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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, December 13, 2012

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

AMELIA NICOL, 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)

2 MS. EVANS: Please remain  
3 standing for a moment of reflection  
4 for our servicemen and women  
5 throughout the world and for all those  
6 who died in the last week,  
7 particularly the Rev. Daniel O.  
8 Waters, Associate Pastor of Bethel AME  
9 Church, loving cousin and friend;  
10 Nancy D. Bisignani, beloved wife,  
11 mother of Judge Margaret Bisignani  
12 Moyle, grandmother, sister, and former  
13 president and member of the  
14 Architectural Heritage Association;  
15 Mary Louise Mayer, devoted wife,  
16 mother of Scranton Police man Michael  
17 Mayer and Scranton School Direct  
18 Kathleen McGuigan, grandmother and  
19 aunt and their dear families and many  
20 friends who suffer their loss. Also  
21 please remember in your payers Mrs.  
22 Santoli, wife of Tony Santoli who  
23 suffered a stroke.

24 (Silent Moment of Reflection.)

25 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Here.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with  
11 the reading of the minutes, please.

12 MS. KRAKE: 3rd ORDER, 3A. TAX  
13 ASSESSOR'S REPORT, FINAL REPORT FROM  
14 HEARING DATE OCTOBER 31, 2012.

15 MS. EVANS: Are there any  
16 comments? If not, received and filed.

17 MS. KRAKE: 3B. MINUTES OF THE  
18 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCRANTON  
19 HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD ON NOVEMBER 5,  
20 2012.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3C. MINUTES OF THE  
24 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING  
25 HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2012.

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

3 MS. EVANS: Do we have any  
4 clerk's notes tonight, Mrs. Krake?

5 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I have one.  
10 Just pardon me one second. Giovanni  
11 Piccolino, owner of Buono Pizza sent a  
12 message. He's having a free Christmas  
13 lunch at Buono Pizza from 11 to 2. He  
14 will also be delivering meals to any  
15 elderly who cannot make it or somebody  
16 who isn't mobile. They can contact  
17 Giovanni at 342-4032. They can call  
18 on Christmas Day on ahead of time.  
19 Everything is free of charge.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Scranton City Council  
22 will not meet on Thursday, December  
23 27th, 2012. However, if there should  
24 agenda items submitted by the mayor to  
25 be addressed as an emergency, a

1 meeting will be conducted on December  
2 20th, 2012.

3 Tomorrow at Hershey Park Stadium  
4 the Dunmore Bucks will play defending  
5 state champion Clairton for the PIAA  
6 Class A State Championship. We wish  
7 them the best of luck and a victory in  
8 tomorrow's game.

9 Also on behalf of Scranton City  
10 Council I'd like to wish everyone a  
11 very blessed and Merry Christmas, Happy  
12 Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa and a very  
13 healthy, happy and prosperous new  
14 year.

15 And speaking of the holidays,  
16 city council has some special guests  
17 but I think they're much too slim and  
18 clean shaven to be mistaken for Santa.  
19 And so we welcome Mayor Doherty and  
20 Business Administrator Ryan McGowan to  
21 our chambers once again to address  
22 city council and the people of  
23 Scranton. Mayor?

24 MR. DOHERTY: Thank you, Mrs.  
25 Evans. If I may, I'm going to

1 approach and hand you a letter.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. DOHERTY: Mrs. Evans, I come  
4 tonight to ask this council to  
5 consider amending the mayor's 2013  
6 operating budget, to increase property  
7 taxes from 12 percent to 22 percent.  
8 It would be a ten percent. The ten  
9 percent increase would be in order to  
10 comply with Judge Brien's ruling that  
11 allowed the city to go out for its  
12 second unfunded debt and have a  
13 dedicated millage towards that. I  
14 would like to, first of all,  
15 congratulate council and their hard  
16 work as we put that second unfunded  
17 debt together, the initial ruling had  
18 thought it was going to be 12 percent  
19 through the hard work of really Mr.  
20 Joyce and Mr. McGowan over the last  
21 couple days, they've been able to get  
22 it down to ten percent.

23 These are very challenging times  
24 for the city, but I have to thank this  
25 council for the great work you've done

1 over the last several months. We've  
2 been able to achieve our two unfunded  
3 debts, we've been able to achieve a  
4 TAN for next year and put the city on  
5 good solid base. But I think it is  
6 important and that's why I come before  
7 you tonight to humbly ask that you  
8 consider instituting this because it  
9 was the judge's ruling, and I think as  
10 a governing body we should abide by  
11 the judge's ruling. We've done so  
12 much to solidify our base. As we do  
13 remember our role here is always to  
14 protect the assets of the people who  
15 live in our city and primarily that is  
16 in our homes and I think back over the  
17 last year and I look at all of you and  
18 all the help that you've given to us.

19 Mr. Loscombe, I think of the two  
20 weeks you and I spent at the  
21 University of Scranton as we  
22 negotiated long term contracts for our  
23 public safety unions which has brought  
24 tremendous savings for us in the  
25 future but really has given us



1 stability as we look towards the  
2 future and we look to borrow and run  
3 the city's budget. Giving us that  
4 base has been a tremendous help to us.  
5 It would not come about without your  
6 help. Being a fireman, you had the  
7 ability but also you had the knowledge  
8 to reach across the table as you were  
9 bargaining on behalf of the city but  
10 understanding how we can come to a  
11 deal. It really wouldn't have  
12 happened, Jack, without your great  
13 help. And I want to thank you for  
14 that because it has made a difference  
15 and not does it make a difference at  
16 that point in time as we are able to  
17 bring labor peace but those agreements  
18 resonate through all our discussions.  
19 Mr. McGowan and I have spent a lot of  
20 time as has Mr. Joyce dealing with  
21 financial organizations. And one of  
22 things they use is, how have you been  
23 able to put this contract together?  
24 And I talk about all the great work  
25 you did and the help you gave us. But

1           they're very pleased as the look at  
2           our finances say now I know what your  
3           costs for the next five years and that  
4           came about from your hard work. And I  
5           want to thank you because oftentimes  
6           we make decisions and then we go on  
7           but now as we have the opportunity to  
8           look back and see the benefit of that  
9           hard work, it has been made a  
10          difference. And, you know, as council  
11          people you're temporary -- you're not  
12          temporary employees but you're  
13          part-time employees. You have lives.  
14          You all work and do other things and  
15          we don't run into each other to really  
16          take the moment and say thanks, I  
17          really appreciate what you've done,  
18          not only for the administration but  
19          for the people of our city. You know,  
20          it's the type of thing that most  
21          people don't recognize but I recognize  
22          because I know how difficult it is to  
23          get these deals done. It doesn't  
24          happen unless we have a long term  
25          contract and agreement with the

1                   bargaining units. And I can say as  
2                   the person who's in that room, it  
3                   wouldn't have happened without your  
4                   help. So thank you very much.

5                   And, Mr. Joyce, all the times  
6                   we've spent together over the last six  
7                   months, your work with Mr. McGowan, I  
8                   can't thank you enough. I mean, a lot  
9                   of tough decisions and a lot of hard  
10                  work, even today, even yesterday, even  
11                  over the weekend, the amount of phone  
12                  calls and e-mails and your willingness  
13                  to keep pushing, how can we save more,  
14                  how can we lessen this burden. And  
15                  the truth is, it's through your hard  
16                  work and the savings that you've been  
17                  searching for, that allowed us to get  
18                  a better interest rate. When we went  
19                  into the market, when Jamie Montgomery  
20                  out, they had given us an idea that it  
21                  was going to be a lot higher. But  
22                  from the hard work that you and Mr.  
23                  McGowan and the rest of this council  
24                  has done, it made a difference. You  
25                  saved us money. Which means that

1 savings then goes to the taxpayers.  
2 That's a direct reflection from your  
3 hard work. And, again, just as I said  
4 to Mr. Loscombe, oftentimes we don't  
5 get the chance to say thank you but  
6 you've done a great job and I do say  
7 thank you.

8 And the same is true with Mr.  
9 Rogan and Mr. McGoff, we don't live in  
10 a vacuum. All of your suggestions,  
11 all of your commitments, all of your  
12 willingness to say, hey, maybe we can  
13 do it differently. It does resonate  
14 with it. And it may not come to  
15 fruition tonight, but trust me, it  
16 will be in future. There will be  
17 things that will happen that will come  
18 from suggestions you've made that made  
19 us think, you know what, we should  
20 look at this differently. Bobby, you  
21 spend a tremendous amount of time  
22 going to the PEL meetings, you spent  
23 this week at the court hearings. You  
24 take time out of your own private life  
25 to dedicate, you know, your service to

1 the people of our city. And for Ryan  
2 and here, we're here everyday so we  
3 just keep working and moving and  
4 figuring out how we get these things  
5 done but it doesn't happen without  
6 your help.

7 And lastly, Mrs. Evans, without  
8 your leadership we wouldn't have been  
9 able to get to this point. If we look  
10 back to where we were in the  
11 summertime and how close we were to  
12 going over the cliff, we came  
13 together. All of us look at life  
14 differently in terms of politics and  
15 how we want to go. But we put all  
16 that aside so that we can take care of  
17 the people that we represent. The  
18 people of this city, the city that we  
19 love. But that only comes about from  
20 your leadership. And I can attest  
21 because you and I speak regularly  
22 everyday, and we don't agree all the  
23 time but we agree on one thing, we  
24 have to make sure we supply the best  
25 foundation for our city. And that's

1                    what leadership is about. And I just  
2                    want to say to all of you, thank you,  
3                    because we have come together over a  
4                    difficult time. A lot of people have  
5                    challenged us and said, I don't know  
6                    if you'll get this borrowing, I don't  
7                    know if you'll get to that borrowing  
8                    but I know when I sit with the people  
9                    from Levine who flew in from Chicago  
10                   two weeks and we had to met with them,  
11                   they met with Frank and they met with  
12                   Ryan and they posed these questions to  
13                   us, how are able to come to this  
14                   resolution. I said, Because everybody  
15                   on city council and in this city, we  
16                   want it to work because we understand  
17                   our obligation to the city we love and  
18                   the people we represent, not just  
19                   about today but about a year from now  
20                   and five years from now and ten years  
21                   from now. We are a great city. We  
22                   have the lowest crime in Northeastern  
23                   Pennsylvania and probably in the whole  
24                   state. We have economic development  
25                   taking place all the time. You can't

1           just walk out the front of this  
2           building and you see our latest  
3           example of that, the Chamber of  
4           Commerce building. That's our eighth  
5           building which apartments have been  
6           constructed and renovate din our  
7           downtown. No other city in the state  
8           has that. We are headed in the right  
9           direction. Next year well over 125  
10          million dollars will be spent on  
11          construction but we have financial  
12          challenges and those challenges have  
13          to be met by us, the leaders, and it  
14          wouldn't have happened without you. I  
15          want to say thank because this is a  
16          shared government. We all have roles  
17          and without council's help,  
18          leadership, sacrifice of your own  
19          personal time, you all have lives, yet  
20          you give of your time to meet at 10  
21          o'clock in the morning and 2 o'clock  
22          in the afternoon. You know, Mr.  
23          McGowan and I are full-time but you  
24          have decided to give. During this  
25          critical time in our city's history

1           when we are posed to keep growing, we  
2           have decided that we are willing to  
3           invest in ourselves, that we are worth  
4           the investment, this city is worth the  
5           investment and it doesn't happen  
6           without the five people on this  
7           council. So I want to make sure that  
8           you know how much I appreciate what  
9           you've done. These are not easy  
10          decisions but I can tell you they have  
11          be the decisions that have allowed us  
12          to move forward, and I think going  
13          forward that we are poised for even  
14          better things. So I just want to say  
15          thank you very much and really just to  
16          offer you happy holidays. Thank you.

17                 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And I  
18                 agree that this has been arguably the  
19                 most perilous year in the City of  
20                 Scranton's history, and I thank you  
21                 for your willingness to work with this  
22                 council and myself to make sure the  
23                 city got through, and I think because  
24                 of this tremendous joint effort among  
25                 yourself, your administration, this



1 council, both solicitors, our city  
2 clerk, our staff, we've been  
3 successful in avoiding bankruptcy.

4 MR. DOHERTY: Right.

5 MS. EVANS: And I do thank you  
6 for setting aside your differences  
7 with me and your willingness to work  
8 with me and with everyone on this  
9 council for the betterment of our  
10 people and the survival of our city  
11 and I think you're right that as we're  
12 moving forward, we're beginning the  
13 process now of placing the city back  
14 onto sound financial footing.

15 MR. DOHERTY: Well, and you have  
16 my commitment in 2013. We will  
17 continue this and we will grow even  
18 better.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MR. DOHERTY: Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Now, just one  
22 question. The amendment that you're  
23 proposing for the additional ten  
24 percent and I understand what you're  
25 saying it is to comply with Judge

1 O'Brien's decision for the second  
2 unfunded debt and I know that the city  
3 has made it's 2013 payment already,  
4 and as a result, we had hoped that the  
5 Court ordered tax increase wouldn't  
6 have occurred until 2014.

7 MR. DOHERTY: Right.

8 MS. EVANS: And unfortunately --  
9 well, fortunately it's paid for next  
10 year but on the other hand I know that  
11 there were many questions concerning  
12 this particular issue during the Court  
13 case. And do you feel that this can  
14 strengthen the city's position in that  
15 we are respecting the judge's decision  
16 and we are proving to them that the  
17 city does intend to make the payment.

18 MR. DOHERTY: Yeah, I believe so,  
19 and I think you've hit on a perfect  
20 point which is people watch what we're  
21 doing and -- all the time and are we  
22 following what we said we're going to  
23 do and are we honoring a judge's  
24 decision, and I think that's important  
25 that we do that. It shows respect for

1 the court and it also lays the  
2 foundation, it takes out doubt where  
3 people say, Did you pass that yet?  
4 Yes, we have. We've done it. That's  
5 beyond us. So many times as we've  
6 gotten through as we've gone for our e  
7 first unfunded debt and our second  
8 unfunded debt which became easier to  
9 get, it is because we were able to hit  
10 all these landmarks and get past them  
11 and people said, you know, in the  
12 financial community, you're doing what  
13 you said you were going to do and  
14 that's what this leadership is about  
15 as we lead this city, but it also  
16 removes the mystery and we need to  
17 show that as we go to ask the court  
18 for help during these tough times, we  
19 want to show that we're doing  
20 everything we're supposed to be doing  
21 and we'll continue to do more. We  
22 know that we are asking for help and  
23 we're very mindful and respectful of  
24 that and we're very appreciative of  
25 it. We don't take these -- make these

1 decisions lightly or ask -- make these  
2 requests lightly. We understand that  
3 these are sacrifices for everyone and  
4 we're asking people to come together  
5 in this time of need. But I do think  
6 this is the right thing to do because  
7 it shows that we honor the court's  
8 decision and we're respectful of the  
9 court.

10 MS. EVANS: And in addition to  
11 that as I mentioned a few minutes ago,  
12 the increase was scheduled for 2014  
13 and beyond and if it is moved now into  
14 2013, will that decrease the tax  
15 increase that was forthcoming for  
16 2013?

17 MR. DOHERTY: I think we  
18 definitely have the opportunity for  
19 that because we have the whole 12  
20 months to work towards that and as  
21 we've proven over this last year,  
22 we've been very resourceful and very  
23 dedicated through the cooperation and  
24 that is my hope and that is my goal is  
25 what I'm going to push for.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. DOHERTY: Than you, Mrs.  
3 Evans and thank you to everyone and I  
4 wish you all a happy holidays.

5 MS. EVANS: And you as well.  
6 Thank you both for coming in this  
7 evening.

8 Mrs. Krake?

9 MS. KRAKE: 4TH ORDER, CITIZENS'  
10 PARTICIPATION.

11 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker  
12 tonight is Ron Ellman.

13 MR. ELLMAN: Hello council.

14 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

15 MR. ELLMAN: Being first doesn't  
16 do me any favor, I guess. You know,  
17 we've had 25 years of hell and where  
18 are we? It's seemed like their  
19 policies is nothing more than raise  
20 taxes and borrow. In the paper this  
21 week he's asking for a raise for Miss  
22 McAndrews. He's supposed to be  
23 protecting us from these things. To  
24 me, PEL is destroying the city.

25 Many years ago probably in this

1 same room there was a very wise man  
2 named Charles Luger, and I don't know  
3 how many of you all knew him  
4 politically but his solution to the  
5 problems that to this city then was to  
6 consolidate. Consolidate the city and  
7 the county, the fire and the police,  
8 all the little towns around here just  
9 consolidate. See, all these years PEL  
10 has never even come up with a  
11 suggestion that's a minute bit of that  
12 good. From what I gather Mr. Luger  
13 thought to oversee this large amount  
14 to use the Sheriff's Office because  
15 they were the least politically  
16 corruptible at the time. You know,  
17 the Catholic church had to  
18 consolidate. It made a lot of people  
19 mad but it saved them. All car  
20 companies consolidated the Boy Scouts.  
21 It's something to consider especially  
22 when we're on our last leg. But  
23 taxing these 20,000 people that come  
24 and go everyday, that's not a good  
25 thing. I've talked to so many of

1           them. I don't think anybody would  
2           quit their job and go someplace else  
3           but it's an unfavorable situation. I  
4           was talking to Bobby before, Mr.  
5           Sheridan. I mentioned -- I've said it  
6           up here, if you want to know what is  
7           happening in this city, I have a taxi  
8           driver, a cab driver I talk to. He  
9           tells me things that are never on the  
10          television or in the paper. I was  
11          talking to a UPS man a few days ago.  
12          He told me things are slower than last  
13          year. These people have -- they're on  
14          it. They know what is happening. I  
15          stopped at a garage to ask if I could  
16          park my car there for awhile when I  
17          went to the library and they were  
18          telling me they rent more trucks and  
19          equipment that leaves town than come  
20          in. These things ought to tell people  
21          something what's going on here.

22                 I'm going to leave you real quick  
23                 but I want to tell you a real quick  
24                 little story that this relates to the  
25                 city. Many years ago I was sitting

1 with Elvis at MGM they had what they  
2 call the Three Corner Church and we  
3 would drink the chocolate milk, used  
4 to come in little bottles then. And  
5 we were talking about a dear friend  
6 from Memphis that came and visited  
7 named Dewey Phillips. He was in the  
8 40's and 50's a successful DJ in  
9 Memphis. His brother, Sam Phillips,  
10 that owned Sun Records. And Dewey --  
11 this will just take a second. Dewey  
12 had this old white double breasted  
13 suit and white shoes like Pat Boone  
14 wears and he had these expressions  
15 from 30 years before. He was  
16 sponsored by Falstaff beer and he used  
17 to say, Open up a rib and pull it in  
18 and get a wheel barrel, push it. He  
19 had all these -- see the world had  
20 passed Dewey by. He was 20 and 30  
21 years behind. The world has passed  
22 Scranton by. We're a 100 years  
23 behind. We're not a modern city. You  
24 can't have this influx of business and  
25 people and everything like we desire



1                   being so far behind. Let me just --  
2                   Elvis said -- talking about Dewey. He  
3                   said every once in awhile you have to  
4                   stop and just take account of where  
5                   you are in life and make that next  
6                   little step up on the ladder. See,  
7                   Dewey didn't do that, the city is not  
8                   doing it. All that is happening is  
9                   the indifference of PEL to the people  
10                  of this city is destroying it.  
11                  They're not helping us one bit. Thank  
12                  you.

13                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob  
14                   Sheridan.

15                   MR. SHERIDAN: Good evening, lady  
16                   and gentlemen of the council.

17                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18                   MR. SHERIDAN: I want to thank  
19                   you for the opportunity to speak  
20                   tonight to you on behalf of the  
21                   council of towers, of 15 towers in the  
22                   City of Scranton, but not only them  
23                   but the 85 families that we employ in  
24                   the City of Scranton.

