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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, June 21, 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
- FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT
- ROBERT MCGOFF
- PAT ROGAN
- JOHN LOSCOMBE
- NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK
- JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
- BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
15 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING MAY  
16 31, 2012.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. APPLICATIONS ALONG  
20 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING  
21 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 2012.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
25 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD JUNE 20,

1 2012.

2 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
5 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND  
6 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS REVIEWED AND  
7 RETURNED JUNE 14, 2012.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AUDIT STATUS FROM  
11 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. AS OF JUNE 7, 2012.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. THE OFFICE OF  
15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OECD)  
16 ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2013  
17 FEDERAL FUNDING THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT  
18 OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD).

19 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
20 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
21 clerk's notes this evening, Mrs. Krake?

22 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
24 council members have announcements at this  
25 time?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have a couple. On  
2 July 14, the Fraternal Order of Eagles,  
3 Lodge 314, is having it's fifth annual  
4 ribfest serving from 2 to 6 p.m. for an  
5 amazing low price of \$15. You will get a  
6 full rack of ribs, corn on the cob, baked  
7 potato, homemade baked beans and desserts.  
8 All of the proceeds with benefit prostate  
9 cancer in the area. There will be live  
10 music and fun all day long including a pie  
11 throwing contest, police canine unit demos  
12 and other various fun things to do  
13 throughout the day. Tickets must be  
14 purchased by July 10 by calling Stella at  
15 the club at 961-5495 or her cell phone  
16 570-814-3069.

17 Next, there is a benefit at the 20th  
18 Ward on June 30 from 6 to 11 p.m. to benefit  
19 the late patrol canine Grizzly. All  
20 proceeds are to be donated to the Scranton  
21 PD canine unit. Tickets are \$10 per adult  
22 and \$5 for children, and again, that's 20th  
23 Ward 2028 Pittston Avenue from 6 to 11 p.m.

24 And one that I have been mentioning  
25 the past few weeks, it's getting closer now

1 is the benefit for "Give Jim Lance a Second  
2 Chance" which will occur on July 14 from 5  
3 to 10 p.m. at Holy Rosary Center on West  
4 Market Street, and if you have any questions  
5 or would like to make a donation to the Jim  
6 Lance fund you can contact any Nicole Lance  
7 at 570-575-6752. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: The Scranton/Lackawanna  
9 County Taxpayers' Association will meet on  
10 Tuesday, June 26, at 6:00 p.m. in Scranton  
11 City Council chambers.

12 The Mary Mother of God parish block  
13 party will be conducted tonight until 11  
14 p.m. and Friday and Saturday June 22 and 23  
15 from 5 to 11 p.m. at the corner of West  
16 Market Street and Wayne Avenue in North  
17 Scranton. Live entertainment includes the  
18 Wannabees tonight, Picture Perfect on Friday  
19 and Sweet Pepper and the Long hots on  
20 Saturday. This annual event offers great  
21 food and fun for all ages. See you there,  
22 rain or shine. And that's it.

23 Before we proceed this evening with  
24 citizens' participation, we have a  
25 proclamation to present to the West Scranton

1 Neighborhood Watch, and I would ask if all  
2 involved would please come up to the front  
3 of the council chambers.

4 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
5 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring the "WEST  
6 SCRANTON HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH" for  
7 being selected by the National Neighborhood  
8 Watch Advisory Board and field experts as a  
9 winner of the 2012 Award for Excellence in  
10 Neighborhood Watch; and

11 WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Watch  
12 Awards of Excellence Program was established  
13 by the National Sheriff's Association in  
14 2004 to recognize and honor those law  
15 enforcement agencies, watch groups,  
16 organizations, and programs that make  
17 exceptional contributions to promote  
18 neighborhood watch and public safety in the  
19 communities; and

20 WHEREAS, the award was presented to  
21 the "WEST SCRANTON HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD  
22 WATCH" on Monday, June 18, 2012, during the  
23 National Sheriffs' Association Annual  
24 Conference and Exposition in Nashville,  
25 Tennessee; and





1            Their efforts have benefited the residents  
2            in the area of West Scranton and served as a  
3            reminder of how important it is to empower  
4            the people and the change that can happen.  
5            Further, the watch group organized  
6            skateboard contests, basketball games,  
7            outdoor movie events, and transformed an  
8            on-functional playground into a community  
9            garden.

10            NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that  
11            this Proclamation dated Thursday, June 21,  
12            2012 be made a permanent part of the Minutes  
13            of this Council, as lasting tribute to "WEST  
14            SCRANTON HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH"  
15            members, volunteers, neighbors and friends  
16            for their self-motivated volunteerism and  
17            hope that others will join them or follow  
18            their example.

19            This is Karen Foster, president of  
20            this group, and I would ask if you would  
21            like to present any comments publically we  
22            would love to hear.

23            MS. FOSTER: Madam President,  
24            members of city council, on behalf the West  
25            Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch we

1           thank you to this prestigious honor. As  
2           president of the Neighborhood Watch, I'm  
3           very proud to have a wonderful and inspiring  
4           group of residents, neighbors, and friends  
5           who have united to make West Scranton  
6           better.

7                         Recently a friend reminded me of  
8           quote from Margaret Meade, and without a  
9           doubt does embody the spirit of our members,  
10          "Never doubt a small group of thoughtful,  
11          committed citizens that can change the  
12          world. Indeed, it is the only thing that  
13          ever has."

14                        The Scranton Police Department's  
15          "Part of the Solution" award, the National  
16          Sheriff's Association's award of excellence  
17          for neighborhood watch groups, the  
18          proclamation given to us by city council  
19          this evening is testament to this. We have  
20          only begun our work in West Scranton, much  
21          more is in our future. None of the success  
22          we've had thus far would not have been  
23          possible without the ongoing support from  
24          Chief Duffy, the cooperation from Mayor  
25          Doherty, members of city council and all of

1 the city departments.

2 Finally, to our members of our  
3 neighborhood watch, you have contributed and  
4 sacrificed much for a mutual benefit. Thank  
5 you all very much.

6 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, before we  
7 start, I would just like to add I was  
8 driving down Linden Street the other day and  
9 I noticed the signs that the neighborhood  
10 watch are putting up and they cleaned  
11 different blighted areas, and I have lived  
12 in West Side my whole life, which I have  
13 been up and down Linden Street thousands of  
14 times, and I saw one of the signs placed and  
15 I looked to the left and I didn't even  
16 realize there was a home behind all of the  
17 blight. There was -- I wouldn't even know  
18 if you could call it a home, it's a shell,  
19 but I didn't even know it was there because  
20 of all of the overgrown weeds and brush and  
21 garbage. And I love seeing those signs  
22 throughout West Side, you know, it's great  
23 to see our neighborhood being cleaned up.  
24 As a Westsider myself, thank you very much.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

1 Mrs. Krake.

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

4 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker  
5 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
8 guess there is lot happening in the city.  
9 You know, the first day that you took -- the  
10 majority was up there, I said you should  
11 double the salary for your solicitor. You  
12 finally got around to doing it except you  
13 were a little late you should have done in  
14 the very beginning.

15 Your Parking Authority is preparing  
16 to sue you. There is no way that you can  
17 say it. When they change solicitors they  
18 didn't change because they wanted to change.  
19 They changed because one solicitor cannot  
20 sue the city and represent the Parking  
21 Authority at the same time. They have no  
22 way of making their bond issue. The only  
23 way they can make it is what he said right  
24 here, he said you are going to get the same  
25 people that paid for the first one that paid

1 for the second one.

2 I suggest that you draft legislation  
3 for filing Chapter 9 or Chapter 11,  
4 whichever. This the intent to file because  
5 when they come back at you that's the only  
6 thing you got over their heads. You should  
7 have had them resign before you gave them  
8 their first million. I told you that  
9 before, you should have made that a  
10 stipulation. You got a board in there that  
11 shouldn't be there, all they are going to do  
12 is drain the city of whatever assets we  
13 have.

14 Now, I don't know exactly what's  
15 going on down there, but there is something  
16 going on down there or that you would never  
17 been in a position we are in now. There is  
18 no way they can pay off \$100 million, I  
19 don't care, we'll all be dead before that's  
20 even done, and if somebody came in and  
21 bought the parking garages or police came we  
22 are still obligated for the bonds unless we  
23 can get enough money and this bond issue  
24 there is also stipulations about how many  
25 years before you can recall them. I went

1 through this before, that bond that you are  
2 supposedly going to do now probably has a  
3 recall provision that expired so you can  
4 recall it. That's for that 203 bonds, but  
5 you got to, got to, got to get up there and  
6 prepare to fight this mayor tooth and nail  
7 because really you know and I know that he  
8 tried to get out of the city the best he  
9 could and as fast as he could before this  
10 all came.

11 If you ever looked at the bond  
12 issues they ballooned, after so many years  
13 they ballooned the payments go up and up and  
14 up. They figured you would be out of here  
15 before they actually came down, but now they  
16 are down and the only way you can stop that  
17 because if the Courts get ahold of that,  
18 that they're going to sue, is if the Parking  
19 Authority sues you for another million  
20 dollars they are going to win in Court, and  
21 the only way you can stall it is if you have  
22 a letter of intent or something legally  
23 intent that you may file Chapter 9.

24 That gives you a little work because  
25 somewhere along the line they have to comply

1 with that and you are the legislation in  
2 that. No one else can draft the legislation  
3 but you people. You are it. You are the  
4 heart of the city. The mayor he should have  
5 been the head but, unfortunately, he lost it  
6 long ago. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

8 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie  
9 Quinn.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

11 MR. QUINN: Taxpayers' Association.  
12 Mr. Loscombe, last week you noted that on  
13 Mulberry Street the Mulberry Street  
14 headquarters fire station was a brownout  
15 last Thursday?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: On Mulberry Street,  
17 yeah, it's happening quite frequently. They  
18 did it before.

19 MR. QUINN: The reason is I live up  
20 on Ash Street, the Ash Street station has  
21 been closed for over a year, I should know.  
22 I live up on Ash Street almost where you go  
23 under 81 there, you know, so that Mulberry  
24 Street station used to come up, the fire  
25 engine would come up for any calls, so with

1           that closed for the fire up there last week  
2           probably the East Mountain probably would  
3           have had to cover it, so they would have had  
4           to come over and down 3307, it can't go over  
5           the Harrison Avenue bridge.

6                     MR. LOSCOMBE: That's correct.

7                     MR. QUINN: So it had to come down  
8           through Bunker Hill, you know. Why I  
9           mention this here is because of the fact  
10          these brownouts that are so dangerous and  
11          they are going to continue as we know with  
12          the mayor returning that \$3.1 million. Now,  
13          if you get a grant, and just not being  
14          arrogant by expertise is if you have a grant  
15          and you try to leverage what you have or  
16          parlay it into some other grant, for  
17          instance, with a state grant, you know, like  
18          Pennsylvania Department of Community and  
19          Economic Development, you know, they are  
20          monitoring PEL for the distressed cities,  
21          they have the neighborhood partial program  
22          whereby corporations can file -- get a  
23          corporate tax right off of a half a million  
24          dollars for a donation to help the city like  
25          this okay? Things like that, you know, all



1 he had to do is just look around. Obviously  
2 this mayor is vindictive and I just think he  
3 wants to fire -- get at the firemen and get  
4 rid of them as much as he can. I think he  
5 said that since day one back in 2002.

6 That disturbs me because, you know,  
7 when you are that far away and there isn't a  
8 fire station around it's very scary, and  
9 there is no doubt about it, when they do  
10 have this -- what's the name of this, there  
11 is going to -- there are still going to be  
12 brownouts, you know, because if you know  
13 anything about the fire companies, you know,  
14 days off and so on and so on, and it's going  
15 to be leave people out of we're going to  
16 have to close and brownouts stations.

17 Now, I went on-line and he looked at  
18 the FEMA SAFER grant, okay, and I looked at  
19 it and there was one thing in there that I  
20 want to give you, Mr. Loscombe, and maybe  
21 you can talk to Jack Judge about it, okay,  
22 since the mayor is returning this. It says  
23 that maintenance and staffing requirements.  
24 "Grantees who are unable to backfill the  
25 fire positions that were vacated due to

1 documentable economic hardship may petition  
2 FEMA for a waiver of staffing maintenance  
3 requirements. In order to qualify for this  
4 waiver, the economic hardship must effect  
5 the entire public safety sector in your  
6 jurisdiction and not only the fire  
7 department."

8 And I think that does and I think  
9 that I would rather see all of the stations  
10 opened with three people manning them and  
11 have two fire companies coming to my house,  
12 that would be six man, rather than hoping  
13 that one would be up there with four that  
14 would be the staffing requirement under the  
15 SAFER.

16 So I want to give this to you and  
17 maybe you can talk to Mr. Judge about it and  
18 see if it can be looked into, if isn't too  
19 late. I know it's on the agenda tonight.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 In my final few moments I would like  
22 to say, I want to follow-up on what Andy  
23 says I hope that you will consider Chapter  
24 9. You know, Mayor Doherty has been around  
25 for a years, four members of council, this

1 is his 11th year as mayor, so he is here  
2 almost as long as a distressed city, and as  
3 Andy said the bonds are ruined and  
4 everything and he wanted it out, okay, and  
5 now our good friends at the Scranton Times  
6 a/k/a Doherty newsletter, Doherty Gazette,  
7 is backing him 100 percent trying to knock  
8 you people, trying to back you into a corner  
9 with all of the news media and hoping that  
10 they will get up in arms against the city  
11 council and the majority of the city  
12 council. I hope you hold your guns and  
13 don't back down.

14 The Scranton Times has been just  
15 terrible to the community with the way that  
16 they have spun stories for Doherty in his  
17 favor that made him look good, you know,  
18 and, for instance, the renaissance. If this  
19 is renaissance wow. Okay? I would  
20 appreciate if you look at that. Thank you  
21 very much.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Les  
25 Spindler.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
2 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and  
3 homeowner and taxpayer. Well, it was on the  
4 news tonight that Mayor Doherty is going to  
5 take city council to Court to make them come  
6 up with a Recovery Plan. I hope this judge  
7 is smart enough to tell Mr. Doherty to sit  
8 down with council and try to get this  
9 settled together. This shouldn't be a Court  
10 issue. I don't think a judge should be  
11 telling the city council what to do, so  
12 hopefully that will happen because we can't  
13 be spending any money on Court battles, we  
14 are deep enough in debt.

15 Last week listening to your  
16 comments, Mr. Loscombe, I was very upset  
17 hearing that the mayor is going to refuse  
18 \$3.1 million of that grant. After that I  
19 fired off a letter to the editor, to the  
20 Times-Tribune Doherty newsletter, they  
21 didn't put it in because I questioned why  
22 wasn't it in the newspaper, let all of the  
23 citizens know what's going on, and three  
24 days later it was in the newspaper, what do  
25 you know? Hopefully my letter had something

1 to do with that because the people have to  
2 know what's going on in the city and to not  
3 accept money, free money to hire  
4 firefighters, to say if we are to lay them  
5 off in two years is a lame excuse.  
6 Hopefully he won't be around in two years,  
7 but we will have somebody here that actually  
8 knows how to run the city and maybe we will  
9 have the money to keep those firefighters  
10 on, but we are talking about saving people's  
11 lives here and we need all of the  
12 firefighters we can get.

13 I want to read something that was in  
14 the Doherty newsletter that really angered  
15 me. It's in Sunday's paper, "Words of  
16 Warning, health, safety, part of the Act 47  
17 bankruptcy rules. Mr. Doherty promises he  
18 will do what is necessary to protect the  
19 health, safety and welfare of the Scranton  
20 residents."

21 Well, if turning down money to hire  
22 firefighters is protecting the health,  
23 safety and welfare of the residents, that's  
24 news to me because this mayor doesn't care  
25 anything about the safety of the citizens of

1           this city and he just proves it all the  
2           time.

3                         Moving on, there was a letter to the  
4           editor in the newspaper today, and if you  
5           read it it sounds like Chris Doherty wrote  
6           it himself and then somebody else signed it.  
7           I just have a few words for that that I want  
8           to comment on. First of all, he criticizes  
9           council and the Legion of Doom claiming they  
10          know everything. Well, everything the  
11          Legion of Doom has come here to this podium  
12          and said has come true. Just look at all of  
13          the tapes of the last meetings for the last  
14          ten years.

15                        He goes onto say, this is good, "The  
16          mayor religiously tried to compromise with  
17          the unions," we all know that's not true,  
18          "Restored our park system, attracted  
19          developers toward downtown," and this a good  
20          one, "hired exceptional administrators to  
21          straighten out city hall."

22                        If Bob Scopelliti is an example of  
23          our exceptional administrators, we are in  
24          deep, deep trouble because as everybody  
25          knows the Parking Authority is in deep, deep

1           trouble as is our city, so whoever wrote  
2           this letter I think that person must have  
3           been in a coma for the last ten years  
4           because they don't know what's going on at  
5           all.

6                         And on that subject, too, as  
7           somebody said last week it's not to early  
8           talk about next year's election. Next year  
9           is the mayoral election and I am imploring  
10          everybody to talk to your friends and  
11          relatives, this mayor cannot be re-elected  
12          again, I had a business owner tell me last  
13          week, a downtown business owner, if he is  
14          re-elected this city will be a ghost town,  
15          and I firmly believe that, because if he  
16          gets his way and raises taxes 78 percent  
17          nobody is going to want to live in this  
18          city.

19                        Lastly, people might get sick of  
20          hearing me talk about this subject, but I  
21          have another Pit Bull attack. It's not  
22          here, but it was in San Diego, California,  
23          but it just goes onto prove how dangerous  
24          these dogs are. An eight-month baby boy was  
25          attacked by pit bulls and died. This is

1 just terrible. It's all you hear. It's all  
2 over the country, it's not just here, it's  
3 all over the country. They said the police  
4 took away three Pit Bulls and one of them  
5 was a family pet.

6 So as I've said in the past I hope  
7 council can come up with some kind of  
8 legislation to say how dangerous these cogs  
9 are and there should be special rules for  
10 them. That's all I have tonight. Thank you  
11 for your time.

12 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next  
13 speaker is Doug Miller.

14 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
15 Doug Miller, Scranton.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to once  
18 again begin this evening by addressing the  
19 mayor's proposed Recovery Plan. For those  
20 of you who may not be aware highlighting the  
21 mayor's plan is a 78 percent tax increase  
22 over the next three years along with a \$22  
23 increase in the garbage fee over a two-year  
24 period. Both proposals are extremely  
25 unrealistic to the taxpayers of this city at



1           this time.

2                       As we were all made aware, this  
3           afternoon around 2:30 the mayor did file a  
4           lawsuit in Lackawanna County Court seeking  
5           to have a judge demand that council pass his  
6           Recovery Plan, yet another ploy to try and  
7           get his way. The mayor's plan fails to  
8           obtain critical issues such as the recent  
9           Supreme Court ruling regarding payment to  
10          the public safety unions. This is vital  
11          information that must have before we can  
12          even consider adopting a Recovery Plan.

13                      For the past month or so the council  
14          majority has been ridiculously criticized by  
15          lone minority council member, the  
16          administration, as well as the Scranton  
17          times for "Not having plan." So I have to  
18          ask tonight, are they all living in a fog or  
19          are they just outright ignorant? I have to  
20          conclude that it's a combination of both.  
21          Remember, the mayor is on record as saying,  
22          "He just doesn't care anymore."

23                      The fact is that council majority  
24          has offered a plan not just for a Revised  
25          Recovery Plan, but in the budgets as well as

1           legislation. Unfortunately, ignorance took  
2           over and most of the council majority's  
3           efforts have fallen on deaf ears, but  
4           tonight let's once again briefly recap just  
5           a few of council majority's proposals for  
6           the Revised Recovery Plan.

7                       We have an enforcement of a 15  
8           percent parking tax on private and nonprofit  
9           parking garages in the city, an alternative  
10          parking meter program similar to the  
11          StreetSmart program; and finally, an  
12          aggressive pursuit of payments in lieu of  
13          taxes, also known as PILOTS from nonprofits  
14          within the city.

15                      However, none of these have been  
16          complied with or even considered by the  
17          administration. We cannot have a plan for  
18          recovery unless the mayor is willing to sit  
19          down publically with council and negotiate a  
20          fair plan that addresses all of the city's  
21          financial obligations, but most of all, it  
22          has to be in the best interest of the  
23          taxpayers of this city both short-term and  
24          long-term. What we have in front of us  
25          right now simply is not.

1                   Mrs. Evans, I believe there has been  
2                   some unfair characterization of you and the  
3                   rest of the council majority, and with that  
4                   said I hope it wouldn't be unfair of me  
5                   tonight to ask you to please respond to the  
6                   allegations made by the Scranton Times and  
7                   various cartoons such as the one we saw  
8                   today and editorials that we have read in  
9                   recent weeks and let's once and for all put  
10                  all their issues to bed so we can finally  
11                  move on with the every day city business  
12                  rather than having an editorial board tell  
13                  us how to run the city. Let's also keep in  
14                  mind this is coming from the newspaper that  
15                  moved it's plant to Waverly outside of the  
16                  city so it could avoid paying it's fair  
17                  share to the city.

18                  Moving on, in regards to the SAFER  
19                  grant, I can tell you tonight I'm completely  
20                  appalled with the mayor and his decision to  
21                  return \$3 million of the \$8 million awarded  
22                  to the city to restore a full compliment of  
23                  the firemen in the city. By giving back  
24                  this money, the mayor has yet again put the  
25                  safety of our citizens at risk. His actions

1 will result in the continuation of brownouts  
2 and decreases in response times. This  
3 ignorance on his part has me wondering if we  
4 need to consider a mental evaluation on his  
5 part because it just simply makes no sense  
6 whatsoever. Councilman Loscombe, you summed  
7 it up best last week, it is like winning the  
8 lottery and then saying, "Hey, you know  
9 what, I don't want all of it, take some of  
10 it back."

11 It makes absolutely to sense. I do  
12 not understand what goes through this man's  
13 behind yet again playing games and  
14 jeopardizing the health, safety and  
15 well-being of the residents of this city and  
16 he doesn't care. He has proven it time and  
17 time again and this action yet again speaks  
18 volumes of what he did by returning the  
19 grant.

20 Like I said, I think some kind of  
21 mental evaluation needs to be conducted  
22 because I can't understand what would go  
23 through an individual's mind to give that  
24 money back. The fact is that in two years  
25 over 40 firemen are eligible for retirement,

1                   therefore, it will cut costs. We also have  
2                   the opportunity to re-apply for the grant.  
3                   These are things he should be thinking of  
4                   because they are fact, but he doesn't care.  
5                   He has never taken our public safety serious  
6                   and he never will. Thank you.

7                   MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Miller.  
8                   Ron Ellman.

9                   MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

10                  MS. EVANS: Hello.

11                  MR. ELLMAN: I'd like to  
12                  congratulate the Capri Cruisers for having  
13                  such a successful car show Father's Day. I  
14                  must have talked to over 20 people about  
15                  politics and to a man every last one of them  
16                  was disappointed in council to say the  
17                  least. These are the people that are out in  
18                  the streets that put you in those seats.  
19                  You shouldn't have caved in. You threw  
20                  millions of dollars away and the same people  
21                  that have been blown millions of dollars are  
22                  still there. The greedy bankers look good,  
23                  Mr. Doherty looks good, Mr. Scopelliti looks  
24                  good, and council looks bad. I think the  
25                  only one going to come out of this positive

1 is Mr. Rogan. You know, don't be mad at the  
2 messenger now, this is what people are  
3 saying out there. Somebody may as well tell  
4 you, you know.

