, you hear
7 one thing and another thing later.

8 And finally, birth certificates drop
9 for IDs for voting so that's some good news.
10 Hopefully they should scrap that whole law
11 and start over and it's reasonable to ask
12 somebody for an ID to vote, but it's five
13 years in prison for me to say, "I'm Jack
14 Loscombe," even if he gives me a voter's
15 card and said, "I'm not feeling well," and
16 lists the people he wants me to list for.
17 Even if I faithfully voted for all of these
18 people we could both get five years in
19 prison. Thank you have a good night and
20 don't forget bawk, bawk.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Does anyone
22 else wish to address council?

23 MR. CHILIPKO: I literally ran down
24 here tonight, here is my belt. I saw the
25 first speaker on council, I decide before

1 tonight why waste my time, why go down
2 there, blah, blah, blah.

3 MR. JOYCE: Excuse me, can you state
4 your name for the record.

5 MS. CHILIPKO: Oh, Mary Chilipko,
6 Scranton resident, Pine Brook resident, but,
7 Mr. Rogan, offered -- you support us.
8 Mr. Rogan is coming down to Pine Brook next
9 week. Jack, I know how hard you work, I
10 call you on the phone, you are out there,
11 you help, and I don't know you, I didn't
12 know you before you were elected. I'd offer
13 you a couple of books for your house but you
14 are too honest, so that's out.

15 My question is did Mike Wallace, the
16 zoning officer, ever answer your letter to
17 appear before a caucus?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have not seen a
19 response, no.

20 MR. CHILIPKO: I think I did, a
21 developer in my neighborhood, Mr. DeFreeda,
22 again, who I did not know before he
23 approached us in our neighborhood and did a
24 service by coming here and speaking out
25 against the zoning officer, Mike Wallace.

1 I went to a few zoning hearings for
2 other neighbors to rehab buildings, they
3 went before zoning, the zoning board with
4 approved building permits were issued and
5 that people are residing in them.
6 Mr. DeFreeda by sneaky Mr. Mike Wallace was
7 shut down again, and I don't understand, I
8 don't know numbers like some of these people
9 that come in here, they are, you know, very
10 knowledgeable on that, but he was shut down
11 again and I believe Mr. Wallace promotes
12 blight. He has to go back to plans that now
13 I find out are subcontracted because the
14 people in the apartment can't read them,
15 they are not qualified, the inspectors, the
16 zoning officer. I'd like to know, what are
17 his qualifications? Has anybody ever seen
18 that or is that just the administration?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's an
20 administrative appointment.

21 MS. CHILIPKO: When you can't shame
22 people into doing their jobs that's bad. If
23 this were me, if somebody was up here
24 talking about me and whatever, they can say
25 what they want, like you Jack, I would be

1 mortified. I would be on the phone, I would
2 be hiding until I found out what I could do
3 to rectify the problems. Instead they
4 retaliate and they make it worse.

5 I'm glad, I'm glad I don't know own
6 anybody any jobs. I'm glad I don't owe
7 anybody any favors. I hope you three
8 gentlemen stay that way. Jack, you have
9 come a long way, dude. (Clapping.)

10 One last thing, I was approached by
11 one of the drunken bums that lives in one of
12 the dumps by my house last night and he had
13 an unfortunate run-in with my garden hose
14 while it was shooting water, and he told me
15 he is here for the duration. I hope not. I
16 hope things change. People like you, people
17 like these people, I should be here. When I
18 saw the first speaker I threw some clothes
19 on and ran down here, we need to be here and
20 Mr. -- I think -- that owns Boccardos he is
21 going to start a lawsuit. No shame there.
22 Nobody cares. It's just another lawsuit for
23 the city. You are talking about borrowing
24 to get us out of debt, nobody cares.
25 Another lawsuit, that's all people say. Out

1 in the hall he said, "But I'll win."

2 Nobody cares. It doesn't matter. I
3 hope this changes. Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who
6 would like to address council?

7 MR. JONES: Hi. Bob Jones, member
8 of the taxpayers'.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

10 MR. JONES: We are still occupying
11 Scranton and thanks to you guys I don't need
12 a tent, so hands to you, too. I have
13 empathy for you guys, it seems every time
14 the mayor sticks his foot in it you guys end
15 up looking bad and taking the heat from a
16 lot of people and that's just not fair. It
17 ain't right. Real quick with that.

18 Also, I promised Mr. Lewis I would
19 ask, what is the state of the Rossi audit?
20 We'll probably here that post --

21 MR. JOYCE: I am going to discuss
22 that in motions. At the present time our
23 business administrator has indicated to us
24 that it should be completed by the second
25 week of July.

1 MR. JONES: Okay. So it's not good
2 news or bad news, it's so-so, kind of like a
3 NASA launch or something; right? And I'd
4 like to say thanks to Bob Casey for getting
5 the firemen that money, and I was a little
6 bit, how should I say leery, because, you
7 know, let's just hope the mayor doesn't find
8 a way to mismanage it or anything like that.
9 I have been reassured that he can't use that
10 for anything but rehiring firemen, let's
11 hope that comes to fruition and he doesn't
12 use it to like pay off the award granted by
13 the courts or anything like that.

14 But my question was about 5-C. They
15 are going to have police officer issue
16 parking tickets? I thought the Parking
17 Authority did that? Are they going to have
18 them patrol the meters or --

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, no, the police
20 still issue tickets outside of the meter
21 areas.

22 MR. JONES: Oh, okay.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Illegal parking and
24 stuff like that.

25 MR. JONES: So they are not going to

1 use police just to patrol meters or anything
2 like that?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

4 MR. JONES: My neighbor Ron will be
5 glad to hear that because all of the cars
6 are parked on the sidewalk in our
7 neighborhood will probably be getting
8 tickets.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I believe when I
10 spoke to Chief Duffy regarding one of the
11 things was there was that section was
12 removed from the former tickets to authorize
13 them, you know, like a blank spot for
14 parking on the sidewalks and parking the
15 opposite way, and to be able to put the
16 ordinance number on there, so that's part of
17 what this whole thing is about.

18 MR. JONES: You hear that, Ron, good
19 news? Okay. And I just wanted to mention
20 that what Les said \$7 an hour to park and
21 most jobs around here pay \$7 an hour so I
22 guess if you have to pay for your own
23 parking working around here you are just
24 losing money and might as well go down and
25 get yourself unemployment or something like

1 that I guess, but, okay. Thanks a lot.
2 Good to see you guys again.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

4 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who
5 wishes to address council?

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
7 Marie Schumacher, a city resident and
8 taxpayer.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

10 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: For weeks I stood
12 at this podium and I asked about the
13 police -- the status of the investigation of
14 misconduct by a police officer and
15 repeatedly I said I do not care to know the
16 name of the person, I want to know the
17 offense. I think we have that. Yet
18 Mr. Loscombe last week when you responded
19 you kept saying over and over, "I'm sorry,
20 Mrs. Schumacher, I cannot give you the
21 person's name."

22 I didn't care. Ironically, the
23 Times-Tribune printed an article about the
24 demotion of a patrol officer, someone down
25 to patrol officer status, and again, he said

1 nothing about what the offense was, but they
2 managed to publish something.

3 Now, what I don't understand and I
4 cannot accept that we as residents of this
5 city do not have a right to know what
6 misconduct has been alleged, and I would
7 presume from the Times-Tribune article that
8 you don't get demoted for nothing, so I
9 would assume that now I connect those dots
10 and I would say the individual named there
11 is the person and something was done and I
12 think we have a right to know. I have a
13 right to know.

14 If I'm stopped by a patrolman I want
15 to know what he has been up to. I don't
16 care. And if I had a daughter, I'll tell
17 you, I would be down here and I would be
18 wanting to know, too, because --

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I can't agree with
20 you more. I cannot agree with you more, but
21 I can only do so much in my capacity. I
22 would suggest possibly a Right-to-Know to
23 the police chief and the mayor.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I think you
25 people --

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: The newspaper got
2 more information than I did.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: You people need to
4 take some action, you are the ones that we
5 elected to represent us.

6 Also, I would like to know what
7 period of time is covered by the SAFER
8 grant, Mr. Loscombe?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it's two or
10 three years, I'm not quite sure.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to
12 know specifically if you could.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Again, week after
15 week these gentleman from the county has
16 been here, and I don't understand, you
17 guys -- you, this council, had a special
18 meeting on blight several years ago, 2010 as
19 a matter of fact, and sometime in the
20 summer. In October of 2010, Senate Bill 900
21 was passed. It was a neighborhood and city
22 revitalization and reclamation act. It gave
23 much more power to fight slumlords including
24 extraditing people from out-of-state and
25 getting them in here. However, what it

1 requires is to have a housing court in the
2 county. Has the county had a housing court?
3 Not that I have read about. Have you people
4 asked for the establishment of a housing
5 authority? Not that I have heard. And I
6 think you are remiss. This gentleman comes
7 and I think we desperately need that, we
8 have a lot.

9 I'm also -- I can't even read my
10 writing on that one, I will come back to it
11 if I have time. Last week the solicitor
12 stated that we do have a Recovery Plan in
13 place and I would like to know where that
14 is. As far as I know, the only Recovery
15 Plan expired in 2006 and we have been
16 waiting for a revised Recovery Plan ever
17 since, so I would like to know how we are
18 tracking to the Recovery Plan that's in
19 place. Maybe you could address that,
20 Mr. Joyce, in motions.

21 And also I would like to know who is
22 keeper of the city's master plan? Nobody
23 knows, huh? Okay. Maybe next week somebody
24 could let us know who is keeper of the
25 city's master plan.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would believe the
2 mayor.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would like to
4 know if the treasurer's sale that has been
5 advertised twice in the papers, where all of
6 the properties that the city owns that they
7 are not using? I believe at last count, and
8 that was this afternoon, there is something
9 like 362 properties that are held by the
10 City of Scranton and I know not all of them
11 are being used and I'm sure some are
12 probably brought as reclamation in flood
13 control districts, but I cannot believe that
14 some of those properties could not be put
15 into this sale and restored to the tax
16 rolls. I think it's ashame. If you are
17 watching every dime there is -- there is a
18 place you can rub more than two together I
19 would think.

20 And then I'll finish up, since
21 everybody else went over tonight I may as
22 well, too. The boundaries on 5-E says the
23 boundaries are being established and I find
24 it very offensive that when we are talking
25 about deteriorated areas that the boundaries

1 are the City of Scranton. Now, that's a
2 little bit too ambiguous for me, so anybody
3 can do it. The only exemption is the
4 improvements have to be over \$500,000,
5 that's something, but it also -- the
6 definition says they have to be vacated,
7 condemned or demolished by reason of
8 noncompliance with ordinances or
9 regulations.

10 Now, that is so -- that might be an
11 out, but that also could be manipulated
12 much. I don't know that we should be giving
13 anybody tax free status right now with the
14 condition that we are in and I think that
15 5-E needs a lot of work before you pass it.
16 Thank you. I'll bring the rest next week.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Also,
18 Mrs. Schumacher, I believe our city planner,
19 Don King, should have the master plan. He
20 is on the fourth floor.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, no doubt.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. ROGAN: I would also add on the
24 boundaries, I will read them, they are
25 short, "The boundaries of the City of

1 Scranton are hereby affixed as the
2 boundaries of the deteriorating area and all
3 industrial, commercial or other business
4 properties located therein shall be
5 considered a deteriorated property for the
6 purpose of the work."

7 So it does seem to be city line.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, that's what
9 I'm saying. That's way, way too
10 nonspecific.

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Frankie.

12 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Jackie.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie. Jack, I
15 want to tell you, I want to thank Mr. Casey
16 for the firehouses. I want to thank him
17 personally. Jack, he is good man.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll give him a plug.

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Thank you.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Now you're back to
21 work, Chris.

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Jack, I'm back
23 to work because of you, Buddy.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Get your gear
25 cleaned.

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

2 MR. JOYCE: Mr. McGoff, do you have
3 any comments or motions?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Very briefly. I'd just
5 like to reinstate what I said last week and
6 in terms of moving forward with the Recovery
7 Plan each week that we fail to address the
8 issues that are before us the crisis becomes
9 greater. Each day I'm receiving information
10 of problems concerning the unfunded debt and
11 now I found out that the proposed TAN-B that
12 we are looking at is probably off the table,
13 that the banks that were interested in doing
14 it have decided not to because of comments
15 that were made concerning default.

16 I think that we, again, need to get
17 positive and work towards settlement of
18 these issues and if we don't we are looking
19 at -- if we can't receive the unfunded debt,
20 right now that represents about 46 percent
21 of the remaining budget, that 16 point
22 whatever million dollars. There is no way
23 that we can survive unless this is
24 accomplished.

25 And I know that our solicitor said

1 that there is a Recovery Plan in place and
2 that that satisfies the legislation, it may
3 but it's the banks seekings that I'm
4 concerned with. The banks are the ones that
5 are saying that we don't, you know, they
6 want to look at a new Recovery Plan. They
7 want something into the future, not
8 something that's from 2002, and so we need
9 something. We need to do something quickly
10 and, as I said, each week it gets more dire
11 and hopefully we will move on that and be
12 open and more open to the public in how we
13 are approaching it. And other than that, I
14 don't have anything. Thank you.

15 MR. JOYCE: Mr. McGoff, in our mail
16 I did see that we received today a revised
17 Recovery Plan from the mayor at 3:30 this
18 afternoon.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MR. JOYCE: So I don't know when
21 that will be placed on the agenda, but I'm
22 sure once Mrs. Evans is back and once her
23 mother recovers, which hopefully everything
24 will be all right, I'm sure that she will
25 address that.

1 MR. ROGAN: My turn?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. I would like
4 to start off on a positive note. The Armed
5 Forces parade this year did seem to have a
6 higher turn out than last year, not as high
7 as it should have been. I did run into Mr.
8 Joyce, Mr. Loscombe, representatives from
9 the county and a lot of people in the
10 community. It was good to go out and say
11 hello to a lot of people, and most
12 importantly honor our veterans and our
13 members of the armed services.

14 I guess I'll start off by addressing
15 the issue of rubber stamping that I brought
16 back into the fold last week. Regardless of
17 whether you support or oppose the borrowing
18 issue that was in front of us last week, my
19 concern was, number one, the mayor and the
20 business administrator didn't even come in
21 to present their legislation. It's their
22 plan. Council was asked to approve their
23 plan. I think at the very least they should
24 be in to explain why they see this as the
25 best solution. Why there are no other

1 options. I think they owe it to council and
2 to the taxpayers.

3 Whether you support or oppose it
4 really is another issue, but I think at the
5 very least they owe that to us and we owe
6 that to the taxpayers to demand that they
7 come in before voting on something very
8 important like a tax increase and borrowing.

9 Secondly, and this goes back to what
10 was mentioned at the podium tonight,
11 regardless of what you think of the health
12 care bill, the famous line when they
13 presented it was, "We have to pass it to
14 find out what's in it," and that's exactly
15 what this council did with the parking tax.
16 The night of the vote, and I voted for it
17 first read, I voted for it second reading, I
18 thought it was a good idea, for the most
19 part. There were some parts I didn't like
20 and I think we all disagreed with the
21 Authority, but Attorney Hughes explained why
22 it couldn't be.

23 That night of the vote a business
24 owner came to the meeting, asked a question,
25 not one member of the council had an answer

1 months ago, I see there was a reply today, I
2 didn't get a chance to read it yet,
3 regardless of whether -- maybe the
4 information is there, maybe it's not, you
5 know, they just did what they did with the
6 budget, just try to gloss over council,
7 maybe it is the accurate information. The
8 council has requested for months, and
9 actually previous councils even requested
10 that Mr. Scopelliti come in and explain:
11 One, why the Parking Authority needs this
12 money, which I think we all know; and two,
13 why did they need the money? Why are they
14 in that state? How did it get mismanaged
15 for that many years? I stated before it was
16 even on the agenda and I'll state it again
17 tonight, I want Mr. Scopelliti to come in to
18 get in the information. Even if he comes
19 in, I'm not supporting it, it's a bailout,
20 the city taxpayers' money could be put to
21 much better use than bailing out an
22 authority.

23 There was a article in the paper
24 today about the pension fund being
25 underfunded. I think the nearly \$1 million

1 that's on the legislation to go to the
2 Parking Authority, which is a black hole,
3 would be much better spent on the pension
4 fund and that's just one of the many places.

5 Additionally, and I apologize for
6 reading from my phone, I just got the e-mail
7 as I was walking into the building,
8 Mr. McGowan sends out an e-mail to council,
9 we were copied on an e-mail from Blue Cross.
10 The e-mail from Blue Cross asks for another
11 payment and that we have a \$2 million
12 outstanding balance. First line of
13 business, outstanding First Priority life
14 insurance, \$2,341,000.62. Blue Cross of
15 Northeast PA, \$125,521.35. High Mark Blue
16 Shield, \$114,722.45. Major medical,
17 \$56,533.92. Total due, approximately \$2.3
18 million. Don't you think this million
19 dollars that's going to the Parking
20 Authority would be much better spent to make
21 sure our employees have health care than
22 bailing out the Authority?

23 And I'm glad Mr. Sbaraglia provided
24 us with this article, it's pretty old, you
25 know, this is back when Mrs. Fanucci and

1 Gatelli were on council, but just to, you
2 know, I'll talk about this more when the
3 vote comes up, but it says about \$630,000
4 will be spent to replace the plain concrete
5 exterior with a brick facade. \$630,000 to
6 make the building look nice. Where did you
7 think that money came from? They borrowed
8 it. Now they are coming back to the city
9 and they are not even going to borrow it off
10 of us, they want us to just give it to them,
11 so essentially two-thirds of the money that
12 the administration and the Parking Authority
13 want us to give to them paid for a brick
14 facade on that building.

15 There is no way I'm going to vote
16 for this. I hope Mr. Scopelliti comes in, I
17 hope he brings the mayor, I hope he brings
18 his solicitor and the city solicitor, since
19 they are the same person, in and answers our
20 questions, but there is no way I'm voting
21 for this bailout.

22 Next, as Mr. Joyce mentioned, at
23 3:30 today we did receive the mayor -- it
24 says, Prepared by the mayor's office,
25 revised Recovery Plan." I don't think

1 anybody has had a chance to review it yet.
2 It's rather lengthy and I think we will all
3 be reviewing this over the next week and we
4 will commenting on that and what we like and
5 don't like and see how we can move forward
6 from there.

7 Getting back to the Parking
8 Authority, and I forgot to mention this,
9 along with Mr. Scopelliti, I also think we
10 should bring in the former director of the
11 Parking Authority, Mr. Wintermantel from --
12 and none of this is official because he is
13 not here, but from what I hear he understood
14 that this proposed plan, pushed by the mayor
15 and Mr. Scopelliti currently wasn't going to
16 work. That we wouldn't afford to be
17 spending all this money and eventually it
18 was going to come to an end. He was pushed
19 out of the Authority. He wasn't the
20 director anymore because he didn't agree
21 with that. I would like to see the other
22 opinion on why we are in the state we are
23 in.

24 Obviously, Mr. Scopelliti is going
25 to do everything he can do defend his

1 \$80,000 a year job and to try to get council
2 to push through a nearly million dollar
3 bailout for the Parking Authority. So I
4 think that that would be nice to have him in
5 as well, and I don't believe we could
6 subpoena him because he is not a current
7 office holder or part of the board, but I
8 would like to get another opinion because we
9 all know what Mr. Scopelliti is going to be
10 here. He is not going to be here to get the
11 best deal for the taxpayers of the city or
12 the residents or the council, he is looking
13 out for the Parking Authority.

14 So I think it would be very
15 interesting to see if he does, in fact, come
16 in. I don't think he will if history is any
17 indication, but we will see.

18 Next, we received a letter from the
19 Governor's Office. It says, "It is my
20 pleasure to enclose a certificate signed
21 Honorable Tom Corbett, Governor of the
22 Commonwealth, issued under the great seal of
23 the Commonwealth proclaiming that the City
24 of Scranton is eligible for city
25 classification law to be reclassified as a

1 city of the Third Class. Change in
2 certification can become effective only
3 pursuant to the provisions under the Act of
4 June 25, 1895, as amended."

5 And I haven't spoke much about
6 reclassification, I think that it's
7 something we have to be very careful about.
8 We have to wight out the negatives and the
9 positives, and I know Senator Blake made
10 some comments in the paper, I understand his
11 district is most -- was all of Lackawanna
12 County so he has to look out for everyone,
13 we have to look out for the residents of
14 Scranton, and we have to look at the
15 positives and the negatives. I know a
16 commuter tax has been discussed, it can't be
17 implemented without changing classification,
18 some say it can, some say it can't, but we
19 all need all of the information before we do
20 something as major and changing city
21 classification.

22 Next, I received, and it's actually
23 on the agenda from Ms. Aebli, changes to
24 this year's action plan, and it is the first
25 reading. "If any council members have any

1 changes they would like to see, please
2 contact me, send me an e-mail of what
3 changes you would like to see. Keep in mind
4 that the public service law must be the
5 same, we cannot move money in and out of
6 that account."

7 You know, it is -- funds are being
8 cut. Funds are being cut everywhere, so the
9 programs when we amended it initially we cut
10 out most of the things that people would
11 find very offensive for taxpayer dollars to
12 be used for. And now the further amendments
13 are very tough decisions and it's something
14 that everyone should have some input, all of
15 us together as a council, and if we are
16 going to amend what Mrs. Aebli sent down I
17 think we should all submit suggestions and
18 discuss it in caucus before any amendments
19 are made.

20 Next, there are a very few questions
21 that came in and. Mrs. Krake, can we please
22 send them to the DPW, the following potholes
23 need to be filled: Hemlock Street and
24 Stafford Avenue intersection. The 200 block
25 of Meadow Avenue in front of Aramark. The

1 200 block of Meadow in front of the Clarion
2 Hotel. The 300 block of Meadow in front of
3 Wells Fargo, and also a one-way sign on the
4 corner of the 300 block of North Bromley and
5 Swetland Street has been down for nearly two
6 weeks. Could we please inform DPW of this
7 situation.

8 And I will have much more to say on
9 the agenda items once it's time to vote, but
10 for now that will be all. Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Loscombe?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. First of
13 all, I would like to apologize, sometimes I
14 get a little passionate about certain
15 things, but I do take my job here seriously
16 and I try to do the best I can. It's tough
17 sometimes to be everywhere and, you know, to
18 get all of the answers, and as I said
19 before, none of us are perfect. You know we
20 make decisions based upon our best advice
21 and the best reading of it and our best
22 conversations and, you know, some of this
23 legislation as far as the parking ordinance
24 and stuff like that, like I said, there is
25 going to be some tweaks to anything that

1 comes down the road. I don't think there
2 has been a perfect document presented
3 anywhere from the top lawyers. There are
4 still quirks there that they find in Court.

5 But, you know, again, to say it's
6 something that was rubber stamped and all of
7 that, say what it is. We are looking to
8 generate revenue in this cash-strapped city
9 and we are trying hard, but we have tons of
10 issues in front of us and that's what
11 happens. We are a part-time body, but I
12 know we all do full-time work here on
13 council business and, you know, that's why I
14 am passionate and I know how my colleagues
15 work, too. We are in constant communication
16 with each other.

17 And, you know, I would just --
18 Mr. Rogan, if you can, would you be able to
19 get ahold of our city solicitor to clarify
20 that parking issue?

21 MR. ROGAN: No, I voted against it
22 because we didn't have the clarification.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, but if you
24 wanted to answer the gentleman's question
25 would you be able to --

1 MR. ROGAN: Well, you guys were the
2 ones that passed it.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay, that's all I
4 wanted to know. Next, I am thrilled that
5 the city was able to get the SAFER grant
6 today. I want to thank Senator Casey and I
7 do want to thank the firefighters who put
8 the grant application together on their own
9 time. I don't have their names, I
10 apologize, but it was a lot of hard work,
11 there was a lot of information to get
12 together and with the push and the help from
13 our Senator Casey we were able to achieve
14 that, and what that means is you are going
15 to live in a safer city and you are going to
16 be able to sleep a little better at night.
17 We will have the manpower and the fire
18 stations open that should be open and
19 hopefully we will be able to get the police
20 ranks up to where they should be. What was
21 working before should never have been broken
22 and, again, I would just hope everyone feels
23 better with that.

24 Tonight, as it was mentioned several
25 times, we will be introducing legislation on

1 5-B, the Scranton Parking Authority debt
2 payment of \$940,000. I don't have to tell
3 anyone here my feelings on that Parking
4 Authority debt and I believe we all feel the
5 same way. In fact, it was in the newspaper
6 this week some comments that I had made and
7 that hasn't changed. It is on the
8 legislation tonight for introduction, and
9 after speaking to Mrs. Evans and Mr. Hughes
10 I think I would vote to introduce it this
11 evening only because Solicitor Hughes and
12 Mrs. Evans have been actively researching
13 this debt payment since our last meeting.

14 If the ordinance is introduced this
15 evening, the following arrangement is to be
16 abided by, the following people will be
17 required to attend a public caucus in city
18 council chambers prior to next week's
19 meeting, May 31, at 5:30 p.m. This is
20 imperative that these people appear: Mayor
21 Doherty, Mr. Scopelliti, Mr. McGowan,
22 Scranton Parking Authority board members, a
23 representative from the bond companies, and
24 a representative from the insurance company
25 that guarantees the bonds. We will be

1 demanding answers and a plan of action going
2 forward.

3 It is also our intention to
4 determine whether it is time to place the
5 Parking Authority under new management, that
6 the parking garages be in part or whole sold
7 or leased, and council is looking for an
8 accountability and a concise plan to be
9 enacted.

10 If any of the participants fail to
11 appear next week, this issue will be over
12 and city council will vote accordingly. And
13 that's all I have this evening. Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
15 To report, as has been specified in 3-F, our
16 tax collector, Bill Courtright, has
17 submitted a deposit into the 2012 TAN
18 lockbox which is currently being held at
19 Fidelity Bank. The deposit was in the
20 amount of \$280,095.51. As one may or may
21 not know, this year there is a special
22 agreement with the TAN. As part of the
23 special agreement, all real estate tax
24 revenue is to be placed into a lockbox for
25 final repayment by June 30, 2012, or until

1 all of the balance is paid, whichever comes
2 first.

3 At this point, there is
4 approximately \$75,000 left to pay on the TAN
5 after this last deposit, so we have about --
6 so approximately \$75,000 left before the
7 2012 TAN is fully paid.

8 Secondly, Scranton City Council has
9 received notice from Northeast Revenue that
10 they are delivering tax collections from the
11 period of May 1 to May 18. As one may know,
12 Northeast Revenue is collecting all
13 delinquent real estate tax for the City of
14 Scranton with the exception of 2011
15 delinquent taxes which are being collected
16 by the Scranton City Single Tax Office.
17 From the period of May 1 to May 18,
18 Northeast Revenue distributed \$318,652.34 to
19 the City of Scranton. This includes all of
20 the delinquent taxes collected by them with
21 the exception of 2004, 2005 and 2006
22 delinquent taxes. As one may or may not
23 know, taxes for those years are remitted to
24 Pennstar Bank to pay on a loan taken out by
25 the Scranton Redevelopment authority for the

1 sale of delinquent taxes for those years
2 which defaulted.

3 The amount of revenue that Northeast
4 Revenue collected from delinquent real
5 estate taxes from 2004, 2005 and 2006, was
6 \$80,994.17. This amount was distributed
7 directly to Pennstar Bank, so as you can
8 see, Northeast Revenue is doing a very good
9 job at collecting delinquent real estate
10 taxes for us.

11 Scranton City Council has received
12 an audit status report from our business
13 administrator, Ryan McGowan. In order to
14 complete the audit, there is a list of 31
15 tasks that must be completed by the business
16 administrator's office. Currently, 19 out
17 of the 31 tasks are completed. Out of all
18 of the outstanding tasks that need to be
19 completed, some of the tasks are scheduled
20 to be completed by the end of the month, and
21 some of the tasks were scheduled to be
22 completed by the end of the next month.

23 Overall, the current audit status
24 report, as I stated before, the exit
25 conference is currently projected to be held

1 during the second week of July, and the rest
2 of my comments I'll save for the votes
3 tonight, and that is it.

4 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF
5 COUNCIL NO. 56, 2011 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
6 "GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2012" BY
7 TRANSFERRING \$940,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
8 01.401.12090.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
9 OPERATING EXPENSES-CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT
10 NO. 01.401.15319.4299 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL
11 EXPENSES- OPERATING DEBT SERVICE - SCRANTON
12 PARKING AUTHORITY) TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING
13 BY WIRE TRANSFER TO BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST
14 COMPANY, N.A., TRUSTEE, FOR THE PAYMENT OF
15 THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY DEBT PAYMENT
16 DUE JUNE 1, 2012.

17 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
18 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
19 introduced into its proper committee.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

22 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

23 MR. ROGAN: I guess I'll just
24 reiterate what I stated a little bit more.
25 I would hope that one of my colleagues would

1 join me in voting "no" this week since we
2 are short one member and it will only take
3 two votes to defeat this legislation
4 tonight. Next week with a full body it will
5 take three votes to defeat this legislation.

6 There is no question that the City
7 of Scranton cannot afford to give the
8 Scranton Parking Authority nearly \$1
9 million. That money, which is placed in
10 contingency, which the mayor and the
11 administration wrongly say that was in the
12 budget in the past, it was not in the budget
13 in the past, it was a -- there was money
14 sitting in a contingency fund. That money
15 is not earmarked for any specific project,
16 any specific bills, that's why it's called
17 the contingency fund. The administration
18 did earmark money for the Scranton Parking
19 Authority bailout and it was taken out of
20 the budget. That was one of the big reasons
21 why I supported council's amendments, along
22 with the tax -- the reduction in the tax
23 increase.

24 After seeing the newspaper today
25 about the pension fund being woefully

1 underfunded, after receiving e-mails week
2 after week and reading articles week after
3 week with Mr. McGowan quoted as we need to
4 pay Blue Cross or employees won't have
5 health insurance, I am hoping that one of my
6 colleagues will join me in voting this down
7 and then next week legislation can be
8 drafted to transfer the identical amount of
9 money out of the contingency fund to pay
10 Blue Cross for our employees' health care.

11 I respect our attorney's opinion, I
12 know he is not here tonight. He has said in
13 the past let them fail. Let them fail.
14 Take them back in-house. Let the elected
15 officials be in charge. And I think we all
16 have this right that the authorities where
17 these members are appointed to these boards
18 and then they are not accountable to anyone.
19 They are not elected, they are appointed.
20 Council can vote down an appointment to the
21 authority and they still get the spot. We
22 went down that road before, also. We have
23 voted down numerous appointments, some
24 because of merit, some because of something
25 as simple as not providing a resume. Again,

1 we need to know what we are voting for when
2 it comes to the residents for these
3 individuals.

4 It's very frustrating. The last few
5 weeks have been the most frustrating weeks
6 of my short career on council. I just
7 cannot comprehend why anyone would vote to
8 give away, give away, not a loan, give away
9 almost a million dollars of the taxpayers'
10 money to an authority that has no plan for
11 correction. This is just going to be wire
12 transfer to pay off a debt. This isn't
13 going to solve anything. There is no plan.

14 Mr. McGoff and the administration
15 mentioned, well, the banks won't deal with
16 us unless we have a Recovery Plan. Well,
17 let's tell the authorities that we are not
18 going to deal with them unless they have a
19 plan. So I will be voting "no".

20 MR. MCGOFF: I'd like to briefly
21 comment, the one thing that we are
22 neglecting and has been neglected so far is
23 that we are liable for this debt. At one
24 point in time or another, we will need to
25 pay this amount of money. Now, to allow it

1 to default and to go to Court to have the
2 Courts tell us, "Yes, you need to pay it,"
3 all that does is send a message to the banks
4 that we are willing to default on any loan,
5 and if that were not the case maybe this
6 would be something that I could vote
7 against, but the fact that we do need to pay
8 this at some point in time I would rather
9 pay it before it goes to default while we
10 still have some credibility with the banking
11 community, while we still have some
12 opportunity to receive unfunded debt, maybe
13 a possibility of a TAN.

14 If we default, if we allow this to
15 default, none of that happens, we lose the
16 possibility of unfunded debt, which as I
17 said before, is now over 40 percent of the
18 anticipated revenue for the city. This city
19 goes bankrupt and I do not want to see that
20 happen. If the city goes bankrupt we have
21 talked about, you know, people say, "Let it
22 go bankrupt."

23 MR. ROGAN: No one said let the city
24 go bankrupt.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Well, some people have.

1 MR. ROGAN: Nobody on council.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. People have
3 suggested that it may be worthwhile. I
4 don't want to see that happen. The only
5 thing that would happen if we allow that
6 would be that, again, you go to Court and
7 you Court says, "Raise taxes."

8 That's what we are trying to -- we
9 keep saying that's what we are trying to
10 avoid. I think that the logical thing to do
11 -- and, yes, I still believe there are a
12 questions that need to be answered, I think
13 the primary question needs to be answered
14 dealing with this is where do we find
15 \$940,000? It's nice that it's on paper, I'm
16 sure where that's going to come from. I
17 think that's one very serious question we
18 should ask.

19 And, yes, do I believe we should
20 have people into explain this, yes. I don't
21 know that the laundry list that Mr. Loscombe
22 mentioned is going to be possible, but I do
23 think that we need at least some people in
24 to explain the situation, explain how --
25 maybe explaining if there is a plan in place

1 for the dealing with it, but at least get
2 some explanation.

3 I think it's important that we at
4 least vote to introduce this, get answers to
5 the questions and hopefully provide answers
6 so that we can move forward with this and
7 avoid default on a loan that we are by law
8 guaranteeing. That's all. Thank you.

9 MR. ROGAN: And I wish Attorney
10 Hughes was here, but from what Attorney
11 Hughes mentioned in the past the city didn't
12 back this loan. That was one of the
13 sticking points of TAN-B that they wanted us
14 to back this bad loan. Now, I understand
15 that eventually authority debt will become
16 city debt, but in that process is it also
17 possible to disband the authority and take
18 everything back in-house so the elected
19 officials are in charge, which I think and I
20 think many people out there think the
21 elected officials should be in charge.

22 The garages have been losing money
23 every year. They are not turning a profit.
24 Millions have been wasted on improvements.
25 You know, the \$600,000 that I mentioned for

1 a brick facade, it's just the tip of the
2 iceberg. The StreetSmart system would have
3 helped the authority as well. Again,
4 another program that council mentioned, and
5 this was Mr. Loscombe's idea that we brought
6 up that was shot down by the administration.
7 It's time and time again.

8 And I appreciate Mr. Loscombe's
9 comments earlier, and I would like to see
10 them come in as well, but we said the same
11 thing about the unfunded borrowing, that we
12 wouldn't be voting on it unless the mayor
13 came in and the business administrator made
14 a presentation to council. That didn't
15 happen and we still passed it.

16 MR. JOYCE: I want to -- go ahead.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I agree with you,
18 Mr. Rogan. I mean, you know how I feel, I
19 feel the same way you do, all we are doing
20 by introducing this is if they come next
21 week, explain the scenario to us, we could
22 ask them the questions, that's fine. If
23 they fail to show, I don't believe I'll be
24 voting for it either, but we have given the
25 opportunity to come here, explain

1 themselves, answer our questions and let us
2 know what their plans are.

3 But, you know, again, I think having
4 them face us if they really need this money,
5 if they really want this money at this point
6 then they will be here. If they don't give
7 a damn, then we'll have the same attitude
8 come the vote next week.

9 MR. ROGAN: I agree with that,
10 Mr. Loscombe. The only thing that concerns
11 me, and everything that was just said I
12 agree with, if it is voted down tonight, for
13 instance, if one other person were to vote
14 with me to vote it down, it can be
15 reintroduced if they come in if one of the
16 people voted negative wants to reintroduce.

17 MR. MCGOFF: It's by majority vote.

18 MR. ROGAN: By a majority vote. So,
19 again, we can reintroduce it if it is shot
20 down. On the other hand, if it is pushed
21 off until next week then it will take three
22 votes to defeat it, not two.

23 MR. JOYCE: I want to clarify
24 something, I was speaking to Attorney Hughes
25 and this isn't the Landmark Bank loan, I

1 don't believe, this is the New York Bank
2 Mellow loan which we do guarantee, and
3 through the Parking Authority agreement of
4 1969 if we do go into default I know, as
5 Mr. McGoff mentioned, that's something that
6 the banking community would look down upon
7 and right now the bond insurers are
8 threatening to sue the city if we don't --
9 if the Parking Authority doesn't make
10 payments. So I would vote to introduce this
11 to give them the opportunity to come in and
12 specify exactly what they need the money
13 for. And if they fail to show, then I may
14 vote "no" in the future -- or I will vote
15 "no" in the future as well.

16 Is there anyone else on the
17 question? All those in favor signify by
18 saying aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed?

22 MR. ROGAN: No.

23 MR. JOYCE: The ayes have it and so
24 moved.

25 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. CREATING A

1 PROCEDURE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PARKING
2 TICKETS BY THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
3 FOR VIOLATIONS OF CODE OF THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON CHAPTER 439, ARTICLE II AND SETTING
5 A VIOLATIONS AND
6 PENALTIES SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE FOR
7 VIOLATIONS OF SAME.

8 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
9 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
10 introduced into its proper committee.

11 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

13 MR. JOYCE: On the question? All
14 those in favor of introduction signify by
15 saying aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
20 have it and so moved.

21 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. ESTABLISHING A "NO
22 PARKING ZONE" ALONG THE WESTERLY SIDE OF
23 CEDAR AVENUE (S.R.0011) FROM THE SOUTHWEST
24 CORNER OF RIPPLE STREET EXTENDED SOUTH 250
25 FEET TO ALLOW FOR SAFE SIGHT DISTANCE FOR A

1 PROPOSED DRIVEWAY BY ROSSI ROOTER FOR A
2 PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2100 CEDAR AVENUE.

3 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
4 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
5 introduced into its proper committee.

6 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

8 MR. JOYCE: 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. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
15 have it and so moved.

16 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. PROVIDING FOR THE
17 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN
18 DETERIORATED INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL OR
19 OTHER BUSINESS PROPERTY; DEFINING ELIGIBLE
20 DETERIORATED AREAS; SETTING A MAXIMUM
21 EXEMPTION AMOUNT, AND AN EXEMPTION SCHEDULE
22 AND PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR SECURING AN
23 EXEMPTION.

24 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

4 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Once again, I
6 think there is some questions with this that
7 were brought up. Mr. Rogan and I have
8 discussed at various times why when there is
9 legislation that has import such as this
10 that someone from the administration does
11 not come to explain it. I think just as we
12 talked about with the Parking Authority
13 legislation, I think this needs a little bit
14 of explanation as to it's purpose and, you
15 know, it's intent and the effect that it
16 would have on the city and I would
17 appreciate if before we would make a final
18 vote on this that we do get someone from the
19 administration to provide some explanation.

20 MR. ROGAN: I agree with Mr. McGoff,
21 we spoke about this many times, and I do
22 support the idea of tax breaks for somebody
23 who is going to come in and clean up a
24 blighted neighborhood or a blighted
25 property. I know the residents of Dickson

1 Avenue specifically have been tormented over
2 the last decade with the previous
3 development that was there and there is
4 still -- the effects are still lingering.

5 I don't want to see this abused.
6 You know, we don't want to see properties
7 that are, you know, properties that are
8 inhabitable given a tax break, but if it's
9 implemented properly it can help the city.
10 It can help eliminate blight and create jobs
11 and over the long run increase the tax base.
12 So I will be voting "yes" this week as well
13 and I do want to a little bit more
14 information, but I do support the general
15 concept, it depends on how it's implemented,
16 which is really what I have an interest in.

17 MR. JOYCE: Well, I will say I don't
18 support this legislation. One, I do think
19 this is vague and I agree that there are
20 some questions that need to be answered,
21 but, one, we are giving tax breaks away
22 while we are asking people to shoulder the
23 burden of a tax increase in 7-A, which is
24 Court ordered, and I don't see -- and I
25 can't sit here in good conscience and say to

1 the people of Scranton I want to -- or I
2 can't sit here and say to the people of
3 Scranton that I want to give tax breaks away
4 while I'm asking residents to contribute
5 more to the tax burden.

6 MR. ROGAN: On the other hand, I
7 don't believe that residents should have to
8 pay more to the tax burden and I would like
9 to see tax breaks for real development, not
10 the failed KOZ system that has so many
11 flaws, not the system that it's just ten
12 years of tax free, and when Attorney
13 Hughes-- when we did have a caucus on this
14 matter about three months ago I think, and I
15 may be wrong, but from the way it was
16 explained that night I believe that the tax
17 exemption is on the property, but they still
18 pay taxes on the improvements, and somebody
19 correct me if I'm wrong, so there will still
20 be money coming in, it's not a complete give
21 away, and it's only one year.

22 I think it's something that needs to
23 be examined. It's not something that, you
24 know, I'm vehemently opposed to, it's not
25 something I'm going to be out there fighting

1 for that I said I believe in 100 percent,
2 but it's something we should look at, so I
3 hope it moves on and we will, you know, it's
4 a special decision like Daron Northeast
5 which really hurt the neighbors in that
6 community.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll be voting to
8 approve it this evening, but I do, again,
9 have questions and hopefully, I don't know
10 who we would get to come in and explain it a
11 little bit more, but before I do make a
12 final vote on it I would like to have some
13 questions answered.

14 MR. ROGAN: Maybe the city
15 solicitor.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Whoever -- direct
17 that to whoever -- we'll discuss that with,
18 Mrs. Krake, whoever --

19 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, since you
20 have the best relationship with the
21 administration do you think you would be
22 able to get somebody to come in?

23 MR. MCGOFF: I will -- I would like
24 to find where the origin of the legislation
25 was and if we can find the originator then

1 we can ask it they will come to council and
2 explain it. I will try, yes.

3 MR. ROGAN: Great.

4 MR. JOYCE: Anyone else on the
5 question? All those in favor of
6 introduction signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Opposed? No. The ayes
11 have it and so moved.

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. AMENDING FILE OF
13 COUNCIL NO. 53, 2011, ENTITLED, "AN
14 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
15 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
17 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
18 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
19 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
20 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
21 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
22 SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG) PROGRAM, AS AMENDED
23 BY "EXHIBIT A".

24 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

4 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would just like
6 to reiterate at this time under motions, I
7 would like anyone to reach out to me if they
8 have any suggestions, changes they would
9 like to see made, and hopefully we could get
10 all meet before -- I believe before next
11 week's meeting, we'll see what the situation
12 is with Mrs. Evans and Attorney Hughes as
13 well, and get together and discuss it and
14 discuss it with Ms. Aebli as well.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I know Ms. Aebli
16 has worked very hard on the adjustments that
17 were made necessary because of the funding
18 cuts, and I think, again, it becomes
19 imperative that some of this funding -- that
20 some -- that we move forward with this so
21 that the allocations can be made. I know
22 there were numerous allocations in there for
23 paving and demolition and so on that are
24 most appropriately done in the summer, so
25 the allocation of those funds becomes, you

1 know, somewhat expedient and so hopefully we
2 can move forward.

3 MR. ROGAN: As I mentioned before,
4 most of the fat, the things that people
5 would be most opposed to were already
6 amended out by council. Now it would be
7 decision between whether do you want to pave
8 roads or do you want to tear down blighted
9 properties. You know, tough decisions of
10 that nature and it's a discussion I'm
11 willing to have, and I think it's a
12 discussion we have to have.

13 MR. JOYCE: Anybody else on the
14 question? All those in favor of
15 introduction signify by saying aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
20 have it and so moved.

21 MS. KRAKE: 5-G. AUTHORIZING THE
22 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
23 OFFICIALS TO PURCHASE A 2003 FORD CROWN
24 VICTORIA FITTED WITH SCRANTON POLICE
25 DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT AND PRESENTLY SERVING

1 THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S K-9 UNIT
2 FROM OFFICER MICHAEL MARINO FOR THE SUM OF
3 FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) TO
4 BECOME TITLED TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S
5 POLICE DEPARTMENT.

6 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
7 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be
8 introduced into its proper committee.

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

11 MR. JOYCE: On the question? All
12 those in favor of introduction signify by
13 saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
18 have it and so moved.

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-H. APPOINTMENT OF
20 FRANK J. TUNIS, JR., 101 KELLY WAY,
21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE
22 BOARD OF THE SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY FOR
23 AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR. TUNIS'
24 CURRENT TERM EXPIRES ON JUNE 1, 2012 AND HIS
25 NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2017.

1 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be
3 introduced into its proper committee.

4 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: There is no second. The
6 motion dies for lack of a second and Item
7 5-H is defeated.

8 MR. ROGAN: I just want to --
9 personally I didn't second it, I'm sure my
10 colleagues will speak for themselves as well
11 because this is a reappointment to an
12 authority who is in front of us for a
13 bailout. Why are we going to reappoint
14 somebody who the board as a whole hasn't
15 been doing a good job, and that's why I
16 didn't second it.

17 You know, I'm sure he will still get
18 the appointment. That's the way it's worked
19 in the past and that's very frustrating.
20 Even when council shoots these appointments
21 down they still get on these boards.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's exactly my
23 comments, too, and I didn't see a resume.

24 MR. ROGAN: Neither did I.

25 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Krake.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's nothing personal
2 I don't think for any of us.

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-I. ACCEPTING THE
4 RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL
5 ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB") AND
6 APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
7 FOR QUAD THREE GROUP, INC., ARCHITECTS, 37
8 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET, WILKES-BARRE,
9 PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE ADDITION OF THE
10 VESTIBULE AND AN ELEVATOR TOWER CONSTRUCTED
11 OF STRUCTURAL MASONRY BLOCK WITH A MESASTONE
12 BLOCK VENEER TO CLOSELY RESEMBLE EXISTING
13 LIMESTONE AND FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE
14 EXISTING HANDICAP RAMP AT THE REAR OF THE
15 ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 500 VINE STREET,
16 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

17 MR. JOYCE: At this time I'll
18 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be
19 introduced into its proper committee.

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
4 have it and so moved.

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

6 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 33,
7 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A NO
8 PARKING ZONE IN THE 900 BLOCK OF NORTH
9 WASHINGTON AVENUE (S.R. 3023) ON THE WESTERN
10 MOST SIDE OF SAID STREET PURSUANT TO THE
11 HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT APPLICATION OF THE
12 COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL COLLEGE FROM SR 3023
13 SEGMENT 0090 OFFSET 1000 TO SR 3023 SEGMENT
14 0090 OFFSET 1219 FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO
15 HUNDRED NINETEEN (219) FEET.

16 MR. JOYCE: You've heard reading by
17 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

18 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
19 pass reading by title.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
2 have it and so moved.

3 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
4 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
5 FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
6 32, 2012 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
7 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO LEVY A REAL
8 ESTATE TAX MILLAGE INCREASE FOR A PERIOD OF
9 (10) YEARS DEDICATED TO RETIRING THE
10 UNFUNDED DEBT INCURRED IN CALENDAR YEAR 2012
11 IN THE AMOUNT OF NINE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED
12 FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$9,850,000.00) AND
13 DIRECTING THE CITY TREASURER TO SEPARATE THE
14 PROPER PORTION OF THE REAL ESTATE TAXES
15 RECEIVED FROM THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE DURING
16 SUCH TEN (10) YEAR PERIOD AND FORWARD SAME
17 TO A SEPARATE ACCOUNT TO SERVICE AND RETIRE
18 THE UNFUNDED DEBT.

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

22 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

23 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

24 MR. ROGAN: I would just say the
25 same thing I said the first two times I

1 voted against this legislation, it's getting
2 very frustrating being on the losing end of
3 4-1 and 3-1 votes, but this tax increase is
4 not just a tax increase, as I stated in the
5 past, it is tied into the unfunded debt.
6 Mr. Joyce mentioned that it was Court
7 ordered. At this point the borrowing is
8 passed, so those who voted for the borrowing
9 are going to vote for the tax increase to
10 back it up.

11 I didn't vote for the borrowing, I'm
12 not going to vote for the tax increase. The
13 residents of Scranton cannot afford record
14 another tax increase. The county is raising
15 taxes, the school district is raising taxes,
16 the city is raising taxes, the cost of
17 living is increasing. People just can't
18 afford it. Even the senior citizens,
19 although I believe there was a small cost of
20 living for social security this year, much
21 of that is offset by the increase in
22 Medicare premiums.

23 It's very frustrating to see every
24 local government going to the same solution,
25 and it's not a solution, it's perpetuating

1 the problem of debt and borrowing, taxing.
2 I requested to table the borrowing last week
3 until Mayor Doherty and Mr. McGowan came in,
4 unfortunately, nobody -- McGoff did second
5 it so we could discuss it, but it was shot
6 down. I would just like to reiterate my
7 opposition to this piece of legislation.

8 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else on
9 the question? I would just like to say that
10 this is a Court-ordered millage increase.
11 The last thing that I want to do is raise
12 taxes, however, we went to Court for the
13 unfunded debt and the judge ordered that the
14 millage be increased to recover the unfunded
15 debt, therefore, I will be voting "yes" to
16 this legislation. Is there anyone else on
17 the question? Roll call, please.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: No.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
4 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 22, 2012 -
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
6 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO ON
7 BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON A DEVELOPMENT
8 AGREEMENT WITH LWA ASSOCIATES LP. RELATED
9 TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS LAUREL
10 WOODS WITHIN THE CITY.

11 MR. JOYCE: What is the
12 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Community Development?

14 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
15 Committee on Community Development, I
16 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

18 MR. JOYCE: On the question? Roll
19 call, please?

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

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MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, before we
adjourn, this was just passed from one of
the residents in the gallery, I would like
to request, and I don't know if this can be
done, if the guests for next week's caucus,
and hopefully they show up, will be sworn in
and under oath, so I would just like to get
that out. I know we have done it in the
past. I believe Attorney Hughes did swear
in somebody, so if they could be sworn in
and under oath I think that would be a
better way to approach it rather than taking
them at their word.

MR. JOYCE: I would absolutely agree
if that could be done. If there is no
further business, I'll entertain a motion to
adjourn.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: This meeting is
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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