25                   Council, I'm here tonight to talk

1           on the storage, that the facility that  
2           you are about to put in behind the  
3           Scranton Police Department. First of  
4           all, we're placing this facility  
5           behind the Scranton Police Department  
6           which is a gorgeous facility that we  
7           built and I was a police officer in  
8           the city so I know and I've worked in  
9           the city. My name bears on the  
10          memorial that is in front of that  
11          building, it was part of the council  
12          that protects this building and it has  
13          the memorial for the Police  
14          Department.

15                 First of all, I want to talk  
16                 about the facility that you are  
17                 putting in place. The building that  
18                 you're putting in place and the lot  
19                 you want to be in place, we need to  
20                 talk about the cost, okay. Someone  
21                 last week said that we have a fence,  
22                 we can put the cars behind this area.  
23                 Well, first of all, we need to look at  
24                 the facility, the building that you  
25                 have to build because you have

1 homicide vehicles, you have drug  
2 vehicles and you have all kinds of DUI  
3 vehicles that they were involved in  
4 serious body injury that has to be  
5 stored and sealed off while our  
6 detective bureau goes in these  
7 buildings and process them. So that's  
8 going to be a cost of the building.  
9 Then you have to look at what the cost  
10 is to maintain this lot because you're  
11 going to have to man it 24 hours a  
12 days, seven days a week because we're  
13 going to be bringing the vehicles in  
14 to you and at the gate, then the city  
15 is going to take the responsibility of  
16 putting it in your facilities which is  
17 going to take in to tow trucks, you're  
18 going to have personnel because our  
19 insurance does not regulate us going  
20 into the yard and parking the vehicles  
21 in place and pulling them between any  
22 other car. You're going to have  
23 personnel there to mandate this. I've  
24 talked to several unions. They're not  
25 ready to change their description of

1           working. You're going to have to deal  
2           with the personal items in these cars.  
3           So you're going to have another  
4           facility that you're going to have to  
5           store the inventory. You're going to  
6           have personnel going into the cars  
7           that were in serious accidents with a  
8           lot of sharp edges on it. We've been  
9           trained. We've gone through classes  
10          and been trained this. You have to  
11          have tow trucks which is going to cost  
12          a lot of money. You're going to have  
13          to have infrared cameras to protect  
14          this. You're going to have liability  
15          insurance that is going to have to  
16          protect the personal property and the  
17          car and the vehicle at all times. And  
18          then let's talk about the national  
19          historic park that you're putting this  
20          behind. What are we going to say when  
21          we take our grandchildren into for a  
22          train ride and the first thing we see  
23          as we drive out in the train, we take  
24          the ride and we see a junkyard because  
25          that's what we're going to have. We

1 are going to be storing a lot of cars.  
2 What are we going to tell our children  
3 and our grandchildren when we take  
4 them out into the walkway over the  
5 mall and we look down at a junkyard  
6 because that's what we're going to  
7 have. Now, you say that you want all  
8 vehicles towed into the City of  
9 Scranton. Let's look at the cost  
10 factors the numbers that that were  
11 inputting in the budget. You didn't  
12 take into consideration of all the  
13 vehicles, the request outside of the  
14 towing list that are asked to have a  
15 request for special towing company to  
16 come in, tow that vehicle to ABC body  
17 shop. That's not going to come into  
18 your facility so cannot put that in  
19 your number. How about the number of  
20 tows that we get as businessmen from  
21 our cousins or aunts or sisters or  
22 brothers or customers that get in an  
23 accident and request our services.  
24 They're not going to be coming into  
25 your facilities. How will about the

1 massive amount of AAA requested for  
2 accidents throughout that you have  
3 placed in your numbers that are not  
4 going to come to your facility. This  
5 all comes off the cost of the initial  
6 investment that you have placed in  
7 your budget and put the storage in  
8 that we get overall from that, does  
9 not come anywhere near your number you  
10 have injected into your budget  
11 tonight. Now, let's talk about you're  
12 asked to have all the storage or the  
13 all the vehicles towed to the City of  
14 Scranton and I'm talking on behalf of  
15 15 people, council and 15 people can  
16 come up for three minutes but we've  
17 chose not to, to have one  
18 representative come up so I appreciate  
19 that we get all our comments across  
20 that we can, okay?

21 MS. EVANS: Another minute or  
22 two.

23 MR. SHERIDAN: Yes, ma'am. Thank  
24 you. You've asked to have the heavy  
25 duty towing facility brought into your

1 facility but when you sat down and  
2 planned out this, did you take into  
3 account that on the north side you  
4 have a low bridge, on the south side  
5 of South Washington you have a low  
6 bridge. You cannot bring your heavy  
7 duty wrecks into this facility. You  
8 can't get them in there. Let's take  
9 in account for the wrecks, say a  
10 tractor trailer that tips over and  
11 rolls over on the expressway that has  
12 a thousand turkeys in it. Insurance  
13 regulation regulate that you have to  
14 have the cargo with the storage in the  
15 storage area where it's going to be  
16 stored. You're going to have a  
17 thousand turkeys running around City  
18 Hall. That's going to look great.  
19 What we're saying is we have a 100  
20 families involved here. We've  
21 serviced the city well. Anything the  
22 city came to us on, we've been more  
23 than willing to step up to the plate  
24 if was for fireworks or any  
25 contribution to the canine, we've been

1           there, we've stepped up. We put  
2           hundreds of thousands of dollars into  
3           our facilities to be ready to take  
4           care of and to make sure the people  
5           were safe in the City of Scranton when  
6           there's an accident in the highway  
7           that the lanes are open, that we get  
8           there, that we get there quick and we  
9           clean the streets up quick and we  
10          clean up all that has to be cleaned  
11          up.

12                 I'm asking you tonight when you  
13           take all this into consideration, your  
14           numbers do not match, council. Your  
15           number do not match. It doesn't  
16           account. It's going to take a massive  
17           amount of money to build the facility  
18           that you need to build to accommodate  
19           the personnel, the equipment, the  
20           facilities that have to be put  
21           together to run this right. You have  
22           to have it manned 24 hours. We do.  
23           We're ready. We're ready to go at any  
24           time. We're willing to step up to the  
25           plate and sit down with council and



1 work out an agreement that fills in  
2 the budget that makes it all because  
3 we're taxpayers, we own homes, we own  
4 businesses, we have families. I'm a  
5 Scranton School Board Director, I have  
6 a big interest in this city. I'm  
7 asking tonight when you look, please  
8 take the facts in hand here, look what  
9 you need to do, look at the amount of  
10 money we have to come up with to put  
11 this facility together and then look  
12 at these, not 15 families but a 100  
13 families in the face and look at them  
14 when you make your decision and make a  
15 correct decision. We are 50  
16 businesses paying occupational tax,  
17 mercantile tax, business privilege tax  
18 Workmans' compensation in the city to  
19 do what we have to do and I feel we do  
20 a good job for you in the city and,  
21 please, consider us, consider all the  
22 facts here when we make a vote  
23 tonight.

24 Council, thank you very much for  
25 having us and thank you for listening

1 to us.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ken  
3 Roland.

4 MR. ROLAND: Good evening.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. ROLAND: Thank you for having  
7 me this evening. Councilmen, my name  
8 is Ken Roland. I am a citizen and  
9 taxpayer in the City of Scranton. I'm  
10 also employed at a local towing  
11 company that Mr. Sheridan was talking  
12 about. I'm one of the 100 families  
13 that will be tremendously affected if  
14 this new budget is passed and it will  
15 affect on the storage taken away from  
16 us. I don't think that all members of  
17 council realize taking even part of  
18 the storage contracts away from the  
19 small business, it not only hurts the  
20 owners but also has a negative impact  
21 on the employees like myself and many  
22 others which most of us are taxpaying  
23 citizens of the city. I think I can  
24 say on behalf of all the towing  
25 company drivers, we take pride in

1 working with the Scranton Fire and  
2 Police Departments making ourselves  
3 available at any given time day or  
4 night to help out in any way we can,  
5 being in an accident scene or help out  
6 with a evidence car. I know the  
7 personally myself I'm called out all  
8 hours of the night. If our other  
9 driver is on on a different call, I'll  
10 get a call, I live two blocks away  
11 from my garage, I'm down there, I'm on  
12 scene. The Scranton Police and  
13 Scranton Fire Department are the main  
14 priority of our business. We make  
15 sure of that. If you don't understand  
16 how it works with small businesses,  
17 the more money that an employee can  
18 make or make the owner, the better the  
19 owner can pay the employee which, in  
20 turn, the employee can pay more in  
21 taxes to the city. So there's another  
22 benefit of it, you know. You know,  
23 all I can really say is that by taking  
24 away from the small businesses, like  
25 Mr. Sheridan said, you're not just

1           hurting the business, you're hurting  
2           the average taxpayer like myself. I  
3           struggle to pay my bills, you know,  
4           but I do pay them and make my taxes  
5           are paid, I make sure my child support  
6           is paid. I make sure everything is  
7           paid and the only way I can do that is  
8           by having a good working relationship  
9           with the owner of my company which  
10          I've work for major corporations. I  
11          worked at Proctor and Gamble fresh out  
12          of high school for almost ten years,  
13          right. I made a lot of money. I make  
14          half the money I made there but I'm  
15          happier because of the service work I  
16          do and I take pride in it and I know  
17          every driver out there does.

18                 So in closing I'm asking you  
19                 please don't take the contracts away  
20                 from the company, work with us, work  
21                 with the owners. I'm sure they're  
22                 good people. I know most of them.  
23                 And, you know, if the do take  
24                 something away from us or take  
25                 something away from them, you are

1 taking away from us and you're taking  
2 away from the hardworking taxpayers of  
3 this city. They're the ones you're  
4 hurting the most. You're not hurting  
5 the owners the most, you're hurting  
6 the taxpaying workers, the employees.  
7 I hope you understand that.

8 And, Miss Evans, you said have a  
9 prosperous New Year's, if this budget  
10 is passed and this is taken away from  
11 us, it's going to be very, very hard  
12 for us to have a prosperous new year  
13 and I bless all you guys, God bless  
14 for the work you. Have a Merry  
15 Christmas, Happy New Year. Thank you  
16 very much for your time.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug  
18 Miller.

19 MR. SHERIDAN: Can I get just one  
20 minute to say one thing?

21 MS. EVANS: No, we can't. I'm  
22 sorry.

23 MR. MILLER: Good evening,  
24 council. Doug Miller, Scranton.

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MS. MILLER: Let me begin now by  
2 just going back to some statements I  
3 made last week. I'd like to just take  
4 this time for a few moments just to  
5 apologize. Last week I said I was  
6 very critical of some residents in  
7 this city who I felt were not  
8 participating in our process and I  
9 left frustration get in the way with  
10 the statements I made. I do  
11 understand people have busy lives,  
12 busy schedules, they have personal  
13 matters that they must attend to and  
14 that prohibits them from coming and  
15 participating at our meeting even  
16 though they do have just as much as an  
17 input as any voter or resident of this  
18 city. I understand we have an elderly  
19 population, we have families who have  
20 to attend the homework with their  
21 children, get dinner on the table. So  
22 I understand all of those issues and  
23 for that I do apologize for being  
24 critical. Again, I let emotions get  
25 in the way and I appreciate everyone's

1           involvements, those who come down come  
2           here each week and those who do other  
3           things they do that they may go  
4           unnoticed, that we not see publicly.

5           But under the main issue tonight  
6           that's dealing with the 2013 budget,  
7           first want to commend and thank Mayor  
8           Chris Doherty and our Business  
9           Administrator Ryan McGowan for  
10          participating in tonight's meeting. I  
11          think their attendance speaks volumes  
12          on their commitment to working with  
13          this council and moving the city  
14          forward and putting the best interest  
15          of our taxpayers in mind and their  
16          attendance tonight prove that.

17          For the last two days I had the  
18          privilege of attending the commuter  
19          tax hearing in Lackawanna County court  
20          and it was certainly a very unique  
21          experience for me to take part in that  
22          process and to listen to both  
23          arguments, the city's argument and  
24          obviously the argument from those who  
25          opposed the commuter tax and certainly

1 we will await to hear the judge's  
2 decisions on that matter. It  
3 certainly plays a intrinsical role in  
4 the city's part moving forward in the  
5 best interest of the residents of this  
6 city whether you support the commuter  
7 tax or you don't and I'm hopeful that  
8 a decision will be made shortly.  
9 Regarding the discussion that took  
10 place tonight with the mayor in  
11 dealing with the unfunded borrowing,  
12 certainly we heard tonight that the  
13 city will follow through on Judge  
14 O'Brien's ruling, that to pay back  
15 that unfunded debt we will do so with  
16 a ten percent tax increase. And I do  
17 believe that following a judge's  
18 opinion is certainly in the best  
19 interest, not only the city but the  
20 taxpayers out of the respect for the  
21 Court. And I understand that 22  
22 percent tax increase is what we are  
23 looking at tonight in the proposed  
24 amendment and with that in mind, I  
25 know a question was posed to the



1           mayor, will that alleviate the burden  
2           of looking into 2014 and I believe  
3           that that would.

4           I also want to take this time to  
5           thank the council and the  
6           administration for the past months  
7           coming together and working together  
8           in the interest of the residents of  
9           this city to come up with a plan that  
10          works for everyone. As we all know,  
11          this past summer in August things  
12          were -- looked pretty bleak. I think  
13          it's safe to say we were at time ready  
14          to pull the plug and throw in the  
15          towel and give up. But because of a  
16          dedicated and committed group of  
17          elected leaders of this city, you  
18          realized that we had to put political  
19          differences aside and we had to come  
20          together and make difficult decisions.  
21          And that's what took place. Your  
22          tireless hard work and effort  
23          certainly has paid off. We don't know  
24          if this recovery plan is going to  
25          prove to be a success in the end. We

1 don't know what is going to happen  
2 with this budget but what we do know  
3 is that five elected council members  
4 and a mayor, a business administrator,  
5 a Pennsylvania Economy League, whether  
6 you support them or not, all came  
7 together and that's what happened and  
8 that's what had to happen and you had  
9 to make these decisions. Certainly  
10 there was a lot of back and forth,  
11 there were differences but you put all  
12 that aside because you knew one thing,  
13 people were at stake, the residents s  
14 of this city were at stake and the  
15 future of this city was on line and  
16 you should commended for all you've  
17 done, the Supreme Court ruling,  
18 Councilman Loscombe stepping up to the  
19 plate with his expertise in that area  
20 by cutting that award in half, saving  
21 the taxpayer's money, again saving the  
22 taxpayer's money. That's what this is  
23 about is cutting the burden, reducing  
24 the burden. Our finance chair as I've  
25 said so many times from this podium

1           hen it comes to finances in this city,  
2           I would put Mr. Joyce up against  
3           anybody any day of the week with his  
4           expertise and the background and the  
5           credentials that he carries. And I  
6           think you, councilman, for all of our  
7           hard work whether it's with your Power  
8           Point presentations informing the  
9           public of what's going on. It goes  
10          back to the openness and transparency  
11          that this council pledged back in 2010  
12          and you've exercised that time and  
13          time again and you should be commended  
14          for that and I thank you.

15                 Mrs. Evans, time and time again  
16                 put forth your leadership and you've  
17                 put political differences aside and  
18                 were willing to step up to the plate  
19                 and work with the mayor and you also  
20                 should be commended for all the time  
21                 and effort that you put into this  
22                 budget making process, the recovery  
23                 plan and all the other issues that  
24                 we've dealt with over the summer. You  
25                 certainly have represented the city

1 very well and I thank you for all your  
2 hard work.

3 Attorney Hughes, I don't know  
4 what's going to happen tonight with  
5 the raises, whether you're going to  
6 get one not but for what it's worth, I  
7 want to say thank to you. I know  
8 you've put a lot of time and effort  
9 into this and I know it's been  
10 stressful for you but as a taxpayer  
11 and resident of this city, I thank you  
12 for everything you've done, because I  
13 know it's not easy. I wouldn't even  
14 want to step in your shoes for a day  
15 because I couldn't even begin to  
16 imagine what your job is like but I  
17 thank you for everything you've done  
18 because you certainly have gone above  
19 and beyond and, again, I thank you for  
20 you that.

21 You know, to many of the doubters  
22 that we've had for past few months  
23 coming up stating that we should  
24 consider bankruptcy, we've done  
25 everything we could to avoid

1 bankruptcy because as I've said before  
2 from this podium, whether you agree  
3 with it or not, bankruptcy is not the  
4 solution to turning this city around,  
5 it's just not and that's the reality.  
6 Bankruptcy only continues to increase  
7 the burden on the residents of this  
8 city by driving tax rates through the  
9 roof and announce that the taxpayer  
10 simply can't take on right now. But,  
11 again, thank you for all your work. I  
12 truly appreciate as one resident of  
13 this city and I continue to ask you to  
14 keep doing what you're doing. I do  
15 think we will turn this around. It  
16 won't be easy, as I've said, but I do  
17 see a day where there will be a  
18 rebirth of the city and we'll be able  
19 to look back at this night knowing  
20 that today was the start of  
21 revitalizing this city and I thank  
22 you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob  
24 Bolus.

25 MR. BOLUS: Good evening,

1 council. Bob Bolus, Scranton.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MR. BOLUS: I'm not really going  
4 to get into the towing too much. I  
5 think I pretty well addressed that  
6 last week. These are the guys that  
7 are suffering, as I said, and tonight  
8 I'll make my same offer I did to them.  
9 Any time they need extra equipment to  
10 go do the job it's available to them.  
11 As far as creating little junkyards  
12 and stuff like that with the city, I  
13 don't think that's an issue. The  
14 issue is fairness and looking at it  
15 realistically and council has to do  
16 that so has the administration. These  
17 guys work hard and they work hard for  
18 a living. When they can't make their  
19 payments, they can't just go borrow  
20 money, float bonds, pay a high  
21 interest rate to get them out of debt.  
22 It doesn't work that way. This is the  
23 real world they live in. So,  
24 gentlemen, applaud you for showing up  
25 tonight. It's about time people came

1 forward and let people really know who  
2 the backbone workers are in this city  
3 and I commend you and I've worked with  
4 each and everyone of you over the last  
5 40 some years. So our equipment and  
6 I'll make that statement here and now  
7 is always available to you, and you'll  
8 never get outbid, and you'll never get  
9 thrown out of here as long as I can  
10 help you. Moving on to his -- oh,  
11 Bob, if you find 75 turkeys, send them  
12 to St. Lucy's Church for Christmas.  
13 Thank you.

14 What we're doing here and getting  
15 serious here, I think it's a little  
16 problem we have, we have too little  
17 too late. This isn't something that  
18 just happened. This is something  
19 that's been going on a long time. I  
20 totally disagree and would ask council  
21 tonight to abandon this commuter tax.  
22 It's not for the city, it's not good  
23 for people, it's serves no useful  
24 purpose. There were many, many assets  
25 in this city that were ignored, could

1           have been explored, we didn't do it.  
2           Don't ask the people outside Scranton  
3           to clean up our mess. We made it, we  
4           have to live with it and we've got to  
5           clean it up. Don't have somebody  
6           coming here in Scranton to pay for.  
7           You have the Christmas tree  
8           decorations, they're beautiful, great.  
9           We're in the City of Scranton, we're  
10          paying for them. We're going to put a  
11          commuter tax on people, then let's  
12          charge everybody that doesn't live in  
13          the city to go in there and look at  
14          the lights. It's a business then,  
15          make money. That's just one little  
16          item.

17                 The way we're going, there's no  
18                 future. I heard the mayor tonight  
19                 protect the assets. Come on, mayor.  
20                 That was a joke tonight. You took  
21                 three and a half million dollars, plus  
22                 the interest from the golf course and  
23                 blew it. That didn't belong to the  
24                 mayor. He had made a commitment it  
25                 would never be touched. He didn't



1 protect the asset. You gave it away.  
2 And what do you got to show for it,  
3 the highest budget we ever had? We  
4 didn't go forward. We went backwards.  
5 We're living in the administration's  
6 fantasy vacuum. That's what it is.  
7 It's not the real world. That's the  
8 real world sitting there. What we  
9 have going on here is not real world.  
10 It's an absolute joke. There is no  
11 future. What are you going to do,  
12 keep borrowing? You can't borrow to  
13 get out of debt. It just doesn't  
14 happen. You can't crawl over the  
15 pennies to get it a dollar. That's  
16 what is happening. You know, we keep  
17 going on, the golf course went, the  
18 Ice Box, look at the stupid lease over  
19 there, a dollar a year, a half a  
20 million dollars, 50,000 for a piece of  
21 land that I offered for. And what did  
22 Paul Kelly do? He thumbed his nose at  
23 everybody. He won't even produce  
24 documents. Yet he cried before the  
25 judges, oh, how much the city has done

1 and didn't do. He hasn't done a thing  
2 that he should have done. Those are  
3 issues are created where we are. And  
4 that's only one little thing. You  
5 have the Ice Box, you had the assets,  
6 have the leachate line. It's now  
7 going to take in 2,000 tons of  
8 Marcellus Shale waste that's going to  
9 go in the landfill. You could be a  
10 host community. You could have put a  
11 public service fee across everybody in  
12 the city, one percent brought in  
13 millions of dollars. Public service  
14 fee, the money could be used to  
15 accomplish many, many, things,  
16 including swimming pools that we blew  
17 the money when the golf course went,  
18 the interest was to take care of that.  
19 So, you know, let's open our eyes.  
20 Let's take the blinders. Let's come  
21 out of Alice in Wonderland. Let's  
22 deal with reality.

23 You know, I was taught by my  
24 uncle many, many years ago when I was  
25 child that if you drop a penny or you

1 see a penny on the floor, bend over  
2 and pick it up because if you have 99  
3 cents, you need that penny to make a  
4 dollar and I've lived with that  
5 philosophy. However, this city when  
6 they look, they'll drop the penny --  
7 no. They'll 99 cents and they'll walk  
8 over and pick up the penny. And  
9 that's what we do in this city, the n  
10 penny, remember that. That's what  
11 makes us grow, that's what puts us  
12 somewhere. To put us where we are and  
13 that's people who cover our debts is  
14 absurd. It really is. It's a mockery  
15 of how intelligent people could go  
16 borrow, you got the interest, you're  
17 going to pay on your debt. You're  
18 paying basically credit card interest.  
19 How do you expect to pay your debt  
20 when you don't even know how you're  
21 going to pay the interest. I listened  
22 to Paul Kelly. Unfortunately I  
23 couldn't get there to speak as I  
24 wanted to because quite honestly I was  
25 supposed to have a hearing with Judge

1 Thomson yesterday and he continued it  
2 the day before before he was still  
3 there. But because I wasn't on the  
4 witness list, I couldn't speak, but I  
5 can tonight, and I hope my voice is  
6 heard very loud. If this budget this  
7 budget is passed it's more than a nail  
8 in the coffin. As I said in the past,  
9 it's buying a ticket on Titanic and  
10 you people to have the power to look  
11 where you didn't look or knew it was  
12 there and have ignored it. Don't ask  
13 somebody else to clean up our mess.  
14 This is our mess, it's our  
15 responsibility. Stop worrying about  
16 being politicians, including the mayor  
17 coming in here and giving a fancy  
18 speech. Where was he for the last  
19 eight years, okay? He wasn't here, he  
20 put the city where it is, and we can't  
21 ride his coattails down into the mines  
22 where we're heading.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. BOLUS: And one more thing,  
25 we will have our dinner because I

1           won't be here at the next council  
2           meeting. It will be at St. Lucy's, it  
3           was will be on Christmas Day. And,  
4           Bobby, we do have the turkeys. Thank  
5           you very much. I'd like to wish to  
6           all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New  
7           year.

8           MS. EVANS: Merry Christmas. Lee  
9           Morgan?

10          MR. MORGAN: Good evening,  
11          council.

12          MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13          MR. MORGAN: I think the first  
14          thing I have here tonight is that I  
15          think it's time for the residents of  
16          this city to attempt to separate  
17          politics from reality. I spent the  
18          last two days watching the hearings  
19          with the three judge panel; Mazzoni,  
20          Thomson, Nealon. Mr. Nealon, himself,  
21          asked about bankruptcy. Today coming  
22          in and determining you're going to put  
23          in the taxes necessary to follow the  
24          order from Judge O'Brien, well, you  
25          were in contempt. You really had no

1 choice to be quite honest with you  
2 because I really think the court had a  
3 way to deal with this council if it  
4 had to. The 22 percent, that doesn't  
5 even address any of the shortfalls in  
6 regards to anything to do with the  
7 budget. It came up in the hearing  
8 that the PEL doesn't see a time when  
9 the city can leave distressed status  
10 because it's population base continues  
11 to fall. And from what I heard PEL  
12 say they weren't interested making  
13 sure the bond buyers got paid. So I  
14 really don't see anybody here  
15 concerned about the residents. And  
16 when we talk about a future for the  
17 city, do we bankrupt every resident in  
18 this city to feed this monster that  
19 the political has created. I honestly  
20 believe when you listen to the  
21 testimony that was given in court, you  
22 find out that the budget is a fallacy.  
23 It's short even today. I just have to  
24 say that we're not on a to recovery.  
25 It's been alleged that we're 25

1 million dollars short next year. It  
2 also came to light that we're paying  
3 out outrageous amounts of interest,  
4 just outrageous. It's almost comical  
5 if it wasn't so pathetic the damage  
6 being done to the remaining residents  
7 of this city and for the political  
8 base to slap each other on the back  
9 and talk about the great job they've  
10 done. You know, the city's attorney,  
11 Mr. Kelly, talked about the inability  
12 to sell properties that were acquired  
13 with Project 70 funds but didn't they  
14 sell the South Side Sports Complex.  
15 The city tried to skirt around every  
16 single thing in this hearing and it  
17 really illustrated the blundering and  
18 the mismanagement of this city. It  
19 was really a disgrace to sit there and  
20 listen to the testimony. In my  
21 opinion the opposing council only made  
22 one error. They should have requested  
23 that the judge close the record so  
24 that this tonight's council meeting  
25 would have no affect on the testimony

1           that was taken and would seal it,  
2           because to be honest with you the  
3           commuter tax is really the greatest  
4           joke you've done because when that  
5           issue came up, they determined that  
6           the commuter tax will really only fund  
7           ten percent of the shortfall. That's  
8           testimony in court. People don't lie  
9           to judges generally. Generally they  
10          tell them the truth. I mean, I came  
11          here and talked about Section 312 and  
12          313 of the Home Rule Charter. We're  
13          not going anywhere because the  
14          political base in this city refuses to  
15          face reality and we can all talk about  
16          how great a job we're doing. But, you  
17          know, question came up in court how  
18          went from a city of 130,000 to 70 70  
19          and the judges themselves questioned  
20          whether the elderly tax base of this  
21          city would have the ability to make  
22          these taxes. So I just don't really  
23          understand how we can pat ourselves on  
24          the back as we deny all the children  
25          growing up in this city a future here



1           because bankrupt cities that continue  
2           forward, I honestly have to say that I  
3           think that this city should throw this  
4           budget out and this city should  
5           request that Harrisburg allow this  
6           city to file bankruptcy and move a  
7           petition forward and why is that?

8           Because the PEL has been here for 21  
9           years and when they say that they're  
10          only worried about the bondholders  
11          getting paid and the residents down  
12          the soup kitchen living in poverty,  
13          low wage jobs, where do we go? And  
14          you know what, it comes a time when  
15          you elected to office where you have  
16          to stand up and don't worry about who  
17          you make angry in Harrisburg because,  
18          don't forget, Harrisburg exempted  
19          themselves from the commuter tax but  
20          we're going to reach outside. And you  
21          know what we have determine, we have  
22          to determine whether we're electing or  
23          spaghetti dinner politicians in this  
24          city and in this country. Thank you.

25                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there

1 anyone else who cares to address  
2 council?

3 MR. ASHMAN: How are you doing?  
4 Tom Ashman from Scranton. I'm a  
5 business owner and I'm a property  
6 owner. I originally came to thank you  
7 for your diligent work and going what,  
8 I think, was above and beyond just  
9 regular civil service to really try to  
10 solve the tax raise on the property  
11 tax but the mayor thanked you and a  
12 couple other people thanked you so I'm  
13 going to move into another thing that  
14 I want to talk about which was the  
15 commuter tax. I think that from my  
16 prospective I can offer a unique view  
17 on the situation being that I'm a life  
18 long city resident and currently I  
19 live up in the Dalton so I'm now also  
20 a commuter. I'm a business owner and  
21 a property owner in Scranton so I sort  
22 of see both sides. Nobody likes  
23 taxation. We all pay them and nobody  
24 likes them. But they're a fact of  
25 life and it's the only way the

1 government really could pay their  
2 bills. They need to impose taxes.  
3 Looking at the situation as a business  
4 person, I drive down from Dalton  
5 everyday and on a snowy day my streets  
6 are cleaned, I pull over to the side  
7 of the road, I have light on the  
8 roads, I don't get robbed going to my  
9 car after work and I realize at the  
10 end of the day it's because Scranton  
11 is providing services and maintenance  
12 and so on and so forth. So although I  
13 don't live in Scranton, if you're  
14 earning your living in Scranton, you  
15 are part of Scranton, and I think that  
16 it's a reasonable expectation to  
17 expect that people that are earning  
18 their living in Scranton, even if  
19 they're living outside of Scranton  
20 contribute to the benefit of the  
21 services and maintenance that are  
22 provided by this city. You have a lot  
23 of hardworking business people here  
24 and property owners and I don't think  
25 that it's fair to burden everybody

1           that is in the City of Scranton with  
2           the whole bill and yet let 20 some  
3           thousand people reap the benefits of  
4           it that aren't per se living in the  
5           city. So that being said, I want to  
6           offer my support as a business owner  
7           and as a property owner and as  
8           commuter to say that I think that one  
9           percent is justified and reasonable, I  
10          don't think that it's unreasonable in  
11          comparison to passing that cost off on  
12          maybe to a fixed income individual  
13          that doesn't have the means to pay  
14          their property tax raise. I think  
15          that it's a reasonable expectation to  
16          spread that cost out amongst 20 some  
17          thousand. I heard another individual  
18          saying that this commuter tax only  
19          represents ten percent of the deficit  
20          that you need to cover it. Well, I  
21          don't know what's school he came from  
22          but my father told me pennies make  
23          dollars. So you're not going to get  
24          one clean swoop to solve a problem.  
25          It's going to be a conglomerate of

1 solutions that add up to the dollar  
2 bill. So four pennies here, ten over  
3 there, 20 here, before you know it,  
4 you're at the dollar, right, and  
5 that's the way we need to look at it  
6 and I think you guys are doing an  
7 excellent job. And as a commuter and  
8 a resident and a property owner I'm  
9 supporting that. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
11 think anyone else who cares to address  
12 council?

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
14 citizen of Scranton, Fellow  
15 Scrantonians. Good evening.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: When I grew up I  
19 watched a lot of cowboy movies and  
20 never, never has coming to this  
21 meeting did I ever get the impression  
22 that white man's speaks with forked  
23 tongue and I heard this man speak.  
24 How you sit up there straight face is  
25 beyond me. Mr. Loscombe, he sit and

1           praised you but he took away your  
2           pension. He gave it to Pocius.  
3           Pocius didn't get his pension pulled,  
4           but you did. Now, Janet, you said 12  
5           percent, 12 percent, 12 percent. I  
6           knew it wasn't going to be. I knew  
7           that long ago. And I would come to  
8           this podium -- in fact, the last time  
9           I told you probably 27 would probably  
10          be up there and it still might go to  
11          27 because them things aren't going to  
12          happen. The nonprofits laughed at you  
13          and they will continue to laugh at you  
14          because you don't take action to force  
15          them. Whatever action you can, you  
16          should have done. I mean, your  
17          solutions aren't really helping. We  
18          still haven't gotten rid of the  
19          authority for the parking authority.  
20          They're still there laughing at us.  
21          And let's look at this deal where you  
22          are going to use the old shuffle game  
23          again selling this piece of real  
24          estate to somebody else within the  
25          administration. The last time you did

1           that, it cost us a million and a half  
2           dollars when you did that with the  
3           delinquents. That's where that SRA  
4           money had to come from. That's what  
5           we lost. Your budget still isn't  
6           realistic. And I don't care you  
7           should look at it more -- well, you  
8           don't have much choice but you should  
9           look at it in much more and much more  
10          detail. I told you a long time ago  
11          you've got to watch the pennies to  
12          make the dollars. This mayor cost us  
13          40 million dollars. We wouldn't even  
14          be talking about a commuter tax if it  
15          wasn't for this mayor and his fight  
16          with the unions and then they sit  
17          there and say how beautiful the unions  
18          were when all the time he wanted to  
19          get rid of them, he wanted to cut them  
20          way down, he wanted to be the dictator  
21          over manning. I stood and watched him  
22          speak and this is the first time I  
23          ever said what man speaks with forked  
24          tongue. Never in my life have I heard  
25          a politician sit there and spills such

1 garbage out trying to say he did this  
2 and that. I've been here for the  
3 last -- all of his term. I know what  
4 he did, and I know how he laughed at  
5 the council. Janet and Billy did  
6 fight them. I'll always say that.  
7 The first time I met you up there in  
8 the line to get the chickens I told  
9 you what do you plan to do for the  
10 city. I've been with you in a lot of  
11 budgets when you were knocking heads  
12 against the majority and you were in  
13 the minority. But the 12 percent that  
14 you quoted I knew it couldn't last. I  
15 knew it was going to go higher and it  
16 still may go higher even at 22 percent  
17 it still may go because a lot of  
18 things that are in the budget aren't  
19 going to happen and we know that  
20 they're not going to happen. We can't  
21 paint the city in bright colors when  
22 actually there's a cloud over us.  
23 We've got to pray for sunshine and  
24 make sunshine happen. Whatever we  
25 take we're going to have to take, I



1 know this. But for this man to sit up  
2 there and praise everybody after we  
3 wouldn't even need a commuter tax if  
4 he didn't blow that 40 million  
5 fighting the unions and that's what it  
6 is. He's been fighting all along. It  
7 was his way or no way. Did the South  
8 Side Complex have to go? No. But for  
9 some reason or other he wanted it to  
10 go. And then as you know the money  
11 filtered away in budgets filling the  
12 holes. Now, he's promised us a field  
13 to replace the South Side Complex.  
14 I'll be long dead before that field  
15 ever materializes. The man does speak  
16 with forked tongue and you've got to  
17 realize that. Maybe you don't realize  
18 it but I think most of you do realize  
19 it. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. DOBZYN: Good evening,  
22 council. Dave Dobzyn, resident of  
23 Scranton.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

25 MR. DOBZYN: Okay. On all of

1           this commuter tax and so forth, I know  
2           you people have taken a lot of abuse  
3           both in the paper and by certain  
4           citizens in outline communities and I  
5           have -- if I ever see another  
6           newspaper like this out of the Times.  
7           Because I like the paper delivery  
8           person I will pay him two months'  
9           severance pay based on his profits and  
10          tips and discontinue the Scranton  
11          Times. So Mr. Kelly beware you're on  
12          thin ice. You're ready to go over the  
13          cliff, buddy, and I've probably been a  
14          subscriber for about ten years.

15                 Now, on this commuter tax, I  
16                 mean, I'm not really favorable towards  
17                 it but it kind has to be. And I wish  
18                 that the people that had the  
19                 complaints would point out that these  
20                 tax exempts that are plaguing our  
21                 city. If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Joyce,  
22                 we have a five or six million dollar  
23                 annual structural deficit; is that  
24                 correct.

25                         MR. JOYCE: That's what we did

1           have.

2                   MR. DOBZYN: Okay. Well, that's  
3           what we do have or did. And we get  
4           about 12 million dollars a year from  
5           the property tax; is that about  
6           correct?

7                   MR. JOYCE: About 13 million and  
8           change.

9                   MR. DOBZYN: Now, multiply that  
10          times 1.5 because 30 percent of our  
11          property so that would be right  
12          equation, right? And then there goes  
13          our deficit right there every year.  
14          So people don't care on the outlining  
15          community why should I pay for that  
16          and so forth, well, if they don't like  
17          being held hostage to a commuter tax,  
18          maybe they'd like to speak up to the  
19          state and get some equity for us. And  
20          Mr. Lewis, I've read about him in the  
21          paper once again, Gary Lewis with his  
22          consulting. Find somewhere else to  
23          go, please. Just find somewhere else  
24          to go. Bankruptcy is not -- it's not  
25          a solution. We'll just wind up with

1           200 percent property tax increase or  
2           whatever and somebody from the state  
3           running our town that we never voted  
4           and wouldn't vote for in a 1,000  
5           years.

6                     And I have to say once again on  
7           the towing and storage, these people  
8           made a lot of sense tonight and I  
9           really, really, please, put that on  
10          the table, please just table it until  
11          more research could be done. And I  
12          think the research will find that  
13          where we are right now with the city,  
14          we're better off keeping the public  
15          sector public and the private sector  
16          private and trying to figure out where  
17          we're going to from there. There's a  
18          lot of savings with the DPW and so  
19          forth could be made like with  
20          recycling. There was an article in  
21          the paper about two weeks ago and they  
22          have greatly expanded the amount of  
23          recyclables that they'll take so, I  
24          mean, I see some people's garbage,  
25          when I lived up the country, if I had

1           that much trash in front on my house  
2           on Friday morning is my trash pick,  
3           I'd pay \$30 or \$40 bucks for it to  
4           have it removed, not a \$180 a year.  
5           That's what, \$3.50 a week so -- okay.  
6           And if these people really have so  
7           many complaints about this commuter  
8           tax then it's time that we start  
9           zoning any further tax exempts out  
10          because I'm not going to call them  
11          nonprofits. You can have an  
12          institution where somebody getting two  
13          or \$300,000 a year as the financial  
14          officer and calling themselves a  
15          nonprofit. Well, somebody is making  
16          something on the place and I'm very  
17          glad for hospitals and so forth. I  
18          mean, they saved my life more than  
19          once. But it's just a shame. And the  
20          nonprofits, I think Mr. Mayor really  
21          wants to go. He's the person that's  
22          supposed to be doing it and it sounds  
23          like he was in his office, not, so let  
24          him go ask them. That's what PEL has  
25          directed and you people tried it and

1           it certainly did work out. You just  
2           wound up getting slandered. And don't  
3           forget everybody in the audience, call  
4           that representative or politician and  
5           tell them take your trade pack and  
6           stuff it because that's what where in  
7           the condition we're in all over the  
8           county. And finally we have a  
9           proposal to go from 65 to 67 or  
10          Medicare. Well, the Keyser Foundation  
11          estimated that it would save 5.7  
12          billion a year. It would cost you 3.7  
13          billion out of pocket for elderly  
14          people, 700 million by Medicaid, also  
15          4.5 billion from employers and  
16          affordable Health Care Act 2.5 billion  
17          with the total of costing, cost shift  
18          of 11.4 billion. So it's time we find  
19          some more talented politicians on the  
20          federal level. Thank you. Have a  
21          good night. Don't forget, quack,  
22          quack, quack.

23                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

25                   Is there anyone else who would like to

1 address council?

2 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy, what's  
4 going on?

5 MR. SLEDNESZSKI: Oh, there was a  
6 big one, Frank, the monster big one,  
7 what do you think, Frank? All the way  
8 TO the wire, you know that. I hope  
9 they win it tomorrow.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Cheer them on.

11 MR. SLEDNESZSKI: Oh, I hope so.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: You got the hat  
13 on.

14 MR. SLEDNESZSKI: I got the hat  
15 on. Jack Henzes, good luck tomorrow,  
16 Jack. Good luck, coach. Thank you.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
18 Marie Schumacher, city resident and  
19 taxpayer.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: The status of  
22 the audit, Mr. Joyce, will we see it  
23 this year?

24 MR. JOYCE: I'm hoping that we  
25 will. There's still a few attorney

1 letters that have to go out and be  
2 received and then Rossi and Rossi will  
3 have the draft audit for us.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And if  
5 there are no further meetings this  
6 year, how will we know that the audit  
7 has been released for the public?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: We have a meeting  
9 next week, right?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Doesn't there have a  
11 public notice of the audit being  
12 completed. I'm not sure.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, okay.  
14 Thank you. Okay.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: And with respect  
17 to the budget because you know my  
18 feelings on the budget that I feel  
19 revenues are overstated so I really  
20 want to stress the need for a monthly  
21 cash flow projection for 2013 that we  
22 can all follow as the year progresses  
23 and not wait until August to find out  
24 where we had problems. And do we  
25 have -- this is off the budget for



1           just a minute -- but do we an updated  
2           on the status of the Spruce Street  
3           bridge repair and reopening? There  
4           was a proposal, I think, by Mr. Bolus  
5           saying that he had a person who said  
6           it could be reopened a lot sooner. Do  
7           we have any feedback on that?

8           MR. LOSCOMBE: As far as I know,  
9           Mr. Bolus was still in negotiations  
10          with his engineer, his attorney and  
11          PennDOT regarding that so there's no  
12          details let out at this point.

13          MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Back to  
14          the budget. Does the \$100,000  
15          collection of revenue for -- cover the  
16          fees, cover the salary of two people,  
17          including the benefits -- Burdyn, and  
18          doing the physical safety inspections?

19          MR. JOYCE: Are you relating  
20          specifically to rental registration?

21          MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I  
22          understand you're adding -- the budget  
23          adds a person, a second person for the  
24          rental registrations.

25          MR. MCGOFF: It was the belief

1                   that, yes, that it would be a  
2                   self-sustaining -- I'll say  
3                   operation --

4                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that's  
5                   what a fee is supposed to be, yeah.

6                   MR. MCGOFF: And that the  
7                   expenses would be covered by the fees  
8                   and that the revenues that were  
9                   projected in the budget were above and  
10                  beyond what those costs would be.

11                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And how  
12                  much -- what have we collected to  
13                  date?

14                  MR. MCGOFF: To date I have no  
15                  idea. Since I last mentioned to you,  
16                  I do not know what the amounts are.

17                  MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And with  
18                  respect to the storage lot, I question  
19                  how many vehicles it would hold and  
20                  because the bridge being out I go up  
21                  and down South Washington Avenue a lot  
22                  more, there are always a lot of people  
23                  parked in the lot if it's the one  
24                  immediately behind the police building  
25                  so I think it's currently fenced in.

1           So where would those people go to  
2           park. And that parking lot has never  
3           -- remember they ran out of money when  
4           they built that place and they never  
5           did anything but put the base layer of  
6           asphalt in that rear lot. The  
7           finishing layer was never applied so  
8           would we have to be -- if we're  
9           putting in heavy duty storage of  
10          vehicles, would that breakdown that  
11          base that's in there and we would have  
12          another expense of replacing that? I  
13          mean, they're all things I think that  
14          need to be considered because -- in  
15          addition to the comments that I made  
16          last week. And then will we know the  
17          mandate alternatives that you will be  
18          proposing tonight and will we have  
19          another chance to comment before you  
20          vote. I was sort of hoping that what  
21          happened last week would have been  
22          followed and we would have known what  
23          the changes in the budget were going  
24          to be before 4th Order so we could  
25          have could have commented. And is the

1 sale of lease back the same as the 25  
2 million dollar bond that's in the  
3 January budget or are they still two  
4 separate items?

5 MR. JOYCE: They're currently --  
6 it's currently being looked at as a  
7 sale lease back but I guess you could  
8 view them as two separate items.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: So the sale  
10 lease back would bring in how much  
11 revenue then?

12 MR. JOYCE: It was projected in  
13 the recovery plan at five million.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Five?

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And so  
17 we'll have it -- is that this year yet  
18 then, a n additional five million this  
19 year coming in?

20 MR. JOYCE: No, it won't be this  
21 year.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: I will be next  
23 year. And it's still in addition to  
24 the 25 million dollar bond in January  
25 then or in 2013, whenever.

1 MR. JOYCE: It would be  
2 considered a part of that 25 million.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And as  
4 since Mrs. Evans said the bill has  
5 been paid for the unfunded debt  
6 borrowing, I assume that means we have  
7 the bond and you can now identify who  
8 the holder is and what all the terms  
9 and conditions are of that bond?

10 MR. JOYCE: At this point I don't  
11 have all of the terms and conditions  
12 with me. I would have to get those  
13 off of the BA.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I mean, I  
15 think that's rather important and I'm  
16 sorry that we don't have the  
17 information provided but I'd be  
18 looking forward to the amendments and  
19 how you're going to cover those  
20 mandates. Did PEL get a response  
21 today or this week? I know they --  
22 you said that didn't up until the  
23 court hearing.

24 MR. JOYCE: Did PEL get a  
25 response in regard to what exactly?

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Their December  
2 4th letter asking for the responses to  
3 the mandates of the revised recovery  
4 plan by this prior Monday.

5 MR. JOYCE: Not as I know of.  
6 They didn't get a response to all of  
7 the updates that were to be provided.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. So  
9 they'll be presented tonight then.  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else  
13 who would like to address counsel?

14 MR. STOGGIE: Good evening,  
15 council. My name is Lance Stoggie,  
16 Sr. The reason why I'm here is I'd  
17 like to lend my support to Bobby  
18 Sheridan and the other groups of  
19 professionals that he was representing  
20 this evening. I strongly suggest that  
21 you let the professionals do the job  
22 that they've done for many years and  
23 they've done it successfully. I know  
24 of no major lawsuits that they've  
25 encountered and I think it's the smart

1           move to let the people who know the  
2           job do the job. Merry Christmas and  
3           Happy New Year.

4           MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
5           anyone else?

6           MR. MARTIN: Bob Martin, 420  
7           Adams Avenue. This might be out of  
8           text but I'd like to congratulate the  
9           West Scranton Falcons, I believe the  
10          A, B and C team going to the national  
11          championship. And congratulations. I  
12          know I've been -- I was a volunteer at  
13          the Lackawanna Little League and Jack  
14          knows this as an announcer at the  
15          Little League games and helped with  
16          the West Scranton Falcons taking the  
17          cameras and stuff like that. I was  
18          watching them on TV and they are very  
19          excited. I didn't even know there was  
20          such a thing as a national  
21          championship team, you know. I  
22          believe they're going to Virginia. I  
23          think I heard they're playing  
24          tomorrow. I'm not really sure. They  
25          are playing tomorrow in Virginia. And

1 I want to mention about Kenny Martin.  
2 He's been there over 35 years and the  
3 unique thing about him, he never  
4 really had a child playing. He's been  
5 involved in the C team since the very  
6 beginning and I remember Mr. Romano  
7 was involved in that C team and like I  
8 said the unique thing is he usually --  
9 parents go from one team to another  
10 but he stayed there and it's over 35.  
11 I'd like to congratulate Kenny Martin.  
12 I saw him on TV and a great guy, great  
13 guy and I wish whatever they can come  
14 back with. But I know those kids are  
15 excited. I congratulate everybody  
16 that does the volunteer work. And I  
17 also want to congratulate the Dunmore  
18 Bucks even though I'm a West Sider,  
19 congratulate the Dunmore Bucks. They  
20 are playing a team, Clairton, they're  
21 sixth -- they've been run 61 games --  
22 I think 62 games in a row. And the  
23 unique thing, I heard about Clairton.  
24 The unique thing about Clairton, every  
25 player that's -- everyone on that



1 member of that football team is  
2 graduating and going to college. But  
3 I tell you, I wish the best for the  
4 Dunmore Bucks and just to remind  
5 people I believe the game is at 1  
6 o'clock tomorrow on PCN, I believe  
7 it's like 180 -- Channel 186. The  
8 game is going to be rebroadcast on  
9 Channel 11 WQ&Y, I think at 8 o'clock  
10 and they're also going to show the  
11 other game before that where they  
12 played Bellwood-Antis or something and  
13 I congratulate them for them.

14 And there's one other thing I  
15 want to ask you about. The bridge on  
16 West Linden Street, I think I heard  
17 the planning commission said people  
18 think they're not doing any work up  
19 there but they are moving  
20 communications and moving things up.  
21 Is it true that possibly sometime in  
22 2013 that that bridge will be opened  
23 up or not?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Oh, yeah. The  
25 anticipation is, you know, late

1 Spring, early summer. The tie up was  
2 the telecommunication lines and  
3 approvals there.

4 MS. MARTIN: Yeah, because a lot  
5 of people don't think there's anything  
6 going on there but, you know, you've  
7 got to realize it's just like that  
8 bridge down in Taylor where you've got  
9 to move different things in order to  
10 get everything going. But, again,  
11 congratulations to West Scranton  
12 Falcons and bring home a national  
13 championship to Dunmore Bucks and I've  
14 got to wish everybody, members of city  
15 council Merry Christmas, Happy New  
16 Year. And, again, I want to mention  
17 to Attorney Hughes, you're doing a  
18 great job and the city clerks doing a  
19 great job and Merry Christmas and  
20 Happy new Year.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you and to you  
22 also.

23 MS. FRANUS: Faith Franus,  
24 Scranton.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MS. FRANUS: I also would like to  
3 say good luck to Dunmore Bucks.  
4 They're the best team we've had in  
5 this area in years and Coach Henzes is  
6 one of the best you're ever, ever  
7 find. What a man that guy is.

8 Also about this hearing yesterday  
9 in the courtroom about the commuter  
10 tax. One question was raised like did  
11 Scranton try to raise the wage tax in  
12 Scranton. Well, I would hope the  
13 judges would know the answer to that  
14 without even asking. We pay like  
15 three point three-fourths wage tax.  
16 It's like the second highest in the  
17 state and these surrounding boroughs  
18 pay one percent. It was nice to see  
19 that man come today who lives out of  
20 town in favor of the commuter tax. I  
21 even had lunch yesterday with Patty  
22 Lawler. She's a councilwoman in  
23 Clarks Summit, and she was very  
24 reasonable and very understanding.  
25 She and I don't agree on this issue

1 naturally because she's representing  
2 the people in Clarks Summit to help  
3 them which she should be doing but she  
4 was kind and she was willing to listen  
5 and she felt that all the borough  
6 people should get together, unlike  
7 this mayor from Mayfield who charges  
8 him with a radical group and they want  
9 to keep coming into Scranton. They're  
10 just very controversial and they want  
11 to come and to get all our services  
12 for free and put the burden on the  
13 taxpayers and then you have all the  
14 nonprofits scooping up more  
15 properties, putting their tax exempt  
16 footprints all over the place in the  
17 city. How are these other towns, all  
18 these boroughs, how would like it if  
19 they had all the hospitals and  
20 colleges that we did and they had all  
21 these properties taken from them that  
22 were no longer taxable and those  
23 taxpayers and those towns had to take  
24 care of that burden. They don't  
25 understand because they don't have

1           that. These commuters, they come to  
2           Scranton from the time they're born to  
3           the time they die for all the services  
4           in this city between the courthouse,  
5           marriage licenses, everything. They  
6           come here all the time because this is  
7           where everything is. This is the  
8           heart of the whole area. And like the  
9           man from Dalton said, they come in  
10          here and use our roads, they use our  
11          police, they take it for granted. I  
12          mean, I think for as much as they're  
13          getting a little bit wouldn't hurt to  
14          contribute. And then Gary Lewis, I  
15          don't know if people remember his last  
16          appearance in city council, the judges  
17          should take that into consideration.  
18          I don't know if they saw that side of  
19          him. But here's a man who doesn't  
20          even own a property and why would he  
21          care. He doesn't property in the  
22          city. I just think he likes to be  
23          right here in front of the camera  
24          grandstanding for his consulting firm,  
25          get more business. This man doesn't

1           have a clue what he's talking about.  
2           Marie Schumacher, with due respect,  
3           Lee Morgan, Bill Jackowitz -- well,  
4           not Lee so much. He has a family  
5           here. But Marie and Jack, they don't  
6           have kids like a lot of these people  
7           do. Like I'm still helping my son  
8           from college and he's 40-years-old.  
9           And I'm sure many other people. You  
10          know, they have people in their  
11          families. Mrs. Evans, you had four  
12          kids in college. You know the  
13          expense. It never ends. And then you  
14          try to set them up in their homes. So  
15          we as parents and family members have  
16          much more of a burden than the people  
17          that don't have these things. So for  
18          them to speak and say, Well, let's get  
19          the commuter tax. It's not fair.  
20          Well, what about what's fair to us in  
21          Scranton who has to handle the burden  
22          of everything, everything, everything.  
23          And I had to thank you very much for  
24          bringing this tax down as much as you  
25          possibly did and if it's -- here's my

1           one question. I understand the taxes  
2           may go up like Mr. Doherty said and  
3           I'm very happy to see he was here with  
4           Mr. McGowan. I think that speaks  
5           highly of him. So if we make it 22  
6           percent and the Court says no to the  
7           commuter tax, we still have that 22  
8           percent because this is what the  
9           judge's wanted. So the judges say no  
10          to the commuter tax, we still have the  
11          22 percent because we --

12                 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13                 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

14                 MS. FRANUS: Well, okay. You  
15          know what you're doing and I trust you  
16          with that. And, Mr. Hughes, I'd like  
17          to thank you as well for all the work  
18          you've done. Nobody will ever know  
19          the work that you've done. And people  
20          keep on saying all the things that  
21          have happened in the past. You know  
22          what, the past is in the past. I  
23          mean, if I was going to go into the  
24          past, all the loans that they did, I  
25          can sit here about Judy Gatelli, Billy

1 Courtwright voting for every loan that  
2 there was with a smile on his face and  
3 nobody even knew he did it. But we  
4 can't change that. We have to move  
5 forward just like you and Mr. Doherty  
6 tonight, Mrs. Evans. You two have  
7 never spoken like you do -- like you  
8 have in the last couple of months  
9 which is nice to see because that  
10 proves that you are trying to move the  
11 city forward. We can't go back and  
12 keep on saying what a mess it is. It  
13 is what it is. And that's all there  
14 is to it. We have to forget about  
15 that. You can't do anything about it.  
16 You have to keep working together and  
17 go forward. So that's all. I just  
18 hope that people sort of understand  
19 that the people from the area outside  
20 of town, they do owe us something.  
21 They really do, absolutely,  
22 positively. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
24 who cares to address council? You  
25 need to state your name, please.



1                   MR. HILL: My name is William  
2 Hill.

3                   MS. EVANS: Wayne --

4                   MR. HILL: William Hill.

5                   MS. EVANS: William Hill. Thank  
6 you.

7                   MR. HILL: Ten years ago I moved  
8 to Pennsylvania from Jersey City and I  
9 came here to start a brand new life, a  
10 better life. Jersey City was starting  
11 to become rundown and between the  
12 crime that was happening there, I  
13 just -- it was time for me to leave,  
14 move on, really couldn't make a living  
15 there. What I'm seeing here lately  
16 and going up and down these streets, I  
17 see a lot of 'for sale' signs on  
18 houses, houses that are not being able  
19 to being sold. I see businesses that  
20 got 'for sale' signs, closed, they're  
21 not coming back. What I'm starting to  
22 see here is the same mistakes as what  
23 they made in Jersey. The towing  
24 businesses, I see people trying to  
25 take that away from them. I also see

1 a lot of other things that can be  
2 contributed to this whole subject.  
3 There's got to be other ways to make  
4 cuts in the budget to save like the  
5 towing companies, bring back  
6 businesses back into Scranton. I see  
7 a lot of things going on here. It's  
8 the same exact mistakes as another  
9 place that I lived and it's a shame.  
10 Putting an impound yard behind a  
11 historical site, I mean, that's not  
12 something I want to go down and see.  
13 I want to down and see trains. I  
14 don't want to go down and turn to my  
15 left and then see junk cars in place  
16 of that. I mean, that's something of  
17 a place that you want to go in and  
18 say, you know, this is part of my  
19 heritage. Scranton has got a lot of  
20 historical sites here. It would be a  
21 shame to see them ruined. I mean,  
22 there's got to be other ways that you  
23 can cut the budget to bring up that  
24 money and give the people like towing  
25 companies, small businesses a better

1 chance because the more and more you  
2 take away, the more and more people  
3 are going to leave. The more and more  
4 people leave, the less taxes people  
5 are actually taking out. I mean,  
6 that's all I have to really say about  
7 in. Thank you for your time and  
8 listening to me.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
10 anyone else?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. KRAKE: 5A. MOTIONS.

13 MS. EVANS: At this time I'd like  
14 to call on our finance chair to  
15 present all amendments for individual  
16 votes. Thereafter, I would call on  
17 each of the remaining counsel members  
18 in the established order for their  
19 comments or motions. Councilman  
20 Joyce, please begin.

21 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, would  
22 these also be measures that were  
23 tabled last week for a vote?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. ROGAN: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Everything is  
2 included.

3 MR. JOYCE: I'll pass out a copy  
4 of all the amendments I compiled some  
5 of the amendments I made, along with  
6 the amendments that Mr. Rogan, ade and  
7 I'll read each one of them out  
8 singularly in the form of making a  
9 motion and we can discuss each one  
10 individually as I know Mr. McGoff  
11 suggested last week.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: No problem. And the  
14 first amendment that I'd like to  
15 propose is a reduction in expenditures  
16 in Account 01.011.00078.4010, Standard  
17 Salary (Fire).

18 MS. EVANS: All right. Is that in  
19 the form of a motion?

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MR. ROGAN: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question?

23 MR. JOYCE: This is the amendment  
24 that will reduce the salary of the  
25 fire chief and eliminate the pay raise

1           that was provided in the 2013  
2           operating budget submitted on November  
3           15th.

4           MR. MCGOFF: I'd just like to  
5           comment. While I think that the raise  
6           should be reduced, I also believe that  
7           pay for the five chief is woefully  
8           below what is received by others in  
9           comparable positions throughout the  
10          state and it had been reduced in the  
11          past and given the fact that the court  
12          awards that were made to the firemen  
13          and policemen has raised the salary, I  
14          believe, over half of the firemen,  
15          that they are making more than the  
16          fire chief, I believe that we should  
17          include a small raise or a raise  
18          commensurate with the raises that were  
19          received by the firemen themselves.

20          MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
21          on the question?

22                 (No response.)

23          MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
24          signify by saying aye.

25          MS. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

5 MR. MCGOFF: No.

6 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
7 so move.

8 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to make a  
9 motion to reduce account No.  
10 01.202.00000.4010, Standard Salary  
11 (City Council) by \$15,000.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes. This amendment  
15 will reduce the salary of the council  
16 solicitor and eliminate the pay raise  
17 that was provided in the 2013  
18 operating budget.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
20 on the question?

21 I just wanted to say that like  
22 Mr. McGoff in this case I feel that  
23 our solicitor has gone well above and  
24 beyond the duties and responsibilities  
25 of any council solicitor in not only

1           the time that I've been seated on city  
2           council but even prior to that. I've  
3           never seen a council solicitor become  
4           involved in tax anticipation notes, in  
5           taking down an authority, in  
6           restructuring debt, in providing for  
7           unfunded debt and at all times he  
8           works on behalf of the people of  
9           Scranton. When the administration is  
10          content to accept the offers or the  
11          numbers that are presented to us, it  
12          is this man who conducts the  
13          negotiations and says, Why not? Why  
14          don't we try for the lower figure?  
15          And he leaves no stone unturned until  
16          he accomplishes that for everyone that  
17          lives in the city. And so if anyone  
18          in my opinion deserved a raise, it  
19          would Attorney Boyd Hughes because I  
20          view him as the single most valuable  
21          employee that the City of Scranton has  
22          and they're damn lucky to have him  
23          because they haven't had the likes of  
24          him before. And the debt right now  
25          would be much bigger. And for all the

1 people that want to say, you know,  
2 there shouldn't be a commuter tax or  
3 we shouldn't do this or let's go  
4 bankrupt. People have to understand  
5 what bankruptcy entails and what that  
6 means is very simply two things, huge  
7 tax increases, over a 100 percent, and  
8 no one on this council or even the  
9 mayor can stop that from happening  
10 once the ball starts rolling because  
11 the city loses sovereignty. No  
12 elected official has any authority in  
13 that situation. And, No. 2, at the  
14 same time those taxes are going  
15 through the roof for everybody who  
16 lives in this city. Your public  
17 services and your public safety  
18 services will be slashed in half if  
19 not more so. So when people are upset  
20 that a fire station isn't opened in  
21 their area, I don't know what people  
22 would do when 90 percent of them would  
23 be closed always and a Fire Department  
24 would be cut in more than half, and  
25 the people who are concerned for their



1 safety in their homes as they travel,  
2 you get in an accident, who do you  
3 call, you call the police. Someone is  
4 breaking into your house, you call the  
5 police. Think about all the times in  
6 your lives that you've needed to call  
7 the police. They wouldn't be coming  
8 because there wouldn't be enough of  
9 them and the sad fact of the matter is  
10 in order to avoid bankruptcy and that  
11 huge tax increase and the loss of the  
12 services you've come to expect and  
13 enjoy, something has got to give  
14 because all this has to be paid for.  
15 And there are mistakes dating back ten  
16 years, a big mess that had to be  
17 handled this year because, yes, the  
18 truth of matter is the city was this  
19 far from bankruptcy. And over there  
20 is a man who went to extraordinary  
21 measures to make sure this wasn't  
22 going to happen. And yet I can't give  
23 him a raise because there's not enough  
24 money, and I think we'll count  
25 ourselves lucky if he even agrees to

1 stay on. And when you're asking for  
2 everything, you also have to ask  
3 yourself, how is it going to get paid  
4 for and how many people are going to  
5 share that burden. I'm sorry. Is  
6 there anyone else on the question?

7 MR. HUGHES: Yes, I'd like to  
8 make a statement, Mrs. Evans. Thank  
9 you very much for the kind words.

10 MS. EVANS: And the truth.

11 MR. HUGHES: I've enjoyed three  
12 years being here with council and  
13 working with council. The fact is  
14 that I didn't get a raise this year  
15 doesn't mean that I won't be here next  
16 year. I'm fully committed to council,  
17 I'm committed to the city and I'm  
18 committed to see everything through  
19 that this council has started three  
20 years ago to get this city back on a  
21 financial sound footing and I'll be  
22 here even if you cut my from \$45,000  
23 down. So anyway I'll be here. Don't  
24 worry about me quitting.

25 (Applause)

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: I, too, commend  
3 you, Solicitor Hughes, and I think  
4 Mrs. Evans spoke from her heart and I  
5 think that speech was from all of us  
6 here. I think we all feel the same  
7 way. And, you know, rather than  
8 belabor it definitely I think Mr.  
9 Hughes knows and he's been dedicated  
10 to get us to where we're going and I  
11 thank him for that.

12 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
13 signify by saying aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
22 so moved.

23 MR. ROGAN: Okay. I would like  
24 to make an amendment or a motion to  
25 make an amendment to reduce account

1 No. 01.040.00040.4010, Standard Salary  
2 (Business Administration) by \$20,000.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes. This amendment  
6 will reduce the salary of the business  
7 administrator and finance manager and  
8 eliminate the pay raises that were  
9 provided in the 2013 operating budget  
10 submitted on November 15th.

11 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?  
12 (No response.)

13 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
14 signify by saying aye?

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

20 MR. MCGOFF: No.

21 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
22 so moved.

23 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make  
24 a motion to amend or to reduce account  
25 No. 01.040.00040.4010, Standard Salary

1 (Business Administration) by \$57,400.

2 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on  
3 the floor. Do we have a second?

4 MR. ROGAN: I'll second.

5 MR. MCGOFF: I just have a  
6 question before we proceed. I was  
7 under the belief that that \$57,400 0  
8 included the raises for the two  
9 positions, plus the additional -- plus  
10 Mr. Rogan had made the motion to  
11 remove a position that was at \$37,400.

12 MR. JOYCE: Oh, okay. The one  
13 that I am making now includes the  
14 removal of the position. The first  
15 one I made was the removal of raises.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Right. But the  
17 position was only at 37,000.

18 MR. ROGAN: \$37,400.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Not 57.

20 MR. JOYCE: Well, this is for the  
21 removal of two raises and the --

22 MR. MCGOFF: But we already voted  
23 on the removal of the raises.

24 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Well, then I  
25 guess we could make it \$37,400 just to

1           alleviate any confusion.

2           MR. MCGOFF: Or else -- yeah. If  
3 we voted on 57, then we would have to  
4 find another 20,000 to remove from  
5 that area somehow.

6           MR. ROGAN: What would be the  
7 procedure then, either vote down the  
8 initial amendment or amend the  
9 amendment.

10          MS. EVANS: Why don't you amend  
11 the amendment.

12          MR. JOYCE: Okay. I would like  
13 to amend my original amendment to  
14 reduce --

15          MR. HUGHES: Was there a second  
16 on the amendment?

17          MS. EVANS: Yes.

18          MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19          MR. JOYCE: Let me repeat. I'd  
20 like to amend my amendment to reduce  
21 account No. 01.040.00040.4010,  
22 Standard Salary (Business  
23 Administration) by \$37,400.

24          MR. ROGAN: Second.

25          MS. EVANS: On the question?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. This would be  
2 the removal of the position in the  
3 Business administrator's Office and it  
4 was I believe that they were very  
5 beleaguered over the past year in  
6 dealing with the many issues that were  
7 created or that occurred, and I  
8 believe that this position would be  
9 greatly needed in the future in  
10 dealing with budget and the recovery  
11 plan.

12 MR. JOYCE: I would just like to  
13 make a comment that this is a position  
14 in the operating budget that the  
15 business administrator will be -- or  
16 the Business Administrator's Office  
17 will be applying for a grant to fund  
18 this position. I agree with  
19 Councilman McGoff that Business  
20 Administrator's Office has been hard  
21 at work this year and the business  
22 administrator has put forth a great  
23 effort and personally I think that in  
24 a typical situation he would deserve a  
25 raise as well, however, not in a cash

1           strapped situation. However, I will  
2           be voting no for this amendment  
3           because this is position that we very  
4           well could receive grant funding for  
5           in the future.

6           MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
7           on the question?

8           MR. ROGAN: I would just state  
9           for all of the costs, many of these  
10          were duplicates and my original, Mr.  
11          Joyce, as I said last week, basically  
12          I'm voting for every single one of the  
13          cuts. We need to save money so it's  
14          plan and simple for me.

15          MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
16          signify by saying aye.

17          MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18          MS. EVANS: Opposed?

19          MR. JOYCE: No.

20          MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

21          MR. MCGOFF: No.

22          MS. EVANS: No. You can  
23          continue.

24          MR. JOYCE: Oh, I don't know if  
25          we have to say the no's happened and



1 the motion dies.

2 MS. EVANS: The no's have it and  
3 the motion dies.

4 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I would like  
5 to make a motion to amend account No.  
6 01.040.00041.4010, Standard Salary  
7 (Human Resources) by \$10,000.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question?

10 MR. JOYCE: This amendment will  
11 reduce the salary of the HR Director  
12 and eliminate the pay raise that was  
13 provided in the 2013 operating budget.

14 MS. EVANS: Anyone else?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
17 signify by saying aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

23 MR. MCGOFF: No.

24 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
25 so moved.

1 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make  
2 a motion to reduce account No.  
3 01.1060.00000.4201, Professional  
4 Services (City Controller) by \$2,500.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question?

7 MR. JOYCE: This amendment will  
8 reduce professional services in the  
9 Scranton City Controller's Office to  
10 match the amount that the school  
11 district is providing for the Scranton  
12 Single Tax Office audit. Professional  
13 services in this department will now  
14 be budgeted at \$17,500 if accepted.

15 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
16 signify by saying aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
25 so moved.

1 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make  
2 a motion to reduce account No.  
3 01.020.00000.4201, Professional  
4 Services (City Counsel) by \$20,000.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: On the question?

7 MR. MCGOFF: What is -- just a  
8 question what that would reduce, what  
9 line item or what?

10 MR. JOYCE: It would reduce  
11 funding for the court stenographer and  
12 it basically funds the court  
13 stenographer and the audit primarily.

14 MR. ROGAN: I would just add,  
15 when looking through this year's  
16 budget and the on-line budget from  
17 past years, I did notice that there  
18 was a \$20,000 discrepancy between --  
19 on last year's proposed funding for  
20 this line item. So going back to this  
21 funding level brings us back to the  
22 2011 funding.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Would it -- I guess  
24 what I'm asking is what I will ask,  
25 will it affect our ability to pay for

1 the stenographer and also to pay for  
2 the audit?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. JOYCE: I did speak with our  
5 city clerk about this who is  
6 responsible for sending in the  
7 departmental budget and we did have  
8 problems in 2011 with making timely  
9 payments to our court stenographer on  
10 time who I can see her typing pretty  
11 slow now since I said that but,  
12 anyhow, I will voting no to cut this  
13 amount as I believe it's necessary to  
14 insure that our court stenographer is  
15 paid, there's no problems and that our  
16 audit is paid on time or well paid for  
17 once completed as well.

18 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
19 signify by saying aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye -- oops --

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MS. EVANS: What's the oops --

23 MR. JOYCE: I retract my aye.

24 Sorry.

25 MR. ROGAN: Don't feel bad. I

1 did it last week.

2 MS. EVANS: Those opposed?

3 MR. JOYCE: No.

4 MS. EVANS: No.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

6 MR. MCGOFF: No.

7 MS. EVANS: The motion dies.

8 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
9 reduce account No. 01.040.00040.4201,  
10 Professional Services (Business  
11 Administration) by \$15,000.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes. On some of  
15 these professional services accounts I  
16 took the liberty to e-mail some  
17 department heads. Some got back to  
18 me, some didn't and some I spoke to by  
19 phone. And as far as reducing  
20 professional services, our business  
21 administrator did reply that reducing  
22 professional services by \$15,000 would  
23 make it impossible to pay the  
24 accountant performing the audit of  
25 back pay award for the fire and

1 police, the actuarial study for  
2 Workers' Compensation account and the  
3 actuarial study that needs to be done  
4 for the Workers' Compensation account  
5 on a yearly basis. So for those  
6 reasons I'll be voting no to this  
7 amendment.

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

12 MR. JOYCE: No.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

14 MR. MCGOFF: No.

15 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
16 and the motion dies.

17 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to make a  
18 motion to amend Account No.  
19 01.040.00040.4240, Postage and Freight  
20 (Business Administration) by  
21 \$4,841.93.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. As far as  
25 postage and freight is concerned, our

1 business administrator did reiterate  
2 that postage would be increased next  
3 year due to the mailing of rental  
4 registration bills.

5 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
6 signify by saying aye?

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

9 MS. LOSCOMBE: No.

10 MR. JOYCE: No.

11 MR. MCGOFF: No.

12 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
13 and the motion dies.

14 MR. JOYCE: I'd like make a  
15 motion to amend or to reduce account  
16 No. 01.040.00040.4270, Dues and  
17 Subscriptions (Business Administrator)  
18 by \$6,500.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second?

20 MS. EVANS: On the question.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Regarding this  
22 specific account. With respect to  
23 dues and subscriptions our business  
24 administrator is still discussing with  
25 the Pennsylvania League of Cities and

1                   Municipalities about a reduced  
2                   membership for the year. He thinks it  
3                   would in our best interest to be a  
4                   member since they can provide a great  
5                   deal of assistance with a one percent  
6                   sales tax issue which the city and  
7                   county are currently looking at as an  
8                   alternative source of revenue in 2004  
9                   so I'll be voting no for this specific  
10                  amendment.

11                 MR. ROGAN: I would just say I  
12                 believe the city was a member of this  
13                 organization for numerous years and  
14                 you see what happened over that period  
15                 of time. I don't believe that this is  
16                 a valid expenditure of taxpayer  
17                 dollars and I also oppose a one  
18                 percent sales tax so I have two  
19                 reasons to support making this cut.

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

22                 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23                 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24                 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

25                 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.



1 MR. JOYCE: No.

2 MS. EVANS: No. I'm not quite  
3 sure what the vote total was on that.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I voted yes.

5 MR. ROGAN: I voted yes.

6 MS. EVANS: Excuse me?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I voted yes.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

10 MR. JOYCE: No.

11 MS. EVANS: And I'm a no so the  
12 motion dies.

13 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to make a  
14 motion to amend or to reduce account  
15 No. 01.040.0004.4290,  
16 Stationery/Office Supplies (Business  
17 Administrator's Office) by \$3,000.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Our business  
21 administrator, well, he wrote all  
22 these responses back in an e-mail and  
23 he replied at this point of the year  
24 the city has basically no office  
25 supplies. We have barely made it

1 through the year with the amount of  
2 paper we currently have. Cutting it  
3 by \$3,000 would insure that we will  
4 not have enough money to pay for paper  
5 for the entire year of 2013 so I'll be  
6 voting no to this amendment.

7 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
8 signify by saying aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

12 MR. MCGOFF: No.

13 MR. JOYCE: No.

14 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
15 and the motion dies.

16 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to make a  
17 motion to reduce account No.  
18 01.040.00041.4201, Professional  
19 Services (Human Resources) by \$30,000.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MS. EVANS: On the question?

22 MR. JOYCE: As far as the  
23 professional service line item in the  
24 departmental budget of human resources  
25 it includes the following: Payroll

1 processing charges payable to We-Pay  
2 payroll. This fee varies and is  
3 incurred when a payroll is run. An  
4 annual membership fee to the Delaware  
5 Valley Health Care Coalition (DVHCC).  
6 This fee is \$200. Members of the  
7 DVHCC are afforded many benefits  
8 include a discounted pricing on  
9 products and services. Also this  
10 account includes risk management  
11 services through CLR Consulting. The  
12 fee for this is \$2,000 per month.  
13 This includes an administrative  
14 service fee to Millennium  
15 Administrators. This fee is \$2,326  
16 per month and this also includes the  
17 cost of drug and alcohol testing  
18 payable to Northeast Occupational  
19 Medicine and Con-Court, Incorporated.  
20 This testing is a provision of the  
21 Department of Public Works, DPW  
22 collective bargaining agreement. Fee  
23 varies based upon the amounts and the  
24 type of tests administered, also fees  
25 for arbitrators who preside over heart

1 and lung matters are paid out of this  
2 account. These fees vary depending on  
3 the arbitrator and can include the  
4 arbitrator's daily rate, travel time  
5 and study time. Also other  
6 miscellaneous fees related to the  
7 services provided by the Department of  
8 Human Resources are provided out of  
9 this account so I'll be voting no for  
10 this specific amendment.

11 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
12 signify by saying aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

15 MR. MCGOFF: No.

16 MR. JOYCE: No.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE? No.

18 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
19 and the motion dies.

20 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to make a  
21 motion to reduce Account No.  
22 01.040.00042.4390, Materials and  
23 Supplies Miscellaneous (Information  
24 Technology) by \$5,000.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I received a  
3 reply back from Frank Swiniki, our IT  
4 Director, and he states that the  
5 materials and supplies account will be  
6 used to purchase replacement PCs in  
7 2013. Every desktop and laptop that  
8 the city has developed is out of  
9 warranty. If any of them break beyond  
10 repair -- or if any of them break  
11 beyond repair, they'll need to be  
12 replaced as the cost of getting  
13 replacement parts is often prohibitive  
14 and in many cases replacement parts  
15 are not even available. For example,  
16 if a Gateway branded PC fails, it has  
17 to be replaced as it is impossible to  
18 get replacement parts for Gateway  
19 since the company was bought by  
20 Acer/MPC and the professional division  
21 was don away with. We also have a  
22 number of Dell machines deployed. If  
23 one of these breaks and needs hardware  
24 replacement, it is often cost  
25 prohibitive to buy the replacement

1 parts from Dell. The \$10,000 budgeted  
2 in that account will buy about ten  
3 replacement machines. He fully  
4 expects the need to purchase at least  
5 ten replacement machines in 2013 as  
6 they currently have two PCs that could  
7 be used as viable replacements right  
8 now. The average cost of the everyday  
9 use work station runs about \$750 to  
10 \$1,200 depending on the spec and just  
11 how much of a discount that the city  
12 gets. Any new work station comes with  
13 a three-year warranty. He also asks  
14 that please keep in mind that they're  
15 not buying consumer grade equipment.  
16 They're buying professional grade  
17 equipment that comes with the  
18 three-year warranty from both Dell and  
19 HP, Hewlett Packer. There's a  
20 difference between the two. A  
21 professional grade machine is meant  
22 for the rigors of everyday office use  
23 and 24/7 up time. Buying consumer  
24 grade workstations and laptops is just  
25 not a good idea. They're a little bit

1 cheaper but they don't come up with  
2 the extended warranty and they don't  
3 hold up nearly as well over time. My  
4 response -- the response that I  
5 received from the IT Director I  
6 believe justifies the necessity to  
7 keep the amount of funding in place  
8 for the materials and supplies account  
9 so I will voting no on this amendment.

10 MR. ROGAN: Very brief. While I  
11 understand the need or the want to  
12 have computers under warranty, I think  
13 the common sense approach that myself  
14 and many of you out there take is if  
15 you have a product that works and the  
16 warranty expires, you don't go out and  
17 get a new one just because the  
18 warranty expired. I think it's a  
19 savings of money. There will be some  
20 repairs that need to be do. There is  
21 still money in that account. I fully  
22 support the cut.

23 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
24 signify by saying aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MS. EVENS: Opposed?

2 MR. JOYCE: No.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

4 MS. EVANS: No.

5 MR. MCGOFF: No.

6 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
7 and the motion dies.

8 MR. JOYCE: I'd like to make a to  
9 amend or to reduce account No.

10 01.040.00043.4201, Professional  
11 Services (Treasury) by \$10,000.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. JOYCE: I spoke to our  
15 treasurer, Mr. Boland, and the  
16 professional services in that account  
17 are attributed to the printing and  
18 mailing of refuse bills. From  
19 speaking with the city treasurer if we  
20 cut professional services in his  
21 department, we would risk not having  
22 all of the refuse bills being able to  
23 be printed and mailed. So that will  
24 definitely prompt me to vote no for  
25 this amendment.



1                   MR. ROGAN: I would just ask have  
2                   the refuse bills for this year have  
3                   been sent out and the account hasn't  
4                   been dried up so that's why I propose  
5                   making the cut.

6                   MR. JOYCE: In speaking with the  
7                   treasurer he did reiterate that the  
8                   costs -- there would be extra costs  
9                   with NRS this year as far as the  
10                  printing and mailing of the bills so  
11                  that's essentially what's going to  
12                  prompt me to vote for this.

13                  MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, this is a  
14                  little bit off topic, but is the  
15                  treasurer saying that the city will be  
16                  paying out -- paying to send out bills  
17                  for the collection agency? Because I  
18                  know a lot of people have contacted  
19                  me, they're very upset because they  
20                  receive bills for garbage fees that  
21                  were paid sometimes before they even  
22                  own the property. Is the treasurer  
23                  saying that the city is going to pay  
24                  for postage and mailing of the  
25                  collection agency's bills?

1 MR. JOYCE: Well, we won't be  
2 paying to NRS but the cost will be  
3 higher to printout all of the bills  
4 according to our treasurer. That's  
5 just what he told me.

6 MR. ROGAN: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
8 signify by saying aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

11 MR. JOYCE: No.

12 MR. MCGOFF: No.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

14 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
15 and the motion dies.

16 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
17 reduce account No. 01.051.00051.4201,  
18 Professional Services (LIPS  
19 Administration) by \$2,000.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MS. EVANS: On the question?

22 MR. JOYCE: Nothing on LIPS  
23 administration.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. All those  
25 in favor signify by saying aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

5 MR. MCGOFF: No.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
9 amend or to reduce account No.  
10 01.051.00082.4201, Professional  
11 Services (LIPS Building) by \$20,000.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes. As far as for  
15 professional services for the building  
16 account, Director Seitzinger did state  
17 as I know many services come from  
18 professional services and cutting it  
19 would be harmful to the employees of  
20 the city as well as to the citizens  
21 who come to our buildings. For  
22 instance, our elevator repairs from  
23 professional services. Losing the  
24 elevator that we have in City Hall  
25 would deem our building non

1           handicapped accessible which, in turn,  
2           would violate state and federal law  
3           for public buildings. As it is now,  
4           we don't have the money to replace the  
5           elevator so the money in professional  
6           services is used for the elevator  
7           company to repair and keep it  
8           operational which, in turn, keeps our  
9           building handicap accessible. Also  
10          from the professional services account  
11          comes a contract for supplies for all  
12          of the buildings. This includes  
13          cleaning supplies for all our  
14          firehouses, Police Department, DPW and  
15          City Hall. Cutting this would hamper  
16          our ability to fulfill our contract  
17          and provide supplies to our buildings.  
18          This could be very harmful for  
19          employees as that would lead to  
20          unsanitary conditions in the  
21          buildings. Furthermore, professional  
22          services is used in our heating  
23          contract at City Hall with Siemen's.  
24          This is an obligation that must be  
25          maintained so for these reasons I'm

1 voting no for this amendment.

2 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
3 signify by saying aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

7 MR. JOYCE: No.

8 MR. MCGOFF: No.

9 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
10 and the motion dies.

11 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
12 reduce account No. 01.060.00000.4201,  
13 Professional Services (Law) by  
14 \$15,000.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. JOYCE: This would bring the  
18 professional services account in law  
19 back to the amount that it was at --  
20 or that it is at this year. Out of  
21 this account it pays for various  
22 arbitrator fees, membership to West  
23 Law and also various transcript fees  
24 for court proceedings.

25 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, is this

1           \$15,000 the salary for Attorney Kelly  
2           because I see the \$50,000 on the next  
3           line item. I think that might of --  
4           that was probably supposed to read o  
5           standard salary law since I don't see  
6           that we voted on that amendment yet.

7           MR. JOYCE: Okay. Well, there  
8           was a \$15,000 and a \$50,000 amendment  
9           for professional services in law so  
10          let's make these two motions first and  
11          then we'll go and do the standard  
12          salary for law because that would be  
13          the correct account number.

14          MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I think then if  
15          both passed, then it would be a  
16          \$65,000 cut when the highest --

17          MR. JOYCE: Right. The next one  
18          would have to be \$35,000 to add on.

19          MR. ROGAN: Okay. That's right.

20          MR. MCGOFF: Did anyone second?

21          MR. ROGAN: I second. The first  
22          vote would be to cut \$15,000 from  
23          professional services law and then  
24          we'll vote to cut an additional  
25          \$35,000 professional services law,

1 then we'll vote to cut the salary?

2 MR. JOYCE: Correct. And then in  
3 the meantime while we're voting, I'll  
4 get the account number for it.

5 MR. ROGAN: I believe I have it,  
6 Mr. Joyce.

7 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I have it  
8 standard salary account number.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I would suggest we  
10 vote against this one and then just  
11 vote on \$50,000 on the next one.  
12 Defeat this one rather than having two  
13 separate --

14 MR. ROGAN: But there might be  
15 support for \$15,000 cut and not a 50,  
16 though.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. You're right.  
18 I'm sorry. You're correct.

19 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, which is  
20 your current amendment?

21 MR. JOYCE: Reducing professional  
22 services in the Law Department by  
23 \$15,000.

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: Now, that is not the

1 salary cut.

2 MR. JOYCE: That is not the  
3 salary cut.

4 MS. EVANS: I shouldn't say  
5 salary, raise.

6 MR. JOYCE: That's not the raise.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question?

8 Anyone else?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
11 signify by saying aye?

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

16 MR. MCGOFF: No.

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

19 MR. JOYCE: To make a motion to  
20 reduce account No. 01.060.00000.4201,  
21 Professional Services (Law) by  
22 \$35,000.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question?

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes. This as I said



1 before pays for our transcript fees,  
2 arbitrator costs, court costs and also  
3 fees due with West Law. I think  
4 reducing it to the level that they are  
5 currently getting this year is prudent  
6 and conservative but I think reducing  
7 it by more than that would be taking a  
8 risk of underfunding the account.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

13 MR. JOYCE: No.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

15 MR. MCGOFF: No.

16 MS. EVANS: No. The no's have it  
17 and the motion dies.

18 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
19 reduce account No. 01.060.00000.4010,  
20 Standard Salary (Law Department) by  
21 \$15,000.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. This would be  
25 the elimination of the pay raise for

1 the city solicitor provided for in the  
2 2013 budget.

3 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
4 signify by saying aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

10 (No response.)

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

13 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to  
14 reduce account No. 01.401.10060.4299,  
15 Everhart Museum by \$15,000.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I believe it's  
19 important for the city to invest sort  
20 of in itself. The Everhart Museum,  
21 you know, cultural centers for the  
22 city and I believe it's important that  
23 we continue to fund it.

24 MR. ROGAN: I would just state.  
25 I enjoy the Everhart Museum. I go

1           there about once a year but when you  
2           have city that is broke, we can't  
3           afford to be spending money. Fifteen  
4           thousand dollars is a lot of money but  
5           it can be raised privately and if this  
6           amendment does pass, I would be happy  
7           to help the museum raise the funds  
8           privately.

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

11          MS. EVANS: Aye.

12          MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13          MS. EVANS: Opposed?

14          MR. JOYCE: No.

15          MR. MCGOFF: No.

16          MR. LOSCOMBE: No. I'm sorry.

17          No.

18          MS. EVANS: Okay. So the no's  
19          have it and the motion dies.

20          MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
21          amend or to reduce account No.  
22          01.401.15325.4299, Operating Transfer  
23          to Debt Service 2012 Series C by  
24          \$200,000.

25          MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Please explain.

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I figured that  
4 you would want an explanation. I did  
5 speak with Ryan McGowan about this,  
6 our business administrator and he  
7 state that the interest rate for  
8 unfunded debt B is not going to be the  
9 same as unfunded debt A. It will  
10 actually be lower. Thus, that's why  
11 the mayor came in and stated that  
12 there would be a ten percent tax  
13 increase proposed rather than a 12  
14 percent tax increase to pay for it.  
15 Therefore, the amount of unfunded --  
16 the amount of the payment for unfunded  
17 debt B would be two -- would be 1.5  
18 million dollars rather than 1.7  
19 million dollars.

20 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

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

3 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I make a  
4 motion to reduce account No.  
5 01.310.31295, Amusement Tax by  
6 \$100,000.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question?

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes. The original  
10 figure that was provided in the budget  
11 for the amusement tax was based on a  
12 ten percent amusement tax and that  
13 figure was \$200,000. The amusement  
14 tax that was passed by city council  
15 was a five percent amusement tax,  
16 therefore, the amount of revenue  
17 projected to be collected from that  
18 tax would be half being \$100,000.

19 MS. EVANS: And, Mr. Joyce, can  
20 you tell us why the reduction was made  
21 from ten to five?

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes. It was believed  
23 that there was some piece of  
24 legislation that was passed -- I'm not  
25 sure how many years ago -- that stated

1 cities having an amusement tax in  
2 place after a certain date could not  
3 go over five percent.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. All those  
5 in favor signify by say aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

10 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
13 so moved.

14 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
15 reduce account 01.331.33165, Police  
16 Towing/Towing Fees by \$300,000.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I was going to  
20 speak to this during our motions but I  
21 guess it would be appropriate now  
22 since it is brought in as a motion. I  
23 believe that creating an impound lot  
24 for the city is a bad idea. Last week  
25 it was talked about that we were

1 giving in to special interest. If  
2 this were to be done, it is a special  
3 interest. It applies to only one  
4 business in the city, the one form of  
5 business in the city. So, therefore,  
6 yes, it is special interest. And I  
7 will admit that among the towers, the  
8 people here are gentlemen who did  
9 support my political campaigns when I  
10 ran, and I just want to make that  
11 public so that people do know that --  
12 am I friends with some of them, yes,  
13 but I still think that in total that  
14 this is not a good idea. I think it's  
15 in the wrong place and I think that  
16 while we're asking local small  
17 businessmen to pay more in mercantile  
18 taxes, property taxes and all of that,  
19 at the same time we're trying to take  
20 business away from them. I just don't  
21 think that it is a good idea for  
22 supporting small businesses and I  
23 think that in the long run it would be  
24 detrimental to the city and  
25 detrimental to those businesses and to

1 the people who work for them and I  
2 believe that taking this out of the  
3 budget would be a prudent thing to do  
4 especially if we are going to increase  
5 the real estate -- if we are going to  
6 entertain another ten percent increase  
7 in real estate tax, I think that we  
8 can afford to remove this as a revenue  
9 item from the budget.

10 MR. ROGAN: I would just add and  
11 I think Mr. McGoff you've said what I  
12 planned on saying but a couple of the  
13 other points that weren't up that I  
14 brought up last week and when I spoke  
15 to many of you that you brought to my  
16 attention was that, No. 1, the city  
17 can't be a salver. When cars build up  
18 on city property which is what they're  
19 going to do, the city cannot just go  
20 and bring them to the junk yard. It  
21 doesn't work that way. Somebody owns  
22 that vehicle and it's not the City of  
23 Scranton. It takes a very long period  
24 of time even for you guys to move  
25 these vehicles. And as a city, we



1 don't have the right legally to become  
2 a salver. So I had mentioned which  
3 was mentioned by a few members of the  
4 public that we will have vehicles  
5 sitting in a parking lot next to a  
6 national historic site. It's not the  
7 idea of -- you know, like it was  
8 mentioned before, people want to go to  
9 see trains at Steamtown. They don't  
10 want to go to see junk cars. Also the  
11 figures don't add up. From speaking  
12 to the 15 companies on towing list,  
13 you know, they told me it was around  
14 80 jobs that they received from the  
15 city. When you add that up, the  
16 storage works out to less than  
17 \$120,000 and that's spread out amongst  
18 15 company before any expenses. As it  
19 was stated also before, there are  
20 certain rules of procedures when a  
21 vehicle is involved in a crime. It  
22 cannot be -- a vehicle involved in a  
23 crime cannot be left out in the cold  
24 and the rain and the snow. The police  
25 may have to dust for fingerprints,

1           there may have to be, you know, a  
2           second search done on the vehicle.  
3           From what I want understand, they have  
4           to be stored inside. I don't know if  
5           the city has a place to store them  
6           inside.

7                         Finally if, for instance, say the  
8           city gets in a few 100 cars that  
9           aren't picked up and I come to get my  
10          car which there's five other cars  
11          before it, somebody has to move those  
12          vehicles. Now, if they're broken  
13          down, how is the city going to move  
14          these vehicles without a tow truck?  
15          The logical explanation is the city  
16          has to buy a tow truck and I haven't  
17          been in the market for one and I don't  
18          think the city should be. I know  
19          they're very expensive. It's a very  
20          expensive piece of equipment.  
21          Although I have a strong belief that  
22          this won't work, the idea of it goes  
23          against my core philosophy of what  
24          government should be involved in.  
25          Government should not be in the

1           business of putting businessowners out  
2           of business. Businessowners are being  
3           asked to pay more in taxes this year,  
4           in mercantile tax, in the business  
5           privilege taxes, in property tax on  
6           their business. Their employees are  
7           being asked to pay more in property  
8           tax and they already pay the second  
9           highest wage tax in the state. It is  
10          not right to go after businessowners  
11          to provide jobs in this city. It's  
12          not way to balance a budget and  
13          frankly the \$300,000 revenue item will  
14          not realized.

15                 MR. MCGOFF: Could I have -- I'm  
16                 sorry. I just have one other thing.  
17                 Even though at this point in time this  
18                 is a budget line item, I believe that  
19                 in order to do this there would have  
20                 to be enabling legislation. So maybe  
21                 I'm arguing against myself somewhat  
22                 here but even if that --

23                 MR. ROGAN: If we kill it now,  
24                 though, there won't be legislation.

25                 MR. MCGOFF: Correct. So I'll

1 stop.

2 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add  
3 something briefly then if there's  
4 anyone else cares who cares to speak.  
5 With regard to the additional ten  
6 percent in the real estate tax  
7 bringing it to total of 22 percent,  
8 that's dedicated tax millage. It  
9 can't be used for any purpose other  
10 than the repayment of the 2012  
11 unfunded debt. So it can't be moved  
12 around throughout the budget to make  
13 up for a \$300,000 budget deficit. So  
14 that would require you to find equal  
15 funding elsewhere to balance that out.

16 In addition, when we're talking  
17 about the increase in the business in  
18 mercantile, the business privilege and  
19 mercantile taxes, yes, they have been  
20 increased to their prior level. This  
21 council is the one who had decreased  
22 them and now they would be returning,  
23 as I said, to the previous level,  
24 whereas the real estate tax  
25 unfortunately cannot say the same

1 thing.

2 MR. ROGAN: I would just add and  
3 obviously it is correct that increases  
4 in real estate tax are going to pay  
5 off debt but to the taxpayer they're  
6 still paying more in taxes. You know,  
7 they get the bill at the end of the  
8 year for most of us -- you know, I'm  
9 closing on a house in eight days. I'm  
10 setting up an escrow account. It's  
11 very expensive. And you see --  
12 they'll see their mortgage payments go  
13 up every month and to them it's not,  
14 well, this is just going to pay off  
15 debt which, you know, I think many of  
16 us agree even though we disagree on  
17 this issue it was not caused by us, it  
18 was caused by the mayor, they still  
19 have to make the payments. So when  
20 you're asking people to pay more and  
21 they you're taking money away from  
22 businessowner's pocket at the same  
23 time, I just don't believe it's right  
24 so I will support taking --  
25 eliminating this line item.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just  
2 say a few things. Just what you just  
3 said, I mean, that's what puts us in a  
4 spot here. That \$300,000 would help  
5 the taxpayers in the city without  
6 raising their taxes. I'm not one to  
7 put any family out of business. You  
8 know, nobody what I've gone through  
9 personally in the last couple of years  
10 financially. I knows what it's all  
11 about. Many of you towers out there  
12 are personal friends of mine. I spoke  
13 to several of you regarding this  
14 issue. And, you know, there was a  
15 proposal to just bid it out to one  
16 person. We didn't want to see that.  
17 We want everybody to have a piece of  
18 the pie but we also have to do what is  
19 right for everybody in the city. We  
20 have to generate revenue beyond taxes.  
21 And that's what we're taxed to do. I  
22 worked for the Fire Department, I  
23 worked rescue, I ran into many of you  
24 there. I know you'll shake your heads  
25 and stuff like that. I know, you

1 know, if this passes that you'll be  
2 upset with me but I understand that  
3 was case last week anyway. It's not  
4 going to change things. I'm up here  
5 for 77,000 people in this city that I  
6 have to look at. The same with the  
7 commuters. I'm not in favor of the  
8 commuter tax. I work with a ton of  
9 commuters and how you think I feel  
10 everyday when they're jabbing me. But  
11 the way we have look at it right now  
12 is everybody has to share in paying  
13 and maybe we'll be able to do  
14 something again. That's my personal  
15 philosophy. I'm not out to take  
16 anybody's jobs but we have to look at  
17 the city as a whole and not a certain  
18 group and by keeping the towing, we're  
19 not towing. It's just the storage  
20 yards. And that's not a done deal yet  
21 either. We have this hole to fill in  
22 the budget and Mr. Sheridan stated  
23 they have some ideas and he spoke to  
24 me about. I haven't heard anything  
25 since then but we're willing to sit

1 down and do something to fill this  
2 hole.

3 MS. EVANS: Actually I believe I  
4 spoke to the mayor about this several  
5 times. He told that me that the first  
6 meeting was conducted between Corporal  
7 Bachman and the towers and that there  
8 would be an additional meeting and  
9 that the mayor was going to take care  
10 of this but that the mayor was in  
11 agreement that the \$300,000 cannot be  
12 removed from the budget because there  
13 is no way in which to replace that  
14 money.

15 MR. MCGOFF: We have just reduced  
16 expenditures by \$290,000  
17 approximately.

18 MR. ROGAN: And if this goes  
19 through, I know the mayor may have  
20 stated that he's going to try to work  
21 it out but if it goes through, that  
22 money has to realized somehow. If  
23 it's taken out along with the cuts  
24 that's off setting.

25 MS. EVANS: I don't believe that



1           you can really look at this as a  
2           reduction in debt service because the  
3           debt service is still going to be paid  
4           through the dedicated millage  
5           increase.

6                     But is there anyone else?

7                     (No response.)

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

10                    MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11                    MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12                    MS. EVANS: Opposed?

13                    MR. JOYCE: No.

14                    MS. EVANS: No.

15                    MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

16                    MS. EVANS: The no's have it and  
17           the motion dies.

18                    MR. JOYCE: Make a motion to  
19           increase account 01.301.30100, Current  
20           Real Estate Tax by \$1,543,043.00.

21                    MR. MCGOFF: Second.

22                    MS. EVANS: On the question?

23                    MR. MCGOFF: I'm assuming that  
24           this is the additional ten percent.

25                    MS. EVANS: Yes.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Again, I was going  
2 to speak to this during motions but I  
3 guess I'll do it now. I'm in favor of  
4 doing this. I believe that from  
5 listening to the testimony that was  
6 provided and the questions that were  
7 asked by the judges during the recent  
8 court hearings on the commuter tax,  
9 that one of things that they were  
10 hesitant about was the fact that we  
11 had not complied with the ten percent  
12 dedicated tax increase. I believe --  
13 firmly believe that by doing this that  
14 we will, in fact, have a better chance  
15 of realizing the commuter tax which I  
16 also support. And in addition to that  
17 an additional -- a tax increase of 22  
18 percent works out to approximately \$10  
19 per month for the average -- \$10 a  
20 month or less for the 75 percent of  
21 the taxpayers in the city and the  
22 other 25 if their properties are being  
23 assessed at more than that, I would be  
24 reasonably sure that they could  
25 probably pay the increase. I don't

1 think that this places a great burden  
2 on people. I believe it's something  
3 that is necessary and if, in fact, as  
4 the mayor stated Mrs. Evans had asked  
5 if it helps to mitigate the 2014 tax  
6 increase, there's another plus for  
7 doing this now. And if we didn't  
8 realize the commuter tax, then the tax  
9 increase for 2014, I believe, is  
10 somewhere around -- estimated around  
11 44 percent. I believe that this --  
12 doing this is the most prudent thing  
13 we can do at this time.

14 MS. EVANS: All those in favor?

15 MR. JOYCE: Oh, I had some --

16 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry. Go ahead.  
17 I had a little bit to add. Tonight as  
18 a council member I'm faced with my  
19 toughest decisions since I've been  
20 seated here. That decision is whether  
21 or not to approve an additional ten  
22 percent tax increase on city residents  
23 thus bringing the total tax increase  
24 in this year's to 22 percent. I spent  
25 all of Tuesday in court, both as

1 someone who testified for the commuter  
2 tax and someone that viewed other  
3 witnesses and it was clearly evident  
4 from the questions that Judge Nealon,  
5 Judge Mazzoni and Judge Thomson  
6 imposed that they believed that the  
7 court order to have a millage  
8 dedication in the 2013 operating  
9 budget for the second unfunded debt  
10 borrowing was not being followed. The  
11 payment for the second unfunded debt  
12 borrowing has been paid, however,  
13 though it has been paid, the three  
14 judge panel firmly believed that a  
15 millage increase related to the  
16 unfunded debt should be levied next  
17 year as they saw the stipulation of  
18 Judge O'Brien's order. As per the  
19 recommendation of Mayor Doherty, I'm  
20 going to vote yes to include this  
21 increase in the 2013 operating budget  
22 tonight. Thought the recovery plans  
23 calls for a 12 percent increase this  
24 year, the tax increase will need to be  
25 22 percent to comply with Judge

1 O'Brien's order in the eyes of the  
2 three judge panel. This was a  
3 sticking point with them during the  
4 commuter tax hearing. Essentially  
5 they questioned all witnesses about it  
6 and it was a key component of the  
7 cross-examination. Without increasing  
8 the tax in order comply with Judge  
9 O'Brien's order and thus show respect  
10 to the Court, it is the collective  
11 assumption of Mayor Doherty and some  
12 council members that the commuter tax  
13 approval would be severely  
14 jeopardized. If the commuter tax is  
15 not approved, the tax increase would  
16 need to be much higher than the  
17 original 12 percent that was proposed  
18 in the 2013 operating budget and much  
19 higher than the 22 percent tax  
20 increase set as being proposed  
21 tonight. In order for the City of  
22 Scranton to get on the right track  
23 fiscally the commuter tax is a vital  
24 component and if we jeopardize it now  
25 by not raising taxes higher in

1           accordance with Judge O'Brien's order,  
2           we can face a year where paperless  
3           paydays and jeopardizing of city  
4           services become a glooming reality.  
5           The last thing that I want to see is  
6           the city face a fiscal cliff by not  
7           doing the right thing in the eyes of  
8           the three judge panel. We need them  
9           as a city to approve this commuter  
10          tax. Without it, we face a large  
11          hole. Since the recovery plan calls  
12          for a 12 percent tax increase this  
13          year, the 2014 tax increases per the  
14          recovery plan will be lower than what  
15          was anticipated originally due to the  
16          fact that taxes would be increased  
17          now. Though if approved there will  
18          still be a 22 tax increase, the tax  
19          increase this year would still be  
20          lower than some of our neighboring  
21          city such as Wilkes-Barre which is  
22          proposing a 30 percent tax increase  
23          and Hazleton which is proposing a tax  
24          increase of over 80 percent. I asked  
25          that you bear with council as we are

1           working hard for you. Unfortunately  
2           the decision to raise taxes is not a  
3           popular one, however, it's one that  
4           has to be made and must be approved.  
5           If it is not made and not approved,  
6           the commuter tax could be in serious  
7           jeopardy.

8           MS. EVANS: Is there anyone on  
9           the question?

10           (No response.)

11           MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
12           signify by saying aye?

13           MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14           MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15           MS. EVANS: Aye.

16           MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17           MS. EVANS: Opposed?

18           MR. ROGAN: No.

19           MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
20           so moved.

21           MR. ROGAN: Before Mr. McGoff  
22           does his motions, there was one that  
23           was left out was the property tax  
24           rebate for veterans. It wasn't  
25           included on the list and also the cuts

1           that were made which I'm happy there  
2           were some I don't see them going  
3           anywhere. For instance, and I believe  
4           Mr. McGoff says around \$90,000 if you  
5           take out -- if you don't consider the  
6           200,000 transfer with the debt  
7           service, there's \$90,000 in cuts that  
8           haven't been appropriated elsewhere.  
9           So I would like to make a motion to  
10          appropriate those funds to a property  
11          tax rebate for veterans.

12                 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

13                 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14                 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the  
15          question. I think it's a great idea  
16          as I stated last week. I'm just  
17          wondering how it would be set up and  
18          coordinated.

19                 MS. EVANS: Well, actually our  
20          office did the homework on that and it  
21          turns out that it's already in effect.

22                 MR. ROGAN: That is only for 100  
23          percent disabled veterans. That is  
24          not for all veterans and that's  
25          already in effect. In the State of



1 Pennsylvania if you 100 percent  
2 disabled veteran, you don't pay any  
3 property taxes. You go through a  
4 process with the county and with the  
5 state. This would be a small rebate  
6 for all veterans whether they are  
7 disabled or whether they are not.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I believe that if we  
9 were approve this that it would need  
10 some type of enabling legislation.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MR. MCGOFF: With the parameters  
13 for how the rebate would work.

14 MS. EVANS: And I do, you know, I  
15 do think it's a very fine idea and,  
16 you know, certainly veterans have made  
17 tremendous sacrifices for this country  
18 but I'm also concerned, for example,  
19 about the elderly in our city who are  
20 on fixed incomes and Social Security  
21 rise very much. It doesn't keep pace  
22 with their food, their utility where  
23 they are constantly rising. Their tax  
24 bills which are now rising, well, if  
25 the city is rising it last, the county

1           has quite a record of hefty tax  
2           increases and the school district  
3           raises taxes fairly regularly. So I  
4           guess my concern is that where then is  
5           the fairness in it for the elderly,  
6           for other disabled people who may not  
7           have served the county but they are  
8           disabled.

9           MR. ROGAN: I would just reply by  
10          say I agree with you. I wish we can  
11          do -- we had money for a tax rebate  
12          for, you know, elderly, for, you know,  
13          lower income folks as well but I think  
14          if there's a small pot of money left  
15          over and that's what this is, these  
16          cuts are a very small amount, I'm  
17          grateful they passed. If that money  
18          has to appropriated somewhere, who  
19          better than to give it to the  
20          veterans.

21          MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
22          on the question?

23                    (No response.)

24          MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
25          signify by saying aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Oppose?

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

5 MS. EVANS: No.

6 MR. JOYCE: No.

7 MS. EVANS: The no's have it and  
8 the motion dies.

9 MR. ROGAN: So what happens to  
10 the money we cut.

11 MR. JOYCE: Basically we'll have  
12 an overage of revenue over  
13 expenditures which actually is  
14 speaking with Business Administrator  
15 McGowan it is permitted to have a  
16 surplus.

17 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, it's a very  
19 meager surplus but certainly with all  
20 of the struggles that the city has  
21 faced throughout the year and  
22 particularly without a commuter tax is  
23 going to continue to face next year,  
24 money, I'm sure, will be put to its  
25 proper use.

1                   Is that all?

2                   MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3                   MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman  
4                   Joyce. Councilman McGoff, do you have  
5                   any comments or motions.

6                   MR. MCGOFF: Just one last thing  
7                   to speak on and that would be the  
8                   commuter tax. As I've stated before,  
9                   my reason for supporting the commuter  
10                  tax hinges on a number of things and  
11                  the first of them has to do with the  
12                  demographics of the city of Scranton.  
13                  Seventy-five percent of our population  
14                  is over the age of 60, many of them on  
15                  limited incomes, many of them unable  
16                  to increase their incomes due to the  
17                  fact that Social Security increases  
18                  and pension increases don't occur very  
19                  often. And in addition in listening  
20                  to the testimony that was provided  
21                  over the -- during the commuter tax  
22                  hearings I didn't realize that almost  
23                  two-thirds of all the workers in the  
24                  City of Scranton are commuters. I  
25                  think they said 366,000 --

1 approximately 36,000 workers and over  
2 22,000 of those workers are commuters.  
3 These are people who have -- who use  
4 the city to make money. They use --  
5 they are in our city to provide for  
6 their income. And in the process of  
7 that, they avail themselves of the  
8 services that this city provides:  
9 Fire service, police protection,  
10 medical services, streets, paving,  
11 lighting, plowing, that all of these  
12 things are provided to commuters. And  
13 while I may agree in some instance or  
14 to some degree that taxing somebody  
15 from outside of the city may be  
16 somewhat onerous, I do believe that in  
17 the situation that the city has been  
18 placed, I do believe that it is a  
19 reasonable thing to do and it's a  
20 temporary thing if approved. It needs  
21 to be approved every year. It is not  
22 a continuous tax and for that reason I  
23 am much -- very much in favor of the  
24 commuter tax and hopefully that what  
25 we have done tonight with the tax

1           increase for the unfunded debt or the  
2           dedicated tax increase that the panel  
3           of judges will see fit to allow us to  
4           impose a commuter tax for 2013.

5                     And last thing, just a happy  
6           holidays to all even those  
7           participating in Festivus which was  
8           not mentioned before.

9                     MR. JOYCE: Mr. Rogan, do you  
10          have any motions or comments?

11                    MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly. I  
12          made most of the points I wanted to  
13          make when we were voting on the  
14          amendments. Obviously I'm very  
15          frustrated about much of what  
16          transpired this evening, happy that  
17          Mayor Doherty came into Council  
18          Chambers. I think the meeting should  
19          have been months ago when the mayor  
20          and the five members of council could  
21          have made a budget instead of the way  
22          of the past when the mayor would  
23          pick -- find out that he realizes he  
24          only three votes to pass a budget,  
25          work with three people and ram it

1 through. I am thoroughly disgusted  
2 that my colleagues would not vote for  
3 a tax rebate for veterans when there  
4 is extra money in the budget that we  
5 just made the cuts for. Instead they  
6 choose to have a surplus which we'll  
7 see if that even materializes. You  
8 know, I'm really at a loss for words  
9 on much of what I saw transpire here  
10 tonight. I'm very frustrated and I  
11 really look forward to the day when we  
12 can have five members of council and a  
13 mayor that can sit down in a public  
14 meeting like this and work these  
15 things out before it gets to this  
16 point. Where you have budget that's  
17 due in two days, you have it all  
18 hinging it on a court, through three  
19 judges tomorrow. The city doesn't get  
20 the commuter tax, you know, all this  
21 was for nothing. There will be a huge  
22 hole in the budget. Mayor Doherty  
23 should have been in here earlier, he  
24 should have been working with all  
25 members of council. I don't have much

1 more to say than that. And, yeah, Mr.  
2 McGoff is correct, we also never had a  
3 caucus. On the amendments -- the  
4 amendments, I am glad that Mr. Joyce  
5 did include mine and we did give  
6 everything an up or down vote. I'm  
7 very happy about that. I'm not happy  
8 about how the votes went but I am glad  
9 that we at least give an up or down  
10 vote. But another thing that really  
11 frustrates me and this is something  
12 that I campaigned when I ran for  
13 council was the recess. Now council  
14 is going to take off one or two weeks,  
15 again, you're all going to be  
16 voting -- well, not all, but some of  
17 you are going to be voting to raise  
18 taxes 20 percent and than taking a  
19 vacation. Now, I know we all do work  
20 outside of this meeting. You know, I  
21 was at a four hour meeting the other  
22 day and I was glad to be there. It  
23 was just something I believed in. But  
24 it's our duty to be here. And  
25 especially after passing a budget that



1           has many mysteries in it which, I  
2           think, is safe to say and that is  
3           going to effect a lot of people, I  
4           think we should be here next week and  
5           the following week because the  
6           Christmas holiday does not fall on a  
7           Thursday, either does Christmas Eve.  
8           I think we should be here at least to  
9           listen to the public and give our  
10          input. That being said I will be  
11          opposing the budget as I did the  
12          previous two weeks. I am grateful  
13          that my colleagues did listen to the  
14          public and to myself when it comes to  
15          the raises eliminating them, I am  
16          happy about that. That was the most  
17          egregious part of the budget. But  
18          still we're going to be putting --  
19          possible putting some companies out of  
20          business with this towing stuff. And  
21          not only that, I even mentioned this  
22          before with the towing, we're  
23          establishing a city yard. It's your  
24          cars that are going to be in this lot.  
25          If your car breaks down or you're in

1 an accident and, you know, it winds up  
2 in the city lot, you're going to  
3 paying these fees to the city. I  
4 talked to many of the towing companies  
5 and when they do storage, they'll cut  
6 people a break from time-to-time. The  
7 city can't do that. If we have it in  
8 law that the rate is \$100 a day, it's  
9 a \$100 a day. There's no way around  
10 it. With a private business they can  
11 run their business how they see fit  
12 and they do a good job at it. That's  
13 why they've been around for so long.  
14 And it's not just the towing industry,  
15 it's all businesses in Scranton. We  
16 need to support our small businesses.  
17 I have talked to so many people in  
18 this city who are leaving because the  
19 taxes are too high and the government  
20 is dysfunctional. Hopefully in the  
21 future we'll have a new mayor and  
22 we'll get on the right track. But for  
23 right now, it's just very frustrating  
24 and that's all I have to say tonight.

25 MR. JOYCE: I'd just like to ask

1 as far as the mayor and the budget  
2 process, what would you have suggested  
3 to have been done differently besides  
4 a public meeting?

5 MR. ROGAN: Well, first of all, I  
6 suggest that we all should have worked  
7 together. Also, are there many  
8 things, some of them small, some of  
9 the large that could have been  
10 changed. Once is OECD. OECD used to  
11 pay rent to the City of Scranton.  
12 They moved back inhouse and I  
13 understand the argument can be made  
14 that some people would like that money  
15 in there for programs, but when the  
16 city was on the verge of bankruptcy  
17 and believe we still are on the verge  
18 of bankruptcy, we could use that  
19 rental income. If not rental income,  
20 they were using one-eighth of the  
21 building, they could pay one-eighth of  
22 the electricity bill with those funds.  
23 I think that's a very common sense  
24 solution to a small problem but it's  
25 something that could have included. I

1           also think that cuts need to be made.  
2           I know that there were cuts in line  
3           items such as, you know, basically the  
4           pens and paper accounts which there's  
5           nothing wrong with that. I voted for  
6           19 cuts tonight and I sometimes get  
7           criticized for voting no a lot but  
8           when it came time to make these cuts,  
9           I voted yes on every item.

10           MR. JOYCE: As far as OECD is  
11           concerned, when we voted as a council,  
12           we cut their administrative costs  
13           basically down to the point where they  
14           can't afford anything besides their  
15           salaries.

16           MR. ROGAN: And that was done at  
17           the time when they were outside of  
18           City Hall.

19           MR. JOYCE: Mr. Loscombe, do you  
20           have any motions or comments?

21           MR. LOSCOMBE: I have a couple  
22           comments. I do have a motion. I  
23           would like to amend File of Council  
24           No. 17-2012 as amended which was our  
25           rental ordinance as per the following?

1 No. 1, in Section 9, fees, after the  
2 third paragraph insert any owners who  
3 paid their 2012 annual rental  
4 registration fee and annual permit fee  
5 after August 31st, 2012, shall receive  
6 a six month credit toward their 2013  
7 annual rental registration fee and  
8 annual permit fee.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second. On the  
11 question?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Just clarification  
13 that File of Council No. 17-2012 is  
14 the rental registration ordinance, and  
15 I am assuming that what this will do  
16 is for those who have complied with  
17 the rental registration in 2012 that  
18 they are going to be given a credit  
19 towards 2013.

20 MR. JOYCE: All those in favor  
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. ROGAN: The ayes have it and  
4 so moved.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just -- Mr. Rogan  
6 just made a comment about Christmas  
7 week taking that night off for the  
8 public to speak on the budget and stuff  
9 like that. Well, we had a public  
10 hearing for the public to speak on the  
11 budget and I don't think more than a  
12 handful showed up. I mean --

13 MR. ROGAN: Well, the timing of  
14 that meeting was even difficult for  
15 me. It was at 5 o'clock on a work  
16 day.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, people may  
18 be away on a holiday week. That's the  
19 only one we're looking at. And, you  
20 know, I don't want to get into it or  
21 anything like this but, you know, I  
22 think you missed a lot of meetings  
23 this year.

24 MR. ROGAN: I had surgery, Mr.  
25 Loscombe, and before that surgery, I

1 had the best attendance out of anyone  
2 on this board and you can go and check  
3 on that.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm just making a  
5 statement. That's all. I'm not  
6 looking --

7 MR. ROGAN: I was in the hospital  
8 for two weeks, nearly two weeks. I  
9 don't know what more I can do about  
10 that.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, I apologize  
12 and I'm glad you're well.

13 MR. ROGAN: It's okay.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: But, you know,  
15 things happen and I don't think, you  
16 know, the summer vacation or a  
17 Christmas vacation when we're all in  
18 contact or if a meeting as Mrs. Evans  
19 stated, if a meeting needs to be  
20 called, it will be called and we'll be  
21 here. But, you know, basically that's  
22 the way I look at it.

23 I do want to make another  
24 announcement, too, that was brought up  
25 last week about the smoke detector

1 program by the Fire Department. I did  
2 happen to see it on TV, getting good  
3 exposure, they're getting around with  
4 quite a few. I hope we still have  
5 some left. But if anyone is in need  
6 of smoke detectors in their home, this  
7 is a free program and they are  
8 installed by the firefighters. So you  
9 can call Shawn Flynn, he's the fire  
10 prevention officer at 348-4164,  
11 Extension 1 or his e-mail address is S  
12 as in Shawn; Flynn, F-L-Y-N-N, at  
13 scrantonpa.gov and it's also on the  
14 city's website [www.scrantonpa.gov](http://www.scrantonpa.gov).  
15 And, you know, as you've saw on the  
16 news recently we've had a Christmas  
17 tree fire down the line. I think a  
18 wood stove just caused a major fire  
19 down the line also. This is the  
20 season. So if you know anybody that  
21 needs a smoke detector and these  
22 detectors, I believe, have a ten-year  
23 battery so, you know, they're good for  
24 ten years without having to change the  
25 battery on an annual basis. I would



1           like to congratulate also it was  
2           mentioned earlier the West Side  
3           Falcons, A and C team, they're going  
4           to Virginia tomorrow to play in what's  
5           basically the Super Bowl of their  
6           league. So I would like to wish them  
7           good luck in representing Scranton.  
8           And also our neighbors, Dunmore, on  
9           their game tomorrow. They're  
10          representing this whole area and I  
11          would like to wish them good luck.

12                 And just briefly I would like to  
13                 go back to some of the votes. It's  
14                 not easily being up here. You can't  
15                 please everyone. You know, I often  
16                 said I can walk down the street  
17                 handing our hundred dollar bills to  
18                 everyone and two or three people are  
19                 going to complain to me that there's  
20                 had a wrinkle in it. And that's just  
21                 a fact of life of being here. We  
22                 agree on some things, we don't agree  
23                 on other things. But the one thing  
24                 that we agree on for the most part is  
25                 we're put in a position here to get

1           this city back on its feet. We know  
2           what happened in the past. We've been  
3           bringing that up for a long time. And  
4           we weren't getting anywhere. Finally  
5           we worked together with the  
6           administration and, again, I don't  
7           agree with 95 percent of what the  
8           administration does or stands for but  
9           I think we're on the same page knowing  
10          we have to straighten this city out  
11          and do what we have to do. People  
12          tell bankruptcy, well, check what  
13          happened in other cities with  
14          bankruptcy. We're trying to keep your  
15          taxes down. Again, it's spreading  
16          pain to a lot of people. There is a  
17          lot of pain out there. I don't think  
18          anybody in this area has been spared  
19          pain from anything, from the economy,  
20          from jobs, from different things. You  
21          know, I've got well over a half of  
22          century on this earth and I've seen a  
23          lot and I make the decisions that I  
24          feel are in the best interest of the  
25          majority. I apologize if some people

1           feel offended or think it's a personal  
2           situation and that's not the case. I  
3           have personal friends who I'm dealing  
4           with on a lot of these issues. And  
5           it's personally hurt me financially,  
6           it's personally hurt me being involved  
7           here in other positions. I've had  
8           family members loss their jobs because  
9           of my position here. So I know what  
10          it is. I know what's about. But I  
11          can't sit here and have to make a  
12          decision based upon one group when I  
13          have to represent thousands more. And  
14          I know they're stating the city isn't  
15          going to make any money or anything on  
16          it like that, but, you know, if that  
17          was the case I don't think they'd be  
18          fighting oh hard. We're fighting to  
19          keep you guys involved in this, and I  
20          want to continue the conversation.  
21          This is not a done deal. But the  
22          reaction we've gotten is not too good.  
23          You know, we want to work with you.  
24          We know you're residents and taxpayers  
25          and business people but I'm not going

1 to sit here and say yes and no to  
2 special groups and this and that  
3 because I've been asked to. I have to  
4 make my decisions based on what a lot  
5 of people that I run into tell me  
6 about. They may not be the right  
7 decisions all the time but I have to  
8 live with them. But if any of you  
9 gentlemen are offended, I apologize,  
10 but I have to do my job here to  
11 represent the majority of the  
12 taxpayers in this city. You sat here  
13 all night. It's been a long evening  
14 here and you've heard the problems  
15 that we're facing in this city. And  
16 if we don't turn it around and I think  
17 the citizens like this are going to  
18 help us. A few bucks here and there,  
19 you heard me, it adds up. That's the  
20 only way we're going to get out of  
21 this. So we're just asking for your  
22 help for a bit. We're not trying to  
23 take anything away from you. Again,  
24 if you feel that way, I apologize,  
25 guys, but, you know, I'm taxed with

1           having to make a decision here that  
2           affects a lot of people. I've seen a  
3           lot of behind the scenes of where  
4           we're at, why we are where we're at  
5           and if we didn't work hard and, again,  
6           I can't say we. I would have to say  
7           our finance chair, our president and  
8           our solicitor with our staff in the  
9           office have worked tirelessly and  
10          tremendously to get this budget  
11          together and to try and straighten our  
12          finances. And, you know, I'm not  
13          apologizing for trying to do that but  
14          I am apologizing is offended but I  
15          have to do what I was elected to here.  
16          Thank you.

17                 MS. EVANS: Just to quickly add  
18                 to that. As I mentioned earlier on  
19                 the topic of the towers. The mayor  
20                 has indicated to me on more than one  
21                 occasion that he is going to be  
22                 sitting down with you and working on  
23                 this situation with you. And if the  
24                 meager surplus has to be used in that  
25                 respect toward that \$300,000, then

1 council will not stand in its way.

2 Now, good evening friends,  
3 according to the City of Scranton's  
4 Home Rule Charter, Article 9, Budget  
5 and Fiscal Matters, Section 905,  
6 Council Action on Budget as well as  
7 the administrative code -- pardon?

8 MR. JOYCE: No. Councilman Rogan  
9 signified that there was a motion that  
10 I was going to make and I'm just going  
11 to do it on 7th Order. It's on an  
12 agenda item.

13 MS. EVANS: Oh, okay. Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: You're welcome.

15 MR. ROGAN: My apologies.

16 MS. EVANS: The council must  
17 adopt an annual budget by no later  
18 than December 15th of the fiscal year  
19 currently ending. If council fails to  
20 adopt a budget by December 17th, the  
21 mayor's proposed budget shall become  
22 the official budget for the city for  
23 the ensuing fiscal year. Thus, city  
24 council has no choice but to take its  
25 final vote during this meeting.

1                   Particularly since no additional  
2                   meeting can be advertised 24 hours in  
3                   advance and still meet the budgetary  
4                   deadline set by the Home Rule Charter.  
5                   If council does not vote on this  
6                   budget tonight or votes down this  
7                   budget due to the uncertainty of the  
8                   commuter tax or any other reason, then  
9                   any and all amendments which council  
10                  approve tonight, for example,  
11                  elimination of raises for six  
12                  employees will not occur and the  
13                  mayor's proposed budget would take  
14                  effect without amendment. Had a  
15                  decision been rendered by the judges  
16                  on Wednesday, council would have had  
17                  the ability to postpone tonight's  
18                  meeting and to advertise a rescheduled  
19                  meeting for December 14th or 15th.  
20                  Absent a decision from the judges and  
21                  in order to comply with the Home Rule  
22                  Charter council must take its final  
23                  vote on the 2013 operating budget this  
24                  evening. It seems that the judges may  
25                  announce their decision in the very

1 near future. And should they deny our  
2 city's request for a temporary  
3 commuter tax, it is then incumbent on  
4 the mayor as the executive officer to  
5 address and make recommendations to  
6 minimize the 2.5 million dollar  
7 budgetary deficit according to Article  
8 9, Section 909 of the Home Rule  
9 Charter. Further, in 2010 Judge  
10 Mazzone ruled that city council cannot  
11 amend the operating budget following  
12 adoption. Therefore, any additional  
13 amendments following tonight's meeting  
14 must come from the mayor and be  
15 submitted to city council in the form  
16 of legislation.

17 It has been a very difficult year  
18 for our city, arguably the most  
19 difficult in its history. The  
20 financial mistakes of the past ten  
21 years came home to roost in 2012 and  
22 through a combined tremendous effort  
23 on the part of the mayor, his  
24 administration, a majority of city  
25 council members, our city clerk,



1 council's staff member, city and  
2 council solicitors and the unions,  
3 Scranton successfully avoided  
4 bankruptcy and public and safety  
5 services remained intact. As a city,  
6 we have taken all possible measures to  
7 provide for a 2013 balanced budget and  
8 to begin the process of returning to  
9 sound financial footing. Although the  
10 2013 debt payment for the city's  
11 second unfunded debt borrowing has  
12 been paid, at the mayor's request, we  
13 will entertain -- well, we did  
14 entertain a motion tonight to increase  
15 tax millage dedicated solely to  
16 payment of the second unfunded debt in  
17 2013 rather than in 2014 to comply  
18 with the judge's order early and to  
19 satisfy any doubts or questions  
20 regarding repayment of this debt that  
21 the three judges who will decide our  
22 commuter tax case may have. After  
23 having been presented with the naked  
24 financial facts of our seriously  
25 wounded city and the myriad of actions

1 taken to address our critical  
2 problems, we can only hope and pray  
3 that the judges will decide to help  
4 Scranton and its people. State  
5 government used this city as its test  
6 case, it's guinea pig for Act 47  
7 versus Act 111 and led it down the  
8 legal path to the Supreme Court of  
9 approximately 34 million dollars  
10 against the city, but they refused to  
11 provide financial assistance toward  
12 payment of that award. The large  
13 nonprofits unlike their counterparts  
14 and other struggling cities across  
15 Pennsylvania and this country ignore  
16 all requests for fair share  
17 contributions to their host City of  
18 Scranton. Simply because they can  
19 while state laws protect them. At the  
20 same time, however, they continue to  
21 increase their footprints while  
22 growing the number of tax exempt  
23 properties within our city limits.  
24 The towers oppose a city-owned storage  
25 yard and naturally because they don't

1 want their profit lines affected.  
2 Commuters, some of whom have county,  
3 school district, state, federal  
4 government and professional jobs here  
5 in Scranton believe that they do not  
6 need to contribute their fair share.  
7 In fact, more people who reside in the  
8 surrounding areas are employed by  
9 government and business in Scranton  
10 than Scrantonians. Further, they will  
11 not all pay an additional one percent.  
12 The amount will be determined in  
13 coordination with the wage taxes paid  
14 to their host boroughs and townships.  
15 Some may pay less and some may pay  
16 nothing additional. Even the Chamber  
17 of Commerce weighed in against helping  
18 Scranton. They all appeared to  
19 believe that you who live in Scranton,  
20 you alone should bear 100 percent of  
21 the financial burden to make up for  
22 what they refuse to do. Now, it's  
23 said that God helps them who helps  
24 themselves. At the end of the day  
25 Scranton has done all it can to help

1           itself. And now we can only hope that  
2           the judges will recognize this and  
3           will decide to help our people as  
4           well.

5           Finally, I have one citizen's  
6           request for the week and a report on  
7           one request that has been addressed  
8           for Mr. Dembroski who asked for help  
9           during a recent council meeting. The  
10          first is the request after the water  
11          company replaced water pipes in the  
12          600 block of North Bromley Avenue, it  
13          hired a contractor to pave the street.  
14          However, it appears that the paving  
15          created a hazardous condition since  
16          the road was not restored to its  
17          previous level. Rather, the paving  
18          company created a depressed area in  
19          the road in the front of 615 North  
20          Bromley Avenue. Living in this home  
21          is a handicapped young child who  
22          requires feeding tubes which are  
23          overseen by visiting nurses. Should  
24          this sweet child ever experience a  
25          serious health emergency during the

1 winter months, and ambulance could  
2 have difficulty responding as quickly  
3 as necessary due to the ice that forms  
4 in the street in front of this home  
5 and on its sidewalks. During rainfall  
6 events the same area of the road  
7 floods and the water runoff lands on  
8 the sidewalks. Now, the homeowner  
9 contacted the parties involved in the  
10 creation of this safety hazard but  
11 they have refused to correct it.  
12 Neighbors are very concerned and state  
13 that it's a miracle that a serious  
14 accident hasn't occurred to date. The  
15 paving occurred within the time  
16 deadline for appropriate road  
17 restoration and city council urgently  
18 requests that this problem is  
19 addressed immediately.

20 And finally I'd like to read the  
21 letter I received in response to a  
22 neighborhood problem reported by Mr.  
23 Dembroski and he has been trying to  
24 have this addressed for years. This  
25 comes from Michael Trienello. It is

1 going to Ms. Garcia. "According to  
2 records of the tax assessor, you are  
3 owner or agent of the property located  
4 at 1321 Froud Avenue, Scranton,  
5 Pennsylvania. On Friday, December  
6 7th, 2012, I observed the apparent  
7 violation of applicable land use  
8 regulations on your property.  
9 Specifically construction company  
10 operations with construction equipment  
11 and vehicle storage in an R-1 zone.  
12 These activities are a violation of  
13 Section 306(b) and 604.B.5 of the  
14 zoning ordinance of the City of  
15 Scranton, File of council No. 74 of  
16 1993. On behalf of the city I hereby  
17 order you to remove the violations  
18 within five days upon receipt of this  
19 order. If you do not take the  
20 requested action or make other  
21 arrangements with this office within  
22 five days, we will begin formal  
23 enforcement action. Enforcement  
24 action may include civil penalties,  
25 administrative remedies, such as

1 denial or revocation of city permits  
2 and licenses, criminal municipal court  
3 proceedings and/or an action for an  
4 injunction or other court order  
5 directing the elimination of the  
6 violation. If you have any doubts  
7 about your rights or obligations under  
8 the city code, please contact an  
9 attorney of your choice. If you  
10 cannot afford an attorney, the  
11 Northeast Pennsylvania Legal Services  
12 can be contacted. Any person or firm  
13 or corporation which deems itself  
14 wrong by any order of the zoning  
15 official shall have the right to file  
16 a written appeal to the Board of  
17 Zoning Appeals. Failure to appeal  
18 this order is considered an admission  
19 of guilt under the Pennsylvania  
20 Municipalities Act. This is the only  
21 letter you will receive. Your next  
22 communication from us will involve  
23 formal enforcement action. I await  
24 your reply, Michael J. Wallace, Zoning  
25 Code Enforcement Officer." And I am

1 very glad to see that at long last the  
2 city is doing its due diligence in  
3 correcting a problem for the  
4 homeowners and neighbors of that area.  
5 And that's it.

6 MS. KRAKE: 6TH ORDER, 6A.  
7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
8 80, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING  
9 THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A FOURTEEN  
10 MILLION (\$14,000,000.00) DOLLAR  
11 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, TAX ANTICIPATION  
12 NOTE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON KNOWN AS  
13 TAN SERIES 2013-A AWARDED TO  
14 AMALGAMATED BANK; DETERMINING THE FORM  
15 AND TERM OF SAID NOTE; AWARDED SAID  
16 NOTE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
17 FILING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS; AND  
18 DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF  
19 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ANY AND  
20 ALL OTHER ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED  
21 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF  
22 SAID NOTE.

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



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

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
7 signify by saying aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

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

17 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to  
18 suspend the rules to move Item 6A to  
19 7th Order for final passage.

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MS. EVANS: On the question?

22 (No response.)

23 MS. EVANS: All those in favor  
24 signify by saying aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
8 so moved.

9 MS. KRAKE: 7TH ORDER, 7A. FOR  
10 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
11 RULES FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
12 76, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR  
13 THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF  
14 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF  
15 SCRANTON FOR THE LACKAWANNA RIVER  
16 WATERSHED PURSUANT TO PENNSYLVANIA'S  
17 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT 167,  
18 AS AMENDED; BY PROVIDING FOR THE  
19 APPROVAL OF STORMWATER PLANS,  
20 PROVIDING STANDARDS AND  
21 METHODOLOGIES FOR THE DESIGN OF  
22 STORMWATER CONTROLS; THE  
23 ADMINISTRATION OF THIS ORDINANCE BY  
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND PENALTIES FOR  
25 THE VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

1 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the  
2 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
3 passage of Item 7A.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

13 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby  
16 declare Item 7A legally and lawfully  
17 adopted.

18 MS. KRAKE: 7B. FOR CONSIDERATION  
19 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR  
20 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 77,  
21 2012 - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE  
22 EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR  
23 THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST  
24 DAY OF JANUARY, 2013 TO AND INCLUDING  
25 DECEMBER 31, 2013 BY THE ADOPTION OF

1 THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING  
2 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2013.

3 MS. EVANS: What is the  
4 recommendation of the chair for the  
5 Committee on Finance?

6 MR. JOYCE: As chairperson for  
7 the Committee on Finance, I recommend  
8 final passage of Item 7B as amended.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes. You know,  
12 during motions I know that Mr. Rogan  
13 stated that he was frustrated. He was  
14 frustrated about the tax increase, he  
15 was frustrated by the lack of cuts,  
16 he's frustrated that we didn't do the  
17 budget in a plain public meeting. But  
18 you know what, sometimes I sit back  
19 and I think, you know what, I'm  
20 frustrated, too, because no one did as  
21 much work on this budget, last year's  
22 budget or the budget before that as  
23 me. I'm met with the mayor numerous  
24 times, I met with the business  
25 administrator and, you know what, at

1           this point I think that all council  
2           members have access to e-mail, have  
3           access to a phone, if you don't like  
4           the way something is going, I just  
5           suggest instead of being frustrated  
6           about it, do something about it.

7           MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, I would  
8           just -- I hope you didn't get the  
9           impression that I was saying you  
10          didn't do a lot of work on it because  
11          I know you did the most. There's no  
12          question about that in the last two  
13          years and I voted with you the last  
14          two years because I agreed with it.  
15          And I did I put up my amendments and  
16          most of them were voted down, so. But  
17          I hope you weren't getting that I was  
18          insinuating that you weren't, you  
19          know, doing a lot of work on it  
20          because that wasn't what I was getting  
21          at.

22          MS. EVANS: And I -- just  
23          listening to what you had to say,  
24          though, because I wasn't in here for  
25          your motions, I don't know of any

1 government body that develops its  
2 budget publicly.

3 MR. ROGAN: Maybe that's why all  
4 governments are broke.

5 MS. EVANS: Maybe but, you know,  
6 from the federal government on down  
7 that doesn't happen. But it does take  
8 many, many people to put together a  
9 budget and everyone had the same  
10 opportunity. Some chose to take them,  
11 some did not.

12 Roll call, please.

13 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: No.

17 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 7C. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR  
2 ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 78,  
3 2012 - APPROVING FEE SCHEDULE FOR  
4 DELINQUENT TAX SEARCHES,  
5 DELINQUENT AND CURRENT REFUSE  
6 SEARCHES, AND LIEN/CONDEMNATION  
7 SEARCHES.

8 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion to  
9 amend Item 7C as per the following:  
10 In the now therefore clause after the  
11 No. 1 insert delinquent, after the No.  
12 2, insert delinquent. No. 2, in  
13 section No. 1 on the third line,  
14 delete city treasurer and insert  
15 authorized collector of delinquent  
16 real estate taxes and delinquent  
17 refuse fees.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question? I  
20 know that these changes were requested  
21 by the city treasurer in order to make  
22 the legislation clearer and the  
23 collection of it more efficient.

24 All those in favor of the motion  
25 to amend Item 7C signify by saying

1 aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and  
10 so moved. What is the recommendation  
11 of the chair for the Committee on  
12 Finance?

13 MR. JOYCE: As chairperson for  
14 the Committee on Finance, I recommend  
15 final passage of Item 7C as amended.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question?

18 (No response.)

19 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: No.

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  
5 declare Item 7C as amended legally and  
6 lawfully adopted.

7 MS. KRAKE: 7D. FOR CONSIDERATION  
8 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY  
9 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 79,  
10 2012 - REPEALING ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES  
11 REGARDING FINES TO BE IMPOSED FOR  
12 POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS'  
13 RESPONSES TO FALSE ALARMS IN THE CITY;  
14 ESTABLISHING FINES TO BE IMPOSED FOR  
15 THE ACTIVATION OF AN ALARM DEVICE  
16 WHICH IS DETERMINED TO BE FALSE ALARM  
17 BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR FIRE  
18 DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING THE  
19 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF SAID  
20 FINES; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR  
21 VIOLATIONS OF THIS  
22 ORDINANCE.

23 MS. EVANS: What is  
24 recommendation of the chair for the  
25 Committee on Public Safety?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: As chairperson for  
2 the Committee on Public Safety, I  
3 recommend final passage of Item 7D.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

5 MS. EVANS: On the question?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby  
18 declare Item 7D legally and lawfully  
19 adopted.

20 At this time would anyone like to  
21 address council on item 7E formerly  
22 6A.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: This has to do  
24 with the borrowing, I presume, right?

25 MS. EVANS: This is for the tax

1           anticipation note for --

2           MR. SBARAGLIA: Right, the  
3           borrowing. I read some of it. I  
4           don't like how it was written. All it  
5           is a piecemeal deal. They said it was  
6           around five percent, I believe. That  
7           we're going to pay on this piecemeal  
8           deal. In other words, you ain't  
9           getting 14 million. You're X amount  
10          of dollars until we pay so much and  
11          then X amount of dollars till we pay  
12          so much, X amount of dollars until we  
13          pay so much. All it is more or less  
14          like if you build a house with a bank,  
15          as you build a house, you get paid for  
16          so much; as you build a little more,  
17          you get paid so much. As you do more,  
18          you get pay for so much. This is  
19          really, really terrible that we're in  
20          a position where they have to give us  
21          piecemeal because they're afraid we're  
22          going to go bankrupt on them before we  
23          can pay it off. I'm sorry we have to  
24          do it that way but I get you're stuck  
25          with it. At least I understand why

1           you're stuck with it because I can add  
2           one and one and get two and not like  
3           everyone else did for years and years  
4           and got three out of it. Thank you.

5           MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.  
6           Sbaraglia. Is there anyone else?

7           (No response.)

8           MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake.

9           MS. KRAKE: 7E, formerly 6A. FOR  
10          CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
11          FINANCE FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL  
12          NO. 80, 2012 - AUTHORIZING THE  
13          ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A FOURTEEN  
14          MILLION (\$14,000,000.00) DOLLAR  
15          PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, TAX ANTICIPATION  
16          NOTE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON KNOWN AS  
17          TAN SERIES 2013-A AWARDED TO  
18          AMALGAMATED BANK; DETERMINING THE FORM  
19          AND TERM OF SAID NOTE; AWARDING SAID  
20          NOTE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE  
21          FILING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS; AND  
22          DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF  
23          THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ANY AND  
24          ALL OTHER ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED  
25          IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF

1 SAID NOTE.

2 MS. EVANS: What is the  
3 recommendation of the chair for the  
4 Committee on Finance?

5 MR. JOYCE: As chairperson for  
6 the Committee on Finance, I recommend  
7 final passage of Item 7E.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question?

10 (No response.)

11 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby  
22 declare Item 7E legally and lawfully  
23 adopted.

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

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MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: Merry Christmas all.

This meeting is adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 10  
p.m.)

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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 taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

---

Amelia Nicol, RPR  
Official Court Reporter