5 The city just is in such bad shape  
6 the people running it just don't -- they  
7 just don't seem to -- they have never had to  
8 do without. I talked to a poor guy today at  
9 the grocery store talking about the heat, he  
10 said he just sold two air conditioners for  
11 \$25, \$30 or something, I said, "I got one in  
12 my garage that works, I'll give you."

13 He said, "I sold my car last year to  
14 pay for my house and the expenses."

15 The people are sacrificing, they  
16 just don't have no where else to go. You  
17 guys and the city doesn't realize it. That  
18 money could have went all over the place, we  
19 are going to get sued anyway. Mr. Doherty  
20 is going to hold our houses for hostage  
21 again until the taxes are doubled and I'd  
22 like to see the day, his taxes are \$8,300,  
23 \$8,400, I'd like to see him pay \$15,000 and  
24 like it. My taxes doubled like \$2,500 and  
25 it's an effort.

1                   You know, the only thing in the  
2 world, there is one way and one way only to  
3 do something about this and it's not sending  
4 Mr. Doherty out there to talk to the  
5 University because they bought them all up  
6 just like the oil companies have bought and  
7 owned the government. You've got to send  
8 someone now up to Harrisburg and demand  
9 something be done about these greedy  
10 nonprofits. They have taken -- last week I  
11 told you Marywood took a house. A few  
12 months before that they took a \$200,000  
13 house. Every time you look in the paper,  
14 Jesus, thousands of properties are just off  
15 the payroll and it keeps going and going and  
16 never ends. Harrisburg is the only one can  
17 do something about it.

18                   You know, last week I read that  
19 article from 25 years ago it was a problem,  
20 now look at it. It's just never going to  
21 stop unless the city sends someone, like I  
22 said, to Harrisburg and I don't know if they  
23 are going to help. You know, this man has  
24 brought us to the brink of bankruptcy. I  
25 tell you, I bet it wouldn't be this way if

1 Mr. Bolus was running this city. He might  
2 not have the charisma of some people, but he  
3 knows how to run a business and I just can't  
4 imagine anybody, just anybody running the  
5 city to the ground and bringing it to the  
6 brink of bankruptcy like we are at doubling  
7 the taxes. Why don't you all get out there  
8 and talk to people? What are we getting for  
9 our money?

10 I told you over and over and over  
11 again I can't even walk down the sidewalk  
12 there is cars parked on it from Section 8  
13 houses with out-of-state license plates.  
14 Everything wrong is going on. I got a house  
15 across the street a block up the porch fell  
16 off, it was sold over a year ago to be  
17 remodeled, the man uses it for storage.  
18 It's not on the tax roll, he gets free  
19 storage in a condemned house. You know,  
20 nothing is done.

21 I showed Jack a house almost next to  
22 the yard is full of crap, it's -- the grass  
23 has never been cut this year, Mr. Juice's  
24 house, nothing is being done. My  
25 neighborhood is going to pot. That's



1           diminishing my house values. Well, you  
2           know, I saw in today's paper, Penn Water  
3           bought some property on Stafford Avenue and  
4           the city will be getting \$56,000, I hope you  
5           do something positive with that money, and  
6           you people just need to get back on the  
7           right track again and make the people that  
8           you put in those seats proud of you.

9                        Again, don't be mad at the  
10           messenger, you know, people tell me these  
11           things every place I go. They are just  
12           disappointed in everything. Everybody is  
13           concerned with the city, but that SPA is the  
14           epitome of cronyism.

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

16                       MR. ELLMAN: Well, something should  
17           have been done. Those people should have  
18           been fired last year. This shouldn't have  
19           been allowed to lose millions and millions  
20           and millions of dollars then take more  
21           millions to save them. Thank you.

22                       MS. EVANS: Gerard Hetman.

23                       MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
24           Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County  
25           Department of Community Relations. This

1 evening I'd like to announce that actually  
2 kicking of this evening beginning at 9 p.m.  
3 is the first movie, the first installment in  
4 the summers drive-in downtown outdoor movies  
5 series on courthouse square. The feature  
6 this evening is the Muppets and then there  
7 will be four additional movies over the  
8 course of the summer. Rudy will be shown  
9 June 23 -- excuse me, June 28; Mama Mia will  
10 be on July 12; Rocky will being on July 19,  
11 and a fifth movie yet to be announced will  
12 be held July 26. All movies begin at 9:00  
13 p.m. on courthouse square.

14 Also, a live radio show and town  
15 hall meeting on the topic of underage  
16 drinking will be held on Saturday, June 30,  
17 from 12:00 noon until 2 p.m. at center court  
18 at the Mall at Steamtown. The program is  
19 running by the Lackawanna/Susquehanna Office  
20 of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The live  
21 radio show involves WYLK, 91.5 KRZ, the  
22 Mountain, and Froggy 101. Refreshments and  
23 prizes will be offered.

24 Also, the Lackawanna County Parks  
25 and Recreation Department will be conducting

1 an adult tennis league at McDade Park. The  
2 league will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
3 July 10 through September 6. Games will be  
4 conducted from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for  
5 ages 21 and up. The registration cost is  
6 \$35. More information can be obtained and  
7 also registration can be conducted by  
8 calling 570-963-6764. That's 570-963-6764.  
9 And that's all I have for this evening.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: David Dobrzyn.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
14 David Dobrzyn.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Citizen of Scranton,  
17 taxes paid. I have a question maybe that  
18 can be answered during motions, if you  
19 people hadn't paid the SPA, and I thought  
20 it-- had an alternative thought in passing,  
21 if it went to Court, and you were ordered to  
22 pay or whatever would the original people be  
23 retained down there potentially so that's a  
24 question I had, and a lot of people  
25 criticized you because you paid it, but



1 problems just never end that where something  
2 has to be done, we can't look in the future,  
3 we always have to deal with the immediate  
4 situation. Zoning, we really need to zone  
5 out any further tax exemptions, LERTA  
6 included. If it's a really good deal that's  
7 wonderful, if somebody wants to move a Ford  
8 motor plant in here and employ 2,000 people  
9 well, I could say, yeah, okay, but if it's a  
10 fancy pants ya, ya that just wants a free  
11 lunch, well, then that's all we are getting  
12 and we are like a big cash cow for all of  
13 this and it's gotten it a point where I'm  
14 really starting to resent seeing taxes go up  
15 35 percent and the city tax exempt. It's  
16 impossible to makeup the difference  
17 reasonably.

18 And I had another thought, but it  
19 kind of jumped out of my mind. Well, I'll  
20 do the golden parrot. It goes to Scranton  
21 and our reporter down there in the corner he  
22 seems like a pretty nice guy, but you  
23 chilens' should be happy being our cash cow.  
24 We let you be our cash cow and you chilens'  
25 should just behalf yourselves.

1                   And the Congress in Washington they  
2                   have an investigation, they just held the  
3                   Attorney General responsible or in contempt  
4                   of Congress, and despite the fact that I  
5                   heard on the radio station a disclosure of  
6                   some of those who had exposed active  
7                   investigations, so if they want to disclose  
8                   active investigations I guess that's okay by  
9                   them, but it's not okay by most people.

10                   And, furthermore, it had a little  
11                   more to do once again the voting with all of  
12                   these requirements and people being kicked  
13                   off the rolls in certain states, that was  
14                   brought into the picture that Eric Holder  
15                   hadn't done enough, if anything, on the  
16                   voting issue, he should have been on that  
17                   three years. So thank you and have a good  
18                   night.

19                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
20                   anyone else who cares to address council?  
21                   (Whereupon Mr. McGoff takes the dais and  
22                   joins the meetings.)

23                   MR. HEMORSKY: This is my first time  
24                   here so I'm a little nervous about it, but  
25                   when I come up here for is about the taxes.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, first, excuse me.  
2 And welcome to counsel, if you could state  
3 your name and your address?

4 MR. HEMORSKY: Stan Hemorsky and  
5 good evening, council. You ready? I'm here  
6 about the tax hike for the disability. See,  
7 I have been on disability now since 1999 and  
8 I have been in Scranton 50 years. Now, if  
9 the tax hike goes up any higher I'm ready  
10 to -- I'm at the bottom, I can't go any  
11 more. If the tax hikes goes through I'm  
12 leaving Scranton period and I have to sell  
13 my home. And, you know, I had the home for  
14 a long time and I just -- I don't think it's  
15 unreasonable to even tax someone with a  
16 disability. How far could you stretch the  
17 disability check? It ain't far.

18 And what I'm trying to say is even  
19 when he goes to Court and he takes you to  
20 Court don't give in. Maybe make some  
21 exceptions for disability people, there is a  
22 lot out there, and we are, you know, trying  
23 very hard to live a normal life, a happy  
24 life, but the disability needs some looking  
25 into. Tax the rich, I don't have a problem

1 with that. But the poor, that's me, give us  
2 a break. That's all I got to say.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

6 MS. NIEHAUS: Good evening, Council.

7 I'm Debra Niehaus.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

9 MS. NIEHAUS: Member of the West  
10 Scranton and West Scranton Hyde Park  
11 Neighborhood Watch. I probably placed more  
12 than 50 calls last summer so I hope it had  
13 some positive effect calling 911. You know,  
14 nearly every week I prepare comments for  
15 this meeting only to have their relevance in  
16 large part eclipsed by developing events.  
17 Truthfully, I'm not even going to attempt to  
18 say all I believe needs to be said because  
19 the problems that the city faces are not  
20 unlike peeling an onion, and further, an  
21 attempt to say them all in five minutes or  
22 less is pretty much futile. I don't believe  
23 it can be done without huge explanations  
24 being omitted or without the risk of my  
25 being misinterpreted, and as a former print



1           journalist as well as an attorney I  
2           fundamentally try to avoid those  
3           consequences.

4                       I know that we don't need -- I know  
5           we don't need for starters, however, we  
6           don't need photographs such as this that  
7           have no justifiable concrete reason for  
8           their being taken other than the misuse of  
9           one's power in the press and the taking of  
10          obvious political sides, which a newspaper  
11          should be avoiding.

12                     The newspaper in this town should  
13          have one clear objective when writing about  
14          local governmental developments and issues  
15          and that is the reporting being accomplished  
16          with a keen eye and the four pillars of  
17          journalism that I learned at the University  
18          of Scranton while pursuing an undergraduate  
19          degree in communication and history. Those  
20          four pillars are fairness, accuracy,  
21          objectivity and balance, i.e., lack of bias.  
22          That's what any daily newspaper,  
23          particularly when it is the only one in  
24          town, should strive for and I mention that  
25          so that when you go to read various articles

1 written by the Times-Tribune reporters you  
2 ask yourselves those very quick questions.  
3 Was the article fair? Was it objective?  
4 Was it balanced and was is not biased and  
5 accurate? Obviously, the Times does hit the  
6 mark in my opinion at times. There are  
7 instances when Jim Lockwood, I believe his  
8 name is, does an admirable job in using the  
9 principals of the acronym FABO as his guide  
10 in his story, and I hope that when he does  
11 he receives the praise of his editors as  
12 well as his readers. It is all too often a  
13 fairly rare occurrence in this local paper  
14 and that, frankly, is ashame.

15 The other thing I would like to  
16 comment quickly on is there does seem to be  
17 a stalemate on several issues, and I make no  
18 bones about it, I tend to think it is the  
19 administration who attempts to strong arm  
20 this council into, for example, ginormous,  
21 as they say, tax hikes or thwarts council's  
22 proposed revenue generators through stalling  
23 or misinformation or other rather unsavory  
24 political tactics, and I tend to believe the  
25 city would be moving forward just fine if

1           those tactics had not been employed. They  
2           really did nothing but push us closer to the  
3           cliff without solution, without resolution,  
4           and these strong armed tactics or unpopular  
5           objectives usually end up having that  
6           effect. They reach a short-term goal, but  
7           they create a far more dire and far more  
8           complex problem or problems, but the other  
9           administrative did it and in their mind  
10          apparently there is nothing wrong with a  
11          huge tax increase being the substituted  
12          remedy.

