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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF
(Not present.)

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here. Let the record
13 show that Councilman McGoff is unable to
14 attend tonight's meeting due to family
15 commitments. Dispense with the reading of
16 the minutes.

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

18 AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING BOARD TO BE
19 HELD

20 JULY 13, 2011.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
24 REPORT OF APPEAL HEARINGS FOR JUNE 22, 2011.

25 MS. KRAKE: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S
3 REPORT OF APPEAL HEARINGS FOR JULY 20, 2011.

4 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
5 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes?

6 MS. KRAKE: We don't have any this
7 evening, Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
9 Do any council members have announcements at
10 this time?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have two. The
12 West Side Falcons football is having a late
13 signup for football players from the ages 6
14 to 14. The signups will be Friday, July 15,
15 from 6 to 8 p.m. or Saturday, July 16, from
16 11 a.m to 1 p.m. Start your football career
17 where Penn State's Matt McGoin, Pittsburgh's
18 Hubie Graham did with the West Side Falcons.
19 Registration will be held at the West Side
20 Falcon's fieldhouse at the corner of Dewey
21 Avenue and Jackson Street.

22 And the West Side -- there will be
23 an annual -- first annual block party at the
24 Jackson Street Skate Park. It will be held
25 the weekend of July 16 and 17 from 2 to 8

1 p.m. Live mural paintings, music and
2 skateboard competitions, basketball
3 scrimmages, food and merchant vendors and
4 much, much more. Once again, that's July 16
5 and 17 from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Jackson
6 Street Skate Park. That's all I have.

7 MS. EVANS: Are there any other
8 announcements. I apologize for my absence
9 from last week's council meeting on June 28
10 because of illness. I hope to catch up on
11 phone calls and e-mails very soon.

12 A resident of St. Ann's Street and
13 her neighbors wish to thank Mr. Dave
14 Medisee, animal control officer, for his
15 assistance in trapping five stray cats.
16 They state that he is always a true
17 gentleman and responds quickly to their
18 problems and so Scranton City Council and
19 St. Ann Street neighbors thank Dave for a
20 job well done. Keep up the great work. The
21 people do take notice. And that's it.

22 MS. KRAKE: Citizens' participation.
23 FOURTH ORDER.

24 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
25 is evening is Jim Floryshack.

1 MR. FLORYSHACK: Good evening,
2 Council, and thank you for this opportunity
3 to speak here. My name is Jim Floryshack,
4 for the record it's James Floryshack, and I
5 live at 109 Emily Avenue with my family, my
6 wife and my son. We built our house back in
7 2002 and we happened to be the lucky people
8 whose property line borders the Scranton
9 School District's new elementary school, and
10 the school project started a year and a
11 half, two years ago, and things were fine
12 there for awhile with us and with the other
13 parties involved that the Scranton School
14 District, Quandel Construction Management,
15 Latona Trucking, and whoever else is
16 involved, but after awhile we noticed some
17 damage to our residence and we spoke to the
18 representative from Quandel about that
19 damage and after a period of time we were
20 told by him that there is nothing more he
21 can do for us and that he was instructed not
22 to say anything that would get them in
23 trouble.

24 Unfortunately, from that point when
25 he told me that the relationship that we had

1 with Quandel, who represents the Scranton
2 School District and the other contractors,
3 including Latona Trucking, pretty much went
4 in the dumper, so to speak, so there was
5 damage to the property and we just continued
6 to live the best we could next to the
7 construction site that went ongoing.

8 There were issues throughout that
9 whole time, probably one of the bigger
10 issues not involving damage to the house was
11 the dust, and the dust got really, really
12 bad over a period of time, so much so that I
13 had engaged the Pennsylvania Department of
14 Environment Protection and finally
15 approximately a month ago Pennsylvania DEP
16 issued a violation for the dust to either
17 Quandel or the school district or Latona
18 Trucking, who was the site contractor, I
19 believe, but someone got a violation and
20 after that period of time the dust problem
21 suddenly started to get taken care of. The
22 water truck was run and things like that.

23 But because our relationship had
24 deteriorated, they never followed through on
25 a number of verbal agreements that we had

1 with the representative from Quandel and a
2 representative from Latona Trucking, so now
3 the project is pretty much in it's final
4 stages and we have some serious issues and
5 I'd like to thank Councilman Loscombe for
6 coming up to our residence last Friday to
7 see those serious issues.

8 I was quite concerned about these
9 issues being resolved, so on June 16 I typed
10 up a letter and I mailed that letter to Mark
11 Seitzinger, director of Licenses,
12 Inspections and Permits, and I mailed a copy
13 of the letter to Paul Kelly, the city
14 solicitor. I had trouble getting ahold of
15 Director Seitzinger, even though I know him
16 on somewhat of a personal basis, and I have
17 called him before, I have called the office
18 number and I never seem to get a return
19 phone call and, in fact, the dust violation
20 that DEP issued was basically because of my
21 efforts, not from anyone here in city hall.

22 So I felt it was necessary to send a
23 registered -- a certified letter, I should
24 say, to Mr. Seitzinger and to Mr. Kelly
25 stating, "Hey, we have issues here. Please

1 do not issue a certificate of occupancy for
2 the building until our issues are
3 addressed."

4 And the letter is approximately
5 three pages long, I sent pictures along with
6 the letter. I did provide a copy of the
7 letter to Councilman Loscombe and I
8 basically listed four things, four issues on
9 the back page saying, "We really need to get
10 these addressed," and I closed by saying,
11 "Please contact me as soon as possible at,"
12 and I gave him my cell number and my home
13 number and I stated, "I anxiously await
14 hearing from you."

15 Now, I have the receipts for that
16 letter being signed for here in city hall,
17 and they were signed for on the 17th of
18 June, the day after I mailed them. It's now
19 July 5, no one has contacted me, so our
20 issues remain. I feel they are serious
21 issues and right now I'm at a loss for where
22 do I turn next?

23 The plans were approved by the
24 Planning Commission and went along the
25 process, the construction project has to be

1 built according to those plans. I have
2 reason to doubt that they are not, we have
3 serious issues that are affecting the
4 property that my wife and I own. We have
5 invested thousands and thousands of dollars
6 into that property and now I send a
7 certified letter to city hall to two
8 individuals and nobody returns my call.

9 I'm not sure if I was supposed to
10 send that certified letter maybe before the
11 primary election and maybe I should be from
12 South Side and Mr. Kelly would have returned
13 my call. I'm not so sure why Mr. Seitzinger
14 hasn't returned my call, we have worked
15 together in a number of capacities. Full
16 disclosure, I've work for the city for 21
17 years, and I'm a loss for what we do next.

18 It's unfortunate that my family and
19 I have to say to Quandel and the Scranton
20 School District and Latona Trucking,
21 "Listen, we need to resolve these issues and
22 if they don't -- if we don't resolve these
23 issues there is a chance this goes to
24 litigation," and that's basically how I
25 phrased it. The minute I said that nobody

1 wanted to talk to us. We were like off the
2 radar, so there we were on our own. So I
3 thought, well, the city administration will
4 help me out. Two certified letters, well,
5 many phone calls and then two certified
6 letters later, nothing.

7 We have all kinds of slogans around
8 here. We have "Restoring the pride." We
9 have, you know, "Be part of the solution."
10 All I'm asking is somebody call me up and
11 talk to me about my problems. I have worked
12 for the 21 years. I try to address problems
13 as they come up in my capacity and if I
14 don't somebody should call me on it. I'm at
15 a loss for where to go now.

16 I thank Mr. Loscombe for coming to
17 my house the other day. I hope he can share
18 some insight on what we do next other than
19 get a lawyer and sue. Thank you for your
20 time.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Can I just address
23 some of Mr. Floryshack's concerns now?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Apparently, this was

1 a holiday weekend and I was unable to get in
2 touch with the parties at this point, but
3 tomorrow morning I do have a meeting with
4 PennDOT so I'm looking at tomorrow afternoon
5 to making the contacts and getting together
6 with these individuals.

7 I ran into Mr. Floryshack after last
8 Tuesday's meeting outside and he expressed
9 his -- you know, his concerns and asked me
10 if I would be willing to come up and take a
11 look at them and they are valid concerns. I
12 made it up there Friday and Mr. Floryshack
13 has made a major investment in this city and
14 he is in an area where there are some
15 drainage problems now there is lawsuits
16 over. Ironically, they have created a
17 water, standing water problem behind his
18 house with the school district project, and
19 it's probably about 20 feet from his nice in
20 ground swimming pool, so it's tough to enjoy
21 your property with the situation like that
22 breeding mosquitos. I mean, there is a lot
23 of erosion yet for new construction. The
24 drainage ditch is full of sediment and the
25 drains are just about, you know, totally

1 blocked, need some reseeding again.

2 But one of the major problems that I
3 saw, and Mr. Floryshack showed me the
4 photos, and I was beyond belief at the
5 amount of the dirt and dust that covered his
6 property, I mean, the opposite side of his
7 home from the field the windows sills, the
8 dust in-between the wind and the screen and
9 the glass. It's tremendous. I think one of
10 the solutions, they have to put some kind of
11 a silt blocking fence or, you know, some
12 kind of a fence up that's going to block
13 that dust from continuing coming over from
14 the recreational fields there because they
15 are still going to have the baselines and
16 everything.

17 There was a lot of vibration when
18 they were doing the construction of the
19 school and I did notice cracks in the floor
20 in his floor tile which he didn't have prior
21 to that and there is several other issues.
22 But the inability for, you know, the
23 government entities to respond to their
24 constituents and work together is part of
25 the big problem here, and what they do in

1 essence is create bigger problems. We have
2 seen that at this podium many times.

3 You know, I hate to see any of this
4 come to a lawsuit for the school district or
5 the city, we are all of the same taxpaying
6 entity, and I will definitely be on the
7 phones tomorrow and within the next two days
8 I should have some meetings setup with some
9 responses and let them know how I feel about
10 it and find out what the resolutions will
11 be.

12 But, you know, stuff like this can't
13 go on because it does ultimately end up
14 costing the taxpayers more. We all have to
15 be good neighbors and I know you stated to
16 me several times Friday when I was there.
17 You love the fact that the school is there,
18 they are good neighbor and all of that, but
19 they have to be a good neighbor. They have
20 address the concerns up of their neighbors
21 before, you know, it gets compounded even
22 more and hopefully I'll be able to, you
23 know, meet with some understanding minds and
24 work this out and resolve it for you, but I
25 appreciate your bringing it to the public

1 and bringing it to me last week, but
2 anything I could do within this next week
3 I'll be responding right back to you, Mr.
4 Floryshack.

5 MR. FLORYSHACK: Thank you so much
6 for what you've already done, councilman,
7 coming over to my place, spending a lot of
8 time with me, and as I expressed to
9 Councilman Loscombe while he was there, I
10 was never a believer that someone has to
11 come here to this podium to resolve a
12 problem like this. I mean, for the amount
13 of money that he makes in a year to come and
14 spend that time he did with me, and he does
15 that year round, you know, that's why we
16 have people working in the administration,
17 the executive branch of government, but when
18 you send two certified letters and no one
19 could even return a call, even if they could
20 have called and said, "Hey, listen, I read
21 your letter and there is nothing I could do
22 for you," but I didn't even get a call, so
23 this is my last resort and thank for
24 listening to me this evening, and once
25 again, thank you, Councilman, for the time

1 you spent with me. It shouldn't have to
2 come to this.

3 You know, if I did this in my
4 capacity in the city somebody should call me
5 on it, and rightfully so, and I have to
6 answer questions quite often in my capacity
7 here, my job in the city, and there is
8 sometimes that I don't want to do it or I
9 feel your uncomfortable to do it, but still
10 that's part of my job, and I won't belabor
11 the point, but there is no reason it should
12 have came this far. There is a process --
13 or there should be a process in place in
14 this building that would have addressed my
15 concerns before it came to you.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would hope at this
17 point that the CO hasn't been approved, but
18 I will find that out tomorrow.

19 MR. FLORYSHACK: I appreciate it.
20 Thank you very much for your time.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.
22 Mr. Loscombe, if you could keep me apprised
23 of that --

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Definitely.

25 MS. EVANS: -- if that has been

1 granted at this point in time. I think the
2 Scranton School Board of Directors should
3 certainly be apprised of this. Have you
4 brought your problems before the school
5 board publically?

6 MR. FLORYSHACK: Yes. I haven't
7 spoken to the school district in awhile
8 because, obviously, our relationship between
9 the school district and Quandel and Latona
10 deteriorated. The last time I spoke to
11 someone from the school district was between
12 Christmas and New Year's, and we had a dust
13 storm then that was unbelievable, I showed
14 Councilman Loscombe the pictures, it was
15 unbelievable the dust, what it did to the
16 house, and I contacted somebody from the
17 school district, and I'll give him credit,
18 he listened to me rant and rave for about
19 ten minutes and I thank him for that, but he
20 never followed up with a phone call and
21 said, "Here is what we are going to do for
22 you."

23 Ironically at that time I contacted
24 Bud Quandel from Quandel Construction
25 Management. I spoke to Mr. Quandel. To his

1 credit he listened to me rant and rave for
2 about ten minutes and I said, "I wish you
3 would have gotten to me sooner, I'll have
4 somebody look into it," and he never, ever
5 called me back. He never had one of his
6 representatives call me back.

7 When we had more dust issues in the
8 spring with all of the dry weather after the
9 big rains and stuff I called Mr. Quandel,
10 got his voicemail, left him a message, never
11 got back to me, and I encourage you to look
12 on Quandel's website. They have a great
13 website, they list core values and mission
14 statements and tell you that "We will do
15 things right" or "We will get things right
16 if we do them wrong" and all of this nice
17 management stuff. None of it is true. None
18 of it. Quandel is not a good neighbor. The
19 Scranton school district hasn't been a good
20 neighbor. Latona hasn't been a good
21 neighbor.

22 I will say this, after the violation
23 was issued to Quandel or whoever from DEP,
24 ironically that afternoon the water truck
25 was running for the first time ever and

1 Quandel did come to us a few days later and
2 offer to power wash our house. They did do
3 that, but in answer to your original
4 question did I speak to the Scranton School
5 District, the last time was between
6 Christmas and New Year's and I never got a
7 phone call back stating, "Here is what we
8 will do for you."

9 And I also spoke to some of the
10 project representatives from the school
11 district, Mr. Greg Sunday, who from what I
12 was told was running the project, I spoke to
13 him last year out in our backyard and you
14 would think that someone like him if, in
15 fact, he is running the project would have
16 looked after our interest a little bit more,
17 but nothing. They just passed us aside
18 because we said we had damage to our house
19 and I said, "We need the damage resolved so
20 it won't go to litigation," and from that
21 point on they had nothing to do with us.

22 So the school district, Quandel,
23 Latona, they are just weren't good neighbors
24 and there we sit, you know, and if I could
25 show you the map or the pictures you would

1 see where our property is like -- it's like
2 the barrel of the gun. I mean, if you look
3 at this whole new elementary school, and I
4 think Councilman Loscombe would agree, you
5 probably could make the argument very easy
6 that we were the most affected out of all of
7 the residents there, would you agree?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Definitely.

9 MR. FLORYSHACK: So you think there
10 would be something on the school district's
11 end from Mr. Sunday if, in fact, he was
12 running the project and from Quandel, you
13 know, getting a little bit more involved and
14 saying, you know, "Well, what could we do
15 here?"

16 You know, and I didn't even mention
17 the garbage issue. There is other issues,
18 and I don't want to hold this all up, but,
19 listen, we tried to be good neighbors and
20 Quandel and the Scranton School District and
21 Latona Trucking they weren't good neighbors
22 and now if that CO was issued I'm not sure
23 what recourse we have, and that's why I sent
24 the letter when I did certified saying,
25 "Please don't issue the CO. Please talk to

1 me before you issue the CO," and then I
2 never got a phone call back. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
4 speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: I heard a lady come
6 month after month after month and that's
7 week after week into months after months
8 about that problem she had with the dust
9 from that cinder block company. What was
10 done? Nothing. What do you expect him to
11 do, I don't know because most likely you are
12 going to end with up with the same solution,
13 nothing. The school board should be held
14 responsible for Quandel, them are the people
15 that actually are causing the problem and do
16 it. If this man built on rock, which my
17 house is, every time a big truck comes by it
18 shakes and it does cause the plaster to
19 break. I don't know doubt he had the
20 problems because any time a heavy truck runs
21 over rock it sets off a vibration causes
22 that whole house to vibrate.

23 Well, I'm glad you finally tried to
24 do something up there in 5-B, amending that
25 so them kids can finally swim up at Nay Aug

1 for free. I hope it goes through because
2 believe me, this West Side pool closing.
3 Pinebrook pool closing, they need a place
4 and the falls are closed. They can't even
5 use the falls. It's just too bad.

6 Now, I listened to that again on the
7 notes, okay, the delinquent taxes, why do
8 you want to stick your hands in the fire
9 again? You got burnt one for 1.5 million,
10 this isn't going to go. They are not going
11 to collect that money. If that other
12 collection agency couldn't collect four,
13 five and six there is no way they are going
14 to collect four, five and six, and we are
15 going to be in the bank for that and God
16 knows what else. I don't know how much they
17 are paying, it didn't say how much they are
18 paying to get these delinquent notes. Are
19 they paying anything or are they just being
20 contracted to collect it?

21 MS. EVANS: They are getting a
22 contract and they will get 15 percent.

23 MR. SBARAGLIA: But no money like
24 they paid the last time?

25 MS. EVANS: I don't --

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: When they sold the
2 notes to was it Northeast Collection Service
3 at that time?

4 MS. EVANS: Oh, the city received
5 money?

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: The SRA did.

7 MS. EVANS: Well, the city received
8 it.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, there was
10 money transferred to a whole bunch. Is that
11 being done now?

12 MS. EVANS: No.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Then it's strictly a
14 collection agency, collecting 15 percent of
15 it, but, of course, when we see all of the
16 penalties then we'll know exactly what it
17 is. It's just too bad the treasury
18 department can't do their job. Why have a
19 treasury department to collect this revenue
20 and not get collected? Either they could
21 have hired somebody for it in there, if they
22 needed more people to work that area they
23 should have.

24 It's just too bad we have this
25 problem in the city where people do get paid

1 but they are not actually doing their job.
2 Maybe they can't even do it, who knows, but
3 these people unless they have the powers
4 that the other group had, they are not going
5 to collect any more, but thank God that no
6 money is transferring, so at least we don't
7 have to worry about them paying a million
8 bucks back, paying the city a million bucks
9 and they expect to make two million back.

10 Well, that's the way it goes. I
11 just hope you look at the penalties very,
12 very good. 15 percent isn't bad if that's
13 the only thing. If there isn't penalties
14 now to assess them and money to be assessed,
15 money for this paper, money for that paper.
16 Like that other list, you are right. That
17 was criminal when we had to go to the state
18 on it and bring all of them legislatures
19 here and explain our problem. We don't want
20 to get into that again. We definitely don't
21 want to even get near that again. I mean,
22 like I say, once burnt okay, you do get
23 burnt, but you should never get burnt twice
24 in the same deal. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Bob Bolus.

3 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

4 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

6 MR. BOLUS: On the agenda I like THE
7 idea under your motions "B" stopping the
8 Recreation Authority from using people in
9 this city, it's about time, and I would like
10 to see that passed and happen. We pay
11 enough in this city, enough has been
12 squandered, I think the people in the city
13 should be entitled to swim free.

14 Also, on 6-B, about transferring
15 money over to the law department, I think
16 before any money goes to the law department
17 an audit should be done to find out where
18 it's been squandered. Paul Kelly has wasted
19 city money, maybe the work he should be
20 doing that he isn't doing we're hiring
21 outside people. As you know, I have an
22 issue with him over what's been going in
23 this city and I think he needs held
24 accountable once and for all.

25 If we look at issue I'm dealing

1 with, if you go to 6-C where it says,
2 "Reading by Title and Ordinance of the
3 City", before the city can sell any real
4 estate, whether it's tax delinquent or it's
5 another property, well, I came here before
6 council regarding the property up on East
7 Mountain that Hartman has built a home on.
8 As you know, I supplied deeds. Has anybody
9 heard from Paul Kelly yet regarding his
10 determination?

11 MS. EVANS: No.

12 MR. BOLUS: Could we kind of put a
13 fire under him once and for all? I spent a
14 lot of time and money and hired a very
15 competent organization to research those
16 deeds. I have done his work. I have done
17 the work he should do, yet he wants more
18 money to run his law department when he
19 should be doing the job himself. This is an
20 issue that cannot sit idly by and ignore it.
21 There is \$50,000 that's on the table for me
22 for that property. That 50 could have went
23 to Novembrino Park, it could have went to a
24 lot of other places. Guess what, it could
25 have went to the law department. Paid

1 \$20,000 of their fees, so I think it's an
2 issue that he needs to address. He has got
3 to be held accountable or we are going to be
4 in litigation and, of course, there goes
5 money out of the \$20,000 that he is looking
6 for.

7 The 16 1/2 foot Hartman doesn't own,
8 Judge Mazzone gave the property the
9 subdivision approval, but he can't give what
10 has easements, what has right-of-ways or
11 anything else, he can't sell that. It's not
12 sold, just a subdivision that's being
13 approved subject to. And it's got to be
14 taken care of. The chain of title goes from
15 now all the way back to the 1800's. There
16 is no breaking a chain of title. There is
17 nothing in there that said by ordinance or
18 file of council that that land was ever
19 sold. No where can you find it. So it
20 needs to be resolved.

21 I also would like council to
22 intervene once and for all on the
23 condemnation of my home. That was done by
24 Graziano who did not have the
25 qualifications. He didn't have structural

1 qualifications, he didn't have electrical or
2 other qualifications to file a condemnation.
3 It's illegal, it's been illegal, we paid for
4 the permit to the city, for the building
5 permit there, and we have never got our
6 money back, yet they won't issue the permit
7 and they won't come forward to resolve this
8 issue.

9 It's getting to the point that I am
10 going to go forward and I am going to repair
11 my home with or without the permit of the
12 city because as far as I'm concerned I paid
13 for it and if Paul Kelly has an issue with
14 that I guess he could run around and arrest
15 who he thinks he could arrest and bully the
16 rest of the people in the city.

17 I'm not going to be prohibited by an
18 illegal action created by an inspector who
19 is not qualified, and ironically, the same
20 inspector no longer works for the city. He
21 was involved in the permitting of Weissman
22 back on Keyser Avenue adjacent to the Boots
23 & Hanks property, which is one whole
24 property, they are both running scrap yards,
25 yet Graziano, it's my understanding,

1 approved the permits and now he works there.
2 So, you know, you tell me what stinks in
3 Scranton? And if that's the case I think
4 the permit should be really re-evaluated and
5 looked at as to what went on here.

6 My home has become a target for
7 vandals and thieves. Last Sunday people
8 drove into my driveway and I have a piping
9 sitting there and actually stole it, and
10 they are on camera. They were videoed. We
11 turned it over to the police department yet
12 my abutting neighbor, Mr. Hartman, stood
13 there and watched all of this go on and
14 never said a word. I happened to arrive
15 shortly afterwards and saw something wasn't
16 right and took some pictures but nobody said
17 a word about it, and this is the issue that
18 Paul Kelly has created.

19 You know, I travel a lot, I'm not in
20 the town on a daily basis, I'm here, there
21 and everywhere, but, you know, it's sad that
22 people like this that are in our
23 administration and they protect people who
24 are breaking the law. Hartman has had an
25 illegal vehicle parked there, a commercial

1 vehicle, for a year. It's never turned a
2 wheel, yet I'm being singled out? He had a
3 pool he put in and never had a fence on yet
4 Wallace never bothered to go up and issue a
5 citation after we photographed it, sent him
6 the pictures and spoke to him about it.
7 Showed him the truck that's there and he
8 could care less. When he was standing up
9 there he could care less.

10 This is the issues I'm dealing with
11 in this city, and that's why I hate to even
12 come before council. I would rather be here
13 on more productive issues, more issues that
14 concern making a better city and doing
15 things than having to deal with the
16 incompetence of some of the people in the
17 administration and it starts with Chris
18 Doherty because I did speak to him twice.

19 Now, he is the head of the ship, he
20 could resolve this in two minutes. I think
21 it's time he got off his butt and did
22 something about it. I don't want to
23 penalize the people in this city by taking
24 on litigation and more embarrassment because
25 of the incompetence or the arrogance of

1 certain people in this city. Now, if they
2 want to fight they are going to get the
3 fight but I am going to repair my home and
4 if they want to come up and file citations
5 I'm saying it publically go ahead and do it
6 because it was illegal what you did, you
7 didn't follow the codes issued by the state,
8 I have had outside inspectors come in here
9 and paid them and we are ready to go to work
10 and it's ridiculous to have to do that, so I
11 would ask counsel if we could do that.

12 And also one more thing, there is no
13 attorney representing me as far as the
14 Hartman issue, I'm the land under this
15 house. Attorneys are representing me
16 regarding my easement and the issues we have
17 going in and out of my property. There is
18 representation there, but not on the other
19 so Paul Kelly has got to get it straight and
20 respond to it, and I believe that's it
21 lastly.

22 I would like to take one moment to
23 say one thing, a very close friend and
24 individual in the business person in the
25 city and a community leader passed away,

1 Sarkis Hazzouri, and I would like to make
2 mention and if anybody could take a second
3 to just remember what they have done and
4 what he has done for this city I would
5 appreciate it, and thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Pedro
7 Gonzalez.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Greetings and
9 salutations to all. My name is Pedro
10 Gonzalez, city resident and taxpayer. As
11 usual, I come once in a blue moon to
12 announce the community events and things to
13 that are up and coming.

14 As you well know, August is around
15 the corner and we throw our annual Scranton
16 Latin Pride weekend. This year it will be
17 August 13 and 14 and we have been honored
18 with being allowed to have it at courthouse
19 square. No more Nay Aug Park. We are
20 trying to work more with the county on
21 events and specific things for obvious
22 reasons.

23 This year there is going to be tons
24 of entertainment just like we do every
25 single year, authentic food. We are working

1 with local businesses downtown which is a
2 first in the footprint of Scranton trying to
3 develop more business down there as many
4 other organizations are doing. It's a
5 tremendous honor to hopefully, hopefully one
6 day many years from now be held up to the
7 same esteems and the status of the Italian
8 festival. You know, we know we have a long
9 way to go. We are babies, it's only year
10 six for us, many other groups and
11 individuals have been doing it for 20 or 30
12 years now, you know, we are still young, but
13 humble to the fact and we are going to have
14 a trait time this year we hope.

15 We have plenty of promotional
16 parties setup, plenty of promotional events.
17 This year we are going to have our very
18 first Scranton Latina Princess pageant held
19 at the Steamtown Mall July 23, center court.
20 And basically all of the requirements, the
21 requirements are \$5 registration fee, a
22 report card with good grades, and any talent
23 would be a plus and, of course, being Latina
24 is a must.

25 Many of the individuals that watch

1 this station are Latinos so, you know, many
2 of them have asked me to speak more Spanish
3 I am bilingual and, of course, our time is
4 coming in this city. Many individuals are
5 fighting it now, they will fight it for many
6 years to come, you know, and that's why I
7 don't come as often as I used to because
8 it's like beating a dead horse or banging my
9 head against a wall. I just don't have the
10 time for it, people. I have more productive
11 things to do with my life.

12 And many individuals out there in
13 the community we have banded together and
14 instead of arguing more we are taking
15 matters into our own hands, again, for
16 obvious reasons and we seem to be doing
17 okay. We are not here to point fingers, as
18 I never do, we are not here to cause blame,
19 we just trying to find a solution to a lot
20 of the problems that are happening here. We
21 are no different from past individuals that
22 have come from other countries many years
23 back and dealing with the issues that they
24 were dealing with in regards to acceptance
25 within this city, this specific city,

1 Scranton. We are no different, so this is
2 how we are going to handle it.

3 Many elected officials wonder why
4 Latino people don't come out and vote. The
5 question is obvious. I mean, the answer is
6 obvious. They get no respect, so why vote
7 for you, and please don't shoot the
8 messenger, that's all I am, just a
9 messenger. Again, I'm not here pointing
10 fingers or causing blame just giving the
11 answer to the question that was asked why
12 don't more Latinos vote, why aren't there
13 more Latinos registered to vote in this
14 city.

15 According to the census we are about
16 to 18 percent Latinos in the city, but if
17 you look it the Voter's Registration Office
18 those numbers don't show and they will never
19 show, but Latin people have chosen not to go
20 to the polls despite all of the arguing and
21 the fighting of myself and others who keep
22 telling them, you know, not voting is not
23 the answer actually, it's adding to the
24 problem. We all need to vote regardless of
25 the fact. Many of our ancestors fought and

1 died for that privilege to vote, but they
2 don't want to hear that, you know, from
3 whoever it is, so I have tried.

4 At this festival, at the Scranton
5 Latin Festival we have a couple of political
6 entities that have signed on, sponsored and
7 are participating in some shape or form,
8 they have gotten a table to promote
9 themselves in some shape or form. So,
10 please, all of those individuals who are out
11 there, political individuals who are trying
12 to run for some type of office, we ask
13 humbly and respectfully that you have some
14 kind of courtesy for those individuals that
15 did pay to be there, did pay to promote
16 themselves and did pay to have their banners
17 up and pass out their leaflets. I know last
18 year many individuals came out and just was,
19 you know, trying to get in front of the
20 people and trying to get on stage and it got
21 a little out of control, and this year we
22 are addressing that with a sterner hand.

23 So if anybody wishes to participate
24 please jump on our Scranton Latin Pride
25 Facebook page or you can e-mail us at

1 Scranton Latin Pride at gmail.com. We still
2 have time for many individuals to come and
3 sponsor and promote their business or
4 whatever it is they might want to promote.
5 We welcome all nationalities, all
6 individuals, no matter who you are in this
7 city or outside of the city. If you white,
8 purple, green, we welcome you. You are all
9 Latino on our weekend. May God continue to
10 bless you all, and as always, my name is
11 Pedro Gonzalez and thank you for allowing me
12 to express myself.

13 I'm going to leave these here for
14 you, some information. God bless you all.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

16 MS. EVANS: Bill Jackowitz.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
18 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton
19 resident and member of the Taxpayers'
20 Association.

21 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: I was glad to hear
23 tonight that possibly the Doherty three fees
24 that were approved may be disappearing. I'm
25 glad if that happens. Also, I was surprised

1 that the city treasurer and the city
2 administrator were not here tonight. I
3 would think that they would be part of this,
4 but apparently I guess they felt they didn't
5 need to be here. Would have been nice if
6 they showed up, but what are you going to
7 do.

8 All authorities should be disbanded
9 immediately. Mr. Eugene Barrett should
10 resign and Mr. William Lazar should resign,
11 Mr. Gary Pelicacci should resign, Mr. Robert
12 Scopelliti should resign. The above
13 mentioned are directors of the various
14 authorities in Scranton. The entire Parks
15 and Recreation Authority should resign and
16 no appointments should be approved by
17 council in the future for any authorities.

18 I understand that the Honorable
19 Chris Doherty makes and approves the
20 appointments, so let him hang out on a limb
21 by himself. When the authorities collapse
22 and cost the citizens and taxpayers of
23 Scranton millions of dollars, let the
24 Honorable Doherty do the explaining. Just
25 my opinion, that is what I do if I ever

1 became dumb enough to run for a public
2 office.

3 Number one, a person who is active
4 in party politics. Number two, a seeker or
5 holder of public office who is more
6 concerned about winning or retaining than
7 about maintaining principal. Number three,
8 a person who holds a political office.
9 Number four, a person skilled in political
10 government or administration, statesmen or
11 stateswoman. Number five, an expert in
12 politics or political government. Number
13 six, a person who seeks to gain power or
14 advancement within an organization in ways
15 that are generally disapproving. Number
16 seven, this is the definition of a
17 politician.

18 Number one, an act or instance of
19 working or acting together for common
20 purpose or benefit. Joint action. More or
21 less active assistance from a person or
22 organization, etcetera. Willingness to
23 cooperate. Economics. A combination of
24 persons for a purpose of productions,
25 purchase or distribution for the joint

1 benefit, procedures, cooperation, consumers,
2 cooperation. Number five, sociology.
3 Activities shared for mutual benefits.
4 Number six, joint operation or action.
5 Number seven, assistance or willingness to
6 assist. This is the definition of
7 cooperation.

8 I ask city council members in
9 viewing audience and members both present
10 and watching the broadcast, do you really
11 believe that the Scranton politicians can
12 really cooperate with each other for the
13 good of the City of Scranton? The
14 supermajority of council has extended an
15 olive branch to the mayor of Scranton by
16 attending a private meeting behind closed
17 doors with the business administrator and is
18 held to their word by not making what was
19 discussed public knowledge.

20 Now, I must ask Mr. McGoff and,
21 Mr. McGoff, even though you are not here,
22 what was accomplished by holding a private
23 meeting and keeping everything that was
24 discussed from the citizens? My answer:
25 Nothing expect to convince me that something

1 is being hidden by the business
2 administrator and the administration.

3 Mr. McGoff, you advocate cooperation
4 so how about doing something about it?
5 Invite the administration to either a
6 council meeting or a town hall meeting open
7 to the public where questions and hopefully
8 answers will be provided by both the
9 citizens and the administration, otherwise,
10 let's just accept the fact that the
11 administration was not interested in
12 cooperating with anybody except themselves.

13 Cooperation, an act of working or
14 acting together for common purpose or
15 benefit. Joint action.

16 The swim free event is an example of
17 cooperation between the citizens, business
18 owners, who are the donors that make the
19 event happen. The kids are the
20 beneficiaries, they enjoy the day and the
21 pool and slide. The administration and the
22 recreation board are the politicians. The
23 fact that the Parks and Recreation Authority
24 would not give the Taxpayers' Association a
25 reduced rate, but instead raise the

1 admission rate to \$4 per person is an
2 example of lack of cooperation between the
3 appointed authority and the appointed
4 department heads with the taxpayers, but my
5 opinion a lack of the cooperation to the
6 children and the kids.

7 If we want to keep the children off
8 the streets and involved in activities, the
9 pool is a perfect place. Not only are they
10 off the street, there are getting some
11 healthy exercise. Instead, the
12 administration chooses to close two swimming
13 pools in the neighborhoods, taking away from
14 the children. Why then claim lack of the
15 funds to pay for lifeguards and chemicals.
16 Also the fact that they would like to
17 construct this splash pool at the Novembrino
18 pool in West Scranton and that the work at
19 the Pinebrook pool has not been completed.

20 Again, in my opinion a total lack of
21 cooperation with the citizens and more
22 importantly with the children in the area.
23 If parks and recreation in the city are
24 really facing a financial crisis, I must ask
25 why have fireworks displays in downtown

1 Scranton? Although I understand some of
2 that was made by private entities. That
3 money -- there is fireworks displays
4 throughout the region, Mohegan Sun had a
5 fantastic one. Every community has a
6 fireworks display, why did we need a
7 fireworks display? We could have gone
8 anywhere to see one other than in the city.

9 So as we all can just -- so as we
10 all can just see from these few examples
11 that the City of Scranton has a long road
12 ahead to reach the final result and
13 cooperation between elected officials,
14 politicians and the citizens. Come on,
15 Mayor Doherty, pass the olive branch and
16 become a real leader and start cooperating
17 and inform your cabinet members, who you
18 chose, to also start cooperating and start
19 attending public meetings such as city
20 council or hold your own public meetings
21 somewhere and invite the TV crews and the
22 newspapers and let's talk about it.

23 Just like that first gentleman who
24 spoke here today, lack of cooperation from
25 the city and administration and it needs to

1 stop, otherwise, the City of Scranton will
2 become nothing more than an exit off Route
3 81 for people to find a hotel room, get
4 something to eat, get back on the 81 and go
5 somewhere where they cooperate.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening

10 MR. ELLMAN: You know, it's nice to
11 be loved and missed. Last night I was at
12 the Giant getting some of that strawberry
13 milk, I just love that stuff, and this lady
14 said, "Well, where were you last week, you
15 and your big mouth?"

16 And after she calmed down she was
17 upset and rightfully so about the -- she
18 said all summer, I don't how many children
19 she has, she just said children, her
20 children swim, I don't even know which pool.
21 Now, she said, they not only can't swim
22 because of the finances, it cost more. This
23 is just a greedy, racists thing, I don't
24 care what anybody says.

25 I had quite an argument at the Price

1 Rite a couple of weeks ago that I mentioned
2 and this guy was just a pure bigot the way
3 he talked about the -- he bragged that the
4 pool was closed. You can't have a city --
5 you try to bring people together in the city
6 and there is a lot of things that all of us
7 don't agree on, but you can't have people
8 like this dictating, you know, policy and a
9 dollar more with all of the waste that's
10 gone on with Mr. Doherty and it's just
11 uncalled for.

12 There is no reason these pools
13 aren't open. I don't care. I don't know
14 how many children won't swim, but it's sad
15 when you hear a mother just telling you, I
16 mean, she told me -- in fact, she said, "I
17 don't use it for a babysitter, I stay there
18 with them a couple of hours," so I guess
19 they're small children, I don't know.

20 But then I'd like to mention my pet
21 peeve about the parking on the sidewalks. I
22 walked down Saturday, Saturday I walked down
23 to Market Street and back with my little
24 Bassett hound and the 2100 and 2000 block
25 there is houses that have driveways and they

1 are parked completely with all four wheels
2 on the sidewalk, it's just senseless. It's
3 uncalled for. I could see letting your car
4 stop and putting groceries out or picking up
5 somebody, but to park all day long, when you
6 have a driveway, on the sidewalk, the police
7 ought to just start ticketing every car. We
8 need income, you'd get a lot of money that
9 way.

10 And I'd just like to say I went to
11 that festival last year and it was a nice
12 event because I love all of that kind of
13 food. The only criticism I have about it
14 they need a stand that sells Pepto Bismol or
15 Alka Seltzer, something, but it was really
16 enjoyable and I hope they -- I think this is
17 the third one I went to -- it seemed like I
18 have been there twice, but it's really a
19 nice event. You get a little food and all
20 you don't spend too much money and I hope
21 that they find some support for it.

22 And again, I'd like to thank council
23 for the privilege of letting me come up
24 here. I had some people talking about these
25 meetings and, you know, like I said a couple

1 of times, I couldn't believe when I first
2 started years ago the people that watch
3 them. I thought maybe there was a couple of
4 hundred people or something, these meetings
5 really are -- they are well watched. I
6 don't know -- how about this. Isn't that
7 good timing. It must be one of my fans
8 telling me how much they appreciate my
9 opinion on television right now, but I do
10 appreciate coming up here.

11 I can't make all of these meetings
12 all of the time any more, I'd like to see
13 some fresh blood come up here and I tell
14 people all the time to come up here instead
15 of talking to one of us, and I told one of
16 the people that was running for office they
17 should come up here to these meetings. I
18 think it ought to be a prerequisite really
19 if you want to run for any kind of office in
20 here to come to a council meeting once in
21 awhile. Maybe our esteemed mayor or the
22 next person that takes his place will come
23 to these meetings thankfully. What is that
24 on top of your straw? I see what --

25 MS. EVANS: Well, to end your

1 been really busy for the last five or six
2 weeks, I have been on delivery routes
3 between New Hampshire and Virginia and I
4 haven't had an opportunity to come here or
5 to bring the tax group together, but we are
6 going to meet relatively soon, but I just
7 hope that the city -- I haven't seen a city
8 like Scranton, you know, like you watch the
9 news in other communities and they talk
10 about the debt, I mean, they are talking
11 about Harrisburg outside of the Commonwealth
12 of Pennsylvania, and there is lot of
13 discussions going on, but look it, we've got
14 to find a solution to the problems we have
15 here in this city.

16 Mr. Gonzalez, Pedro, got up and
17 spoke previous to myself and, you know, I
18 think that's part of the problem. Not him
19 personally, but he stated what he believed
20 to be a fact that 18 percent of the City of
21 Scranton was Latino or Latina. I mean, you
22 know, Spanish speakers and they refuse to
23 vote, and from many of the people on this
24 council, you have all run for elected
25 office, and I'm sure you were at a lot of

1 doors where people just don't vote, so how
2 can we find solutions to our problems if
3 people aren't willing to be involved?

4 I mean, evidently we can all have
5 disagreements, but there is really no excuse
6 for not coming out to vote. There is
7 absolutely no excuse. Now, my father was a
8 World War II veteran, you know, and then my
9 brothers were in Vietnam and now we have got
10 Desert Storm and we got all of these people
11 that are allegedly fighting to give us this
12 right to vote and to change our communities
13 and it's just not happening, and they just
14 don't want to participate and they are the
15 only people that can change where we are
16 because, you know, you have just got to see.

17 I mean, you know, you take a look at
18 the city itself, it's deteriorating and it
19 continues to deteriorate. I don't
20 necessarily agree with a lot of things that
21 happened here, I would like to see the
22 contract to chase delinquent taxes. I think
23 we need to find new solutions. I still
24 think SAPA was a good idea. I know the
25 majority of the council may disagree. I

1 think we have to create jobs. I think we
2 have to find new avenues of approach and new
3 ways to raise revenue, and I just think the
4 fees and taxes aren't necessarily the way to
5 go, and the greatest gift that any resident
6 in this city can give back to this community
7 is to get out and vote. Find out what you
8 think the issues are, come meet the
9 candidates, present the candidates with your
10 opinions.

11 I mean, maybe the people running for
12 office don't know what the issues are. They
13 may think they know what the issues are, but
14 maybe they are not really being discussed
15 and maybe it's time to start really starting
16 to discuss some new ideas and bring up some
17 new issues, and I agree with some other
18 people said about Daron Block and the
19 problem with the new school construction and
20 the dust. Look it, nothing was done there.
21 Those people by Daron Block suffered for a
22 long time and we have had a lot of problems.

23 What the solutions are, it's really
24 simple, register to vote, meet the
25 candidates, and on election day vote because

1 you know what the person asking for your
2 bote is trying to sell you because that's
3 what you are doing when you vote. You are
4 buying something and we can see what we
5 bought in this city, what \$313 million of
6 long-term debt and no solutions and one time
7 fixes and just a city that's just mired in
8 -- use any word you want to determine what
9 we are mired in, but it's not success, and I
10 appreciate your time.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Dave
12 Dobrzyn.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

14 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton.
15 Okay, one of the -- a rumor I heard. And
16 I'll state that it's strictly a rumor, it
17 would up to you to find out, is that with
18 these fees at Nay Aug, especially for
19 groups, some groups are given a rate of
20 maybe \$2, some pay \$3, some are forced to
21 pay the full amount, and that would very
22 disturbing and hopefully you people could
23 figure out a way to investigate it because
24 it's not right. That is blatant
25 discrimination and it's not only maybe

1 racial, but it's political discrimination
2 and shame on our Authority, our Recreation
3 Authority, if that be the case.

4 Now, I have spoken a couple of weeks
5 on trash removal and one thing that popped
6 into my mind Mr. Joyce said about the fines,
7 I would say maybe we should reduce the fines
8 and expand the enforcement, where \$150 seems
9 a little steep, but if somebody gets whacked
10 with a \$25 fine or a \$30 fine and then they
11 get told the next time if you don't stop
12 this -- because my opinion is that every --
13 every trash that's put out should be in a
14 can the day before and if you can't bother
15 to buy a can then you should get up in the
16 morning and put it out maybe at five or six
17 o'clock before they start to collect. I see
18 some improvements, but, you know, it's
19 really important and it breeds pests and so
20 forth and stench and so that other neighbors
21 have to put up with it.

22 On this Sewer Authority, I see
23 council is the subject of discussion in the
24 paper once again this morning, and I think
25 it's important that sometime in the near

1 future we put -- make them put the cards on
2 the table as to what this is all about. I
3 understand some of it because I did talk to
4 somebody when I was with the Taxpayers'
5 filming me they asked me about possibly
6 coming in and to discuss it and so I'll hand
7 this information over maybe to Lee sometime.

8 But, also, understand that it's
9 federal government requirement we are
10 already fined \$2 million and down in the
11 middle of Old Forge in the middle of the
12 river there is a bore hole that deposits
13 mine water to prevent basements in the lower
14 valley from flooding and this bore hole
15 basically poisons the river for any, almost
16 nearly any type of aquatic life whatsoever.
17 In fact, migratory fish do not come up with
18 the Lackawanna River past -- because of that
19 bore hole, so here we are being demanded to
20 spend bucko cash and pay high rates and we
21 have a bore hole that the federal government
22 doesn't give a damn about that's
23 contaminating the river anyway.

24 And a little thought popped into my
25 head before when this first speaker was up

1 about mosquito control, a good tip is oil.
2 If you get vegetable oil, if you could get
3 like a half a gallon on a small pond and
4 it's environmently friendly, it will kill
5 off the mosquitos. I do this in anything I
6 see with standing water around, a little
7 shot glass or two of cheap vegetable oil and
8 the mosquitoes die off, they can't get in or
9 out of the surface of the water to breathe.

10 So now we are down to the golden
11 parrot, it goes to Hamid Karzai of
12 Afghanistan. He calls or troops occupiers,
13 we spent \$3.7 trillion in the last several
14 years, a lot of it on Afghanistan, not all
15 of it, certainly not all of it, we have
16 lives lost and if he is not nuts and lost
17 his head I'm sure that when the Taliban
18 comes he might. Have a good night. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
21 anything else who would like to address
22 council?

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm Marie --

24 MR. JOYCE: Ms. Schumacher, before
25 you begin I'm sorry to interrupt your time,

1 I did want to say that I did receive your
2 e-mail requesting a breakdown of 888 monies
3 and I will send that to you. I did receive
4 that.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, that wasn't the
6 question. The question was a comparison of
7 delinquencies at this point in time this
8 year to last year in the audit.

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I will send that to
10 you.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
12 Marie Schumacher, city resident and property
13 owner. Today's Times-Tribune article on the
14 boroughs and township's police officers
15 working overtime, it made me wonder whether
16 the city's contract with the police
17 department, does it allow police officers to
18 work part-time other places, and if so is
19 there any limit on the hours and maybe
20 Mr. Loscombe can answer that during motions
21 or maybe next week if the answer isn't
22 available now.

23 I also was going to acknowledge the
24 fact that Mr. McGoff did show up yesterday
25 at the Honor our Flag ceremony on the Fourth

1 of July, which was nice to see.

2 And then Mr. Joyce just left again,
3 I'll come back it him. The fire department
4 I learned today approves at least new
5 construction building permits and I would
6 like to ask Councilman Loscombe to find out
7 whether the new construction permits are
8 including the sprinkler systems requirement.

9 And then on the caucus tonight, it's
10 my recollection that city council provided
11 an additional employee for the Single Tax
12 Office as they were to collect the 2009-2010
13 delinquent taxes.

14 MS. EVANS: Just the 2010.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Just the 2010, and
16 now those are going to go to this other
17 entity, that Northeast -- so that person
18 will be --

19 MS. EVANS: Because whatever they
20 were unable to address will go to Northeast
21 Revenue Services and they will follow-up on
22 it, and actually the information provided by
23 the city tax office is going to be very
24 useful to them and provide a clean year, if
25 you will, so that, you know, that at least

1 is one very --

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I understand
3 that.

4 MS. EVANS: -- productive endeavor.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, but that
6 person then will not be in next year's
7 budget because this new entity will be
8 collecting the taxes, is that --

9 MS. EVANS: I think we have to -- I
10 wasn't even certain that they had an
11 additional employee for the collection of
12 the taxes, but certainly if they are not
13 going to be collecting delinquencies any
14 longer, and the wage tax beginning in 2012,
15 I believe, will no longer be collected
16 through the Single Tax Office --

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: That's true, Act 32
18 has taken that out of their hands.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. Then it would seem
20 that the Single Tax office may be downsized.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you.
22 Also, the Rockwell Avenue Bridge I talked
23 about a couple of weeks ago as not having
24 any of the OECD funds drawn down on that and
25 has anyone checked that to find out --

1 checked up on that to find out what the
2 holdup is?

3 MR. ROGAN: I haven't heard
4 anything.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: I think perhaps --

6 MR. ROGAN: We are still working
7 hard on the Crisp Avenue Bridge for like
8 seven or eight years.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, Rockwell has
10 been out there for awhile, too. Next, now,
11 speaking of city actions the first speaker
12 prompted me city actions or lack thereof on
13 issues such a drainage. I wondered if
14 council has yet determined how the Medallis
15 flooding issue from the Village of Tripp
16 Park how that issue is going to be resolved
17 or whether the former Daron Northeast
18 property in lower Greenridge will be rezoned
19 as recommended by the federal government
20 agency?

21 And regarding 5-B, I plead ignorance
22 here because I know it's a resolution and I
23 know an ordinance is a law, but I don't
24 understand the legal ramifications of what a
25 resolution does and what a power it carries

1 or if it's just a recommendation or -- so
2 the solicitor has left, so I don't know, but
3 I would like to know what the distinction is
4 between a resolution and the ordinance as
5 far as follow through.

6 And then I would like to know what
7 your plans are for August, is council going
8 to meet or recess for August, and then
9 remind viewers that the OECD applications
10 for those who may want to seek funds next
11 year or grants for next year's funds I
12 believe are now available and due I believe
13 the 8th of August, but don't quote me on
14 that one.

15 And then on my Ice Box question
16 since I have tried here and I've tried the
17 administration I guess the only thing left
18 to do is to petitioning the Commonwealth
19 Attorney General to try to get an answer
20 from him and that concludes my comments
21 tonight. Thank you.

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

25 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Janet, best for

1 last, Janet. Jackie.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

3 MR. SLEDENZSKI: (Untranscribable
4 comments.) Janet, the Mets are going to win
5 this time down there. Good luck.

6 MS. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chrissy.

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

8 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
9 have any comments or motions?

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes. First, I would
11 like to make a motion that Scranton City
12 Council continues to hold meetings each
13 Tuesday in the month of August. August 2,
14 9, 16, 23, 30, and that's in writing.

15 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
16 floor, do we have a second? The motion dies
17 for lack of a second.

18 MR. ROGAN: Moving on, in the
19 Scranton Times today there was an editorial
20 about the Scranton Sewer Authority dispute.
21 It says, "The dispute shows value of
22 bidding."

23 And they go onto talk about, well,
24 which has now become a legal matter about
25 that the highest bid isn't -- the lowest

1 bidder isn't always the best bidder, which I
2 would agree not always. And in the article
3 they say, "Yet Mr. Rogan simply assumes that
4 the low faced value bid is the most
5 responsible bid. According to Scranton
6 Sewer Authority Solicitor Jeff Belardi, the
7 lower bids contained inaccuracies relative
8 to the bid specifications."

9 Now, they say that in the newspaper,
10 but they don't back up it with one
11 inaccuracy. Not one. Was it a security?
12 Was it a typo? What were the inaccuracies?
13 We are talking about millions of dollars
14 here. For some reason the Scranton Times
15 just seems like they are shielding the Sewer
16 Authority. It took two weeks for an article
17 to get into the paper about misuse of the
18 equipment, and I apologize to Josh, I didn't
19 get back to him in time regarding that, I
20 missed the call, I didn't get back to him.

21 Regarding that article, Mr. McGoff.
22 Who is not here, I won't beat him up too
23 much because he is not here, he said that
24 council wanted to make it a public issue,
25 and absolutely it should be a public issue.

1 When you have public property being used by
2 a private person that's a public issue.
3 That's why we have city council meetings for
4 issues like that, and rates are going up,
5 the flat rate is gone, rates have gone up,
6 people demand accountability and it looks
7 like money is just being squandered at the
8 Sewer Authority.

9 Also, another Scranton Times article
10 talked about Sewer Authority member Liz
11 Randol possibly running for mayor, but if
12 she wants to mayor or not that's up to her,
13 but she is responsible for what's going on
14 at the Sewer Authority among others, and the
15 whole board has to answer for it not just
16 Mr. Barrett. They have all been overseeing
17 what's been going on there all these years
18 and I have a submitted those Right-to-Know
19 requests last week so in 23 days,
20 unfortunately, it looks like we won't be
21 meeting in August, so we are going to have
22 to wait a little bit longer than that, but I
23 will make those available to anybody that
24 likes them when they come in and make
25 comment also to the media, and I would

1 comment on agenda items when we get there.
2 That's it for tonight.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
4 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any comments or
5 motions?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not really this
7 evening. I just wanted to address Mrs.
8 Schumacher, before I speak out of line, I
9 definitely want to get some more information
10 and I will have it for you next week on your
11 questions, and I will speak on the agenda
12 items, also, when they come up. That's all
13 I have this evening.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
15 evening. In response to many requests from
16 city residents for the continuation of the
17 free swimming at the Novembrino Pool Complex
18 in West Scranton for the 2011 summer swim
19 season, city council requested legislation
20 which was drafted by Council Solicitor
21 Hughes to transfer funds from the UDAG
22 secondary payment account to an account for
23 payment of lifeguards in the purchase of the
24 pool chemicals and supplies. This
25 legislation was passed at the council

1 meeting of June 28, 2011, and the transfer
2 of the funds and work on the Novembrino
3 Pools can be conducted as soon as the mayor
4 signs the legislation. To date, the mayor
5 has failed to respond and that there has
6 been neither a signature provided nor a
7 veto.

8 Now, the mayor has ten days in which
9 to provide his signature. However, if the
10 mayor chooses to veto this legislation, it
11 will be placed on council's agenda for an
12 override vote at the next regularly
13 scheduled meeting. I hope that the mayor
14 will sign this legislation and join city
15 council in providing free swimming in West
16 Scranton within the next week. After all,
17 the winners and losers are the children, and
18 city council doesn't want these children to
19 lose.

20 Next, the legislation titled
21 "Amending Chapter 332 of the Code of the
22 City of Scranton titled Parks and Recreation
23 by adding Article III, "West Scranton Skate
24 Park Facility Rules and Regulations"
25 appears on the agenda in Sixth Order. The

1 amendment of the Code of the City of
2 Scranton requires a public hearing prior to
3 final approval of the legislation. Since
4 the law department did not provide direction
5 or cooperation for this public hearing, city
6 council has scheduled it for Tuesday, July
7 12, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. because we wish to
8 see the skate park move forward.

9 Also on tonight's agenda, is Item
10 6-B amending File of Council No. 52, 2010,
11 entitled "General City Operating Budget
12 2011" by transferring \$20,000 from the
13 contingency account to the law department
14 professional services account to provide
15 funding to cover various attorney fees.

16 Approximately \$83,000 was included
17 in the 2011 budget for professional services
18 in the law department and in less than six
19 months it appears that the entire allocation
20 was spent. Therefore, with my honorable
21 colleagues' agreement, council would like to
22 send a letter to the business administrator
23 and law department tomorrow morning
24 requesting a complete breakdown of the
25 \$20,000 in various attorney fees to include

1 the name of each attorney, the dollar amount
2 charged by each attorney, and the service
3 performed by each attorney for each dollar
4 amount. Council requests a response on or
5 about before July 11, 2011. If the
6 information is not timely provided, council
7 will table the legislation in Seventh Order
8 until such time as the information is
9 produced by the administration and received
10 in city council's office.

11 Next, I would like to ask that
12 Solicitor Hughes prepare an amendment to the
13 towing legislation for placement in Fifth
14 Order on the July 12, 2011, agenda. I would
15 like to dispense with this legislation prior
16 to council's August recess.

17 Now, perhaps this issue was
18 addressed at last week's council meeting,
19 and so I ask for your indulgence. According
20 to a memo from City Solicitor Paul Kelly, he
21 has recommended that the City of Scranton
22 reject both bids for parking meter
23 monitoring services. It is clear that the
24 city administration does not wish to
25 generate new revenue through this parking

1 program unlike the many Pennsylvania
2 municipalities that are currently utilizing
3 it and others that have contacted
4 Mrs. Krake's office to obtain contact
5 information for StreetSmart and are
6 considering implementation.

7 At the same time, however, the city
8 rejected bids for a janitorial service for
9 city hall and police headquarters,
10 immediately rebid and is in the process of
11 selecting a bidder. Apparently, a cleaning
12 contract is more important than generating
13 new revenue in the face of the 2011
14 multi-million dollar deficit.

15 It may be time to take a long hard
16 look at the sale or lease of the city's
17 parking garages in order at a minimum to get
18 one financial albatross off the taxpayers'
19 next. A similar proposal is also included
20 in the Harrisburg Recovery Plan. It is
21 doable in Harrisburg, another distressed
22 municipality, it may be well be doable in
23 the City of Scranton.

24 Apparently, the Pennsylvania Economy
25 League enabled municipal authorities to bury

1 cities in debt when it should act to prevent
2 use of the authorities as conduits for
3 borrowing with recourse. PEL watched it
4 occur time and again in Scranton without
5 objection. It, too, bears the burden of
6 responsibility for Scranton's debt and
7 deficit and it needs to provide myriad
8 solutions to the monster it helped this
9 administration to create beyond it's
10 time-born suggestion to raise taxes.

11 Since school districts face serious
12 cuts in the new state budget, the costs of
13 education will be passed onto local
14 taxpayers and families whose children attend
15 our state universities. Does PEL believe
16 Scranton taxpayers can survive a tax
17 onslaught from two or two more governing
18 bodies? The socioeconomic structure of
19 Scranton cannot survive such an attack.

20 Finally, I have citizens' requests
21 for the week: 934 Hemlock Street, this is a
22 third request, neighbors report high grass
23 and weeds, overgrown trees, and mosquitoes.
24 The house is vacant and the property has not
25 been maintained. An 82-year-old woman who

1 lives next door and she reports that tree
2 limbs from this property are growing onto
3 her house. She needs help and council asks
4 for the third time that an inspector is sent
5 to this location and action is taken by the
6 homeowner.

7 1101 Cedar Avenue, neighbors report
8 there are tires and junk in the yard and
9 that sidewalks have been left unfinished for
10 many months. They request that either a
11 sign is posted or wooden horses are placed
12 at the sidewalks since they present a safety
13 hazard to the pedestrians.

14 In addition, this structure has been
15 an ongoing problem for a minimum of five
16 years. The owner has been given several
17 opportunities to repair and renovate the
18 building and each time an effort begins and
19 then ends abruptly leaving this a nuisance
20 property. Please provide council with a
21 written update on or before July 11.
22 Include the measures taken to address the
23 sidewalks.

24 Neighbors report a second floor
25 apartment on Harrison Avenue which a couple

1 and child moved into approximately four
2 weeks ago. Since then, neighbors state that
3 more individuals have joined them until
4 there are currently between 14 and 16 adults
5 and children residing in the two bedroom one
6 bathroom unit. Please inspect and contact
7 the building manager to enforce the city
8 ordinance regarding number of occupants per
9 apartment. I have the address of the
10 apartment building and the name and phone
11 number of the building manager, which is to
12 be provided to Mr. Seitzinger or Mr. Oleski.

13 895 Providence Road, this is the
14 site of the old Atlas Glass business. The
15 property is so overgrown that pedestrians
16 can no longer use the sidewalks and are
17 forced to walk on Providence Road creating a
18 very dangerous safety issue. Each summer
19 for the last three years the neighbors on
20 Providence Road have asked that the property
21 be cut and maintained.

22 I have requested this time and again
23 on their behalf and here we are yet again
24 because absent property owners are getting
25 away with breaking city ordinances and are

1 basically thumbing their noses at their
2 neighbors and this city. I realize that
3 there are procedures and laws in place, but
4 for how many years is a property owner
5 allowed to retain a nuisance property or a
6 safety hazard? How many times will the city
7 turn the other cheek? I have seen it happen
8 all too often over these eight years and the
9 city should take more aggressive action
10 toward absentee property owners.

11 City residents wish to know if the
12 Paul Ross baseball field property located in
13 Greenridge was sold to Lackawanna College.
14 If so, please respond to the following
15 questions: When did the sale occur and
16 under whose authority? What was the sale
17 price? Were plans submitted for athletic
18 field approval? Were residents in the
19 surrounding neighborhood made aware of the
20 sale? Please provide a response on or
21 before July 22, 2011.

22 Fill a large pothole at the entrance
23 to Powell Court beginning at Warner Street,
24 which is a cross street of Birney Avenue and
25 Pittston Avenue. Neighbors report that

1 their cars bottom out when driving through
2 this Court.

3 1606 Ash Street, this property is
4 highly overgrown with weeds and grass and
5 has been a haven for small creatures. This
6 is another ongoing problem. I recall having
7 addressed this last summer. In addition,
8 the gas meter was long ago removed from the
9 outside of the house. Please address this
10 property as soon as possible because a
11 four-year-old child who is battling very
12 rare pediatric cancers resides next door and
13 she very much wants to play outside in her
14 backyard which borders 1606 Ash Street, so I
15 am hoping that the city will do something
16 about this week.

17 I have also attached citizens'
18 requests that were called into our office
19 recently.

20 And, finally, with regard to the
21 August recess, it is the wish of the
22 majority of the current council members to
23 recess during the month of the August as has
24 been done basically at least since I believe
25 the year either 1904 or 1912. Should any

1 situation arise that is of great importance
2 to the City of Scranton or it's people, city
3 council will convene meetings during the
4 month of August.

5 Setting that aside, however, there
6 will be the annual August recess and
7 citizens can continue during that time
8 period to contact council members with their
9 complaints and requests via e-mail, phone,
10 and by contacting the office of Scranton
11 City Council.

12 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, didn't
13 council meet in August in 2005?

14 MS. EVANS: And, yes, and that was
15 under the presidency of Mr. DiBileo and at
16 the time there was great issue at hand which
17 was the potential foreclosure of the Hilton
18 Hotel and Mr. DiBileo asked that council
19 remain in session throughout August so that
20 it could work on that issue and prevent the
21 hotel from going into foreclosure and,
22 therefore, closing.

23 Unfortunately, I think what occurred
24 at the tail end of that was that council,
25 myself not included, basically agreed with

1 the plan developed by the purchaser and the
2 Mayor of Scranton which then caused the city
3 to lose \$3 million and that was how the
4 situation was resolved rather than following
5 an alternate course of action I know I had
6 at the time worked on this issue with the
7 city solicitor and several attorneys to
8 provide an alternate plan whereby the city
9 would not lose those millions, but that plan
10 was not considered by my colleagues, but
11 that was the reason for that particular
12 session.

13 MR. ROGAN: I would just say
14 regarding the August recess, whether we
15 have, you know, something major like that
16 comes up or not even if you were just to
17 meet for an hour if there was no legislation
18 just so the public could come and comment
19 or, for instance, I know some of the
20 legislation we would be getting will run
21 into August unless it's pushed ahead, and I
22 just think that, you know, we're the
23 legislative, we're the face of the city,
24 much more so than Mayor Doherty is.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, the legislation

1 actually would not be forthcoming. Final
2 legislation arrived today in order to
3 receive final approval within the following
4 three weeks, and having been one of those
5 council members who actually did attend all
6 of the August meetings that particular
7 session, and there were some council members
8 who did not, no legislation was sent to us
9 by the administration during that month. In
10 fact, they almost take a vacation from that
11 end of it as well, so that there would be
12 outside of any type of emergency situation,
13 there would be no legislation before city
14 council.

15 MR. ROGAN: I still wish that -- I
16 know obviously it's not going to go my way,
17 we had a motion and it failed, but I still
18 think that a month is an excessive amount of
19 time to take off from any position and I
20 criticized the former majority and, you
21 know, even though many of us agree on a lot
22 of issues, we disagree on this one, so I'll
23 leave it at that.

24 MS. EVANS: And your comments are
25 noted. And, Mr. Joyce?

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Sorry, I'm feeling
2 a little under the weather, so I'll keep
3 this short and sweet tonight. All of the
4 comments that I have on agenda items I will
5 save for when we reach those items, however,
6 over the past week I have been contacted by
7 several residents throughout the city, and I
8 also have vacation days so I did a
9 door-to-door walkthrough on some various
10 sections of the South Scranton and as a
11 result I have a number of citizens' requests
12 and concerns. So, Mrs. Krake, if you could
13 get your pen ready, I'd appreciate it.

14 First, Mrs. Krake, please construct
15 a letter to Mr. Seitzinger asking him to
16 address the following concerns: Number one,
17 the property located at 210 Fourth Street in
18 the Bellevue Section of Scranton. Residents
19 reports that this property has being
20 condemned for quite sometime and they are
21 curious as to whether or not the repairs are
22 scheduled for the house and if the property
23 is marked for demolition if they are not at
24 the this point or at any point in the near
25 future.

1 Number two, the status of the vacant
2 lot at the former of the 200 block of the
3 Fourth Street in Scranton's Bellevue section
4 as well. Residents report overgrown grass
5 and weeds which are becoming an eyesore in
6 the community.

7 The property at 468 South Main
8 Avenue in West Scranton. Residents report
9 grass and weeds that have grown over three
10 feet high.

11 The property at 524 North Main
12 Avenue in West Scranton, residents report
13 overgrown grass and weeds three feet high as
14 well.

15 The property located at the corner
16 of Price and South Grant Avenue in West
17 Scranton. Residents report overgrown grass
18 and weeds over four feet high.

19 The property located at 432 Rear
20 Cherry Street in South Scranton. Residents
21 report grass and weeds over three feet high
22 and also that the home is in poor condition.

23 The property located at 429 and 431
24 Cherry Street, this house is a double block.
25 Residents report that this property is in

1 poor condition and also report overgrown
2 grass and weeds.

3 The property located at the corner
4 of East Elm Street and Prospect Avenue in
5 South Scranton, which is the former site of
6 Scarfo's Restaurant. Residents report this
7 property is in poor shape and is becoming an
8 eyesore for residents.

9 The first home at the property
10 located at the 1300 block of Crown Avenue in
11 South Scranton, residents report that this
12 home is boarded up, however, there is a
13 noticeable condemned sign and it's becoming
14 an eyesore people living on that block.

15 The property at the corner of Breck
16 Street and Herr's Court in South Scranton,
17 overgrown grass and weeds are over three
18 feet high and it's becoming an eyesore for
19 many of the residents that reside in that
20 area.

21 The property located at 424 Fig
22 Street in South Scranton, residents report
23 that this home is rundown and is also
24 becoming an eyesore.

25 And the lot adjacent to 1608 South

1 Irving Avenue in South Scranton, again, this
2 is another property with overgrown grass and
3 weeds about four feet high.

4 And the property located at 833
5 Breck Street in South Scranton, residents
6 report that the property is in poor shape
7 and there is also overgrown grass and weeds
8 there as well.

9 In addition to that letter to
10 Mr. Seitzinger, Mrs. Krake, please construct
11 a letter to Mr. Brazil asking him to address
12 the following citizens' concerns:

13 Number one, the 600 block of
14 Jefferson Avenue in Scranton's Hill section.
15 Residents report various cracks and potholes
16 making driving conditions difficult.

17 Number two, the upper section of the
18 1500 and 1600 blocks of South Irving Avenue
19 in South Side. Residents report that this
20 part of the road is in rough shape and
21 requests that the road be repaired or if
22 possible paved.

23 The 200 block of the North Filmore
24 in West Scranton, residents report various
25 cracks and potholes making travel conditions

1 difficult.

2 Meadow Avenue, in particular the 200
3 block in front of the Aramark building
4 across from the Clarion Hotel which is also
5 located in front of the Nationwide Insurance
6 Office, residents report various cracks and
7 potholes making travel conditions difficult.

8 Linden Street in front of the
9 University of Scranton bookstore in
10 Scranton's Hill section. Residents report
11 various cracks in the road making travel
12 conditions difficult.

13 And the corner of Meadow Avenue and
14 Moosic Street, residents report that traffic
15 lines need to be painted in this location,
16 and that is all for now and I'll save my
17 comments for later on the agenda items.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I just
19 have one quick comment.

20 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just wanted to
22 comment, I do appreciate Mr. Rogan's
23 ambition to continue our meetings through
24 August, but I do want to let the public know
25 city hall, city clerk's office is open every

1 day as usual, the same staff is there every
2 day as usual. We are all accessible through
3 our staff and through via our e-mail on a
4 daily basis, and I know we will continue to
5 go out on a daily basis and address the
6 issues.

7 The only time we won't be here is
8 Tuesday evenings for this meeting for the
9 month of August. Other than that, we are
10 continuing to work. It's not like we are
11 closing the door August 1 and not touching
12 anything until August 30. We will continue
13 our operations and we will be accessible.
14 The only thing that will be lacking is the
15 televised meeting every Tuesday evening
16 through the month of August.

17 I just wanted to clarify that in
18 case some people misunderstood and just
19 figured we are shutting the doors. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. JOYCE: And I'll comment, too.
22 During that time in August when we won't be
23 meeting, I plan on going out into the
24 neighborhoods and doing some outreach in
25 areas where I think it's really needed. I

1 had a day off from work last week, vacation
2 day, so I decided to go door to door in an
3 area of South Side, and I was a little
4 involved in th at, and I received a lot of
5 requests from residents and as a result just
6 talking to the neighbors I just read off 19
7 different items that need fixing of some
8 sort, whether it's a vacant lot, a condemned
9 home, a road that's in poor condition.

10 And I would just like to remind the
11 public as well our office is always open and
12 city council is not a three-hour per week
13 job. This meeting is a forum where we come
14 to discuss issues related to city business,
15 but all council members I'm sure, at least I
16 know I am and I'm sure all of my colleagues
17 are, out there constantly talking to
18 residents, listening to concerns and trying
19 to arrive at solutions. So during that time
20 frame when we do have the recess I would be
21 doing more of that as we will have more
22 time. That's all.

23 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake?

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING RESOLUTION
25 NO. 174 OF 2003 BY PROHIBITING THE

1 RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY FROM CHARGING CITY
2 RESIDENTS AN ADMISSION FEE TO THE NAY AUG
3 SWIM COMPLEX.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question?

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I will speak on
6 this a little bit. I saw this item on the
7 agenda when it released and it caused me to
8 think quite a bit. Since I have been on
9 city council and from the time I have been
10 here, the Recreation Authority has overseen
11 activities at Nay Aug Park and the Authority
12 has pretty much been given the will and the
13 right to charge whatever they want as far as
14 pool fees with no one to report to besides
15 the administration. By exploring the city's
16 website, one can now see the admission fee
17 was raised for a day's pass to the Nay Aug
18 pools and water slides to \$4 for both city
19 residents and nonresidents, so even if you
20 residents in the city and you are paying
21 taxes here your kids still aren't getting a
22 break if they wish to go out and enjoy a
23 cool day -- a warm day by cooling off in the
24 pool.

25 Well, if you review page 121 of the

1 2011 operating budget, the Department of
2 Public Works, one can see that it's stated,
3 that the city parks system encompasses two
4 water slides. The only pool locations where
5 there are water slides are at Nay Aug Park
6 leading one to believe that the Department
7 of Parks and Recreation pays for the pool
8 expenses such as chemicals and lifeguards
9 which are both included in the 2011
10 operating budget. Over \$42,000 for pool
11 chemicals and over \$245,000 in other salary
12 which is used to fund lifeguards as well as
13 other workers such as the four unbudgeted
14 workers that Mayor Doherty hired back to the
15 city.

16 So one must question, what is the
17 majority of the fees collected at the pool
18 being used to pay for? Due to the lack of
19 transparency of the Recreation Authority,
20 one would not know. Perhaps, they do pay
21 for some pool chemicals, however, no one on
22 council knows.

23 But let's see, if the city is paying
24 for most of Nay Aug's expenses, why would
25 the Authority need all of these fees? Let's

1 look at the facts here. The Recreation
2 Authority has a solicitor who is also paid
3 as the solicitor for the Parking Authority
4 which is funded at \$22,000 per year and also
5 serves as the full-time city solicitor in
6 the process which is funded at \$52,000 per
7 year in addition to being the Recreation
8 Authority's solicitor at an undisclosed
9 amount while maintaining a private practice.
10 Gee, I bet people are out there thinking, "I
11 really wants this guy's job."

12 It's time for the Recreation
13 Authority to come clean and report why, why
14 do they need to raise these fees. When this
15 in mind, Mrs. Krake, please file a
16 Right-to-Know request on my behalf to the
17 Recreation Authority asking the following:

18 One, how much money was paid to the
19 Recreation Authority solicitor in 2009 and
20 2010 and how much money was budgeted for
21 this in 2011?

22 Two, how much money, if any, was
23 paid out for pool chemicals by the
24 Recreation Authority in 2010?

25 Three, how much money was paid out

1 for lifeguards in 2010?

2 If pool fees and other fees being
3 charged by the Recreation Authority,
4 especially when increases are being
5 collected to fund a solicitor who also
6 serves as the city solicitor and the Parking
7 Authority solicitor, I think it's about time
8 that this Authority needs to be disbanded.

9 And also, could it be possible that
10 the solicitor received a raise this year by
11 the Recreation Authority just like the pool
12 fees and could this be the reason why these
13 pool fees are going up? One must wonder is
14 there a way to get the solicitor more money,
15 because remember, in the 2011 operating
16 budget salaries were reduced, therefore, it
17 causes some suspicion to think, well, what's
18 a way that we could reimburse some of that
19 salary that was cut in the operating budget
20 without anyone knowing. Could it be that
21 maybe give a raise on the Authority side.
22 It could be. I'm not saying that it is,
23 however, I think we need to do some due
24 diligence-re search into that fact and into
25 that whole argument.

1 If the Recreation Authority can
2 substantiate justification for Nay Aug's
3 Pool fees I would be happy to propose an
4 amendment to the legislation suggesting that
5 fees must be approved by council. It's
6 about time that this Authority starts
7 reporting to someone besides the
8 administration, and that's all.

9 MS. EVANS: I have had the
10 opportunity to revisit some information that
11 I received 2002 by means of a Right-to-Know
12 request regarding the Recreation Authority,
13 and from the bank statements which reflect
14 debits, credits, deposits, etcetera, it's
15 clear that the Recreation Authority receives
16 the swimming fees from the Nay Aug Pool Swim
17 Complex and I would say in addition it
18 appears to receive the donations made at
19 Christmas time for the lights display at the
20 park.

21 When I also reviewed a Treasurer's
22 report for 2009 from the Recreation
23 Authority, no where on it listed -- I think
24 it may have been June 2009, which is a
25 swimming month, no where on there listed was

1 expenditures for pool supplies or
2 lifeguards, etcetera. Now, I do not know if
3 the Recreation Authority keeps that money or
4 perhaps it uses that money as our finance
5 chair has suggested to pay it's solicitor or
6 if that money is turned over to the City of
7 Scranton, so there are a number of questions
8 here that need answers.

9 I might also suggest that a
10 solicitor for the Recreation Authority might
11 be better utilized as a voluntary position
12 because I frankly do not know, you know,
13 outside of the lease agreement that the
14 Recreation Authority had drawn up with
15 Lackawanna College for the sale or -- excuse
16 me, the lease of the Genesis Wildlife Center
17 to Lackawanna College for a dollar fr a
18 period of 25 years with automatic renewal
19 for 25-year period thereafter, setting that
20 aside, I'm not quite sure what services are
21 actually provided or essential from a
22 solicitorship with regard to the Recreation
23 Authority.

24 The officers and employees, I
25 believe, of the Parks and Recreation

1 Department make the deposits into the bank.
2 The Recreation Authority members sign the
3 checks, they make deposits, they make
4 withdrawals, etcetera, so I am not quite
5 sure if, indeed, there is a salary of let us
6 say 20 or it \$22,000 for that particular
7 solicitor hip. I just -- I don't know that
8 that's earned or appropriate. Is there
9 anyone else on the question?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have a few, if I
11 can. I agree, I do agree with both of my
12 colleagues here on everything they stated
13 and it does appear there are a lot of
14 unanswered questions, a lot of things are,
15 again, we wanted transparency, we want
16 accountability, we have invited them to come
17 here and explain some things, they haven't
18 done it yet.

19 But what I find interesting is when
20 they could have -- they did actually have a
21 lease with the Lackawanna College for a
22 dollar a year for 99 years and they are
23 charging children to swim. If they did it
24 right, they could have offset the swimming
25 costs and charged the proper lease, but they

1 went about that lease without even our
2 consent or our knowledge at this point.

3 MS. EVANS: Actually, if I can
4 interrupt --

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

6 MS. EVANS: At that time I did make
7 a request of Lackawanna College to make a
8 contribution to the swimming program in
9 return for this very generous lease
10 agreement so that the children and city
11 residents could swim free at Nay Aug and
12 their reply was no.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: So, I mean, I'd just
14 like to know where the priorities are. It's
15 a Recreation Authority. It's supposed to
16 enable the recreation of our residents, you
17 know, not to enrich other organizations and
18 that has always smacked on me since it
19 happened. A dollar a year for 99 years with
20 unlimited renewal, and again, this year they
21 jacked the price up another dollar for
22 swimming. You know, it's just -- you know,
23 we are still waiting for a response, but I
24 have to touch on it, just around the corner
25 from the West Side Swim Complex that closed

1 down it appears that our own city has torn
2 down a building for a private individual, so
3 I'm still waiting for answers on that, but
4 this just -- I just don't understand it and
5 we have to have some answers, but I am in
6 total agreement of this, and that's where I
7 stand.

8 MR. ROGAN: I also agree with my
9 colleagues, and I'm looking at it, even
10 though I agree with everything they said I'm
11 looking at it a little bit differently.
12 It's not -- everyone knows I'm the most
13 fiscally conservative person up here, but
14 I'm a passionate conservative, and when
15 you look at it you think, "Oh, \$4 a day to
16 go swimming, chump change."

17 But when you break it down it adds
18 up to a lot of money over the course of a
19 month. For one child to swim three times a
20 week over the course of a month that's \$48.
21 That's a tank of gas. For two kids to swim
22 it's even multiplies. If you have two
23 children and they go three times a week
24 that's \$96 for one month just to go swimming
25 a few days. For two children to go swimming

1 twice a month that's \$64. So the \$4 a day
2 really adds up during the course of a month.

3 And another reason why I support
4 this legislation is every year we see on the
5 news that there is kids swimming in the
6 gorge, and the firefighters are called and
7 luckily sometimes they are safe and other
8 times they aren't, but I could just think of
9 myself not too many years ago when I was
10 young, if I parents gave me money to go to
11 the swimming pool with say three or four
12 friends, taking the money and buying candy
13 and ice cream and whatever and swimming in
14 the gorge instead.

15 Now, if the swimming is free all of
16 the children can go to the pool and adults,
17 also, can also go to the pool and swim there
18 and not risk going out into the gorge and
19 swimming. You know, the children that are
20 going there their parents pay taxes, this is
21 a service that should be provided by the
22 city and that's why I support this
23 legislation 100 percent.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

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

7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 41,
8 2011 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING CHAPTER 332
9 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TITLED
10 PARKS AND RECREATION BY ADDING ARTICLE III
11 "WEST SCRANTON SKATE PARK FACILITY RULES AND
12 REGULATIONS".

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

15 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
16 pass reading by title.

17 MR. JOYCE: Second.

18 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
19 those in favor signify by saying 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 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -

1 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 42, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE
2 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 52, 2010, AN
3 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING
4 BUDGET 2011" BY TRANSFERRING \$20,000.00 FROM
5 ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299
6 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING EXPENSES -
7 CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.
8 01.060.00000.4201 (LAW DEPARTMENT
9 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO
10 COVER VARIOUS ATTORNEY FEES.

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

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

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would agree with
18 what Mrs. Evans said earlier, I was looking
19 for the backup myself and there is
20 absolutely no explanation for where this
21 \$20,000 is going to go and, you know, I have
22 said it all along, we have to watch every
23 penny and if the city's track record is any
24 indication, we spend more money on attorneys
25 than we have on anything else through the

1 years, so if that information hasn't been
2 provided I won't vote for this in final
3 passage next week.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: All I have to say is
5 ditto.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 43, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE
15 - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE
16 COMMONLY KNOWN AS SHORT AVENUE, TAX MAP NO.
17 13420- 020-028, SCRANTON PENNSYLVANIA, TO
18 CARMEN SAITA, 517 GREENBUSH STREET,
19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, FOR THE
20 CONSIDERATION OF \$1,000.00.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
24 pass reading by title.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
10 RESOLUTION NO. 40, 2011- APPOINTING
11 DOMINIC GEORGETTI, 2906 COLLIERY AVENUE,
12 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505 AS AN ALTERNATE
13 NO. 2 MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
14 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. GEORGETTI
15 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF STEVEN
16 BARTNICKI, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON JUNE 1,
17 2013. MR. GEORGETTI'S TERM WILL COMMENCE ON
18 JULY 2, 2011 AND EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2013.

19 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
20 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
21 passage of Item 7-A.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

8 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

9 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
10 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
11 RESOLUTION NO. 41, 2011 - APPOINTING
12 CHARLIE SPANO, 718 STAFFORD AVENUE,
13 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18505 AS AN ALTERNATE
14 NO. 1 MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
15 FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR. SPANO WILL
16 FILL THE EXPIRED TERM OF RAY DOMINGUEZ,
17 WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON JULY 1, 2011. MR.
18 SPANO'S TERM WILL COMMENCE ON JULY 2, 2011
19 AND EXPIRE ON JULY 1, 2013.

20 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
21 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
22 passage of Item 7-B.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I know I said it

1 last week and I'll say it again, Mr. Spano
2 is my appointment to the zoning board and
3 I'm confident he will do an excellent job
4 for the people of the city. He is very
5 well-qualified and he really has his finger
6 on the pulse of the people in this city.

7 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

13 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

20 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
21 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER