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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, September 6, 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
(Not present.)

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 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, please.

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

15 MINUTES OF THE SCRANTON POLICE PENSION

16 MEETING HELD JULY 25, 2012.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE

20 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD

21 JULY 25, 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 AUGUST 28,

1 2012.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE
5 ZONING HEARING BOARD TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER
6 19, 2012.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AUDIT STATUS FROM
10 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED AUGUST 31ST AND
11 SEPTEMBER 5TH OF 2012.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: Do any council members
15 have announcements at this time?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Just very quickly, I do
17 want to I guess wish congratulations to the
18 most foolish woman in the world, my wife.
19 Yesterday we celebrated our 42 wedding
20 anniversary. Somehow she has managed to
21 stay with me for that long and I love her
22 for that.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Congratulations.

24 MS. EVANS: Congratulations to both
25 of you. Is there anyone else? Tonight city

1 council will introduce an ordinance drafted
2 by its solicitor to terminate the
3 cooperation agreement between the city and
4 the Scranton Parking Authority. During
5 Fifth Order motions I will call on Attorney
6 Hughes to fully report the most recent
7 developments regarding the Parking
8 Authority.

9 The South Side Senior Center located
10 at 425 Alder Street in Scranton will conduct
11 it's annual pasta dinner and basket raffle
12 on Thursday, September 20. Proceeds will
13 benefit the many activities the senior
14 center provides to participants 60 years of
15 age and older, and that's it.

16 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
17 PARTICIPATION.

18 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
19 evening is Ron Ellman.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Council. I
21 got up here in time today. You know, over
22 the years many worthwhile suggestions from
23 just intelligent people one after another
24 and council just -- you sit there politely
25 and you listen, but you don't hear. You

1 just don't hear us out here. You know, week
2 after week it's the same thing in here, just
3 inaction. The people want to see something
4 in concrete. They want to see something,
5 some legislation to stop these -- the rape
6 of this city by all of these nonprofits.
7 You people just are not getting anything
8 done and I'm not mad at you, I'm just
9 telling you what I hear.

10 It just -- it just -- you can go
11 anywhere in this city you want, talk to
12 anybody, everyone will tell you that they
13 have had enough. They have had enough of
14 Doherty's just gross incompetence and
15 running the city, they have had enough of
16 the stranglehold with the unions, and I'm
17 not anti-union, I belong to two of them, but
18 they have priced themselves out. There
19 is -- we can't afford these unions. They
20 have had enough of this fiasco at the SPA
21 and this \$100 an hour job deal. The city is
22 broke and nobody wants to acknowledge it.

23 Everybody wants to hire, the school
24 board wants to build, these two
25 commissioners have hired over 20 people and

1 then they complain a \$100,000 salaries
2 aren't enough for them. Somebody is just
3 not -- you just don't have the heart of the
4 city. You are not listening to what's
5 happening here. 2000 people didn't pay
6 their taxes, that means the rest of us in
7 the city have to cover for them. Why wasn't
8 something done? 2,000 people, you know, I
9 mow some of them just had good reasons, but
10 2000 people, all of that money just sitting
11 there and nothing being done about it.

12 Just like the high school out there
13 that Goodwill has had for years and years,
14 they are just the same. They keep telling
15 us what they are going to do and don't do
16 it. And the commissioners there must have
17 been four or 5,000, millions of dollars out
18 and nothing being collected. No wonder we
19 are broke. There has got to be an answer
20 somewhere.

21 You know, you just can't -- you
22 can't minimize say it's only going to cost
23 the homeowner a couple of hundred dollars,
24 you got a half of dozen paydays you have to
25 borrow money. We cannot afford it no more.

1 Nobody is getting nothing for their dollar
2 except police and fire protection, you know.
3 I don't have any side sidewalks, I don't
4 have no curbs, my yard floods when it rains
5 because there is no sewer, it has been that
6 way, I don't know, 15, 20 years, nothing
7 been done. Now I'm supposed to pay and pay
8 and pay it's not right. 150 houses of
9 families up there in Keyser avenue they
10 don't pay nothing for ten years and they
11 have got everything I don't have. They got
12 sidewalks, streets, they built a school
13 there was so many kids they are not paying
14 for the school. I haven't had any kids in
15 school in 30 years. It's just -- the city
16 is just so mismanaged and, like I said,
17 people have come here and they tell you and
18 they tell you and they tell you and nothing
19 is said and nothing is done. It's time
20 something is done for the people of this
21 city once and for all, I'm telling you.

22 What we need to do is s every seat
23 comes vacant we need to fill it with a new
24 face. Maybe that would help because I don't
25 know what else will help. It's just ashamed,

1 you know. The only one that people talk
2 positive on council is Mr. Rogan because he
3 didn't want to give any money to the SPA,
4 that was throwing away good money and it got
5 worse down there not better. They made
6 their salaries with the people in this
7 building didn't. That doesn't make any
8 sense. It doesn't make any sense to the
9 taxpayers.

10 I don't know, I have read a little
11 about Mr. Lewis' plan and what I like about
12 it is he is using cold hard facts on paper
13 what we made in going from there. You
14 cannot -- you just can't budget on
15 speculation. Every week there is a house in
16 there, two or 300,000 dollars taken off the
17 tax rolls. How can you budget when that
18 keeps going on and never ending?

19 I don't want to scold you all, I
20 support you. You are our voice to the city,
21 but you just got to listen to the what's
22 going on here and acknowledge it for God's
23 sake. The city is going to pot. The city
24 appraised my house a few years ago at
25 101,000, a couple of months ago the real

1 estate man said I would be lucky to get 75
2 because my neighborhood is going downhill.
3 That's all over the place except around the
4 mayor's old house. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
6 speaker is Greg Hulse.

7 MR. HULSE: Good evening. My name
8 is Greg Hulse, city resident and taxpayer.
9 For the last couple of months I have
10 attended city council and other public
11 meetings in utter amazement. I am sat by
12 and watched my fellow citizens complain and
13 rant in front of the cameras. In these last
14 few months, I have heard about everything
15 that's wrong with this city but rarely have
16 I heard anyone offer positive solutions for
17 our future. I freely admit there are lots
18 of things wrong with this city from the out
19 of control spending at Nay Aug Park, the KOZ
20 zones that were ill, whatever, that were an
21 ill conceived idea and fully mismanaged and
22 the failed attempts to attract jobs to our
23 city.

24 It's what I call if you build it
25 they will come syndrome, but they did not

1 come, did they? So why am I here tonight?
2 I will state for a fact to this council that
3 I truly do not believe this recovery plan
4 will work at least the way it's being put
5 forward to us. I do believe our taxes will
6 be raise near the 81 percent or more than
7 the 35 percent proposed, and I do not
8 believe that city will run the table what
9 needs to get accomplished because some of
10 it, frankly, is out of the city's hands and
11 in the state legislatures.

12 But I am not here tonight to list
13 the shortcomings of the city council or the
14 mayor, but I am here to help. I have come
15 up with some solutions which I will like to
16 put forward for your consideration this
17 evening. First, let's talk about the
18 elephant in the room, jobs. We need them.
19 The only way we are going to increase the
20 tax base in this city is by attracting jobs
21 and residents. But how?

22 Well, I would put forward a plan, a
23 proposal really, that would give businesses
24 a tax credit for every full-time worker they
25 employed within the city limits. If they

1 are a city resident in Scranton this
2 business, if hired them, they will get a
3 \$5,000 tax break. If they are a -- if they
4 hire military personnel they should get a
5 \$7,500 tax break.

6 Second, I would offer businesses K0Z
7 zones. I know this is not popular, but they
8 have to be managed wisely. How you ask?
9 Well, first, allow it for seven years, but
10 with some conditions. To qualify for the
11 K0Z zone the land and building must be
12 deeded to the owner. Let's say Barnes and
13 Noble wanted to build here, they must own
14 the land and the building within the seven
15 years free and clear, so the city isn't
16 stuck with the building. If they fail to do
17 so, they should be subject to all of the
18 back taxes from the last seven years, which
19 we forgave them plus interest.

20 This would not include the hiring
21 taxes, which I proposed earlier, they would
22 still get to keep those tax breaks since
23 they fulfilled that obligation to the city.

24 Now, do I think this is all we need?
25 Of course not, but it would get the ball

1 moving in the right direction. Morale in
2 the city is horrible. I'm disgusted every
3 time I go out in my travels I hear how bad
4 the city is. Some one remarked to me just
5 last night it starts by removing the mayor
6 and council. That will come, that needs to
7 be done, but it starts with the people. The
8 people are what make the city great. We
9 have to give people a reason to want to stay
10 in the city, so I would propose the
11 residents who live and work in this city get
12 their to work waived or cut. They are
13 paying property taxes, wage taxes, emergency
14 taxes, and city income taxes. This \$52 fee
15 should be waived or cut for the people who
16 live and work within the city limits.

17 For instance, if you live in Clarks
18 Summit and work in the City of Scranton, you
19 get charged the fee, but if you work in
20 Scranton and live in West Side, for example,
21 your fee should be waived or cut. Should we
22 be punishing those who are directly
23 contributing to the city? It's not right.

24 The commuter tax should be in place
25 for those living outside of the city. I

1 don't have any problem charging people who
2 live outside of the city paying their fair
3 share. They are using our roads, our
4 bridges, our infrastructure, our emergency
5 services. Materials for building roads and
6 bridges aren't coming down. How can we
7 possibly keep this tax the same? It's
8 irresponsible.

9 We need a way to entice people to
10 want to move or to stay in Scranton. If we
11 start giving some perks to homeowners within
12 the city limits just maybe it could attract
13 people to want to move and live here.

14 Next, I would like to talk about the
15 mercantile tax. I have talked to some
16 business owners in the last couple of weeks
17 about this and here is some solutions they
18 put forward to me that I really do agree
19 with it and it make senses. Here, we should
20 be taxing on their net, not their gross.
21 This gives business the freedom to clear
22 their overhead, hire the extra workers and
23 then contribute to the city. It will
24 promote growth and it's the right thing to
25 do.

1 In the last few weeks I have talked
2 to many owners of the City of Scranton here
3 in the city and I have asked how the city
4 can help them stay in business and the
5 number one complaint they have is parking.
6 The parking is atrocious. Updated parking
7 meters that could take credit card,
8 businesses should have -- and businesses
9 shouldn't have to call whenever a light goes
10 out in front of their business. And even if
11 it does, they don't know who to call. They
12 don't have a phone number, they don't know
13 where to go, where to turn to.

14 Many business owners do not even
15 know when the street -- or what to do when
16 the streetlight is outside -- what to do
17 when their business goes dark. There has to
18 be a better way to do this.

19 I have briefly gone on about how
20 business and homeowners alike. Now I'm
21 directly helping the city with revenues. It
22 my proposal that I put forward I ask
23 sacrifices from everybody. For too long we
24 have given tax cuts with reckless abandon so
25 I propose a 45 percent tax increase on day

1 of passage. So, for example, in 2013 if
2 this vote is not passed in 2013 the citizens
3 would get a 45 percent tax increase. In
4 year two, I propose a 15 percent decrease.
5 In the year three, 2015, another 15 percent
6 decrease. That tells the citizens of
7 Scranton invest in us for the next three
8 years. That, yes, the first year your taxes
9 will go up, but we promise you if you invest
10 with us your taxes will go down in 2014 and
11 2015.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. HULSE: Thank you very much.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
16 Sbaraglia.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA. Andy Sbaraglia,
18 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
19 Mr. Joyce, I listened to your speech on the
20 TV, especially how you described by
21 privatizing the DPW and refuse collection
22 our bags wouldn't go out, but that's only
23 one side of that coin. Why didn't you give
24 the other side of the coin, how many men
25 would not be working? How much salaries

1 would we be saving? How much in the pension
2 costs we would save? How much on fringe
3 benefits we would save and how much of a
4 pension we would save? Every man that we
5 can actually decrease in the city is a plus.
6 I don't know when me -- if we don't we are
7 going to get through it, but you didn't even
8 talk about the refuse fee. It was
9 privatization would we be paying directly or
10 would the private contractor be paying the
11 refuse fee?

12 MR. JOYCE: No.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: By the time you get
14 up there, and the gas, the wear and tear on
15 the vehicles, the gas, all of these things
16 add up. Now, whether we do it or not it's
17 immaterial, but when you give a presentation
18 and you give only one side of the coin
19 you've got to give the other side. There is
20 always a negative and a positive. The DPW,
21 of course, does a lot of other things
22 besides collect refuse. We all know that.
23 We all know that maybe only a small portion
24 of that is actually involved in the refuse,
25 but that figure you should have gave instead

1 of sitting there and running him down on
2 saying about it, but you know what? He was
3 at fault too Rogan, he should have came up
4 with all of those figures and gave them to
5 you and said this is what would be saved by
6 privatizing the collection of refuse.

7 I mean, when you are up there you
8 try to get both sides of the story all of
9 the time. There is a lot of negatives, too,
10 you know we use vehicles to plow the roads.
11 We always use some of the vehicles to go out
12 there and fill the potholes. There is lot
13 of negatives and positives to all kind of
14 stuff, proposition we offer, but try to give
15 a complete proposal when you say one thing
16 or the other because a lot of things are
17 more than just a bag tossed. You also have
18 a lot of savings on the other end of that.

19 Now, how it would really effect the
20 city I won't know because I didn't do a
21 study on it and, like, if you tell me you
22 can't do it until what was it '14 or '13 or
23 something like that when their contract runs
24 out or even if you wanted to do it, but
25 anyway, you should always have them figures

1 available. Whether you do it or not at
2 least they are there and they have been
3 studied and you know exactly what you are
4 doing when it comes up to a budget. So you
5 are not getting all these surprises.

6 Every time we came before you in the
7 last, well, six months, you have been
8 getting surprise after surprise after
9 surprise. We all know that. We all know
10 you are trying to do your best. We know
11 that, too. Maybe some people have some
12 doubts, some people don't. Everybody can
13 offer solutions, but anybody that lives in
14 the city for as long as I have realizes the
15 solutions are very narrowed at this point.

16 We all know the huge tax increase is
17 coming, there is no way out of it, we know
18 that, but when you give a presentation, try
19 to give the positives and negatives, both
20 sides of the coin, and then people on the
21 outside here can makeup their own mind what
22 to accept or not to accept, but when you
23 only give one side they think you are hiding
24 something on the other, and that's not
25 right. You don't want to hide anything.

1 You want to be as open and as forthcoming as
2 you can and that's the only thing you can
3 do.

4 When the ax falls there is nothing
5 you can do. It's going to do it, it's going
6 to do it, we all know that, but at least the
7 people know that we are very honest in that
8 position and you did your very best to
9 explain it all aspects of everything that
10 happened.

11 I'm not even sure what the
12 increments is and with that 6.2 loan, I
13 didn't get into it. It sounds like they are
14 giving you so much then you have to pay back
15 so much and they are going to give you so
16 much and then you got to pay back so much.
17 I don't know if that's the way it works or
18 not, I don't know. I know that's how a
19 Ponzi scheme works. I hope it's not similar
20 to a Ponzi scheme. Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Ozzie Quinn.

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

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

1 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Here I'm
2 going to say how about bad the say is like
3 the gentlemen up here before and it's no
4 wonder you look at last week PCN had three
5 reporters from the Scranton Times, not
6 reporters, three staff members, and they are
7 saying how stubborn the city council is and
8 how bad the city council is and how brave
9 the mayor is and whatnot, you know, and then
10 you see in the paper today they are going to
11 get, the Lynett family is going to get the
12 presidential award from the University of
13 the Scranton.

14 I graduated from the University of
15 Scranton, I don't think I was told to give a
16 vote or asked to give a vote. I don't know
17 where this it coming, but it seems like a
18 big PR thing coming from the Times in regard
19 to trying to hide up ten years of
20 malfeasance in the City of Scranton by their
21 going hand-in-hand, not only hand-in-hand,
22 financially contributing since 2001 to the
23 Doherty campaign and not doing anything
24 about it, not doing anything about it
25 whatsoever. They just kept on going and

1 going on.

2 And, Mrs. Evans, you know, I know
3 the rest of the council has been here with
4 you, you know, you spoke year after year
5 before those councils and everything and the
6 reporters here about the debt, the debt, and
7 they never investigated it. They never did
8 anything. Now they are trying to turn it
9 around to make you three people look like
10 the people who are causing all the problems.
11 Well, you know, they are not fooling the
12 people, okay? I think that their
13 circulation is going down, I just saw the
14 audit, and so I think that they are going to
15 have to answer for a lot, okay?

16 Now, I really think that one other
17 thing, too, is on the agenda tonight you
18 have a capital budget. Now, that's a laugh
19 if I ever saw one. A capital budget is in
20 the Home Rule Charter and it's to be funded,
21 it goes to council three months before the
22 budget and be funded for three to five years
23 or whatever, year by year and so on, we
24 don't have any funds, we don't have any
25 money.

1 county government, watch the school
2 government, watched the Scranton Times and I
3 know how they act. They used to have a
4 reporter right in here that used to
5 investigate when there was something going
6 on with city hall. That's gone. When
7 Doherty came in that went.

8 So, you know, don't, please, the
9 public out there realizes, if you are going
10 to pay a commuter tax don't blame it on
11 these people, blame it on the Doherty
12 administration and the Scranton Times for
13 not staying on top of the financial crisis
14 in the City of Scranton since 2002 to the
15 present. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And I just
17 want to add very briefly, you make an
18 excellent point in that this financial
19 crisis didn't occur overnight. This is
20 something that has been building and
21 building monthly, annually since 2002 and I
22 think anyone with even common sense knows
23 that what has happened is not the fault of
24 Scranton City Council. Council has been
25 trying to solve the problems that are facing

1 the city and the people of this city. Well,
2 I don't want it take anymore time, I'm going
3 to call on Mr. Spindler.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
5 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
6 homeowner and taxpayer. First of all, that
7 was good news, Mrs. Evans, you announced
8 tonight about the Parking Authority. I'm
9 glad there is going to be an ordinance
10 announced tonight. I want to commend
11 council and Attorneys Hughes. It's a step
12 in the right direction, it's about time
13 somebody is finally doing something with the
14 Parking Authority, the Authority has been a
15 thorn in the city's side for years and years
16 and it's about time somebody finally did
17 something, so on behalf of this taxpayer I
18 thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

21 MR. SPINDLER: First thing, I have
22 an issue with two speakers from two weeks
23 ago. First, I hope he is okay with me using
24 his name, Lee Morgan, he called this council
25 a rubber stamp council. I have to firmly

1 disagree with him. I don't know what he is
2 talking about. I don't know of anything you
3 have ever rubber stamped. You haven't
4 rubber stamped any budget. He is saying you
5 rubber stamped this recovery plan, I
6 disagree with that, but he has got his
7 freedom of speech, I think he is wrong and I
8 just think he is spewing venom because he is
9 not sitting up there.

10 Secondly, Mr. Ron Ellman chastised
11 this council for raising taxes. As
12 Mrs. Evans said, she took the words right
13 out of my mouth, it's not this council's
14 fault their hands were tied, it's the fault
15 of the councils of Mayor Doherty's first two
16 terms, the eight years of rubber stamping
17 which Mr. McGoff was included in. That's
18 the problem, not this city council so if
19 anybody is angry with this city council for
20 raising taxes they are wrong. Nobody wants
21 to pay higher taxes, but something has got
22 to be done. Look back at the first eight
23 years of Mayor Doherty, that's been the
24 problem.

25 Moving on, there was two weeks ago

1 or maybe three weeks ago I lost track a
2 woman came here and she wanted council to
3 look into an ordinance to have people spay
4 or neuter their pets, I'm no lawyer but I
5 don't think you can legally force somebody
6 to spay or neuter the pets. I'm all for
7 that, I have pets they are spade or
8 neutered, but I don't think you can legally
9 go to somebody and say, "You have to spay or
10 neuter your pet."

11 I don't think you could ever pass an
12 ordinance like that. I could be wrong, but
13 I don't think so.

14 Lastly, an article in the Doherty
15 newsletter on Tuesday, "Texting violators in
16 Scranton ten."

17 Since the texting law was passed
18 they cited fewer than ten people. Just a
19 couple of quotes in here, "Because talking
20 or making phone calls is not illegal, the
21 state ban tough to enforce."

22 Well, talking or making calls is
23 illegal. It's a distracted driving.
24 Distracted driving is illegal. Doing
25 anything with your phone is distracted

1 driving, that's illegal. I don't know what
2 they are printing in the paper. It's a
3 known fact that distracted driving is
4 against the law.

5 And here's another quote, "It's
6 difficult for an officer to discern whether
7 a driver is texting or looking up numbers on
8 the phone. Carl Graziano acting police
9 chief."

10 Again, whether they are texting or
11 looking at numbers both are illegal to cite
12 them for distracted driving. It's simple.
13 I'm not a police officer, I'm not -- they
14 should know the law. I don't know how
15 acting Chief Graziano can say something like
16 that. It's been years and years where
17 distracted driving is against the law, and
18 further on in this article the Chief of
19 Dickson says that, "We can't cite them for
20 distracted driving."

21 Well, why don't they? That could
22 being a great revenue source for this city
23 because all bet you can stand on a street
24 corner and probably eight out of ten cars
25 somebody is doing something with their cell

1 phone. So, come on, people, let's start
2 citing them for distracted driving. That's
3 all I have to say. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

5 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
6 Doug Miller, Scranton.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to begin
9 briefly, two weeks ago I was somewhat
10 scolded by Mr. Jackowitz for what he alleged
11 to be grandstanding by myself from the
12 podium and he brought up one of my actions
13 from several months ago.

14 As we can recall when at that time
15 we were hopeful that the mayor would come
16 forward in a public setting and I believe we
17 all remember I pushed forward the big boy
18 chair for our sixth councilman and, you
19 know, several weeks ago our dreams came to
20 fruition. The mayor come forward in a
21 public setting and he held himself
22 accountable, but the whole issue with the
23 chair and it being grandstanding, kind of
24 made me chuckle a little last week if any of
25 us watched the Republican convention,

1 Mr. Clint Eastwood gave a speech before the
2 delegates with an empty chair right next to
3 him hoping that President Obama would come
4 forward. Maybe Mr. Eastwood caught a replay
5 of the council meeting and picked up on the
6 idea.

7 But I did get a chuckle, I found it
8 amusing and I thought I would share that
9 with Mr. Jackowitz tonight, I know he is not
10 here, but it worked here, maybe Mr. Eastwood
11 will get President Obama to come forward and
12 debate him some time in the future. Just
13 kind of found that amusing. I don't take it
14 personal, the criticism, I have been dealing
15 with it for many years now. I just thought
16 I would share that.

17 But moving onto some serious matters
18 tonight with the agenda, I believe it's 5-C,
19 the ordinance that Attorney Hughes will go
20 into detail later on, certainly a long time
21 coming with this with the Parking Authority.
22 I'm glad to see we are finally taking
23 action. I believe this will certainly begin
24 the process of dissolving the SPA, once and
25 for all getting rid of a headache that we

1 have had to deal with for many years now and
2 certainly has caused much of our financial
3 problems and, as I have stated, I look
4 forward to hearing Attorney Hughes'
5 presentation and I'll reserve my comments in
6 the future.

7 You know as we sit back and we recap
8 tonight, you know, the events that
9 transpired in the last several months
10 dealing with the recovery plan, you know, I
11 want to just take this time to basically sum
12 it and up and basically make these my final
13 comments on the recovery plan as we need to
14 move on with other issues. You know, we are
15 now going to get into budget season and the
16 issues are just going to continue to grow.

17 But basically to summarize the whole
18 thing in a nutshell, you know, when we take
19 a look and we step back at the decisions
20 that this council had to make, we need to
21 keep in mind these were difficult choices we
22 had to make. We dealt with many obstacles,
23 you know, you dealt with an administration
24 at times that was uncooperative, but you
25 showing the leadership that you have shown

1 throughout these three years were able to
2 reach out and build a Recovery Plan and you
3 forced the mayor to come forward and sit
4 down and negotiate in good faith and that's
5 your doing, and you put a plan together that
6 you felt was in the best interest of the
7 residents of this city.

8 You know, we can sit up here and we
9 can say that it's a perfect plan, but I
10 don't think we ever claimed that it was a
11 perfect plan. I certainly don't feel it is
12 and I know you don't feel it is. We have
13 been told that the recovery plan is all pie
14 in the sky and it's all wishful thinking,
15 but what bothered me most with the
16 statements such as that was that if we don't
17 try something how do we know we can't
18 accomplish it? It's easy to say, no, you
19 can't do this, you can't do that, but if we
20 don't go after the nonprofits and we don't
21 reach out to them how do we know we can
22 never receive a dime from them? You know,
23 how do we know if can't receive revenue?

24 I think a lot of this has to do with
25 the fact that if we had an administration

1 that from day one followed through on
2 several revenue enhancements that this
3 council had right in the beginning we would
4 probably be reaching a different tune
5 tonight, but we didn't have any and we can't
6 go back and change any of that. What
7 happened in the past is in the past and we
8 need to move full speed ahead.

9 But taking the easy way out would
10 have gotten us nowhere. You know, I sat and
11 I heard a lot of grandstanding, I heard a
12 lot of objections, but I never heard any
13 alternatives. You know, even tonight we are
14 against this, we are against that, but you
15 didn't hear anything better. And when you
16 are going to come forward and you're going
17 to be critical and you're going to be
18 against something it's my opinion that you
19 should have a plan yourself. We didn't have
20 that from other people, even elected leaders
21 in this city, two weeks ago I got into a
22 debate with one of those individuals who
23 simply thought no was the easy way out. No
24 doesn't accomplish anything.

25 You know, I understand we have a

1 long way to go and many people doubt that we
2 will ever get out of this financial
3 disaster, but this didn't all happen
4 overnight and I think that's where people
5 have been misled is that we believe that
6 this has all transpired over three years and
7 that we want to point the finger at council.

8 No, this is a snowball effect that
9 we have had to deal with for 12 years now
10 caused by an administration that has run
11 this city reckless since day one and now
12 today we are feeling the pain and now today
13 it's council that's had to make tough
14 choices. And, no, raising taxes isn't easy
15 and anybody that thinks that I strongly
16 disagree.

17 You know, I commend you for all of
18 you have done. People can say that I'm a
19 lapdog, you know, people want to make
20 comments that I come up here and I
21 grandstand and I pat council on the back.
22 No, I come here up and I commend a council
23 that I know is looking out for me and the
24 residents of this city and you can say what
25 you want, but I know that you looking out

1 for us and you should be commended for
2 everything you do. Mr. Joyce, our Finance
3 Chair, all the hard work. I know what you
4 have all gone through. Mr. Loscombe,
5 Mrs. Evans, you are all to be commended
6 because you did your homework, you put your
7 minds together and you came up with a plan
8 that you feel is in the best interest of
9 moving forward. We are not only thinking
10 about today, but we are thinking about the
11 future and I want to thank you for all your
12 hard work and this recovery plan process.
13 You have truly been a champion of the people
14 and I ask you to stay the course and
15 continue to look out for the residents of
16 this city. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Gerard
18 Hetman.

19 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
20 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County
21 Department of Community Relations. I would
22 like to begin this evening by issuing a
23 reminder to council and all of our city and
24 council residents both here and watching at
25 home this coming Tuesday, September 11, will

1 be our first Lackawanna County Senior Health
2 Fair. The fair will take place from 10 a.m.
3 to 2 p.m. at the Lackawanna County Trolley
4 Museum located at 300 Cliff Street in
5 Scranton on the grounds of the Steamtown
6 National Historic Site. Over the past
7 several weeks, myself and other members of
8 our Lackawanna County Department of
9 Community Relations have spent a great deal
10 of time and effort planning the event and we
11 are looking forward to a great turnout.

12 With that in mind, we have over 50
13 exhibitors, businesses, agencies and other
14 entities from around the community that deal
15 in some capacity with senior health and
16 wellness that will be attending the health
17 fair in some capacity. The most popular
18 will be free flu shots will be offered for
19 seniors. The only thing we ask is that
20 seniors bring some form of identification so
21 they can get some proof or receipt that
22 shows that they got the flu shot for this
23 year for their medical records.

24 In regards to transportation, I said
25 in the previous meeting that we were working

1 on transportation options for senior
2 residents who could not drive or who could
3 not walk to the trolley museum the day of
4 the vent. For information on transportation
5 I would ask that any senior who wishes to
6 get a ride from our transportation
7 department to please contact my coworker,
8 Michelle Newberry, at 570-963-6743,
9 Extension 1873. We are working with all of
10 the senior centers in Lackawanna County so
11 that seniors will go to their nearest center
12 and that day of the event get a ride from
13 coordinated transportation, and they are
14 still working the schedule out tomorrow with
15 exactly what times that would be at, but the
16 center will have that information and the
17 seniors can go and get a ride to the health
18 fair free of charge.

19 So we look forward to a great
20 turnout. As I said, it's been a lot of
21 planning and we are looking to a great event
22 for all of other senior residents and
23 everyone is welcome to come out. There will
24 be some refreshments, and again, we will
25 have over 50 vendors and exhibitors on hand.

1 Another announcement this evening is
2 that the Lackawanna County Highway Safety
3 Program in conjunction with the Pennsylvania
4 State Police and other local law enforcement
5 agencies will be conducting a free child car
6 seat safety check on Wednesday, September
7 19, at McDade Park in Scranton from 10 a.m.
8 to 2 p.m. This is a free opportunity for
9 parents and others who use car seats in
10 their vehicles as school goes back
11 especially to have police and law
12 enforcement check the installation. I know
13 it's been a long time since I have ridden in
14 a car seat so I couldn't install one myself
15 I probably couldn't even read the
16 instructions it's something that sometimes
17 folks intend well, but they are not able to
18 execute properly and this is a chance to
19 meet with law enforcement briefly and free
20 of charge to get that checked out.

21 Last, but not least, the Lackawanna
22 County Recycling Center will be conducting a
23 countywide tire collection through regular
24 business hours from September 24 through
25 September 29. Information on the tire

1 collection can be obtained by calling
2 570-963-2017, extension 1. That's
3 570-963-2017, extension 1. Cost is \$2 per
4 tire, which I believe goes to defray the
5 cost of the actual tire disposal. Tires are
6 13 inches to 17 inches off the rim.

7 That's all I have for this evening,
8 I will be here in case any residents or
9 anybody attending has questions about the
10 health care. And again, we welcome all
11 residents to come out. There is adequate
12 parking there at the site for any resident
13 who does want to drive themselves to the
14 event, and again, it's right on the grounds
15 of Steamtown. As soon as you pull in you
16 have to go around the u-turn to get to the
17 building. That's it. Is there anything I
18 can do for you?

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. Hetman, have you
20 provided the specifics of those events to
21 ECTV so that they can continue to broadcast
22 them prior to the actual dates of the
23 events?

24 MR. HETMAN: I have not myself.
25 Several of my coworkers have provided

1 details of the events to various community
2 agencies.

3 MS. EVANS: Very good.

4 MR. HETMAN: With regard to these we
5 can check tomorrow and see if they have the
6 already with ECTV. If not, we can provide
7 these events tomorrow with the details and
8 we can establish a system in the future
9 where we do provide those events for
10 continued rebroadcast.

11 MS. EVANS: Very good.

12 MR. HETMAN: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

14 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening. Tonight I
16 would like to start by saying, you know, you
17 talked about 5-C, but the agenda is blank so
18 I don't know what happened there, but I'd
19 just like to throw that out there. I'd also
20 like to say that I agree with what a lot of
21 Ron Ellman said here and, you know, there
22 has been some, I don't know, criticism of me
23 saying this council is a rubber stamp
24 council and I firmly believe that and I
25 would like to illustrate that with one point

1 here tonight.

2 The revised updated Act 47 recovery
3 plan was enacted by this council, but which
4 plan did we enact? The August seven plan,
5 which we had a special meeting for, or the
6 August 24 plan that we didn't have a meeting
7 for.

8 Now, I have to question whether any
9 legislative body is following any real rules
10 at all when they don't have a meeting on a
11 revised updated version. The other problem
12 I have is that basically what I see has
13 happened here is this, we have created a
14 recovery plan to borrow money, but there is
15 no recovery here because we are counting on
16 too many things that the City of Scranton
17 has no power over. I mean, whether it's the
18 commuter tax, which I think is a terrible
19 thing to do to people, because the people
20 who come into this city from outside of the
21 city to work they didn't create this
22 problem. They are not the ones that voted
23 to put these administrations in, and you
24 know something, even with that said I think
25 what the governor said was the most

1 atrocious thing I have ever heard from an
2 elected official and he said that I hope
3 that the city doesn't come to the state
4 looking for money.

5 And my problem with that statement
6 is that PEL was here running this ship, they
7 did a terrible job. All of the residents
8 were thrown in the water, the blight that
9 happened in this city didn't happen
10 overnight, I think what we have in this
11 country is a total political disconnect.
12 You know, some people may not care for my
13 opinions, but I think that we have got two
14 people running for president who have no
15 clue what's going on in this country and I
16 think that we have got elected officials on
17 multiple layers of this government who have
18 no respect for the residents and the
19 citizens of this country. Some people may
20 disagree.

21 You know something, yes, I have run
22 for office before and I have knocked on
23 doors and I haven't really spent any money,
24 but you know something, I'm moved by my
25 commitments and my ideas and the most

1 important thing to me are the people and
2 when we take a recovery plan that's been
3 revived and we vote on it and we enact it, I
4 have to question what's legal about it.

5 Yeah, we held a special meeting on
6 one plan, but this is a different plan
7 because revised and updated means something.
8 These are words. Words have meanings, okay?
9 Now, we are going to talk about what the
10 mayor has done. I have to be honest with
11 you and say this, the mayor was only a
12 councilman at the time the American Anglican
13 deal went through when the city was
14 sanctioned, okay?

15 Now, it's pretty east to blame
16 everyone for the things that are going on
17 here. As a matter of fact, the Scranton
18 Times printed an article where I believe
19 allegedly CCAT took money not to file a
20 brief in court to fight it. And then maybe
21 I'm wrong, but I thought that the Scranton
22 Sewer Authority borrowed the money to pay
23 the debt off to American Anglican. So, I
24 mean, who is serving who here?

25 And I find this document to be

1 really atrocious because all we are doing is
2 we are coming up with a formula to borrow
3 more money in order to -- I mean, to tax
4 more to borrow money, but there is no real
5 solutions to our problem in this document
6 because the truth of the matter is that this
7 city is so far over a cliff that the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania needs to step
9 up to the plate and come here with money,
10 and the reason for that is they have done
11 such an atrocious job of overseeing the
12 city's recovery plan from the first time we
13 talked about Act 47 at ST. Mary's Center,
14 and that's not a shot at this council, it's
15 a fact. And this city is where it is
16 because elected officials on multiple layers
17 of government didn't do their job.

18 Now, do I criticize council for not
19 issuing subpoenas? Most certainly I do
20 because council has an oversight in this
21 Home Rule Charter, but you know something,
22 the PEL also had a right to come in here and
23 make sure that there was a recovery plan.

24 Now, I read the mayor's first plan
25 and it was at the Scranton Public Library

1 and at that time I stated it wasn't a plan
2 and now all of these years later we find
3 it's not a plan, and you know the real
4 troubling thing is I spent two days this
5 week down at the administration building at
6 the school district watching young children
7 being registered in the Scranton School
8 district. The most troubling thing I heard
9 there was, "I'm hungry," and the amount of
10 poverty I see there.

11 You know something, we have got a
12 lot of problems and we should solve them,
13 but the last thing we should have ever did
14 was use a legislative body to push something
15 through that wasn't the plan that the public
16 hearing was held on. Thank you.

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

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
20 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: I'd like to also voice
23 my approval of how things worked out here.
24 Not that they're not painful, but we
25 couldn't go any further with the way things

1 were going and hopefully with a lot of hard
2 work things will improve. That's all I can
3 say. Things don't change overnight, we have
4 a lot of -- only a small part of the whole
5 American society and country and I pointed
6 out before that outsourcing and so forth has
7 seriously harmed our economic health and we
8 have to deal with it, and it's certainly
9 beyond our control in most instances.

10 Now, in the future I plan to submit
11 a suggestion in writing, but for tonight I'm
12 once again going to mention box zone. I
13 mean, I don't always approve of my friend
14 Ron Ellman how radical he gets, but we are
15 having a lot of nonprofits hogging up our
16 space in taxable areas in the city and
17 something has to change there. We can't
18 keep paying for what the whole American
19 society or even foreign exchange students
20 might be coming and taking advantage of.

21 And streets, once again, we need a
22 post-inspection with utility work, Moosic
23 Street is getting messier as we go and it
24 was -- it's not even a year. There must be
25 five or six repairs in three blocks of

1 Moosic Street between Cosmo's and the stop
2 light at Harrison Avenue and Crown and it's
3 really ashame and it's ugly and the car
4 bounces all over so it's not done properly.

5 And I looked at my sewer bill today
6 and it's kind of disturbing because they
7 didn't have an accurate -- and I'm going to
8 have keep my water bill, but they didn't
9 have an accurate account of how much water I
10 really used because said something like 200
11 gallons, and the half of the bill was for
12 consumption charges. So, I mean, this has
13 to change, people conserve water. I collect
14 water and use vegetable oil on the top of
15 the barrel and water my garden and stuff
16 from rain water to save money and then I get
17 whacked with \$40 a month sewer bill. It's
18 not Kosher.

19 And we have a problem with housing
20 here. Mr. Morgan, he owns a house that he
21 was forbidden to rent apartment on, and the
22 place is mammoth. The place is mammoth and
23 we need to change some of our policy. We
24 have Aunt Millie living in a four bedroom
25 house, her family all moved away or her

1 husband passed away and they could be
2 changed and we could have cheaper housing in
3 this town and Aunt Millie won't have so much
4 trouble paying her taxes.

5 On this trash, I do not support
6 privatized trash. I mean, if people don't
7 stop throwing stuff on my front lawn I'm
8 going to have to invoke the stand your
9 ground law or something against them, and I
10 lived in other towns where people would just
11 take trash and throw it right on your lawn
12 when you were out at work and, I mean, like
13 the one lady was mentally challenged
14 downstairs, they used to get a nickle a
15 bottle or can up in New York state because
16 we lived close to there, so they would take
17 all of this stuff, well, one time they must
18 have got turned away so I must have had four
19 or five large garbage bags of empty soda
20 bottles and stuff just deposited on my
21 porch. I had to bring the landlord into it
22 and my wife, you know, when something like
23 that happens to her she is kind of hard to
24 control. But once again, I would like to
25 express my approval and all we can do is

1 try. We can't fix everything overnight and
2 nothing is ever perfect.

3 But once again I would like to warn
4 the unions on their vote. Out in Ohio they
5 voted for John Casick and he lifted their
6 union rights for firemen, police and 70
7 percent of the firemen and police voted for
8 him, so we have better things to do than to
9 restore union rights and have referendums
10 and everything else, so be careful who you
11 vote for and make sure that they are
12 pro labor and keep had mind don't vote for
13 outsources.

14 And the golden parrot, once again,
15 goes to photo ID. I'm finding more and more
16 elderly people that are being
17 disenfranchised and if I have a copy of the
18 constitution here and it states on two
19 different amendments, I think it's 15 and
20 17, this is the national constitution that
21 nobody's voting rights under any
22 circumstances are to be abridged.

23 So if they want to take your picture
24 at the voting polls and make a law like that
25 that's a bright idea, but stop making people

1 jump through hoops, the government of
2 Pennsylvania. Thank you and have a good
3 night. Bawk, bawk.

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

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

8 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: First, I had
10 something for everybody tonight, but I think
11 I'm going to scrap that, but I would like to
12 talk first with Mr. McGoff about rental
13 registration. I would like to know if --
14 and maybe this would be more for the
15 solicitor but through you, is the city at
16 any added risk for lawsuits if something
17 happens between the time the person pays
18 their fee and something happens that would
19 have been caught during the inspection?
20 Does that put us at risk?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know how to
22 answer that. I imagine that anything could
23 put us at risk as Attorney Hughes often
24 says. You know, anybody can sue for
25 anything. I don't see that it puts us at

1 any added risk, but I don't know.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, let's
3 skip that, too, because I think it's
4 relevant. How many inspectors will there be
5 inspecting the rental properties?

6 MR. MCGOFF: That's a very good
7 question. The inspections can be done by --
8 the safety inspections that are included in
9 the legislation can be done by basically
10 anyone in the LIPS Department. I think it's
11 the director, the housing inspectors, the --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I know what
13 inspectors, but, okay, if they can be done.

14 MR. MCGOFF: The exact number I
15 don't know. I don't know how it's going to
16 be -- I'm not sure how LIPS is going to
17 implement doing those.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because, I mean,
19 anything that relates to -- -

20 MR. MCGOFF: But I think that's a
21 good question.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- to my next one
23 which is how many rental properties are
24 currently in the database and have they all
25 received letters informing them?

1 MR. MCGOFF: As far as I know, I
2 don't know the exact number, I know it's a
3 very limited number based on estimates that
4 we have for --

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could you possibly
6 get that figure for next week because, I
7 mean, I think it should be up there quite
8 high.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: I provided you
11 information --

12 MR. MCGOFF: As far as I know,
13 notices were to be sent to every property
14 that was in the -- that we did have in our
15 database.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: There is a whole
17 lot more as you well know.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: I have given you
20 some ideas on paper in the past and, you
21 know, maybe we need to revisit that. Is it
22 the procedure, I don't remember it's been so
23 long, does the procedure include the
24 verification of the agent with the agent
25 themselves? Because I understand that some

1 owners just put like the name of a resident,
2 you know, a neighbor on as their
3 representative here and sometimes they are
4 not even aware of it until they get a call,
5 so I think it might be wise to, you know,
6 verify what the letter is saying. We have
7 been, you know, advised that you are.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, again, I'm trying
9 to remember as well. I don't have a copy of
10 it with me, but I'm pretty sure that there
11 was a stronger language regarding the agent.
12 That the agent had to be, you know, that
13 there were certain things that needed to be
14 done. Mr. Loscombe may remember as well.
15 I'm not sure, but I know we tried to address
16 that issue somewhat.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then will these
18 inspections be done annually?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I believe so. Again,
20 that was part of the -- if I'm not mistaken,
21 again, I'll check on it when I get home,
22 that it was any new property, any new
23 registrant they would do the inspection and
24 then we were talking about maybe doing other
25 inspections on a two-year basis rather than

1 every year.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, then,
3 I'll look forward to that for next week.
4 And Mr. Rogan I'll skip him since he is not
5 here.

6 Next, I guess the loan from the
7 union/Amalgamated, does the union president
8 John Judge personally or the union get a
9 finder's fee for the creation of this?

10 MR. JOYCE: No, the union itself,
11 the firefighters union does not get a
12 finder's fee for the creation of the loan as
13 to my knowledge and to what I received from
14 Amalgamated Bank.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Is the city's new
16 co-financing advisor Michael Judge of Case
17 Con Capital related to the union president
18 John Judge?

19 MR. JOYCE: I do not believe that --

20 MR. HUGHES: No.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: No. Thank you.
22 And what entity will pay council solicitor
23 Hughes?

24 MR. JOYCE: It will come out of the
25 total fees for the loan.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: So it will come
2 from Amalgamated?

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm concerned about
5 setting a precedent with the Home Rule
6 Charter on two jobs, the whole two jobs
7 issue. If the city were to pay him for
8 another job other than his solicitor one.

9 MR. JOYCE: From my knowledge it
10 comes from Amalgamated.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could you verify
12 that for me next week? Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I will. It's
14 actually part of the term sheet and the city
15 solicitor's fee will come from Amalgamated
16 as well.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then I really
18 hope we have seen the last of three readings
19 in one night. I think there have been -- I
20 recognize there have been a lot of
21 emergencies this year, but I think there
22 have been far too many.

23 And now over to the recovery plan
24 for a few minutes and maybe one person or
25 Mr. Loscombe, I don't know about you were in

1 -- I know you were in the vassal on the
2 Mulberry Street issue and I just think there
3 are way too many crosswalks for the
4 students. Five in one block is to me
5 excessive. I mean, one at each corner, I
6 think these young people have the ability to
7 walk across a street to cross and they are
8 still jaywalking even with five crosswalks
9 there, so I think something needs to be done
10 about that to reduce the number because they
11 have got four of the two corners and the one
12 in the middle of the block.

13 Will the source of funding for the
14 current unfunded debt dictated by the Court
15 be revealed tonight with all of the fees?

16 MR. JOYCE: Could you please repeat
17 your question, I'm sorry, I didn't hear you.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Will the source of
19 the funding -- when the DCED had their
20 hearing here they said that a source had
21 been identified to loan us that money and
22 what I'm asking is will we get that
23 information? Will that be announced
24 tonight?

25 MS. EVANS: I'm not aware that there

1 is a source that's been identified that I
2 have no knowledge of that. I have not been
3 contacted by the mayor about that, so I
4 would question that statement. So,
5 naturally, we won't be discussing that this
6 evening because we have no information at
7 this point.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

9 MR. JOYCE: I will contact Ryan
10 McGowan to try and find the latest
11 developments of who he is discussing the
12 terms with though.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. And
14 what account will the forensic audit be
15 funded from? Is that going to be council's
16 professional services account?

17 MR. JOYCE: It would be my
18 understanding that it would be a
19 professional service, yes.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then do we have
21 any idea who the lease buyback -- or what
22 the lease buyback property is or who the top
23 three -- and what property of the top three
24 contenders?

25 MR. JOYCE: No, not at this time.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll finish up then
2 with one on -- the final one on the recovery
3 plan, on the whatever that's called,
4 essentially the advertising on city
5 property, who is going to set the criteria
6 for what is suitable?

7 MR. JOYCE: There is supposed to be
8 a study done and a consulting firm that
9 would be paid for by a state grant that
10 would do that for us and that would assist
11 us with developing an MBR0 program.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I do hope we
13 citizens get to look at it because I do
14 think there is some things that are
15 appropriate and some things that are
16 probably inappropriate for city property and
17 I think it would good to have that clarified
18 before the program begins instead of after.
19 Okay, next week I'll be back with more.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, and I hope
22 that you feel better.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, I will. First
24 frost.

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: He is going to be
3 52 on Sunday.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: How about them
5 Invaders, Chris?

6 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, you know
7 something, they brought them right down to
8 the ground. Janet, there is not a
9 Thanksgiving game this year. They cancelled
10 it. They heard that on Monday when they
11 mentioned it on the air. I wanted to just
12 tell you guys that now.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: You can stay home and
14 eat your turkey.

15 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Oh, I am, Jack.
16 Eat lick a pig. Thanks, Jack.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Jack.

18 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
19 cares to address council?

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

21 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff --

22 MR. MCGOFF: Did you want Attorney
23 Hughes to go --

24 MS. EVANS: Well, I was going to do
25 it --

1 MR. MCGOFF: --first or after?

2 MS. EVANS: I was actually going to
3 call on him during my motions.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. Then I'll go
5 ahead. I did have some questions about
6 that, but I can do that later. I took a
7 moment to look up the distracted driving law
8 for Pennsylvania. It was signed into law in
9 March of 2012. There are only two primary
10 offenses listed for distracted driving, one
11 is texting and the one is a video screen
12 forward of the driver so you can't be
13 watching television, I guess, or your
14 computer or something, but those are the
15 only two primary offenses, and primary
16 offenses are ones that at that the police
17 can stop you for doing that.

18 Everything else is listed as a
19 secondary offense. They cannot stop you for
20 a secondary offense, but if you are stopped
21 for something else then they can add on the
22 secondary offenses if they exist, and since
23 we don't have in the city, since we don't
24 have our own distracted driving law, then we
25 are -- then we use the state law. So I

1 would believe that that's what Chief
2 Graziano was speaking, the difficulty in
3 enforcing those.

4 Second, I just wanted very quickly,
5 we did receive some items from OECD
6 concerning the CDBG grant funding and I was
7 hoping that Councilman Rogan was here, I do
8 have some recommendations or things for
9 changes that should I say give them to
10 Mr. Rogan or --

11 MS. EVANS: Yes, I believe he
12 e-mailed everyone.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah, he did.

14 MR. JOYCE: He sent an e-mail.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't know since he
16 was not here if --

17 MS. EVANS: I think actually we do
18 have time because it will be introduced next
19 week, on the 13th, and the 20th it will go
20 into Sixth Order and prior to the meeting a
21 public hearing will be held on the 20th, and
22 then the we must wait 30 days in order for
23 the public to submit their comments on it
24 and so it really won't reach its final
25 destination until maybe October 23 or 25.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you and you
2 answered my second question, and I will save
3 any other questions or comments concerning
4 the legislation until after Attorney Hughes
5 and when the legislation is presented, so
6 thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
8 Loscombe, do you have any comments or
9 motions this evening?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just a couple
11 briefly. I know we had discussed the
12 condition of the police vehicles and stuff,
13 it was two weeks ago that we had a several
14 of them in accidents and I know there are
15 quite a few that are out of service. I
16 didn't have an opportunity to get over there
17 due to circumstances this past week, but I
18 did speak to the police chief on the phone
19 and I will be following up on the repairs
20 because I believe there is at least 13
21 vehicles out of service right now. Some of
22 the cars are being doubled up on.

23 There are four new cars in New
24 Jersey waiting to be delivered here, I
25 believe they should be here this week. They

1 are waiting to get the police packages
2 installed by the contractor out there that
3 has the contract for it, so hopefully those
4 four cars will be here in service within the
5 next few days and we'll see what we can do
6 to expedite the repairs on the current
7 police vehicles that are out of service so
8 we can keep our police officers safe and on
9 the street.

10 And on that note, speaking of new
11 police cars, a few weeks ago a new fire
12 truck was put into service at Engine 2 in
13 South Scranton and if you recall that's the
14 fire truck that this city council funded
15 through OECD through the CDBG funding and,
16 you know, that's a big asset. It's a nice
17 piece of the equipment. It was actually
18 made in Pennsylvania in Nesquehoning and
19 Kopvatch and I hope it serves the citizens
20 well, but it's just another step towards
21 protecting your public safety.

22 And just lastly, I spoke to some of
23 the neighbors back in Keyser Valley and they
24 wanted to let me know that the Sewer
25 Authority through Gene Skeleton has been

1 actively -- actually back there several
2 times and they started physically working
3 this week on running some new lines to
4 eliminate some of the perennial flooding
5 that's been going on there and they are
6 going to watch that once it's hooked up and
7 see if that resolves the problem and
8 continue on if it doesn't, but I do applaud
9 the Sewer Authority for, you know, taking
10 the bull by the horns on this, I know it's
11 been an ongoing long process and I do
12 commend them for getting on them at this
13 point and hopefully the neighbors in Keyser
14 Valley will no longer suffer from the
15 constant flooding any time there is a heavy
16 rainstorm.

17 And I believe that's all I have at
18 this point. Thank you.

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

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Briefly. To begin
23 tonight I'm going to address the capital
24 budget. The process of the capital
25 budgeting essentially is the process of

1 planning, evaluating and comparing and
2 selecting the long-term projects involved
3 with the city. The capital budget that was
4 sent down by the administration to council
5 is a five-year plan beginning in 2013 and
6 then ending in 2017.

7 A common question that one might ask
8 is what is the capital budget? I don't
9 believe that the members of the audience and
10 people at home have a copy of it, so to
11 elaborate a little bit further there are
12 four sections of the capital budget that was
13 presented to council by the administration.

14 The first section is fire stations
15 and equipment. As one knows, there are
16 eight fire stations and in the City of
17 Scranton. The fire stations are in need of
18 renovations and repair. Also, certain major
19 equipment and apparatuses will need to be
20 replaced. Renovations and repairs will need
21 to continually take place. The estimated
22 cost for fire stations and equipment section
23 is \$2.5 million:

24 The second section of the capital
25 budget deals with the bridges, roads, curbs,

1 and sidewalks. Improvements are needed
2 within the City of Scranton' infrastructure.
3 The projects in this section may include,
4 but are not limited to street resurfacing,
5 basically meaning paving, as well as bridge
6 and sidewalk reconstruction. The estimated
7 cost for bridges, roads, curbs and sidewalks
8 section is \$3 million.

9 The third section is building
10 improvements. As one knows, improvements
11 will be needed for buildings owned by the
12 City of Scranton. These buildings include
13 city hall, the DPW complex and the police
14 headquarters. Projects may include, but are
15 not limited to, the following renovations
16 including general maintenance, new
17 electrical wiring and the replacement or
18 repair of the elevator located in city hall
19 which currently isn't ADA compliant from
20 what I have heard. The estimated cost for
21 building improvements that Section is \$1.5
22 million.

23 The fourth section of the capital
24 budget is the parks system. As stated by
25 the administration, improvements will be

1 needed at the various parks and pools.
2 Projects may include, but are not limited to
3 projects at Weston Field, Weston Park,
4 Connell Park, Capouse Avenue pool and
5 Novembrino Pool and Nay Aug Park.

6 At Weston field the administration
7 wishes to replace the concrete decking
8 around the pool and install a new bathhouse,
9 garage filtration system and lighting.

10 At Weston Park the administration
11 wishes to replace concrete deck being around
12 the pool and install a new bathhouse,
13 security cameras, filtration system and
14 lighting.

15 At Connell Park the administration
16 wishes to install security cameras.

17 At the Capouse avenue pool the
18 administration wishes to demolish the pool
19 and bathhouse and replace it with new
20 bathroom facilities as well as a splash
21 park.

22 At the Novembrino pool the
23 administration wishes to demolish the pool
24 and the bathhouse and replace it with a new
25 bathing facility as well as install a splash

1 park.

2 At Nay Aug park the administration
3 wishes to build a new garage and install
4 security cameras, a new filtration system,
5 and new electrical upgrades.

6 The projected cost of the parks
7 system section is \$7 million. The total
8 amount of the capital budget is \$14 million
9 over the term of the five-year plan. The
10 majority of the funding for these projects
11 as reported by the administration is to come
12 from grants and contributions. In fact,
13 \$10.5 million is to come from grants and
14 contributions. I currently have an e-mail
15 into Ryan McGowan, our business
16 administrator, to ask what grants and
17 contributions the city expects to receive
18 that will equate to \$10.5 million for these
19 projects.

20 In addition, the administration
21 expects to receive \$1.5 million in one-time
22 revenue sources and \$2 million from
23 operating transfers from other funds. I
24 also have an e-mail into Ryan McGowan asking
25 where the one-time revenue sources are

1 expected to come from as well as where the
2 \$2 million from other funds are coming from.

3 I'm going to vote to introduce this
4 piece of legislation tonight, but in the
5 meantime I hope to obtain answers to my
6 questions. I would also like to ask for the
7 opinions of other council members as to what
8 projects they believe should or should not
9 be included or deleted from the capital
10 budget. I would ask that other council
11 members provide me their suggestions by
12 Tuesday of next week.

13 In other news, there were two
14 companies that bid on the parking meter
15 enhancement system. These companies were
16 IPS group and Pango. With this in mind,
17 Mrs. Krake, can you please contact Mr.
18 McGowan and ask what company was selected?

19 Along with this, Northeast Revenue
20 submitted a report to Scranton City Council
21 for the period ending on 8-31-2012, for
22 delinquent taxes collected and distributed.
23 For all years except 2004, 2005 and 2006,
24 Northeast Revenue reported that they
25 collected and distributed \$47,122.72 to the

1 City of Scranton after subtracting the fee,
2 of course.

3 For the years 2004, '5 and '6,
4 Northeast Revenue reported that they have
5 collected and distributed \$8,319.33 to
6 Pennstar Bank after subtracting their fees
7 as. As one may know, all delinquent taxes
8 collected for the years 2004, '5 and '6 are
9 directly distributed to Pennstar Bank to pay
10 for a loan that Scranton Redevelopment
11 Authority defaulted on with them regarding
12 the advanced sale of delinquent taxes for
13 such years, and that's all I have for
14 tonight.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
16 evening. On tonight's agenda, I have placed
17 an ordinance terminating the cooperation
18 agreement between the City and the Scranton
19 Parking Authority effective 12:01 a.m.
20 October 8, 2012. The cooperation agreement
21 provided 10 percent of the city's parking
22 meter revenue to the Parking authority for
23 salaries of the meter readers and collectors
24 as well as for at least 50 percent of the
25 management salaries.

1 Through termination of this
2 agreement, the Parking Authority will no
3 longer have sufficient funds to pay its
4 employees. In the near future, it should be
5 determined whether the meter readers and
6 collector will be employed by the City of
7 Scranton or by the new management company.
8 However, the bulk of the city's parking
9 meter revenue will be used to assist in
10 making annual bond payments.

11 At this time, I call on Solicitor
12 Hughes to offer a full report regarding the
13 Scranton Parking Authority.

14 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Madam
15 President and council members and the
16 public. It's been a long road in a very
17 short period of time to bring the Scranton
18 Parking Authority into a responsible
19 position and let's say to have some light
20 shown on their finances. I know a lot of
21 people think that this should have happened
22 a lot quicker, but I could state that this
23 is an entire process and it takes time to
24 complete a legal process and I believe in my
25 opinion the process has been completed in a

1 very short period of time.

2 In fact, I think they have
3 accomplished an extremely extraordinary
4 result in a very short period of time since
5 council -- since the Parking Authority
6 appeared before council in June requesting
7 almost a million dollars to make the June 1
8 bond payment. I believe it was in -- they
9 came in in the end of May.

10 What has happened in that time
11 period is that the insurance companies that
12 have insured the payments on the bond have
13 had a receiver appointed and as a result of
14 Mr. Washo being appointed as receiver the
15 one thing that is happening and should
16 happen tomorrow or early next week is that a
17 management company is going to be brought in
18 to run the garages professionally in order
19 to reduce expenses and increase revenue.

20 The company that is being hired, and
21 the agreement is almost finalized, I have
22 been informed by council for -- by both
23 Mr. Washo and also by council, that it will
24 be Central Parking. Central Parking is the
25 largest, second largest, I'm sorry, it's the

1 second largest parking management company
2 owner of the parking garages and also
3 managing parking garages in the United
4 States. It is currently in a merger
5 negotiation with Standard Parking, which is
6 the largest company in the United States, I
7 believe it's listed on the New York Stock
8 Exchange, and not only that I believe they
9 also are an international company.

10 To bring someone of that quality to
11 Scranton to run these garages I think is a
12 major accomplishment. It's my understanding
13 that they have had several management
14 companies look at these facilities before
15 they made the decision and, of course,
16 anyone of this caliber that is coming to
17 Scranton is coming here with the view that
18 they know the situation to turn it around
19 and, of course, they are going to get paid
20 and that's what they are entitled to, but
21 once they are hired that all of the monies
22 that come into the Parking Authority will be
23 the responsibility of the receiver,
24 Mr. Washo.

25 So hopefully by tomorrow the

1 contract will be completed, it will executed
2 and Mr. Washo can go into court next week
3 with that agreement and he will take over
4 the full operation of the Parking Authority
5 and receive all of the monies that the
6 Parking Authority has and be responsible as
7 the receiver for those monies and, of
8 course, pay Central parking the management
9 fee.

10 In my discussions with the insurance
11 companies' attorneys and Mr. Washo, the goal
12 is that to do this as soon as possible. The
13 objective is to reduce expenses and to
14 increase revenues and, of course, as that
15 happens it reduces the liability of the City
16 of Scranton.

17 The one thing that is not under the
18 receiver's jurisdiction, because it's not in
19 accordance with any of the trust agreement,
20 is the cooperation agreement executed in
21 1995 between the City of Scranton Parking
22 Authority and pursuant to which the Parking
23 Authority -- the Parking Authority gets the
24 money from -- actually maintains the parking
25 meters and obtains the money for the city

1 and they receive 10 percent, a commission of
2 10 percent of all monies collected in the
3 parking meters.

4 Since Mr. Washo as the receiver does
5 not have jurisdiction over this contract, it
6 would mean that if this contract were not
7 terminated that the Parking Authority would
8 remain in existence, would have over
9 \$100,000 a year in income and could keep
10 employees and run as a phantom agency. This
11 is one thing that council does not want.

12 The objective here is to terminate
13 this agreement in accordance with Article 9,
14 which either party can do at any time, and
15 just give the other party notice within 30
16 days of the termination so that in my review
17 of the contract that when this happens in
18 addition the City of Scranton reimburses and
19 actually makes the payment for all of the
20 parking meter people to the Scranton Parking
21 Authority, so the Scranton Parking Authority
22 does not incur any expenses for the
23 employees or for any of the meters, the
24 repairs, any of the supplies. They get 10
25 percent of all of the revenue collected from

1 the meters.

2 Instead of having the Parking
3 Authority have this and have funds where
4 they can continue in operation, the parking
5 meter people will be brought back in to the
6 city, who is paying their wages anyway, will
7 then become employees of the city, all of
8 that money is set forth in the budget so
9 that will not be an increase in expenses for
10 the city and the city will be receiving the
11 full 100 percent of the revenue from the
12 parking meters.

13 This is especially noteworthy if the
14 city, and I know they just put it out to
15 bid, for the meter enhancement program.
16 Assuming that that would be, just for the
17 sake of discussion, that that would raise
18 another 100 -- let's say \$1 million, that
19 would mean that the Parking Authority would
20 now have \$200,000 to spend as they see fit.
21 That's not the intent.

22 You know, I think as many of the
23 speakers have come up to the podium and
24 stated that something about certain issues
25 that what we are doing here is that this

1 money will now come into the city, the city
2 does have an obligation to pay on the bonds,
3 it's what known as a double barrel bond in
4 finance. In the event the Parking Authority
5 cannot pay the city has the responsibility
6 to pay. This money will stay with the city
7 and be available to pay for that.

8 What we did is looking at that
9 drafted this ordinance so that it would
10 terminate on October 6 at 12:01 a.m., and
11 that at that time all of the employees would
12 then be employees of the city and the city
13 will get 100 percent of the revenue.

14 A letter was sent today by Attorney
15 Gownley on behalf of Landmark Bank saying
16 that they have a security interest in the
17 contract and they are going to file a
18 lawsuit. They want a meeting with Attorney
19 Kelly and myself. I reviewed the letter, I
20 think the allegations are groundless on the
21 basis that, first of all, when Landmark Bank
22 lent the Scranton Parking Authority money
23 back in September of 2011 council knew
24 nothing about the loan. The only way that
25 we were informed of the loan was by reading

1 it in the newspaper and what was pledged is
2 collateral were the funds of the contract
3 not the contract itself.

4 I believe for that loan to be made
5 if they had done their due diligence they
6 would have seen it in this contract it could
7 terminated by either party in 30 days. That
8 as long ago as the contract remained in
9 effect the bank did have the security
10 interest in those funds. It does not have a
11 security interest in the contract itself,
12 which is what they are trying to imply; that
13 by them making the loan and not coming to
14 council and seeking -- telling council what
15 they were going to do, why they were making
16 the loan and seeing an assurance for council
17 to amend the contract, to state that as long
18 as the loan was outstanding but would not
19 terminate it, that was never done.

20 This was done behind closed doors.
21 It was a cloak and dagger strictly between
22 backroom dealing between Landmark Bank and
23 the Scranton Parking Authority to make that
24 loan and they have no security interest in
25 the contract itself.

1 I summarily dismissed the letter as
2 being unfounded. There is no basis for them
3 to file a lawsuit. Council is fully within
4 its rights to terminate the agreement and to
5 me it's certainly folly to continue to let
6 the Scranton Parking Authority continue to
7 collect 10 percent of all of the revenue
8 from the parking meters including any
9 increase revenue that would come about
10 because of the meter enhancement program
11 when it was awarded by the city when the
12 city needs this money to pay the obligations
13 of the Scranton Parking Authority.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I just
15 wanted to add quickly, and then I'm going to
16 ask Mr. McGoff if he would like to pose his
17 questions to --

18 MR. MCGOFF: I'll wait until the
19 legislation.

20 MS. EVANS: Okay. I did speak with
21 Mayor Doherty today regarding the
22 legislation and he is in agreement with it.

23 Equally important tonight, I wish to
24 clear up any confusion regarding the
25 proposed real estate tax increases. The

1 actual tax increase is 35 percent. 12
2 percent in 2013; 9.7 percent in 2014; and
3 13.3 percent in 2015. Because rising
4 pension costs were not included by the
5 administration in the initial draft of the
6 revised recovery plan, the tax increase was
7 reported at 3.3 percent in early August.
8 The figures were later adjusted to 35
9 percent to include increases in pension
10 obligations.

11 Although, I can only speak for
12 myself, I believe that my colleagues would
13 agree this council will never vote to
14 approve a 79 percent tax increase, not in
15 2012, not in 2013, and not ever.

16 Also, since this council believes in
17 governmental transparency, it was pleased to
18 note that the Scranton Times published all
19 of the related costs of TAN Series B of
20 2012, which the city recently received.
21 However, I don't recall having read the
22 itemized costs of all previous TANS, bond
23 issues and borrowing the past 12 -- well,
24 ten years in the newspaper.

25 Therefore, with my colleagues'

1 agreement, I ask Mrs. Krake to send letters
2 to the appropriate department heads and
3 related parties to request a breakdown of
4 all of costs incurred for any and all TANS,
5 bond issues, and borrowings from January
6 2002 through December 2011, including any
7 and all bank fees, attorneys fees, and bond
8 council fees and/or payments.

9 Also, the breakdown must reflect
10 whether each entity was paid through the
11 operating budget, for example, from
12 professional services or through the cost of
13 the financial transactions itself.

14 Next, as our public safety chair
15 announced earlier, numerous police cars have
16 been out of service, some of which are
17 parked at the DPW while others are located
18 at police headquarters. As a result, police
19 officers have been doubling up in cars while
20 it seems that some of the necessary repairs
21 do not require costly parts. For the safety
22 and welfare of our city residents, the
23 police department needs its vehicles
24 repaired and on the road as quickly as
25 possible.

1 Therefore, with my colleagues'
2 agreement, council wishes to send a letter
3 to DPW Director Dougher requiring a weekly
4 report that identifies police vehicles that
5 have been serviced, are awaiting repair, the
6 reason for the waiting period and the
7 expected date of completion with a copy of
8 each report to Chief Graziano.

9 Council also received a response
10 from OECD Director Linda Aebli regarding the
11 loan agreement with 408 Cedar Avenue. In
12 her August 29 letter she states: "On March
13 9, 2007, the City of Scranton OECD entered
14 into a loan agreement with 408 Cedar Avenue,
15 LLC, for enterprise zone competitive grant
16 funds. These grant funds are not delivered
17 from federal HUD monies.

18 On June 7, 2012, we were notified
19 that the above-referenced property was sold
20 at the Lackawanna County 2012 judicial sale
21 --" and that would have been the sale, I
22 believe, conducted in February -- "And are
23 in receipt of a check representing the
24 approved court-ordered distribution as share
25 of proceeds."

1 However, Ms. Aebli did not report
2 the dollar amount of the check received as
3 the city and OECD's share of the county
4 judicial share proceeds.

5 Consequently, our council staff
6 followed up with the county and report that
7 the check was in the amount of \$8,000 and
8 the property was sold for \$18,000.

9 Further, excellent research
10 performed by Ms. Carrera, assistant city
11 clerk, indicates the following: Delinquent
12 city real estate taxes owed on that property
13 for 2009 and 2010 totaled \$1,496.95, and for
14 2011 \$574.91.

15 Again, with my colleagues'
16 agreement, I would like a letter sent to Ms.
17 Aebli requesting responses unanswered
18 questions contained in our August 28 letter.
19 When was the last payment made on the loan?
20 What was the balance on the loan prior to
21 the sale of the property? And who would be
22 legally responsible for payment in full?
23 Include an additional question, please,
24 Mrs. Krake, will OECD take legal action to
25 recover the remaining balance on the loan?

1 So as not to confuse the issue,
2 please attach a second letter to Ms. Aebli
3 requesting identification of any and all
4 accounts and/or programs included in the
5 IDIS 2102-2011; and IDIS 2177-2012 action
6 plans, including 2012 IDIS unobligated funds
7 which did not use allocated CDBG funding and
8 the reasons for each.

9 Now, council received a complaint in
10 August from a downtown resident or a
11 downtown resident which I will provide to
12 our office. Please send the letters to the
13 appropriate department heads so that they
14 can determine how best to resolve the
15 complaint.

16 In addition, South Side residents
17 report health concerns regarding a blighted
18 vacant lot at 1006 Moosic Street. They
19 state the brush is over ten feet in height
20 and they fear the lot is a breeding ground
21 for mosquitoes. Now, I know that some of
22 the residents have contacted council and
23 Mr. Dougher by e-mail, I saw his response,
24 which was to contact Mr. Seitzinger.

25 I, nevertheless, would like letters

1 sent to both gentlemen, Mr. Dougher and
2 Mr. Seitzinger, requesting a response within
3 two weeks and what action will be taken and
4 when.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Just very briefly on
6 that one, I did talk to Mark Dougher about
7 it and I believe that they were trying to
8 track down the owner of the property. And,
9 also, I talked to Pat Hinton who has been in
10 here and the South Side, I forget what the--

11 MR. JOYCE: South Scranton Cleanup
12 Crew.

13 MR. MCGOFF: And to ask if perhaps
14 they could look into cleaning that lot at
15 least, you know, temporarily until something
16 is done. So I'll look into that with Mr.
17 Hinton again.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Also,
19 regarding the complaints I received
20 pertaining to Olyphant Avenue, we received a
21 response from Marywood University, which I
22 will read to you from Wendy Yankelitis,
23 assistant vice-president of building and
24 grounds states: "I am receipt of your August
25 28, 2012, letter regarding Marywood

1 University's Olyphant Avenue property. The
2 University will begin the clearing of
3 overgrown brush, grass and trees the week of
4 September 17, 2012."

5 Now, just one more thing I wanted to
6 say before I close and we move onto the
7 voting portion of tonight's meeting. I
8 listen, I don't hear, I listen very
9 carefully to the people who speak at council
10 just as I listen carefully to the people who
11 call me, the people I meet and talk to and I
12 read carefully the e-mails that I receive.
13 I have been here all my life. I didn't just
14 get here or leave for something else and
15 come back. I have always been here so I
16 know what the issues are because your issues
17 are my issues.

18 And secondly, as for comments about
19 this council being a rubber stamp I do take
20 umbrage with that. I have never been a
21 rubber stamp and my record attests to that
22 and anyone who feels differently needs to do
23 the research and read through nine years
24 worth of the council meeting minutes, nine
25 years worth of legislation to see where I

1 stood on issues.

2 And I think, you know, when we hear
3 statements like, "Council does nothing," it
4 couldn't be farther from the truth and I
5 don't want to sit here tonight and take your
6 time up listing pages, I have them at home,
7 of the accomplishments of this council since
8 it was sworn into office in January of 2010.

9 But I'm sure you can see even from
10 tonight's meeting the fact that a city
11 authority has been taken over and held
12 accountable by this council is
13 unprecedented. It's never happened before
14 and, yes, it's taking time, but serious
15 significant changes are occurring.

16 And as for the financial crisis the
17 city is facing, as I said before, this has
18 been building since 2002. And, yes, it's
19 reached a climax because too much money was
20 borrowed and mismanaged for too long by the
21 city and by it's authorities, but I believe
22 there is a very good chance we would have
23 been continuing along that same road and the
24 only reason we are not is because of this
25 council and it's office staff and Attorney

1 Hughes.

2 The reason you know about these
3 debts, the reason banks are finally
4 scrupulously examining city finances and
5 reading carefully contract language, and
6 they never did this before, is because of
7 that what council has brought to light, and
8 it's taken a long time and a lot of hard
9 work on the parts of a lot of people.

10 And you might say, "Well, council is
11 guilty." We are not guilty of a tax
12 increase and we are not guilty of causing
13 the debt, but I'll tell you what we are
14 guilty of exposing the truth and that's what
15 had all of the financial institutions in a
16 tizzy, PEL, DCED, because it finally came
17 out. I believe that's the right thing to
18 do.

19 And I think, you know, finally, as I
20 listen to everyone who comes up here week
21 after week, I remember the days, and I know
22 you do, too, because most of the people who
23 are here this evening have been coming here
24 for longer than I have been a councilwoman,
25 but I remember vividly even prior to my

1 being seated very disrespectful council
2 presidents and I remember being seated with
3 council members who were highly
4 disrespectful and, yes, these chambers were
5 a circus. Yes, speakers were disrespected,
6 mocked, laughed at, taunted, but since this
7 council took office in 2010 each and every
8 one of you have the opportunity to speak, to
9 tell us what you think, your opinions are
10 respected whether or not we agree with them,
11 and the questions that you ask our office
12 staff and this council work very hard to try
13 to answer. We can't solve every problem and
14 we don't have the answer to every question
15 because at the same time there is a
16 tremendous amount of work that is ongoing.

17 The legislation that you see just
18 doesn't fall from an office, it takes lot of
19 homework and a lot of research, a lot of
20 discussion, a lot of decision making and
21 it's all being done on your behalf.

22 And so I don't -- as council
23 president I don't often speak this way, I
24 try to in many cases withhold my opinion,
25 remain reserved, but inside I have not

1 changed. I'm the same person that's fought
2 for you and fought hard and it is a blood
3 sport since 2004. That hasn't changed. And
4 as I said earlier, 79 percent, I don't care
5 what the newspaper wants to print, 79, 78,
6 81, have fun, it's not happening because I
7 will not approve it. And, as I said before,
8 I think there is anyone here that will. We
9 will find other ways.

10 And I apologize for taking your time
11 for these matters, but I felt after all of
12 this time certain things needed to be said.
13 Mrs. Krake?

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. APPROVING AND
15 ACCEPTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON CAPITAL
16 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2013 PURSUANT TO THE
17 SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME RULE CHARTER.

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. JOYCE: So moved.

22 MR. MCGOFF: 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. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AN ORDINANCE
7 TERMINATING THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT
8 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND THE
9 SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY AS OF 12:01 AM
10 OCTOBER 8, 2012 AND GIVING NOTICE TO THE
11 SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY THAT FILE OF
12 COUNCIL NO. 104 OF 1995 HAS BEEN TERMINATED
13 AS OF 12:01 AM OCTOBER 8, 2012.

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

17 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah, I do have a
21 couple of comments. Well, first thing is
22 that when I came to the council office
23 yesterday this was not even on the agenda
24 and we are now being asked to vote on
25 something that has no backup. I guess I

1 would like to see what the actual operating
2 agreement says. I just think that the
3 urgency which this was put on the agenda was
4 -- deprives of us of an opportunity to be
5 informed on the vote.

6 Secondly, I do have some questions
7 about how the collection of meter revenue
8 will take place. I realize that some
9 employees will come back into the city, but
10 I'm not sure that the city has the where
11 with all to efficiently collect the revenue
12 that we would normally collect. There is no
13 office in which to -- from which to do this.
14 I understand that there is talk of one
15 person in the administration taking this on
16 as a responsibility, which would be his
17 third position within the city government,
18 so I really do question the effectiveness
19 and the efficiency with which we would
20 collect the revenue.

21 The other thing that I am assuming
22 that since we said that the 10 percent fee
23 or 10 percent reimbursement whatever to the
24 Parking Authority would no longer be done, I
25 guess that the assumption is that we will

1 now continue to pay the SPA bond payments
2 indefinitely since they will have no revenue
3 to pay them. To me, it seems that we have
4 now taken on another \$50 million in debt by
5 doing this.

6 And the other problem that I have is
7 that probably the claim that Landmark will
8 sue the city while maybe Attorney Hughes may
9 feel it's unfounded, I just think any
10 lawsuit now from any bank would present a
11 very negative image for the city as it moves
12 forward with any borrowing, and I think it
13 should be noted that the loan that Landmark
14 did make to the SPA actually saved the city
15 from making bond payments into 2011. It was
16 not some nefarious deal, and I just think if
17 all of these things are being thrown at us
18 very quickly, and I really do not see the
19 urgency that in legislation. That's all.

20 MS. EVANS: I would like to respond.
21 This isn't anything new, this was discussed
22 at previous council meetings publically and
23 suggested by our solicitor. As for the
24 urgency, well, there is, indeed, a urgency
25 because you heard Solicitor Hughes say that

1 possibly as soon as tomorrow a knew
2 professional management company will be
3 taking over.

4 Now, they have to be paid. What we
5 have got right now would be two management
6 teams being paid, the new professionals
7 coming in with the national reputation for
8 doing a good job and the current management
9 team that does not want to get out. We have
10 to ultimately be responsible for these bonds
11 payments. Mr. Washo is going to be
12 responsible for the money. It is ludicrous,
13 ludicrous to be paying two people, two
14 people, I'm sorry, a professional company
15 and all of that entails as well as the old
16 group under which the garages and the
17 authorities have been mismanaged. If we do
18 not proceed with this termination of the
19 cooperation agreement beginning tonight, you
20 are just postponing the inevitable and
21 flushing money down the toilet because you
22 are saying you want to pay both. This will
23 stop those payments to the former
24 management.

25 Now, as I said, I discussed this

1 with the mayor today, obviously, you did as
2 well, Mr. McGoff.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I did.

4 MS. EVANS: Actually, I haven't been
5 through my mail in its entirety, but I have
6 not even seen the letter, and I know that we
7 faxed the letter from the attorney for
8 Landmark Bank to our attorney, but I haven't
9 seen the letter, but apparently you have or
10 you have a copy of --

11 MR. MCGOFF: No, I haven't.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, you were quoting
13 from it.

14 MR. MCGOFF: No, I didn't quote
15 prosecute the letter, I just said that I
16 informed that they would, in fact, you know,
17 bring a lawsuit against the city.

18 MS. EVANS: No, there was something
19 else that you said about --

20 MR. MCGOFF: Just suffice it to say,
21 I have not seen the letter.

22 MS. EVANS: Okay, because I don't
23 believe anyone on this council has. But,
24 again, I, too, spoke with the mayor and he
25 has agreed to address the oversight of meter

1 collectors. He also indicated that since we
2 will soon have a new parking meter program
3 in effect that the future of the parking
4 meters may well be debit cards and credit
5 cards. In fact, his words to me were, "I
6 don't believe people carry around loose
7 change anymore or even dollar bills, they
8 use plastic," and that's where the meters
9 are headed. So there may not be as much to
10 oversight within the future as there had
11 been in the past.

12 But, in addition to that, there is
13 also the possibility that the new management
14 company might want to take some of that
15 under its umbrella, so I think the concerns
16 are misplaced. Is there anyone else on the
17 question?

18 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
19 could just clear up some -- I just want to
20 clear up some issues here, one is when
21 Central Parking is retained and executes the
22 agreement with the receiver at that point
23 all of the money that's generated by the
24 Parking Authority will be under the
25 receiver's control, under Mr. Washo's

1 control. The Scranton Parking Authority
2 will not have any money to pay any employees
3 from the money that's generated from the
4 parking garages, so all of that money is
5 going to come in, it's going to be accounted
6 for, Mr. Washo has to supply to the Court
7 reports of every dollar he receives and that
8 he pays out. That's the money that's going
9 to be used to pay the bond payments. It's
10 going to go to the trustee, Wells Fargo
11 Bank, to make the bond payments.

12 In the event that money is
13 insufficient, the City of Scranton has a
14 legal liability to pay that money, to make
15 the balance. The only money that the
16 Parking Authority would have is from the
17 parking meter revenue because that does not
18 come under Mr. Washo's jurisdiction. It's
19 not within Wells Fargo's responsibility as a
20 trustee that was never pledged, so that they
21 could still function with that money and
22 spend it as they see fit.

23 I mean, all of the bills you got
24 previously, going to lunches, going here,
25 giving Scopelliti \$150 a month car

1 allowance, they could still continue with
2 all of that and that money could be going to
3 a bond payment and that's what this issue is
4 about, it's to cut off all of the money to
5 the Scranton Parking Authority. The board
6 of the Scranton Parking Authority will still
7 exist, it won't have any employees, it won't
8 have any money to pay the employees, but
9 that has to function because it still owns,
10 it is still there as the entity that's the
11 owner of the garages subject to now the
12 receiver is appointed because there has been
13 such misadministration and maladministration
14 of the Parking Authority that the receiver
15 has control, and that's what the issue is
16 here is that that money has to come back
17 into the city to make that bond payment.

18 Why shouldn't it just be thrown
19 \$100,000 a year plus and maybe \$200,000 a
20 year? And that's going reduce the city's
21 liability on the bond issue, hopefully with
22 professional managers in here and looking at
23 this they will come up with ideas as to how
24 to generate more revenue, how to coordinate
25 things, that's going to take place and

1 that's what this issue is, is that where is
2 the money better spent? Is it better spent
3 and kept by the city or given to the SPA?
4 And in opinion, and that's up to council
5 it's better to be spent than kept here with
6 the city, and us keeping the 10 percent, us
7 keep the vig on anything that's kept so we
8 can make the bond payment, and then the
9 Parking Authority will still exist, the
10 board will still exist, but they won't have
11 anything to do and they won't have any money
12 to pay any employees because that money that
13 they would be getting is going to be going
14 to pay the bond issues.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. HUGHES: It's that simple.

17 MS. EVANS: And while you were
18 speaking, I checked with our Finance Chair
19 as to his memory of the line item in the
20 city's operating budget for citation
21 issuers, etcetera, the amount of money that
22 is given annually to the Parking Authority
23 that represents that 10 percent and
24 Mr. Joyce told me \$562,000 --

25 MR. JOYCE: That's the cost of the

1 employees and the meter repairs and meter
2 head and --

3 MS. EVANS: So we are talking over a
4 half a million dollars here. That's
5 sizable. That's nearly a September bond
6 payment and that's why this needs to be
7 done.

8 Is there anyone else on the
9 question? All those in favor of
10 introduction signify by saying aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

14 MR. MCGOFF: No.

15 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
16 moved. If there is no further business --
17 oh, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I was ready
18 to -- we have Sixth and Seventh Order.

19 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
20 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO
21 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs, Krake,
23 and my apologies. If there is no further
24 business, I'll entertain a motion to
25 adjourn.

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MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
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