13                         But the mayor must realize, he must  
14          realize as being the head of a local  
15          government that in the City of Scranton we  
16          have a high unemployment rate right now in  
17          the city. We have a high poverty rate in  
18          the city, and not everybody, let's be clear,  
19          is in type of predicament economically. All  
20          I can say is that Mr. Doherty must know a  
21          whole lot of people who have the income to  
22          handle these type of the increases without  
23          batting an eyelash. More power to them.  
24          The rest of us may do a lot more than bat an  
25          eyelash, however. Many of us would face

1           eviction, homelessness, loss of our property  
2           through defaults, tax sales or mortgage  
3           foreclosures.

4                       I have to ask, does our mayor has he  
5           thought through these tax increases  
6           thoroughly? Personally, I think what it  
7           would create is more than one tent city, a  
8           cardboard box city, within the city limits.  
9           These displaced people are going to have to  
10          go someplace. Chief Duffy won't be able to  
11          help in that situation, that will be the  
12          city's own creation, and it could very well  
13          happen.

14                      So without being disrespectful  
15          toward the wealthier segments of Scranton,  
16          if they did, indeed, support these tax  
17          increases that are being proposed by our  
18          mayor I don't see why we can't allow them to  
19          individually offer donations, donations  
20          larger than what they would otherwise pay  
21          toward taxes. In this way, the remainder of  
22          us, the used car bunch, not the BMW and  
23          Cadillac bunch, we would not be financially  
24          overwhelmed and overburdened. And then, you  
25          know, if we can, we can print up a nice

1 little booklet as was done in my original  
2 parish many years ago, and I'm not being  
3 facetious, if they so desired showing their  
4 larger contribution via a donation to the  
5 city. It's an idea and Lord knows we need  
6 ideas. May I finish?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

8 MS. NEIHAUS: Nonprofits, that's a  
9 nonstarter. Most of them have for profit  
10 assets and they should not be getting a free  
11 ride, plain and simple, that in my  
12 estimation is not even a point of debate.

13 And I'd like to say one final thing,  
14 I have a lot more to say and therefore my  
15 last point is I would like to see there be  
16 convened, if possible, round table  
17 discussions, caucuses on both sides of the  
18 issues, and counsel appointing who they feel  
19 would benefit -- be beneficial to those  
20 round tables and let us start resolving all  
21 types of issues that plague good government  
22 in the city and prevent it from taking hold.  
23 Thank you, Council.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

1 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.  
2 First I'd like to ask, Mr. McGoff, where  
3 were you earlier that you weren't here  
4 again?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

6 MS. FRANUS: Where were you while  
7 the people spoke?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I had another  
9 engagement.

10 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

11 MR. MCGOFF: I had another  
12 engagement.

13 MS. FRANUS: Another engagement.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. FRANUS: More important than your  
16 job at city council that we are paying you  
17 for?

18 MR. MCGOFF: I'm here.

19 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I'm here for the  
21 meeting.

22 MS. FRANUS: What did you say?

23 MR. MCGOFF: I'm here for the  
24 meeting.

25 MS. FRANUS: The meeting starts at

1 6:30 you were not here. Every year you are  
2 not here for public participation. You  
3 shouldn't shirk it off. I should maybe just  
4 take a little of your paycheck back. It's  
5 every week. It's too much. Anyway, I don't  
6 even know where to start here.

7 Boyd, I think you are doing a  
8 wonderful job and I hope this gets right  
9 back on the agenda to get your pay because  
10 the mayor is telling the city controller not  
11 to pay you. Why? I want the people to know  
12 why because if you take him to court you  
13 will win, unless the judge's are in their  
14 pocket again like they were before, and they  
15 don't want you to go to Court to fight them  
16 because they are a good lawyer, so that's  
17 the only way of stopping you is send the  
18 counsel court. They figure don't pay him,  
19 he won't go to court and represent council.  
20 This has to be stopped. The people have to  
21 know that you are getting paid to help them  
22 and they should thank you very much for all  
23 you are doing, because when the city sends  
24 the legislation down it's always wrong and  
25 you have to correct their dirty work. You

1 have you to correct their mistakes. You are  
2 not getting paid to correct their mistakes.

3 Just like last week Ryan McGowan  
4 said, "Tell me where we don't have something  
5 right. You show me and I'll fix it."

6 Let him find it himself, why should  
7 you do the work? Boyd, and I hope they --  
8 Mrs. Evans and the council, I hope you put  
9 that back on the agenda and make sure he  
10 gets paid the way he should for the work he  
11 is doing.

12 Another thing, I'm reading in the  
13 paper, Mrs. Evans, where council -- the  
14 paper is saying, "Where is your plan, where  
15 is your Recovery Plan?"

16 Well, if I'm not mistaken,  
17 Mr. Evans, you met with the mayor week after  
18 week and spoke to him on the phone numerous  
19 times it was quoted in the paper, and all of  
20 these things that you recommending him,  
21 like, StreetSmart, nonprofits, rental  
22 registration, all these things, many things  
23 that you presented to the mayor and he went  
24 along with it, then all of a sudden two  
25 weeks ago or three weeks ago he presents a



1 Recovery Plan, but not one thing that he  
2 promised you was in that Recovery Plan, and  
3 you said his word is worthless talk about --  
4 so how can you trust this man? And then he  
5 is recommending that you send two people  
6 from council to go to PEL and DCED, the very  
7 people that kept us distressed for 20 years  
8 that are in his pocket and doing his dirty  
9 work and advising him not to settle with the  
10 unions for the firemen and policemen. These  
11 people along with the mayor have gotten us  
12 where we are or the last 10 years, 11 years,  
13 and he wants you to have a mediator with  
14 these people, these very people that the  
15 city is the shape that they are in now?

16 And, Mr. Rogan, if and you  
17 Mr. McGoff even dare try to meet with these  
18 people, you have a right to do this, but we  
19 are going to know where you are coming from.

20 And, Mr. Rogan, another thing that  
21 gets me really upset about you, people stop  
22 me in the streets and say, "Pat Rogan is  
23 doing a good job."

24 I said, "What are you crazy? He is  
25 grandstanding."



1 last week when they voted to approve this?

2 MR. ROGAN: We had a difference of  
3 opinion. That's what's a --

4 MS. FRANUS: You are grandstanding.  
5 Just like when Mr. Loscombe a couple weeks  
6 ago presented a Court-ordered 10 percent tax  
7 increase, Court ordered, they didn't have a  
8 choice, but you voted against it. Did you  
9 want the tax increase?

10 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Franus, it wasn't  
11 Court-ordered, it was Court-ordered in the  
12 event borrowing was approved. I voted  
13 against both of them.

14 MS. FRANUS: You did it very easy  
15 because you knew the other council members  
16 would vote the right way for the people, but  
17 you always vote "no" to make people think  
18 you are doing such a wonderful job. People  
19 don't know what you're really like. You are  
20 not for the rest of the people.

21 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Franus, I have been  
22 consistent on what I say --

23 MS. FRANUS: I know you're  
24 consistent, you're consistent with  
25 grandstanding. Period. You don't have to

1 tell me that. Pat, I know you.

2 MR. ROGAN: I vote the way I feel is  
3 fair.

4 MS. FRANUS: You don't do any work  
5 all the time, you just hop on your band  
6 wagon and take credit for everything they  
7 do. I don't want to hear another word from  
8 you because I know where you're coming from.

9 MR. ROGAN: You know, somebody told  
10 me when I was first elected every time I  
11 went against Mrs. Evans that this was going  
12 to happen and I guess they were right.

13 MS. FRANUS: Pat, you are what you  
14 are. You are a grandstander. You make  
15 people think that you are -- you are not for  
16 them. You don't do any work at all for the  
17 people. All I know is I want the people to  
18 know that this council, Frank, Janet and  
19 Jack are working for the people, working for  
20 the people to stop their taxes. My taxes --  
21 say I pay \$500 in property tax -- not  
22 property tax, city taxes rather, with this  
23 78 percent increase it's almost \$400 more.  
24 That's just a hypothetical amount, I really  
25 don't know what mine are. It's probably

1 more than that. I can't afford that. I  
2 live by myself. How about these people that  
3 lives by themselves or maybe with another  
4 person? How can they afford it? There are  
5 people leaving this town in mass. This  
6 cannot continue.

7 And thank you very much for fighting  
8 for the people, because you are the only  
9 three that are doing it, and I wish the  
10 Scranton Times would stop lying because  
11 everything they say in the paper is not true  
12 and people don't see these meetings sometime  
13 and they think everything they say is true.  
14 It's not. They are all lies. You worked  
15 with the mayor and he turned around and put  
16 a knife in your back, and then they keep on  
17 saying where is your plan? Well, you went  
18 to him with your plan. He even said that he  
19 doesn't want to go after the nonprofits, I  
20 wonder why, because his family has a  
21 religious business. You think he's going to  
22 go to the University of Scranton and say,  
23 "Give us some more money." Come on. I  
24 don't go for this crap.

25 Please, I know maybe you can't say

1 too much, but I hope you can say enough that  
2 the people know what the truth is. When you  
3 can't speak, if you can't speak, I saw where  
4 the mayor is taking you to Court, and I hope  
5 -- can I say one more thing?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. FRANUS: He took you to Court  
8 last time because, Mrs. Evans, you amended  
9 would the budget, but when he was president  
10 -- or he was the Finance Chair when he was  
11 on city council and Mayor Connors was the  
12 mayor, Chris Doherty amended the budget, he  
13 was allowed to, but when you amended the  
14 budget he took you to Court and they ruled  
15 against you. Talk about politics. That's  
16 all.

17 So, Boyd, I hope you get your money  
18 and I hope you can fight this mayor. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. HUGHES: Thank you very much,  
21 and I will fight whether I get the increase  
22 or not.

23 MS. FRANUS: Thank you, Boyd, from  
24 everybody.

25 MR. UNGVARSKY: Hello, city council,

1 I'm Tom Ungvarsky and I'm a member of the  
2 Scranton taxpayers'. Over the last few  
3 weeks you have passed some things that most  
4 people have questioned, such as the LERTA.  
5 Here we are strapped for money and you are  
6 giving tax brakes to wealthy developers.  
7 You paid the \$1.4 million that the Parking  
8 Authority owes, has the insurer started any  
9 kind of action against the Parking Authority  
10 to put it into receivership?

11 MR. ROGAN: No.

12 MS. EVANS: The Parking Authority  
13 has until July 7 to remedy four or five  
14 events of default. To date, to my  
15 knowledge, they have done nothing to address  
16 those. If they are not all satisfied fully  
17 by July 7 then I believe there will be a  
18 receivership.

19 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay. They received  
20 their money and there is not another payment  
21 due until September. They may just hold off  
22 doing anything until September seeing as  
23 they have already been paid they can wait  
24 and see what happens with the next payment.

25 This past week WNEP ran about a

1 two-minute article about how distressed the  
2 City of Scranton is, how financially  
3 strapped they are, I wonder where they have  
4 been for the last ten years? Our mayor has  
5 had three consecutive runs at the mayorship,  
6 that means he has ran up approximately \$100  
7 million in debt for each term that he  
8 served. I think it would be nice if the  
9 radio stations brought out such things or  
10 the newspapers even covered it. I mean, we  
11 didn't get into debt in the last year or  
12 two, this has been going on for a long time.

13 Mr. Joyce, did you find out for me  
14 what the interest is and what percentage we  
15 made on that TAN loan?

16 MR. JOYCE: I don't have an answer  
17 yet, but I will request it again.

18 MR. UNGVARSKY: It seems like it  
19 should be public information, but thank you  
20 anyway.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. JONES: Hi. Bob Jones, City of  
23 Scranton, member of the Taxpayers'. I see  
24 we have ourselves another hostage situation  
25 that Chrissy started again running to the



1 judge and I see, of course, there is a big  
2 media blitz over it, and I know you guys are  
3 taken it well, but it just sounds like too  
4 many people it seems like the mayor is in  
5 touch with them. I just want to let the  
6 mayor know that I'm not willing to drink in  
7 his Kool-Aid, so I think all the bath salts  
8 you confiscated you put in that Kool-Aid so  
9 any voters out there better remember that,  
10 not everybody thinks the way you do,  
11 especially Steve Corbett's fan club they  
12 call up and say, "Oh, it's a great idea he  
13 went to the judge he is asking for help  
14 against the evil bulldog council."

15 Well, a lot of us are for the evil  
16 bulldog council, so call them what you want.  
17 And the guys at the Scranton Times,  
18 especially Chris Kelly and that John Cole,  
19 the cartoonist, you know, making cartoons  
20 and criticizing Janet even when she went  
21 through the death of her mother what she was  
22 going through the last couple of weeks and  
23 they kept right on going, "Why wasn't she at  
24 work and let's make a cartoon about her,"  
25 well, I think that's childish and you should

1 be ashamed of yourself, too, so as far as  
2 those four pillars go you don't have a  
3 pillar to stand on.

4 What else? Oh, I wanted to ask, I  
5 should send an e-mail to Senator Casey, by  
6 the mayor sending back half of the federal  
7 grant for the firemen would that jeopardize  
8 any future grants that the city might need  
9 from the federal government? Any  
10 negotiations on how much money we might need  
11 in the future? I'll write a letter to  
12 Senator Casey and I'll let you guys know  
13 what he said.

14 MS. EVANS: You can certainly  
15 contact your senator or any of your elected  
16 officials and explain to them your point of  
17 view and ask them to represent you and vote  
18 accordingly.

19 MR. JONES: If I get an answer I'll  
20 forward it to you guys. I know you guys are  
21 busy, I know you got your hands full. And,  
22 by they way, the firemen should have got  
23 that money directly. I had my doubts at  
24 first when they handed the money to the  
25 mayor to handle, I said -- I figured they

1 are going to pocket it or find some way to  
2 blow it, but at least he was honest and said  
3 he was sending it back. Well, let's see if  
4 he really sends it back so -- well, I want  
5 to thanks, Chrissy, for letting down the  
6 firemen once again and congratulations on  
7 the Times taking your side and Steve  
8 Corbett's fan club say hi to you. I hope  
9 there is not that many of you come election  
10 day. Thanks, guys, and if you decide to  
11 stare down the devil in the future, we'll be  
12 behind you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
14 anyone else?

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
16 Council. Marie Schumacher, resident and  
17 taxpayer. First of all, I have a couple of  
18 things that fall into the realm of  
19 Mr. Loscombe, and the first one is pretty  
20 simple. Those of us who get treated to  
21 M-80s going off around the holidays I just  
22 wondered if there is anyway to appeal to the  
23 police department to at least get out there  
24 pre Fourth of July and actually do something  
25 to stop the illegal use of fireworks, that

1 would appreciated.

2 And then second of all is,  
3 Mr. Loscombe, did you actually see or read  
4 the contract that stipulates that no charges  
5 filed against a police officer may be made  
6 public? Did you actually see that? I mean,  
7 I read it in the paper, but that was why the  
8 rogue officer that we have that was  
9 demoted--

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Have I seen a  
11 contract that stated that?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. You said you  
13 couldn't reveal the charges, and then I read  
14 in the paper the charges could not be  
15 revealed because that was a clause in the  
16 contract. Now, did you actually see the  
17 contract?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I did, some time  
19 ago.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who negotiated that  
21 contract?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it was --  
23 well, contracts are negotiated between the  
24 administration and the unions.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, does council

1 get to approve those?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I'm really  
4 disappointed. I hope you never do that  
5 again. I think we have a right to know,  
6 particularly when something like a rogue  
7 cop, as I say, that could be doing --  
8 putting pressure on people to do things I  
9 just -- I think, you know, I wish --

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: I can only do so much  
11 with my powers and duties, but I believe,  
12 you know, I mean, I have to abide by the  
13 legal system here and if the District  
14 Attorney's Office does not find charges, you  
15 know, it's -- it could work the other way,  
16 too. I mean, innocent people could be named  
17 and they are not guilty. So I have to abide  
18 by those regulations.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, there was an  
20 internal investigation, you said the person  
21 was demoted, the person is apparently still  
22 working and it bothers me a whole lot and it  
23 bothers me that it doesn't bother you all  
24 more.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: It bothers me, but I

1 have no power as you could see.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Moving on --

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: You need to speak  
4 with the chief.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Moving to 5-B, the  
6 grant. I was very excited, as I think you  
7 are all aware, when East Mountain fire  
8 station reopened and that's -- we got that  
9 SAFER grant, and I would like to see new  
10 officers hired to replace those who will be  
11 retiring. However, I also understand the  
12 mayor's position on if they had to be laid  
13 off at the end of two years, so I have two  
14 questions there. Number one, is it possible  
15 to reapply for the SAFER grant?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's definitely  
17 possible to reapply, but in light of  
18 returning the money I don't think they would  
19 be willing to offer it. That's my personal  
20 opinion.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: But it is possible.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, you can reapply  
23 every two years.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: The other thing I  
25 thought, and if you talk to Mr. Judge I'm

1 going to ask you to ask Mr. Judge something,  
2 but, also, would you please ask him not to  
3 talk about grant money as free money. We  
4 taxpayers pay for that whether it's through  
5 our federal dollars or state dollars or  
6 every penny that comes through. That's not  
7 a private grant, that's a government grant  
8 and it's not free. We pay.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, it's taxpayers  
10 money for everybody, but it was basically  
11 free money coming in. The city --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: I understand what a  
13 grant is. I understand what a grant is, Mr.  
14 Loscombe, but it's not free. Somebody is  
15 paying for it and it's a taxpayer. I also  
16 would like to know if you would discuss the  
17 possibility with Mr. Judge of the 40  
18 eligible retirees from the fire department  
19 if they could state whether or not they are  
20 definitely planning to retire before the end  
21 of the SAFER grant so that at least perhaps  
22 the money for those people could be money to  
23 replace those and train -- the replacements  
24 could be retained, so there is at least some  
25 kind of a middle ground instead of just

1           returning the all \$3 million.

2           MR. LOSCOMBE: This was discussed  
3 with the administration. So, I mean, they  
4 knew -- I'll explain it in motions a little  
5 bit more, but --

6           MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.

7           MR. LOSCOMBE: -- that was  
8 discussed.

9           MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you, and then  
10 finally I hope that you will invite -- as a  
11 council invite Attorney Schwartz back to  
12 discuss the possibility of what the options  
13 are because, frankly, I wish I knew how you  
14 could succeed from the city because I think  
15 East Mountain Village sounds pretty good  
16 right about now.

17           I took the time to go back to 2006,  
18 that's six years, of going through all of  
19 the financial records from the controller's  
20 reports to see through May how much of the  
21 annual amount had been expended, and I  
22 forecasted those out, and it look as though  
23 we are going to be, excluding the TANS  
24 because they are a wash, we get the money in  
25 and you do something with it, but you also



1           have to pay it back before the end of the  
2           year, so without the TANS it looks as though  
3           we are going to be \$5 million under revenue  
4           or -- so we are going to have a deficit  
5           there and some of them I don't understand  
6           why, why the figures are so far off, but it  
7           does look as though maybe Chapter 9 is the  
8           only course we have regretfully, that really  
9           bothers me, but I do hope that you can bring  
10          in Mr. Schwartz in or Attorney Schwartz in  
11          to discuss the experience in Harrisburg and  
12          at least give us some options. Thank you.

13                   MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14                   MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

15                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

16                   MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, up there by  
17          my house, Jack, they paved the whole thing  
18          down there. I want to thank you for helping  
19          me. I appreciate it. Thanks.

20                   MR. LOSCOMBE: All right, buddy,  
21          thanks.

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

24                   MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

25                   MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do

1           you have any comments or motions?

2                   MR. MCGOFF: I have nothing this  
3 evening. Thank you very much.

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

6                   MR. ROGAN: Yes. First I'll address  
7 a couple of things that were mentioned from  
8 the podium. I, as well as many of the  
9 speakers, have been very frustrated with the  
10 Scranton Times' coverage of the current  
11 situation in the city. Although I do not  
12 take my frustrations out on the journalists,  
13 because often times they may submit an  
14 article completely different than what's  
15 edited and placed in the newspaper, but I  
16 would urge them to call Pat McKenna at the  
17 Scranton Times of and have them print the  
18 truth about how we got into this mess.

19                   You know, Mayor Doherty is blaming  
20 all of this on council. This council passed  
21 two budgets. Two years. Mayor Doherty has  
22 been in office either as a council member as  
23 a mayor for 15 years. He constantly blames  
24 council in the paper, so the mayor says it's  
25 my fault. I was ten years old when he

1 started this journey of debt. I wasn't even  
2 old enough to vote, but it's my fault. I  
3 don't even think Mr. Joyce was old to vote  
4 15 years ago, but it's our fault. But the  
5 mayor is constantly looking for a scapegoat.

6 He says on TV that it was council's  
7 budget. As anyone who has a basic  
8 understanding of government would know, the  
9 legislative branch can only appropriate  
10 money. We can appropriate money however we  
11 see fit, but it's up to him to administer  
12 the budget. If council votes to borrow  
13 money, it's not the city council that goes  
14 to the bank to get the tax anticipation or  
15 to get the unfunded debt, it's the  
16 administrator, it's the mayor. I think the  
17 mayor really needs to go back to an eighth  
18 grade civics class.

19 Not only is he incorrect in stating  
20 that council needs to go out and do these  
21 actions, ut, now he is getting the courts  
22 involved with a matter they should not be  
23 involved with. It's a matter of the elected  
24 officials, it's not a matter for the courts.

25 Moving on, a couple of the other

1 things that were mentioned, Mrs. Franus, I'm  
2 glad that people you spoke to think I'm  
3 doing a good job. The issue of me  
4 grandstanding, I voted against the  
5 legislation six times. The first time I was  
6 the only one that voted against it. The  
7 second time I was only one that voted  
8 against it. The third time I was very  
9 pleased when Mr. Loscombe and Mr. Joyce  
10 voted against it with me, and they know how  
11 happy I was after that meeting that it was  
12 shot down. I was consistent across the  
13 board. It wasn't a vote that my vote didn't  
14 matter because it did. Every time I was  
15 consistent on it. So we have a difference  
16 of opinion there, and that's fine, I'll  
17 explain my vote and where I'm coming from  
18 any day. That's not a problem at all.

19 Next onto -- before I just address  
20 the Recovery Plan I do want to talk about  
21 the Parking Authority a little bit. An  
22 article in today's paper, which contains  
23 some good news and some bad news. The  
24 headline is, "Scranton Parking Authority  
25 appoints former Lackawanna County Solicitor

1 as new SPA solicitor."

2 The first time Mr. Kelly was in  
3 these chambers I asked him the question, "It  
4 is a conflict for you to be both the city  
5 solicitor and the solicitor for a board if  
6 the city backs their debt?"

7 Every time he has stated it is not a  
8 conflict. He has finally admitted he was  
9 wrong all along by resigning his position as  
10 solicitor for the SPA. That is the good  
11 news. The bad news is Mr. O'Brien, the new  
12 solicitor who I haven't met yet, is claiming  
13 that the defaults are not fatal and it seems  
14 that the Parking Authority is going to fight  
15 to stay in operation, which I hope doesn't  
16 happen. I hope it's placed in a  
17 receivership and the assets are -- some  
18 assets are sold off so debt is paid down and  
19 they get competent managers in there. Mr.  
20 Scopelliti and the other crony hires that  
21 the mayor has placed in the management of  
22 the Authority, not the employees, the  
23 employees from all accounts do a very good  
24 job with limited resources, but the  
25 management of the Authority has to be

1 removed. There is no way we can continue  
2 down this path of borrowing and borrowing  
3 and borrowing. You know, I run into people  
4 all the time who talk about different issues  
5 and somebody really summed it easily to  
6 understand for everyone else, he said it's  
7 like borrowing a million dollars and when I  
8 can't pay it back you pay it back. That's  
9 what the Authority did because they knew at  
10 the end of the day they could spend free,  
11 they could spend all the money they want,  
12 they didn't care about their debt payments  
13 because they knew at the end of the day the  
14 city would be here. That's why this  
15 leadership has to go.

16 Next, onto the Recovery Plan, I  
17 believe everyone has received the same  
18 letter from DCED asking that council meet to  
19 discuss a revised Recovery Plan, and I have  
20 stated this before and I will state it until  
21 it's done, I do not support the mayor's plan  
22 for a second because of the tax increase.  
23 With that being said, I think all five  
24 members of council and the mayor and any  
25 other interested parties, whether it be the

1 unions, whether it be PEL, whether it be  
2 DCED, sit down and negotiate. If the mayor  
3 is not willing to negotiate in good faith,  
4 which very well may be the case, then it's  
5 on him, but I firmly believe we should all  
6 sit around the table and discuss. I think  
7 every one of us has ideas that are not in  
8 the Recovery Plan that they would like to  
9 see and those ideas would reduce the tax  
10 increase. The residents of Scranton cannot  
11 afford the mayor's Recovery Plan. They  
12 absolutely cannot.

13 If the mayor is going to stand by  
14 his guns and say, "This is how we want to do  
15 it," he is probably the first mayor in the  
16 history of the country to sue a body who is  
17 trying to stop tax increase of nearly 100  
18 percent if you think about it over the  
19 years, so we will see what happens with the  
20 lawsuit. I don't want to comment too much  
21 on that now. We'll leave that to Attorney  
22 Hughes. All I will say about it is it's  
23 really a sign that the mayor is desperate.  
24 As many of the speakers mentioned, he has  
25 always planned on being out of here before

1 the house of cards collapsed and it's  
2 starting to collapse now. It's not because  
3 of this council, it's because of the last 15  
4 years of councils. It's because of the  
5 mayor.

6 When Mayor Connors was in office  
7 people thought, oh, we are in terrible  
8 shape. I bet every single person in this  
9 city would love to go back to those days,  
10 take the debt from those days, the amount of  
11 employees we were paying for this those  
12 days, especially the taxes that we paid  
13 under Mayor Connors.

14 Mayor Doherty makes -- he doesn't  
15 apologize for wanting to raise taxes. He  
16 has made it very clear that he is a tax and  
17 spend politician from day one, and that has  
18 been his plan. Nay Aug Park looks nice, we  
19 have spent far too much money there. All of  
20 the money that's been wasted. And the worst  
21 part about most of that money is wasn't even  
22 tax dollars coming in, they with borrowing  
23 against future tax dollars that would come  
24 in. When you do that the taxes eventually  
25 have to go up to meet the debt payments.



1           When taxes go up, people leave the city for  
2           lower taxes, and those of us who are left  
3           are stuck paying more because the size of  
4           the city is not going to get any smaller  
5           unless Mrs. Schumacher gets her East  
6           Mountain branch, which would be pretty nice.

7                     But I'm hopeful that all five  
8           members of council will sit down with or  
9           without the mayor and discuss the ideas that  
10          we have. As I have mentioned before, I did  
11          vote for Mr. McGoff's motion to put the plan  
12          on the agenda, that does not mean I support  
13          the plan by any means, but I do think it  
14          needs to be discussed.

15                    I will comment on the agenda  
16          items -- a comment real quickly now. I  
17          agree with Mr. Loscombe, and some of the  
18          speakers have said about the FEMA grant,  
19          part of it being returned, and it is not  
20          free money, it is taxpayer dollars, federal  
21          taxes paid by everyone in the country, but  
22          it's a nice windfall for the city to receive  
23          that to help our budget for a few years, but  
24          for the mayor to not sit down again, it's  
25          the lack of communication that we have seen

1 with the mayor and council, the mayor and  
2 the unions, the mayor and the people. The  
3 one common denominator is the mayor. It's  
4 not just that he can't talk with council, he  
5 chose to fight the unions for ten years when  
6 he could have sat down at the table and  
7 talked to them and this is the same issue.

8 I trust what Mr. Judge and what  
9 Mr. Loscombe say more than the mayor when it  
10 comes to public safety, especially the fire  
11 department, where there could have been an  
12 agreement made. Sit down all of the guys  
13 that are near retirement age, "How long do  
14 you plan on staying?"

15 Figure out on where everyone stands  
16 so we can get the most bang for the buck on  
17 the grant, and it's for the safety of the  
18 people. It's not for me. It's not for the  
19 mayor, it's not a political thing, it's for  
20 the safety of the people. But the mayor has  
21 this grudge against the public safety unions  
22 since day one. Since day one when he came  
23 into office he has been going after the  
24 public safety unions. Meanwhile, the DPW  
25 runs rampant racking up overtime every day.

1                   Something has to be done. I would  
2                   hope that the mayor would come to his senses  
3                   and realize if he keeps on his current path  
4                   the city is going to fall apart and he needs  
5                   to sit down with council and negotiate in  
6                   good faith. He should have sat down with  
7                   the unions and negotiated in good faith,  
8                   would have saved us tens of millions of  
9                   dollars, but that is all I have for tonight.  
10                  Thank you.

11                  MS. EVANS: Thank you and,  
12                  Councilman Loscombe, do you have any  
13                  comments or motions?

14                  MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, just  
15                  a few quick comments. I'll pass this onto  
16                  Mrs. Krake, but there is a couple of  
17                  condemned properties on Cherry Street, I'll  
18                  give help the exact address and that were  
19                  boarded up, but the boards have -- some of  
20                  the boards have been removed and this  
21                  building has to be secured because there is  
22                  some vagrants going in and out of the  
23                  properties, so I'll pass that on.

24                  I do want to thank the crew from the  
25                  DPW that responded to South Side the other

1 day. There was a situation up off Hickory  
2 Street and, you know, the gentleman was  
3 planning a Father's Day cookout and  
4 everything and I do want to thank the crew  
5 for getting up there and removing the debris  
6 from behind his property and hopefully we  
7 can straighten that out with the property  
8 owner.

9 And then again, it was touched on by  
10 several speakers, you know, I laid into a  
11 little bit last week as far as the SAFER  
12 grant went, you know, I haven't changed my  
13 feelings. I think it's a slap in the face  
14 to everyone in this city to, you know,  
15 compromise your public safety when it could  
16 have been fully complete. I know that there  
17 were discussions on how -- because there was  
18 some questions as far as layoffs down the  
19 road. There was an excess of 40 some who  
20 would be eligible to retire at that point,  
21 those situations could have been worked out.

22 There was a situation or a question  
23 on training since, you know, part of the  
24 contracts deal with the training in the  
25 Harrisburg Community College. The

1 firefighters were willing to do their  
2 training in-house since we have several  
3 certified firefighters who are trainers now,  
4 which would have saved significantly,  
5 although, all costs are born by this  
6 program.

7           You know, we were asked can we  
8 reapply again? Certainly we could reapply  
9 again, but, you know, I don't think the  
10 federal government is going to look at us  
11 favorably now after handing money back. It  
12 would have been a lot easier to reapply  
13 after taking the full amount of money. It's  
14 just the same old agenda to me. It appears  
15 that the administration's agenda is not  
16 dealing with your public safety. They keep  
17 touting public safety and welfare of the  
18 public and every column in the newspaper  
19 every time something comes up they are  
20 talking about, you know, the Recovery Plan  
21 that's based on the health, safety and  
22 welfare of the public.

23           You know, here they had the  
24 opportunity to provide you the proper  
25 health, safety and welfare and I assure you,

1           you know, we have it on the agenda tonight  
2           to pass the amended amount, and I will be  
3           voting for it, unfortunately, I'm  
4           disappointed. The only reason I'll be  
5           voting for it so we can get this money here  
6           before the mayor decides to send the rest of  
7           it back and, you know, get our men back up.  
8           But, unfortunately, things aren't going to  
9           change that much. We are still going to  
10          have browned out stations, and God forbid  
11          the time the stations that are browned out  
12          in your neighborhood and something happens.

13                   I don't understand the mindset, you  
14          know, he will take any grant for a park that  
15          he can't maintain, but he will turn away  
16          money to provide safety which your taxpayers  
17          are dollars are paying for. Your public  
18          safety. He screwed up the COM-D money for  
19          police officers last year and we are not  
20          eligible now until next year for them, so  
21          you tell me if he is concerned about your  
22          health, safety and welfare, but I will be  
23          voting tonight for approval so we can get  
24          these men back and, you know, hopefully keep  
25          you protected to the best of their ability

1 but they were willing to work with the  
2 administration on several issues. You won't  
3 read that in the newspaper, I'm not even  
4 going to touch that either because you know  
5 how I feel on the newspaper, too.

6 But as far as the lawsuit goes, I  
7 found out that from a call from the  
8 newspaper reporter. That's how I found out  
9 the mayor was suing us today. And, you  
10 know, that's the first place he runs with  
11 his get together with the editorial boards  
12 and the stuff like that, but that's how he  
13 respects us and he respects you.

14 You know, we did have communication  
15 going for several weeks there, but I think  
16 as Mrs. Evans said it's the same ole' same  
17 ole'. You walk out of there, you are  
18 discussing something, you think you are  
19 getting somewhere, you think you have worked  
20 a deal out and you walk away and boom you  
21 are stabbed in the back and it's all  
22 distorted through the ink. They have  
23 barrels of ink. Unfortunately a lot of  
24 people don't see this live so they believe  
25 everything they read in the paper.

1 Mr. Ellman, if a lot of these people  
2 happened to see the meetings live I think  
3 they would understand a little bit better.  
4 We don't have all of the answers, but I'll  
5 tell you what, we have been trying dammed  
6 hard the last couple of years. We are not  
7 at the edge of the cliff overnight.

8 And again, I believe the newspaper  
9 has been an accomplice to the condition of  
10 this city. They have stood by for the last  
11 11 years and not said a word, but yet they  
12 continue to put cartoons in and editorials  
13 about us. We have big shoulders. We are  
14 fighting for you and we will continue to  
15 fight for you. Ink doesn't hurt me. I tell  
16 the truth and I tell it right here.

17 And as far as the lawsuit goes, I'm  
18 looking forward to standing up for you in  
19 Court and letting them know the truth.  
20 Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman  
22 Joyce, do you have any comments or motions?

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Tonight I wanted  
24 to say that like Councilman Loscombe's  
25 stated before, I will be voting in favor of



1 the SAFER grant, however, I am very appalled  
2 by the fact that the mayor is returning some  
3 of the money that could have been used to  
4 put more firefighters back on the job.

5 As we know, he could have applied  
6 for this in two years and in addition to  
7 that there are many people eligible to  
8 retire, which would have saved our  
9 unemployment costs, but we have what we have  
10 right now.

11 To report, our tax collector, Bill  
12 Courtright, has submitted a number of checks  
13 to the city totaling \$323,119.28. A  
14 breakdown of the checks sent to the city are  
15 as follows: Local service taxes, commonly  
16 referred to as LST, \$9,966.84. Earned  
17 income tax, \$93,368.06. Business privilege  
18 tax, \$37,570.62. Real estate tax,  
19 \$163,115.75 and the delinquent real estate  
20 tax, \$19,097.56.

21 As one can see, real estate tax was  
22 sent to the city now that our tax  
23 anticipation note is fully paid off and all  
24 future real estate tax distributions will be  
25 distributed to the city.

1                   As I stated last week, Scranton City  
2 Council has received an audit status update  
3 from Rossi & Rossi, as was mentioned early  
4 in Third Order, regarding some outstanding  
5 items. In Rossi & Rossi's correspondence  
6 they indicated that there are 12 overdue  
7 items and eight open memos as of June 5.

8                   A few weeks ago our business  
9 administrator, Ryan McGowan, indicated in an  
10 audit status report that the audit would be  
11 completed in July of this year. In the  
12 audit status report he also indicated that  
13 many of the old items would have been  
14 completed in the beginning of June.

15                   Mrs. Krake, did Mr. McGowan provide  
16 an audit status update as we have asked?

17                   MS. KRAKE: No, he did not.

18                   MR. JOYCE: Okay, with that in mind,  
19 please resend this request and as it is  
20 vital that our audit is completed in a more  
21 timely fashion than it was last year.

22                   Northeast Revenue, who collects our  
23 delinquent taxes besides 2011, which is  
24 collected by the tax office, has sent us a  
25 report of funds collected and distributed.

1 A period of collection for the report was  
2 from June 5 to June 18. During this  
3 timeframe Northeast Revenue collected a  
4 total of \$53,290.27. Out of this total,  
5 \$38,315.81 was distributed to the City of  
6 Scranton and \$14,974.46 was distributed to  
7 Pennstar Bank. The amount distributed to  
8 the Pennstar Bank represents delinquent  
9 taxes collected from 2004 through 2005 and  
10 2006. As one may or may not know, the  
11 Scranton Redevelopment Authority defaulted  
12 on a loan taken out on the advance sale of  
13 delinquent taxes from those years. With all  
14 of this in mind, delinquent taxes for those  
15 years that are collected by Northeast  
16 Revenue are directed directly to Pennstar  
17 Bank.

18 And I do have a few citizens'  
19 requests: West Scranton residents have  
20 reported to me that the 200 block of North  
21 Everett Avenue is in rough shape as various  
22 cracks in the road and potholes are making  
23 travel conditions difficult.

24 Mrs. Krake, with this in mind can  
25 you contact Director Dougher and ask him to

1 handle the situation in the best way that he  
2 sees fit.

3 Residents of the 1100 block of Farr  
4 Street have contacted me in regard to the  
5 property located at the corner of the 1100  
6 block of Farr and North Sumner Avenue. Upon  
7 visiting the site, it can be seen that the  
8 outside of the property is in poor  
9 condition, being the grass on the property  
10 and also on the adjacent side of the  
11 property of North Sumner and it's three feet  
12 high. It doesn't appear that it's been cut  
13 one time this summer.

14 Mrs. Krake, if you can please  
15 contact Director Seitzinger regarding this  
16 property and ask him to handle it the best  
17 way that he sees fit.

18 Various residents of the 300 block  
19 of Merrifield Avenue inform me that there  
20 are numerous potholes and cracks in the road  
21 making for some very rough travel  
22 conditions. Mrs. Krake, please add this to  
23 the list to contact Director Dougher about.

24 Residents of the Keyser Valley  
25 section have informed me that there is a

1 large pothole at the stop sign connecting  
2 Lafayette Street and Cameron Avenue.

3 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the  
4 items to contact Director Dougher about.

5 South Scranton residents report that  
6 the property located at 429 and 421 Cherry  
7 Street is in poor condition, contains  
8 overgrown weeds and grass.

9 Mrs. Krake, please add this the list  
10 of items to address with Mr. Seitzinger.

11 And South Scranton residents report  
12 that the property at the corner of Breck  
13 Street and Curtis Court is becoming an  
14 eyesore for residents as there is overgrown  
15 grass and weeds over two feet high.

16 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the  
17 list of items to contact Mr. Seitzinger  
18 about, and that's it for tonight.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman,  
20 Joyce. Good evening. At the advice of  
21 Solicitor Hughes, city council will not  
22 comment on the mayor's lawsuit against it at  
23 this time. However, it has come to  
24 council's attention that the mayor's revised  
25 Recovery Plan is flawed, therefore, on

1           behalf of Scranton City Council I ask  
2           Mrs. Krake to send letters to C. Alan  
3           Walker, secretary of DCED, and Gerald Cross  
4           of the Pennsylvania Economy League to revise  
5           the proposed plan since he did not include  
6           the following items which have an effect  
7           upon the city's financial condition:

8                     One, the governor's certification of  
9           the city's last two US census that  
10          demonstrate the city's population is less  
11          than 80,000 and the city by law is a Third  
12          Class City.

13                    Two, the Scranton Parking  
14          Authority's insolvency which has required  
15          the city to provide \$1 million to the  
16          trustee to make it's June 1, 2012, bond  
17          payment and the Scranton Parking Authority's  
18          potential default on it's September 15,  
19          2012, bond payment of \$1 million; and  
20          December 1, 2012, bond payment of \$850,000.

21                    Third, the continued insolvency of  
22          the Parking Authority for the next 26 years  
23          since it's yearly bond payments will only be  
24          \$3.4 million per year, but it's revenues are  
25          currently only \$3 million, and with

1 operating expenses the Parking Authority's  
2 deficit will be between \$1.6 million and  
3 \$2.4 million for which the city is  
4 responsible.

5 Four, the sale of the parking  
6 meters, which can only can be done by the  
7 city's guarantee of Parking Authority  
8 borrowing, and the city will not do such  
9 since it would increase the city's guarantee  
10 of Parking Authority debt from \$100 million  
11 to over \$106 million.

12 Five, the failure to include the  
13 police and firemen's arbitration awards  
14 which exceed \$30 million, and I would say  
15 the failure to include any negotiations or  
16 settlements that may have been reached  
17 between the city and it's unions.

18 Now, it's important to remember that  
19 under the Recovery Act DCED and PEL can  
20 amend the proposed Recovery Plan before  
21 adoption since the mayor has refused the  
22 bulk of council's recommendations. It  
23 behooves PEL and DCED to amend these  
24 significant flaws in the mayor's plan.

25 Next, in June 2012 Fidelity Bank

1 seized approximately \$166,000 from the  
2 Scranton Parking Authority for repayment of  
3 apparently a line of credit. Now, I had a  
4 few questions regarding this money,  
5 therefore on behalf of Scranton City Council  
6 please send letters to Mr. Ryan McGowan and  
7 Mr. Robert Scopelliti requesting responses  
8 on or before July 2, 2012, to the following  
9 questions:

10 From what budgetary account and bank  
11 account was the \$166,000 Fidelity Bank  
12 attachment taken? Were any of these funds  
13 taken from money belonging to the City of  
14 Scranton, that is, parking meter revenue?  
15 Why wasn't the \$166,000 used to pay the  
16 trustee BNY Mellon in order to pay down the  
17 SPA bond?

18 Also, Mrs. Krake, please send  
19 another letter to Ryan McGowan requesting a  
20 reply to the following question on or before  
21 June 26, 2012: On Wednesday, June 20, 2012,  
22 you forwarded an e-mail to city council  
23 members stating that the cash balance on  
24 June 20, 2012, was \$652,587.67. From what  
25 accounts, funds and/or revenue sources were



1           you able to provide the necessary remaining  
2           dollar amount to make the June 22, 2012,  
3           payroll and continue to carry a balance of  
4           \$150,000?

5                         On a very positive note, Mr. Thomas  
6           Hasham, local businessman and owner of Good  
7           Fella's Pizza, has generously offered to  
8           donate mulch to the playground in Pine  
9           Brook, and I would ask our office to please  
10          contact Mary Chilipko so that we might be  
11          able to coordinate a delivery date and a  
12          time and Scranton City Council thanks  
13          Mrs. Hasham for his generosity to the Pine  
14          Brook neighborhood.

15                        I think I'll just add a bit more to  
16          clarify some of what Mr. Rogan alluded to in  
17          his motions tonight. Last Friday, June 15,  
18          I was contacted by Alan Walker, secretary of  
19          Economic and Community Development, and  
20          asked to participate in a mediation session  
21          regarding the revised Recovery Plan.

22                        Although I told Secretary Walker  
23          that I felt the state and DCED had turned  
24          their backs on Scranton taxpayers, that DCED  
25          was responsible for the historic Supreme

1 Court awards to Scranton police and fire,  
2 that DCED and PEL provided their blessings  
3 for the last 11 years to the unbridled  
4 borrowing, spending, and financial  
5 mismanagement of the Doherty administration  
6 and that DCED had never responded to city  
7 council's letter of request for the  
8 appointment of a new Act 47 overseer to  
9 replace the Pennsylvania Economy League, I  
10 agreed to contact council members to ask for  
11 their participation and a Harrisburg  
12 mediation session and provide a reply to  
13 them on Monday, June 18.

14 In addition, Secretary Walker  
15 suggested that PEL might be replaced if  
16 council were to go to mediation, that DCED  
17 would be sure to speak with the banks to  
18 secure money for this city if we pass the  
19 revised Recovery Plan, and that if we failed  
20 to do so this council will be blamed for the  
21 loss of police, fire and garbage removal  
22 services in our city.

23 Based on the responses I received  
24 from my council colleagues, I issued an  
25 invitation to the DCED secretary by phone

1 and at the request of Mr. Champ Holeman, I  
2 placed that invitation in written form, and  
3 council's office forwarded it to DCED, the  
4 Pennsylvania Economy League, the mayor, and  
5 the Scranton Times on June 19.

6 At this time, I would like to read  
7 my correspondence to you. "On behalf of the  
8 Scranton City Council, I would like to  
9 invite C. Alan Walker, the secretary of  
10 Economic and Community Development, Gerald  
11 Cross, Pennsylvania Economy League, and  
12 Mayor Christopher doherty to meet with the  
13 members of council to discuss and negotiate  
14 a plan to help alleviate the current  
15 economic problems facing Scranton. We are  
16 hopeful that we can find solutions which  
17 meet the core requirements of all  
18 stakeholders, including potential lenders,  
19 and which would significantly lower the tax  
20 increases contained in recent proposals.

21 While we appreciate the offers of  
22 the mediators or arbitrators, we feel that  
23 is critical that Scranton's key elected  
24 officials resolve the issues that impact  
25 Scranton citizens so profoundly.

1                   Please contact Mrs. Nancy Krake,  
2                   city clerk, with her phone number, to  
3                   coordinate a schedule for these meetings."

4                   Because all council members  
5                   expressed an interest in a meeting that  
6                   included both majority and minority members,  
7                   I was hopeful that Secretary Walker, Gerald  
8                   Cross and Mayor Doherty would agree to  
9                   convene in city council chambers publically  
10                  to negotiate a resolution that would return  
11                  the city to sound financial footing without  
12                  crucifying the taxpayers.

13                  We need shared sacrifice to cure  
14                  Scranton's financial illness, not an  
15                  albatross around the necks of those at the  
16                  bottom end of the spectrum such as the  
17                  elderly, the poor, and blue collar working  
18                  families. We have got 20 years worth of the  
19                  Recovery plans, none of which have been  
20                  successful. We need an actual business plan  
21                  that the administration abides by and one  
22                  that has teeth to make that happen.

23                  On June 19 and 20, Mrs. Krake  
24                  verified that the invitation was received  
25                  and late Wednesday afternoon I received a

1 following reply from Secretary Walker and  
2 Mr. Mathew Domines, local government policy  
3 specialist, and DCED representative to the  
4 City of Scranton for the last several years,  
5 and I'd like to read that reply to you now,  
6 ladies and gentlemen.

7 "Dear Councilwoman Evans, first of  
8 all, we thank city council for its  
9 willingness to engage in negotiations with  
10 Mayor Doherty and the coordinator of the  
11 Pennsylvania Economy League to the census on  
12 the Recovery Plan amendments that will  
13 immediately address Scranton's dire fiscal  
14 circumstances. We appreciate the offer to  
15 reach a consensus, however, the negotiations  
16 of the terms of the any amended Recovery  
17 Plan are exclusively the responsibility of  
18 city council and the mayor subject to PEL's  
19 judgment as to the feasibility of any  
20 proposed amendments, and we do not feel that  
21 the Department of Community and Economic  
22 Development is a proper party to those  
23 direct negotiations.

24 That having been said, we do believe  
25 that it may be helpful for us to meet with

1 members of city council without the mayor  
2 present to understand city council's  
3 position on the issues and to provide input.  
4 Accordingly, DCED, that would be Matt  
5 Domines, and PEL representatives, Gerry  
6 Cross, are prepared to meet with you at a  
7 date and time convenient for you.

8 Please contact Matt Domines at, and  
9 the phone number, at your earliest  
10 convenience to schedule a time to meet."

11 Although, Secretary Walker states  
12 that the terms of the Recovery Plan are  
13 exclusively the responsibility of the city  
14 council and the mayor, and that he doesn't  
15 feel that DCED is a proper party to those  
16 negotiations, DCED had no issue with  
17 propriety or responsibility when using  
18 Scranton as its test case and assigned its  
19 own attorney, Clifford Lavine, to represent  
20 the Doherty administration and present it's  
21 case against Act 111 before the Supreme  
22 Court of Pennsylvania.

23 Further, Mr. Walker believes council  
24 should meet with local DCED representatives  
25 and PEL the organization, by the way, whose

1 replacement was part of his initial offer to  
2 me.

3 While excusing Mayor Doherty from  
4 the meeting, since Secretary Walker states  
5 that the terms of the Recovery Plan are  
6 exclusively the responsibility of the mayor  
7 and council, why then does he excuse the  
8 mayor from the meeting? Does he expect  
9 council to negotiate with itself? However,  
10 any meetings or negotiations are now moot  
11 since Mayor Doherty went to Court this  
12 afternoon asking a judge to either force the  
13 outright implementation of the his Recovery  
14 Plan or to have council forced to vote on  
15 it. To date, the proposed revised Recovery  
16 Plan has never been placed on council's  
17 agenda and before such action may even be  
18 considered the Act 47 process must be  
19 followed of the. To date, that has not  
20 occurred. Nonetheless, ladies and gentlemen  
21 of the jury, it's clear that the mayor's  
22 revised Recovery Plan will not be approved  
23 by this council. His proposed tax increases  
24 will crucify the taxpayers and destroy our  
25 city neighborhoods.

1                   Now, it behooves the Pennsylvania  
2                   Economy League and DCED to at the very least  
3                   make corrections to the significant loss  
4                   contained in the mayor's Recovery Plan even  
5                   in the face of the mayor's blatant refusal  
6                   to consider any sources of additional  
7                   revenue into the city that would prevent a  
8                   78 percent plus tax increase to the people  
9                   of this city, and that is it.

10                  MR. HUGHES: If I can make a  
11                  comment, Mrs. Evans.

12                  MS. EVANS: Certainly, Solicitor  
13                  Hughes.

14                  MR. HUGHES: Mrs. Krake received a  
15                  copy of the Scranton Parking Authority audit  
16                  done by McGrail, Merkle and Quinn for the  
17                  year ending December 31, 2010. Their audit  
18                  is dated July 15, 2011. There is something  
19                  here that I think council has to address  
20                  with the Parking Authority, and it would  
21                  probably be by a letter from Mrs. Krake and  
22                  I'll assist her with it, but I direct your  
23                  attention to page 17, and this is very  
24                  disturbing to the city and it's financial  
25                  condition that just came up with a \$1



1 million. Audits have various notes that are  
2 put in the audit for everybody's attention  
3 to read, not everyone to read, but at least  
4 they are there. Note three, "Deposits and  
5 Investments."

6 The Authority has a few investments  
7 and chooses to disclose it's investments by  
8 specifically identifying each. The  
9 Authority has not adopted a formal  
10 investment policy, but has hired PNC  
11 advisors to make investment decisions. The  
12 authority basis the value of government  
13 securities on quoted market prices. The  
14 authority has chosen to value the investment  
15 contract at cost due to the uncertainty in  
16 the valuations of associated calculations.

17 As of December 31, 2010, the  
18 Authority's investments were: Interest  
19 earning investment contract at cost maturing  
20 \$916,223. \$1,173,528. US Security Bonds at  
21 fair value, maturing \$515,237. \$2,058,617.  
22 Total: \$3,232, 145.

23 Now, if that Authority has over \$3  
24 million in investments that it could  
25 liquidate they should have liquidated these

1 investments to pay the bond issue or they  
2 should have come to council and said, "We  
3 have this -- we have problems making this  
4 bond payment, we are going to have payments,  
5 we are going to have problems making our  
6 next bond payments that's due in September  
7 and December, let's see how we can handle  
8 this since you have \$1.6 million budgeted,  
9 how can we use these reserves to help  
10 alleviate the city in coming up with the  
11 money?

12 I think this is very disturbing. I  
13 mean, this is what they had as of December  
14 31, 2010. They were responsible to have a  
15 budget done, this is one of the events of  
16 default that has been raised by the trustee  
17 and by the insurance company that they have  
18 not completed by March 31 of this year the  
19 audit for 2011. If it were completed we  
20 would have known this or at least we have  
21 should known it, that they have investments  
22 of over \$3 million that could have been  
23 liquidated to make the bond payment, and I  
24 think a letter should be directed to Mr.  
25 Scopelliti specifically referring to this

1           audit, note number three on page 17, that do  
2           they still have this and liquidated any of  
3           this, what the current value of it is, and  
4           this note does not state that these are  
5           restrictive. This seems to be money that  
6           they have that's totally unattached that it  
7           can be used for purposes the Parking  
8           Authority wants to use them. These are not  
9           specified reserve funds, these are  
10          investments that are unrestricted. They  
11          could have been liquidated. They could have  
12          liquidated a million dollars of that and  
13          made the bond payment, just like the  
14          \$166,000 that was attached a couple of days  
15          after council approved the \$1 million so  
16          they wouldn't be in default. Why wasn't  
17          that paid. If that was paid even \$150,000  
18          of it council wouldn't have had to -- the  
19          city only would have had to come up with  
20          \$900,000, but here they are sitting on \$3  
21          million. Why are they sitting on this money  
22          and not using it?

23                   And I think a letter should be  
24                   directed to Mr. Scopelliti referring to the  
25                   audit and what the current value of these

1 investments are and since they are  
2 unrestricted why didn't they use them to  
3 make the bond payment?

4 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, on behalf of  
5 city council please send a letter to  
6 Mr. Robert Scopelliti, executive director of  
7 the SPA, requesting the information that has  
8 been enumerated by our solicitor and a  
9 response to his question. Of course,  
10 Solicitor Hughes, for all we now, again,  
11 that's a 2010 audit and because of the total  
12 lack of transparency with the Scranton  
13 Parking Authority, for all we know that \$3  
14 million in investments might already be  
15 gone.

16 MR. HUGHES: And if it's gone, where  
17 did it go?

18 MS. EVANS: Where it went, no one  
19 knows.

20 MR. HUGHES: I mean, when you have  
21 that, there is \$3 million, they borrowed  
22 \$2.9 million from Landmark Bank that is not  
23 secured by the city so that, you know, right  
24 now they are indebted well over \$100  
25 million.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. HUGHES: And that includes the  
3 interest, but still those funds, we have to  
4 know where those funds are and why they  
5 weren't used.

6 MR. ROGAN: So it's possible the  
7 city gave them \$1 million when they had \$3  
8 million on hand.

9 MR. HUGHES: That's correct. It  
10 would be a scam.

11 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE  
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
13 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND  
14 DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL  
15 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA") AND THE  
16 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ("DHS").  
17 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
24 those in favor of introduction signify by  
25 saying aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE  
8 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
9 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF  
10 UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
11 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
12 BUREAU OF RIDE AND MEASUREMENT STANDARDS  
13 REGARDING THE SEALING OF WEIGHTS AND  
14 MEASURES AND ALSO RESPONSIBILITY WITH  
15 RESPECT TO JEWELERS SCALES IN THE CITY OF  
16 SCRANTON.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: 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.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
5 have it and so moved.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make  
7 a motion to suspend the rules and move Item  
8 5-B to Sixth and Seventh Order to be  
9 considered for final passage based on the  
10 attached emergency certificate.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans, if  
21 council --

22 MS. EVANS: I think maybe prior to  
23 moving this legislation forward into Sixth  
24 and Seventh Order this evening for final  
25 approval, I would ask if there is anyone in

1 the audience this evening who would like to  
2 address council regarding Item 5-B, which  
3 will now become Item 6-A and thereafter 7-A.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I have no  
5 problem it into Sixth, but I think that  
6 there should be one last hurray effort and  
7 allow the citizens to call the mayor's  
8 office and to urge him to work with the fire  
9 union to ascertain how many retirements  
10 there will be and hopefully save part or  
11 perhaps even all of the money. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
13 anyone else?

14 MR. DOBRZYN: My only comment is  
15 it's finally time the Homeland Security  
16 Department, which is where Scranton is  
17 originating from, went from \$30 million to  
18 \$60 million over a few years and it's about  
19 time they stopped passing out dust  
20 collectors like the roadblock we got for a  
21 quarter of a million dollars and it's  
22 probably collecting dust somewhere in the  
23 police department and start to people and  
24 actually create a Homeland Security. Thank  
25 you and a have a good night.



1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake?

2 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A,  
3 FORMERLY 5-B, READING BY TITLE - FILE OF  
4 COUNCIL NO. 41, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE -  
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
6 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO  
7 ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE  
8 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA")  
9 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
10 ("DHS"). (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

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

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? Just  
17 to respond to Mrs. Schumacher, it's my  
18 understanding that heroic efforts and  
19 negotiations were made by the Scranton Fire  
20 Department to increase the numbers and  
21 funding provided by the Office of the  
22 Homeland Security and FEMA. It's also  
23 clear, I have seen the documents, the  
24 letters have been sent to those departments  
25 asking for a reduction in the grant and

1 specifying justification for such, and I  
2 have also seen a copy of the response to  
3 that letter indicating that the reduction  
4 has been accepted by those departments, so  
5 sadly, ladies and gentlemen, this is a done  
6 deal and it happened basically without the  
7 approval or the input of Scranton City  
8 Council. I'm sure that council would have  
9 notified these departments that it felt  
10 strongly that we should be accepting the  
11 greatest number and the greatest dollar  
12 amount possible.

13 MR. ROGAN: I would just add that I  
14 agree, normally I wouldn't be opposed to  
15 waiting an extra week to vote on something,  
16 but by pushing this legislation through that  
17 is two weeks quicker that we get the guys  
18 back, which is the most important part.

19 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the  
20 question? All those in favor signify by  
21 saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A,  
4 FORMERLY, 6-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE  
5 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION -  
6 FILED OF COUNCIL NO. 41, 2012 - AUTHORIZING  
7 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY  
8 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT  
9 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL  
10 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA") AND THE  
11 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ("DHS").  
12 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

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

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
7 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted, and  
8 on behalf of Scranton City Council we thank  
9 Senator Robert Casey for his work and his  
10 efforts in providing increased public safety  
11 to the people of this city.

12 If there is no further business,  
13 I'll entertain a motion it adjourn.

14 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, before we  
15 adjourn, I would just like to apologize in  
16 absence for my absence next week. I will be  
17 out of town so I would like to just  
18 apologize to everyone in advance for my  
19 absence.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Motion to  
21 adjourn?

22 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

23 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
24 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER