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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 25, 2012

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. TAX ASSESSOR'S
16 REPORT, RESULTS FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2012.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
20 REPORT, APPEAL HEARINGS FROM OCTOBER 17,
21 2012.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
25 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION MEETINGS HELD AUGUST

1 22ND AND SEPTEMBER 26TH OF 2012.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
5 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD'S REGULAR MEETING
6 HELD SEPTEMBER 26, 2012.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
10 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD OCTOBER 24,
11 2012.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
15 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
16 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION RECEIVED OCTOBER 15,
17 2012.

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

20 Do we clerk's notes tonight, Mrs.
21 Krake?

22 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

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

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have one. The West
2 Side Falcon's youth organization will
3 present it's first annual Night at the Races
4 this Friday, October 26, tomorrow evening,
5 at Holy Rosary Hall in North Scranton.
6 Enjoy the fun, buffet, beer, beverages and
7 snacks included. The doors open at 6:00
8 p.m., buffet starts at 6:30, races begin at
9 7:00 and tickets are \$15 per person. For
10 more information you can visit the west
11 website www.falcons.com for more contact
12 info. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

14 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know if you
15 saw, we received a note from Mr. Beasley at
16 PPL and it was kind of a caution for next
17 week with basically says that potential from
18 Hurricane Sandy is for damage and power
19 outages and PPL has activated an emergency
20 personnel that there be additional people in
21 the area should there would from power
22 outages during the storm.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: I just have -- I just
25 wanted to mention that I will be making a

1 motion to amend the CDBG allocations. I'd
2 like to thank everyone for their input as we
3 put this together, and I just wanted to
4 announce it now in case any of the residents
5 in attendance had any questions prior to --
6 before the vote. The changes are, I'm going
7 to read them off, two sections, the first
8 one is the general funded items and the
9 second would be the ones that are listed as
10 public service. You know, the two funding
11 sources there is only a certain amount you
12 can use for public service.

13 So the reductions are the City of
14 Scranton OECD, administration costs of the
15 CDBG program, will be reduced by \$55,000.
16 Sidewalk repairs for the Boys and Girls Club
17 will be reduced by \$32,000, and City of
18 Scranton Parks and Recreation plans for
19 splash pads/splash parks will be reduced by
20 \$300,000.

21 The additions will be to the
22 Lackawanna Neighbors for housing
23 rehabilitation \$32,000. Scranton Tomorrow
24 master business plan \$10,000, and City of
25 Scranton DPW road paving \$345,000.

1 The changes to the public service
2 portion of the funding would be, the
3 reductions would be the United Neighborhood
4 Centers SCOLA Program, \$10,000, and the
5 Deutsch Institute recreation activities by
6 \$5,000.

7 The offsetting increases will be for
8 EOTC, the adult literacy program, increased
9 by \$5,000, and the Neighbor Works PA Home
10 Ownership Program will be increased by
11 \$10,000.

12 And that is all for now. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I'd like to
14 acknowledge and thank Mr. Tom Welby for
15 manning the ECTV camera this evening and
16 making this broadcast possible.

17 The 2012 election is fast
18 approaching. As you go to the polls on
19 November 6, know that you do not need a vote
20 photo ID to vote in this election. Please
21 be sure to vote.

22 The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
23 will hold it's Cheers to Hope fundraiser on
24 Sunday, November 4 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the
25 Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in

1 Scranton. A suggested donation is \$35.
2 Live entertainment includes the Fab 3, the
3 East Coast Trio, Angelina and the Cue Balls.
4 2012 Honorees are Bill Shacowski, Tammy
5 Saunders and former mayor James Connors.
6 Please support this worthy cause. And
7 that's it.

8 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
9 PARTICIPATION.

10 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
11 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

12 MR. SBARAGALIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
13 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
14 in our Sunday paper there was a editorial
15 about the commuter tax where our dear
16 newspaper decided it was a bad idea, but I'd
17 like to say a little on the reasons they
18 gave. It says, "Council has failed to
19 demonstrate seriousness after resisting
20 reforms for decades."

21 You have been there for two years.
22 That decade he is referring to was way back
23 in the beginning, you are right, that
24 council is where we are today causing all
25 the problems. I wish they gave the names of

1 that council so people could actually see
2 who it was.

3 Okay. They also passed a budget two
4 years ago that reduced taxes amid calamity."

5 We all know what that calamity was,
6 you had no way of knowing exactly what was
7 happening with the city budget. There was
8 no audit, you voted on a tax decrease
9 without an audit, I can't understand that,
10 but who do you blame for us not having an
11 audit at the proper time? The
12 administration. So whatever you want to say
13 they caused the calamity.

14 Now, let's go down their number two,
15 "Rather than striving to cut costs that are
16 driving the city problems, the government
17 approved new contracts with the public
18 safety employees to 2017."

19 They don't put in that article that
20 they paid \$50 million to get that contract.
21 Nobody gives up \$15 million like they did
22 without some guarantee, obviously, that's
23 the reason they got the contract, whatever
24 money they may see, that's what it looks
25 like and it probably is true, so they paid

1 for their contract.

2 "Council accelerated the crises by
3 deliberately forcing a default this summer
4 on the Scranton Parking Authority bond.
5 Commuters who work in downtown pay as much
6 as \$1,200 to park in SPA garages, they
7 shouldn't have to bear further costs of
8 council."

9 They use the word misfeasance. They
10 claim that what you did was legal, but it
11 wasn't right. How many days did I sit out
12 in the cold waiting to get to our dear
13 council meetings? How many days did I pass
14 through metal detectors so I could speak on
15 what was happening on the city? If there
16 was any misfeasance it should have been with
17 the Scranton Times for not reporting it at
18 that time.

19 Let's go onto another, "According to
20 the Pennsylvania Economy League, more than
21 70 percent of the city property owners pay
22 less than \$500 in property taxes. A
23 commuter earning \$50,000 would pay more in
24 taxes than most city property owners. "

25 That may be true. I won't say it's

1 this or that, but I was glad to pay because
2 my wage tax was high long before you even
3 thought about a commuter tax to keep my
4 grandmothers in their homes, my mothers in
5 their homes without being burdened by high
6 taxes. That is the reason why we did that.
7 Nobody ever come to you and cried about
8 paying the wage tax, and the reason we
9 didn't cry about it because the property tax
10 were kept low for our mothers and
11 grandmothers.

12 Okay, "The premise that the tax
13 merely covers the service burden," forget
14 about that, that's ridiculous. I mean, we
15 know that somebody drives to the city goes
16 to work, they do the work, I mean, their
17 company pays for taxes, they pay for
18 lighting, they pay for this and that and
19 they get the heck out of the city, so that
20 is not it.

21 "Council wants to shake down
22 commuters after refusing to participate in
23 the suburban governments in joint planning
24 and failing to pursue consolidated
25 services."

1 That's a stupid plan, again, fall in
2 love with the Abingtons. Why they don't get
3 that I'll never know. That's ridiculous.
4 If we want to go somewhere let us stretch
5 our hands to our communities that surround
6 us. I go from one street, I'm in Taylor. I
7 go from another street, I am in Dunmore. I
8 go from another street up in Taylor. There
9 is where we should be stretching our hands,
10 not over the money. I mean, all they want
11 to do is set up so they stay clean air and
12 we get all the garbage down there.

13 In fact, the paper ran up there,
14 too, and they said come off with a bad part
15 about it, bear the costs of the bad decision
16 would not be able to vote against the people
17 who taxed them. Well, I can understand
18 that. I hate to see anybody taxed without
19 being able to come here and say "I voted for
20 you" or "I didn't vote for you."

21 I believe what happens to us is what
22 we deserve for not paying more attention to
23 what was happening. Thank you.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
2 Council. Les Spindler, city residents and
3 homeowner and taxpayer.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Last week Mr.
6 Sbaraglia was talking about the commuter tax
7 and asking if federal judges would be exempt
8 or the local judges would be exempt, I don't
9 know why anyone would be exempt if they live
10 out of the city and you work here it doesn't
11 matter if you are a federal judge or
12 whatever, you should be paying a tax.

13 Now, I don't know if council looked
14 into that, if Attorney Hughes would know,
15 would these judges be exempt or is that a
16 perk of being a federal judge or do they
17 have to pay the tax?

18 MS. EVANS: Well, it appears from at
19 least what we read in a newspaper article
20 that no one is exempt.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. A bunch
22 of streetlights are out. On the Linden
23 Street Bridge I have them listed and I'll
24 give them to Ms. Marciano, the Linden Street
25 Bridge in the in-bound lane, that whole lane

1 the lights are out, and on the McDade
2 Expressway, this has happened before from
3 Seventh Avenue up to Main Avenue, those are
4 all out again. I think they were out once
5 and I think they fixed them and I don't know
6 if it's a line or I didn't think all of the
7 bulbs can be burned out at one time. So,
8 like I said, from Seventh Avenue up to Main
9 Avenue. I'll give them to Ms. Marciano.

10 Moving on, it was nice to see in the
11 paper the other day that the city received
12 \$11.3 million. I hope that will take care
13 of things for awhile, but you know what, we
14 can't count on borrowing. That's what got
15 us into this problem in the first place. We
16 have to start bringing in different revenue
17 sources. And I have to talk about what Bob
18 Bolus has spoken about for years and nobody
19 has listened, he brings up that leachate
20 line that runs through the city and, like he
21 said, you can put a 1 percent fee on that
22 and he has brought this up for years and
23 years and years and nobody has looked into
24 it, I don't know why. It's a good revenue
25 source. I give the credit to Mr. Bolus for

1 bringing it up. I think we should
2 definitely look into that.

3 And one thing I mentioned last week
4 was the Electric City sign, I think by not
5 having it light all the time I think we
6 could save a lot of money. I don't know why
7 that sign has to be lit all night, who is
8 going to see it at three or four in the
9 morning? Put it on a timer to go when the
10 sun goes down and have it shut off at
11 midnight or whatever or just have it lit on
12 special occasions. Why does it have to be
13 lit all through the night? It doesn't make
14 any sense. I would love to know what the
15 electric bill is for that a month, too, if
16 council could look into that. I mean, we
17 could save a lot of -- I don't know why it
18 has to be lit all through the night and I
19 just think it's a waste of money. That sign
20 must use a lot of electricity.

21 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, if you
22 would give that suggestion, also, to Ms.
23 Marci ano.

24 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I don't have
25 that in writing.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, we can give you
2 time and I'll give you a pen and --

3 MR. SPINDLER: I have a pen, and
4 there is something else, I'll write down a
5 couple of things now and I'll give them to
6 Ms. Marciano.

7 MS. EVANS: Great.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you for your
9 time.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. SPINDLER: That's all I have
12 tonight.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Bob Bolus.

15 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
16 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. BOLUS: I've got several
19 questions tonight and hopefully we can get
20 some answers. You know, I went by the old
21 Ice Box or whatever it's called now, the new
22 Turkey Hill out front, has anything or any
23 consideration been made to terminate that
24 agreement with them down there where we get
25 a \$1 a year that the mayor put this stupid

1 agreement together? Does anybody considered
2 filing official legislation to amend that
3 agreement down there so we can actually get
4 the money we are owed instead of these
5 people being unjustly enriched at our
6 expense while we are the laughing stock of
7 the country? You watch that down there
8 every day while they can lease and they can
9 develop and they can make money, and the
10 next question, is that a tax exempt property
11 down this? Does anybody know if they --
12 that's a KOZ or nonprofit?

13 MS. EVANS: I believe that it was.

14 MR. HUGHES: It still is. It's a
15 KOZ zone, it was given KOZ status on the
16 basis that when it was declared a KOZ there
17 was supposed to be a grant, there was
18 supposed to be a bank administration office
19 in there this would be employ 600 people,
20 there were other things that were stated in
21 that to get a KOZ status and there is a
22 Turkey Hill there.

23 This is up at the solicitor's
24 department. I have been looking into it. I
25 intend to go over it with Paul Kelly, I know

1 he did express some concern about it, also.
2 So I've looked at it and I will be
3 discussing it with Paul Kelly.

4 MR. BOLUS: Thank you. Because, you
5 know, we drive and we see more and more
6 going on at our expenses, you know, it gets
7 ridiculous and I hope Paul Kelly finally
8 gets in here and does something for our
9 benefit than mostly for the benefit of
10 others.

11 I have been to commissioner's
12 meetings throughout the county, attending
13 them, and what puzzled me is why I didn't
14 see any council members or more people out
15 there coming to the meetings or coming to
16 council meetings. Everybody is standing
17 back and yapping about taxes being put on
18 them. You know, the commissioners asked a
19 question, you know, if you have suggestions,
20 you know, give them to us. No more than
21 council, if you have a suggestion, bring
22 them to us.

23 You know, council or the
24 commissioners they are not Gods, they are
25 all knowing of everything, and people have

1 suggestions, but don't sit home and hide
2 from them and come out bitching about them
3 later on, when you can come here and maybe
4 make a difference by actually coming before
5 a council or the commissioners and
6 expressing your ideas.

7 Everybody has an idea, you know,
8 come forward. This is our community, not
9 just Scranton because now we are going to
10 suffer even more. We are suffering now in
11 Scranton, now we are going to suffer because
12 we live in Lackawanna County, it's getting
13 to be an absurdity at the expense of the
14 people. And I looked and I asked them
15 questions, which I raised, you know, as a
16 business in the county here why would I want
17 to expand, why would I even want to bring
18 anything here when all I do is just keep
19 looking at more and more taxes and sit
20 around and watch Scranton here with their
21 nonprofits, making millions and millions of
22 dollars, spending millions, taking land off
23 the tax rolls, like the University, like the
24 leachate line that comes here.

25 Now, the landfill is taking in 1,000

1 tons of Marcellus shale a day and they are
2 treating it, now they are going to go to
3 2,000 tons a day not counting the garbage
4 that goes in there, and that leachate is
5 coming through to the Sewer Authority which
6 treats it. I have said time and time again,
7 review the contract that was there, look at
8 the original contract, but somehow it just
9 disappeared that you can't find it here to
10 review, the original contract that governed
11 what the leachate line was about.

12 You could assess a fee as a host
13 community on that leachate line and you
14 could bring in millions and millions of
15 dollars. It's time to do something about
16 it. These are suggestions, but nobody takes
17 them anywhere because they are being
18 controlled by the big bullies with money,
19 and that's what wrong with our city.

20 You know, we have talked about
21 rubber stampers and what went on and, of
22 course, they were controlled, bought and
23 paid for and it made a big difference in
24 where the city got there. It just didn't
25 get there, it's been a long, long snowball

1 over the hill for many, many years.

2 But you have assets out there, and I
3 have spoken and I have requested, I have not
4 yet seen a legal document that's been
5 presented that disputes anything I have said
6 here or other citizens. You could put a fee
7 on a University, you can't tax them, as the
8 commissioners say, you cannot put a tax on
9 them, but you can raise and put a fee on it
10 no more than you put a fee, and I say you, I
11 say the administration and councils of the
12 past, put a garbage fee on us, we pay taxes
13 to get our garbage dumped, yet you put a fee
14 on us and have no qualms about it, that was
15 taxation without representation.

16 Now, why is it that everybody is so
17 scared and intimidated because of a
18 political power that goes on to put a fee
19 that would go against everybody in the
20 community, not just the University or the
21 other nonprofits, but everybody. Think of
22 the millions you have and then you ignore
23 all of that, constantly, constantly ignore
24 it for whatever the political reasons or
25 whatever the personal reasons.

1 You got to remember you represent
2 the people in the community and you want to
3 put this commuter tax on. That's a nail in
4 our coffin because I don't think anybody in
5 an outlying community out there should have
6 to pay for the stupidity and the fiscal
7 mismanagement we in the city allowed to
8 happen and penalize them to come in here and
9 pay for what we squandered, millions from
10 the golf course, we didn't have a pool open.
11 It was squandered. It was there, but it was
12 squandered, mismanaged. Nay Aug,
13 mismanagement. I could go on and on and on
14 what's going on in this community.

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

16 MR. BOLUS: When does is council or
17 this administration finally going to do
18 something about the fiscal mismanagement and
19 not penalize the people in outlying
20 communities who come here. You expect a
21 business to take an employee to do the
22 financial responsibility for the city to
23 collect the money at their expense? I don't
24 think so and I don't think they should.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Joan
4 Hodowantz, and I apologize if I have
5 incorrectly pronounced that.

6 MS. HODOWANTZ: One of these days I
7 will change that name. My name is Joan
8 Hodowantz, and I'm a Scranton taxpayer.
9 Mrs. Evans, I thank you for your time to
10 respond to the e-mail I sent you last week
11 and asking you the questions that I asked
12 yesterday and at the county commissioner's
13 meeting and that is the churches and schools
14 that the Diocese of Scranton closed, and I
15 do mean closed, not periodic worship sites,
16 have they been placed on the tax rolls? And
17 the answer to given to me by the
18 commissioners was, "We don't know, we will
19 get to it, but we are kind of thinking that
20 maybe they get taxed once they are sold."

21 Now, have you any idea how long it's
22 going to be before some of these properties
23 are sold? I will be long dead, but I did
24 some research on the Internet and lo and
25 behold I found out that Luzerne County has

1 been taxing closed churches and schools and
2 rectories and parking lots for the last year
3 or two. The times Leader, November 2009,
4 "Closed Churches to be Taxed."

5 The Standard Speaker, let's see,
6 June 2010, "Diocese of Scranton Receives Tax
7 Assessments on Four Former Hazel Township
8 Worship Sites."

9 June 2011, "Luzerne County Begins
10 Taxing Some Church Properties."

11 Also June of 2011, the National
12 Catholic Reporter, "The Taxman Cometh.
13 Scranton Diocese to Pay Taxes on Closed
14 Churches."

15 All through these articles you will
16 find references to the Diocese of Allentown
17 being taxed by North Hampton and Carbon
18 Counties. Now, I think that -- I understand
19 from reading these that the Diocese is not a
20 happy camper and it's challenging if not the
21 tax at all they are challenging the
22 assessments they think they are too high,
23 but it brings me back to my basic question,
24 are the churches and schools and rectories
25 and parking lots that are no longer serving

1 a religious function in Scranton proper and
2 in Lackawanna County overall are they on the
3 tax rolls?

4 Now, I went on the county's website
5 trying to find St. John the Evangelist
6 Church and I couldn't find it, so I suspect
7 they are not, and I'm just wondering are we
8 passing up a potential significant revenue
9 stream that Luzerne and North Hampton and
10 Carbon Counties are tapping into and we are
11 not? I just -- I think this deserves to be
12 looked into, you know, I mean, I'm certainly
13 not a tax lawyer, I took maybe one or two
14 tax courses in my career, but this question
15 needs to be asked especially if our
16 neighboring county is sending out tax bills.

17 I e-mailed the bishop and his
18 financial advisor and I haven't gotten a
19 response, so I do not intend to drop this.
20 I intend to keep researching this and
21 finding out what's going on. If somebody
22 can show me where it's written that they are
23 exempt until they are sold I'll keep quiet,
24 but if not, I want them on the tax rolls and
25 if they are -- if we are owed interest and

1 penalties I want every dime of it, too. I
2 have been paying taxes since 1967 and if I
3 can arrange to pay my taxes, the Dioceses
4 can, also. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

7 MR. HUGHES: If I could just to
8 comment on that, the rule generally is as
9 long as the building is vacant for one year
10 it's not put back on the assessment rolls,
11 however, any time once the year is up and
12 it's not sold it can then be assessed
13 because it's a vacant building and it's no
14 longer used for church purposes. This is
15 not a council issue.

16 MS. HODOWANTZ: No.

17 MR. HUGHES: This is an issue with
18 the Lackawanna County Assessor's Office --

19 MS. HODOWANTZ: And that's where I
20 was yesterday.

21 MR. HUGHES: They are the ones that
22 have to go out and they are the ones that
23 have to go out and assess the properties, be
24 it a school, be it a church, no matter what
25 denomination, it's up to them and that's

1 where it goes. If the commissioners say
2 they don't know what's going on, it's up to
3 them to find out from the Assessor's Office
4 where it is.

5 MS. HODOWANTZ: Well, that's what
6 they said they were going to do, but I
7 thought you should know because this could
8 be a potential significant stream of revenue
9 if they need to -- because, like I said St.
10 John Evangelist on Pittston Avenue that
11 closed in June of 2010, okay, and that's
12 over two years so I'm sure -- I also went on
13 the Diocese website and looked at their list
14 of closed churches, do you know how many
15 churches in Scranton have closed since 2004?

16 MS. EVANS: No.

17 MS. HODOWANTZ: Eleven. Since 2009,
18 five, okay, and I'm wondering how many of
19 them have been closed over one year and
20 never been opened again. I'm not talking
21 worship sites, I'm talking closed churches.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MS. HODOWANTZ: Anybody got any idea
24 how much Bishop Hannon should be assessed
25 for? I walk past that every day because I

1 live at the Forum, and believe me, that's
2 closed.

3 MS. EVANS: It's been closed many
4 years.

5 MR. JOYCE: And thank you for your
6 time, and I did receive your e-mail and I
7 also sent a letter to our Tax Collector Bill
8 Courtright seeing if he knew anything
9 additional about any revenue being collected
10 from churches that are no longer being used
11 as a place of worship.

12 MS. HODOWANTZ: And schools.

13 MR. JOYCE: And schools.

14 MS. HODOWANTZ: And parking lots and
15 social halls.

16 MS. EVANS: Could we send a letter
17 to the County Assessor?

18 MS. KRAKE: I would like to mention,
19 Mrs. Evans, that last summer we actually --
20 I actually had a meeting in our office with
21 the Assessor's Office and two of the
22 gentlemen that do the assessment and at that
23 time they are going to go out and look at
24 all of the properties in the city, also our
25 city planner was there, and we have not

1 heard back, but I know that you had directed
2 us to do that and --

3 MS. EVANS: Yes, and that's why I
4 would like a letter sent to the Assessor's
5 Office requesting the assessments of all of
6 those properties, churches, parking lots,
7 social halls, schools. Thank you. Our next
8 speaker is Ozzie Quinn.

9 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie
10 Quinn, Scranton Taxpayers' Association.
11 Attorney Hughes, I really appreciate the
12 work you are doing on the recovery plan and
13 it shows here at every meeting, you know,
14 how much talent that you have in government,
15 you know, and when I saw where you were
16 trying to get paid above and beyond your
17 contract and they started throwing
18 everything at you but the kitchen sink.

19 MR. HUGHES: Thanks for that, too,
20 Ozzie.

21 MR. QUINN: Well, that, too, but yet
22 down the street Attorney Carl Greco, who was
23 a neighbor of the Lynetts, the Dohertys,
24 okay, he has made -- they made him a
25 millionaire at OECD as the solicitor and one

1 time they wouldn't accept what he -- what
2 was above and beyond his contract so he
3 filed for Court, of course they didn't file
4 any defense against it, so no one contested,
5 so he just got the money, you know? So it's
6 not what you know, but who you know here. A
7 million dollars that's lot of money to make
8 around here.

9 You know, I look out on the website,
10 the mayor's website and he says the major
11 construction he spent \$115 million
12 infrastructure improvements, \$68 million,
13 downtown revitalization \$26.8, Nay Aug Park
14 \$1.9, neighborhood parks revitalization
15 \$2.25 million, miscellaneous proposed
16 projects 44 million for a grand total of
17 \$214.4 million. That's a lot of money going
18 out the front door, you know, since when,
19 2000 and -- most of all of these debts we
20 heard last week 2003 and 2008 the councils
21 were rubber stamping and everything, you
22 know?

23 Now, Mr. Rogan, I don't see anything
24 in here on Community Development Block Grant
25 for housing rehabilitation. When this --7-B

1 was introduced, okay, I spoke, I don't know
2 if you were here or not, about the lack of
3 housing rehabilitation monies CDBG and I
4 gave an e-mail, a copy of an e-mail to Jamie
5 in regards from the OECD Director Linda
6 Aebli to the effect that she said that there
7 was no money spent, the Doherty
8 administration doesn't spend money, CDBG
9 money, on housing rehabilitation.

10 Now, you got brownouts in the
11 neighborhood, you got potholes in the
12 neighborhood and you got the curbs falling
13 apart, the housing falling apart. You know,
14 and from what I read tonight I propose and I
15 recommended that you try to get a consultant
16 on board at OECD to put together an OECD
17 housing rehabilitation program.

18 Now, I don't want be to be fed the
19 line, I have been around too long, about the
20 HOME Program and about Lackawanna Neighbors,
21 okay? Now, I mean, a good comprehensive
22 neighborhood program, like, block by block
23 all through because if we don't pretty soon
24 the housing value in the city is going to be
25 so that people won't -- they will all be

1 going down to the fee assessor's office, yet
2 I see that you haven't put anything in there
3 for housing rehabilitation? What was the
4 reasons that Ms. Aebli gave you?

5 MR. ROGAN: I spoke to Ms. Aebli
6 through e-mail and a phone and actually we
7 asked this question I believe it was three
8 or four weeks ago right here during a caucus
9 and what she brought up was, you know, the
10 use of the funds. She brought up, and I
11 know you are not going to like this answer,
12 that the housing rehabilitation has been
13 through Lackawanna Neighbors and through
14 basically their outsourcing it, so to say.
15 For them to do a consultant that would be an
16 administrative decision on their part if
17 they want to.

18 MR. QUINN: Well, you should make a
19 recommendation because what you are doing
20 here is you're letting this city fall apart.
21 There is no -- people are not making money
22 in this city and they need the loans, small
23 interest loans or grants to help them to put
24 a roof, maybe to put some siding or put
25 their porches up on the thing, my God, you

1 know that, you drive around Scranton. Don't
2 let her kid you. She doesn't know what the
3 heck she is talking about. She got \$11
4 million in an audit that's hanging over her
5 head and she speaks -- she speaks -- no,
6 with a forked tongue. She speaks who is
7 paying her and I know who is paying her,
8 okay?

9 So she is a nice lady and all of
10 that and I've got all of the respect in the
11 world for her, but we are not doing the
12 right thing for the people City of Scranton.
13 You see all of this money, I don't know, for
14 instance, \$16 million went into the Southern
15 Union headquarters, \$16 million because they
16 are going to get the national headquarters
17 here, we got zero, okay?

18 Now, just think what would that
19 would have done if put that into
20 rehabilitation and the housing. We got to
21 start looking at it. We got to get to the
22 back porch of things, not just the front
23 porch, okay? Thank you very much and I hope
24 I wasn't a wise guy to you, but you know --

25 MR. ROGAN: No, I agree with you.

1 MR. QUINN: I hope and wish you
2 would send a letter to the mayor and tell
3 him to, please, he should know, he is the
4 mayor for ten years, what other cities are
5 doing. He has got his head under the
6 covers. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thank you and,
8 Mr. Quinn, I certainly agree with you, just
9 by walking through a neighborhood --

10 MR. QUINN: Yes, you agree with me,
11 but you are my councilman, we elected you,
12 and I expect something to be done.

13 MR. ROGAN: Well, as far a position
14 being created that can only be done by the
15 administration. They receive, and I know
16 Ms. Aebli wanted 20 percent of the funding
17 of CDBG to go for administration. We geared
18 it back to \$17.5 and I think that's --

19 MR. QUINN: Would you call meeting
20 here with HUD or the program director of
21 HUD, CDBG and the mayor and discuss an issue
22 like this?

23 MR. ROGAN: I would love to have the
24 mayor in here to discuss that issue.

25 MR. QUINN: Well, I would -- I don't

1 know, you are the councilman. You should
2 call that meeting. It shouldn't be just
3 left hanging out there and next year we are
4 going to be here in October and we're going
5 to be talking about the same thing and it's
6 going to be houses shot down again and
7 brownouts and there will be streets falling
8 apart and everything.

9 MR. ROGAN: I'll make that request
10 under motions.

11 MR. QUINN: Thank you very much.

12 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to add
14 though that council did increase the
15 allocations for acquisition, lead abatement
16 and rehab of six blighted vacant homes in
17 Scranton neighborhoods as well as giving
18 funding to Neighbor Works of Northeastern,
19 Pennsylvania, to assist city residents
20 facing issues of mortgage delinquency and
21 foreclosure. I know the administration and
22 OECD had not allocated any funding toward
23 that purpose and council funded it.

24 MR. QUINN: I hope you realize what
25 I'm trying to -- about a comprehensive

1 rehabilitation program.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. QUINN: I don't think the people
4 and the council can grasp what I'm trying to
5 say, you know? All you have to do is go
6 down as far as Wilkes-Barre or Allentown and
7 those cities and find out about it.

8 MS. EVANS: We will. Thank you.
9 Doug Miller.

10 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
11 Doug Miller, Scranton. Listening to Ozzie
12 here for a few minutes and I do agree with a
13 lot of what he said tonight, we do need to
14 turn our attention to the neighborhoods and
15 we have been talking about that for decades
16 now, it's nothing new, it's an area where
17 the administration sort of in their tenure
18 has swept under the rug focusing on the
19 downtown. You heard the numbers tonight
20 from Ozzie, the millions invested in the
21 downtown and certainly when you drive
22 downtown and you look around you kind of ask
23 yourself where do those millions go because
24 it certainly doesn't look like a downtown
25 that an investment was made, you know, and

1 when you drive through the neighborhoods and
2 see the homes in deterioration, the roads in
3 deterioration, the curbs and sidewalks or
4 lack of curbs and sidewalks, it certainly
5 makes you open your eyes and you certainly
6 ask yourself a lot of questions and I'm
7 confident with the council that we will look
8 at all avenues to make the necessary
9 investments and the homeowners that are
10 struggling, struggling need help, and as a
11 city whatever we can do to help them I'm
12 certain that they will look at all those
13 areas. Obviously, our people are struggling
14 and there are legitimate reasons as to why
15 certain properties are in the condition they
16 are in. People just can't afford to upkeep
17 them and some people need a little
18 assistance, and if we do have that ability I
19 think we need to pursue it, but I'm hoping
20 within the coming months and certainly years
21 to come we will certainly focus our
22 attention on the neighborhoods because
23 that's where it starts in the neighborhoods
24 and then you move forward from there.

25 Onto the issue that I discussed last

1 week dealing with public safety and Engine 7
2 over in West Side, just to give everybody an
3 update, I'm sure we are all well aware it's
4 still closed. We are now I believe two
5 weeks from the meeting that was hold over in
6 Keyser Valley where the chief attended and
7 took questions from the audience. 88
8 percent of the time in the last three and a
9 half months that engine has been shut down
10 jeopardizing the health and safety of all us
11 throughout West Side, including those up on
12 West Mountain, who we now there is a lack of
13 water, and certainly God forbid there were a
14 tragedy up there I think we would have a
15 difficult time responding.

16 Last night I was made aware that
17 there was a kitchen fire up over off of
18 Crisp Avenue and I am told that the response
19 time was approximately nine minutes, and I
20 find that to be totally unacceptable and I
21 believe that we all should find that to be
22 unacceptable because there is no excuse for
23 it. This goes back to the failure of the
24 mayor and the Chief Davis and their inaction
25 to open the station. The chief said it

1 himself, he made the decision to close the
2 engine. Well, if he has the ability to
3 close stations then, as I said last week, he
4 obviously has the ability to reopen stations
5 and there is no reason why Engine 7 should
6 not be open. There is no justification for
7 it.

8 The excuse that we are worried about
9 two years from now with the SAFER grant, as
10 I said last week, that's absurd. It's
11 absurd to think two years from now when we
12 need to worry about the present. Here is a
13 perfect case in point right here, a fire
14 last night that took nine minutes to respond
15 to and we are going to go ahead and wait for
16 two years from now? No, we need to worry
17 about today. Now. And the fact that we
18 gave 3 1/2 million back was no justification
19 for it. Like I said last week, it's
20 stupidity. It's stupidity on Chief Davis'
21 part and it's stupidity on the mayor's part.
22 We have people making these decisions who
23 have no qualifications whatsoever to
24 determine what stations are closed. I
25 believe the term the dartboard method has

1 been brought up before. That's exactly what
2 is going on there, it's the dartboard
3 method. Let's sit down, what one do we want
4 to close today? Okay, let's throw the dart.
5 Well, 88 percent of the time it's been
6 Engine 7, so the dart seems to know where
7 it's going.

8 But it's totally unacceptable and I
9 encourage all residents in West Side to
10 continue to pursue this issue and to hold
11 the mayor accountable, hold the chief
12 accountable and demand that this station is
13 open. I'm going to continue to bring this
14 up every week until that engine company is
15 open because I will not live in West Side
16 and have my life at risk or my fellow West
17 Side neighbors lives at risk, I will not
18 stand for it, and I expect action to be
19 taken and I expect it to be taken today.

20 Onto the capital budget that was
21 addressed last week, and we know capital
22 budgets, they are simply wishes list and the
23 majority of the time we usually don't
24 realize a lot of what we have in our capital
25 budget because it is wish list, but I just

1 wanted to bring up one of the points that
2 was made last week and I do agree with
3 council's amendment to the 2013 capital
4 budget, particularly your decision to delete
5 the splash parks in the community, I believe
6 it's at Novembrino Park, Capouse Avenue and
7 there may have been one more, maybe it was
8 only those two, but I never supported the
9 idea of a splash park, I don't see the point
10 of it, relevance in it. These pools were
11 built to be just that, swimming pools. I
12 believe the children deserve the opportunity
13 to utilize those pools, and the fact that
14 the kids had a summer last summer in the
15 heat and not be able to utilize those
16 facilities I found that to be irresponsible
17 on the administration's part due to their
18 fiscal mismanagement and I'm hopeful that
19 next summer the children will be able to
20 utilize those pools and they will be open
21 and taxpayers will get what they pay for.

22 And finally tonight onto the
23 commuter tax, this seems to be a very
24 popular issue right now, certainly the
25 variety of the opinions, and as I have

1 stated before and I may sound repetitive at
2 times, but the people need to once again
3 know that these weren't easy decisions that
4 were made throughout the recovery plan
5 process. It took a lot of cooperation
6 between the council and the mayor,
7 cooperation that at times we didn't think we
8 would have, but leadership was put forth and
9 council knew that in order for us to move
10 the city forward to take the steps necessary
11 we had to put politics aside in the interest
12 of the taxpayers and work cooperatively with
13 the mayor and that's exactly what took
14 place.

15 Certainly many parts of the recovery
16 plan aren't popular and I know they are not
17 popular with council and you had to make
18 shows decisions. Raising taxes is not an
19 easy decision to make, especially the year
20 before reelection. But, as I stated, when
21 we look at the opposition with the commuter
22 tax I think city residents need to recall
23 one thing by opposing the commuter tax
24 within the city I think you are essentially
25 asking for an additional tax increase and I

1 certainly don't think that that's something
2 we want to see. So I would just ask those
3 who are in opposition, particularly those
4 outside of the community, it's a three-year
5 plan, we are asking everyone to pay their
6 fair share, you are utilizing our essential
7 services, our roads, our bridges and our
8 public safety, and as we like to talk about
9 so many times here about paying your fair
10 share that's exactly what this is. We need
11 to be creative and we need to be innovative
12 and it starts here. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Gerard
14 Hetman.

15 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from the
18 Lackawanna County Department of Community
19 Relations. To begin this evening I do have
20 some handouts for members of the council.
21 May I approach?

22 MS. EVANS: Yes, of course.

23 MR. HETMAN: As I believe members of
24 council may be aware, the Lackawanna County
25 Commissioners are in the process of

1 drafting, reviewing and adopting a general
2 fund budget before the Year 2013. This
3 evening, with the handout you have in front
4 of you, I will explain and provide some
5 background into two keys areas of focus that
6 this budget seeks to address.

7 First, Lackawanna County currently
8 has an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent, one
9 of the highest among the counties in the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The
11 Lackawanna County Commissioners believe, and
12 I hope you will agree, that this is an
13 unacceptable situation for the residents and
14 taxpayers of Lackawanna County.

15 With this in mind, the Lackawanna
16 County Commissioners in this current budget
17 cycle, plan to implement a blueprint for job
18 creation with six key points that I will
19 briefly provide some information on.

20 First, a job creation simplified
21 will provide a small amount of financial
22 assistance to businesses that are either
23 looking to locate in or for existing
24 businesses to expand their work force in
25 Lackawanna County covering the last part of

1 that sometimes very long road in community
2 and economic development and job creation.

3 Second, creation of a life sciences
4 technology corridor you will see the county
5 partner with the Commonwealth Medical
6 College as well as other institutions and
7 businesses already in Lackawanna County to
8 attract jobs, medical, science and research
9 and bioscience initiatives to keep, as we
10 say, our best and brightest working right
11 here in our communities in Lackawanna
12 County.

13 Third, is community reinvestment
14 fund. We will have all municipalities in
15 Lackawanna County to pay for some of those
16 small but significant upgrades in our
17 neighborhoods, sometimes things such as
18 parks and public recreation opportunities
19 that increase, they may be small, but those
20 things increase our quality of life by leaps
21 and bounds, since I know we can all wish
22 that for our neighborhoods.

23 Fourth, high tech innovation in the
24 form of a countywide wireless network that I
25 spoke about during my last presentation to

1 council which will be accessible to
2 municipal governments as well as emergency
3 service agencies and to private sector
4 employers who otherwise would have to pay an
5 astronomical amount to implement the same
6 technology when we can save taxpayers money
7 by replacing existing infrastructure that is
8 paid through by the county budget in terms
9 of county IT and wireless communication
10 enrichment vitalization program will help
11 attract retail businesses to downtown
12 Scranton in partnership with the greater
13 Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

14 And lastly, the infrastructure
15 investment will continue investment to
16 county roads and bridges in our county to
17 help provide and pave the way to terms of
18 the physical infrastructure for commerce to
19 continue to grow and flourish throughout
20 Lackawanna County.

21 If you flip the sheet over, you will
22 see four key areas of money challenge that
23 the commissioners are committed to pursuing
24 in this budget cycle and to save money in
25 the future budget cycles. First, the rising

1 cost of the prisons and the operation of the
2 Lackawanna County Prison, which includes
3 meeting the federal staffing mandate now in
4 effect to continue operation lawfully at the
5 Lackawanna County Prison.

6 Second, the contractual obligations
7 in the forms of binding contracts that
8 include a contractual wage increases with
9 several segments of the county work force.

10 Third, rising health care costs,
11 which we know are not unique to Lackawanna
12 County, but also to the City of Scranton and
13 also any public or private sector employer
14 that provides health care coverage for
15 employees.

16 And last, but not leas, restoring
17 the county's bond rating, credit rating, to
18 a level above junk bond status, and this is
19 a particular key point. By restoring the
20 credit rating, which includes both
21 completing an on-time audit, for the first
22 time in 35 years the county audit has been
23 completed on time, and also the creation of
24 a reserve fund, a budget surplus, that will
25 help restore the county's credit range to

1 above the junk bond status, therefore,
2 eliminating a \$1 million surveillance fee to
3 past tied to past borrowing. Because of the
4 county's junk bond status that fee has been
5 paid every year, and as Commissioner Wansacz
6 is fond of saying, the county taxpayers get
7 nothing for that \$1 million. It's just a
8 fee that goes to a credit rating agency in
9 effect taking the money and burning it right
10 in front of them, so by taking these steps
11 now we can save that million dollars after
12 this budget cycle for future challenges, and
13 therefore, reduce that fee, the need to pay
14 that fee and eliminate to pay that fee in
15 few fewer years.

16 And as you can see, the bottom line
17 of these four budget challenges to meet
18 these in it's current budget cycle is
19 approximately \$4.8 million. \$3.1 percent of
20 that, \$3.1 million in that figure would be
21 met in his current proposed budget with a
22 proposed 4 percent property tax increase
23 equal to 2.5 mills.

24 The remainder will come through a
25 reduction in county workforce which does

1 include some layoffs as well as the
2 elimination of vacant positions and also
3 other budget savings that the commissioners
4 the department of heads have worked hard to
5 achieve.

6 As you can see, the commissioners
7 are committed to not just funding these
8 issues now and taking care of these
9 problems, but therefore in several cases
10 saving issues down the road from coming up
11 that have sometimes lingered and caused
12 budget increases, so I will available now
13 and after the meeting and to answer any
14 questions, field any questions from council
15 members or the general public that they have
16 about the county budget process. We saw
17 several residents come to the budget
18 hearings that we held throughout the county
19 last week and I know some people may not
20 have had a chance to come out so we
21 appreciate any questions or suggestions, as
22 Mr. Bolus said, and we can always take
23 whatever questions you have. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

25 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. MORGAN: As everybody is well
3 aware, I have been coming here a very long
4 time and I do really appreciate every person
5 who attends these meetings because without
6 them there would be no dialogue between the
7 residents of this city and it's government
8 even though many times we get no response or
9 no action.

10 But, you know, people are -- the
11 Scranton Times, I didn't get a chance to
12 read their article on the commuter tax, but
13 I did listen to Andy speak and, you know, I
14 appreciate their opinion, but I think their
15 opinion isn't correct either. You know, we
16 have to be careful that in my opinion the
17 City of Scranton is not firm ground, it's in
18 a marsh, and if this commuter tax goes
19 through in my opinion the city will be in
20 quick sand.

21 You know, after coming to council
22 meetings for so long and hitting so many
23 doors and talking to so many people there is
24 many questions that I have on how people
25 could be so misinformed on so many different

1 things. The recovery plan that the mayor
2 put forward initially, read it at Scranton
3 Public Library, there was no recovery in
4 that plan, that was a plan of
5 self-destruction.

6 You know, you read other plans,
7 SAPA, I have read that. I have asked other
8 people who are opposed to the plan if they
9 read it, they haven't. I have asked people
10 that are for the recovery plan if they've
11 read that, also, and they haven't. I mean,
12 you just look at this city and see what's
13 going on and you have got to separate fact
14 from fiction and where the city is right now
15 I don't know, you know, the Scranton Times
16 did an article about council members and
17 some others leaving the Lackawanna County
18 Courthouse for unfunded debt, that's a
19 mistake. We can't even carry the debt load
20 we have now. Everything is in trouble.

21 You know, council is not the place
22 to find the solutions to our problems
23 because I'm not going to single this council
24 out, this city has been in trouble for
25 decades and council didn't answer the call

1 and now I just, you know, we talk every week
2 about no curbs, no sidewalks, general
3 deterioration of the neighborhoods,
4 properties in the city selling for \$50,000
5 that you couldn't buy for \$200,000 in the
6 Abingtons or basically in a lot of other
7 places, and you know, the thing that I don't
8 understand is that when we discuss certain
9 issues, whether it's closing the firehouses,
10 well, how are we going to fund the opening
11 of these fire houses? I mean, it's a great
12 thing to say that they should all be open,
13 but where are the funds coming from?

14 I mean, we have watched the city
15 over -- when I was child there was over
16 \$100,000 people here, we are down to 70,
17 read the obituary page, and you will see a
18 lot of people that have passed away at one
19 time lived here. They fled the city. They
20 just couldn't take it anymore. You listen
21 to people talk on talk radio, occasionally I
22 catch it if I'm not working, there are
23 people that just say they couldn't get out
24 of here fast enough and I just disagree with
25 any judge that will agree to a commuter tax,

1 commuter tax plan. We need development. I
2 don't know where it's going to come from but
3 I will say this, the Southern Union, I don't
4 know, they have got a water draw now in
5 Carbondale for fracking. We are right in
6 the heart of the whole gas industry. Right
7 off 167 there is billions and billions of
8 dollars worth of gas there that's being
9 produced to be shipped out of this area, but
10 we are right in the heart of it. So you
11 know what, maybe the Southern Union building
12 the plan wasn't strong enough to bring it
13 altogether, but I'm going to tell you
14 something, it all fell apart, but we are
15 right in the heart of all it and I think
16 they are going to be drilling in Falls soon,
17 Ransom, all of the outlying areas. The
18 Marcellus shale map is very large, lots of
19 money, okay?

20 The Scranton Sewer Authority should
21 be selling it's processed water from the
22 plant to the fracking operations to raise
23 the revenue to meet all of the federal
24 requirements. I think the most important
25 thing that we could put in place in this

1 city is an administration from the top to
2 the bottom that understands that we need to
3 turn the city around. We need jobs. We
4 need to create a job -- an engine to create
5 employment here. That's our problem. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
8 anyone else?

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
10 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton. I have
11 a question on the 500 block of Lackawanna
12 Avenue, when is that park that we so have
13 pumped so much money into behind the 500
14 block of Lackawanna Avenue going to open? I
15 always see that it's under lock and key so I
16 don't know if it's ready or if they are
17 trying to get grass to grow or whatever, but
18 it would be nice to hear about it.

19 I had a thought of the kids on the
20 expressway for John, we should notify the
21 school that at least tell their kids don't
22 play on the freeway. Their parents might
23 not want you to do that, too.

24 Now, in the paper Andy mentioned
25 that tax cuts, you know, we need to vote a

1 little more careful because yet to get out
2 to vote I see 22 percent in some districts
3 where I worked, precincts where I worked on
4 elections and, you know, at 22 percent maybe
5 people don't deserve a tax cut anyway, you
6 know. They obviously don't care whether
7 they get a tax cut.

8 And once again, I would love to see
9 some type of a study group on zoning to
10 prevent any further tax exemptions. Period.
11 We lost -- we have got two off the rolls to
12 our hospitals, they went for profit, which
13 might not be to your advantage anyway, but
14 being that they're hospitals, but also then
15 there has been some expansions like we have
16 on Linden Street and Adams Avenue. That
17 building, from what I could ascertain, paid
18 about \$25,000 a year, give or take a few,
19 and that's where our taxes are going, so we
20 certainly can't afford to wake up that 35
21 percent or 34 percent, wake up some day and
22 it's 45 or 50 percent. We just can't do it,
23 and the Pennsylvania constitution also
24 provides for the fact that you cannot ask
25 somebody to support a ministry, so if they

1 are running around lobbying for various laws
2 on social issues and so forth then you are
3 being required through your tax -- the lack
4 of taxation on those properties to support a
5 ministry and it specifically states that you
6 do not have this. You cannot be required to
7 support a ministry, so if they want to
8 preach to their congregation that's fine,
9 but I see a little too much going on here
10 with their outside of their churches
11 preaching at the American public at large
12 and lobbying for laws that may or maybe not
13 should be passed.

14 And a few -- many a week or so ago
15 on that, and it slipped by mind last week
16 driver's licenses. Our state senator had
17 some kind of conference on driver's licenses
18 and from what I can understand they may go
19 up as high as \$130 in five years, so I would
20 appreciate if we could get together with our
21 city to contact our state senator and
22 inquire on this because \$130 to subsidize
23 Marcellus shale, which was never taxed, Lee
24 just brought that up, I didn't really care
25 to fix the roads for Marcellus shale to walk

1 around and go tax free and pay \$130 for a
2 driver's license or to register my car.

3 And a little criticism of Wall
4 Street with bond status, they lost our money
5 on pensions. From what I gather the firemen
6 and police are about \$25 million short
7 thanks to Wall Street and their last
8 collapse and then they turn around and
9 devalue our bond status. We are not going
10 anywhere. There is no reason to devalue our
11 bond status. Period. There is no reason
12 whatever to devalue a bond status because we
13 can't pack the city up and move away or if
14 we file for bankruptcy are just going to get
15 told to pay it, so as far as Wall Street is
16 concerned cut the baloney, we don't need it.

17 And, okay, the golden parrot,
18 Walmart at one time, they stopped doing
19 this, they were taking peasant insurance
20 money out on policies out on their employees
21 in case they're killed in an accident on the
22 way home and sticking money in their own
23 pocket. Peasant insurance. Excuse me, I
24 have never been in a Walmart, so you know,
25 too bad.

1 And Paulson and Sons, Paulson and
2 Company, Elliott Management and Allied
3 Management, equity companies they brought
4 out Delfids, supplies the big three,
5 supplies Toyota, they made a 1,000 percent
6 profit by holding the product of that
7 company which was the old AC Delco and
8 switched to supply major chains, all of the
9 big three manufacturers plus a few, and they
10 shut down the plants, 24 out of 25 or
11 something was shipped into China. Gee,
12 thanks, you know, thanks private equity
13 companies. And once again a certain person,
14 private equity company was involved, and the
15 possible bottom line was \$15.3 million
16 invested and \$150 million dollars profit.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you. Have a
19 good night and don't forget, bawk, bawk.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

23 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, they are down
24 where I live there today, guess who is down
25 there? They were filming down there down

1 there. They are filming down there.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh yeah.

3 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Yeah, they were
4 doing it Monday about 3:00 or 3:30. They
5 didn't report that, I wanted to let you know
6 about that, Buddy. Thanks, Jack.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Where is that nice
8 hat?

9 Ms. Evans: What are you doing with
10 that shirt? AH. Now you are for Abington
11 Heights? Oh, you traitor.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Put that hat back on.
13 He had a nice Boston hat.

14 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
15 council.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky.
18 I see where your commuter tax is running
19 into some resistance. I hope the people in
20 the outlying districts realize all of the
21 services this city provides, not only our
22 hospitals and such, but the Colt bus lines
23 and the Lackawanna County Prison. We also
24 have many charities that make their
25 residence here in the City of Scranton.

1 Recently I looked over my property
2 tax and I saw where I was paying more to the
3 county than I was to the city. Now, I know
4 what the city provides for me, but I really
5 don't know what the county provides. I also
6 understand that they are going to raise the
7 property tax again this year. I think with
8 all the money that we provide to the county
9 I think they could maybe help us out with a
10 few things. While I don't approve of the
11 commuter tax, I don't think we should tax
12 the working people, but I think the county
13 owes us a little something for all of the
14 money that we sent to them and all of the
15 services that we provide to them.

16 8.9 percent. That's gouging. I
17 think maybe that should be investigated. It
18 seems like it should be against some kind of
19 a law. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
21 anyone else?

22 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, City of
23 Scranton. I'll try to be brief. There is a
24 couple of things I would like to know,
25 number one, all of the pools I imagine but

1 Nay Aug were closed last year, is that what
2 it was?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. TALIMINI: I wonder if somebody
5 could come up with facts and figures as to
6 how much it would cost to keep those pools
7 open and also how much was expended on fire
8 works displays at Nay Aug and other parts of
9 the city. I'd like somebody to come up with
10 those facts and figures for next week,
11 please.

12 And number two, I believe that there
13 is a misinterpretation of 501C-3 with
14 regards to the University. I looked at
15 their website and they are way over their
16 borders that were allotted to them and from
17 my understanding of the 501C-3, and I
18 haven't been involved with one for several
19 years, I don't believe that probably 40 to
20 50 percent of what they are claiming is tax
21 exempt is tax exempt. It's got nothing to
22 do with the educational system, it's got
23 nothing to do with the church.

24 Now, I think the housing, especially
25 the housing that they got up on the hill,

1 etcetera, I don't think they're tax exempt,
2 I'm sorry, and I think too many people are
3 afraid to take on the University, but, you
4 know, you got to take on the University or
5 the citizenry and I would rather take on the
6 University than the citizenry.

7 And, Mrs. Evans, you mentioned the
8 election, the county has already received
9 over 5,000 absentee ballots so this is going
10 to be a pretty heavy election. The law
11 states specifically, and this is the law
12 which has not been enacted yet, that you
13 must have a voter ID card. Now that, I
14 understand, is a moot point at this stage,
15 however, according to Election Commission
16 the election -- anybody who goes to vote
17 will be asked to show a voter ID card.
18 However, if they don't show the voter ID
19 card they will be allowed to vote because
20 the law has not been passed.

21 MS. EVANS: Right.

22 MR. TALIMINI: But that's official
23 from the Election Commission. And again, as
24 I said over 5,000 absentee balance, this was
25 as of Saturday, so I'm sure it will close to

1 six or seven thousand, and I do ask people
2 to go out and vote because this is a very,
3 very important election and thank you very
4 much.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
7 Council. Marie Schumacher, citizen and
8 taxpayer.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I guess I'll start
12 where Tom left off, I think that an almost 9
13 percent interest rate on that first unfunded
14 borrowing is pretty staggering and I can
15 hardly wait to see what the next one is
16 going to be. It's also pretty sad that we
17 are going to be starting 2013 with an almost
18 \$4 million deficit. I don't know. I guess
19 are we planning to go for more unfunded
20 borrowing next year? Is that the plan?

21 MR. JOYCE: No. In the realm of the
22 recovery plan there is no unfunded borrowing
23 to be undertaken for next year.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Was there a
25 \$4 million deficit presumed that would carry

1 forward to next year?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. There are \$4
3 million worth of expenses that will be
4 carried into next year.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: That was assuming
6 in the recovery plan?

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: And has the
9 commuter tax been filed with the Court yet
10 and is there a date?

11 MS. EVANS: I can answer that, we
12 don't have a date, but --

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm sorry, there
14 was a cough and it muted you.

15 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, I have been
16 on top of this daily, we haven't received a
17 date as yet. I know that the city solicitor
18 was down to the courthouse and, in fact,
19 even I believe yesterday following the Court
20 case he visited the administrator's office
21 once again to see if the date had been set
22 and it had not. The judges were going to
23 meet and discuss I guess when would be a --

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: What date was it
25 filed, do you remember?

1 MS. EVANS: I don't know.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: We should be hearing,
4 the last I heard is that we should be
5 hearing any day, you know. I was hearing it
6 would have been this morning then this
7 afternoon, possibly tomorrow morning, so as
8 soon as we know we definitely make that
9 public.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: To answer your question,
12 I believe it was filed on Tuesday.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Tuesday? Okay.
14 Thank you. Because I think I checked
15 Tuesday morning and it hadn't been, so good.
16 Next, a few follow-ups, last week,
17 Mr. McGoff, you promised to get me the size
18 of the database and whether the city had
19 requested the county be -- excuse me, the
20 mismatches between owner and -- excuse me.

21 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't -- to answer
22 your question I did not. I'm sorry, I
23 forgot. I will write it down this time and
24 hopefully remember to do that.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Okay,

1 and then on the ordinance, I remember there
2 was a dialogue between Mr. McGoff and
3 Mr. Rogan that there would be only safety
4 inspections affiliated with it, but the
5 ordinance itself says, "Safety inspection is
6 defined as, will include, but is not limited
7 to, a determination that each rental unit
8 shall include an appropriate means of
9 egress, smoke detection, hot and cold
10 running water, heat and electricity."

11 So it is not limited to those items
12 and I wonder why when that's what was stated
13 publically. Was that your intent?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Might I?

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Why it was open ended?
17 Is that what you are asking?

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, when all of
19 the dialogue here was that it was limited.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Well, I think we did
21 discuss that at the time, but the purpose
22 was that if somebody went for a safety
23 inspection and there were other issues that
24 outside of those five that were mentioned
25 that they could then contact, you know, one

1 of the city inspectors to have them examined
2 as well. It was just to give, you know, if
3 you went and there was noticeable structural
4 damages or something and, you know, it's not
5 included you could then refer it to the city
6 inspectors.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I don't know,
8 I think that sort of leaves it open ended
9 and, I mean, yeah, structural, but there is
10 plenty of other things that could be picked
11 up, too, that could be a retaliation kind of
12 thing that bothered me but --

13 MR. MCGOFF: I guess I look at it
14 from the positive end that it may -- yes,
15 they may find other things and they may be
16 things that we want remedied.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And,
18 Mr. Joyce, I know the unfunded debt amounts
19 were discussed yesterday at the hearing, but
20 --

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: I know also that
23 the only clear backup to that will be the
24 audit, when we can actually see the list of
25 the borrowings and what the principal

1 amounts are, because I don't really
2 understand that and I didn't understand how
3 it went from, like, I believe it was 37 and
4 the distance from the ceiling went even
5 further away from the ceiling when you added
6 in the lease rental, which I don't
7 understand. I would have naturally assumed
8 it went the other way, so maybe there is
9 something that you can explain next week and
10 give us a list of the bonds. And then do
11 you have a date for when the public is going
12 to be able to see that audit?

13 MR. JOYCE: No. Actually, we just
14 received a letter from Rossi & Rossi. They
15 are waiting for some additional information
16 from the city and once they've received that
17 information they'll provide their draft copy
18 of the audit for council members to review
19 and then, of course, the exit conference
20 which will follow.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Obviously
22 well into the budget obligations.

23 And can you tell me now, too, last
24 week I talked about why the controller's
25 report for the month of August was more than

1 what you said had been collected through
2 mid-September?

3 MR. JOYCE: I apologize, I still
4 have to look into that, but I will look into
5 that.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And have we
7 any collections from the parking tax bills?

8 MR. JOYCE: I will also pose that
9 question to our business administrator for
10 further clarification and hopefully I will
11 have that answer.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And then,
13 Mr. Rogan, you weren't here last week, I'm
14 glad to see you back, I hope you are feeling
15 better.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Continue to
18 improve, back on the 408 Cedar Avenue, do we
19 have any news to report on the collection of
20 the balance?

21 MR. ROGAN: No. I do have to get in
22 touch with Linda tomorrow on a couple of
23 other issues and I will bring that up as
24 well.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, if I may just

1 continue on that for a minute.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: And that is last
4 week it was stated that the two loans that
5 were given, that council was asking for hard
6 proof that the taxes had been paid, I think
7 that 408 Cedar Avenue, if that property was
8 part of the loan agreement then the
9 administrators are not doing their job. You
10 don't go to a sheriff's -- excuse me, a
11 judicial sale, you don't go to a judicial
12 sale until you have been delinquent for a
13 fair amount of time so had they been
14 checking, so I would like to recommend that
15 you ask OECD to provide annually whether or
16 not the taxes have been paid on any property
17 which is part of a loan agreement, and I'll
18 be back with the rest next week and
19 hopefully a little bit more voice. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

22 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who
23 would like to address council?

24 MR. ELLMAN: Jack, my friend, I saw
25 you on TV. Too much makeup.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not enough.

2 MR. ELLMAN: I wasn't going to talk
3 tonight, because I didn't have my usual
4 envelopes that Kelly makes fun of, I guess
5 I'm a bigger ham than Paul Savino, I just
6 can't sit back there and not talk.

7 You know, I heard a song the other
8 day, a country and western song, by Tracy
9 Lawrence and the name of it was "Find Out
10 Who Your Fiends Are" and one of the lines is
11 -- goes something like, "Who is going to be
12 there when the well runs dry?"

13 You know, that pertains to this
14 city. We just don't have a friend one
15 anywhere. Just everybody is fighting us,
16 nobody seems to care about our plight with
17 these nonprofits. What's it been 20 years
18 with Act 47 and all they have done is employ
19 Mr. Cross, he seems to have a job for life.
20 PEL is a complete flop, you know, advocating
21 raising taxes.

22 You can't just keep attacking the
23 people that have fulfilled the life-long
24 dream of home ownership. We are the
25 victims. You've got to go after these

1 corrupt nonprofits immediately with
2 legislation. There is no other way to go
3 after them.

4 Somebody was bragging to me the
5 University built the science hall on a
6 parking lot before it was a parking lot
7 there was a row of houses there, you know.
8 They are not honorable people to deal with
9 in the first place. I know council found
10 that out last year.

11 But I got a quick question for
12 Attorney Hughes, is there some way that the
13 city can petition the county to have a small
14 millage or something go directly to the city
15 from the whole county instead of trying to
16 get these wage taxes and everything else we
17 are doing, that way it would be more money
18 coming in from a less amount from people.
19 I'd like you to address that if you could.
20 I don't know if you can. I don't know,
21 that's why I'm asking you if it was possible
22 to find the three commissioners, you know,
23 but they don't answer. Mr. O'Brien didn't
24 want to answer a phone call.

25 But you can't pass this city onto

1 your children the way it is. I hear this
2 all the time from people. They don't want
3 to stay here and we need them. I mean,
4 desperately for tax collectors if nothing
5 else.

6 I don't know, like I've said so many
7 times, I live here by choice. I was talking
8 to a friend in Detroit this very week and
9 you think you got problems.

10 MS. EVANS: Yeah.

11 MR. ELLMAN: He was telling me, he
12 said, "Have you ever seen that hard core
13 porn?"

14 And I said, "No, I never watched it
15 really."

16 He said the whole city is like that.
17 He said it's just ungodly crimewise and tax
18 wise and everything. I was telling him
19 about the problem here. It reminds me many
20 years ago I was telling Father Fanucci the
21 problems with my two boys in school in
22 Moscow, they'd just disappear. Every day
23 I'd take them and they'd disappear. They
24 got on the school bus they'd disappear. I
25 give them a car, they'd disappear. I

1 couldn't get them in school, and he told me,
2 "Ronnie, you should go to some homes that I
3 go to and listen to problems about
4 children," and he knew my two boys, he said,
5 "They are not a problem."

6 That's what my friend said about
7 Scranton when I was telling him all of this,
8 so evidently he believes there is some light
9 at the end of the it tunnel for this city,
10 but I know you all are out there like I am,
11 you just don't have as much time to talk to
12 everybody in the grocery store and things,
13 but the people just want cuts. They don't
14 want to see their friends lose their homes,
15 you know.

16 What's it, 20 years, 25 years of PEL
17 and Act 47. We got a thousand people with
18 foreclosures in the paper, 2,000 people not
19 paying taxes. A real estate man said there
20 is about 5,000 pieces of the property for
21 sale. There is thousands more of empty
22 apartments and abandoned houses. You can
23 just lay all of this, almost every bit of
24 it, to these lousy businesses that hide
25 under the guise of nonprofits institutions,

1 and again, you need to go through them. The
2 nonprofits in this city it's unbelievable
3 what's hiding behind the guise of being a
4 nonprofit. Gas stations and bars are not
5 nonprofits, they are businesses making a lot
6 of money just like the University is. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
9 anyone else? Mrs. Krake?

10 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

11 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
12 any motions or comments tonight?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I do. Thank you.
14 First that one of -- the legislation on the
15 Big House Tobacco Shop, I have a number of
16 questions and I understand that attorney
17 Hughes had gotten some information about it,
18 but I would like that at least pose the
19 questions now and perhaps when you gets to
20 the legislation some of them would be
21 addressed, not all of them.

22 I was told that at one time this was
23 a roll your own cigar or cigarette lounge
24 and that recently the machine rolling
25 machine I guess was confiscated by the

1 state, I don't know if that was for some
2 violation or what the --

3 MR. ROGAN: I believe it was a tax
4 issue.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

6 MR. ROGAN: The cigarettes are taxed
7 at a different rate than just buying
8 tobacco, so what happened was, and I'm
9 speaking to a bunch of the neighbors today
10 on this issue actually as well, what the
11 company was doing was people would go in and
12 they would purchase tobacco and they would
13 purchase filters and they would purchase
14 tubes and then they would be allowed to use
15 the machine for free. By purchasing each
16 part individually they circumvented the
17 state cigarette tax.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I see.

19 MR. ROGAN: That's why it was
20 repossessed by the state.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Okay, so it was one
22 question answered, but it certainly needs
23 some other questions if they were doing that
24 to evade paying taxes or having their
25 customers pay.

1 The other thing I was told was that
2 when this was introduced last week they --
3 the place began remodeling and that no
4 visible permits were for the remodeling. I
5 think that we should, you know, see if
6 that's taking place or whether they have
7 received permits or whether they need to
8 have permits.

9 Also, I was told that they were
10 talking about being a -- selling food, but
11 yet I'm told there is no commercial kitchen
12 in the building so I don't know how much
13 food they would be providing as a restaurant
14 or a lounge. I had some questions about
15 parking availability if it was, in fact,
16 going to be restaurant or a lounge, and I
17 guess the conclusion that I was coming to
18 was that this was starting to sound from
19 some of the things that were said, this was
20 something starting to sound more like a
21 package store as opposed to a restaurant,
22 that this was going be a place where they
23 sold cigarettes and six packs, which I don't
24 know if that's something that we want or,
25 you know, that I would be in favor of doing.

1 So just some questions and when we get to
2 the legislation perhaps we can discuss them.

3 Second thing I wanted to mention
4 was --

5 MR. HUGHES: If you want me to
6 comment now?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. MCGOFF: If you want, if it's
9 easier now.

10 MR. HUGHES: This is a restaurant
11 license. What happens to the restaurant
12 license is that it must have food service,
13 it must have a full kitchen, it must have
14 tables and 30 chairs so that it qualifies
15 under the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
16 rules and regulations as a restaurant.
17 That's what it must have inside. All of the
18 other issues, I mean, to get the liquor
19 license. Then they would be inspected, they
20 have to put their application in that, you
21 know, in order to have the restaurant liquor
22 license transfer to there.

23 What they are doing is this would be
24 a person to person, place to place transfer,
25 it's going from two different -- from a

1 seller to a buyer. It's coming from outside
2 of Scranton into the City of Scranton. The
3 first step in the process is that Scranton
4 must approve the transfer of the liquor
5 license to come into the boundaries of the
6 City of Scranton. That's the first step.
7 They have an application pending before the
8 Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to convert
9 that into a restaurant. They have to have a
10 dining room, they have to have a kitchen,
11 all of that would be inspected by the
12 Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board before the
13 license would be operative. They cannot be
14 a package store. That's a delicatessen
15 license. If they had a delicatessen license
16 then they could just serve beer and not
17 alcohol either within the premise, or I
18 forget if you can take two six packs of beer
19 and three quarters or four quarts, you know,
20 with the delicatessen license.

21 A restaurant can do the same thing.
22 You know, a restaurant can sell two six
23 packs to any person to take off the premises
24 or they can sell four quarts of beer so that
25 the fact that if you do an approve this

1 tonight all that you are approving is the
2 fact that this license can be transferred
3 from one municipality into the City of
4 Scranton to this specific address.

5 Everything else then comes into play for
6 them to go in and to get a building permit
7 or to go into to get -- they would have to
8 comply with the zoning regulations to put a
9 bar in, now you have 30 seats, I don't know
10 offhand, you know, how many parking spaces,
11 you have to have for every so many seats in
12 a bar, but they would have to have that many
13 parking spaces, they would have to, you
14 know, everything to comply with the zoning.
15 They would have to get the permits to put a
16 kitchen in. You know, they would have to
17 meet all of the requirements of the city in
18 order to have a kitchen, exhaust fans and
19 everything else for the kitchen.

20 Then the Liquor Control Board would
21 come in and they would actually measure
22 everything, you know, on what their
23 application is, how big it is, that count
24 the tables and the chairs, you cannot count
25 the bar stools because they don't qualify as

1 seats for a restaurant even though you could
2 eat at the bar, so they would have to have
3 -- you know, I don't know anything about the
4 business plan, but it has to be a
5 restaurant.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

7 MR. HUGHES: It has to be -- if it's
8 a restaurant license and it is a restaurant
9 license so they are going to have to convert
10 this premises into a fully operational
11 restaurant in accordance with the rules of
12 the liquor Control Board and in accordance
13 with the city zoning code and in accordance
14 with, you know, the city's buildings code.

15 MR. MCGOFF: So I think you have
16 kind of answered that if we approve this
17 transfer we can't --

18 MR. HUGHES: They can't open
19 tomorrow.

20 MR. MCGOFF: -- open --

21 MR. HUGHES: No, what they have
22 to do now that they have --

23 MR. MCGOFF: There would be other
24 formalities and safeguards --

25 MR. HUGHES: Lots of them.

1 MR. MCGOFF: -- before it would be
2 opened.

3 MR. HUGHES: I have no idea where
4 this is on Greenridge Street, you know, and
5 even what it was, but they are going to have
6 convert it into being a fully operational
7 restaurant in order to get the liquor
8 license.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. Thank you
10 very much for that information.

11 MR. ROGAN: Mr. McGoff, I have a
12 little more information on that as well and
13 I know Attorney Hughes is absolutely right
14 legally that, you know, there has to be so
15 many chairs, there has to be, you know, a
16 fully operational kitchen. Many six pack
17 stores that are -- that you and I would
18 consider a six pack store have this type of
19 license. They will do maybe takeout pizza.
20 They will -- most of their business will be
21 takeout. They will have the required amount
22 of chairs. You know, a lot of these takeout
23 pizza places or restaurants we all know they
24 are all six pack stores and I believe the
25 law, Attorney Hughes, correct me if I'm

1 wrong, I think it is you can take out 144
2 ounces?

3 MR. HUGHES: I don't know, it's two
4 six packs, 12 by 12, that would be 144
5 ounces, yeah.

6 MR. ROGAN: So you could take out
7 144 ounces at one time. If you were to go
8 there and buy five 12 packs you would have
9 to go in, pay for a 12 pack, walk to your
10 car or put it in and go back.

11 And also one of the things that the
12 residents brought up to me that they were
13 very concerned about was right behind this
14 building another restaurant just opened, so
15 you will have -- if this goes through, you
16 will have your restaurant/six pack store or
17 cigar smoke facing Main Avenue on the corner
18 of Main and Gardner, I believe it's Gardner,
19 and then directly behind that you will have
20 another restaurant that was just in front of
21 the zoning board and there was some
22 controversy with that I believe the
23 objection was withdrawn at the last minute.
24 You would have that restaurant right there
25 and there was issues with parking already

1 and I know from because I drive past this
2 location all the time, there is very little
3 parking there, but I'm sorry to butt in
4 because we can discuss this more when we get
5 to it.

6 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine.

7 MR. HUGHES: This is 200 Greenridge
8 Street so it must be down by the Price
9 Chopper, somewhere in that area? 200
10 Greenridge Street.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, it's up by the
12 Giant market?

13 MR. HUGHES: By the Giant, yeah, I'm
14 sorry.

15 MR. ROGAN: Right on the corner of
16 the CVS kind of right at the River Street so
17 there is no parking on Greenridge Street in
18 that area. There is a small lot on the
19 other side and the parking is an issue for
20 the zoning, it's not an issue for us.

21 MR. HUGHES: That's for zoning, you
22 know, the building permits and everything
23 else, but the thing is that if they have a
24 fully operational restaurant then they can
25 have takeout food and everything else and

1 they can sell two six packs of beer, you
2 know, to go with it, but they are going to
3 have to 30 seats in that restaurant. It's
4 going to be have to be a fully operational
5 restaurant and I --

6 MS. EVANS: If I can interject,
7 Attorney Francis O'Brien, who represents Big
8 House Tobacco, called our office this
9 afternoon in response to our earlier request
10 and he informed us that his client, Big
11 House Tobacco, will be complying with all
12 Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
13 regulations as they move forward in the
14 application process for a liquor license.
15 He is available for any questions council
16 may have.

17 In addition, Attorney O'Brien said
18 he is a former solicitor for the state
19 liquor control board and that this is the
20 only type of work he handles.

21 MR. ROGAN: As I mentioned before
22 legally, I'm not questioning whether it's
23 legal or not, but because there is the way
24 to get around having a restaurant license,
25 that's the intent because a lot of -- it's

1 mostly pizza shops that do it or sometimes
2 even convenient stores, you will go in and
3 you will see a bunch of chairs in the middle
4 of a convenient store and they'll have a
5 kitchen that will sell hoagies, they'll have
6 a menu, but we all know 90 percent of their
7 business coming out it is liquor.

8 MR. MCGOFF: They do have very good
9 sandwiches.

10 MR. ROGAN: I'm sorry.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you for all the
12 input. The other thing I wanted to and was
13 made mention of here was the -- and I don't
14 often mention the newspaper, other people
15 have that fight, but I read the Times'
16 editorial on the commuter tax and I will say
17 that, you know, I was in partial agreement
18 with a bunch of what they said, especially
19 the section on the alternatives to the
20 commuter tax. The problem is that the
21 editorial never said that these were things
22 that we have already considered. You know,
23 everything that they had as a solution or an
24 alternative was something that has already
25 been discussed and most of what they put in

1 as alternatives were third party, you know,
2 required third party reliance. Is the state
3 going to restructure how the schools are
4 funded? We have been talking about it for
5 decades. I don't think that's going to
6 happen. You know, is the state going to
7 approve a sale's tax? I don't know, you
8 know, that's something that they have put
9 off at least until next year, you know, so
10 all of these things that the editorial
11 included were already things that we
12 discussed and realized that we cannot rely
13 on those going forward and we needed to
14 create an alternative and the alternative is
15 this commuter tax.

16 And the other thing I wanted to say
17 on the commuter tax is that in doing this
18 one of the things that people need to
19 consider is the demographics of the City of
20 Scranton. It's somewhere -- the average age
21 of a citizen in the City of Scranton is
22 somewhere over 60. Many of them are
23 retired. I'd love to see the percentage of
24 people, the citizens that are actually
25 retired and I'm sure it's pretty high, so we

1 are talking about people on fixed incomes,
2 you know, looking at having what could be
3 onerous tax increases. On the other hand,
4 you have a population that many have moved
5 out of the city an onto outlying communities
6 and yet work in the city. They come to the
7 City of Scranton to make their money. They
8 come to the city -- when they come here to
9 make their money they rely on the services
10 that are provided, and I think that there
11 should be some responsibility there, and
12 again, as somebody mentioned, that is not,
13 you know, this is not a forever situation.
14 The commuter tax has to be approved yearly,
15 and I would hope that after one year it was
16 gone, but at this time I firmly believe that
17 this is something that the City of Scranton
18 needs. I think it's something that if you
19 looked at it logically, yes, is it a burden
20 on some people? Absolutely, but we all face
21 some burden.

22 And the other thing, the City of
23 Scranton is the focal point of the entire
24 area and many people in Lackawanna County
25 and surrounding counties depend upon the

1 City of Scranton for their livelihood and
2 for many of the services that they receive
3 and I would hope that people realize that
4 and that while there may be some opposition
5 to this commuter tax, I would hope that
6 people understand the reasons why we are
7 looking to implement it.

8 And one very last thing, as far as I
9 know, the fireworks that were at Nay Aug
10 past year were at no cost to the city, they
11 were all sponsored. I may be wrong, but
12 that was the last I checked that was of the
13 case, and that's all. Thank you very much.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff,
15 and I echo all of your comments regarding
16 the commuter tax. The only thing I would
17 like to add though about the editorial was
18 the fact that it focuses only on city
19 council as if city council solely governs
20 the City of Scranton. I wish that were the
21 case. Many things would have been different
22 for the last three years, believe me, but
23 the fact of the matter is this is a joint
24 effort between the mayor and his
25 administration and the Scranton City Council

1 and PEL and DCED provided their input and,
2 in fact, they approve that revised recovery
3 plan, so to single out Scranton City Council
4 and say, "This is all you and look what you
5 are doing," you know, that's completely
6 inaccurate. It's city government, both
7 branches of the city government in
8 conjunction with Pennsylvania Economy League
9 and the State Department of Community and
10 Economic Development.

11 So it would be nice if the
12 editorialist would check the facts because
13 certainly everyone has a right to his and
14 her opinion, but everyone doesn't have the
15 right to their own set of facts. The facts
16 are the facts overall and I think what's
17 been happening is we have been substituting
18 in editorials opinions for facts.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I did say partially
20 agreed.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
22 Councilman Rogan, do you have comments or
23 motions?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. And
25 again, I apologize for my absence the last

1 few weeks and i thank everyone for their
2 cards and phone calls and messages, I'm
3 feeling much better. I'm glad to be back
4 and back at work.

5 Just a few comments about some of
6 the things that were mentioned and some of
7 the agenda items, I'll be relatively brief.
8 It was mentioned by a few residents of the
9 8.9 percent interest on the unfunded debt,
10 and I was very upset when I read this as
11 well and when we had the vote on the
12 unfunded debt one of my concerns at that
13 point in time was we -- there was no set
14 interest rates. It's the vote is first and
15 then you find out the details later. That's
16 a big part of the reason why I opposed it.

17 Also, because the mayor went back on
18 his word when we met privately that it would
19 be the end of the line for borrowing in the
20 city which we obviously see that isn't the
21 case, but maybe ten years ago a 8.9 interest
22 rate on a loan wouldn't have been that bad,
23 but right now interest rates are historic
24 lows. As somebody who is looking to
25 purchase a home in the City of Scranton, put

1 into different banks looking for an
2 interest -- you know, for a mortgage you are
3 getting interest rates at 3.5 to 4 percent
4 as an individual who has very few assets
5 other than maybe a vehicle and then you have
6 a city who is getting interest rates of 9
7 percent. It seems out of whack especially
8 with how relatively low interest rates are
9 in general.

10 Those that have savings accounts in
11 banks realize they are getting, you know, a
12 fraction of a percentage, actually it's not
13 even keeping up with inflation the interest
14 you get on your savings account these days,
15 but the rate is very high and I'm hopeful
16 that the next issue will be significantly
17 lower, but probably won't be. I understand
18 the city needs the money, but a 9 percent
19 interest rate is very high.

20 A bit of better news, I heard from
21 talking to a few people today that Kevin
22 Conway will be working for the Parking
23 Authority under Central Parking and he
24 worked for from I hear for Mayor Connors and
25 he did an excellent job when he was working

1 under Mayor Connors. I haven't met him, but
2 I have heard nothing but positive things
3 about him and I'm hopeful that things will
4 move in the right direction with the Parking
5 Authority. I know I, for one, I'm very
6 happy that Mr. Scopelliti and the extremely
7 incompetent management down there is gone,
8 and it's tough pill to swallow in the
9 short-term, that employees, good employees
10 have gotten laid off as well with the
11 incompetent managements and that's
12 frustrating, it's not right, but we have to
13 look at the long-term. You know, it's not a
14 matter of just continuing to let them borrow
15 and run wild where at the end of the day the
16 chickens are going to come home to roost and
17 they have, but long-term I firmly believe
18 that we are in a better position now with
19 the Parking Authority than we were a year
20 ago when this wasn't even in anybody's mind.

21 Moving onto a few other items, I'm
22 very happy with the CDBG amendments. I
23 thank everyone for sending in the
24 recommendations. It seems pretty much
25 everyone was on the same page with what we

1 wanted to do and I'm very proud that with
2 this amendment we are actually able to
3 increase the funding for paving in low to
4 moderate areas at over 100 percent, which is
5 something I think that everybody in the city
6 agrees that we desperately need. We
7 increased the allotment from \$300,000 to
8 \$645,000 through this amendments and one of
9 the big savings was the elimination of
10 splash pads/splash parks or splash pads for
11 the pools. Many of us have that on the
12 suggestion list and it was mentioned from
13 the podium as well regarding the capital
14 budget. You know, I grew up in West Side, I
15 still live in West Side and I'll probably
16 live in West Side my entire life and I
17 remember as a child going to Novembrino Pool
18 and, you know, it wasn't an immaculate pool
19 you went and paid a dollar back then and
20 sometimes it was free, and you went and you
21 swam in the pool and they had two pools
22 there, you know, it was nice. It was nice
23 for the neighborhood kids and we'd all get
24 together and go down there and, you know,
25 it's a great pool and it's in a great area

1 for West Side and the same thing with other
2 areas of the city, Pinebrook, you know,
3 throughout the whole city.

4 A pool is a great place for kids to
5 go. We don't need a splash park or a splash
6 pad. If we just maintain the pools that we
7 have I think we are, you know, in a lot
8 better shape than completely taking
9 everything out and putting in these splash
10 pads, which to be honest with you, I think
11 most people don't even know what they look
12 like. I don't know.

13 Also some other changes that were
14 made, some other reductions, I want to talk
15 a little more in detail while they were
16 made. A deduction was made for the Boys and
17 Girls Club, this wasn't for programs at the
18 Boys and Girls Club, it was for sidewalk
19 repairs, so it will not effect any of the
20 programs, just for their sidewalk repairs.
21 They were three of the bigger deductions.

22 Some of the other issues, one was
23 mentioned earlier, Lackawanna Neighbors for
24 housing rehab, we absolutely need to do
25 something in our neighborhoods about blight,

1 but we all know that. It is a small
2 increase but hopefully it will help.
3 Scranton Tomorrow, I spoke to Mr. McGoff
4 this morning and that was put in as well for
5 a business master plan for the downtown.

6 And then in public service area the
7 two deductions were one for the United
8 Neighborhood Center, the SCOLA program. It
9 was on a couple of members deductions to
10 take that off and I took -- eliminated it to
11 zero because of the question of two years
12 ago that was posed to Mr. Handly when he was
13 here asking if any assurances were made to
14 ensure that anyone in this program, which is
15 an English as a second language program, is
16 in fact in the country legally, and those
17 assurances weren't made two years ago, so
18 that was eliminated.

19 The Deutsch Institute was reduced by
20 \$5,000. We needed to find some extra money
21 in one of the programs to fund the adult
22 literacy, which we all supported, and it was
23 removed from the recreation activities
24 portion of the Deutsch Institute.

25 And as I said, the two additions,

1 one was for the adult literacy program,
2 which helps train adults to read, do job
3 applications, things of that nature so they
4 can take care of themselves, which is
5 something I believe is good use of tax
6 dollar helping somebody help themselves
7 instead of just giving a handout, and then
8 the Neighbor Works NEPA home ownership
9 program, we have all seen the foreclosures
10 throughout the country and in the area as
11 well and that's very hard for people to keep
12 their homes and purchase homes these days,
13 so that's why that was increased as well.

14 So I'm hopeful that these will pass
15 and I'm very happy with how everything came
16 together. I remember the first time we did
17 this three years ago now the list of
18 amendments was four pages long because when
19 they came down they had a theatre tickets,
20 this and that, and I think the
21 administration is taking note of how council
22 wants to appropriate those funds and I see
23 that these items weren't even included this
24 year, so that's why the amendments are much
25 more condensed, which was nice. It seems

1 it's already going in the right direction
2 and we just need to tweak them a little bit.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, but I want
4 to add to what you said in total I think
5 that when I added it up there was over
6 \$500,000 we voted to housing rehab and
7 neighborhood improvements. I think that's
8 an important factor to mention.

9 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. And, you
10 know, just on Mr. Quinn's request,
11 Mrs. Krake, with my colleagues' permission,
12 could we please send a letter to Linda Aebli
13 and Mayor Doherty requesting a meeting at
14 their convenience to discuss housing
15 rehabilitation in our neighborhoods.

16 I understand why Mr. Quinn is
17 frustrated, we all are, too. It's very
18 frustrating walking through a neighborhood
19 and those of us when we were campaigning
20 going door to door you see firsthand how
21 many houses are vacant, even some that are
22 in good shape are vacant, and I think if we
23 can get to those homes early in the process,
24 before they're vacant for ten, 15 years and
25 deteriorating and they have to be torn down

1 those properties can be rehabbed early in
2 the process. Number one, it will be better
3 for community, we'll have more properties on
4 the tax rolls. It will be good for low to
5 moderate families to move into, to have that
6 pride of home ownership and also not to have
7 to waste money tearing them down when you
8 could be building them up. So hopefully the
9 mayor and Ms. Aebli will honor that request
10 and come in.

11 That's all I have for now. I will
12 comment more on the agenda items as they
13 come up. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you, and I might
15 also suggest to you that if you were able to
16 perhaps get your hands on CDBG allocations
17 and HOME program allocations from other
18 Pennsylvania municipalities and then
19 determine which ones seem to be running
20 those types of programs and funding those
21 then I think, you know, you have something
22 to present to Ms. Aebli and the mayor
23 saying, you know, and hopefully you would
24 even to be able to speak to someone from
25 that municipality --

1 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

2 MS. EVANS: -- who could better
3 explain it to you and maybe we can use that
4 as a model to start something new in
5 Scranton.

6 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. That's a
7 great idea. I could get in touch with some
8 of the similar sized cities and also I know
9 a lot of the rural areas the CDBG allocation
10 is done by the counties instead of the
11 cities because they are rural areas, so I
12 may even reach out to one of the counties as
13 well. There are blighted rural communities
14 as well as the cities, so I know a few
15 offhand that I have contacted on other
16 issues before, so I'll definitely do that
17 and look forward to the meeting.

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

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Just briefly, I
22 promise this time. I really wasn't going to
23 make any comments, but I do have to agree
24 with Mr. McGoff and Mrs. Evans regarding the
25 commuter tax. I think we feel the same way.

1 It's not something we really like to do,
2 but, you know, we are trying to do the best
3 we can. As Mr. McGoff stated, you know, we
4 have come up with other ideas, but there are
5 still things in the works. A lot of people
6 come to this podium with good ideas and we
7 have taken note of many of them. We
8 received some good ones this evening. The
9 problem is we can't implement them
10 overnight. There is lot of legal issues
11 that we are checking on some of these
12 things, especially in the filing and stuff,
13 but there are some issues that are getting
14 closer because we are not alone in that
15 issue.

16 But as far as the editorial goes on
17 Sunday, from what I remember, the one thing
18 I do take issue in there, and I believe
19 Mrs. Evans said it, it's their personal
20 opinion it's not fact and I think we all
21 realize that, they are blaming city council
22 as usual for everything, but you expect to
23 see that on a Sunday editorial, the problem
24 is they took issue with us reducing the
25 business privilege and mercantile two years

1 ago and also reducing the property taxes.
2 We tried to help those and bring business
3 back into town, and, yes, they could take
4 issue with that the problem is they didn't
5 look at the facts. The fact and the reason
6 we put those in our budget was the
7 reality -- well, we found out later the
8 reality that we didn't know that the
9 administration had taken \$5 million out of
10 the Workers' Comp Trust Fund. We didn't
11 have full availability of the audit at that
12 time to show where we were, so to chastise
13 us for trying to help the constituents that
14 we represent without all of the facts and
15 not basing the facts in that editorial from
16 an administration that was not providing us
17 with the information, that's the fact.
18 That's the truth.

19 And we are looking -- again, we are
20 working together with the administration,
21 hopefully that situation won't happen again,
22 but I've stated it before, our friends from
23 out of the area, the surrounding communities
24 and I feel like a lot our own residents that
25 hey, you know, this tax may go into a black

1 hole. The only thing I can assure you is I
2 think, you know, this panel has been proving
3 itself the last two and a half years, we are
4 watching out as much as we can and working
5 for you in the best interest that that money
6 goes where it should go and improves this
7 city and the surrounding area, but I just
8 wanted to mention about the reason why we
9 reduced the taxes two years ago and just
10 hope that the editorial board would look
11 into it and get that straight. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
13 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments
14 or motions?

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. Yesterday I
16 took the opportunity to attend and testify
17 at the City of Scranton hearing to petition
18 the Court for Common Pleas to borrow 9.75
19 million in unfunded debt. Many might be
20 wondering why does the city need to petition
21 the Court for 9.75 million of unfunded debt?

22 As reported under testimony by our
23 business administrator, Ryan McGowan, the
24 city needs to borrow 9.75 million for the
25 following reasons due to unforeseeable

1 circumstances:

2 1. In the adopted budget there was
3 6.4 million in savings to be realized from
4 the refinancing of preexisting debt. Mayor
5 Doherty stated in a meeting from Fidelity
6 Bank late last year that \$6.4 million would
7 be able to be saved if the city could
8 refinance the preexisting debt early enough
9 in 2012.

10 As one may or may not know, the
11 refinancing of the preexisting debt did not
12 happen early enough to realize the savings
13 forcing the city to pay on the preexisting
14 loans that it could not refinance. The
15 total amount of savings lost that the city
16 had to pay in debt service payments was
17 approximately \$5.3 million.

18 2. Back in April the city borrowed
19 \$1.5 million from the Workers' Compensation
20 Trust Fund. In case one in case is not
21 familiar with the Workers' Compensation
22 Trust Fund rules and regulations, a part of
23 the agreement the Workers' Compensation
24 Trust Fund must be funded 75 percent in
25 order to be compliant with the trust

1 agreement. Before the borrowing of \$1.5
2 million from the fund, it was compliant with
3 the 75 percent funded threshold. After the
4 \$1.5 million was borrowed from the trust
5 fund, subsequently, as one can predict, the
6 fund was \$1.5 million short.

7 Originally, the \$1.5 million was
8 repaid back or was to be repaid back to the
9 Workers' Compensation Trust Fund on May 31
10 this year. Because of the city's cash
11 position, this could not be done. The
12 deadline to pay back the fund was extended
13 until July 31, however, because of the
14 city's cash position this date could not be
15 met. Currently, the deadline to repay the
16 Workers' Compensation Trust Fund has been
17 extended until the end of the year to repay
18 back the \$1.5 million the city had borrowed
19 from the fund back in April.

20 3. Due to the October 2011 state
21 Supreme Court arbitration award, which was
22 ruled in favor of the fire and police
23 unions, there are certain requirements as to
24 how many police officers are to be working
25 on a shift at all times. The city failed to

1 budget properly for this requirement. As a
2 result, as reported by business
3 administrator Ryan McGowan, the city is
4 expected to have an overage of \$800,000 in
5 police overtime by the end of the year.

6 4. There is 1.6 million in various
7 fees, damages, and costs owed to the police
8 union related to a recent arbitration ruling
9 that the city agreed to pay in settlement
10 negotiations.

11 5. There is \$197,000 in various
12 fees and costs owed to the fire union
13 related to a recent arbitration ruling that
14 the city agreed to pay in settlement
15 negotiations.

16 6. There is a \$662,000 difference
17 in the amount of delinquent garbage fees
18 that was budgeted by the administration to
19 be collected this year. The amount that was
20 budgeted to be collected was \$950,000. That
21 amount has not been nearly realized. The
22 amount collected so far is \$288,000. The
23 reason why this gap exists is due to the
24 fact that it has taken some time to get
25 Northeast Revenue on board in regard to the

1 collection of delinquent garbage fees. The
2 reason it has taken some time to get
3 Northeast Revenue on board is due to the
4 fact that the city had resolved many
5 problems with the data submitted by the
6 prior delinquent refuse collection firm,
7 being NCC.

8 7. A possible \$400,000 related to
9 the Scranton Parking authority. This
10 includes \$100,000 for meter enforcement
11 personnel that are now being paid directly
12 by the City of Scranton and working for the
13 City of Scranton directly, and the possible
14 \$300,000 that may have to be paid for the
15 Scranton Parking Authority's December bond
16 payment. The amount of money that the city
17 may have to contribute may differ from the
18 \$300,000 depending on how much money that
19 the SPA's Court-appointed receiver may be
20 able to contribute.

21 8. There are closing costs that are
22 expected to be incurred in the second -- in
23 securing a second unfunded debt. The recent
24 borrowing of \$11.32 million incurred
25 \$542,000 of costs. The projected costs that

1 business administrator Ryan McGowan compiled
2 was \$500,000, though he does believe there
3 is a possibility of maybe quite lower.

4 9. There is a \$190,000 shortfall in
5 the projection of the real estate transfer
6 tax revenue for the end of the year. This
7 shortfall stems from the sale in early
8 January of the former Moses Taylor Hospital
9 to CHS, Community Health Systems. The sale
10 of the hospital occurred before the
11 ordinance was passed to adopt a higher real
12 estate transfer tax rate for 2012.

13 Subsequently, though the hospital was sold
14 in 2012, the transfer tax that CHS had to
15 pay was based on the 2011 real estate
16 transfer tax rate.

17 10. Due to health and safety
18 issues, particularly the fire protection on
19 the East Mountain area and slow response
20 times, there were additional firefighters
21 hired back to the City of Scranton in order
22 to reopen the East Mountain Fire Station.
23 Though the rehiring of the additional
24 firefighters was later covered by the SAFER
25 grant, it did cost \$200,000 to bring back

1 the additional firefighters before the grant
2 was received.

3 11. There is a projected shortfall
4 of \$1.4 million in license, inspection and
5 permit revenues than what was actually
6 received so far. Any amount of money that
7 the administration budgeted for licenses,
8 inspections and permit revenue, it was
9 projected that Geisinger and CHS would be
10 undergoing projects related to the hospital,
11 however, those projects which would generate
12 a substantial amount of money through permit
13 fees and licenses did not occur.

14 12. As one may or may not know, the
15 city was to save \$600,000 in health
16 insurance costs through a retiree drug
17 subsidy program. Unfortunately, the city
18 was unable to enroll in the drug retiree
19 drug subsidy program at the beginning of the
20 year. In fact, the city was unable to
21 enroll in the retiree drug subsidy program
22 until June. Because of the city being
23 unable to enroll in the retiree drug subsidy
24 program at the beginning of the year, it
25 lost out on \$300,000 worth of savings.

1 Overall the grand total of the 12
2 points that Ryan McGowan testified to
3 amounts to \$13.049,000. Though this amount
4 is higher than the \$9.75 million, the city
5 believes that the \$9.75 million is the most
6 that the city will be able to access in the
7 financial markets.

8 In other news tonight, as one may or
9 may not know, \$11.32 million of borrowing
10 has been awarded to the city from Janney
11 Montgomery Scott. At a recent Pennsylvania
12 Economy League meeting, or PEL meeting, our
13 business administrator Ryan McGowan reported
14 what some of the uses of the \$11.32 million
15 would be.

16 Of the \$11.32 million, approximately
17 \$1.1 million will be used to fund debt
18 service payments associated with the \$6.4
19 that the city was projected to save through
20 refinancing. Of course, since \$1.1 million
21 of the 11.32 will be used to fund the
22 savings that was to be realized through
23 refinancing, this constitutes the \$5.3
24 million of savings that the city did not
25 realize.

1 Also, the \$11.32, \$1 million will be
2 used to repay Pennstar Bank. As one may or
3 may not know, the Scranton Redevelopment
4 Authority took out a loan regarding the
5 advanced sale of delinquent taxes for the
6 years of 2004, 2005 and 2006 which it
7 defaulted on. The City of Scranton
8 guaranteed this loan. Northeast Revenue has
9 been submitting delinquent tax revenue that
10 it has been collecting to Pennstar Bank,
11 however, there is still a great deal of
12 money owed on the defaulted loan and it's
13 just safer in order to clear the default of
14 \$1 million that is still owed that will be
15 paid out of the \$11.32 million.

16 Along with this currently there are
17 \$3.4 million in encumbered accounts payable.
18 Quite simply, the city must catch up on its
19 bills. Out of the \$11.32 million received,
20 \$3.5 million will be used to pay encumbered
21 accounts payable.

22 In addition, out of the \$11.32
23 million, \$1 million must be repaid back to
24 the State of Pennsylvania for a loan that
25 the state recently provided to the City of

1 Scranton.

2 Finally, out of the remaining
3 portion of the \$11.32 million, future
4 payables in payroll will need to be paid.

5 And just to quickly comment, I know
6 Councilman Rogan made a comment about the
7 interest rate of the unfunded borrowing
8 being 9 percent, but quite frankly, in the
9 situation that Scranton is in that is the
10 best interest rate this we got, so
11 essentially if we didn't receive this money
12 we wouldn't be able to pay our bills, we
13 wouldn't be able to make payroll, and the
14 city would about in a downward spiral. So
15 this is something that the city desperately
16 needed and this is something I voted "yes"
17 for.

18 And to conclude, I have a few
19 citizens' requests. First, regarding
20 Greenbush and Reese Street, an employee of
21 the Career Technologies Center has informed
22 me that the condition of Greenbush and Reese
23 Streets are subpar to say the least. As one
24 may or may not, Greenbush and Reese Streets
25 are not only residential streets in the city

1 of Scranton, but are also entrances and
2 exits to the Career Technology Center. The
3 employee of the CTC reports that there are
4 potholes on Greenbush and Reese Street so
5 large that one almost has to come to a
6 complete stop to get through because they
7 are completely across the whole road.

8 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake,
9 please contact Director Dougher and ask him
10 to rectify the situation in the best way he
11 sees fit.

12 Residents of Dickson Avenue in
13 Greenridge report that there are numerous
14 deep potholes in the 1700 block of Dickson
15 Avenue making travel conditions very
16 difficult. Mrs. Krake, with this in mind,
17 please add this to the list of issues to
18 address with Director Dougher.

19 And residents of Greenridge also
20 report that there is a streetlight out on
21 Dickson avenue making the area a haven for
22 suspicious activity at night. The pole
23 number to this streetlight is 57558N46800.
24 Mrs. Krake, with this in mind, please
25 contact Shott Electric and ask them to

1 repair the light as soon as possible, and
2 that's all.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
4 evening. As part of tonight's agenda,
5 council will vote to introduce legislation
6 to execute and apply for a grant application
7 by the City of Scranton on behalf of Lace
8 Building Associates, LLP, LBA, to the
9 Pennsylvania Department of Community and
10 Economic Development for a local share
11 account grant pursuant to the Pennsylvania
12 Racehorse Development and Gaming Act in the
13 amount of \$555,000.

14 I have requested a public caucus
15 with representatives of the Lace Buildings
16 Associates and Ms. Aebli, OECD director, in
17 order to receive an update on the progress
18 that has been achieved to date on this
19 project in lower Greenridge and to discuss
20 the proposed uses of this second state
21 grant. My hope is to conduct a caucus next
22 Thursday, November 1, at 6:00 p.m.

23 Also, on our agenda this evening is
24 the Seventh Order vote on the 2013 action
25 plan and council's amendments to it as well

1 as the return to the table in Seventh Order
2 of the legislation regarding an OECD loan to
3 520 Madison Associates, LLP. OECD director
4 Aebli, indicated that the business name on
5 the loan application was completed
6 incorrectly by the applicant and is now
7 resubmitted accurately.

8 Next, Berkheimer's earned income tax
9 collection requires attention at this time.
10 In appears that 2012 should have been an
11 sizably increased collection year for EIT
12 since the city receives Single Tax Office
13 2011 collections and Berkheimer 2012
14 collections.

15 Furthermore, the added authority of
16 Act 32 allows Berkheimer to collect the full
17 amount due at source, yet Berkheimer had
18 collected only approximately \$1.4 million
19 more than the Single Tax office who collects
20 only delinquencies as of the third week in
21 October. Timely ability to collect all
22 taxes as the law permits is vital to our
23 survival as a city.

24 Thus, please send a letter to the
25 business administrator and the mayor from

1 city council to inform them of council's
2 concern regarding the 2012 EIT collections,
3 Mrs. Krake.

4 Also, vital to the city's financial
5 solvency is accountable for revenue received
6 in city offices. Each department head must
7 be accountable for his department's revenue
8 collections. Although, other agencies such
9 as Northeast Revenue Services and Berkheimer
10 are collecting certain designated revenues,
11 it is the department heads who must monitor
12 these funds as they are received.

13 In addition, department heads should
14 notify the mayor, business administrator and
15 city council immediately when an issue with
16 any category of revenue collection occurs
17 from rental registration to permit and
18 license fees, to parking meter revenue, to
19 taxes, among others. Equally important, all
20 outside agencies collecting City of Scranton
21 taxes such as Berkheimer should submit
22 monthly reports to the business
23 administrator, mayor, city council and city
24 controller.

25 Mrs. Krake, please forward a memo to

1 Mr. McGowan from city council requesting
2 that as business administrator he direct all
3 outside agencies to submit monthly reports
4 to the aforementioned parties.

5 Now, I am quite certain that the BA
6 himself would receive these reports, but I
7 know that council does not, I am of the mind
8 that the city controller doesn't receive
9 them and possibly the mayor.

10 Also, please send a letter to the
11 mayor asking that he direct department heads
12 to notify Scranton City Council when their
13 respective revenue collections are
14 negatively impacted.

15 Next, council received a response
16 from acting police chief Graziano regarding
17 the Zone Nightclub in North Scranton. It
18 reads: In response to the attached letter
19 regarding the Zone Nightclub in North
20 Scranton, this location has been the scene
21 of 43 police calls in 2011 and three 35
22 calls to date in 2012. As of this week, the
23 owner of this establishment has offered to
24 hire off-duty uniformed Scranton police
25 officers while the club is open. Whether we

1 will be able to fill these positions is yet
2 to be determined. In any event, we will
3 continue to take enforcement actions there
4 when warranted.

5 Council thanks Chief Graziano for
6 his actions in this matter and for his
7 timely response.

8 Finally, after receiving numerous
9 complaints concerning Kane Street in
10 Scranton I was pleased to learn that the DPW
11 performed extensive road patchwork in South
12 Side last week, particularly on Kane Street
13 between Stafford and South Webster Avenues.
14 I was told the DPW used a front end loader
15 in it's attempt to permanently repair a gash
16 in the road near the Econo Lodge that was
17 nearly half the width of the road. South
18 Side residents, visitors to cemeteries in
19 this location and Scranton City Council wish
20 to thank the DPW for it's fine work.

21 And, Mrs. Krake, if you would please
22 send a letter to Ms. Aebli to request an
23 update on the park located in the 500 block
24 of Lackawanna Avenue, and that's it.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Could I just add one

1 thing?

2 MS. EVANS: Sure.

3 MR. MCGOFF: You reminded me of
4 something, somebody contacted me about the
5 corner of Main Avenue and Farr Street that
6 there are overhanging trees that made it
7 very difficult as you were coming down Farr
8 Street if you look to the right for oncoming
9 traffic the trees block that, and the person
10 that asked me about this was at a
11 supermarket and I don't know how to contact
12 her other than to say that I have contacted
13 DPW, they are aware of the situation, and
14 when they have the manpower and the
15 wherewithal they will rectify the situation.
16 Thank you.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
19 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
20 TO EXECUTE AND APPLY FOR A GRANT APPLICATION
21 BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON, ON BEHALF OF LACE
22 BUILDING AFFILIATES, LP (LBA), TO THE
23 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A LOCAL SHARE
25 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE HORSE

1 DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT, FOR A REAL
2 ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED AT 1315
3 MEYLERT AVENUE, SCRANTON, PA, TO EXECUTE AND
4 ENTER INTO A LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT
5 CONTRACT IF APPROVED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH
6 OF PENNSYLVANIA TO ACCEPT AND UTILIZE THE
7 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$555,000.00 IF
8 AWARDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
9 FOR THE PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS "SCRANTON
10 LACE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT".

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I'm glad that you
18 have asked for a caucus with that, I think
19 there are a couple of questions that I had,
20 particularly in terms of the timeline, I
21 think we have seen any number of projects
22 where money has been received and yet --

23 MS. EVANS: Never used.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Well, yes, the project
25 has never been taken on, and the other thing

1 I think that we should look is what other
2 funding is, you know, is there for that
3 project and will it move through the phases
4 in a timely manner.

5 MS. EVANS: I agree. Thank you.

6 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
12 have it and so moved.

13 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -
14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 64, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
15 - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT
16 LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY CALANNI'S
17 INC. T/A LITTLE NIKKI'S PASTA HOUSE, 77
18 FALLBROOK STREET, CARBONDALE, PA 18407,
19 LICENSE NO. R-14028 TO PASS RUSH LLC FOR USE
20 AT BIG HOUSE TOBACCO OUTLET LOCATED AT 200
21 GREEN RIDGE STREET, SCRANTON, PA 18509 AS
22 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL
23 BOARD.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
2 pass reading by title.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, and I know we had
6 an explanation as to what this process was,
7 I still have some serious reservations about
8 this project and especially in light of what
9 Mr. Rogan said that there was some
10 involvement with the state over improper
11 taxing and if that is the type of -- if
12 that's the type of operation that they are
13 looking at then I don't want to be involved
14 in allowing it to, you know, move to some
15 other direction and unless -- I plan on
16 voting "no".

17 If there are other people that, you
18 know, want this to pass perhaps my vote will
19 change. Had we gotten more information
20 especially from the people applying.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, we have -- it's in
22 Sixth Order tonight, and so if it was passed
23 it would move into Seventh Order next week.
24 I could suggest that we meet with or speak
25 with Attorney O'Brien and pose all of the

1 concerns and questions to him directly.

2 MR. ROGAN: I would say I'm not
3 comfortable voting "yes" this week either.
4 If he were to come in, you know, maybe 15
5 minutes before and, you know, try to address
6 or the owner of the property even more so
7 than the attorney because, you know, I don't
8 know if you agree with me on this, I'm not
9 questioning the legality of the permit.
10 From the neighbors I talked to they seem
11 opposed to it, one of them that's opposed to
12 it is out of town, one of the other --
13 someone's working tonight and, you know,
14 it's difficult for people to get to the
15 meetings, but I have no doubt that it will
16 be done lawfully, but as I said before, many
17 of these -restaurant permits aren't really
18 restaurants, they become six pack stores
19 and, you know, I envision it as a people to
20 get a pack of the cigarettes and a 12 pack
21 of beer. I don't think Scranton needs
22 another one of those establishments,
23 especially when I know in that neighborhood
24 one that just opened. If are you traveling
25 up towards North Scranton Junior High and

1 you make a right maybe two blocks there is
2 one and then if you make a left in Bulls
3 Head you have a convenient store which
4 offers the same service so within not even a
5 mile radius you have two that I could think
6 of, but if he can come in and persuade me
7 otherwise I'm willing to listen, but it's
8 going to take a lot of persuasion.

9 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
10 could, if you remember it wasn't too long
11 ago when Posh, right across the street from
12 the Scranton Club, they transferred a
13 license from outside of the Scranton. The
14 owners were here, their attorney, Greg
15 Pasquale was here, they made a presentation
16 exactly what they were going to do that if
17 they had a liquor license when they leased
18 the first and second floor of the Scranton
19 Club.

20 I would suggest that, you know, I
21 was kind of dismayed that the owners weren't
22 even here tonight to make some type of
23 presentation on this. I think, and I
24 believe that Attorney O'Brien told
25 Mrs. Krake that had he known about this he

1 would have come up from Harrisburg. I'd
2 only suggest to council that tell him that
3 there will be another hearing next week or
4 to come at the regular meeting and to make a
5 presentation on this to exactly what it is
6 and clear it up.

7 MR. ROGAN: Attorney, is it the
8 owner or the attorney that lives in
9 Harrisburg?

10 MS. EVANS: The attorney.

11 MR. ROGAN: The attorney. I would
12 prefer actually the owner than the attorney.

13 MR. HUGHES: Well, as I said, Posh
14 was here and the two owners of Posh were
15 here with their.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yeah.

17 MR. HUGHES: You know, I was kind of
18 dismayed that nobody was here tonight. You
19 know, if there is public hearing I thought
20 that they would have been here to make their
21 presentation as to exactly what it is and
22 why this liquor license should be
23 transferred from outside of Scranton into
24 Scranton, and the burden is on them. I
25 mean, that's what it comes down to.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Would it be acceptable
2 to I guess -- I would accept putting it into
3 Seventh Order and once it's placed into
4 Seventh Order tabling it until such time --

5 MS. EVANS: Unless, of course, they
6 could come next week.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Well, I would just as
8 soon table it in case they can't and then
9 it's not on for Seventh Order and we can
10 place it -- would that be --

11 MR. ROGAN: I would think if they
12 can't be here next week if the business
13 means that much to them you think they would
14 do everything they could do to come and
15 budget time is coming up here soon and that
16 will take, I would assume, the bulk of
17 discussion at the meetings. I'm not
18 comfortable voting for it, but again, if --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Neither am I, but so
20 it's not in Seventh Order --

21 MS. EVANS: Right, I think we should
22 do our due diligence, you know, as I
23 suggested and our solicitor suggested and
24 request their presence at a public caucus
25 and if they attend and they explain then we

1 can consider this. If they fail to attend
2 --

3 MR. ROGAN: They should have -- as
4 Attorney Hughes said, they should have been
5 here today. It was publically advertise.

6 MS. EVANS: Right, but we did, I
7 know in the case of the Posh we did actually
8 conduct a public caucus with them, so we
9 have not setup a caucus. So I think we
10 should do that and see if they could come
11 in.

12 MR. HUGHES: I would think they
13 should bring the blueprints and everything
14 else, you know, they should have it laid out
15 exactly what it is going be to, is it going
16 to be a takeout restaurant, you know, like
17 you know, some of these or is it really
18 going to be a restaurant and they should
19 have plans.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. JOYCE: And while we are
22 inviting them to come in, I would like to
23 see some sort of proof that they have paid
24 permit fees for the work that they are doing
25 on the premises now.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yep.

3 MR. MCGOFF: That's what I said, I
4 think there are still serious questions. I
5 guess I would be willing to vote for it
6 tonight, but as Mr. Rogan said, it would
7 take some serious persuasion to have me vote
8 "yes" in Seventh Order.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

15 MR. ROGAN: No.

16 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
17 moved.

18 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
19 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
20 SAFETY- FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
21 63, 2012 - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
22 46, 2012, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AMENDING
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 33, 2012 ENTITLED
24 "ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE IN THE 900
25 BLOCK OF NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE (S.R. 3023)

1 ON THE WESTERN MOST SIDE OF SAID STREET
2 PURSUANT TO THE HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT
3 APPLICATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL
4 COLLEGE FROM SR 3023 SEGMENT 0090 OFFSET
5 1000 TO SR 3023 SEGMENT 0090 OFFSET 1219 FOR
6 A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN (219)
7 FEET" TO CORRECT THE INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED
8 SEGMENT NUMBERS OF SR 3023" TO CORRECT THE
9 INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED OFFSET NUMBERS FOR
10 THE NO PARKING ZONE.

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

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for
15 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
16 final passage of Item 7-A.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
19 call, please?

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
5 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

6 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
7 motion to amend Item 7-B per the following
8 changes:

9 The changes to general fund items.
10 City of Scranton OECD, CDBG administration
11 costs amended to \$385,000. Boys and Girls
12 Club, sidewalk repairs, amended to \$32,788.
13 City of Scranton Parks and Recreation,
14 splash pool parks, \$0.

15 Increases: Lackawanna Neighbors,
16 housing rehabilitation, \$332,000. City of
17 Scranton DPW, road paving, \$645,000.
18 Scranton Tomorrow, business master plan,
19 \$10,000.

20 United Neighborhood Centers, this is
21 a reduction in the public safety, United
22 Neighborhood Centers, SCOLA program, \$0.
23 Deutsch Institute, recreation activities,
24 \$15,000.

25 Additions to the public safety

1 item -- public service items: EOTC, adult
2 literacy program, \$15,000. Neighbor Works
3 NEPA, home ownership program, \$10,000.

4 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to
5 amend Item 7-B do we have a second?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

7 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
8 the motion to amend Item 7-B signify by
9 saying aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

16 What is the recommendation of the
17 Chair for the Committee on Community
18 Development?

19 MR. MCGOFF: It hasn't been read.

20 MR. ROGAN: We have to read it
21 first.

22 MS. EVANS: Oh, okay.

23 MS. KRAKE: Actually, I was supposed
24 to read it before Mr. Rogan started so --

25 MR. ROGAN: My mistake.

1 MS. KRAKE: That's okay, you gave me
2 a break. So we'll just consider this the
3 reading of it then, is that fine?

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. KRAKE: FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
6 COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT- FOR
7 ADOPTION -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56, 2012
8 -AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
9 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE
10 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
11 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
12 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE
13 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
14 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
15 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
16 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD
17 BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2013.

18 MS. EVANS: What is the
19 recommendation of the Chair for the
20 Committee on Community Development?

21 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
22 Committee on Community Development, I
23 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

24 MS. EVANS: As amended.

25 MR. ROGAN: As amended.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
14 Item 7-B, as amended, legally and lawfully
15 adopted.

16 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
17 motion to take Resolution No. 44 of 2012
18 from the table.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-
5 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 44, 2012
6 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED) - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
7 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE
8 CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN
9 AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE COMMUNITY
10 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, PROJECT NO.
11 150.35 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
12 \$150,000.00 TO 520 MADISON AVENUE
13 ASSOCIATES, LLC TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE
14 PROJECT.

15 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to amend
16 Item 7-C by deleting Exhibit A, loan
17 agreement, and inserting the corrected
18 Exhibit A loan agreement submitted by the
19 OECD Office Monday, October 22, 2012.

20 In the summary title after "Madison"
21 delete "after".

22 In the second whereas clause, fifth
23 line after Madison delete "Avenue."

24 In the now, therefore, clause,
25 fourth line after Madison delete "Avenue."

1 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

2 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
3 those in favor of the motion to amend Item
4 7-C signify by saying aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 What is the recommendation of the
12 Chair for the Committee on Community
13 Development.

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

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

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MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-C, as amended, legally and lawfully
adopted.

If there is no further business,
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER