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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, June 21, 2012

LOCATION:

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. 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. Dispense with the
13 reading of the minutes.

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
15 CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING MAY
16 31, 2012.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. APPLICATIONS ALONG
20 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
21 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 13, 2012.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
25 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD JUNE 20,

1 2012.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
5 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
6 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS REVIEWED AND
7 RETURNED JUNE 14, 2012.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AUDIT STATUS FROM
11 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. AS OF JUNE 7, 2012.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. THE OFFICE OF
15 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
16 ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2013
17 FEDERAL FUNDING THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
18 OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD).

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

22 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

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

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have a couple. On
2 July 14, the Fraternal Order of Eagles,
3 Lodge 314, is having it's fifth annual
4 ribfest serving from 2 to 6 p.m. for an
5 amazing low price of \$15. You will get a
6 full rack of ribs, corn on the cob, baked
7 potato, homemade baked beans and desserts.
8 All of the proceeds with benefit prostate
9 cancer in the area. There will be live
10 music and fun all day long including a pie
11 throwing contest, police canine unit demos
12 and other various fun things to do
13 throughout the day. Tickets must be
14 purchased by July 10 by calling Stella at
15 the club at 961-5495 or her cell phone
16 570-814-3069.

17 Next, there is a benefit at the 20th
18 Ward on June 30 from 6 to 11 p.m. to benefit
19 the late patrol canine Grizzly. All
20 proceeds are to be donated to the Scranton
21 PD canine unit. Tickets are \$10 per adult
22 and \$5 for children, and again, that's 20th
23 Ward 2028 Pittston Avenue from 6 to 11 p.m.

24 And one that I have been mentioning
25 the past few weeks, it's getting closer now

1 is the benefit for "Give Jim Lance a Second
2 Chance" which will occur on July 14 from 5
3 to 10 p.m. at Holy Rosary Center on West
4 Market Street, and if you have any questions
5 or would like to make a donation to the Jim
6 Lance fund you can contact any Nicole Lance
7 at 570-575-6752. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: The Scranton/Lackawanna
9 County Taxpayers' Association will meet on
10 Tuesday, June 26, at 6:00 p.m. in Scranton
11 City Council chambers.

12 The Mary Mother of God parish block
13 party will be conducted tonight until 11
14 p.m. and Friday and Saturday June 22 and 23
15 from 5 to 11 p.m. at the corner of West
16 Market Street and Wayne Avenue in North
17 Scranton. Live entertainment includes the
18 Wannabees tonight, Picture Perfect on Friday
19 and Sweet Pepper and the Long hots on
20 Saturday. This annual event offers great
21 food and fun for all ages. See you there,
22 rain or shine. And that's it.

23 Before we proceed this evening with
24 citizens' participation, we have a
25 proclamation to present to the West Scranton

1 Neighborhood Watch, and I would ask if all
2 involved would please come up to the front
3 of the council chambers.

4 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
5 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring the "WEST
6 SCRANTON HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH" for
7 being selected by the National Neighborhood
8 Watch Advisory Board and field experts as a
9 winner of the 2012 Award for Excellence in
10 Neighborhood Watch; and

11 WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Watch
12 Awards of Excellence Program was established
13 by the National Sheriff's Association in
14 2004 to recognize and honor those law
15 enforcement agencies, watch groups,
16 organizations, and programs that make
17 exceptional contributions to promote
18 neighborhood watch and public safety in the
19 communities; and

20 WHEREAS, the award was presented to
21 the "WEST SCRANTON HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
22 WATCH" on Monday, June 18, 2012, during the
23 National Sheriffs' Association Annual
24 Conference and Exposition in Nashville,
25 Tennessee; and

1 Their efforts have benefited the residents
2 in the area of West Scranton and served as a
3 reminder of how important it is to empower
4 the people and the change that can happen.
5 Further, the watch group organized
6 skateboard contests, basketball games,
7 outdoor movie events, and transformed an
8 on-functional playground into a community
9 garden.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
11 this Proclamation dated Thursday, June 21,
12 2012 be made a permanent part of the Minutes
13 of this Council, as lasting tribute to "WEST
14 SCRANTON HYDE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH"
15 members, volunteers, neighbors and friends
16 for their self-motivated volunteerism and
17 hope that others will join them or follow
18 their example.

19 This is Karen Foster, president of
20 this group, and I would ask if you would
21 like to present any comments publically we
22 would love to hear.

23 MS. FOSTER: Madam President,
24 members of city council, on behalf the West
25 Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch we

1 thank you to this prestigious honor. As
2 president of the Neighborhood Watch, I'm
3 very proud to have a wonderful and inspiring
4 group of residents, neighbors, and friends
5 who have united to make West Scranton
6 better.

7 Recently a friend reminded me of
8 quote from Margaret Meade, and without a
9 doubt does embody the spirit of our members,
10 "Never doubt a small group of thoughtful,
11 committed citizens that can change the
12 world. Indeed, it is the only thing that
13 ever has."

14 The Scranton Police Department's
15 "Part of the Solution" award, the National
16 Sheriff's Association's award of excellence
17 for neighborhood watch groups, the
18 proclamation given to us by city council
19 this evening is testament to this. We have
20 only begun our work in West Scranton, much
21 more is in our future. None of the success
22 we've had thus far would not have been
23 possible without the ongoing support from
24 Chief Duffy, the cooperation from Mayor
25 Doherty, members of city council and all of

1 the city departments.

2 Finally, to our members of our
3 neighborhood watch, you have contributed and
4 sacrificed much for a mutual benefit. Thank
5 you all very much.

6 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, before we
7 start, I would just like to add I was
8 driving down Linden Street the other day and
9 I noticed the signs that the neighborhood
10 watch are putting up and they cleaned
11 different blighted areas, and I have lived
12 in West Side my whole life, which I have
13 been up and down Linden Street thousands of
14 times, and I saw one of the signs placed and
15 I looked to the left and I didn't even
16 realize there was a home behind all of the
17 blight. There was -- I wouldn't even know
18 if you could call it a home, it's a shell,
19 but I didn't even know it was there because
20 of all of the overgrown weeds and brush and
21 garbage. And I love seeing those signs
22 throughout West Side, you know, it's great
23 to see our neighborhood being cleaned up.
24 As a Westsider myself, thank you very much.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

1 Mrs. Krake.

2 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
3 PARTICIPATION.

4 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
5 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
8 guess there is lot happening in the city.
9 You know, the first day that you took -- the
10 majority was up there, I said you should
11 double the salary for your solicitor. You
12 finally got around to doing it except you
13 were a little late you should have done in
14 the very beginning.

15 Your Parking Authority is preparing
16 to sue you. There is no way that you can
17 say it. When they change solicitors they
18 didn't change because they wanted to change.
19 They changed because one solicitor cannot
20 sue the city and represent the Parking
21 Authority at the same time. They have no
22 way of making their bond issue. The only
23 way they can make it is what he said right
24 here, he said you are going to get the same
25 people that paid for the first one that paid

1 for the second one.

2 I suggest that you draft legislation
3 for filing Chapter 9 or Chapter 11,
4 whichever. This the intent to file because
5 when they come back at you that's the only
6 thing you got over their heads. You should
7 have had them resign before you gave them
8 their first million. I told you that
9 before, you should have made that a
10 stipulation. You got a board in there that
11 shouldn't be there, all they are going to do
12 is drain the city of whatever assets we
13 have.

14 Now, I don't know exactly what's
15 going on down there, but there is something
16 going on down there or that you would never
17 been in a position we are in now. There is
18 no way they can pay off \$100 million, I
19 don't care, we'll all be dead before that's
20 even done, and if somebody came in and
21 bought the parking garages or police came we
22 are still obligated for the bonds unless we
23 can get enough money and this bond issue
24 there is also stipulations about how many
25 years before you can recall them. I went

1 through this before, that bond that you are
2 supposedly going to do now probably has a
3 recall provision that expired so you can
4 recall it. That's for that 203 bonds, but
5 you got to, got to, got to get up there and
6 prepare to fight this mayor tooth and nail
7 because really you know and I know that he
8 tried to get out of the city the best he
9 could and as fast as he could before this
10 all came.

11 If you ever looked at the bond
12 issues they ballooned, after so many years
13 they ballooned the payments go up and up and
14 up. They figured you would be out of here
15 before they actually came down, but now they
16 are down and the only way you can stop that
17 because if the Courts get ahold of that,
18 that they're going to sue, is if the Parking
19 Authority sues you for another million
20 dollars they are going to win in Court, and
21 the only way you can stall it is if you have
22 a letter of intent or something legally
23 intent that you may file Chapter 9.

24 That gives you a little work because
25 somewhere along the line they have to comply

1 with that and you are the legislation in
2 that. No one else can draft the legislation
3 but you people. You are it. You are the
4 heart of the city. The mayor he should have
5 been the head but, unfortunately, he lost it
6 long ago. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

8 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie
9 Quinn.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

11 MR. QUINN: Taxpayers' Association.
12 Mr. Loscombe, last week you noted that on
13 Mulberry Street the Mulberry Street
14 headquarters fire station was a brownout
15 last Thursday?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: On Mulberry Street,
17 yeah, it's happening quite frequently. They
18 did it before.

19 MR. QUINN: The reason is I live up
20 on Ash Street, the Ash Street station has
21 been closed for over a year, I should know.
22 I live up on Ash Street almost where you go
23 under 81 there, you know, so that Mulberry
24 Street station used to come up, the fire
25 engine would come up for any calls, so with

1 that closed for the fire up there last week
2 probably the East Mountain probably would
3 have had to cover it, so they would have had
4 to come over and down 3307, it can't go over
5 the Harrison Avenue bridge.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's correct.

7 MR. QUINN: So it had to come down
8 through Bunker Hill, you know. Why I
9 mention this here is because of the fact
10 these brownouts that are so dangerous and
11 they are going to continue as we know with
12 the mayor returning that \$3.1 million. Now,
13 if you get a grant, and just not being
14 arrogant by expertise is if you have a grant
15 and you try to leverage what you have or
16 parlay it into some other grant, for
17 instance, with a state grant, you know, like
18 Pennsylvania Department of Community and
19 Economic Development, you know, they are
20 monitoring PEL for the distressed cities,
21 they have the neighborhood partial program
22 whereby corporations can file -- get a
23 corporate tax right off of a half a million
24 dollars for a donation to help the city like
25 this okay? Things like that, you know, all

1 he had to do is just look around. Obviously
2 this mayor is vindictive and I just think he
3 wants to fire -- get at the firemen and get
4 rid of them as much as he can. I think he
5 said that since day one back in 2002.

6 That disturbs me because, you know,
7 when you are that far away and there isn't a
8 fire station around it's very scary, and
9 there is no doubt about it, when they do
10 have this -- what's the name of this, there
11 is going to -- there are still going to be
12 brownouts, you know, because if you know
13 anything about the fire companies, you know,
14 days off and so on and so on, and it's going
15 to be leave people out of we're going to
16 have to close and brownouts stations.

17 Now, I went on-line and he looked at
18 the FEMA SAFER grant, okay, and I looked at
19 it and there was one thing in there that I
20 want to give you, Mr. Loscombe, and maybe
21 you can talk to Jack Judge about it, okay,
22 since the mayor is returning this. It says
23 that maintenance and staffing requirements.
24 "Grantees who are unable to backfill the
25 fire positions that were vacated due to

1 documentable economic hardship may petition
2 FEMA for a waiver of staffing maintenance
3 requirements. In order to qualify for this
4 waiver, the economic hardship must effect
5 the entire public safety sector in your
6 jurisdiction and not only the fire
7 department."

8 And I think that does and I think
9 that I would rather see all of the stations
10 opened with three people manning them and
11 have two fire companies coming to my house,
12 that would be six man, rather than hoping
13 that one would be up there with four that
14 would be the staffing requirement under the
15 SAFER.

16 So I want to give this to you and
17 maybe you can talk to Mr. Judge about it and
18 see if it can be looked into, if isn't too
19 late. I know it's on the agenda tonight.
20 Thank you very much.

21 In my final few moments I would like
22 to say, I want to follow-up on what Andy
23 says I hope that you will consider Chapter
24 9. You know, Mayor Doherty has been around
25 for a years, four members of council, this

1 is his 11th year as mayor, so he is here
2 almost as long as a distressed city, and as
3 Andy said the bonds are ruined and
4 everything and he wanted it out, okay, and
5 now our good friends at the Scranton Times
6 a/k/a Doherty newsletter, Doherty Gazette,
7 is backing him 100 percent trying to knock
8 you people, trying to back you into a corner
9 with all of the news media and hoping that
10 they will get up in arms against the city
11 council and the majority of the city
12 council. I hope you hold your guns and
13 don't back down.

14 The Scranton Times has been just
15 terrible to the community with the way that
16 they have spun stories for Doherty in his
17 favor that made him look good, you know,
18 and, for instance, the renaissance. If this
19 is renaissance wow. Okay? I would
20 appreciate if you look at that. Thank you
21 very much.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Les
25 Spindler.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
2 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
3 homeowner and taxpayer. Well, it was on the
4 news tonight that Mayor Doherty is going to
5 take city council to Court to make them come
6 up with a Recovery Plan. I hope this judge
7 is smart enough to tell Mr. Doherty to sit
8 down with council and try to get this
9 settled together. This shouldn't be a Court
10 issue. I don't think a judge should be
11 telling the city council what to do, so
12 hopefully that will happen because we can't
13 be spending any money on Court battles, we
14 are deep enough in debt.

15 Last week listening to your
16 comments, Mr. Loscombe, I was very upset
17 hearing that the mayor is going to refuse
18 \$3.1 million of that grant. After that I
19 fired off a letter to the editor, to the
20 Times-Tribune Doherty newsletter, they
21 didn't put it in because I questioned why
22 wasn't it in the newspaper, let all of the
23 citizens know what's going on, and three
24 days later it was in the newspaper, what do
25 you know? Hopefully my letter had something

1 to do with that because the people have to
2 know what's going on in the city and to not
3 accept money, free money to hire
4 firefighters, to say if we are to lay them
5 off in two years is a lame excuse.
6 Hopefully he won't be around in two years,
7 but we will have somebody here that actually
8 knows how to run the city and maybe we will
9 have the money to keep those firefighters
10 on, but we are talking about saving people's
11 lives here and we need all of the
12 firefighters we can get.

13 I want to read something that was in
14 the Doherty newsletter that really angered
15 me. It's in Sunday's paper, "Words of
16 Warning, health, safety, part of the Act 47
17 bankruptcy rules. Mr. Doherty promises he
18 will do what is necessary to protect the
19 health, safety and welfare of the Scranton
20 residents."

21 Well, if turning down money to hire
22 firefighters is protecting the health,
23 safety and welfare of the residents, that's
24 news to me because this mayor doesn't care
25 anything about the safety of the citizens of

1 this city and he just proves it all the
2 time.

3 Moving on, there was a letter to the
4 editor in the newspaper today, and if you
5 read it it sounds like Chris Doherty wrote
6 it himself and then somebody else signed it.
7 I just have a few words for that that I want
8 to comment on. First of all, he criticizes
9 council and the Legion of Doom claiming they
10 know everything. Well, everything the
11 Legion of Doom has come here to this podium
12 and said has come true. Just look at all of
13 the tapes of the last meetings for the last
14 ten years.

15 He goes onto say, this is good, "The
16 mayor religiously tried to compromise with
17 the unions," we all know that's not true,
18 "Restored our park system, attracted
19 developers toward downtown," and this a good
20 one, "hired exceptional administrators to
21 straighten out city hall."

22 If Bob Scopelliti is an example of
23 our exceptional administrators, we are in
24 deep, deep trouble because as everybody
25 knows the Parking Authority is in deep, deep

1 trouble as is our city, so whoever wrote
2 this letter I think that person must have
3 been in a coma for the last ten years
4 because they don't know what's going on at
5 all.

6 And on that subject, too, as
7 somebody said last week it's not to early
8 talk about next year's election. Next year
9 is the mayoral election and I am imploring
10 everybody to talk to your friends and
11 relatives, this mayor cannot be re-elected
12 again, I had a business owner tell me last
13 week, a downtown business owner, if he is
14 re-elected this city will be a ghost town,
15 and I firmly believe that, because if he
16 gets his way and raises taxes 78 percent
17 nobody is going to want to live in this
18 city.

19 Lastly, people might get sick of
20 hearing me talk about this subject, but I
21 have another Pit Bull attack. It's not
22 here, but it was in San Diego, California,
23 but it just goes onto prove how dangerous
24 these dogs are. An eight-month baby boy was
25 attacked by pit bulls and died. This is

1 just terrible. It's all you hear. It's all
2 over the country, it's not just here, it's
3 all over the country. They said the police
4 took away three Pit Bulls and one of them
5 was a family pet.

6 So as I've said in the past I hope
7 council can come up with some kind of
8 legislation to say how dangerous these cogs
9 are and there should be special rules for
10 them. That's all I have tonight. Thank you
11 for your time.

12 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
13 speaker is Doug Miller.

14 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
15 Doug Miller, Scranton.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to once
18 again begin this evening by addressing the
19 mayor's proposed Recovery Plan. For those
20 of you who may not be aware highlighting the
21 mayor's plan is a 78 percent tax increase
22 over the next three years along with a \$22
23 increase in the garbage fee over a two-year
24 period. Both proposals are extremely
25 unrealistic to the taxpayers of this city at

1 this time.

2 As we were all made aware, this
3 afternoon around 2:30 the mayor did file a
4 lawsuit in Lackawanna County Court seeking
5 to have a judge demand that council pass his
6 Recovery Plan, yet another ploy to try and
7 get his way. The mayor's plan fails to
8 obtain critical issues such as the recent
9 Supreme Court ruling regarding payment to
10 the public safety unions. This is vital
11 information that must have before we can
12 even consider adopting a Recovery Plan.

13 For the past month or so the council
14 majority has been ridiculously criticized by
15 lone minority council member, the
16 administration, as well as the Scranton
17 times for "Not having plan." So I have to
18 ask tonight, are they all living in a fog or
19 are they just outright ignorant? I have to
20 conclude that it's a combination of both.
21 Remember, the mayor is on record as saying,
22 "He just doesn't care anymore."

23 The fact is that council majority
24 has offered a plan not just for a Revised
25 Recovery Plan, but in the budgets as well as

1 legislation. Unfortunately, ignorance took
2 over and most of the council majority's
3 efforts have fallen on deaf ears, but
4 tonight let's once again briefly recap just
5 a few of council majority's proposals for
6 the Revised Recovery Plan.

7 We have an enforcement of a 15
8 percent parking tax on private and nonprofit
9 parking garages in the city, an alternative
10 parking meter program similar to the
11 StreetSmart program; and finally, an
12 aggressive pursuit of payments in lieu of
13 taxes, also known as PILOTS from nonprofits
14 within the city.

15 However, none of these have been
16 complied with or even considered by the
17 administration. We cannot have a plan for
18 recovery unless the mayor is willing to sit
19 down publically with council and negotiate a
20 fair plan that addresses all of the city's
21 financial obligations, but most of all, it
22 has to be in the best interest of the
23 taxpayers of this city both short-term and
24 long-term. What we have in front of us
25 right now simply is not.

1 Mrs. Evans, I believe there has been
2 some unfair characterization of you and the
3 rest of the council majority, and with that
4 said I hope it wouldn't be unfair of me
5 tonight to ask you to please respond to the
6 allegations made by the Scranton Times and
7 various cartoons such as the one we saw
8 today and editorials that we have read in
9 recent weeks and let's once and for all put
10 all their issues to bed so we can finally
11 move on with the every day city business
12 rather than having an editorial board tell
13 us how to run the city. Let's also keep in
14 mind this is coming from the newspaper that
15 moved it's plant to Waverly outside of the
16 city so it could avoid paying it's fair
17 share to the city.

18 Moving on, in regards to the SAFER
19 grant, I can tell you tonight I'm completely
20 appalled with the mayor and his decision to
21 return \$3 million of the \$8 million awarded
22 to the city to restore a full compliment of
23 the firemen in the city. By giving back
24 this money, the mayor has yet again put the
25 safety of our citizens at risk. His actions

1 will result in the continuation of brownouts
2 and decreases in response times. This
3 ignorance on his part has me wondering if we
4 need to consider a mental evaluation on his
5 part because it just simply makes no sense
6 whatsoever. Councilman Loscombe, you summed
7 it up best last week, it is like winning the
8 lottery and then saying, "Hey, you know
9 what, I don't want all of it, take some of
10 it back."

11 It makes absolutely to sense. I do
12 not understand what goes through this man's
13 behind yet again playing games and
14 jeopardizing the health, safety and
15 well-being of the residents of this city and
16 he doesn't care. He has proven it time and
17 time again and this action yet again speaks
18 volumes of what he did by returning the
19 grant.

20 Like I said, I think some kind of
21 mental evaluation needs to be conducted
22 because I can't understand what would go
23 through an individual's mind to give that
24 money back. The fact is that in two years
25 over 40 firemen are eligible for retirement,

1 therefore, it will cut costs. We also have
2 the opportunity to re-apply for the grant.
3 These are things he should be thinking of
4 because they are fact, but he doesn't care.
5 He has never taken our public safety serious
6 and he never will. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Miller.
8 Ron Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

10 MS. EVANS: Hello.

11 MR. ELLMAN: I'd like to
12 congratulate the Capri Cruisers for having
13 such a successful car show Father's Day. I
14 must have talked to over 20 people about
15 politics and to a man every last one of them
16 was disappointed in council to say the
17 least. These are the people that are out in
18 the streets that put you in those seats.
19 You shouldn't have caved in. You threw
20 millions of dollars away and the same people
21 that have been blown millions of dollars are
22 still there. The greedy bankers look good,
23 Mr. Doherty looks good, Mr. Scopelliti looks
24 good, and council looks bad. I think the
25 only one going to come out of this positive

1 is Mr. Rogan. You know, don't be mad at the
2 messenger now, this is what people are
3 saying out there. Somebody may as well tell
4 you, you know.

5 The city just is in such bad shape
6 the people running it just don't -- they
7 just don't seem to -- they have never had to
8 do without. I talked to a poor guy today at
9 the grocery store talking about the heat, he
10 said he just sold two air conditioners for
11 \$25, \$30 or something, I said, "I got one in
12 my garage that works, I'll give you."

13 He said, "I sold my car last year to
14 pay for my house and the expenses."

15 The people are sacrificing, they
16 just don't have no where else to go. You
17 guys and the city doesn't realize it. That
18 money could have went all over the place, we
19 are going to get sued anyway. Mr. Doherty
20 is going to hold our houses for hostage
21 again until the taxes are doubled and I'd
22 like to see the day, his taxes are \$8,300,
23 \$8,400, I'd like to see him pay \$15,000 and
24 like it. My taxes doubled like \$2,500 and
25 it's an effort.

1 You know, the only thing in the
2 world, there is one way and one way only to
3 do something about this and it's not sending
4 Mr. Doherty out there to talk to the
5 University because they bought them all up
6 just like the oil companies have bought and
7 owned the government. You've got to send
8 someone now up to Harrisburg and demand
9 something be done about these greedy
10 nonprofits. They have taken -- last week I
11 told you Marywood took a house. A few
12 months before that they took a \$200,000
13 house. Every time you look in the paper,
14 Jesus, thousands of properties are just off
15 the payroll and it keeps going and going and
16 never ends. Harrisburg is the only one can
17 do something about it.

18 You know, last week I read that
19 article from 25 years ago it was a problem,
20 now look at it. It's just never going to
21 stop unless the city sends someone, like I
22 said, to Harrisburg and I don't know if they
23 are going to help. You know, this man has
24 brought us to the brink of bankruptcy. I
25 tell you, I bet it wouldn't be this way if

1 Mr. Bolus was running this city. He might
2 not have the charisma of some people, but he
3 knows how to run a business and I just can't
4 imagine anybody, just anybody running the
5 city to the ground and bringing it to the
6 brink of bankruptcy like we are at doubling
7 the taxes. Why don't you all get out there
8 and talk to people? What are we getting for
9 our money?

10 I told you over and over and over
11 again I can't even walk down the sidewalk
12 there is cars parked on it from Section 8
13 houses with out-of-state license plates.
14 Everything wrong is going on. I got a house
15 across the street a block up the porch fell
16 off, it was sold over a year ago to be
17 remodeled, the man uses it for storage.
18 It's not on the tax roll, he gets free
19 storage in a condemned house. You know,
20 nothing is done.

21 I showed Jack a house almost next to
22 the yard is full of crap, it's -- the grass
23 has never been cut this year, Mr. Juice's
24 house, nothing is being done. My
25 neighborhood is going to pot. That's

1 diminishing my house values. Well, you
2 know, I saw in today's paper, Penn Water
3 bought some property on Stafford Avenue and
4 the city will be getting \$56,000, I hope you
5 do something positive with that money, and
6 you people just need to get back on the
7 right track again and make the people that
8 you put in those seats proud of you.

9 Again, don't be mad at the
10 messenger, you know, people tell me these
11 things every place I go. They are just
12 disappointed in everything. Everybody is
13 concerned with the city, but that SPA is the
14 epitome of cronyism.

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

16 MR. ELLMAN: Well, something should
17 have been done. Those people should have
18 been fired last year. This shouldn't have
19 been allowed to lose millions and millions
20 and millions of dollars then take more
21 millions to save them. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Gerard Hetman.

23 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.
24 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County
25 Department of Community Relations. This

1 evening I'd like to announce that actually
2 kicking of this evening beginning at 9 p.m.
3 is the first movie, the first installment in
4 the summers drive-in downtown outdoor movies
5 series on courthouse square. The feature
6 this evening is the Muppets and then there
7 will be four additional movies over the
8 course of the summer. Rudy will be shown
9 June 23 -- excuse me, June 28; Mama Mia will
10 be on July 12; Rocky will being on July 19,
11 and a fifth movie yet to be announced will
12 be held July 26. All movies begin at 9:00
13 p.m. on courthouse square.

14 Also, a live radio show and town
15 hall meeting on the topic of underage
16 drinking will be held on Saturday, June 30,
17 from 12:00 noon until 2 p.m. at center court
18 at the Mall at Steamtown. The program is
19 running by the Lackawanna/Susquehanna Office
20 of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The live
21 radio show involves WYLK, 91.5 KRZ, the
22 Mountain, and Froggy 101. Refreshments and
23 prizes will be offered.

24 Also, the Lackawanna County Parks
25 and Recreation Department will be conducting

1 an adult tennis league at McDade Park. The
2 league will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays,
3 July 10 through September 6. Games will be
4 conducted from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for
5 ages 21 and up. The registration cost is
6 \$35. More information can be obtained and
7 also registration can be conducted by
8 calling 570-963-6764. That's 570-963-6764.
9 And that's all I have for this evening.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: David Dobrzyn.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
14 David Dobrzyn.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Citizen of Scranton,
17 taxes paid. I have a question maybe that
18 can be answered during motions, if you
19 people hadn't paid the SPA, and I thought
20 it-- had an alternative thought in passing,
21 if it went to Court, and you were ordered to
22 pay or whatever would the original people be
23 retained down there potentially so that's a
24 question I had, and a lot of people
25 criticized you because you paid it, but

1 problems just never end that where something
2 has to be done, we can't look in the future,
3 we always have to deal with the immediate
4 situation. Zoning, we really need to zone
5 out any further tax exemptions, LERTA
6 included. If it's a really good deal that's
7 wonderful, if somebody wants to move a Ford
8 motor plant in here and employ 2,000 people
9 well, I could say, yeah, okay, but if it's a
10 fancy pants ya, ya that just wants a free
11 lunch, well, then that's all we are getting
12 and we are like a big cash cow for all of
13 this and it's gotten it a point where I'm
14 really starting to resent seeing taxes go up
15 35 percent and the city tax exempt. It's
16 impossible to makeup the difference
17 reasonably.

18 And I had another thought, but it
19 kind of jumped out of my mind. Well, I'll
20 do the golden parrot. It goes to Scranton
21 and our reporter down there in the corner he
22 seems like a pretty nice guy, but you
23 chilens' should be happy being our cash cow.
24 We let you be our cash cow and you chilens'
25 should just behalf yourselves.

1 And the Congress in Washington they
2 have an investigation, they just held the
3 Attorney General responsible or in contempt
4 of Congress, and despite the fact that I
5 heard on the radio station a disclosure of
6 some of those who had exposed active
7 investigations, so if they want to disclose
8 active investigations I guess that's okay by
9 them, but it's not okay by most people.

10 And, furthermore, it had a little
11 more to do once again the voting with all of
12 these requirements and people being kicked
13 off the rolls in certain states, that was
14 brought into the picture that Eric Holder
15 hadn't done enough, if anything, on the
16 voting issue, he should have been on that
17 three years. So thank you and have a good
18 night.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
20 anyone else who cares to address council?
21 (Whereupon Mr. McGoff takes the dais and
22 joins the meetings.)

23 MR. HEMORSKY: This is my first time
24 here so I'm a little nervous about it, but
25 when I come up here for is about the taxes.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, first, excuse me.
2 And welcome to counsel, if you could state
3 your name and your address?

4 MR. HEMORSKY: Stan Hemorsky and
5 good evening, council. You ready? I'm here
6 about the tax hike for the disability. See,
7 I have been on disability now since 1999 and
8 I have been in Scranton 50 years. Now, if
9 the tax hike goes up any higher I'm ready
10 to -- I'm at the bottom, I can't go any
11 more. If the tax hikes goes through I'm
12 leaving Scranton period and I have to sell
13 my home. And, you know, I had the home for
14 a long time and I just -- I don't think it's
15 unreasonable to even tax someone with a
16 disability. How far could you stretch the
17 disability check? It ain't far.

18 And what I'm trying to say is even
19 when he goes to Court and he takes you to
20 Court don't give in. Maybe make some
21 exceptions for disability people, there is a
22 lot out there, and we are, you know, trying
23 very hard to live a normal life, a happy
24 life, but the disability needs some looking
25 into. Tax the rich, I don't have a problem

1 with that. But the poor, that's me, give us
2 a break. That's all I got to say.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

6 MS. NIEHAUS: Good evening, Council.

7 I'm Debra Niehaus.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

9 MS. NIEHAUS: Member of the West
10 Scranton and West Scranton Hyde Park
11 Neighborhood Watch. I probably placed more
12 than 50 calls last summer so I hope it had
13 some positive effect calling 911. You know,
14 nearly every week I prepare comments for
15 this meeting only to have their relevance in
16 large part eclipsed by developing events.
17 Truthfully, I'm not even going to attempt to
18 say all I believe needs to be said because
19 the problems that the city faces are not
20 unlike peeling an onion, and further, an
21 attempt to say them all in five minutes or
22 less is pretty much futile. I don't believe
23 it can be done without huge explanations
24 being omitted or without the risk of my
25 being misinterpreted, and as a former print

1 journalist as well as an attorney I
2 fundamentally try to avoid those
3 consequences.

4 I know that we don't need -- I know
5 we don't need for starters, however, we
6 don't need photographs such as this that
7 have no justifiable concrete reason for
8 their being taken other than the misuse of
9 one's power in the press and the taking of
10 obvious political sides, which a newspaper
11 should be avoiding.

12 The newspaper in this town should
13 have one clear objective when writing about
14 local governmental developments and issues
15 and that is the reporting being accomplished
16 with a keen eye and the four pillars of
17 journalism that I learned at the University
18 of Scranton while pursuing an undergraduate
19 degree in communication and history. Those
20 four pillars are fairness, accuracy,
21 objectivity and balance, i.e., lack of bias.
22 That's what any daily newspaper,
23 particularly when it is the only one in
24 town, should strive for and I mention that
25 so that when you go to read various articles

1 written by the Times-Tribune reporters you
2 ask yourselves those very quick questions.
3 Was the article fair? Was it objective?
4 Was it balanced and was is not biased and
5 accurate? Obviously, the Times does hit the
6 mark in my opinion at times. There are
7 instances when Jim Lockwood, I believe his
8 name is, does an admirable job in using the
9 principals of the acronym FABO as his guide
10 in his story, and I hope that when he does
11 he receives the praise of his editors as
12 well as his readers. It is all too often a
13 fairly rare occurrence in this local paper
14 and that, frankly, is ashamed.

15 The other thing I would like to
16 comment quickly on is there does seem to be
17 a stalemate on several issues, and I make no
18 bones about it, I tend to think it is the
19 administration who attempts to strong arm
20 this council into, for example, ginormous,
21 as they say, tax hikes or thwarts council's
22 proposed revenue generators through stalling
23 or misinformation or other rather unsavory
24 political tactics, and I tend to believe the
25 city would be moving forward just fine if

1 those tactics had not been employed. They
2 really did nothing but push us closer to the
3 cliff without solution, without resolution,
4 and these strong armed tactics or unpopular
5 objectives usually end up having that
6 effect. They reach a short-term goal, but
7 they create a far more dire and far more
8 complex problem or problems, but the other
9 administrative did it and in their mind
10 apparently there is nothing wrong with a
11 huge tax increase being the substituted
12 remedy.

13 But the mayor must realize, he must
14 realize as being the head of a local
15 government that in the City of Scranton we
16 have a high unemployment rate right now in
17 the city. We have a high poverty rate in
18 the city, and not everybody, let's be clear,
19 is in type of predicament economically. All
20 I can say is that Mr. Doherty must know a
21 whole lot of people who have the income to
22 handle these type of the increases without
23 batting an eyelash. More power to them.
24 The rest of us may do a lot more than bat an
25 eyelash, however. Many of us would face

1 eviction, homelessness, loss of our property
2 through defaults, tax sales or mortgage
3 foreclosures.

4 I have to ask, does our mayor has he
5 thought through these tax increases
6 thoroughly? Personally, I think what it
7 would create is more than one tent city, a
8 cardboard box city, within the city limits.
9 These displaced people are going to have to
10 go someplace. Chief Duffy won't be able to
11 help in that situation, that will be the
12 city's own creation, and it could very well
13 happen.

14 So without being disrespectful
15 toward the wealthier segments of Scranton,
16 if they did, indeed, support these tax
17 increases that are being proposed by our
18 mayor I don't see why we can't allow them to
19 individually offer donations, donations
20 larger than what they would otherwise pay
21 toward taxes. In this way, the remainder of
22 us, the used car bunch, not the BMW and
23 Cadillac bunch, we would not be financially
24 overwhelmed and overburdened. And then, you
25 know, if we can, we can print up a nice

1 little booklet as was done in my original
2 parish many years ago, and I'm not being
3 facetious, if they so desired showing their
4 larger contribution via a donation to the
5 city. It's an idea and Lord knows we need
6 ideas. May I finish?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

8 MS. NEIHAUS: Nonprofits, that's a
9 nonstarter. Most of them have for profit
10 assets and they should not be getting a free
11 ride, plain and simple, that in my
12 estimation is not even a point of debate.

13 And I'd like to say one final thing,
14 I have a lot more to say and therefore my
15 last point is I would like to see there be
16 convened, if possible, round table
17 discussions, caucuses on both sides of the
18 issues, and counsel appointing who they feel
19 would benefit -- be beneficial to those
20 round tables and let us start resolving all
21 types of issues that plague good government
22 in the city and prevent it from taking hold.
23 Thank you, Council.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

1 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
2 First I'd like to ask, Mr. McGoff, where
3 were you earlier that you weren't here
4 again?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

6 MS. FRANUS: Where were you while
7 the people spoke?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I had another
9 engagement.

10 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

11 MR. MCGOFF: I had another
12 engagement.

13 MS. FRANUS: Another engagement.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. FRANUS: More important than your
16 job at city council that we are paying you
17 for?

18 MR. MCGOFF: I'm here.

19 MS. FRANUS: Pardon me?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I'm here for the
21 meeting.

22 MS. FRANUS: What did you say?

23 MR. MCGOFF: I'm here for the
24 meeting.

25 MS. FRANUS: The meeting starts at

1 6:30 you were not here. Every year you are
2 not here for public participation. You
3 shouldn't shirk it off. I should maybe just
4 take a little of your paycheck back. It's
5 every week. It's too much. Anyway, I don't
6 even know where to start here.

7 Boyd, I think you are doing a
8 wonderful job and I hope this gets right
9 back on the agenda to get your pay because
10 the mayor is telling the city controller not
11 to pay you. Why? I want the people to know
12 why because if you take him to court you
13 will win, unless the judge's are in their
14 pocket again like they were before, and they
15 don't want you to go to Court to fight them
16 because they are a good lawyer, so that's
17 the only way of stopping you is send the
18 counsel court. They figure don't pay him,
19 he won't go to court and represent council.
20 This has to be stopped. The people have to
21 know that you are getting paid to help them
22 and they should thank you very much for all
23 you are doing, because when the city sends
24 the legislation down it's always wrong and
25 you have to correct their dirty work. You

1 have you to correct their mistakes. You are
2 not getting paid to correct their mistakes.

3 Just like last week Ryan McGowan
4 said, "Tell me where we don't have something
5 right. You show me and I'll fix it."

6 Let him find it himself, why should
7 you do the work? Boyd, and I hope they --
8 Mrs. Evans and the council, I hope you put
9 that back on the agenda and make sure he
10 gets paid the way he should for the work he
11 is doing.

12 Another thing, I'm reading in the
13 paper, Mrs. Evans, where council -- the
14 paper is saying, "Where is your plan, where
15 is your Recovery Plan?"

16 Well, if I'm not mistaken,
17 Mr. Evans, you met with the mayor week after
18 week and spoke to him on the phone numerous
19 times it was quoted in the paper, and all of
20 these things that you recommending him,
21 like, StreetSmart, nonprofits, rental
22 registration, all these things, many things
23 that you presented to the mayor and he went
24 along with it, then all of a sudden two
25 weeks ago or three weeks ago he presents a

1 Recovery Plan, but not one thing that he
2 promised you was in that Recovery Plan, and
3 you said his word is worthless talk about --
4 so how can you trust this man? And then he
5 is recommending that you send two people
6 from council to go to PEL and DCED, the very
7 people that kept us distressed for 20 years
8 that are in his pocket and doing his dirty
9 work and advising him not to settle with the
10 unions for the firemen and policemen. These
11 people along with the mayor have gotten us
12 where we are or the last 10 years, 11 years,
13 and he wants you to have a mediator with
14 these people, these very people that the
15 city is the shape that they are in now?

16 And, Mr. Rogan, if and you
17 Mr. McGoff even dare try to meet with these
18 people, you have a right to do this, but we
19 are going to know where you are coming from.

20 And, Mr. Rogan, another thing that
21 gets me really upset about you, people stop
22 me in the streets and say, "Pat Rogan is
23 doing a good job."

24 I said, "What are you crazy? He is
25 grandstanding."

1 last week when they voted to approve this?

2 MR. ROGAN: We had a difference of
3 opinion. That's what's a --

4 MS. FRANUS: You are grandstanding.
5 Just like when Mr. Loscombe a couple weeks
6 ago presented a Court-ordered 10 percent tax
7 increase, Court ordered, they didn't have a
8 choice, but you voted against it. Did you
9 want the tax increase?

10 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Franus, it wasn't
11 Court-ordered, it was Court-ordered in the
12 event borrowing was approved. I voted
13 against both of them.

14 MS. FRANUS: You did it very easy
15 because you knew the other council members
16 would vote the right way for the people, but
17 you always vote "no" to make people think
18 you are doing such a wonderful job. People
19 don't know what you're really like. You are
20 not for the rest of the people.

21 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Franus, I have been
22 consistent on what I say --

23 MS. FRANUS: I know you're
24 consistent, you're consistent with
25 grandstanding. Period. You don't have to

1 tell me that. Pat, I know you.

2 MR. ROGAN: I vote the way I feel is
3 fair.

4 MS. FRANUS: You don't do any work
5 all the time, you just hop on your band
6 wagon and take credit for everything they
7 do. I don't want to hear another word from
8 you because I know where you're coming from.

9 MR. ROGAN: You know, somebody told
10 me when I was first elected every time I
11 went against Mrs. Evans that this was going
12 to happen and I guess they were right.

13 MS. FRANUS: Pat, you are what you
14 are. You are a grandstander. You make
15 people think that you are -- you are not for
16 them. You don't do any work at all for the
17 people. All I know is I want the people to
18 know that this council, Frank, Janet and
19 Jack are working for the people, working for
20 the people to stop their taxes. My taxes --
21 say I pay \$500 in property tax -- not
22 property tax, city taxes rather, with this
23 78 percent increase it's almost \$400 more.
24 That's just a hypothetical amount, I really
25 don't know what mine are. It's probably

1 more than that. I can't afford that. I
2 live by myself. How about these people that
3 lives by themselves or maybe with another
4 person? How can they afford it? There are
5 people leaving this town in mass. This
6 cannot continue.

7 And thank you very much for fighting
8 for the people, because you are the only
9 three that are doing it, and I wish the
10 Scranton Times would stop lying because
11 everything they say in the paper is not true
12 and people don't see these meetings sometime
13 and they think everything they say is true.
14 It's not. They are all lies. You worked
15 with the mayor and he turned around and put
16 a knife in your back, and then they keep on
17 saying where is your plan? Well, you went
18 to him with your plan. He even said that he
19 doesn't want to go after the nonprofits, I
20 wonder why, because his family has a
21 religious business. You think he's going to
22 go to the University of Scranton and say,
23 "Give us some more money." Come on. I
24 don't go for this crap.

25 Please, I know maybe you can't say

1 too much, but I hope you can say enough that
2 the people know what the truth is. When you
3 can't speak, if you can't speak, I saw where
4 the mayor is taking you to Court, and I hope
5 -- can I say one more thing?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. FRANUS: He took you to Court
8 last time because, Mrs. Evans, you amended
9 would the budget, but when he was president
10 -- or he was the Finance Chair when he was
11 on city council and Mayor Connors was the
12 mayor, Chris Doherty amended the budget, he
13 was allowed to, but when you amended the
14 budget he took you to Court and they ruled
15 against you. Talk about politics. That's
16 all.

17 So, Boyd, I hope you get your money
18 and I hope you can fight this mayor. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. HUGHES: Thank you very much,
21 and I will fight whether I get the increase
22 or not.

23 MS. FRANUS: Thank you, Boyd, from
24 everybody.

25 MR. UNGVARSKY: Hello, city council,

1 I'm Tom Ungvarsky and I'm a member of the
2 Scranton taxpayers'. Over the last few
3 weeks you have passed some things that most
4 people have questioned, such as the LERTA.
5 Here we are strapped for money and you are
6 giving tax brakes to wealthy developers.
7 You paid the \$1.4 million that the Parking
8 Authority owes, has the insurer started any
9 kind of action against the Parking Authority
10 to put it into receivership?

11 MR. ROGAN: No.

12 MS. EVANS: The Parking Authority
13 has until July 7 to remedy four or five
14 events of default. To date, to my
15 knowledge, they have done nothing to address
16 those. If they are not all satisfied fully
17 by July 7 then I believe there will be a
18 receivership.

19 MR. UNGVARSKY: Okay. They received
20 their money and there is not another payment
21 due until September. They may just hold off
22 doing anything until September seeing as
23 they have already been paid they can wait
24 and see what happens with the next payment.

25 This past week WNEP ran about a

1 two-minute article about how distressed the
2 City of Scranton is, how financially
3 strapped they are, I wonder where they have
4 been for the last ten years? Our mayor has
5 had three consecutive runs at the mayorship,
6 that means he has ran up approximately \$100
7 million in debt for each term that he
8 served. I think it would be nice if the
9 radio stations brought out such things or
10 the newspapers even covered it. I mean, we
11 didn't get into debt in the last year or
12 two, this has been going on for a long time.

13 Mr. Joyce, did you find out for me
14 what the interest is and what percentage we
15 made on that TAN loan?

16 MR. JOYCE: I don't have an answer
17 yet, but I will request it again.

18 MR. UNGVARSKY: It seems like it
19 should be public information, but thank you
20 anyway.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. JONES: Hi. Bob Jones, City of
23 Scranton, member of the Taxpayers'. I see
24 we have ourselves another hostage situation
25 that Chrissy started again running to the

1 judge and I see, of course, there is a big
2 media blitz over it, and I know you guys are
3 taken it well, but it just sounds like too
4 many people it seems like the mayor is in
5 touch with them. I just want to let the
6 mayor know that I'm not willing to drink in
7 his Kool-Aid, so I think all the bath salts
8 you confiscated you put in that Kool-Aid so
9 any voters out there better remember that,
10 not everybody thinks the way you do,
11 especially Steve Corbett's fan club they
12 call up and say, "Oh, it's a great idea he
13 went to the judge he is asking for help
14 against the evil bulldog council."

15 Well, a lot of us are for the evil
16 bulldog council, so call them what you want.
17 And the guys at the Scranton Times,
18 especially Chris Kelly and that John Cole,
19 the cartoonist, you know, making cartoons
20 and criticizing Janet even when she went
21 through the death of her mother what she was
22 going through the last couple of weeks and
23 they kept right on going, "Why wasn't she at
24 work and let's make a cartoon about her,"
25 well, I think that's childish and you should

1 be ashamed of yourself, too, so as far as
2 those four pillars go you don't have a
3 pillar to stand on.

4 What else? Oh, I wanted to ask, I
5 should send an e-mail to Senator Casey, by
6 the mayor sending back half of the federal
7 grant for the firemen would that jeopardize
8 any future grants that the city might need
9 from the federal government? Any
10 negotiations on how much money we might need
11 in the future? I'll write a letter to
12 Senator Casey and I'll let you guys know
13 what he said.

14 MS. EVANS: You can certainly
15 contact your senator or any of your elected
16 officials and explain to them your point of
17 view and ask them to represent you and vote
18 accordingly.

19 MR. JONES: If I get an answer I'll
20 forward it to you guys. I know you guys are
21 busy, I know you got your hands full. And,
22 by they way, the firemen should have got
23 that money directly. I had my doubts at
24 first when they handed the money to the
25 mayor to handle, I said -- I figured they

1 are going to pocket it or find some way to
2 blow it, but at least he was honest and said
3 he was sending it back. Well, let's see if
4 he really sends it back so -- well, I want
5 to thanks, Chrissy, for letting down the
6 firemen once again and congratulations on
7 the Times taking your side and Steve
8 Corbett's fan club say hi to you. I hope
9 there is not that many of you come election
10 day. Thanks, guys, and if you decide to
11 stare down the devil in the future, we'll be
12 behind you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
14 anyone else?

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
16 Council. Marie Schumacher, resident and
17 taxpayer. First of all, I have a couple of
18 things that fall into the realm of
19 Mr. Loscombe, and the first one is pretty
20 simple. Those of us who get treated to
21 M-80s going off around the holidays I just
22 wondered if there is anyway to appeal to the
23 police department to at least get out there
24 pre Fourth of July and actually do something
25 to stop the illegal use of fireworks, that

1 would appreciated.

2 And then second of all is,
3 Mr. Loscombe, did you actually see or read
4 the contract that stipulates that no charges
5 filed against a police officer may be made
6 public? Did you actually see that? I mean,
7 I read it in the paper, but that was why the
8 rogue officer that we have that was
9 demoted--

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Have I seen a
11 contract that stated that?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. You said you
13 couldn't reveal the charges, and then I read
14 in the paper the charges could not be
15 revealed because that was a clause in the
16 contract. Now, did you actually see the
17 contract?

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I did, some time
19 ago.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Who negotiated that
21 contract?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it was --
23 well, contracts are negotiated between the
24 administration and the unions.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, does council

1 get to approve those?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I'm really
4 disappointed. I hope you never do that
5 again. I think we have a right to know,
6 particularly when something like a rogue
7 cop, as I say, that could be doing --
8 putting pressure on people to do things I
9 just -- I think, you know, I wish --

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: I can only do so much
11 with my powers and duties, but I believe,
12 you know, I mean, I have to abide by the
13 legal system here and if the District
14 Attorney's Office does not find charges, you
15 know, it's -- it could work the other way,
16 too. I mean, innocent people could be named
17 and they are not guilty. So I have to abide
18 by those regulations.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, there was an
20 internal investigation, you said the person
21 was demoted, the person is apparently still
22 working and it bothers me a whole lot and it
23 bothers me that it doesn't bother you all
24 more.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: It bothers me, but I

1 have no power as you could see.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Moving on --

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: You need to speak
4 with the chief.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Moving to 5-B, the
6 grant. I was very excited, as I think you
7 are all aware, when East Mountain fire
8 station reopened and that's -- we got that
9 SAFER grant, and I would like to see new
10 officers hired to replace those who will be
11 retiring. However, I also understand the
12 mayor's position on if they had to be laid
13 off at the end of two years, so I have two
14 questions there. Number one, is it possible
15 to reapply for the SAFER grant?

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's definitely
17 possible to reapply, but in light of
18 returning the money I don't think they would
19 be willing to offer it. That's my personal
20 opinion.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: But it is possible.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, you can reapply
23 every two years.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: The other thing I
25 thought, and if you talk to Mr. Judge I'm

1 going to ask you to ask Mr. Judge something,
2 but, also, would you please ask him not to
3 talk about grant money as free money. We
4 taxpayers pay for that whether it's through
5 our federal dollars or state dollars or
6 every penny that comes through. That's not
7 a private grant, that's a government grant
8 and it's not free. We pay.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, it's taxpayers
10 money for everybody, but it was basically
11 free money coming in. The city --

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: I understand what a
13 grant is. I understand what a grant is, Mr.
14 Loscombe, but it's not free. Somebody is
15 paying for it and it's a taxpayer. I also
16 would like to know if you would discuss the
17 possibility with Mr. Judge of the 40
18 eligible retirees from the fire department
19 if they could state whether or not they are
20 definitely planning to retire before the end
21 of the SAFER grant so that at least perhaps
22 the money for those people could be money to
23 replace those and train -- the replacements
24 could be retained, so there is at least some
25 kind of a middle ground instead of just

1 returning the all \$3 million.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: This was discussed
3 with the administration. So, I mean, they
4 knew -- I'll explain it in motions a little
5 bit more, but --

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- that was
8 discussed.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you, and then
10 finally I hope that you will invite -- as a
11 council invite Attorney Schwartz back to
12 discuss the possibility of what the options
13 are because, frankly, I wish I knew how you
14 could succeed from the city because I think
15 East Mountain Village sounds pretty good
16 right about now.

17 I took the time to go back to 2006,
18 that's six years, of going through all of
19 the financial records from the controller's
20 reports to see through May how much of the
21 annual amount had been expended, and I
22 forecasted those out, and it look as though
23 we are going to be, excluding the TANS
24 because they are a wash, we get the money in
25 and you do something with it, but you also

1 have to pay it back before the end of the
2 year, so without the TANS it looks as though
3 we are going to be \$5 million under revenue
4 or -- so we are going to have a deficit
5 there and some of them I don't understand
6 why, why the figures are so far off, but it
7 does look as though maybe Chapter 9 is the
8 only course we have regretfully, that really
9 bothers me, but I do hope that you can bring
10 in Mr. Schwartz in or Attorney Schwartz in
11 to discuss the experience in Harrisburg and
12 at least give us some options. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

16 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, up there by
17 my house, Jack, they paved the whole thing
18 down there. I want to thank you for helping
19 me. I appreciate it. Thanks.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: All right, buddy,
21 thanks.

22 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
23 cares to address council? Mrs. Krake?

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

25 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do

1 you have any comments or motions?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I have nothing this
3 evening. Thank you very much.

4 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
5 have any comments or motions?

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. First I'll address
7 a couple of things that were mentioned from
8 the podium. I, as well as many of the
9 speakers, have been very frustrated with the
10 Scranton Times' coverage of the current
11 situation in the city. Although I do not
12 take my frustrations out on the journalists,
13 because often times they may submit an
14 article completely different than what's
15 edited and placed in the newspaper, but I
16 would urge them to call Pat McKenna at the
17 Scranton Times of and have them print the
18 truth about how we got into this mess.

19 You know, Mayor Doherty is blaming
20 all of this on council. This council passed
21 two budgets. Two years. Mayor Doherty has
22 been in office either as a council member as
23 a mayor for 15 years. He constantly blames
24 council in the paper, so the mayor says it's
25 my fault. I was ten years old when he

1 started this journey of debt. I wasn't even
2 old enough to vote, but it's my fault. I
3 don't even think Mr. Joyce was old to vote
4 15 years ago, but it's our fault. But the
5 mayor is constantly looking for a scapegoat.

6 He says on TV that it was council's
7 budget. As anyone who has a basic
8 understanding of government would know, the
9 legislative branch can only appropriate
10 money. We can appropriate money however we
11 see fit, but it's up to him to administer
12 the budget. If council votes to borrow
13 money, it's not the city council that goes
14 to the bank to get the tax anticipation or
15 to get the unfunded debt, it's the
16 administrator, it's the mayor. I think the
17 mayor really needs to go back to an eighth
18 grade civics class.

19 Not only is he incorrect in stating
20 that council needs to go out and do these
21 actions, ut, now he is getting the courts
22 involved with a matter they should not be
23 involved with. It's a matter of the elected
24 officials, it's not a matter for the courts.

25 Moving on, a couple of the other

1 things that were mentioned, Mrs. Franus, I'm
2 glad that people you spoke to think I'm
3 doing a good job. The issue of me
4 grandstanding, I voted against the
5 legislation six times. The first time I was
6 the only one that voted against it. The
7 second time I was only one that voted
8 against it. The third time I was very
9 pleased when Mr. Loscombe and Mr. Joyce
10 voted against it with me, and they know how
11 happy I was after that meeting that it was
12 shot down. I was consistent across the
13 board. It wasn't a vote that my vote didn't
14 matter because it did. Every time I was
15 consistent on it. So we have a difference
16 of opinion there, and that's fine, I'll
17 explain my vote and where I'm coming from
18 any day. That's not a problem at all.

19 Next onto -- before I just address
20 the Recovery Plan I do want to talk about
21 the Parking Authority a little bit. An
22 article in today's paper, which contains
23 some good news and some bad news. The
24 headline is, "Scranton Parking Authority
25 appoints former Lackawanna County Solicitor

1 as new SPA solicitor."

2 The first time Mr. Kelly was in
3 these chambers I asked him the question, "It
4 is a conflict for you to be both the city
5 solicitor and the solicitor for a board if
6 the city backs their debt?"

7 Every time he has stated it is not a
8 conflict. He has finally admitted he was
9 wrong all along by resigning his position as
10 solicitor for the SPA. That is the good
11 news. The bad news is Mr. O'Brien, the new
12 solicitor who I haven't met yet, is claiming
13 that the defaults are not fatal and it seems
14 that the Parking Authority is going to fight
15 to stay in operation, which I hope doesn't
16 happen. I hope it's placed in a
17 receivership and the assets are -- some
18 assets are sold off so debt is paid down and
19 they get competent managers in there. Mr.
20 Scopelliti and the other crony hires that
21 the mayor has placed in the management of
22 the Authority, not the employees, the
23 employees from all accounts do a very good
24 job with limited resources, but the
25 management of the Authority has to be

1 removed. There is no way we can continue
2 down this path of borrowing and borrowing
3 and borrowing. You know, I run into people
4 all the time who talk about different issues
5 and somebody really summed it easily to
6 understand for everyone else, he said it's
7 like borrowing a million dollars and when I
8 can't pay it back you pay it back. That's
9 what the Authority did because they knew at
10 the end of the day they could spend free,
11 they could spend all the money they want,
12 they didn't care about their debt payments
13 because they knew at the end of the day the
14 city would be here. That's why this
15 leadership has to go.

16 Next, onto the Recovery Plan, I
17 believe everyone has received the same
18 letter from DCED asking that council meet to
19 discuss a revised Recovery Plan, and I have
20 stated this before and I will state it until
21 it's done, I do not support the mayor's plan
22 for a second because of the tax increase.
23 With that being said, I think all five
24 members of council and the mayor and any
25 other interested parties, whether it be the

1 unions, whether it be PEL, whether it be
2 DCED, sit down and negotiate. If the mayor
3 is not willing to negotiate in good faith,
4 which very well may be the case, then it's
5 on him, but I firmly believe we should all
6 sit around the table and discuss. I think
7 every one of us has ideas that are not in
8 the Recovery Plan that they would like to
9 see and those ideas would reduce the tax
10 increase. The residents of Scranton cannot
11 afford the mayor's Recovery Plan. They
12 absolutely cannot.

13 If the mayor is going to stand by
14 his guns and say, "This is how we want to do
15 it," he is probably the first mayor in the
16 history of the country to sue a body who is
17 trying to stop tax increase of nearly 100
18 percent if you think about it over the
19 years, so we will see what happens with the
20 lawsuit. I don't want to comment too much
21 on that now. We'll leave that to Attorney
22 Hughes. All I will say about it is it's
23 really a sign that the mayor is desperate.
24 As many of the speakers mentioned, he has
25 always planned on being out of here before

1 the house of cards collapsed and it's
2 starting to collapse now. It's not because
3 of this council, it's because of the last 15
4 years of councils. It's because of the
5 mayor.

6 When Mayor Connors was in office
7 people thought, oh, we are in terrible
8 shape. I bet every single person in this
9 city would love to go back to those days,
10 take the debt from those days, the amount of
11 employees we were paying for this those
12 days, especially the taxes that we paid
13 under Mayor Connors.

14 Mayor Doherty makes -- he doesn't
15 apologize for wanting to raise taxes. He
16 has made it very clear that he is a tax and
17 spend politician from day one, and that has
18 been his plan. Nay Aug Park looks nice, we
19 have spent far too much money there. All of
20 the money that's been wasted. And the worst
21 part about most of that money is wasn't even
22 tax dollars coming in, they with borrowing
23 against future tax dollars that would come
24 in. When you do that the taxes eventually
25 have to go up to meet the debt payments.

1 When taxes go up, people leave the city for
2 lower taxes, and those of us who are left
3 are stuck paying more because the size of
4 the city is not going to get any smaller
5 unless Mrs. Schumacher gets her East
6 Mountain branch, which would be pretty nice.

7 But I'm hopeful that all five
8 members of council will sit down with or
9 without the mayor and discuss the ideas that
10 we have. As I have mentioned before, I did
11 vote for Mr. McGoff's motion to put the plan
12 on the agenda, that does not mean I support
13 the plan by any means, but I do think it
14 needs to be discussed.

15 I will comment on the agenda
16 items -- a comment real quickly now. I
17 agree with Mr. Loscombe, and some of the
18 speakers have said about the FEMA grant,
19 part of it being returned, and it is not
20 free money, it is taxpayer dollars, federal
21 taxes paid by everyone in the country, but
22 it's a nice windfall for the city to receive
23 that to help our budget for a few years, but
24 for the mayor to not sit down again, it's
25 the lack of communication that we have seen

1 with the mayor and council, the mayor and
2 the unions, the mayor and the people. The
3 one common denominator is the mayor. It's
4 not just that he can't talk with council, he
5 chose to fight the unions for ten years when
6 he could have sat down at the table and
7 talked to them and this is the same issue.

8 I trust what Mr. Judge and what
9 Mr. Loscombe say more than the mayor when it
10 comes to public safety, especially the fire
11 department, where there could have been an
12 agreement made. Sit down all of the guys
13 that are near retirement age, "How long do
14 you plan on staying?"

15 Figure out on where everyone stands
16 so we can get the most bang for the buck on
17 the grant, and it's for the safety of the
18 people. It's not for me. It's not for the
19 mayor, it's not a political thing, it's for
20 the safety of the people. But the mayor has
21 this grudge against the public safety unions
22 since day one. Since day one when he came
23 into office he has been going after the
24 public safety unions. Meanwhile, the DPW
25 runs rampant racking up overtime every day.

1 Something has to be done. I would
2 hope that the mayor would come to his senses
3 and realize if he keeps on his current path
4 the city is going to fall apart and he needs
5 to sit down with council and negotiate in
6 good faith. He should have sat down with
7 the unions and negotiated in good faith,
8 would have saved us tens of millions of
9 dollars, but that is all I have for tonight.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you and,
12 Councilman Loscombe, do you have any
13 comments or motions?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, just
15 a few quick comments. I'll pass this onto
16 Mrs. Krake, but there is a couple of
17 condemned properties on Cherry Street, I'll
18 give help the exact address and that were
19 boarded up, but the boards have -- some of
20 the boards have been removed and this
21 building has to be secured because there is
22 some vagrants going in and out of the
23 properties, so I'll pass that on.

24 I do want to thank the crew from the
25 DPW that responded to South Side the other

1 day. There was a situation up off Hickory
2 Street and, you know, the gentleman was
3 planning a Father's Day cookout and
4 everything and I do want to thank the crew
5 for getting up there and removing the debris
6 from behind his property and hopefully we
7 can straighten that out with the property
8 owner.

9 And then again, it was touched on by
10 several speakers, you know, I laid into a
11 little bit last week as far as the SAFER
12 grant went, you know, I haven't changed my
13 feelings. I think it's a slap in the face
14 to everyone in this city to, you know,
15 compromise your public safety when it could
16 have been fully complete. I know that there
17 were discussions on how -- because there was
18 some questions as far as layoffs down the
19 road. There was an excess of 40 some who
20 would be eligible to retire at that point,
21 those situations could have been worked out.

22 There was a situation or a question
23 on training since, you know, part of the
24 contracts deal with the training in the
25 Harrisburg Community College. The

1 firefighters were willing to do their
2 training in-house since we have several
3 certified firefighters who are trainers now,
4 which would have saved significantly,
5 although, all costs are born by this
6 program.

7 You know, we were asked can we
8 reapply again? Certainly we could reapply
9 again, but, you know, I don't think the
10 federal government is going to look at us
11 favorably now after handing money back. It
12 would have been a lot easier to reapply
13 after taking the full amount of money. It's
14 just the same old agenda to me. It appears
15 that the administration's agenda is not
16 dealing with your public safety. They keep
17 touting public safety and welfare of the
18 public and every column in the newspaper
19 every time something comes up they are
20 talking about, you know, the Recovery Plan
21 that's based on the health, safety and
22 welfare of the public.

23 You know, here they had the
24 opportunity to provide you the proper
25 health, safety and welfare and I assure you,

1 you know, we have it on the agenda tonight
2 to pass the amended amount, and I will be
3 voting for it, unfortunately, I'm
4 disappointed. The only reason I'll be
5 voting for it so we can get this money here
6 before the mayor decides to send the rest of
7 it back and, you know, get our men back up.
8 But, unfortunately, things aren't going to
9 change that much. We are still going to
10 have browned out stations, and God forbid
11 the time the stations that are browned out
12 in your neighborhood and something happens.

13 I don't understand the mindset, you
14 know, he will take any grant for a park that
15 he can't maintain, but he will turn away
16 money to provide safety which your taxpayers
17 are dollars are paying for. Your public
18 safety. He screwed up the COM-D money for
19 police officers last year and we are not
20 eligible now until next year for them, so
21 you tell me if he is concerned about your
22 health, safety and welfare, but I will be
23 voting tonight for approval so we can get
24 these men back and, you know, hopefully keep
25 you protected to the best of their ability

1 but they were willing to work with the
2 administration on several issues. You won't
3 read that in the newspaper, I'm not even
4 going to touch that either because you know
5 how I feel on the newspaper, too.

6 But as far as the lawsuit goes, I
7 found out that from a call from the
8 newspaper reporter. That's how I found out
9 the mayor was suing us today. And, you
10 know, that's the first place he runs with
11 his get together with the editorial boards
12 and the stuff like that, but that's how he
13 respects us and he respects you.

14 You know, we did have communication
15 going for several weeks there, but I think
16 as Mrs. Evans said it's the same ole' same
17 ole'. You walk out of there, you are
18 discussing something, you think you are
19 getting somewhere, you think you have worked
20 a deal out and you walk away and boom you
21 are stabbed in the back and it's all
22 distorted through the ink. They have
23 barrels of ink. Unfortunately a lot of
24 people don't see this live so they believe
25 everything they read in the paper.

1 Mr. Ellman, if a lot of these people
2 happened to see the meetings live I think
3 they would understand a little bit better.
4 We don't have all of the answers, but I'll
5 tell you what, we have been trying dammed
6 hard the last couple of years. We are not
7 at the edge of the cliff overnight.

8 And again, I believe the newspaper
9 has been an accomplice to the condition of
10 this city. They have stood by for the last
11 11 years and not said a word, but yet they
12 continue to put cartoons in and editorials
13 about us. We have big shoulders. We are
14 fighting for you and we will continue to
15 fight for you. Ink doesn't hurt me. I tell
16 the truth and I tell it right here.

17 And as far as the lawsuit goes, I'm
18 looking forward to standing up for you in
19 Court and letting them know the truth.
20 Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

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

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Tonight I wanted
24 to say that like Councilman Loscombe's
25 stated before, I will be voting in favor of

1 the SAFER grant, however, I am very appalled
2 by the fact that the mayor is returning some
3 of the money that could have been used to
4 put more firefighters back on the job.

5 As we know, he could have applied
6 for this in two years and in addition to
7 that there are many people eligible to
8 retire, which would have saved our
9 unemployment costs, but we have what we have
10 right now.

11 To report, our tax collector, Bill
12 Courtright, has submitted a number of checks
13 to the city totaling \$323,119.28. A
14 breakdown of the checks sent to the city are
15 as follows: Local service taxes, commonly
16 referred to as LST, \$9,966.84. Earned
17 income tax, \$93,368.06. Business privilege
18 tax, \$37,570.62. Real estate tax,
19 \$163,115.75 and the delinquent real estate
20 tax, \$19,097.56.

21 As one can see, real estate tax was
22 sent to the city now that our tax
23 anticipation note is fully paid off and all
24 future real estate tax distributions will be
25 distributed to the city.

1 As I stated last week, Scranton City
2 Council has received an audit status update
3 from Rossi & Rossi, as was mentioned early
4 in Third Order, regarding some outstanding
5 items. In Rossi & Rossi's correspondence
6 they indicated that there are 12 overdue
7 items and eight open memos as of June 5.

8 A few weeks ago our business
9 administrator, Ryan McGowan, indicated in an
10 audit status report that the audit would be
11 completed in July of this year. In the
12 audit status report he also indicated that
13 many of the old items would have been
14 completed in the beginning of June.

15 Mrs. Krake, did Mr. McGowan provide
16 an audit status update as we have asked?

17 MS. KRAKE: No, he did not.

18 MR. JOYCE: Okay, with that in mind,
19 please resend this request and as it is
20 vital that our audit is completed in a more
21 timely fashion than it was last year.

22 Northeast Revenue, who collects our
23 delinquent taxes besides 2011, which is
24 collected by the tax office, has sent us a
25 report of funds collected and distributed.

1 A period of collection for the report was
2 from June 5 to June 18. During this
3 timeframe Northeast Revenue collected a
4 total of \$53,290.27. Out of this total,
5 \$38,315.81 was distributed to the City of
6 Scranton and \$14,974.46 was distributed to
7 Pennstar Bank. The amount distributed to
8 the Pennstar Bank represents delinquent
9 taxes collected from 2004 through 2005 and
10 2006. As one may or may not know, the
11 Scranton Redevelopment Authority defaulted
12 on a loan taken out on the advance sale of
13 delinquent taxes from those years. With all
14 of this in mind, delinquent taxes for those
15 years that are collected by Northeast
16 Revenue are directed directly to Pennstar
17 Bank.

18 And I do have a few citizens'
19 requests: West Scranton residents have
20 reported to me that the 200 block of North
21 Everett Avenue is in rough shape as various
22 cracks in the road and potholes are making
23 travel conditions difficult.

24 Mrs. Krake, with this in mind can
25 you contact Director Dougher and ask him to

1 handle the situation in the best way that he
2 sees fit.

3 Residents of the 1100 block of Farr
4 Street have contacted me in regard to the
5 property located at the corner of the 1100
6 block of Farr and North Sumner Avenue. Upon
7 visiting the site, it can be seen that the
8 outside of the property is in poor
9 condition, being the grass on the property
10 and also on the adjacent side of the
11 property of North Sumner and it's three feet
12 high. It doesn't appear that it's been cut
13 one time this summer.

14 Mrs. Krake, if you can please
15 contact Director Seitzinger regarding this
16 property and ask him to handle it the best
17 way that he sees fit.

18 Various residents of the 300 block
19 of Merrifield Avenue inform me that there
20 are numerous potholes and cracks in the road
21 making for some very rough travel
22 conditions. Mrs. Krake, please add this to
23 the list to contact Director Dougher about.

24 Residents of the Keyser Valley
25 section have informed me that there is a

1 large pothole at the stop sign connecting
2 Lafayette Street and Cameron Avenue.

3 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the
4 items to contact Director Dougher about.

5 South Scranton residents report that
6 the property located at 429 and 421 Cherry
7 Street is in poor condition, contains
8 overgrown weeds and grass.

9 Mrs. Krake, please add this the list
10 of items to address with Mr. Seitzinger.

11 And South Scranton residents report
12 that the property at the corner of Breck
13 Street and Curtis Court is becoming an
14 eyesore for residents as there is overgrown
15 grass and weeds over two feet high.

16 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the
17 list of items to contact Mr. Seitzinger
18 about, and that's it for tonight.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman,
20 Joyce. Good evening. At the advice of
21 Solicitor Hughes, city council will not
22 comment on the mayor's lawsuit against it at
23 this time. However, it has come to
24 council's attention that the mayor's revised
25 Recovery Plan is flawed, therefore, on

1 behalf of Scranton City Council I ask
2 Mrs. Krake to send letters to C. Alan
3 Walker, secretary of DCED, and Gerald Cross
4 of the Pennsylvania Economy League to revise
5 the proposed plan since he did not include
6 the following items which have an effect
7 upon the city's financial condition:

8 One, the governor's certification of
9 the city's last two US census that
10 demonstrate the city's population is less
11 than 80,000 and the city by law is a Third
12 Class City.

13 Two, the Scranton Parking
14 Authority's insolvency which has required
15 the city to provide \$1 million to the
16 trustee to make it's June 1, 2012, bond
17 payment and the Scranton Parking Authority's
18 potential default on it's September 15,
19 2012, bond payment of \$1 million; and
20 December 1, 2012, bond payment of \$850,000.

21 Third, the continued insolvency of
22 the Parking Authority for the next 26 years
23 since it's yearly bond payments will only be
24 \$3.4 million per year, but it's revenues are
25 currently only \$3 million, and with

1 operating expenses the Parking Authority's
2 deficit will be between \$1.6 million and
3 \$2.4 million for which the city is
4 responsible.

5 Four, the sale of the parking
6 meters, which can only can be done by the
7 city's guarantee of Parking Authority
8 borrowing, and the city will not do such
9 since it would increase the city's guarantee
10 of Parking Authority debt from \$100 million
11 to over \$106 million.

12 Five, the failure to include the
13 police and firemen's arbitration awards
14 which exceed \$30 million, and I would say
15 the failure to include any negotiations or
16 settlements that may have been reached
17 between the city and it's unions.

18 Now, it's important to remember that
19 under the Recovery Act DCED and PEL can
20 amend the proposed Recovery Plan before
21 adoption since the mayor has refused the
22 bulk of council's recommendations. It
23 behooves PEL and DCED to amend these
24 significant flaws in the mayor's plan.

25 Next, in June 2012 Fidelity Bank

1 seized approximately \$166,000 from the
2 Scranton Parking Authority for repayment of
3 apparently a line of credit. Now, I had a
4 few questions regarding this money,
5 therefore on behalf of Scranton City Council
6 please send letters to Mr. Ryan McGowan and
7 Mr. Robert Scopelliti requesting responses
8 on or before July 2, 2012, to the following
9 questions:

10 From what budgetary account and bank
11 account was the \$166,000 Fidelity Bank
12 attachment taken? Were any of these funds
13 taken from money belonging to the City of
14 Scranton, that is, parking meter revenue?
15 Why wasn't the \$166,000 used to pay the
16 trustee BNY Mellon in order to pay down the
17 SPA bond?

18 Also, Mrs. Krake, please send
19 another letter to Ryan McGowan requesting a
20 reply to the following question on or before
21 June 26, 2012: On Wednesday, June 20, 2012,
22 you forwarded an e-mail to city council
23 members stating that the cash balance on
24 June 20, 2012, was \$652,587.67. From what
25 accounts, funds and/or revenue sources were

1 you able to provide the necessary remaining
2 dollar amount to make the June 22, 2012,
3 payroll and continue to carry a balance of
4 \$150,000?

5 On a very positive note, Mr. Thomas
6 Hasham, local businessman and owner of Good
7 Fella's Pizza, has generously offered to
8 donate mulch to the playground in Pine
9 Brook, and I would ask our office to please
10 contact Mary Chilipko so that we might be
11 able to coordinate a delivery date and a
12 time and Scranton City Council thanks
13 Mrs. Hasham for his generosity to the Pine
14 Brook neighborhood.

15 I think I'll just add a bit more to
16 clarify some of what Mr. Rogan alluded to in
17 his motions tonight. Last Friday, June 15,
18 I was contacted by Alan Walker, secretary of
19 Economic and Community Development, and
20 asked to participate in a mediation session
21 regarding the revised Recovery Plan.

22 Although I told Secretary Walker
23 that I felt the state and DCED had turned
24 their backs on Scranton taxpayers, that DCED
25 was responsible for the historic Supreme

1 Court awards to Scranton police and fire,
2 that DCED and PEL provided their blessings
3 for the last 11 years to the unbridled
4 borrowing, spending, and financial
5 mismanagement of the Doherty administration
6 and that DCED had never responded to city
7 council's letter of request for the
8 appointment of a new Act 47 overseer to
9 replace the Pennsylvania Economy League, I
10 agreed to contact council members to ask for
11 their participation and a Harrisburg
12 mediation session and provide a reply to
13 them on Monday, June 18.

14 In addition, Secretary Walker
15 suggested that PEL might be replaced if
16 council were to go to mediation, that DCED
17 would be sure to speak with the banks to
18 secure money for this city if we pass the
19 revised Recovery Plan, and that if we failed
20 to do so this council will be blamed for the
21 loss of police, fire and garbage removal
22 services in our city.

23 Based on the responses I received
24 from my council colleagues, I issued an
25 invitation to the DCED secretary by phone

1 and at the request of Mr. Champ Holeman, I
2 placed that invitation in written form, and
3 council's office forwarded it to DCED, the
4 Pennsylvania Economy League, the mayor, and
5 the Scranton Times on June 19.

6 At this time, I would like to read
7 my correspondence to you. "On behalf of the
8 Scranton City Council, I would like to
9 invite C. Alan Walker, the secretary of
10 Economic and Community Development, Gerald
11 Cross, Pennsylvania Economy League, and
12 Mayor Christopher doherty to meet with the
13 members of council to discuss and negotiate
14 a plan to help alleviate the current
15 economic problems facing Scranton. We are
16 hopeful that we can find solutions which
17 meet the core requirements of all
18 stakeholders, including potential lenders,
19 and which would significantly lower the tax
20 increases contained in recent proposals.

21 While we appreciate the offers of
22 the mediators or arbitrators, we feel that
23 is critical that Scranton's key elected
24 officials resolve the issues that impact
25 Scranton citizens so profoundly.

1 Please contact Mrs. Nancy Krake,
2 city clerk, with her phone number, to
3 coordinate a schedule for these meetings."

4 Because all council members
5 expressed an interest in a meeting that
6 included both majority and minority members,
7 I was hopeful that Secretary Walker, Gerald
8 Cross and Mayor Doherty would agree to
9 convene in city council chambers publically
10 to negotiate a resolution that would return
11 the city to sound financial footing without
12 crucifying the taxpayers.

13 We need shared sacrifice to cure
14 Scranton's financial illness, not an
15 albatross around the necks of those at the
16 bottom end of the spectrum such as the
17 elderly, the poor, and blue collar working
18 families. We have got 20 years worth of the
19 Recovery plans, none of which have been
20 successful. We need an actual business plan
21 that the administration abides by and one
22 that has teeth to make that happen.

23 On June 19 and 20, Mrs. Krake
24 verified that the invitation was received
25 and late Wednesday afternoon I received a

1 following reply from Secretary Walker and
2 Mr. Mathew Domines, local government policy
3 specialist, and DCED representative to the
4 City of Scranton for the last several years,
5 and I'd like to read that reply to you now,
6 ladies and gentlemen.

7 "Dear Councilwoman Evans, first of
8 all, we thank city council for its
9 willingness to engage in negotiations with
10 Mayor Doherty and the coordinator of the
11 Pennsylvania Economy League to the census on
12 the Recovery Plan amendments that will
13 immediately address Scranton's dire fiscal
14 circumstances. We appreciate the offer to
15 reach a consensus, however, the negotiations
16 of the terms of the any amended Recovery
17 Plan are exclusively the responsibility of
18 city council and the mayor subject to PEL's
19 judgment as to the feasibility of any
20 proposed amendments, and we do not feel that
21 the Department of Community and Economic
22 Development is a proper party to those
23 direct negotiations.

24 That having been said, we do believe
25 that it may be helpful for us to meet with

1 members of city council without the mayor
2 present to understand city council's
3 position on the issues and to provide input.
4 Accordingly, DCED, that would be Matt
5 Domines, and PEL representatives, Gerry
6 Cross, are prepared to meet with you at a
7 date and time convenient for you.

8 Please contact Matt Domines at, and
9 the phone number, at your earliest
10 convenience to schedule a time to meet."

11 Although, Secretary Walker states
12 that the terms of the Recovery Plan are
13 exclusively the responsibility of the city
14 council and the mayor, and that he doesn't
15 feel that DCED is a proper party to those
16 negotiations, DCED had no issue with
17 propriety or responsibility when using
18 Scranton as its test case and assigned its
19 own attorney, Clifford Lavine, to represent
20 the Doherty administration and present it's
21 case against Act 111 before the Supreme
22 Court of Pennsylvania.

23 Further, Mr. Walker believes council
24 should meet with local DCED representatives
25 and PEL the organization, by the way, whose

1 replacement was part of his initial offer to
2 me.

3 While excusing Mayor Doherty from
4 the meeting, since Secretary Walker states
5 that the terms of the Recovery Plan are
6 exclusively the responsibility of the mayor
7 and council, why then does he excuse the
8 mayor from the meeting? Does he expect
9 council to negotiate with itself? However,
10 any meetings or negotiations are now moot
11 since Mayor Doherty went to Court this
12 afternoon asking a judge to either force the
13 outright implementation of the his Recovery
14 Plan or to have council forced to vote on
15 it. To date, the proposed revised Recovery
16 Plan has never been placed on council's
17 agenda and before such action may even be
18 considered the Act 47 process must be
19 followed of the. To date, that has not
20 occurred. Nonetheless, ladies and gentlemen
21 of the jury, it's clear that the mayor's
22 revised Recovery Plan will not be approved
23 by this council. His proposed tax increases
24 will crucify the taxpayers and destroy our
25 city neighborhoods.

1 Now, it behooves the Pennsylvania
2 Economy League and DCED to at the very least
3 make corrections to the significant loss
4 contained in the mayor's Recovery Plan even
5 in the face of the mayor's blatant refusal
6 to consider any sources of additional
7 revenue into the city that would prevent a
8 78 percent plus tax increase to the people
9 of this city, and that is it.

10 MR. HUGHES: If I can make a
11 comment, Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Certainly, Solicitor
13 Hughes.

14 MR. HUGHES: Mrs. Krake received a
15 copy of the Scranton Parking Authority audit
16 done by McGrail, Merkle and Quinn for the
17 year ending December 31, 2010. Their audit
18 is dated July 15, 2011. There is something
19 here that I think council has to address
20 with the Parking Authority, and it would
21 probably be by a letter from Mrs. Krake and
22 I'll assist her with it, but I direct your
23 attention to page 17, and this is very
24 disturbing to the city and it's financial
25 condition that just came up with a \$1

1 million. Audits have various notes that are
2 put in the audit for everybody's attention
3 to read, not everyone to read, but at least
4 they are there. Note three, "Deposits and
5 Investments."

6 The Authority has a few investments
7 and chooses to disclose it's investments by
8 specifically identifying each. The
9 Authority has not adopted a formal
10 investment policy, but has hired PNC
11 advisors to make investment decisions. The
12 authority basis the value of government
13 securities on quoted market prices. The
14 authority has chosen to value the investment
15 contract at cost due to the uncertainty in
16 the valuations of associated calculations.

17 As of December 31, 2010, the
18 Authority's investments were: Interest
19 earning investment contract at cost maturing
20 \$916,223. \$1,173,528. US Security Bonds at
21 fair value, maturing \$515,237. \$2,058,617.
22 Total: \$3,232, 145.

23 Now, if that Authority has over \$3
24 million in investments that it could
25 liquidate they should have liquidated these

1 investments to pay the bond issue or they
2 should have come to council and said, "We
3 have this -- we have problems making this
4 bond payment, we are going to have payments,
5 we are going to have problems making our
6 next bond payments that's due in September
7 and December, let's see how we can handle
8 this since you have \$1.6 million budgeted,
9 how can we use these reserves to help
10 alleviate the city in coming up with the
11 money?

12 I think this is very disturbing. I
13 mean, this is what they had as of December
14 31, 2010. They were responsible to have a
15 budget done, this is one of the events of
16 default that has been raised by the trustee
17 and by the insurance company that they have
18 not completed by March 31 of this year the
19 audit for 2011. If it were completed we
20 would have known this or at least we have
21 should known it, that they have investments
22 of over \$3 million that could have been
23 liquidated to make the bond payment, and I
24 think a letter should be directed to Mr.
25 Scopelliti specifically referring to this

1 audit, note number three on page 17, that do
2 they still have this and liquidated any of
3 this, what the current value of it is, and
4 this note does not state that these are
5 restrictive. This seems to be money that
6 they have that's totally unattached that it
7 can be used for purposes the Parking
8 Authority wants to use them. These are not
9 specified reserve funds, these are
10 investments that are unrestricted. They
11 could have been liquidated. They could have
12 liquidated a million dollars of that and
13 made the bond payment, just like the
14 \$166,000 that was attached a couple of days
15 after council approved the \$1 million so
16 they wouldn't be in default. Why wasn't
17 that paid. If that was paid even \$150,000
18 of it council wouldn't have had to -- the
19 city only would have had to come up with
20 \$900,000, but here they are sitting on \$3
21 million. Why are they sitting on this money
22 and not using it?

23 And I think a letter should be
24 directed to Mr. Scopelliti referring to the
25 audit and what the current value of these

1 investments are and since they are
2 unrestricted why didn't they use them to
3 make the bond payment?

4 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, on behalf of
5 city council please send a letter to
6 Mr. Robert Scopelliti, executive director of
7 the SPA, requesting the information that has
8 been enumerated by our solicitor and a
9 response to his question. Of course,
10 Solicitor Hughes, for all we now, again,
11 that's a 2010 audit and because of the total
12 lack of transparency with the Scranton
13 Parking Authority, for all we know that \$3
14 million in investments might already be
15 gone.

16 MR. HUGHES: And if it's gone, where
17 did it go?

18 MS. EVANS: Where it went, no one
19 knows.

20 MR. HUGHES: I mean, when you have
21 that, there is \$3 million, they borrowed
22 \$2.9 million from Landmark Bank that is not
23 secured by the city so that, you know, right
24 now they are indebted well over \$100
25 million.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. HUGHES: And that includes the
3 interest, but still those funds, we have to
4 know where those funds are and why they
5 weren't used.

6 MR. ROGAN: So it's possible the
7 city gave them \$1 million when they had \$3
8 million on hand.

9 MR. HUGHES: That's correct. It
10 would be a scam.

11 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
12 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
13 OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT AND
14 DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL
15 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA") AND THE
16 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ("DHS").
17 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
24 those in favor of introduction signify by
25 saying aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE
8 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
9 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF
10 UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF
11 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
12 BUREAU OF RIDE AND MEASUREMENT STANDARDS
13 REGARDING THE SEALING OF WEIGHTS AND
14 MEASURES AND ALSO RESPONSIBILITY WITH
15 RESPECT TO JEWELERS SCALES IN THE CITY OF
16 SCRANTON.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
23 those in favor of introduction signify by
24 saying aye.

25 MR. MCGOFF: 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 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make
7 a motion to suspend the rules and move Item
8 5-B to Sixth and Seventh Order to be
9 considered for final passage based on the
10 attached emergency certificate.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans, if
21 council --

22 MS. EVANS: I think maybe prior to
23 moving this legislation forward into Sixth
24 and Seventh Order this evening for final
25 approval, I would ask if there is anyone in

1 the audience this evening who would like to
2 address council regarding Item 5-B, which
3 will now become Item 6-A and thereafter 7-A.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I have no
5 problem it into Sixth, but I think that
6 there should be one last hurray effort and
7 allow the citizens to call the mayor's
8 office and to urge him to work with the fire
9 union to ascertain how many retirements
10 there will be and hopefully save part or
11 perhaps even all of the money. Thank you.

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

14 MR. DOBRZYN: My only comment is
15 it's finally time the Homeland Security
16 Department, which is where Scranton is
17 originating from, went from \$30 million to
18 \$60 million over a few years and it's about
19 time they stopped passing out dust
20 collectors like the roadblock we got for a
21 quarter of a million dollars and it's
22 probably collecting dust somewhere in the
23 police department and start to people and
24 actually create a Homeland Security. Thank
25 you and a have a good night.

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

2 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A,
3 FORMERLY 5-B, READING BY TITLE - FILE OF
4 COUNCIL NO. 41, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE -
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
6 CITY OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
7 ACCEPT AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE
8 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA")
9 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
10 ("DHS"). (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

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

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? Just
17 to respond to Mrs. Schumacher, it's my
18 understanding that heroic efforts and
19 negotiations were made by the Scranton Fire
20 Department to increase the numbers and
21 funding provided by the Office of the
22 Homeland Security and FEMA. It's also
23 clear, I have seen the documents, the
24 letters have been sent to those departments
25 asking for a reduction in the grant and

1 specifying justification for such, and I
2 have also seen a copy of the response to
3 that letter indicating that the reduction
4 has been accepted by those departments, so
5 sadly, ladies and gentlemen, this is a done
6 deal and it happened basically without the
7 approval or the input of Scranton City
8 Council. I'm sure that council would have
9 notified these departments that it felt
10 strongly that we should be accepting the
11 greatest number and the greatest dollar
12 amount possible.

13 MR. ROGAN: I would just add that I
14 agree, normally I wouldn't be opposed to
15 waiting an extra week to vote on something,
16 but by pushing this legislation through that
17 is two weeks quicker that we get the guys
18 back, which is the most important part.

19 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
20 question? All those in favor signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A,
4 FORMERLY, 6-A, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
5 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION -
6 FILED OF COUNCIL NO. 41, 2012 - AUTHORIZING
7 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY
8 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ACCEPT
9 AND DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL
10 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ("FEMA") AND THE
11 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ("DHS").
12 (EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE ATTACHED).

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

16 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
18 final passage of Item 7-A.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted, and
8 on behalf of Scranton City Council we thank
9 Senator Robert Casey for his work and his
10 efforts in providing increased public safety
11 to the people of this city.

12 If there is no further business,
13 I'll entertain a motion it adjourn.

14 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, before we
15 adjourn, I would just like to apologize in
16 absence for my absence next week. I will be
17 out of town so I would like to just
18 apologize to everyone in advance for my
19 absence.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Motion to
21 adjourn?

22 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

23 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
24 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