

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, December 6, 2012

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR
(Not present)

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe. Mr.
9 Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

15 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING
16 OCTOBER 31, 2012.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE
20 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD
21 DECEMBER 12, 2012.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. SINGLE TAX OFFICE,
25 CITY FUNDS DISTRIBUTED COMPARISON FOR

1 2012-2011.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. APPLICATIONS ALONG
5 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
6 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21,
7 2012.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
11 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE
12 AUTHORITY'S REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
13 OCTOBER 18, 2012.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. TAX ASSESSOR'S
17 REPORT, RESULTS FROM APPEALS FROM HEARING
18 DATE OCTOBER 24, 2012.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Before we
24 continue with announcements this evening, I
25 am going to call on our Finance Chair,

1 Mr. Frank Joyce to present council
2 amendments to the 2013 proposed operating
3 budget.

4 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I'll pass out a
5 copy of these and pass these down,
6 amendments that I would like to make to the
7 budget. Basically, I'd like to make these
8 amendments in Seventh Order and I'd like to
9 hear what the public has to say and
10 essentially I would like to eliminate all of
11 the raises that were given in the 2013
12 operating budget. This would be taken out
13 of the standard salary account for fire of
14 \$16,258.07. City council \$15,000, the BA's
15 Office \$20,000, HR \$10,000, Law Office
16 \$15,000 and I'd also like to trim
17 professional services in the City
18 Controller's Office by \$2,500 since they
19 don't make any cuts. This is basically for
20 the Single Tax Office audit. It's budgeted
21 at \$20,000, the Scranton School District is
22 paying 17,500, which is half, so we should
23 be paying the same. And also professional
24 services in the law department I'd like to
25 trim off \$15,000 to bring them to the level

1 that they were at this year, and that's all.
2 That's a total of \$93,758.07, and I'd like
3 to reduce the current real estate tax by the
4 same amount and I'd like to do that in
5 Seventh Order.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: Just as a follow-up, I'm
10 very glad to see that my colleagues also
11 agree with taking out the raises. I
12 actually have some amendments that are ready
13 as well that I'll have in Fifth Order as
14 well.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
16 anyone else? Pennsylvania's Low Income Home
17 Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP is
18 accepting applications for the program's
19 helpful cash grants and crises grants for
20 the 2012/2013 heating season. Cash grants
21 are sent directly to the applicant's utility
22 company and crises grants assist those who
23 are in danger of immediately being without
24 heat. For more information and income
25 guidelines, call the LIHEAP hotline at

1 1-866-857-7095 or contact State Senator
2 Blake's Office at 207-2881.

3 The Scranton Civic Ballet Company
4 under the artistic direction of Ms. Helen
5 Gau's will present its 26th annual
6 production of the holiday classic the
7 Nutcracker tomorrow, December 7, at 7:30
8 p.m. and Sunday, December 9, at 2 p.m. at
9 the Scranton Cultural Center. Admission is
10 free. To obtain free reserve seating
11 tickets stop by Cultural Center box office
12 at 407 N. Washington Avenue in Scranton or
13 call the box office at 570-346-7369. It's
14 the perfect way to usher in the holiday
15 season.

16 And our council solicitor, Boyd
17 Hughes, is unable to attend tonight's
18 meeting. He has had a number of health
19 issues lately and he is following doctor's
20 orders eliminating some of the stress in his
21 life and he will not be with us this
22 evening, but we hope he will be able to
23 return next week.

24 (Whereupon Mr. Loscombe takes the
25 dais and joins the meeting.)

1 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, I do have
2 one announcement. Again, Matthew's Mission,
3 the third annual breakfast with Santa will
4 be held this Saturday at Scranton High
5 School. Tickets are \$9.00 per child and \$12
6 per adults. To make reservations please
7 contact Cathleen Hackus at 961-0818. It's
8 not only breakfast with Santa but they
9 raffles and entertainment. It's a great
10 morning and a great cause. Thank you.

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

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Are we on
14 announcements?

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry I'm a
17 little bit late, but I do have one
18 announcement. West Side Falcon's Junior
19 football league, A team and C team will be
20 playing in the national championships in
21 Virginia in two weeks I believe it is. What
22 they are having a spaghetti pasta dinner
23 benefit to help defray the costs. It will
24 be Monday, December 10, at the Villa Maria
25 II, 1610 Washburn Street. The tickets are

1 \$10 per person. Takeouts will be available
2 beginning at 3:30 p.m. and a sit down dinner
3 from 5 to 8 p.m. There will be some surprise
4 special guests. Please help support the
5 team where Penn State's Matt McGloin and the
6 University of Pittsburgh's Hubie Graham learn
7 how it play. And again, that's this Monday,
8 December 10, at Villa Marie II from 5 to 8
9 p.m. and takeouts are available at 3:30.
10 Thank you very much.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake.

12 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
15 tonight is Ron Ellman.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. ELLMAN: You are tardy, you get
19 detention.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll sit in the
21 corner later.

22 MR. ELLMAN: Boy, there is not many
23 happy campers out there this week, I'll tell
24 you. We all know why. We live in a city
25 that just -- it seems like it's just going

1 to collapse or something because of all of
2 the bad government choices year after year.
3 You know, it just seems like Mr. Cross isn't
4 doing very much to help the people in this
5 city. He is just a failure. Something else
6 -- we just need -- we need some good
7 government. We haven't had any for the last
8 ten years, but I know nobody is going to
9 like this, but to me our major problem is
10 having the University of Scranton here,
11 Lackawanna County College here, the medical
12 school here, Marywood here, ARC and
13 Goodwill, everybody is just taking and not
14 giving one thing back. Mr. Zigmont brags he
15 gave us a couple of million dollars in 25
16 years, but he doesn't even want to think
17 about the 20 or 30 times that they have
18 taken off our tax rolls and taken from our
19 children going to school. The school system
20 is -- well, it's a second rate school system
21 anyway, it's not like it should be. If we
22 have the money it should be there.

23 Mr. Joyce?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

25 MR. ELLMAN: I appreciate your

1 knowledge in finance so I want to ask you
2 something, where will be in your opinion ten
3 years from now if we are in the same
4 position with this borrowing and this
5 constant tax raising. It acts like people
6 don't think we get taxed enough. They want
7 to keep taxing us. I know your momma must
8 want a lot of little babies to take care of,
9 where in the world -- what kind of city are
10 you going to give them? We will just be out
11 of control in the way things are going.
12 This 12 percent you are talking about is
13 just a drop in the bucket. I'll shut up.

14 MR. JOYCE: No, that's okay.

15 MR. ELLMAN: These aren't just
16 things that I think of, you know, they are
17 what people bring up when I'm here and there
18 and having a beer at the Taurus Club and so
19 forth, but these nonprofits nobody wants to
20 acknowledge -- you just don't want to
21 address the facts. You can't keep raising
22 our taxes. They are just -- I think today
23 all of the utilities Rendell gave the
24 utilities a carte blanche to do what they
25 want, they are going up. I haven't filed

1 any kind of claims. My car insurance keeps
2 going up because of floods they tell me, and
3 my house insurance when I bought the house
4 20 years ago my insurance was \$292 for a
5 year, now it's \$1,300 and some dollars. You
6 know? You people got to think that that's
7 all over town. Everybody's expenses are at
8 least double what we were. You are talking
9 about ten years from now a city with hundred
10 year old houses and rents will be outrageous
11 the way taxes are going. I'm not blaming
12 you all, I'm just -- this is what I hear.

13 People can go to Archbald and in the
14 communities around us for new properties
15 that aren't as expensive. I don't know what
16 the solution is and I don't know what
17 council can do, but to me these entities are
18 nothing but an evil and council has an
19 uphill battle. I'm glad I'm not sitting
20 there in one your seats. I thank you for
21 giving me some time. I was waiting for you
22 to say where we are going to be ten years
23 from now?

24 MR. JOYCE: It's tough to tell.
25 Hopefully in a better place than we are now.

1 MR. ELLMAN: That's true, but if we
2 go -- I don't know what the percentage is
3 year after year let's say you go up a couple
4 of percents, my taxes are -- they are just
5 almost double when I bought my house 20
6 years ago, so and another -- let's just say
7 I'm still here in five years I won't be able
8 to afford it if I wanted it. A quarter to a
9 third of the city is just not strong
10 financially. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
13 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
14 homeowner and taxpayer.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. SPINDLER: I really don't have
17 much to say tonight now. I was going to
18 speak about all of these raises which I said
19 I was against last week. I commend you,
20 Councilman Joyce, for making these
21 amendments and taking those raises out, I
22 don't think now is the time. I see we have
23 to borrow \$21 million just to get us to the
24 end of this month and \$25 million next year
25 and I think this is all due to mismanagement

1 from the last 11 years. If Mayor Doherty
2 negotiated with the firefighters ten years
3 ago we wouldn't have to borrow \$25 million
4 next year so it's all of the fault of
5 Mr. Doherty and it has to change next year.

6 And I was going to say you have a
7 meeting in front of three judges for the
8 commuter tax Monday; correct?

9 MS. EVANS: Next week.

10 MR. JOYCE: Tuesday.

11 MR. SPINDLER: With those raises, I
12 was going to say, I don't how you could have
13 gone ahead in front of these judges and
14 asked for a commuter tax and still give
15 these raises, so I'm glad that's off the
16 table now.

17 And lastly, I have a question from a
18 commuter who works with me, the question is
19 the estimated commuter tax for next year is
20 \$2 1/2 million and then in 2014, 2015 it
21 goes to up \$4 million where did you come up
22 with this figure?

23 MR. JOYCE: That was actually a --
24 those were actually PEL's figures. What
25 they project is that we will only collect

1 three quarters of the tax in the first year.
2 They say collections will be slower as well.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Well, how do they
4 come up with these figures? Do they know
5 how many commuters we have that work in the
6 city?

7 MR. JOYCE: There was a study done
8 for the Institute for Public Policy
9 Development, I have a copy of it. I don't
10 have it on me actually, I have it at home,
11 where they identified the number of
12 commuters working in the city and they took
13 the average salary of someone working in the
14 city and that's where they came up with the
15 figure from.

16 MR. SPINDLER: That amazes me they
17 know how many people live out of the city
18 that work here. Thank you.

19 Lastly, I want to congratulate Matt
20 McGloin on wing the Burlesworth trophy as
21 the best walk on, he got a scholarship, but
22 it was well deserved and he represented our
23 city well. His parents should be very proud
24 of him and hope to see him here soon getting
25 a proclamation, and thank you for your time.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

2 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

3 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MR. BOLUS: A couple of things I
6 would like to kind of touch on. I think
7 first on it is the towing contract that the
8 city is exploring. This evening I parked a
9 heavy wrecker outside showing council what
10 it costs to be in the heavy duty towing and
11 recovery business. You cannot expect the
12 people who have been serving this city for
13 year after year and pay the fee here in
14 light duty or medium duty to go out and
15 spend like we have hundreds of thousands of
16 dollars on heavy equipment to stay in the
17 towing business. There are a few of us in
18 this area that can bid the city contract, we
19 could take it all and we could force every
20 little towing guy right out of business, we
21 all have that capability.

22 Well, I for one would never get
23 involved in it, number one, and I think
24 council entertaining to give it to one
25 person is like trying to feed the pig the

1 whole pie.

2 MS. EVANS: If I could just clarify
3 for a second, Mr. Bolus, giving it to one
4 towing company was not the idea of city
5 council, that was the suggested to city
6 council by Corporal Bachman. He felt it was
7 the optimal way to address the situation and
8 I believe Mrs. Krake can even attest to that
9 because she was also present at these
10 meetings, so it wasn't the brain child of
11 city council.

12 MR. BOLUS: I'm fully aware of that,
13 Mrs. Evans, and the reason I'm bringing it
14 up is during the Connors' administration
15 that attempt was made, Connors had already
16 had a check made up blown up in front of
17 DeNaple's wrecker that was going to take the
18 contract, but we took a legal challenge to
19 it and it was defeated and that was
20 rescinded and to this day that still stands.
21 So to turn around and say we are going to
22 give it to one guy is wrong because you are
23 unfair.

24 MS. EVANS: I think, also, that was
25 discussed during the meeting as well. That

1 contract, I believe, was for at least a term
2 of ten years and I think what Corporal
3 Bachman was suggesting was an annual bidding
4 process so that no towing company would have
5 that advantage for a ten-year or a five-year
6 or a three-year period.

7 MR. BOLUS: Well, it's like any type
8 of competition, once you get it all, all of
9 the little competitors fade away and the one
10 individual just keeps sufficing because he
11 has it all, so whether it's annual or five
12 years once you got it it's not going away,
13 so that's just plain common sense. It
14 happens in all phases of the transportation
15 industry, you could cut rates, you could
16 raise rates after everybody else is gone.

17 What I'm here to say is I'm here to
18 defend the small guys. They have been
19 serving the city a long time. We would not
20 in all honesty bid the whole city contract
21 and we have the capability of doing that.
22 It's just not fair to even think it would
23 work. What the city should do is collect
24 the storage fees because I don't think there
25 is anything greater for a towing company out

1 there, the biggest risk is not to get paid.
2 You can tow a vehicle in, if somebody
3 doesn't come and get it you are struck. I
4 would rather tow the car in today, have the
5 check in my hand. The city sets up a comp
6 check or an EFS check so when it's towed in
7 you are immediately paid for your towing.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, actually that was
9 proposed.

10 MR. BOLUS: And I understand that,
11 that's why I'm here to explain to council
12 and brought the example that it just won't
13 work, it will be defeating to the city and
14 to the businesses that have supported this
15 city year after year after year. You can't
16 force them out of business no matter whose
17 suggestions. People come and go no matter
18 what part of the administrative part they
19 are, so I would say let the city collect the
20 storage fees, let the towers bring in the
21 vehicle and get paid on the spot. They got
22 cash in the hand, better than bird in the
23 bush, okay? So I believe that would work to
24 the betterment of everybody and everybody
25 eats instead of just one.

1 MS. EVANS: And, you know, as I said
2 before, that was the plan proposed that the
3 towers continue their towing operations and
4 that the police department would operate the
5 storage yard and the towers would be paid
6 for their tows by the city.

7 MR. BOLUS: Right.

8 MS. EVANS: Can I ask you though,
9 Mr. Bolus, you're a tower, obviously, how
10 much of your towing business comes from the
11 City of Scranton?

12 MR. BOLUS: We don't do anything in
13 the city. The only time our wreckers come
14 into the city, even though I could establish
15 with the real estate and things I own in the
16 city, we are in the Dunmore and Throop area,
17 the Poconos, we have seven locations
18 throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. We
19 only come into the city when a customer
20 actually requests us to come here, and most
21 incidents say, for example, Jack broke down
22 in the city and the police came up and said,
23 "Look, we are going tow you."

24 And he goes "Well, I have my own
25 towing company I want to call."

1 He has preference to have his car
2 towed and not by somebody in the city or on
3 the city property.

4 MS. EVANS: So, in other words, he
5 could opt to go off the towing list?

6 MR. BOLUS: Absolutely.

7 MS. EVANS: You are not on the
8 towing list?

9 MR. BOLUS: No, he could pick
10 anybody he wants tow his car. He could go
11 with AAA, he could be with AllState, he
12 could be with any one of number of other
13 motor clubs, so there are a lot of options
14 to the individual. The only time the city
15 actually does the towing or the state police
16 is if the individual does not have a
17 preference for towing or is blocking an
18 intersection or a highway and it needs
19 immediately pulled over or an immediate
20 response.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I do think at the
22 meeting it was discussed, just like you
23 said, the only case where that may not be
24 appropriate would be if the vehicles are
25 blocking traffic and their tower was coming

1 from 15, 20 miles away.

2 MR. BOLUS: Exactly.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: You are correct on
4 that.

5 MR. BOLUS: That happens on a daily
6 basis, so what I'm trying to put -- sure,
7 Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Could I ask Mr. Bolus a
9 question?

10 MS. EVANS: Sure.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Since you are in the
12 business, what percent of -- you do store
13 vehicles that you tow?

14 MR. BOLUS: Absolutely.

15 MR. MCGOFF: What percent of those,
16 just an estimate, are not reclaimed?

17 MR. BOLUS: I'd say maybe 10
18 percent, 20 percent, could be that high. A
19 lot of times insurance companies says, "Oh,
20 that two bill is too high. You are keeping
21 the truck and we are not going to pay you."

22 You wind up in litigation, legal
23 fees, you do run into that a lot. Somebody
24 has no collision on a car, they will tow it
25 in.

1 MR. EVANS: And if the car though
2 remains unclaimed and the insurance company
3 isn't going to pay for it, don't some of
4 these vehicles then become salvage vehicles?

5 MR. BOLUS: Right. You have to have
6 a salver basically dispose of it.

7 MS. EVANS: And certainly there is
8 money involved in that transaction?

9 MR. BOLUS: Oh, there is costs no
10 matter where you look at it, but you towed
11 it in, you didn't get paid your towing, you
12 didn't get paid your storage, you may have
13 the vehicle, you got to get a salver, you
14 got to go through a whole bunch of nonsense
15 to get rid of it and you will probably lose
16 more money than you would have gained. In
17 this instance it's a benefit literally
18 because no one should just rely on being a
19 towing company. You want to have other
20 things because you want to have repairs, you
21 want to have maybe a body shop that you have
22 and you get towed to that you can get the
23 repairs, in this case the beauty part is you
24 got your money up front, you are not waiting
25 30 days or 60 days or a week and you are not

1 dealing with a car that there is no
2 insurance.

3 Remember, not everybody carries
4 collision or comprehensive insurance, they
5 just put liability on it, a car gets wrecked
6 you are keep it. So the beauty part for the
7 guy towing it is he is getting paid. He
8 doesn't have to worry about what's going to
9 happen to the car later. Plus he has first
10 contact with the owners to sit there and
11 suggest that maybe the contact him to repair
12 the car, to do other things or tow the cars
13 somewhere else, so there is a lot of
14 different things that come into play in
15 this.

16 Once the city has it, it's the
17 city's responsibility to collect the
18 storage. If they can't collect storage or
19 whatever they have to go to the process and
20 dispose of it and if they dispose of it they
21 are still going to have to call a tower to
22 remove it to wherever they are going to
23 dispose it or if the company they are
24 disposing it too, the junk yards or
25 whatever, will come and pick it up without

1 any cost to the city.

2 But it's more of a win-win
3 situation. I prefer getting my money today
4 than wondering if I'm going to get it
5 tomorrow or the next day or the next day
6 after.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. BOLUS: But I have more to talk
9 about so if I could take another minute or
10 two?

11 MS. EVANS: A minute.

12 MR. BOLUS: If I could, please. I
13 have a big issue with the commuter tax. I
14 don't think the city has explored all of the
15 avenues, the fees and different things that
16 could being implemented, the sale of real
17 estate, a lot of other things here before we
18 ask people outside of the area to pay for
19 what's happened in the past, so I would ask
20 council to really get rid of that. I think
21 it's going to hurt us more than it's going
22 to help us and if they start hitting us with
23 fees going into their communities we lose
24 all over the place.

25 The next part was the leachate line,

1 that's a fee. That's an example of income
2 coming in that hasn't been explored, it
3 hasn't been assessed and there is millions
4 of dollars out there. Keep in mind this
5 landfill takes in 1,000 tons a day of shale
6 coming in or out that they are treating.
7 There is a lot of liquid being involved in
8 there now they are treating this. It's all
9 going into the leachate so that's much more
10 fluent coming into the sewer treatment plant
11 that we could be making millions of dollars
12 on just by being a host community. So these
13 had are things that you need to explore to
14 where we are going.

15 And the last that I would like to
16 bring up and I brought it up with our
17 attorney last week when we are here
18 regarding this machine that's been impounded
19 by the City of Scranton. The police
20 department had that impounded. Right now
21 the rental fee on it is over \$30,000. Now,
22 here is a city that has no money, begging
23 people to pay the commuter tax or pay this
24 or raise taxes, there is over 30,000, not
25 counting the removal fees that we have no

1 idea what they cost, to remove this machine
2 when everybody is fully aware who, what,
3 what and where about the machine is still
4 being impounded and this is something I
5 think council needs to look into before we
6 ask somebody else to pay while we are
7 squandering money needlessly for what
8 purposes?

9 MS. EVANS: Not to disagree with
10 you, Mr. Bolus, but council is a legislative
11 body and really it's beyond our scope of
12 authority to tell the police department to
13 release something from its impound or to
14 tell the District Attorney to --

15 MR. BOLUS: I'm not asking council
16 to do that, the process will take place
17 whatever the process is that they we are in,
18 I'm just raising issues because you are a
19 legislative body that when people come
20 begging for money and they are not paying
21 attention to where it's coming from is what
22 council has to make the administration aware
23 because it is the administrative problem to
24 govern their own people and I understand
25 that fully, but I am making council aware

1 that this is costing them money so before we
2 ask people to pay a commuter tax let's clean
3 up our own house first and that's what we
4 have been trying to do.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MR. BOLUS: Thank you. Oh,
7 incidentally, I did meet with Cosmo's that
8 had a problem on Moosic Street because of
9 the bridge closing and we are coming up with
10 other solutions that hopefully PennDOT will
11 listen to alleviate the hardship on some of
12 the people. Thank you very much.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, before the
15 next speaker, and maybe I'm confused from
16 Mr. Bolus said and you were saying back and
17 forth, is the city going to pay the towers
18 when they drop off a vehicle at the city
19 lot?

20 MS. EVANS: I don't know if it's
21 paid immediately, but the city will be
22 paying the towers.

23 MR. ROGAN: And the question is, you
24 know, if the 20 percent scenario where the
25 car isn't picked up where would the money

1 come from if the city did not have -- I
2 glanced at it, it's an 80 some page
3 document, it's talking about the
4 Pennsylvania State Salver's guide and the
5 city cannot become a salver so I envision
6 cars piling up and I don't know how we would
7 have the money to pay the towers then.

8 MS. EVANS: I think in those cases
9 even though the city is not a salver, the
10 city can certainly do what the towers do
11 which is sell a car to the salvage yards and
12 then out of that money the tower would be
13 paid.

14 MR. ROGAN: All right. I just
15 wanted to address that now because Mr. Bolus
16 was bringing it up.

17 MR. BOLUS: If I may, Mrs. Evans,
18 one of the solutions for the city in that
19 situation would be to auction them off then
20 you don't have to worry about being a salver
21 or anything else so you can auction them off
22 and be sold that way.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. ROGAN: I'll comment more on
25 this under motions. I just wanted to bring

1 that one point up now. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Doug Miller.

3 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
4 Doug Miller, Scranton.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. MILLER: Just again to once
7 again go over the budget, probably going to
8 sound repetitive with a lot of the
9 statements again, but again, I appreciate
10 all of the time and effort that has been put
11 into the budget process, particularly by
12 Mrs. Evans, Mr. Joyce, our Finance Chair,
13 Mr. Loscombe, our Public Safety Chair, as we
14 look at they weren't easy decisions to make
15 there is lot of difficulty circumstances to
16 make along the way. We understand the
17 situation we are in, raising taxes,
18 certainly isn't something we look to do
19 every year, but due to the fiscal
20 mismanagement that we have had to deal with
21 for a decade put us in a tough spot and, you
22 know, it's unfortunate that we place the
23 burden on the taxpayers, but I think the
24 taxpayers need to know full well that the
25 council did everything they possibly could

1 to alleviate the burden or it it could have
2 been a lot worse.

3 You know, we go down and take a look
4 at some of our surrounding cities such as
5 Wilkes-Barre who is raising their taxes over
6 30 percent, they just laid off 11 firemen.
7 Hazelton, I believe, is looking over an 80
8 percent tax increase, so you see that it's
9 happening everywhere, that cities all over
10 are struggling and dealing with difficult
11 situations and, you know, it just goes to
12 show mismanagement here in the city that we
13 continue to let it happen and ultimately the
14 voters of this city are responsible for all
15 of it because they ultimately let it happen
16 by consistently time and time again coming
17 out and voting for the same individual to
18 run the city and they didn't learn their
19 lesson the first time, so at some times I do
20 have a difficult time having sympathy for
21 the voters because they did it to themselves
22 in essence and Monday's night attendance
23 certainly said it all to me. There was no
24 excuse for it.

25 You know, we are in a city that's

1 dying right now and we are looking for all
2 of the answers and all of the solutions at
3 this time and the lack of attendance here
4 certainly upset me very much as, you know,
5 we have all of these hundreds of thousands
6 of people across the city who are so-called
7 frustrated and yet you don't see them here
8 every week. You know, they may occasionally
9 write a letter to the editor or whatever
10 they do, but they don't come here and that
11 really bothers me because I consistently
12 come here, other dedicated people come here
13 and voice their opinions and want to see the
14 city move forward and then I ask myself,
15 well, if you are not going to help yourself
16 then why should we come down here and help
17 you? You need to get up off the couch,
18 quite being lazy, quite feeling sorry for
19 yourself and get involved. There is no
20 excuses. You know, the old, oh, we don't
21 want to get involved in politics, we need to
22 watch out, people are afraid that they are
23 going to, you know, bother the wrong person,
24 I don't buy it. There is no justification
25 for it. This is our city, we need to take

1 it back, and it starts by making changes
2 next year to move the city forward.

3 We have a long way to go, but if we
4 didn't take the action that we took now we
5 would be looking at bankruptcy and
6 bankruptcy is not the solution, it never
7 will be. Municipal bankruptcy does not
8 solve anything. It takes matters out of our
9 hands and into the hands of the people who
10 won't care, that you would be looking at tax
11 increases that would be astronomical and we
12 wouldn't have a say over it. It would be a
13 complete takeover. If people think that it
14 could wipe out contracts and do this and
15 wipe out all our bills, no, it does none of
16 that. You need to take a look at it. It's
17 not the answer, it's not way to go. We need
18 to make decisions now to avoid that and I'm
19 confident that for the years to come with
20 the decisions me we have made it will end up
21 being in the best interest of the city.

22 But that brings me into the forensic
23 audit, and I did bring that up on Monday and
24 I'm hopeful that it will be addressed later
25 on, I know it was in discussion this past

1 summer with the recovery plan, I believe
2 that that forensic audit needs to take
3 place. We need to get a firm grasp of where
4 we truly are financially and account for
5 every dime, every penny that's been spent by
6 this administration and then we'll get a
7 clear financial answer of where we really
8 are, but it's really hard to move forward
9 without that audit, we need that. That's
10 the blueprint to find out where we are at
11 and I'm hopeful that that will be a part of
12 our agenda moving forward.

13 You know, earlier tonight Mr. Joyce
14 presented a few of the amendments to
15 eliminate all of the raises and I certainly
16 respect those amendments, even though there
17 may have been some individuals such as
18 Attorney Hughes who should have been
19 rewarded or may have been entitled for those
20 raises for his work he has done, but at the
21 same time we also understand the tough
22 financial situation we are in and we can't
23 afford to take that on at this time, but
24 those individuals still should be commended
25 for all their hard work and efforts and the

1 things they have done to help the city and
2 help the council making difficult decisions
3 with the recovery plan and the budget and
4 Parking Authority.

5 Professional services, cuts that
6 should be made, you know, when we look at
7 the millions of dollars that we have
8 squandered over the last 12 years in
9 professional service fees to individuals
10 like Carl Greco, who we have never got
11 anything in return, it was more just playing
12 the crony game and giving out contracts to
13 those who support our campaigns and caused a
14 lot of problem.

15 But, you know, just in conclusion
16 once again I commend you for all you have
17 done. I do appreciate all those come up
18 here and offer input and solutions and I'm
19 quite confident that the city does have a
20 bright future and it's going to take time.
21 There is light at the end of this tunnel.
22 It's going to take quite awhile. You know,
23 you think of the fact that it took this long
24 to get in the situation we're in, it may
25 take just as long to get of it or maybe even

1 more, but I'm confident and I'm not going to
2 give up and I encourage everyone else not to
3 give up, but get out there and get involved
4 because this is our city and we need to take
5 it back. There is no excuse for sitting
6 back and sitting at home and doing nothing.
7 This is your town, too. Thank you.

8 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

10 MR. MORGAN: At this time I'm not
11 going to address the towing issue because I
12 just think we should have some legislation
13 in front of us before we try to determine
14 what's taking place, but I believe if
15 everybody read the newspaper today they
16 would hope that when this case goes to Court
17 allegedly on Tuesday for the commuter tax
18 that the Court will have the wisdom to not
19 allow the city to implement it.

20 A remarkable thing, the Scranton
21 Times did an editorial today talking about
22 Harrisburg and how the legislature itself
23 allegedly has made it illegal for the city
24 of Harrisburg to create a commuter tax
25 because they think it's unfair for

1 legislators and their support staffs to come
2 into the city and have to pay a commuter
3 tax, but these are the same legislators that
4 created Act 47 and all of other mechanisms
5 of the state government to which have
6 failed. You know, we can all stand here and
7 we can all talk about what should or
8 shouldn't happen and whether we should be
9 able to file bankruptcy or not but, you
10 know, the truth of the matter is that when
11 you look at the whole scenario as it stands
12 this city will never satisfy the debt it's
13 sad would with. We are borrowing so much
14 money to make it through this year that it's
15 obscene. We have taxed everything I think
16 we can tax. We are blaming -- to be honest
17 with you, we are blaming the University of
18 the Scranton, the area colleges for, you
19 know, not furnishing the city with money and
20 for expanding, but is it really their fault
21 that everybody has abandoned the city and
22 property became so cheap that they could
23 gobble it up?

24 And I also believe that the city
25 used it's process of condemnation to help

1 the truth because they can't take the truth
2 and they can't shoulder the burden of
3 taxation that will right this city.

4 Perpetual borrowing in front of
5 ourself for decades isn't an answer because
6 the population will not be here to sustain
7 the debt. And, you know, the major problem
8 I think we are faced with is we wait until
9 politicians are in office for 20 years and
10 they have created such egregious crimes
11 against the people that we finally prosecute
12 them and then we strip them of their
13 pension, throw them in jail for three, four,
14 five years, but then we are stuck with all
15 of the destruction they have created and we
16 wonder why our society is spinning
17 backwards. That's the problem. People have
18 to come out and vote to protect their own
19 interest and that own interest is a
20 legitimate government based and respect for
21 the individual and individual property
22 rights and when the government moves in to
23 every sphere it can to tax and deprive
24 people of income and their rights as
25 Americans is wrong, but you won't here

1 people say that because they have become
2 dependent on government. A very large
3 percentage of Americans are waiting for a
4 check to come in the mail and they don't
5 care where it came from and it's time to
6 start asking Americans if we are borrowing
7 40 cents of every dollar we spent and you
8 want a smaller government what do you want
9 to give up and appreciate your time.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
11 Gervasi.

12 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
13 council. My name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a
14 firefighter with the City of Scranton.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

16 MR. GERVASI: I'm here on a lighter
17 note tonight, I was asked to come to explain
18 our smoke detector installation program our
19 fire department is now running again. We
20 just received many more smoke detectors and
21 I want to explain a little bit of our
22 program. It is for city residents only. We
23 obviously cannot send out our crews to
24 install smoke detectors outside of the city.
25 It is not for landlords. We must do the

1 installations, that's one prerequisite of
2 the grant, some of the rules that are in the
3 grant we received, and when the program --
4 when our smoke detectors run out the program
5 is over until we get more grants and get
6 more smoke detectors.

7 How this works is very simple. I'm
8 going to give everyone some information,
9 some contact information of how you can have
10 smoke detectors free of charge installed by
11 Scranton firefighters in your home and if
12 everybody that's watching could grab a
13 pencil and paper we will give that
14 information.

15 How this works is you will call our
16 Fire Prevention Bureau, our fire prevention
17 officer's name is Sean Flynn. His phone
18 number is 348-4164. 348-4164, extension
19 one. He can also be contacted by e-mail.
20 It's "S" as in Sam, Flynn, F-L-Y-N-N, at
21 Scrantonpa.gov or there is additional
22 information on our City of Scranton website
23 www.Scrantonpa.gov.

24 What this program is this, we in the
25 Fire Prevention Bureau and our deputy chief

1 have applied for grants and we received
2 numerous smoke detectors through a grant
3 program. Also, who helps out probably the
4 most in this whole situation is WNEP Channel
5 16. Lauri LaMaster runs this program for
6 Channel 16 and it's through their Operation
7 Save a Life program and they provide
8 numerous fire departments throughout their
9 entire viewing area, numerous counties,
10 dozens of counties, and we would like to
11 thank Lauri LaMaster for all of the work she
12 does.

13 And how this works is this, you will
14 call up the contact information, call us or
15 e-mail us, and we will call you back, we
16 will set up a time, it doesn't have to be
17 during the day. Our firefighters are on
18 24/7. If you don't get home after work
19 until 6:00 we can set up an installation at
20 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 at night.

21 One requisite I mentioned earlier is
22 that we cannot give out the smoke alarms.
23 You can't just come down to city hall or the
24 fire department and then we give them to you
25 because then we don't know if you are

1 actually going to install them, so we must,
2 they must be installed by fire department
3 personnel. We will send an engine company
4 or truck company out to your home and we
5 will install them, we will put them in in
6 strategic areas of your house to give the
7 optimum protection from the smoke alarms.

8 And nonresidents, we just want to
9 mention nonresidents, if you are not a
10 resident of the City of Scranton, Laurie
11 LaMaster of WNEP covers numerous counties so
12 anyone who lives outside of the city who is
13 listening to this we can't install your
14 smoke alarms, but we urge you to call your
15 volunteer or paid fire departments wherever
16 you live and most likely they are a part of
17 that program. They may have smoke alarms
18 that they will install free of charge for
19 you, too.

20 That's about it and, Mrs. Evans,
21 with your permission I'd like to turn over
22 the contact information to your public
23 safety liaison, Jack Loscombe, and he can
24 repeat this maybe during motions in case
25 someone didn't have an opportunity to write

1 down the contact information, they could say
2 it again during motions, is that okay?

3 MS. EVANS: And again next week at
4 our meeting.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Certainly.

6 MR. GERVASI: Very good.

7 MS. EVANS: We'll continue to replay
8 it.

9 MR. GERVASI: Thank you very much
10 for your time and we urge everyone to please
11 take advantage of this program and it could
12 save your life and we would like to, again,
13 thank WNEP Channel 16, Laurie LaMaster and
14 our Fire Prevention Bureau for getting these
15 grants and getting numerous smoke alarms.
16 Thank you very much for your time.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could say a few
19 words. I do commend Mr. Gervasi for
20 bringing it to the public attention like
21 this and if you have noticed Channel 16
22 early in the morning they do have public
23 service announcements, it's been ongoing for
24 several years. I have had the opportunity
25 to refer several people to the fire

1 department and within a timely manner the
2 smoke detectors were installed.

3 As Mr. Gervasi stated, they have to
4 be installed by firefighters, again, for
5 several issues. The issues that they are
6 not just placed on a shelf somewhere and let
7 go, the other issue that, you know, the
8 firefighters do know the proper locations to
9 place these smoke detectors. I have had
10 people say, "Can I get a smoke detector or
11 two," when the firefighters get out there
12 they determined that they needed five
13 detectors in the home and they placed them
14 in there.

15 So I think it's a great program and
16 it should save a lot of lives and anyone
17 especially, you know, someone that has
18 elderly relatives that aren't capable or do
19 not have these in their homes please, again,
20 I'll announce it and we'll try to get the
21 numbers and all of that if they are not
22 already on the website I think Mr. Gervasi
23 said they were, but we will make sure the
24 public information gets out there and, Dave,
25 if you could get Chris' address behind you

1 there, he had asked me for some, too, for
2 his mother's house, so thank you.

3 MR. GERVASI: One more thing if you
4 could announce over the microphone, we do to
5 the accept tips after install them. We
6 cannot accept tips. Everybody tries to give
7 us tips.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Gervasi said no
9 tips will be accepted for the installation
10 of this. They may took a cookie or two
11 though.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Never know, Jack,
13 they might.

14 THE COURT: Our next speaker is
15 Gerard Hetman.

16 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, council.

17 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

18 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman from
19 Lackawanna County's Department of Community
20 Relations. To begin this evening, I do have
21 some handouts I would like to distribute to
22 council, may I please approach?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MR. HETMAN: The first item in the
25 packet that you have in front of you this

1 evening is in an application and also an
2 instruction and guidance manual for the new
3 Lackawanna County SPA fee loan, SPA loan fee
4 waiver program. This is a program that I
5 have talked about on previous visits to
6 council. It will take effect and it will
7 come into effect January 1, 2013, and this
8 is a key component in the Lackawanna County
9 Commissioner's job creation and economic
10 development initiatives that are being
11 brought into bear with the 2013 budget
12 cycle.

13 How the program works is the SPA fee
14 waiver allows qualified businesses to have
15 the fees paid by Lackawanna County's
16 Economic Development Department that are
17 normally associated with a receiving an SPA
18 loan. This is a common component in seeing
19 businesses create jobs and the standard work
20 forces, businesses that typically set up
21 shop in Scranton, Lackawanna County, and
22 this is often a feature of their economic
23 development plans and business plans and
24 business models. And again, this process,
25 this program allows the fees associated with

1 those loans, qualified businesses go through
2 the process outlined in the manual. There
3 is an application in there and once they go
4 through the application process the county
5 will provide funding to pay the extra fees
6 that are associated with the businesses that
7 qualify for those loans.

8 And again, there is an application
9 process and a process to ensure that the
10 loans will be spent, a number of conditions,
11 one of which is that business has to spend
12 100 percent of the loan proceeds in
13 Lackawanna County and also they must be
14 approved for the SPA loan and also approved
15 for a loan by the local lender. We want to
16 share this with you because we know as
17 elected officials you frequently come into
18 contact and are frequently contacted by
19 individuals and by businesses that may look
20 into securing an SPA loan so we want to
21 provide you with this information to make
22 sure that you are aware of it and that
23 possibly you can refer perspective phone
24 applicants to our program for future
25 information.

1 your time as always.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is
5 Charlie Newcomb.

6 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. NEWCOMB: As you know, I'm a
9 regular speaker who comes here, but I
10 couldn't make it on Monday because our third
11 grandchild was born a little over a week and
12 a half ago and we have been watching the
13 kids so I got tied up here so my first night
14 to get out was tonight.

15 MS. EVANS: And we want to
16 congratulate you on the birth of your
17 granddaughter, I believe it's Allison?

18 MR. NEWCOMB: Allison Elizabeth,
19 yes. She is doing very well.

20 MS. EVANS: Wonderful.

21 MR. NEWCOMB: Very good. And so now
22 we have three of them.

23 MR. ROGAN: Very beautiful pictures,
24 too.

25 MR. NEWCOMB: Oh, you like them?

1 Thanks. What I want to talk about,
2 Mr. Joyce took a lot of the raises out I was
3 going to talk about, I'm glad to see they
4 were amended, but -- and I'm not blaming
5 anybody up there because you already know,
6 you weren't even on council when we
7 developed a lot of these problems, but we
8 are like the federal government, we don't
9 have an income problem we have a tax and
10 spend problem. I mean, our budget is what,
11 \$109 million? It's going to be over \$100
12 million regardless with the raises out?

13 I can remember coming to council
14 meetings here not too long ago when people
15 were coming to the podium saying, "We have a
16 \$56 million budget, 57, you know, 58. Now
17 we are at 100 and some and we have to borrow
18 \$21 million and then another 20 some million
19 dollars next year. Some tough decisions
20 definitely have to be made.

21 What I think has to be done is we
22 have a severe, as you know, a pension crises
23 that is going to come down next year with
24 the state, state employees, and we have the
25 city employees. I mean, they had to go to

1 Court and do what they had to do and I agree
2 they really got -- you know, for ten years
3 they haven't gotten any raises. The mayor
4 really stuck it to them, but then at the end
5 we got nailed with a \$30 million award which
6 really sent the city into a spiral and I
7 hope we get out of it, but I think it's
8 going to send us far back and I know they
9 agreed to knock half of it off, which was a
10 great thing, but I do believe that with you
11 on the commuter tax we have the commuter tax
12 before, we should have never got rid of it,
13 and the only reason we got rid of it again
14 political problems. Mayor Connors got rid
15 of it because he was running for Congress.
16 That's one of the main reasons that it
17 disappeared and now we have to fight to get
18 it back.

19 Some heavy decisions have to be made
20 and I'll tell you what has to be done for
21 the next mayor coming in, I don't know who
22 it's going to be, he or she, but you people
23 took some people out of positions your
24 budgets over the past, like the DPW people
25 and parks and recreation, and I drive around

1 the city and I still see a lot of them
2 people are still here working so that
3 they're back on the payroll. It seems like
4 nothing gets done.

5 And what's happened in this city is
6 you have the same problem, like the federal
7 government, 50 percent of the people are
8 taking care of this 50, and what I mean by
9 that is we have like 70,000 people maybe in
10 the city, 70,000, 68,000, when you take away
11 how many of those are children, how many of
12 those are retired people that don't work,
13 you probably have 35 or 38,000, maybe 40,000
14 people that are in, you know, the tax rate,
15 and now what they want to do and the federal
16 government, you want to make the people, you
17 know, in the top pay a little bit more,
18 well, what's happened in the city you are
19 putting a burden on quote/unquote the
20 successful people or the business people or
21 whatever.

22 I got a notice in the mail Monday
23 from my mortgage company, now we have two
24 properties here in Scranton, and one does
25 not have a mortgage, the other one does.

1 Just for next year, for January 1, they told
2 me my mortgage is going to go up \$39 -- I'm
3 sorry, yeah, \$39.42. That's without, you
4 know, next year's raise coming in, and I
5 talked to some people today when I was out
6 and about and one guy his is going up \$61
7 and another one so is -- the burden falls on
8 the property owners and the business owners
9 who are paying these and they are trying to
10 support, you know, the rest of the city. So
11 what I'd say is when somebody comes in if
12 our mayor makes \$50,000 a year, which he
13 does, I know the mayor in Wilkes-Barre make
14 like 70, and he gets to pick the
15 administration, there should not be one
16 person in this city, and I'm talking
17 administration because I know there is labor
18 contracts, I don't know anybody out there
19 I've been talking to or anybody that makes
20 more money than their boss. That's
21 ridiculous. If the mayor makes \$50,000,
22 everybody under him or her should never make
23 more than him, and if you don't want to do
24 that job we don't need solicitors making
25 \$83,000, we don't need all of these other

1 people making 76, 84 and the mayor making
2 50. I would never have a business where my
3 employees would make more than me. That
4 makes no sense whatsoever, so I would
5 definitely do that.

6 And as far s the pension end of it
7 goes, I was going to have a question tonight
8 was I'm sure you are aware of the pension
9 situation that we have where like if we give
10 that chief a raise the retired chiefs that
11 are out there would get 50 percent; am I
12 correct, Mr. Joyce?

13 MR. JOYCE: That's correct.

14 MR. NEWCOMB: So what I'm saying is
15 if -- we had this in the past and I brought
16 it up here with Mrs. Gatelli, and I was
17 right, what I mean by that so people out
18 there now, if we -- I'm just going to use
19 even numbers, if we gave the chief right now
20 a \$10,000 raise and there was four or five
21 chiefs out there that fell underneath those
22 contracts from the past they would each get
23 five. That's another \$20,000, so that --
24 but that goes on for the rest of your life
25 so that would cost \$30,000 and it goes into

1 their pension and they make, you know, "X"
2 amount money a month. So those are the kind
3 of things that maybe some people should get
4 changed into a 401K.

5 Like, we should never -- I never
6 heard of a situation in my life where you
7 profit from retirement. You should never --
8 the retiree -- the state people don't even
9 get it when they retire, like the state
10 police, that has to go through an ordinance.
11 They don't get cost of living automatically,
12 but before the retired people to get 50
13 percent, I know none of you people had
14 anything to do with it, it goes from the
15 mayor even before Jimmy Connors, but those
16 are the kind of things we should be going to
17 Court to fight to get rid of because they
18 are costing much, much, much millions of
19 dollars down the road, that nobody should
20 profit and the health care, we give it to
21 them and their spouses and their family,
22 like, we have people right now, I'll say
23 this and then I'll go, we have what, 398,
24 397 employees, we have 600 and some
25 retirees, but we are also paying health care

1 for over 2,000 people. My opinion is when
2 you retire and you are retire with a good
3 salary when you leave your health care
4 should stay, should never go with you until
5 you are 65 and if you 66, especially if you
6 are retiring at 47 or 48 and I'm not blaming
7 the employee for that because that was
8 something that was negotiated, but when you
9 are in the private sector that's a different
10 story, which you or your employer, but when
11 you are in the public sector you expect
12 people out there that are making 24, 28,000
13 a year to support you when, you know, your
14 health care and stuff when they can't afford
15 their own.

16 And there is a few city employees,
17 as you know, Mr. Joyce, if they retired six
18 years ago -- I'm sorry, seven, with 50
19 percent salary, because that's what they
20 get. I believe the police get 50 and the
21 firemen get a little bit more, 55, 57, well,
22 if you investigate if a guy made 50 percent
23 when they retired, a police if he made 50 --
24 if he was making 40 he would retire with 20.
25 If you look over the course of the years

1 with all of those special increases and
2 Court awards and everything you would be
3 surprised to find out that there is few of
4 those people that are like \$1,000 away from
5 what they made when they were working. So
6 you almost retired with your full salary
7 because of all of the Court awards and the
8 increases and everything else and if you
9 look into you would be surprised to find out
10 some of those increases these people got
11 over the course of the years, and it's not
12 their fault, it's just the things were
13 negotiated so I just think we have to look
14 at those things because we can't afford it.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Newcomb, just a
16 quick question, you said how many people are
17 receiving health benefits at this point?

18 MR. NEWCOMB: The figure that was in
19 the newspaper I believe was 2,200.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: The newspaper stated
21 that because I don't believe that's true.

22 MR. NEWCOMB: They said over 2000.
23 There were 600 employees, 398 active
24 employees and the health care we were paying
25 it said I think the figure was 2,256 or

1 2,156 for employees that we were paying for
2 right now, and I could be wrong, but that
3 was the figure they had in the paper, that's
4 where I read it.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: You don't remember
6 when that was in the paper, do you?

7 MR. NEWCOMB: Within the last couple
8 of months.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Dave Dobrzyn.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
12 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: I also mentioned the
15 tow the other night and now if the city ever
16 got involved with towing it should be to a
17 repair facility, especially if there is a
18 warranty, and that's a manufacturer's or
19 private. Some places are authorized to do
20 aftermarket warranties that you can buy for
21 your car. I am sure you have seen them on
22 television.

23 And if the payment is made available
24 to the tow operator the requested address
25 for off street should even be to the

1 person's home or a repair facility, and I
2 don't have any faith in one person doing it,
3 you are just granting a monopoly there, and
4 tow operators have money on the line for
5 equipment, like Mr. Bolus pointed out, and
6 they have location, land, employees and they
7 all have to be paid for and that's quite a
8 bit of responsibility.

9 Now, with derelict vehicles we had
10 various blight inspectors going around years
11 back when Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci were
12 on the council and I walked my pooch in the
13 courts a lot so he is not whizzing against
14 somebody's front doorstep, but I would see
15 some of these a year later sitting in the
16 same yard with this sticker attached that
17 they were supposed to be disposed of or
18 something done with them and the tow
19 operators started paying like money to
20 actually take your derelict car to a salvage
21 yard. I made about \$400. I usually retire
22 a car when it's on his last leg and within
23 three or four days I had a tow operator pick
24 it up, I was paid \$400 for three different
25 cars, so they are not sitting in my

1 backyard, they are not an eyesore, they are
2 gone, and I have a couple of the dollars in
3 my pocket.

4 And as far as getting an
5 unfriendly-type towing situation started, do
6 we really want supporters, your supporters
7 and friends and family, to be towed over
8 forgotten headlights or something like that?
9 You know, a car won't start it could just be
10 a dirty battery or forgotten head lamp if
11 somebody just charged the car.

12 And finally, the location that's
13 proposed in my opinion is horrible. You
14 have Steamtown there with wrecked, burnt,
15 rusted vehicles, inappropriate. It's
16 totally inappropriate. It's adjacent to the
17 national park, Lackawanna Avenue and the
18 mall and so forth.

19 And I guess you are in charge of
20 this area, Jack, of the legislation, so I'd
21 like to ask you something after the meeting,
22 okay?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: I'm always around, I'm
25 like bad news, I never go away.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: No problem.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Now, there was an
3 article in the paper on PILOTS and it
4 doesn't look good. Already we have a
5 contingency fund spent for people that don't
6 want to turn over even a few dollars in new
7 taxes and it's ashame. It's really shame on
8 them. They are making thousands and
9 thousands and millions of the dollars and
10 basically tearing down already property that
11 I heard a couple of years ago, now I don't
12 know it didn't happen, but they were going
13 to tear down the John Long Center, which is
14 a viable building at the "U" and put
15 something else up. Well, if they built up
16 that's great, but it's not only the
17 University it's all over and these people
18 really need to come up with it and our mayor
19 and PEL need to start to enforce this. It's
20 just unconscionable that they suggest this
21 and then you turn around and its get thrown
22 out with the wash, you know? It's just
23 ashame. We really need this PILOT money. I
24 can't keep paying tax and either that or we
25 have to start zoning and just making it

1 impossible for another -- any more
2 expansion.

3 And I'll make it quick, the golden
4 parrot, the submarine-type equipment was
5 given to a local government without deep
6 river and lakes. Bawk, bawk.

7 And Rick Scott, governor of Florida,
8 because he was elected governor he collected
9 unemployment compensation while on a
10 European vacation and in order to collect it
11 in Florida you were supposed to apply for
12 five jobs a week and so forth and bawk,
13 bawk, bawk again, and Free Lunch for
14 Billionaires, countless pension funds
15 bankrupted by Wall Street, including our
16 police and firemen's fund. Well, guess
17 what, that's where some of your property
18 taxes increases are going to have to come
19 from and thank you and have a good night and
20 don't forget again bawk, bawk, bawk.

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

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
24 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: I believe what my
3 mother used to tell me, watch your pennies
4 and your dollars will wall. Your notes
5 here, tax assessor's report, have you
6 noticed that people have gotten tax
7 reductions again? There is one person in
8 there with 40,000 tax reduction? I wish to
9 ask Billy when they sent you a notice some
10 of the backdrop why do these people get
11 this? I mean, when you start giving away
12 \$40,000 of tax reduction to anybody that's a
13 bomb. I mean, the school board is taking a
14 hit as well as the city, but the taxpayers
15 in general take the same hit.

16 For every dollar in reductions
17 somebody gets on their taxes somebody has to
18 make it up, and you got another one here.
19 Minutes of the Scranton/Lackawanna County
20 Health and Welfare, have you ever read the
21 minutes on that? You should. This is where
22 people like Lackawanna College gets the
23 money to buy properties, okay? This
24 organization here arranges the loans. When
25 they got the loans, they go off and buy

1 properties and then the properties become
2 tax exempt and who has to take the burden?
3 The people.

4 Like I said, you put everything on
5 the commuters because they are easier to
6 grab. They are already paying taxes
7 somewhere along the line, at least 52, so
8 you can use that, they really put the bind
9 on them. But there is a lot of other people
10 that should be paying the 52 that probably
11 isn't paying the 52. Have you ever asked
12 Billy how many judges are paying the 52
13 bucks? Or how many people that works in the
14 state office building are paying the 52
15 bucks? Or any of the federal or state or
16 local offices are paying the 52 bucks that
17 them buildings reside in Scranton? Probably
18 they don't. You must ask Billy to do what
19 he can do. We are in a bad position, there
20 is no question about it. I don't think your
21 12 percent is going to fly. It's an
22 election year so why not go with it, but
23 when you are telling me you are not paying
24 landfill because we don't have the money to
25 pay the landfill we are going to owe them

1 that's a bad sign.

2 Scranton prides itself on paying
3 their own way. We always did. It's ashame
4 that we are not doing it anymore. I know
5 the federal government believes in borrowing
6 a lot to pay off their debt, but Scranton
7 never did. We always tried to live within
8 our means, which was a good policy, your
9 mother had that policy. I learned from my
10 mother that policy, live within your means
11 and you got to do that.

12 I mean, you are going to have to
13 borrow, there is no question, the money
14 isn't there. I wish the state would allow
15 us to print our own or the federal then we
16 would be out of this bond but,
17 unfortunately, they don't. Where the money
18 is going to come from I don't know because
19 from your own figures it's going to be tough
20 for them to work and it's ashame that it
21 can't work, but 12 percent probably is
22 unrealistic, probably should be what the
23 mayor actually said. I don't usually agree
24 with the mayor, but probably should have the
25 first 29 percent and the reasons why to try

1 and avoid some of the borrowing. When you
2 borrow you almost have to double the costs.
3 You borrow 10 million you end up paying 20
4 million, but the trouble is a lot of us are
5 fairly old, but we are going to have to pay
6 that 20 million. We are going to be long
7 dead, but our grandchildren or our children
8 may have to. I don't believe in that. I
9 believe in not passing the debt to our
10 children and grandchildren. I believe we
11 create the debt we should take it on as a
12 burden that we have to pay as a dedication.

13 Life is short for all of us, we only
14 go around once, but why are we putting it on
15 somebody else? This going to effect our
16 city long after we are gone. We are going
17 to still be paying for all of this debt.
18 Most of us will probably be dead that's up
19 in the 60s and 70s before this debt is ever
20 paid off. But the question is will people
21 want to survive within the city?

22 I mean, we can't just keep
23 borrowing, borrowing, borrowing in hopes
24 that in some way we are going to win the
25 lottery. I wish we would, it would help a

1 lot, especially hit that big one, but we are
2 not. So, like I said before, just them two
3 things would be helpful in the future. I'm
4 not going to get into the debt, you all know
5 what the heck it is, I'm not going to get
6 into. Thank you.

7 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

9 MR. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

10 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, you handsome
11 devil you.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy. Nice hat,
13 buddy.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Thank you. Well,
15 Janet, we did it Friday night, we got
16 another team tomorrow night, if they win
17 this one, oh, if they lose this one
18 tomorrow, I hope they win it tomorrow, you
19 know that right, Frank?

20 MR. JOYCE: Oh, yeah.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Oh, Janet, just
22 something, our this Sunday. Fidelity Bank,
23 where I live, Jack, stop over.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: At Luzerne and Maine.

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Yeah, Luzerne and

1 Main.

2 MS. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chrissy.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
4 Council. Marie Schumacher, city resident
5 and taxpayer.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to start
9 with the storage proposal because it gets to
10 the core of the function of government. I
11 believe the roll of government is to do
12 those things that are essential to the
13 well-being of the citizens but require two
14 large of an investment to be accomplished
15 privately and usually involves defense.
16 Fire and police of the local level and
17 national defense at the federal level. It
18 is not to allow a private company to make an
19 investment to start a business, pay
20 mercantile and business privilege taxes off
21 the top of their revenue and then rip that
22 business away from the private investor.

23 This piece of proposed legislation
24 is a perfect example of government's in your
25 face arrogance that tells people who hired

1 them and pay their expenses they are
2 inconsequential. The needs of government
3 trump the needs of the individual and
4 they/you are able to get their way because
5 they have the power to harm you.

6 Now, two quick questions on the
7 parking meter proposal, what is the period
8 of release being proposed and are there any
9 options to extend the base period, and
10 second was this opportunity advised for
11 bids? And maybe you could answer that in
12 Fifth Order because I would like to get
13 through what I have here tonight. Thank
14 you.

15 I would like to recommend that you
16 add funding for herbicide to be applied to
17 every lot which remains after a demolition
18 to keep the land from becoming overgrown and
19 a place to harbor vermin.

20 I was really upset when I saw the
21 public safety false alarm penalties you were
22 proposing for the next year, \$500 or a 67
23 percent increase from 2012 rate for a second
24 and third, and \$1,000 for each over the
25 third or 230 percent increase, and this is

1 on top of the doubling from the \$150 to \$300
2 in 2012 for all but the first. That is just
3 over the top. Revenue from that source
4 through September per your budget was \$50,
5 so perhaps it's not that big of deal, but I
6 still believe the increases are way over the
7 top.

8 According to my analysis, as I said
9 on Monday night, the year-to-date revenues
10 as well as prior years revenues, the 2013
11 revenues are overstated. I would -- my
12 estimation says by 5 to 7 million dollars.
13 2012 expenses have been forecast to exceed
14 revenue by \$4 million.

15 Mr. McGowan testified at the second
16 unfunded debt hearing that the city would
17 need more than \$13 million by the end of the
18 year, but requested approval for 9.75
19 million because he believed that it was the
20 most the city would access in the financial
21 market. Well, if the council and the
22 administration believe they couldn't access
23 an additional \$4 million in October, what
24 will the chances be for next year after two
25 more bonds, one for 20.9 million and the

1 other for 25 million?

2 And over statement of revenues would
3 allow presentation of a balanced budget, but
4 what happens if these revenues don't come to
5 fruition? I guess we'll find that out next
6 year.

7 There were three large debt service
8 payments forecast to be expended in 2013 per
9 your budget. 1.7 million for the 2011
10 unfunded debt, 1.7 for the 2012 Series C
11 bond, and 1.7 for the 25 million to be
12 borrowed next year. Now, the interesting
13 part of these payments, which are pretty
14 much identical, some have \$1,000 here or
15 there, but are the differing principal
16 amounts, 9.85 million for the first, 20.9
17 million for the second, and 25 million for
18 the third. This just doesn't seem to make
19 any sense to me.

20 Even more questionable is why the
21 Judge Peter O'Brien's decree that the second
22 unfunded debt be repaid through an increase
23 in the millage dedication of real estate
24 taxes over ten-year period. However, the
25 borrowing for this debt is part of the 20.9

1 million or the 2012 Series C bonds, but the
2 2013 real estate tax was not raised to
3 provide its portion of payment of this
4 expense.

5 If I understood Mr. Joyce's Section
6 28 edition to that borrowing ordinance for
7 2012, the bond revenue will be used to pay
8 the 2013 payment. Does this not mean that
9 the judge's decree is being circumvented at
10 the least or ignored at the worst?
11 Mr. Joyce?

12 MS. EVANS: Actually, Ms.
13 Schumacher, I was advised by our council
14 solicitor that we cannot respond to your
15 questions or comments because you are an
16 adversarial party in litigation against the
17 City of Scranton next week.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
19 I don't usually get an answer anyway, but
20 thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

22 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

24 MS. FRANUS: Hi. Sometimes I have
25 to wonder where half of these people that

1 come here live, like Marie and Lee Morgan?
2 They seem to go against everything you do to
3 help the city to stick up for the people
4 outside of the city. I don't get it. First
5 of all, I believe in the commuter tax. When
6 these people come in the city they get the
7 services that I pay for in my taxes, they
8 don't pay for them. I pay my property tax,
9 I pay my -- you know, all of the taxes that
10 we have, that covers the garbage and things
11 like that. They don't pay it, but they are
12 getting it and they say they are going to
13 not support the businesses, I don't believe
14 that.

15 I just think you should stick to
16 your guns and we need everything we can get
17 for the people in the city and I'm sure most
18 of the people, loads of people, agree with
19 that, getting the commuter tax, because it's
20 going to help them and we need everything we
21 can to help them and people are struggling,
22 so these people work in Scranton, that's
23 their choice so let's give a little bit here
24 and there and I hope those judges really
25 understand the struggle and the financial

1 mess that we are in.

2 Look it Hazelton, that mayor wants
3 an 83 percent tax increase, okay? That's
4 something like PEL wanted to do, but what
5 did you do, you and Mr. Joyce and
6 Mr. Loscombe along with business manager?
7 You fought and fought and struggling and
8 went through meetings after meetings and
9 months after months, but you got it down to
10 12 percent. Some people are cynical and say
11 you are not going to get 12 percent, it has
12 to go way up, we will see, but you are
13 trying. And nobody give you any credit for
14 trying, all they do is criticize things that
15 didn't happen yet and don't give you any
16 credit for all of the hard work that you
17 did. I don't get it.

18 Like, Lee Morgan always says we
19 should file bankruptcy. Doesn't he realize
20 when you file bankruptcy the state will come
21 in here and we get no say and they can tax
22 the people 90 percent or 100 percent or they
23 can do whatever they want and we have no
24 control. That's what they want? I'd like
25 to see some of these people do a better job

1 than you have and I'd like to see them take
2 the abuse that you take because I don't
3 think they could stand it.

4 Mr. Rogan, will you be running again
5 or you can't run because of Lou Barletta?

6 MR. ROGAN: I haven't decided.

7 MS. FRANUS: Legally I didn't think
8 you could, that's my question.

9 MR. ROGAN: Again, we can talk about
10 this outside of council chambers. I don't
11 think it's appropriate for the meeting.

12 MS. FRANUS: Well, I do because --

13 MR. ROGAN: Well, I don't want to
14 talk about politics at the meeting.

15 MS. FRANUS: You are a politician.

16 MR. ROGAN: Well, I consider myself
17 a public servant.

18 MS. FRANUS: Well, that's another
19 issue.

20 MS. EVANS: Well, Mrs. Franus,
21 Mr. Rogan has said that he is willing to
22 speak to you outside the meeting that --

23 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

24 MS. EVANS: And I that would be
25 appropriate.

1 MS. FRANUS: That's fine. Okay.
2 Now, as far as the towing goes, Mr. Rogan,
3 you mentioned last week that the government
4 has taken over, you are representing the
5 people, not the tow truck drivers. There is
6 only a handful of them, but there is more
7 of-- 70,000 more, 75,000 more of us than
8 there are of them. They are getting as much
9 money from towing cars. That's not a little
10 bit of money, they are getting a lot of
11 money, so sure they are coming here and
12 saying they need it, I can understand that,
13 but we need it more and if we have the
14 opportunity to get the money for the city
15 that's the direction we should be going
16 because certain things that you are planning
17 on doing maybe we won't work out, like the
18 University of Scranton still paying more,
19 who knows, but at least you are trying, so I
20 hope you don't go down that road again about
21 the government taking over and you want to
22 take care of these tow truck drivers because
23 that's totally nuts. Take care the people
24 that voted for you and fight for them to get
25 as much money into the city as you can.

1 And another thing, this is an issue,
2 nothing to do with politics, pit bulls. I'm
3 so tired of hearing about pit bulls how
4 dangerous they are, you should pass a law.
5 Please don't you ever pass a law because I
6 read articles every day with dogs day and
7 night, pit bulls can be the most gentle dog
8 in the world. It's not the dog, it's the
9 owner, and you if you noticed a lot of hoods
10 and gangsters get pit bulls and what do they
11 do to them to make them bite them? They
12 abuse them, so what should be happening is
13 the police should be arresting them for
14 animal abuse. These poor dogs don't have a
15 chance some of them that are abused, and
16 it's not just pit bulls. Any dog that bites
17 there is a reason. If I go home and punch
18 my dog in the face I'm sure he would bite
19 me, but he doesn't, he kisses me because I
20 love him and that's what people don't do to
21 some of these dogs and to go against pit
22 bulls is totally nuts. Go back to the owner
23 and find out why they are like that and then
24 get the owner. That's all. Thank you.

25 MR. EVANS: Is there anyone else who

1 cares to address council?

2 MS. CHILIPKO: Good evening. Mary
3 Chilipko, resident of the City of Scranton.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

5 MS. CHILIPKO: I do have a positive
6 note, I don't if anybody mentioned, a very
7 positive note for the city that Matt McGloin
8 returned to the area as the winner of the
9 Burlsworth trophy awarded to the walk on
10 player for voted for excellence and that's
11 one of the things that we can be very, very
12 proud of, and I'm very glad -- I don't know
13 him, but I see his dad in the grocery store
14 now and then but I'm very proud of the
15 McGloin family and our city.

16 And I did come here with a page and
17 a half about the raises, but I guess they
18 have been amended, there will be no raises?

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes, it's my intention
20 to not have any raises.

21 MS. CHILIPKO: Okay, because I can't
22 see anybody with a conscience taking a raise
23 with the shape the city is in right now, and
24 if they don't like it they can resign. I'm
25 sure there is another crony waiting in the

1 wings for some of those jobs. Word comes to
2 mind entitlement.

3 My opinion is that Boo Bear will be
4 going to the Scranton Chamber of Commerce
5 some time next year anyway, that being Mayor
6 Doherty, Boo Bear. There is another -- he
7 will fit in perfectly with a do nothing,
8 non-accountability, elitist lifetime job.

9 Again, I had so much on the raises,
10 as far as the parking lot, when people come
11 here, and here I am now with people that
12 come here that have given probably more
13 grief than anybody that we can speak of to
14 come here and call people nuts now there is
15 nothing another issue. I don't have any tow
16 truck operators in my family, I do believe
17 that council is trying to very hard, but
18 when you just had all of these problems with
19 the Parking Authority it seems crazy to get
20 into another parking lot situation.

21 We want the police, I know for a
22 fact how busy the animal control officer is
23 with so many issues in the City of Scranton,
24 we want the police to handle the storage
25 now, we want the police to take care of the

1 animals, and I as a neighborhood leader
2 understand how hard the police department
3 works. I don't think it's the time to get
4 into storage, and some of the things that
5 Mr. Bolus mentioned, when I hear people up
6 there talk about we are going to get into
7 auctioning cars off now it's not just
8 practical right now.

9 As far as the nonprofits, maybe they
10 are smarter than we think. We want to go
11 after and after, but the nonprofits know how
12 to make money, and I'm beginning to think
13 why would they -- why would they give money
14 to -- we are so demanding and where would
15 the money go? Why would you give money to a
16 mismanaged losing proposition? I think
17 there needs to be another approach taken to
18 the nonprofits.

19 As far as Pinebrook, we had a good
20 year and I do want to thank some people
21 responsible for that. Mr. Rogan,
22 Mr. Loscombe, Chief Graziano, Lieutenant
23 Marty Crofton and our neighbors and also the
24 Department of Economic and Community
25 Development who really did fairly gave us a

1 good amount of paving and paved a lot of the
2 streets in Pinebrook, so hopefully next year
3 will be bring changes for the better and I'm
4 glad the raises are not on the table right
5 now. Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Of course you do a good
7 job with the Pinebrook neighborhood group.
8 You know, I went and Mr. Loscombe went and
9 talked to the residents and if you didn't
10 organize the group we wouldn't have had the
11 opportunity to come so thank you for what
12 you do as well.

13 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who
14 would like to address council?

15 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

16 MR. JOYCE: Mr. McGoff, do you have
17 any motions or comments?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First,
19 brief comments on the towing and storage
20 situation or idea. As far as the towing
21 part of it is concerned I think it's a fine
22 idea, the part that bothers me about it is
23 the storage. I do have some concerns with
24 what could take place and problems that
25 could be associated with the storage of

1 automobiles. I did ask Mr. Bolus about
2 unclaimed cars, he said possibly 20 percent.
3 I talked to some other towers and they said
4 as many as four or five out of every 10 cars
5 goes unclaimed. I don't know that we need
6 to deal with that situation. I realize that
7 it could create some income for the city or
8 some revenue for the city, but at the same
9 time as we get into the business of dealing
10 with unclaimed cars and the cost associated
11 with that, perhaps we are not going to
12 realize the revenues that we think we are.
13 Again, in talking with people about how you
14 would go about getting rid of these
15 unclaimed cars it's not an easy process and
16 it does have some cost concern with it, and
17 as somebody mentioned I don't know that we
18 want to get into being auctioneers for
19 unused cars either, but to me it just
20 presents some concerns and what I think
21 could be some problems associated with the
22 storage of the automobiles.

23 The other thing that does concern me
24 is the loss of business that would be
25 incurred by the towers. At a time when we

1 are raising taxes and fees for small
2 businesses we are in this case we are asking
3 them to pay more for the right to operate a
4 business and yet we are taking part of their
5 revenue away from them. I don't know if
6 that is an equitable thing to do. So again,
7 I would like to see more on how this is
8 going to earn or I'd like to hear more on
9 how this is going to operate and the effects
10 that it will have. I think we need some
11 solid answers rather than some speculation
12 on how this is going to take place.

13 The budget amendments that were
14 presented to us this evening, and I know
15 Mr. Rogan has mentioned that he, too, was
16 going to present some amendments to the
17 budget, I am going to ask that when they are
18 presented if we can read them individually
19 and vote on them individually. There are
20 some of the things that have been proposed
21 and I'm sure some of the things that
22 Mr. Rogan had and will propose that I may
23 agree with and there may be some that I
24 disagree with. I would rather deal with
25 them on an individual basis rather than move

1 them together and vote on them as one. I
2 think that does an injustice to the process
3 and to the ultimate voting on the budget. I
4 know in the past we have taken a look -- in
5 the past we have read them individually, we
6 have done amendments as, you know, grouped
7 together. It will take longer to do them
8 individually, but I think that is something
9 that, you know, we should do. The time that
10 would be devoted to that I think would be
11 worthwhile.

12 And lastly, tomorrow we commemorate
13 Pearl Harbor Day. December 7, 1941 a day
14 which will live in infamy. Each year when I
15 taught I took time to commemorate and to
16 commend the people who -- men and women who
17 sacrificed so much in that horrible war and
18 I think tomorrow is the day in which we
19 should look back and we are losing that
20 greatest generation very quickly. I think
21 tomorrow would be a great time to reach out
22 had those people and to say thank you for
23 all that they did for this country. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Mr. Rogan,

1 do you have any motions or comments?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Since I have some
3 motions I will wait until Mrs. Evans and
4 Mr. Loscombe return.

5 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I guess I'll
6 speak a little bit then. I'll say my peace
7 since Mrs. Loscombe is out and I guess we
8 can revert back to you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

10 MR. JOYCE: Well, first tonight I
11 want to address some of the amendments that
12 I wish to make next week. The reduction of
13 expenditures that I'll make are to remove
14 all of the raises that were proposed in the
15 2013 operating budget that was sent from the
16 administration on November 15 that I had
17 input into, and like Mr. McGoff said, I
18 think it would be a good idea to go one by
19 one and vote each amendment individually and
20 there may be some things that we all agree
21 with and some things that we don't agree
22 with it, so the first amendment that I'll
23 make is to reduce the standard salary of the
24 fire department by 16,258.07, which will
25 eliminate the raise to the chief.

1 The second amendment that I'll make
2 will be to reduce the standard salaries of
3 city council by \$15,000, which will
4 eliminate the raise of council solicitor.

5 The third amendment that I'll make
6 is to reduce the standard salary of the
7 Business Administrator's Office account by
8 \$20,000. That will eliminate the raise of
9 the business administrator and the finance
10 manager.

11 The fourth amendment that I'll make
12 is to reduce the standard salary of the HR
13 account by \$10,000. This will eliminate the
14 raise with the HR director.

15 The fifth amendment that I'll make
16 is to reduce the standard salary of the law
17 department by \$15,000. This will eliminate
18 the raise of the city solicitor.

19 In addition to this, I'll introduce
20 an amendment to reduce professional services
21 account in the city controller's account by
22 \$2,500. As I said before, the reasoning for
23 this is that Scranton School District will
24 being paying \$17,500 for the Single Tax
25 Office audit and I believe that we should be

1 budgeting and contributing the same.

2 . Along with this, I'll also
3 propose an amendment to reduce the
4 professional services account of the law
5 department by \$15,000 bringing the
6 professional services amount in the law
7 department to the same level that was funded
8 for this year. These cuts are necessary
9 since these two departments, these were two
10 departments that really did not make any
11 cuts in their operating expenditures.

12 Regarding the raises, tough
13 decisions had to be made. Many of the
14 people in the budget that had raises
15 certainly deserved them for their hard work
16 and dedication to the city that they
17 provided in the past year. For instance,
18 Boyd Hughes who worked tirelessly to save
19 the city money and the amount of funds that
20 needed to be transferred to the SPA in
21 identifying that funds could be withdrawn
22 from the debt service reserve fund account
23 rather than the city's general fund.

24 Another example is Ryan McGowan and
25 Mary Lou Murray from the BA's Office who

1 worked tirelessly to ensure that unfunded
2 debt borrowing was secured and that the city
3 stayed fiscally afloat throughout 2012.
4 Equally involved in the financing
5 transactions were city solicitor Paul Kelly
6 and Council Solicitor Boyd Hughes.

7 Another example of someone going
8 above and beyond their duties is HR Director
9 Jamie McAndrew who often takes work home
10 though she earns only the same amount as
11 some of the people that work under her in
12 her office.

13 I know the timing of the raises may
14 not have been the best, but I want people to
15 realize that the majority of the people who
16 receive raises go above and beyond their
17 duties and were integral pieces in keeping
18 the city fiscally afloat in 2012. I
19 certainly hope that we do not lose some of
20 these people as we move into 2013.

21 Last week I delivered a power point
22 presentation of the 2013 operating budget
23 that was formed primarily by the
24 administration with input from some Scranton
25 City Council members. To begin tonight, in

1 case you may not be have been tuning in last
2 week or you may have been here, I just want
3 to offer a brief recap of the budget and the
4 presentation. First, as dictated by the
5 revised recovery plan the real estate tax
6 will remain at 12 percent. This is a
7 Court-ordered tax increase associated with
8 the unfunded debt and cannot be reduced.
9 This tax increase is projected to generate
10 an additional 1.7 million in revenue for the
11 city. Those I wish there were no tax
12 increase at all, also all steps were taken
13 to keep the tax increase to an amount as low
14 as possible. The tax increase in Scranton's
15 operating budget this year is much lower
16 than some of our surrounding communities
17 such as Wilkes-Barre, which is proposing a
18 30 percent tax increase, and Hazelton, which
19 is proposing an 86 percent tax increase.

20 Secondly the refuse fee will remain
21 at \$178. It was viewed by some council
22 members during the draft of the revised
23 recovery plan that would be very burdensome
24 to increase the refuse fee and taxes in the
25 same year.

1 Third, the real estate transfer tax
2 will be increased from 2.8 to 2.9 percent,
3 which is a 3.5 percent increase. This
4 increase is projected to generate an
5 additional \$185,000 per year on annual
6 basis.

7 Fourth, the wage tax or earned
8 income tax will remain at the same level
9 that it is now which is 2.4 percent. There
10 is a common misconception that the city
11 received a 3.4 percent wage tax as taken out
12 of the paychecks from Scranton residents.
13 However, 1 percent going to the school
14 district of the 3.4 percent tax and the
15 remaining 2.4 percent is received by the
16 city.

17 Fifth, the mercantile tax will be
18 increased from .875 mills to 1 mill in 2013
19 which is a 14.33 percent increase. This tax
20 is being returned to it's 2010 level of \$1
21 million before it was reduced in 2011. The
22 tax increase is projected to generate an
23 additional \$200,000 in revenue for the city.

24 Sixth, the business privilege tax
25 will be increased from .875 mills to 1 mill

1 in 2013, which like the mercantile tax is a
2 14.3 percent increase.

3 Also, like the mercantile tax the
4 business privilege tax is being returned to
5 it's 2010 level of one mill before it was
6 reduced in 2011. The tax increase projected
7 to generate an additional \$313,625 for the
8 city.

9 Seventh, the local services tax or
10 LST, which is the \$2 tax that is taken out
11 of most people's paycheck on a bi-weekly
12 basis is staying the same as required by
13 law. The Local Tax Enabling Act, as
14 amended, sets the limit on this tax to \$52
15 per year. Therefore, with this in mind,
16 it's staying the same.

17 Eighth, the parking tax rates, which
18 is 10 percent on parking garages and private
19 lots where a fee to park is charged will
20 remain the same in 2013. Because
21 collections of this tax were slow in 2012,
22 it is projected that this tax will generate
23 \$225,000 in revenue in 2013 as opposed to
24 \$500,000 that it was projected to generate
25 in 2012.

1 Nine. There will be a commuter tax
2 levied pending Court approval. A commuter
3 tax will be a 1 percent tax on the wages of
4 individuals working in Scranton that do not
5 reside in the city. It has been projected
6 by PEL, Pennsylvania Economy League, that
7 this tax will generate \$2.5 million for the
8 City of Scranton in it's first year.

9 Tenth, there will be an amusement
10 tax in 2013. In 2013, there will be a 5
11 percent tax levied on amusements.
12 Amusements that are impacted by this tax
13 will be primarily tickets to concerts and
14 amusement venues throughout the City of
15 Scranton. This tax is also limited to for
16 profit organizations and it is projected to
17 generate \$200,000 in revenue for the city.

18 11. Revenue from licenses and
19 permits is projected to be higher in 2013
20 than 2012. The reason for this is the
21 Geisinger expansion project that is expected
22 to take place in the upcoming year. Due to
23 the project, it is projected that there will
24 be an increase in licenses and permits
25 revenue of \$764,000.

1 12. Fines, forfeits and violations
2 revenues is projected to be higher in 2013
3 than 2012. This is due to the city entering
4 into a contract with Standard Parking to
5 have them provide meter collections and fine
6 issuance for the city. Extra revenue will
7 be generated due to technological
8 advancements made to parking meters in 2013
9 by IPS, which was the company chosen to make
10 the upgrades.

11 Scranton will also be looking into
12 establishing a city-owned storage yard,
13 which has been the subject of lot of
14 dialogue tonight, which fees will be
15 collected for abandoned or towed vehicles.
16 If this does not happen, a suitable
17 replacement for the revenue projected to be
18 made will need to be found.

19 Because of the measures that I just
20 mentioned, there is projected to be an
21 overall increase of \$586,000 in fines,
22 forfeits and violations.

23 13. In regard to departmental
24 earnings, in 2013 there is projected to be
25 an increase in departmental earnings of

1 \$487,500. This can be attributed to an
2 increase in revenue partially because of the
3 installation of smart meters by IPS and
4 partially because of an increase in the
5 charge per false alarms. In 2013, there
6 will be no charge for a first false alarm, a
7 \$500 charge for a second and third false
8 alarm, and a \$1,000 charge for a fourth
9 false alarm and any false alarm thereafter.

10 14. There will be an increase in
11 miscellaneous revenue generated in 2013.
12 This could be attributed to the city
13 projecting to sue for the repayment from the
14 Ice Box development and a Market Based
15 Revenue Opportunity Program which will be
16 enhanced in 2013. The projection of revenue
17 that the city is expected to receive from
18 the repayment from the Ice Box development
19 is \$600,000, and the revenue that the city
20 is expected to receive from the Market Based
21 Revenue Opportunity Program as projected by
22 PEL is \$353,421.

23 15. There will be a borrowing that
24 will take place in 2013 in order to pay back
25 the Supreme Court award and partially pay

1 increased pension contributions that the
2 city will be required to pay in 2013.

3 Speaking on the Supreme Court award,
4 this is the primary reason why the budget
5 amount is so high this year is that it is in
6 excess of \$109 million. As one knows, the
7 city will incur extra expenses this year due
8 to the Supreme Court award. The first cost
9 that the city will incur is approximately
10 \$17 million in a payout to the police and
11 fire unions.

12 As I'll mention again, this could
13 have been well in excess of \$30 million if
14 were not for the negotiation efforts of some
15 council members and the administration to
16 mitigate the award. Along with the payout
17 for the Supreme Court award, the city will
18 have to borrow to obtain the money to pay
19 it. This will be an estimated cost of \$1.7
20 million this year.

21 Because the Supreme Court award set
22 minimum staffing levels for police shifts,
23 it is projected that there will be an extra
24 \$400,000 in police overtime in year. In
25 addition to the Supreme Court award there

1 will also be increase to the MMO, which
2 stands for minimum municipal obligation.
3 The MMO is the minimum amount that the city
4 must contribute to fund pensions. In 2012
5 the MMO was \$4.4 million. In 2013, the MMO
6 will be \$9.5 million. This is an extra
7 expense of \$5.1 million dollars. Overall
8 the increases that I just mentioned add up
9 to \$24.2 million, which is the approximate
10 spending gap between the 2012 and 2013
11 budgets, and that's all I have for now.

12 MS. EVANS: And thank you,
13 Councilman Joyce.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I was out
15 when you came to my turn.

16 MS. EVANS: Well, actually, Pat --

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry, I was
18 out --

19 MR. ROGAN: I had motions to make so
20 I wanted to wait until you guys were back.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I apologize.

22 MR. ROGAN: Oh, that's fine. As I
23 stated, I will pass out a copy to my
24 colleagues. The motion that I'm about to
25 read is regarding the establishment of a

1 city lot, which is budgeted for \$300,000 in
2 revenue, so obviously by eliminating that
3 \$300,000 spending cuts needed to be made, so
4 I will read it and when it gets on the
5 question I will explain it further.

6 I make a motion to amend Item 6-B as
7 follows: Revenue. Account No.

8 01.331.33165, police towing/towing fees, \$0.

9 Expenses: 4010, standard salary,
10 \$22,326,610.10.

11 4117. Health insurance, nonunion,
12 \$938,665.97.

13 Professional services, Account No.
14 4201, \$608,731.68.

15 4240. Postage and freight,
16 \$25,258.07.

17 4290. Stationery, office supplies,
18 \$20,825.

19 4270. Dues and subscriptions,
20 \$9,161.

21 4390. Materials and supplies
22 miscellaneous, \$169,730.48.

23 4290. Non-department expenditures,
24 \$47,202,446.47 for a total cut of \$300,000,
25 they will be as follows:

1 Fire department, chief standard
2 salary, Account No. 4010. 01.011.00078.4010,
3 \$67,228.11. It's a decrease of \$16,258.07.

4 City council, legislative legal
5 advisor full-time, 4010. 01.020.00000.4010,
6 standard salary, \$224,404.50. Total
7 legislative legal assistance full-time will
8 be paid at \$52,500.

9 Business administration. Account
10 No. 4010. 01.040.00040.4010, standard
11 salary, \$197,765.75 as follows:

12 Business administrator, \$53,550.00.
13 That's a \$10,000 decrease. Finance manager,
14 \$37,400. That's a \$10,000 decrease. Senior
15 accountant, zero. That's an elimination of
16 one of the three positions that was being
17 put into the budget. Savings of \$37,400.

18 Business administration, human
19 resources, 4010. 01.040.00041.4010, standard
20 salary \$104,184.50. HR director, health
21 coordinator, \$36,000. A savings of \$10,000.

22 Law department, 4010.
23 01.060.00000.4010, standard salary, total
24 \$153,960.34. City solicitor, full-time
25 \$52,500. That's a savings of \$15,000.

1 City council, 4201.
2 01.020.00000.4201, professional services,
3 \$66,000. That's a savings of the \$20,000.
4 Business administration 4201.
5 01.040.00040.4201, professional services,
6 \$30,000. Savings of \$15,000.
7 4240. 01.040.000040.4240, postage
8 and freight, \$25,158.07. A savings of
9 \$4,841.93.
10 Account No. 4270.
11 01.040.000040.4270, dues and subscriptions,
12 \$1,000. Savings of \$6,500.
13 Account No. 4290.
14 01,040.00040.4290, stationery/office
15 supplies, \$15,000, savings of \$3,000.
16 Human resources, 4201.
17 010.040.00041.4201, professional services,
18 \$120,000. Savings of \$30,000.
19 Information technology. Account No.
20 4390. 01.040.00042.4390, materials supplies
21 miscellaneous \$10,000. That's a deduction
22 of \$5,000.
23 Bureau of Treasury. 4201.
24 01.040.00043.4201, professional services,
25 \$20,000. It's a decrease of \$10,000.

1 License, inspections and permits.
2 Account No. 4201.01.051.00051.4201,
3 professional services, savings of \$3,000 --
4 savings of \$2,000.

5 LIPS, Bureau of buildings, 4201.
6 01.051.000082.4201, professional services
7 \$50,000, savings of \$20,000.

8 Law Department. Account No. 4201.
9 01.060.00000.4201, professional services,
10 \$150,000, savings of \$50,000.

11 Non-departmental expenditures, 4299.
12 01.401.10060.4299, Everhart Museum, \$10,000,
13 deduction of \$15,000.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I'll second the motion.

15 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone on the
16 question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'd just like to
18 explain, i apologize it's so lengthy with
19 all of the account numbers, the reason for
20 the amendment, and I know many people have
21 talked today and over the past few weeks and
22 two of the main points that many people are
23 very upset in this budget was (a), the
24 salary increases for many people in the
25 administration and the city council

1 solicitor, the vast majority of them were
2 removed, as I stated previously, and this an
3 item, Attorney Hughes' salary was increased
4 to that of Attorney Kelly of a full-time
5 position because I thought that was from
6 comments made by colleagues was the intent.
7 If we want to drop that down as well I have
8 no problem with that in the future
9 amendment.

10 But getting to the core issue with
11 the towing, I firmly believe that the city,
12 any city should not be in the business of
13 towing vehicles if that were to happen,
14 storing vehicles, operating a city-owned
15 lot. There is so many things that I think
16 have not been planned with this ordinance,
17 outside of the fact that I don't believe
18 it's part of the scope of government to be
19 involved with towing and storage.

20 For starters, there is 15 family
21 businesses that currently do towing and
22 storage for the city. They pay the city for
23 the right to work. They also pay property
24 taxes to the city which are going up. They
25 also pay mercantile taxes to the city, which

1 are going up. They also pay business
2 privilege taxes to the city, which are going
3 up. Their employees pay the second highest
4 wage tax in the state to the city. Lucky
5 that isn't going up.

6 As you can see, these businesses are
7 already contributing a very large sum to the
8 city and to go after them in a budget to
9 save in the grand scheme of things a
10 fraction of the budget.

11 Also, a city lot would have to be
12 staffed 24/7. Security cameras would have
13 be set up and I believe they may already be.
14 The intent of this legislation, from what I
15 have heard, is to have the police department
16 run it. We have a great police department
17 in this city, but their job is to be on the
18 street fighting crime. It's not to be
19 administering a parking lot.

20 If this is approved the city would
21 likely have to provide additional insurance
22 to cover the vehicles that are in the city
23 lot. There are questions on what will
24 happen to the cars that are kept in the city
25 lot that aren't picked up. The city doesn't

1 have a salvers license, as I mentioned.
2 Somebody mentioned that it could be
3 auctioned off, but many times banks own
4 these vehicles and people are basically
5 under water on their vehicle and it breaks
6 down and they leave it and the city is stuck
7 with it for less than it's worth.

8 Where will the city find the money
9 to buy equipment necessary to run the lot?
10 If you have hundreds of cars that don't run
11 and you have to -- you have them in a lot
12 you have to access the front and back of the
13 lot you have to find a way to access that
14 car so is the city going to purchase a tow
15 truck to move those vehicles? That seems
16 very expensive.

17 There are also safety issues, if the
18 police officers would be the ones running
19 the lot if somebody's car was towed and they
20 went to pick up their personal possessions
21 that police officer would have to go in the
22 car. There may be needles. Blood if the
23 car was in an accident. Needles if a person
24 was involved with drug activity. If it was
25 an abandoned car there could be animals in

1 the vehicle and these are all stories that I
2 have heard from our local towing companies
3 over the last week.

4 There is also a fear by many
5 residents of a city lot becoming like those
6 in Philadelphia. Many have seen the show on
7 A & E "Parking Wars" where people car is
8 towed off to a city-owned lot as an attempt
9 to raise revenue and often times people miss
10 flights, people have their whole day ruined
11 by just so the city can make \$35 off of
12 them.

13 And finally, it's just a core belief
14 of mine that this is expansion of government
15 well beyond it's means. The government
16 should not be in the towing business. I've
17 stated it before, government -- if the City
18 of Scranton only provides public safety we
19 have done our job. Towing and city lots
20 isn't something that the government should
21 be involved in so that is why I made the
22 motion.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
24 the question?

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

1 MS. EVANS: Maybe before if I could
2 just ---

3 MR. JOYCE: Sure.

4 MS. EVANS: I'm going to ask that
5 our Finance Chair will review all of these
6 amendments. I've only -- because I just
7 received them I've only been able to take a
8 very cursory look I think there are some
9 items that certainly bear deliberation and
10 discussion and votes and there are other
11 items I believe that don't fall into that
12 category, but again, that's a cursory view
13 and so I'm going to ask that our Finance
14 Chair and everyone else on council over the
15 next several days would take a look at the
16 amendments and as well as Mr. Joyce's
17 amendments for their feasibility and then
18 those that are financially sound will be
19 presented next week for a vote.

20 MR. ROGAN: There is a motion and a
21 second so --

22 MS. EVANS: Would you like to table
23 it?

24 MR. ROGAN: No.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, I know that I

1 won't be voting in favor of it because this
2 has just been, as I said, that was just
3 handed to us and I think it's certainly has
4 to be reviewed and it certainly as well
5 would have been so much more beneficial if
6 all of this would have been presented at an
7 earlier stage so that some of these
8 suggestions, I think, certainly could be
9 included in the budget, and others would
10 have been discussed among the
11 administration, council, department heads,
12 etcetera.

13 So, you know, that's why we had
14 encouraged everyone to become involved in
15 the process so that all of this could become
16 part of it.

17 MR. ROGAN: Well, it is right now.

18 MS. EVANS: From the beginning.

19 But, Mr. Joyce, I'm sorry, I'll call on you
20 now.

21 MR. JOYCE: Well, there are many
22 things in this amendment that I agree with,
23 such as the salary decreases and the
24 elimination of the raises, however, it's one
25 of my concerns that I see that we are taking

1 a little bit of an ax to professional
2 services throughout each of the departments.
3 You've got city council, BA's Office, HR,
4 IT, Treasury, LIPS, Bureau of Buildings, the
5 law department, and I'm wondering have you
6 spoke with the department heads of these
7 departments or --

8 MR. ROGAN: The method that I used
9 was similar to the method that, you know,
10 you showed us last time by using what we
11 have spent in the first two-thirds of the
12 year to extrapolate a full year expenditure.
13 Now, not on all items, for instance, you
14 know, an item such as utilities would always
15 increase in the third quarter, so I used,
16 you know, some of the items, for instance,
17 that were in here had this year zero dollars
18 spent but were being budgeted for thousands
19 of dollars extra.

20 And, also, there was -- and I just
21 found this today actually when I was going
22 over everything once again in the 2012
23 budget from the city website it was
24 professional services for city council at
25 \$167,000. The 2013 budget this past year

1 and the current year listed at \$187,000 so
2 by making the cuts that were currently in
3 this year, it's actually not a cut if you go
4 over at two-year period because back in 2011
5 we were at \$66,000. It could have just been
6 a typo or something I caught at the very
7 last minute.

8 And as far as the other items, you
9 know, for instance I could go through each
10 one of them item by item if you would like
11 to sit down and go over them. Many of them
12 were still at half if you double them it
13 would still be less than we spent this year
14 on those items.

15 MR. JOYCE: See --

16 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, you go ahead.

17 MR. JOYCE: See, what I know from
18 speaking to the business administrator is
19 that we are holding back on a lot of bills
20 and one of the reasons why the amount paid
21 for some of these professional services is
22 so low is due to the fact that we just
23 haven't paid the vendors yet, so it's one of
24 my worries that we actually are spending
25 what was budgeted, however, we just are

1 holding back on paying them because we have
2 been concerned with making payrolls and
3 making payments to our larger vendors like
4 Blue Cross and Express Scripts, etcetera.

5 I do respect the time that was spent
6 in putting together amendments, and I
7 definitely agree with the raise reductions
8 -- or actually eliminations in this case,
9 but if I have to vote on it now as a total
10 package I would vote "no" because I need to
11 research what impact these reductions in
12 professional services will have because I
13 know that there are some things, in fact, I
14 looked particularly at departments that
15 didn't cut much from their operating
16 expenditures such as the law and the fire
17 department, and I made a few phone calls to
18 speak with some city employees and I found
19 out that, for instance, one of the
20 expenditures in the fire department was for
21 something that was contractual that had to
22 be set at a certain amount due to a labor
23 contract and the other expenditure that was
24 set that went out from the previous year was
25 something that was a matching contribution

1 to a grant that the city would receive if
2 the budget was passed as amended, and if not
3 the city would have to forego a \$200,000
4 grant. So right now at this time I can't
5 vote "yes" to these amendments as a total
6 package.

7 MS. EVANS: The only thing I wanted
8 to add, I'm sorry, the mayor called me today
9 about this particular issue of the towers,
10 he stated that \$300,000 should remain in the
11 budget and that he is in talks with the
12 towers which will continue throughout
13 December.

14 MR. ROGAN: But if it's placed in
15 the budget then it would have to be
16 materialized somehow; am I correct?

17 MS. EVANS: Well, certainly, because
18 the city needs that \$300,000, yes.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MR. ROGAN: So I don't see what
21 could be changed after the budget is passed.
22 I guess that's between the mayor and the
23 towers though.

24 MS. EVANS: Right. Mr. McGoff?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Well, I know, Mr. Rogan

1 said that he did not wish to table it, but
2 I'd like to make a motion to table the
3 motion.

4 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to
5 table, do we have a second?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll second.

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

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

12 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

13 MR. ROGAN: No.

14 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
15 moved. So the amendments are tabled until
16 next week's meeting at which time the final
17 amendments will be formally presented during
18 Seventh Order and voted upon by all council
19 members.

20 MR. ROGAN: Maybe this amendment
21 will be a little bit easier with everyone
22 since it only deals with the salaries. I
23 would make a motion to amend Item 6-B as
24 follows:

25 4010. Standard salary.

1 \$22,326,610.10. A deduction of \$106,158.07.
2 Fire Department. 4010.
3 01.011.00078.4010, standard salary,
4 \$7,168,8786.27.

5 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry to interrupt,
6 but again, I am going to restate what I just
7 did, we are not going to be voting on any
8 amendments tonight. We are presenting the
9 amendments --

10 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans --

11 MS. EVANS: So you can certainly
12 read through all of them for the public,
13 that's fine, but again, our Finance Chair
14 and council members have to have the ability
15 to review all of these and not have them.

16 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, this is
17 almost identical to Mr. Joyce's amendment if
18 you just let me finish it.

19 MS. EVANS: Well, I still believe
20 that we should wait until the following week
21 to make all of the final amendments, so I
22 won't be approving this. Even though I may
23 agree with it, I won't be approving it.

24 MR. ROGAN: Chief's salary,
25 \$67,228.11, savings of \$16,258.07.

1 City council. 4010.
2 01.202.00000.4010, standard salary,
3 \$224,404.50. Legislative legal advisor
4 full-time \$52,500, savings of \$7,500.
5 Business administration. 4010.
6 01.040.00040.4010, standard salary,
7 \$197,765.75. Business administrator
8 \$53,550, savings of \$10,000. Finance
9 manager, \$37,400, savings of \$10,000.
10 Senior accountant, \$0. Savings of \$37,400.
11 Business administration. Human
12 Resources. 4010. 01.040.00041.4010,
13 standard salary, \$104,184.50. HR Director,
14 health coordinator \$36,000. A savings of
15 \$10,000.
16 Law department. 4010.
17 01.060.00040.4010, standard salary.
18 \$153,960.43. City solicitor, full-time,
19 \$52,500, a savings of \$15,000.
20 Additional expenses. Property tax
21 rebate reductions, \$106,158.07.
22 MR. MCGOFF: I'll second.
23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone on the
24 question?
25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.

1 This is almost identical actually to what
2 Mr. Joyce presented, the only difference is
3 with this amendment the property tax
4 reduction would go specifically for
5 veterans.

6 MS. EVANS: I'm just going to again
7 reiterate that I don't believe that the
8 votes should be taken this evening, they
9 will be taken next week. All of these
10 amendments will be reviewed, regardless of
11 tonight's vote, will be reviewed and those
12 that are feasible presented next week and so
13 for that reason I will be voting "no".

14 MR. JOYCE: I just had some
15 questions, the property tax rebate for
16 veterans would this be a program that would
17 be started or --

18 MR. ROGAN: The State of
19 Pennsylvania actually has a similar program,
20 the State of Pennsylvania 100 percent
21 disabled veterans do not have to pay any
22 property taxes and this is actually an idea
23 that was brought up during the CDBG
24 allocations when we were discussing that by
25 a resident to have some sort of rebate, it

1 wouldn't be an entire rebate --

2 MR. JOYCE: Right, I know it
3 wouldn't be an entire rebate.

4 MR. ROGAN: Judging by the Census
5 Bureau figures, assuming in excess of 50
6 percent of the veterans that live in
7 Scranton are homeowners, that would provide
8 almost half the amount of the tax increase
9 being rebated back to them, so instead of
10 taxes going up 12 percent for veterans it
11 would go up 6 approximately. And also the
12 depending on how many took advantage of the
13 applying for the program which could be run
14 as simple as presenting discharge papers,
15 which most veterans have.

16 MS. EVANS: I think it's a very fine
17 idea, but I don't know that it's legal and
18 so again I think --

19 MR. ROGAN: The state already has
20 the program.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, the state does but
22 that doesn't apply to municipalities, so I
23 think we would have to have probably both
24 solicitors, but particularly council
25 solicitor do the research on that before you

1 could approve that.

2 MR. ROGAN: Well, other
3 municipalities do have them and the state
4 does as well.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, I still believe
6 that we need to have our legal advisors take
7 a look at it.

8 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I would once again like
10 to make a motion to table the amendments.

11 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
12 floor to table the second set of amendments,
13 is there a second?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Once again, I believe
17 that we all have a right to, you know, make
18 motions and to present ideas and I think you
19 are right, Mrs. Evans, I do believe that we
20 need an opportunity to view these rather
21 than vote on them this evening and when you
22 were out before I did ask Mr. Joyce if next
23 week when we do the amendments that he had
24 suggested that we read them individually
25 because there are items that at least I

1 would agree with and some that I would
2 disagree with and the same for the
3 amendments presented by Mr. Rogan and I
4 think by utilizing that process I believe
5 that we would do more justice to the budget
6 and to what is equitable for the coming year
7 and that is the reason why we should table.

8 MR. ROGAN: I would just comment on
9 the -- I tend to agree on separating with
10 voting on each one individually, but, for
11 instance, the first amendment when you have
12 a finite amount that needs to be deducted
13 within a program to eliminate, you know,
14 some sort of revenue item. If bits and
15 pieces were amended and bits and pieces
16 weren't then you would wind up with a hole
17 in the budget. With the second item that
18 would just be, you know, the amount that
19 would get amended to start a program for a
20 tax rebate for veterans, which would be
21 great. And, you know, I'm disappointed that
22 they are not going to be voted through
23 tonight but I hope they will next week.

24 MS. EVANS: And just to pick up on
25 what you were saying, I think you made a

1 good point in that as you are taking these
2 individually voting them up and down what's
3 approved, what is not approved, you are
4 going to be left with the task then of
5 formulating what the expenditures will be
6 and what the revenues will be because that
7 must be finalized prior to the final vote.

8 MR. ROGAN: That's why I think it
9 would have been easier amending this week
10 because you would have another week to, you
11 know, go back and forth, but we'll see how
12 the votes go down.

13 MS. EVANS: Even if you did it
14 tonight then it's actually -- it becomes a
15 done deal without council ever having the
16 opportunity to see it.

17 MR. ROGAN: So will this be the
18 policy for all amendments in the future that
19 they will be presented one week in advance
20 on all items? Because I do agree with if
21 that's how we are going to do it I'm fine
22 with that.

23 MS. EVANS: Well, I can only say
24 that this is what we are doing that applies
25 to the budget and, you know, I really -- I

1 don't want to engage in a debate over the
2 rules and procedures of council because
3 there are many and there are many council
4 members who don't abide by them. And so is
5 there anyone else on the question?

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to answer that
8 quickly, I think, you know, there are minor
9 situations where we can make amendments that
10 evening, but this is definitely something
11 that has to be looked at and considered, and
12 as Mrs. Evans said, there are some good
13 things in here, good ideas, but, you know,
14 it's the first time my eyes have seen them
15 and I'm not the mathematician Mr. Joyce is
16 so, you know, it would make me some time to
17 actually review them.

18 MR. ROGAN: I would just say on the
19 first item there are, you know, some things
20 that definitely need, you know, a little bit
21 of a closer look into, but the second is
22 almost the identical motion that Mr. Joyce
23 mentioned and just happened to be we cut the
24 same things with the exception of I think I
25 eliminated a position that Mr. Joyce didn't

1 and he reduced Attorney Hughes' salary a
2 little bit more, they are almost identical.

3 MR. MCGOFF: But I don't want to
4 belabor this, but we already have. While it
5 may be a simple, you know, kind of pluses
6 and minuses, some of these pluses and
7 minuses are things that some I may agree
8 with or some I may disagree with. And
9 again, I do not want to vote on the
10 amendments to be made in their entirety.

11 And, yes, while Mrs. Evans said it
12 may be difficult in working through this, as
13 we make amendments and make adjustments, but
14 that's for one what we are paid for, so I
15 think we would do more justice to it by
16 allowing time to examine it and presenting
17 it next week. If it does take longer to go
18 through that's fine, but I think the
19 suggestions that you made have a better
20 chance of being approved by tabling it and
21 moving it to next week.

22 MR. ROGAN: Well, I hope to hear
23 from everyone and their opinions over the
24 next week on both amendments.

25 MR. JOYCE: Just one thing --

1 MR. MCGOFF: We have a motion to
2 table. This is a motion to table.

3 MR. ROGAN: This is a motion to
4 table we are voting on; correct?

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes, this is the motion
6 to table, I agree with Councilman McGoff
7 that it would be best to vote on these
8 individually because I know that just
9 looking at the second entry there is a
10 senior accountant position and I know it's a
11 savings of \$37,400, but it's also a position
12 that the city is going to apply for a grant
13 to fund.

14 MR. ROGAN: I have no problem with
15 putting it in if we get a grant. I don't
16 think anyone would.

17 MR. JOYCE: But I think that we
18 actually have to have the position in order
19 to apply for the grant.

20 MR. ROGAN: So it would be adding
21 money into the budget on the hopes of a
22 grant.

23 MR. JOYCE: Correct.

24 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

25 MS. EVANS: All those in favor

1 signify by saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

5 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

6 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: That is all for tonight.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
11 Mr. Loscombe, do you have comments or
12 motions?

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just a few comments
14 based on, you know, some of what we heard
15 this evening and speakers. One thing that
16 jogged my memory, Mr. Spindler was asking
17 about the commuter tax and why there was a
18 difference in the first year versus the
19 second. I think Mr. Joyce explained that.
20 I don't think any of us were 100 percent in
21 favor of it, we do have it get the city back
22 into shape for our residents that we
23 represent. I work with many commuters, so,
24 you know, I don't feel most comfortable at
25 work most of the time, but I think most of

1 them do understand at this point.

2 But one of the things that was posed
3 to me was a misconception was the fact that
4 we have to go to Court each year for the
5 approval for the 1 percent. I think what a
6 lot of people believe is that each year it's
7 going to go up another percent, second year
8 2 percent, third year 3 percent, I didn't
9 realize that, but the fact is it's a
10 straight 1 percent commuter tax. 1 percent
11 in year one if it's approved, 1 percent in
12 year two if it's approved, and 1 percent in
13 year three if it's approved straight across
14 the board not one and then one and one is
15 two. So I just wanted to clarify that.

16 I do find, you know, we sit here
17 week after week, we listen to everyone's
18 concerns and naturally we are not going to
19 please everyone. We can please someone ten
20 times in a row and that vote we make that
21 11th time turns them right against us. It's
22 tough. It's tough being up here, especially
23 when you try to do the right thing for the
24 people you were elected to represent, but I
25 do find it intriguing and upsetting that we

1 do have some of our own residents fighting
2 the commuter tax and I find that because
3 these same residents they call for
4 bankruptcy. Well, I think it's been pretty
5 well explained what happens under
6 bankruptcy. Our residents' taxes will
7 nearly double, and that's a fact. Do we
8 want that to happen? No.

9 We have put up with over a decade of
10 reckless borrowing and spending. We have
11 been in office, most of us, for a little
12 under three years. I thought we would have
13 been farther ahead but we have had a lot of
14 stumbling blocks thrown in front of us. You
15 know, undoing ten years of damage in three
16 years is pretty tough. One of the residents
17 says, you know, how could people PILOT --
18 you know, payment in lieu of taxes and
19 stuff, be willing to donate their money to a
20 city that is mismanaged, and I have to
21 agree. That has been the conception of this
22 city for many years, but I could hope that
23 what we have shown them in the last couple
24 of years that that misconception is changed,
25 that someone has taken the bull by the

1 horns.

2 The question was asked to Mr. Joyce,
3 how do you feel -- will the city be in
4 better shape in ten years? It's hard to
5 say, but I think all of us here believe it
6 will be based on many of the decisions we
7 have made. If we let it go unabated the way
8 it was, if it was business as usual the
9 proverbial would hit the fan in a few years.
10 We had to tighten our belt, we had to look
11 at things. I don't think anyone here that
12 wants to run for election wanted to raise a
13 penny tax. They know the dire circumstances
14 our city is in, but we didn't want to tax
15 our own residents to death.

16 What I believe and I believe our
17 solicitor and our president and our Finance
18 Chairman have done, probably what some of us
19 have done as parents, when you have a
20 student in college and they run their credit
21 card up they think it's an endless account
22 as the city has you take that child by the
23 hand and you correct things and you work
24 with them to learn where they are going to
25 go in a few years and I think what's what is

1 Mrs. Evans, Mr. Joyce and Mr. Hughes have
2 done with the city administration especially
3 over the past year.

4 There is a lot of cooperation going
5 on and it's a case of dammed if you do,
6 dammed if you don't. We didn't cooperate
7 before, we were chastised for it. When you
8 work with the administration now we are
9 traitors and chastised for it.

10 I know myself, and I know these fine
11 people that are with me here, it's in their
12 hearts to do what's best for the 70,000 plus
13 residents of this city, not any one
14 individual, not any -- I don't think anyone
15 on this board has gained individually being
16 on this panel. I know for one I have lost
17 quite a bit financially and personally, but
18 I do it and I know they do it for the love
19 of the people in this city.

20 This is a thankless job, but we are
21 here, we are willing to do it, we are
22 willing to take whatever is thrown at us,
23 but we are going to have to make decisions
24 that aren't popular with everyone and, you
25 know, one of the discussions we get people

1 coming up here, they don't want their taxes
2 increased, they don't want their taxes
3 raised a dollar, it's going to put them out
4 of their home, we come up with ways to
5 generate revenue that's not going to be
6 taxes and there is people against those
7 ideas.

8 The big one right now on the mark,
9 and it's not a done deal, we are still
10 looking at it, is the towing situation. And
11 to explain the towing situation the police
12 department does not tow. They have no tow
13 trucks, they will not be towing. There is
14 15 towers right now that are on a rotational
15 basis that would continue to do the towing.

16 Now, I have been called by many of
17 these towers, I'm going to tell you what I
18 was called, but I have been called by them.
19 I represent 70 some thousand people in this
20 city, I have to do what's best for them. If
21 15 towers are going to be mad at me because
22 I am trying to keep the taxes down and
23 generate revenue to do that for the people
24 in this city then so be it. They still have
25 businesses, they are still towing, there is

1 other towers in the city that have no city
2 business they are surviving. Mr. Bolus said
3 he doesn't do any city towing, he is
4 surviving. Would I love to see them have
5 more business? Yes, I would. This has
6 nothing to do with the individual towers.
7 There are getting a piece of the pie. They
8 aren't losing anything. Some other cities
9 do their own towing and impounding. They
10 are still able to do that, and there has
11 been lot of stuff thrown out here about the
12 logistics, we sat down and spoke to those
13 policemen that are going to be involved in
14 this and they as much as assured us that the
15 infrastructure is already in place. There
16 is very little that would have to be done.

17 Police headquarters is open 24 hours
18 a day. They receive ticket fines and fees
19 24 hours a day. There is nothing for a
20 tower to stop there, the police officers
21 open the gate, let them in, they drop the
22 car off and go. Drop the paperwork off. It
23 is lighted, it has cameras, the cameras are
24 in the police station and what better place
25 to protect your vehicles than right at the

1 police department. What better way to know
2 you are paying the same fee as the guy that
3 was towed by A, B, C towing rather than D,
4 E, F?

5 That's the way I look at it. I have
6 to look at it as a practical view. I don't
7 think we are putting people out of business.
8 Sometimes you have to add things and
9 reinvent yourself. I know, I have done
10 that, too, and that's what I step back and
11 look at. We are not trying to privatize or
12 take business from private people, we are
13 trying to knock the taxes down and not hurt
14 your pockets. That's what it's all about.
15 If it wasn't for this panel they wouldn't
16 have even looked at the street revenue, plus
17 there is other -- there is a ton of ideas
18 that are coming out.

19 And again, you know, this commuter
20 tax, if we come up with other avenues of
21 revenue hopefully, you know, they won't need
22 that next year. I'm not making any
23 promises, but this is an active proactive
24 panel here looking at ways to make this city
25 what it once was, reduce the taxes and bring

1 it to where it was.

2 But for those that come here week
3 after week and expect us to make changes
4 overnight it's not going to happen, and the
5 city in two or three years may look the
6 same, but I am confident that in ten years
7 what we have done in the last two years and
8 going forward will be witnessed when we are
9 long gone and done being lambasted by
10 certain individuals then they are going to
11 realize, "You know what, boy, if they didn't
12 stop that at that we would be a lot worse
13 off than we were."

14 That's the way I feel, but I do
15 believe that anything we can do to generate
16 revenue for this city, and we are not taking
17 a whole ball of whacks, we are not taking
18 everything out of their pockets, we have to
19 do it. We can't have it both ways. We
20 can't reduce your taxes and take care of
21 everybody else. That's been the innate
22 problem in this city. A lot of people have
23 been taken care of for years with money they
24 could have been dumped back into the city.
25 We all know that. It's hard to prove a lot

1 of it, but we all know that.

2 But I'll tell you what, there is new
3 sheriffs in town here and this is where it's
4 going to be and I believe that we are doing
5 everything we can to offset any tax
6 increases, and I have to say I have been
7 very busy. I have been in some phone
8 conversations with Mrs. Evans and Mr. Joyce,
9 but God bless them, I know the time they
10 have put in on this budget, along with
11 Solicitor Hughes and Mrs. Krake and our
12 office staff, I know that personally. I
13 have been at meetings when I could and I
14 haven't been able to make half as many as I
15 should have, but they were there. They have
16 done it. I applaud them. It's a tough,
17 daunting task, but I know their hearts are
18 in the same place as mine, their beliefs are
19 the same as mine. We may not always agree,
20 probably 99 percent of the time we do, maybe
21 a little bit more than me and my wife agree,
22 but we are all in the same boat here, we
23 want to see the city thrive. Sometimes
24 other ideas are different and, you know, you
25 look at them and everything, but I do feel

1 confident that we do our homework when we
2 make these votes and everyone for their own
3 individual reason makes their vote on
4 certain issues.

5 But I honestly am going to say I'm
6 representing over 70,000 people, I'm going
7 to be intimidated by 15 people when it comes
8 down to it. That's been the nature of the
9 beast in this area. You know, there is a
10 lot of influence out there, and I know there
11 is nothing more to be done to me. I'm here
12 for you. And that's all I have to say.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Loscombe, it does
16 effect everyone though. If the cars are
17 going to be placed into a city lot it does
18 effect everyone, and that's what I'm trying
19 to get across that it's not just about -- it
20 is a -- part of it is about the businesses.
21 The city should not go after a business.
22 You know, it's one thing when a city has to
23 lay off city employees, which we have done
24 in the past to save money, but it's another
25 thing when a city is going to put out other

1 tax paying businesses and at the same time
2 it can hurt other residents who are going to
3 have their vehicles in these lots.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: I think it's a better
5 situation for the residents knowing where
6 their vehicles are and not going all over
7 town look for them and knowing they are
8 under police protection. I said that's my
9 belief, you could have your belief, and
10 that's a little bit different.

11 MR. ROGAN: We are going to have
12 police officers watching vehicles, which I'm
13 sure they'll do more than a fine job of
14 doing it, but I think they'd be better off
15 on the streets.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Rogan, those
17 police officers are in the building there,
18 watching on the cameras in the building.
19 It's right at their headquarters. But, you
20 know, I'm not going to get in an argument
21 over this because we do have our
22 differences, but I think taking care of 70
23 some thousand people right now is more of a
24 benefit than 15 and that's my belief.

25 We have to get our taxes down and we

1 have to get revenue in this city to get us
2 back in shape and if we don't keep doing
3 these nickle and dime things, they
4 accumulate to hundreds of thousands of
5 dollars and that's my belief at this point.

6 MS. EVANS: I am going to hold my
7 comments this evening until next week
8 because this is a lengthy meeting and we
9 have a very lengthy agenda ahead of us on
10 which to vote.

11 I just want to say though very
12 quickly that I agree with what Mr. Loscombe
13 had to say. It needed to be said and you
14 your statements are absolutely accurate. I
15 think what we are forgetting about here is
16 let's just, and this is piggybacking what
17 Mr. Loscombe said, let's flip the coin, take
18 a look at the other side of the coin here,
19 what's being proposed here is catering to a
20 special interest group and that's special
21 interest group pumps a lot of money into
22 political campaigns, and I don't think it's
23 right to cater to a special interest group
24 at the expense of all of the taxpayers of
25 this city. And I know that, you know,

1 everyone, everyone has received calls. I
2 would say probably with the exception of me,
3 but that's because these individuals like to
4 call my husband instead, but they don't call
5 me.

6 I've also been told that a council
7 member met with them, you know, maybe went
8 out to eat with them, but the point is,
9 again, the city is not going to survive if
10 every time you turn around you say no to a
11 new idea, a new suggestion that's going to
12 bring in revenue because it's going to hurt
13 a special interest group. That's got to
14 stop and --

15 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, I don't want
16 to belabor this --

17 MS. EVANS: No, we are not going to
18 belabor it.

19 MR. ROGAN: No, I just wanted to --

20 MS. EVANS: We are not going to
21 belabor this. No, we are not responding --

22 MR. ROGAN: I'm going to respond.

23 MS. EVANS: And --

24 MR. ROGAN: I am going to respond.

25 MS. EVANS: You have interrupted me

1 and I am going to finish and then we are
2 proceeding to the voting portion.

3 MR. ROGAN: Then I'll speak on the
4 question on the budget.

5 MS. EVANS: And when you asked
6 before about motions and the procedure for
7 motions, I think the situations are going to
8 dictate the motions because there are times
9 when there is great urgency, when something
10 may be in a Seventh Order vote and someone
11 notices that something is inappropriate or
12 inaccurate within the language and it has to
13 be changed quickly. Other times we have
14 tabled things. There have been motions
15 proposed in advance and motions, many
16 motions, I know, you typically, you know,
17 over the last three years do your motions
18 same time that you present them.

19 MR. ROGAN: Many of us do.

20 MS. EVANS: You pass them out --
21 well, in this case though it's something
22 that's pertaining to the legislation itself.

23 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, the budget
24 last year Mr. Joyce did not provide a copy
25 to many of us before and I voted for it.

1 MS. EVANS: And it's been run
2 through our office so, you know, I don't
3 want to belabor it any more.

4 MR. ROGAN: It was done last year
5 with the budget amendments.

6 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan, I don't want
7 to engage in this grandiose debate about I
8 know you are --

9 MR. ROGAN: We are a legislative
10 body, that's what we're here to do.

11 MS. EVANS: I know you are, but what
12 am I, it's over. I am the Chairman of Rules
13 --

14 MR. ROGAN: You are.

15 MS. EVANS: And it is over.

16 MR. ROGAN: You are the chairman --
17 woman. Mrs. Krake?

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
19 ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A FOURTEEN MILLION
20 (\$14,000,000.00) DOLLAR PRINCIPAL AMOUNT,
21 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE OF THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON KNOWN AS TAN SERIES 2013-A AWARDED
23 TO AMALGAMATED BANK; DETERMINING THE FORM
24 AND TERM OF SAID NOTE; AWARDING SAID NOTE;
25 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FILING OF

1 CERTAIN DOCUMENTS; AND DIRECTING THE PROPER
2 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE
3 ANY AND ALL OTHER ACTIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED
4 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF SAID
5 NOTE.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question? I just
12 wanted to present some of the information
13 regarding the TAN, \$14 million is the
14 principal amount. 4.95 percent is the
15 annual interest rate. For January 2013
16 through June 2013, Amalgamated will retain
17 55 percent of the earned income tax and 45
18 percent of the EIT is returned to the city
19 on a daily basis.

20 From July 2013 until the obligation
21 is paid in full, 70 percent will be
22 forwarded to Amalgamated and 30 percent of
23 the said revenue will be forwarded to the
24 city each business day.

25 Is there anyone else on the

1 question? All those in favor signify by
2 saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

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

10 READING BY TITLE – FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 76,
11 2012 – AN ORDINANCE - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING
12 FOR THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF STORMWATER
13 MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE
14 LACKAWANNA RIVER WATERSHED PURSUANT TO
15 PENNSYLVANIA’S STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ACT,
16 ACT 167, AS AMENDED; BY PROVIDING FOR THE
17 APPROVAL OF STORMWATER PLANS, PROVIDING
18 STANDARDS AND METHODOLOGIES FOR THE DESIGN
19 OF STORMWATER CONTROLS; THE ADMINISTRATION
20 OF THIS ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON
21 AND PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS
22 ORDINANCE.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A

1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
12 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 77, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
13 - APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES
14 OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD
15 COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2013
16 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2013 BY THE
17 ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING
18 BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2013.

19 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
20 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

21 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-B
22 pass reading by title.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I

1 would just like to respond regarding the
2 accusation of political donations that
3 Mrs. Evans made. You can check my campaign
4 finance reports when I ran I have never
5 accepted a dime from any of the towers.

6 MS. EVANS: It wasn't directed at
7 you. The contributions that I was referring
8 to were given to the mayor during his
9 campaign for various offices. Is there
10 anyone else on the question?

11 All those in favor signify by saying
12 aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

17 MR. MCGOFF: No.

18 MR. ROGAN: I apologize, no. That's
19 a "no" vote.

20 MS. EVANS: I believe the ayes have
21 it and so moved.

22 MR. ROGAN: I thought we were on
23 6-A, my apologies.

24 MS. EVANS: That's all right.

25 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 78, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
2 - APPROVING FEE SCHEDULE FOR DELINQUENT TAX
3 SEARCHES, DELINQUENT AND CURRENT REFUSE
4 SEARCHES, AND LIEN/CONDEMNATION SEARCHES.

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

7 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-C
8 pass reading by title.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

16 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
20 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 79, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
21 - REPEALING ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES REGARDING
22 FINES TO BE IMPOSED FOR POLICE AND FIRE
23 DEPARTMENTS' RESPONSES TO FALSE ALARMS IN
24 THE CITY; ESTABLISHING FINES TO BE IMPOSED
25 FOR THE ACTIVATION OF AN ALARM DEVICE WHICH

1 IS DETERMINED TO BE FALSE ALARM BY THE
2 POLICE DEPARTMENT OR FIRE DEPARTMENT;
3 AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION AND
4 ENFORCEMENT OF SAID FINES; AND PRESCRIBING
5 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
9 pass reading by title.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
20 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
21 WORKS FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 74,
22 2012 - AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF AN
23 UNOPENED RIGHT-OF WAY KNOWN AS THE 200 BLOCK
24 OF MCDONOUGH STREET CONSISTING OF AN AREA
25 150 FEET LONG BETWEEN 39.31 AND 39.62 FEET

1 WIDE LOCATED BETWEEN GREG COURT
2 (UNDEVELOPED) AND COLLIERY AVENUE IN THE
3 CITY OF SCRANTON, AS MORE PARTICULARLY
4 DESCRIBED IN THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND MAP
5 ATTACHED HERETO, UNDER AND SUBJECT TO A
6 PERMANENT EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF
7 WAY GRANTED TO THE SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE
8 CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA OVER THE
9 ENTIRE VACATED AREA.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-A.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

19 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR
7 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 75, 2012 - AN
8 ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF
9 SCRANTON BY IMPOSING A TAX UPON THE
10 PRIVILEGE OF ATTENDING OR ENGAGING IN
11 AMUSEMENTS, INCLUDING EVERY FORM OF
12 ENTERTAINMENT, DIVERSION, SPORT, RECREATION
13 AND PASTIME, REQUIRING ALL PERSONS,
14 PARTNERSHIPS, ASSOCIATIONS AND CORPORATIONS
15 CONDUCTING PLACES OF AMUSEMENTS; IMPOSING
16 DUTIES
17 AND CONFERRING POWERS UPON THE TREASURER OF
18 THE CITY OF SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING THE METHOD
19 AND MANNER OF COLLECTING THE TAX IMPOSED BY
20 THIS ORDINANCE; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
21 THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

22 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to amend
23 Item 7-B as per the following changes:

24 (1). In the "Now, therefore,"
25 clause delete 10 percent to insert 5

1 percent.

2 (2). In Section 5-A, student
3 activities, on the third line after public
4 schools insert "And private schools" and
5 after "public school districts" insert "and
6 private school districts."

7 (3). In Section 7-A delete "10
8 percent" and insert "5 percent."

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Thank you for the
12 amendments to include private schools. I
13 think it's an equitable thing to do.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MR. JOYCE: No problem.

16 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
17 question? All those in favor of the motion
18 to amend Item 7-B signify by saying aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
24 have it and so moved.

25 What the recommendation of the

1 chair --

2 MR. MCGOFF: Is there a second?

3 I'll second that, on the original motion --

4 MS. EVANS: To amend?

5 MR. MCGOFF: My fault.

6 MS. EVANS: We voted to amend so now
7 we are going back to the original.

8 MR. MCGOFF: I know.

9 MS. EVANS: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chair for the
11 Committee on Finance?

12 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-B, as amended.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
17 call, please?

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
3 Item 7-B, as amended, legally and lawfully
4 adopted.

5 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION -
7 RESOLUTION NO. 52, 2012 - AUTHORIZING
8 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
9 OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
10 SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT NO.
11 041222-C WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
12 PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING
13 THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE DESIGN OF THE
14 ROCKWELL AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT AND UPDATING
15 VARIOUS EXHIBITS RELATING TO SAME.

16 MS. EVANS: What is the
17 recommendation of the Chair for the
18 Committee on Finance?

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

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
24 call, please?

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

3 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
10 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

11 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
13 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 53, 2012
14 - RATIFYING AND APPROVING OF THE EXECUTION
15 AND SUBMISSION OF THE GRANT APPLICATION BY
16 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
17 PENNSYLVANIA ACTING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH
18 FINANCING AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL SHARE
19 ACCOUNT GRANT, PURSUANT TO THE PA RACE
20 HORSE DEVELOPMENT AND GAMING ACT, IN THE
21 AMOUNT OF \$2,044,000.00 IN SUPPORT OF THE
22 CITY OF SCRANTON PAVING PROJECT THROUGHOUT
23 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
25 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT, IF

1 SUCCESSFUL, COORDINATING AND DISBURSING THE
2 GRANT FUNDS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON PAVING
3 PROJECT.

4 MS. EVANS: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chair for the
6 Committee on Community Development?

7 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
8 Committee on Community Development, I
9 recommend final passage of Item 7-D.

10 MR. JOYCE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I think we should
13 commend the work that Sandy Opshinski did in
14 obtaining this grant, which was so severely
15 needed for paving in the city.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. And, in fact, I
17 sent her an e-mail expressing just that.
18 Anyone else on the question? Roll call,
19 please.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: A point of interest,
7 Mrs. Evans, I just wanted to verify that we
8 did do roll call on 7-B and C?

9 MS. EVANS: On 7-D?

10 MS. KRAKE: I just wanted to verify
11 with Mrs. Marciano if she does have roll
12 call answers for each of the Seventh Order
13 items?

14 MS. MARCIANO: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MS. KRAKE: Thank you very much.

17 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION -
19 RESOLUTION NO. 54, 2012 - AMENDING
20 RESOLUTION NO. 45, 2012, AUTHORIZING THE
21 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
22 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A
23 LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN FROM THE
24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT LOAN
25 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.34 IN AN AMOUNT

1 NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 TO FRECKLES &
2 FRILLS, INC. TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT,
3 TO INCLUDE THE GUARANTEE OF EARLY
4 DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES, LLC.

5 MS. EVANS: What is the
6 recommendation of the Chair for the
7 Committee on Community Development?

8 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
9 Committee on Community Development, I
10 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

11 MR. JOYCE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
13 call, please?

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

25 Before we conclude tonight, I'd like

1 to wish everyone in our Jewish community a
2 very blessed and happy Hanukah and I ask
3 everyone to remember our servicemen and
4 women who gave the ultimate sacrifice at
5 Pearl Harbor as we celebrate tomorrow
6 national Pearl Harbor recognition day.

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

9 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

10 MR. GERVASI: Mrs. Evans, before you
11 adjourned, 7-B I believe you made an
12 amendment to it, does that require public
13 comment, in Seventh Order if you make an
14 amendment during Seventh Order?

15 MS. EVANS: It's not required, but
16 we can do it and before we adjourn we can
17 actually allow anyone.

18 MR. GERVASI: No comment, I just
19 wondered it that's the rule.

20 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone who
21 would like to comment? Okay. Then if there
22 is no further business, I'll entertain a
23 motion to adjourn.

24 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

25 MS. EVANS: This meeting is

adjourned.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER