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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, June 28, 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  
(Not present)

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, Councilman

13 Rogan asked me if I would read something  
14 prior to the meeting.

15 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

16 MR. MCGOFF: In a communique from  
17 Councilman Rogan, he asked me if I would  
18 read this. It says, "Unfortunately, a  
19 longstanding commitment necessitates my  
20 absence this evening. However, rest assured  
21 I am keeping a close eye on the ongoing  
22 proceedings and will stand by my belief that  
23 city government must operate as effectively  
24 and efficiently as possible, but not to the  
25 detriment of the overburdened taxpayers that

1 I represent. I am still of the belief that  
2 all five members of council and the mayor  
3 need to sit down and discuss a Recovery Plan  
4 that will work for the betterment of our  
5 great city."

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dispense  
7 with the reading of the minutes, please?

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. MINUTES OF THE  
9 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD MAY 23,  
10 2012.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. 2011 COMBINED AUDIT  
14 REPORT FOR THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH  
15 AND WELFARE AUTHORITY.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
19 REPORT, HEARING DATE FOR JULY 11, 2012.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE  
23 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD JULY  
24 11, 2012.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed. Do we have any  
2 clerk's note this evening?

3 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Do any council members  
5 have announcements at this time?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a couple.  
7 I just want to remind everyone that the  
8 benefit for "Give Jim Lance a Second Chance"  
9 will be conducted on July 14 from 5 to 10  
10 p.m. at Holy Rosary Center on West Market  
11 Street. This is a benefit for Jim Lance who  
12 was in a serious motorcycle accident and  
13 while he was recuperating his wife has  
14 passed away. So if anyone has any questions  
15 or would like to make donations they can  
16 call Nicole Lance at 575-6752.

17 On June 30 there will be a benefit  
18 in honor of the late patrol canine Grizzly  
19 at the 20th Ward 2028 Pittston Avenue from 6  
20 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for an adult and  
21 \$5 per child. There will be raffle  
22 drawings, buffet dinner and a cash bar.

23 And on July 14 the Fraternal Order  
24 of eagles, Lodge 314 is having it's fifth  
25 annual ribfest serving from 2 to 6 p.m. for

1           \$15. You get a full rack of ribs, corn on  
2           the cob, a baked potato, homemade baked  
3           beans and dessert and, let's see, the  
4           proceeds will be -- there will be a pie  
5           throwing contest and canine demos, music and  
6           the proceeds will benefit prostate cancer in  
7           the area. Thank you.

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

10                   MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
11           PARTICIPATION.

12                   MS. EVANS: Before we begin  
13           citizens' participation tonight, I wanted to  
14           say that I am aware that Mayor Doherty held  
15           a meeting yesterday afternoon with heads of  
16           the municipal unions to inform them that he  
17           is cutting salaries to minimum wages  
18           effective with the July 6, 2012, pay and to  
19           urge them to lobby council members to  
20           approve his revised Recovery Plan.

21                   I see union heads in the audience  
22           tonight. I also see city employees, who I'm  
23           told were asked this afternoon to come by  
24           Mr. McGoff. It's truly ashame that the  
25           mayor put you in this position, but now I

1           have a question for the mayor, will Mr.  
2           Scopelliti and the management of the  
3           Scranton Parking Authority earn minimum  
4           hourly wages for running the Scranton  
5           Parking Authority into the ground. The  
6           savings can be used toward the SPA's bond  
7           payments.

8                         Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a  
9           very safe and enjoyable Fourth of July  
10          holiday now, in case I forget later, and  
11          that's it. Our first speaker is Bob Martin.

12                        MR. MARTIN: Good evening, city  
13          council. Bob Martin, President of the FOP  
14          and with your permission we are going to  
15          address council collectively. We will, you  
16          know, respect the time limit on our  
17          presentation because it's short and sweet.  
18          We are here to request that city council  
19          along with the mayor sit down and work out a  
20          viable Recovery Plan that includes  
21          everyone's benefit, citizens, our members.  
22          It's important that that get worked out  
23          because it's up to this -- the most  
24          important thing is the safety of the  
25          citizenry and, of course, it effects us as

1 members and the members that we represent,  
2 and we are not here to advocate any  
3 particular Recovery Plan, we don't advocate  
4 the mayor's Recovery Plan, we don't have  
5 advocate yours, we are not sure, we have  
6 seen what's in the mayor's Recovery Plan, we  
7 just ask that you sit down with the mayor  
8 and work out something that is viable.

9 You know, we just only caution that  
10 seeing the mayor's Recovery Plan, PEL, and  
11 DCED's participation in that that, you know,  
12 we caution that there are work mandates in  
13 there that we would absolutely be against  
14 and that we will and, you know, we will  
15 fight and go back to Court if necessary.

16 I mean, there is some work mandates  
17 in there and I understand they are intended  
18 for cost savings, but they are very -- very  
19 open, open-ended, and those kind of things,  
20 I mean, if it's legal we will take you back  
21 to Court, you being the city and the  
22 administration, back to Court and I want to  
23 avoid that at any possible cost that we have  
24 gone through for the past ten years. It's  
25 been a toll on the citizens, it's a toll on



1           us, it's a toll on the council, and I'm sure  
2           a toll on the mayor and his administration.

3                        So we just ask that you please,  
4           please, sit down and work out some kind of a  
5           viable -- I mean, it's down to economics  
6           now, I understand the plight with the banks  
7           and, you know, they want to loan us money,  
8           but they are not going to loan us money  
9           until they know where the payment is going  
10          to come from. That's an every day --  
11          anybody just walks into a bank to borrow  
12          money to buy a car they want to know where  
13          the money is going to come back to repay  
14          that loan.

15                        So, again, we just ask that you sit  
16          down and work out a viable Recovery Plan  
17          that includes everybody, and in that I want  
18          to introduce President Judge of the  
19          Firefighters Association. We have done our  
20          part, this part really isn't so much about  
21          us as it is about council and the mayor  
22          working this out, we have done what we can  
23          and President judge is going to unveil  
24          exactly what we have tried to accomplish to  
25          participate in this.

1 MS. EVANS: Are the union heads  
2 aware, however, that Councilman Joyce and I  
3 met for over five months with Mayor Doherty  
4 regarding the revised Recovery Plan? He was  
5 well aware of all of our recommendations and  
6 provided verbal agreement to each and every  
7 one of them. He then turned around and  
8 produced a Recovery Plan that was quite the  
9 opposite.

10 Now, I would think that particularly  
11 the police and the fire would understand  
12 what I'm saying here better than anyone else  
13 because for ten years you went through very  
14 similar circumstances, negotiations,  
15 agreements were made, and then they walked  
16 away from that. I think actions now speak  
17 louder than words, and what the mayor needs  
18 to do is quite simple, he is aware of it, he  
19 has all of council's recommendations, he  
20 needs to incorporate them into the plan  
21 because I think otherwise what the unions  
22 are saying to us is give the people a 78  
23 percent tax increase.

24 MR. VITRIS: I said she was going to  
25 say that.

1 MR. MARTIN: No, that's not what we  
2 are saying.

3 MR. VITRIS: That's not what we're  
4 saying.

5 MR. MARTIN: That's not what we're  
6 saying at all. We are not -- again, we  
7 don't advocate the mayor's Recovery Plan, we  
8 agree with you wholeheartedly, and as you  
9 are about to find out and the public is  
10 about to find out what we have to done to  
11 actually thwart any, you know, the tax  
12 increases that he deems necessary. I don't  
13 know where these numbers come from, but we  
14 do not support that. We are not supporting  
15 any monstrous, unbearable tax increases.  
16 Not at all. We just want a workable, viable  
17 Recovery Plan, and so we don't run over  
18 time --

19 MR. JUDGE: Good evening, City  
20 Council. John Judge, president of the  
21 Scranton Firefighters Union. Let me start  
22 by saying, we came here, we are basically --  
23 the timing of this was very suspicious. We  
24 are notified a day before you guys go to  
25 Court, the day before the hearing, I have

1           been told by the mayor several times over  
2           the past month to six weeks health care is  
3           getting shut off next week, kept kind of not  
4           threatening but advising me of very bad  
5           conditions that are going to happen so that  
6           myself and our membership would come here  
7           and push you in the right direction. His  
8           right direction, what he considers the right  
9           direction.

10                        I agree 100 percent with you. To  
11           take him at his face absolutely would not  
12           advise it. I think that there needs to be  
13           cooperation between council and the mayor,  
14           but I think it's a lot more give on the  
15           mayor's part at this point in time. I was  
16           aware of the meetings that -- I go to PEL  
17           and PEL meetings every week. I was aware of  
18           the meetings that Mr. Joyce and yourself had  
19           had with him and for him to incorporate them  
20           and they still tout that -- or your  
21           recommendations are in there, yeah, only as  
22           recommendations and we have seen over the  
23           past how he -- what he does with  
24           recommendations. He just won't implement  
25           them and then the city will have dramatic

1 tax increases which is unbearable.

2 I want to get to this real quick.  
3 This is not something that I want to do  
4 here, but you know what, it's about time.  
5 Over a month ago myself and members of my  
6 bargaining unit and members of the police,  
7 three state mediators, a couple of council  
8 members up here, the mayor, the business  
9 administrator and the city solicitor, the  
10 human resource director had several meetings  
11 over the course of several weeks. A lot of  
12 long days spent at the University of  
13 Scranton, some days spent here, trying to  
14 hash out a workable agreement to mitigate  
15 this 30 plus million dollar suit that -- or  
16 Court award that the police and fire have.

17 We went in there, the mayor for the  
18 first time actually sat down with good  
19 intentions we thought and we put together  
20 what I have here and I brought it tonight  
21 because it's been locked in my safe and,  
22 unfortunately, my members are finding out  
23 for the first time tonight. I have a signed  
24 contract and the FOP president has a signed  
25 contract as well. This is the pen I

1           actually used to sign it and I have the  
2           mayor's signature on the contract, which  
3           some day hopefully I'll frame because I  
4           never thought it would come to true.

5                         Both of these awards were done in  
6           good faith and they mitigate the \$30 million  
7           award probably to the tune of less than  
8           half, a lot of giveaways in this award.  
9           There was one condition that was put in  
10          here, it was for DCED to sign off on this  
11          because the mayor had touted contracts that  
12          we had previously or possible contracts that  
13          we had had previously and the mayor had said  
14          DCED killed the deal.

15                        We said, "Fine, get DCED to sign off  
16          on these and we'll bring it back to our body  
17          to ratify it."

18                        My signature is on it, the mayor's  
19          signature is on it, Councilman Loscombe's  
20          signature is on it and we understand that it  
21          needs to go to my body for ratification and  
22          needs to come back to council for  
23          ratification as well and approval. DCED is  
24          holding this hostage, literally holding this  
25          hostage, much like they are holding the city

1           hostage and you hostage to drive the  
2           Recovery Plan through. I was told  
3           specifically in no uncertain terms by the  
4           mayor, quid pro quo, his words exactly, "You  
5           help me get a Recovery Plan and you'll have  
6           your deal."

7                        That's a bunch of crap. He wants us  
8           to come here and pressure you guys into  
9           passing an exorbitant tax increase and a  
10          Recovery Plan that has parts in it that have  
11          nothing do with the financial stability of  
12          this city and it's ridiculous. He needs to,  
13          and Councilman McGoff wants me to demand  
14          that you guys meet with him. What I demand  
15          is that he come here and sit down and meet  
16          with you and the five of you hash this out.  
17          It's time. My members cannot endure more  
18          pain. They have endured ten years of pain  
19          and now you want them to work for minimum  
20          wage. They will be there. Those fire  
21          houses will be open, those trucks will be  
22          manned, my members will be there like they  
23          always have in the past.

24                       But you know what? You want them  
25          thinking about all of the stresses that this

1 financial problem is going to put on their  
2 families while they are trying to run into a  
3 burning building to put your fire out or to  
4 save your kid? No. You want them of good  
5 sound mind, just like you want the police  
6 officers and just like you need DPW and  
7 clerical to concentrate on their job because  
8 their numbers have been slashed as well.

9 It needs to happen. I demand that  
10 he comes here. It's that simple. It needs  
11 to be figured out, I understand that there  
12 is some give that council needs to give on a  
13 little bit, but the majority of it is his  
14 stake. This is a deal that DCED is holding  
15 hostage much like they are holding you  
16 hostage and it's time for it to end. For  
17 somebody that DCED touts that they don't  
18 want to get involved in small municipality  
19 matters, it's a bunch of bull. I have been  
20 told more times than once that this will not  
21 be signed or approved until such time that  
22 there is a Recovery Plan. They need that  
23 before they can address that. I feel like  
24 I'm being used as a pawn.

25 When we came out of the meeting with



1 the mayor the other day all four union heads  
2 had the same basic premise, we all thought  
3 we are being used. We are being used as a  
4 pawn again. What better way to force you to  
5 go ahead and drive through that crap  
6 document Recovery Plan than have four union  
7 heads come in here and start to go, "You  
8 need to do this, my members can't endure  
9 this."

10 You do what you need to do for the  
11 welfare of this city because I know you will  
12 keep the interest of all of these bargaining  
13 unit members and all of these employees at  
14 heart as well. That's all I have.

15 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to verify  
16 what President Judge has stated because I,  
17 myself, participated in two of those  
18 negotiation sessions with the municipal  
19 unions and the mayor when my mother became  
20 gravely ill i was no longer able to  
21 participate and I asked that Councilman  
22 Loscombe and Councilman Joyce would continue  
23 with the meetings and take my place and keep  
24 me abreast of what was occurring and today,  
25 just again to justify what you said this

1 evening, I received an e-mail from Thomas W.  
2 Jennings, the attorney for the police and  
3 fire unions, and it was sent to Paul Kelly  
4 and myself and I'd like to read it now. "It  
5 is now regretfully self-evident that DCED  
6 has again blocked the city acting this time  
7 through both its mayor and council from  
8 entering into an agreement with the unions  
9 that would have achieved labor peace for the  
10 foreseeable future and saved the citizens  
11 somewhere in the area of \$15 million.

12 This is the second time in which the  
13 city has been prevented from resolving  
14 issues. We know that first ill-advised  
15 occasion has now had disastrous consequences  
16 for the citizens of the city and I believe  
17 that this second occasion will be even  
18 worse.

19 In view of the foregoing, we have  
20 decided to advise the American Arbitration  
21 Association to move forward with issuing the  
22 award in the audit case. I would hope that  
23 DCED has agreed to hold the citizens  
24 harmless against any loss that may occur as  
25 a result of it's interference with the

1 agreement of the parties. I do wish to  
2 thank the mayor and city council for their  
3 un precedented efforts in seeking and  
4 achieving what could have been a mutually  
5 satisfactory agreement on these complex  
6 issues.

7 I am at a complete loss to  
8 understand DCED's rationale in executing an  
9 effective veto of these efforts and trust  
10 that ultimately whoever made that horrendous  
11 decision will be held accountable for it."

12 And, ladies and gentlemen, this the  
13 same DCED and Pennsylvania Economy League  
14 who have been interfering with the banks,  
15 they have no concern for the finances of  
16 this city but more so they have no concern  
17 for each and every one of you and the  
18 taxpayers of this city need to band together  
19 and run them right out of this town and the  
20 mayor and city council need to insist that  
21 DCED has nothing to say about this  
22 agreement, just like the mayor should have  
23 said years back in those negotiations to  
24 DCED. You have nothing to do with this.  
25 You are not elected officials, you are

1 appointed officials. The elected officials  
2 of this city wish to settle and we would not  
3 have been facing over a \$30 million Supreme  
4 Court award, so the mayor needs to tell  
5 DCED, "Hit the road with this," and then the  
6 mayor needs to put council's recommendations  
7 into his Recovery Plan.

8 And I'm going to give you a second  
9 example of another negotiation with this  
10 mayor, back in 2010 when he took this  
11 council to Court over cuts to city  
12 government that we wished to make because  
13 this city was teetering on the brink of  
14 financial insolvency and, of course, we were  
15 ruled against, but the judge asked before  
16 anything began, "I want the mayor and the  
17 council to sit down and negotiate this."

18 And that's what we did, and we  
19 worked very hard with Solicitor Hughes and  
20 we came up with an agreement that, ladies  
21 and gentlemen, I can even tell you now it  
22 wasn't 50/50, it gave the mayor 70 and it  
23 gave council 30, and what happened is very  
24 simple, when he was given that document at  
25 the 11th hour he said, "No, I'm going to

1 Court," and back into the courtroom we went.

2 So it is very, very difficult to be  
3 told you need to sit down with someone who  
4 says one thing and does another and in the  
5 process wastes your time, your life, your  
6 work and your efforts. Actions speak louder  
7 than words.

8 And, Mayor, you and I need to make  
9 this agreement a reality and save the people  
10 of this city \$15 million and you need to  
11 incorporate into the Recovery Plan those  
12 revenue generators that will cut down that  
13 78 percent tax increase that you and DCED  
14 want and bring it down to a level that is  
15 manageable for the taxpayers by bringing in  
16 the revenue sources that this council has  
17 been urging you about for two years now.

18 And I have had -- I have had  
19 meetings in person, I have had countless  
20 phone calls where the mayor has told me,  
21 "Oh, yes, I'm doing that parking tax."

22 Was it enacted yet? No.

23 "Oh, what do you want, StreetSmart?  
24 I'll get right on it."

25 That is since February. There is no

1 parking meter program and I can go down the  
2 list of everything that council has put  
3 forth as revenue generators. They have  
4 thumbed their nose at us, but worse when  
5 they are doing that they are thumbing their  
6 nose at you because they just want to hand  
7 you the bag of bills and say, "You pay that  
8 28 percent you little people --" or 28, I'm  
9 sorry, I wish it were, "78 percent you  
10 little people of Scranton."

11 And it's not going to stop there  
12 because the full Supreme Court award isn't  
13 included in that plan and the debt of the  
14 Parking Authority isn't included in that  
15 plan, but they figure they'll just sock you  
16 with those tax increases in the future, so  
17 that really you are looking at 100 percent  
18 plus tax increase and the only people who  
19 have been standing between you and all of  
20 these sources for making that happen are the  
21 three people sitting up here right now. We  
22 are work horses. We have been doing our job  
23 here and behind the scenes and this is where  
24 it stands and this is what the mayor needs  
25 to do for everyone who lives in this city as

1 of tonight.

2 MR. JUDGE: So just so everybody is  
3 aware of what that letter is, that was one  
4 of the cases in this contract that's signed  
5 we were willing to dispense with and it was  
6 a concession in this contract.

7 MS. EVANS: I understand that you  
8 made a number of concessions.

9 MR. JUDGE: Yes, and that was one of  
10 them that's now going to be pushed forward,  
11 we have now waited a month, we were  
12 originally when we left we were -- this was  
13 supposed to be signed off by DCED, I believe  
14 within seven days, and it's now been over a  
15 month and if the banking community wants a  
16 Recovery Plan here's \$15 million we'll save  
17 you right now if they are looking for some  
18 recovery so when Attorney Hughes is speaking  
19 with the banks and he gets that chance or  
20 opportunity he could tell them the unions  
21 are willing to give you \$15 million in  
22 savings to the city to protect the fiscal  
23 stability of this city. So that's a start.

24 MR. VITRIS: Naturally, the police  
25 and fire problems are very complex, they

1           have been for a long time. We have been  
2           fortunate over the years to be able to  
3           negotiate contracts, maybe not the greatest  
4           contracts, but nonetheless they were  
5           contracts and job security for our members.  
6           And what concerns me the most is on behalf  
7           of my members and all of the employees of  
8           the city is that we are really not going  
9           anywhere right now except to a minimum wage  
10          and I had a conversation with Janet, and she  
11          will verify it --

12                   MS. EVANS: Yes, you did.

13                   MR. VITRIS: -- and with the mayor  
14                   and also Mr. Hughes and Mr. Kelly today at  
15                   the courthouse where I feel that it's in the  
16                   utmost importance that somehow we address  
17                   the problem at hand, and the problem at hand  
18                   is how do we continue to provide the  
19                   services because we are going to keep  
20                   showing up to work, but how do we avert this  
21                   train that's coming on July 6?

22                   MS. EVANS: Well, I think you have  
23                   the answer now, Mr. Vitris, and you should  
24                   go back to the mayor and tell him this is  
25                   what he needs to do.



1 MR. VITRIS: Okay. And, also, has  
2 the mayor reached out to council in the last  
3 24 hours regarding resolution of this  
4 problem, in the last 24 hours?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

6 MS. EVANS: Not that I'm aware of.

7 MR. JOYCE: Not to me.

8 MS. EVANS: But I haven't been home  
9 all day today, I had quite a number of  
10 appointment.

11 MR. VITRIS: All right.

12 MS. EVANS: I have only been able to  
13 speak with our attorney.

14 MR. VITRIS: So I'm told that he has  
15 and I'm not advocating for his Recovery  
16 Plan, I have never been in favor, like, any  
17 of the union heads here for a Recovery Plan,  
18 I would rather call it a financial plan for  
19 the future of the City of Scranton, but just  
20 like they said we will fight when our  
21 contract is up anything that is in this  
22 Recovery Plan that's going to hurt us.  
23 Plain and simple, just plain simple  
24 language, and we provide a service, it's a  
25 very important service, services to the

1 people of this city and I just hope that the  
2 train that's coming down the track doesn't  
3 just roll right all over us next Friday on  
4 July 6 because it's not going to be a pretty  
5 site. I don't think it's fair to have all  
6 of the employees making minimum wage. I  
7 mean, collective bargaining as always been  
8 very important to me, it always has been  
9 and, Janet, you were a union member, Jack,  
10 you are a union member, you now how  
11 important it is when you negotiate a  
12 contract that you see those contracts  
13 through until the next one, and it's  
14 important to us that if there is a way to  
15 stop this, and we do it.

16 And I would just, you know,  
17 appreciate if there is any way that we can  
18 sit down even if has to be the unions, also,  
19 the unions have to be involved, the mayor,  
20 the city council, everyone together has to  
21 be involved in this even if it means you  
22 people in the meetings with the bankers,  
23 because for some reason the banker's seem to  
24 have this hand in all of this.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, that's because

1 Pennsylvania Economy League and DCED have  
2 put their hand into everything and it  
3 doesn't belong in there.

4 MR. VITRIS: But I understand what  
5 you are saying and what everybody is saying  
6 here, but how do we fix it? Is it fixable?  
7 Is this fixable, and we all need to know as  
8 400 employees, 600 retirees, whatever it is,  
9 is this problem fixable or is there no hope  
10 before we -- this train comes down and just  
11 runs us all over, are we are going to be  
12 lied to for the next six weeks and say we  
13 are at \$7.25 an hour and eventually end up  
14 bankrupt anyway because we need to know are  
15 we going to work together to fix this  
16 because we want to, and let's just hope it  
17 happens for all our sake.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, the ball is, as I  
19 said, is in the mayor's court. He can do  
20 the right thing or he can continue to push  
21 along in the courtroom and --

22 MR. VITRIS: The ball is in all of  
23 our courts.

24 MS. EVANS: -- with your wages and,  
25 you know, as you said, you don't want to be

1           lied to. Well, you have never been lied to  
2           by this council. No one has been. The  
3           mayor is the one that likes to tell the  
4           tales, and I know because I have listened to  
5           enough of them now for five months by phone  
6           and in person, so I'm not concerned about  
7           sitting down and talking to him unless he  
8           wants to come here because if he wants to  
9           talk with five council members this is the  
10          only venue in which it can happen because of  
11          the Sunshine Act, so if that -- if that  
12          pleases him, we can do this publically. If  
13          not, he needs to put pen to paper, call his  
14          friends at DCED and PEL and get this  
15          straightened out right away. It's up to  
16          him.

17                   MR. VITRIS: Okay, and I'll leave  
18                   it, but, Mr. McGoff, one question if there  
19                   is -- and all -- any council or Mr. Hughes,  
20                   \$16 million is needed to fill the budget; is  
21                   that correct? Yes or no, a simple question?  
22                   Is it 16 million or is it --

23                   MR. MCGOFF: I would say, yes.

24                   MR. VITRIS: 16 or is it 9? Which  
25                   one is it?

1 MR. MCGOFF: There is a \$16.5  
2 million in unfunded borrowing.

3 MS. EVANS: No. It's \$9.85 million  
4 in unfunded debt borrowing and that was  
5 passed by this council, signed off by the  
6 mayor, and the tax increase that was ordered  
7 by the Court in Lackawanna County that was  
8 passed by this council and signed by the  
9 mayor yet nobody wants to go out and get  
10 that money. They sent money e-mail to a few  
11 banks and they said -- -

12 MR. MCGOFF: That's untrue.

13 MS. EVANS: Well, that's what --

14 MR. MCGOFF: It is not true. You  
15 know that that's not true.

16 MS. EVANS: I know --

17 MR. MCGOFF: The administration has  
18 been working to try and secure that since  
19 January.

20 MS. EVANS: The  
21 administration also -- well --

22 MR. VITRIS: This the exact reason,  
23 exactly what I'm talking about.

24 MR. HUGHES: I can answer the  
25 question. There is \$9.85 million that was

1 approved by the Court provided for your tax  
2 increase. All of the legislation has been  
3 adopted for that. Two weeks ago, it will be  
4 two weeks ago tomorrow, I called Dennis  
5 Kozalanski, who is the bond counsel for the  
6 city and the Scranton Parking Authority,  
7 coincidentally. I told him that the \$9.85  
8 million has absolutely nothing to do with  
9 the Recovery Plan. The bond counsel, the  
10 bond people they put that together with the  
11 other 6.6 million.

12 I said you should separate that out,  
13 that's standalone borrowing that has nothing  
14 to do with the Recovery Plan. There is a  
15 guaranteed amount of tax increase next year  
16 millage to pay that. Separate it out.  
17 Float that. Go back to M & T and float  
18 that. In two weeks I've never heard from  
19 them. They should be able to do that  
20 because it has nothing to do with the  
21 Recovery Plan. That's a guaranteed amount  
22 of segregated taxes. I know when the  
23 legislation came down here I was the one  
24 that drafted the formulas as to how to do  
25 that to separate out, to separate out the

1 taxes that are going to come in next year on  
2 real estate so that that would be paid.

3 They took my formula, they brushed  
4 it up a little bit, refined it, but that was  
5 in the legislation. If that were -- it was  
6 my understanding that that was always to pay  
7 last year's bills. I haven't investigated  
8 it, but I have been told that a lot of those  
9 bills have been paid with these year's money  
10 instead of waiting for the bond issue, and  
11 that's why if that were floated and that  
12 \$9.85 million came into the city we have no  
13 idea how much of that is already been paid  
14 for last year's bills, but whether it's --

15 MR. VITRIS: But whether it's 9.8 --

16 MR. HUGHES: Whether it's 2 million,  
17 5 million, I don't know, but that money  
18 would then be available to the city because  
19 those bills have been paid and that money  
20 would be available to pay the outstanding  
21 bills, and I don't know why the mayor --  
22 this is not council's responsibility.

23 MR. VITRIS: Right.

24 MR. HUGHES: Council's function is  
25 legislative. It's up to the mayor as the

1 executive to go out and do that and be  
2 talking to the banks. Dennis Kozalanski  
3 should have talked to the mayor, he should  
4 have gone back to M & T and said, "Here,  
5 this is what council came up with and  
6 they're right."

7 I know I'm right. It has nothing to  
8 do with the Recovery Plan, and there is  
9 \$9.85 million that right there could have  
10 been underwritten and floated in a bond  
11 issue within a short period of time. Now, I  
12 don't know how long it would take, but I  
13 certainly believe it would be -- it's not a  
14 public offering, there is no SCC  
15 registration there is no state registration,  
16 that could be a private placement, one  
17 investor could take it, that money could  
18 come into the city.

19 MR. VITRIS: And I certainly respect  
20 your answer and it sounds like a reasonable  
21 answer, but that's my point. This has been  
22 my point, nobody is on the same page, and if  
23 we don't get on the same page that's the  
24 only reason I'm here tonight, and usually  
25 it's us fighting with the mayor, us fighting



1 with the council over contracts. Now we got  
2 the legislative body, this is a big twist  
3 for us. We got our bosses, because you are  
4 our bosses, and the mayor, fighting with  
5 each other and we are not going to get paid.  
6 So that's the only -- I respect Boyd, I  
7 think he is an excellent attorney, I think  
8 all of you people are excellent, I respect  
9 the mayor, but we all have to get -- we are  
10 all in this together, all of the people in  
11 this city are in this. We need to get on  
12 with this.

13 MS. EVANS: I absolutely agree and I  
14 sympathize with all of the workers who do a  
15 very good job and show up each and every  
16 day, but you've got to remember the bottom  
17 line here is that 78 percent plus tax  
18 increase.

19 MR. VITRIS: We are not advocating  
20 that.

21 MS. EVANS: And council is not  
22 rolling over for it, Sam.

23 MR. VITRIS: And just so everybody  
24 is on the -- I agree. I'm a homeowner for  
25 30 years in the City of Scranton, I lived in

1 the city all of my life in West Scranton,  
2 and I agree city council should have their  
3 recommendations put directly into the  
4 Recovery Plan. I don't even like to say  
5 Recovery Plan, I like to call it a financial  
6 plan because I'm so sick of saying recovery.  
7 A financial plan for the future of the City  
8 of Scranton and they should -- you are the  
9 legislative body and they should, but there  
10 is no way to do this. It's just like the  
11 police and fire contracts that went on for  
12 ten years, there is no way to settle it  
13 unless we sit down and you fix it.

14 So, I mean, all of these meetings  
15 for the next two, three, four weeks, six  
16 weeks if this is going to continue on well  
17 into the summer this isn't going to be good,  
18 so I would just hope that, you know, we  
19 could resolve this. I'm not going to say no  
20 more, I've said enough and I appreciate it.  
21 Thank you.

22 MR. HUGHES: Mrs. Evans, if I could?  
23 Sam, if you go back there, please, I mean,  
24 all of the unions members because I was --  
25 before I got on the elevator with all of you

1           today Paul Kelly and I had a conversation  
2           and I told him, I said, "It's my opinion  
3           that the mayor and council should tell PEL  
4           and DCED where to go," because he told me  
5           that he had just gotten a letter from  
6           Jennings and I said, "I think it's time that  
7           the city tells them get lost and we do our  
8           own deal."

9                       MR. VITRIS: We have been saying  
10           that for 20 years.

11                      MR. HUGHES: Look at, I'm just  
12           saying right now because if it's DCED that  
13           goofed up that settlement, you know, they  
14           are not doing -- they are not doing the  
15           unions, they're not doing the city, they're  
16           not the taxpayers or the citizens of this  
17           city any good and it's my opinion to tell  
18           them to get lost.

19                      Now, I'm not involved in that  
20           negotiation, it's not up to me, but as a  
21           lawyer that's what I said to Paul Kelly, and  
22           I think that they should really consider it  
23           and that should be put in the Recovery Plan,  
24           and I'll tell you what I think about the  
25           Recovery Plan from a legal standpoint. I

1 think -- if that Recovery Plan, forget the  
2 procedural deficiencies, and I told Judge  
3 Mazzone that today, you were in Court, I  
4 said, "If that were adopted any one of these  
5 citizens out there could go file a lawsuit  
6 and they could void it out because the  
7 proper procedures were not followed by DCED,  
8 PEL or the mayor."

9 And that's why that's not on  
10 council's agenda on my advice and that's  
11 going to be in my preliminary objections to  
12 the mayor's lawsuit against this council.  
13 It's going to be bring it to a dead stop,  
14 and the thing is that when it comes to that,  
15 that PEL and DCED shouldn't interrupt in  
16 this. They are costing us \$15 million, that  
17 could all be put together, that's not in the  
18 Recovery Plan. The fact of the Parking  
19 Authority and their deficit, the \$2 million  
20 for the next 23 years, their deficit, that's  
21 what's going to cost those city on those  
22 bonds, that's not in the Recovery Plan. Any  
23 banker would take that Recovery Plan and  
24 say, "Hey, this isn't any good because we  
25 are looking at liabilities that you have

1           that aren't put in here and how are you  
2           going to address them?"

3                         And certainly if they were in there  
4           you could take a look at all of the debt of  
5           the city and then figure something out  
6           structurally as to how to refinance it maybe  
7           in today's rates. That's up to the mayor.  
8           That's not up to council. I mean, I have  
9           ideas on it, I told council what they are,  
10          but that's up to them to implement.

11                        MR. VITRIS: Thank you and just  
12          like, you know, Boyd, I understand and hear  
13          everything you are saying, but I think to be  
14          perfectly honest with you I think you play a  
15          major role with Mr. Kelly in resolving this  
16          with city council and the mayor. I mean, I  
17          think you are intelligent people and we need  
18          to look at for everybody here because there  
19          is train coming and it's coming Friday, July  
20          6. Thank you.

21                        MS. HERCHICK: Just to sum up, we  
22          realize, all of our brothers and sisters and  
23          all of the unions, we do realize you have a  
24          daunting task and we would just appreciate  
25          anything that can be done to help not only

1 the citizens of the city, because we are  
2 citizens of the city, but for the workers of  
3 the city that lay their lives on the line,  
4 do public service, and the clerical workers,  
5 we would appreciate anything and from the  
6 bottom of our hearts thank you very much.  
7 Thank you for entertaining us and letting us  
8 speak. Thank you.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Ozzie Quinn.

11 MR. QUINN: Good evening.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

13 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Scranton  
14 Taxpayers' Association. You know, I guess  
15 you would say in a miniscule way about  
16 saving face with the mayor, some years ago I  
17 met with Mayor Doherty in his office when I  
18 was the executive director of Habitat for  
19 Humanity of the county and I asked him if he  
20 would possibly consider selling a piece a  
21 parcel of vacant land in the City of  
22 Scranton that was weed overgrown, nontax  
23 producing for years and he says,  
24 "Definitely," and I told him it would go  
25 back on the tax rolls and he says,

1 "Definitely," and he stood up and he says,  
2 "I wish all meetings were like this and I  
3 hope we can do future business."

4 The next week I went before the SRA,  
5 the -- what's the -- the board of directors  
6 and I was shot down. Shot down. Now, I'm  
7 not a fool or naive, I know who appoints the  
8 SRA and the vacant land property committee  
9 and Sara Hailstone who was the OECD director  
10 who was the coordinate and shot right down,  
11 so this just goes to show you that how you  
12 can talk to the mayor and as soon as he  
13 turns his backs he tells the others go the  
14 other way, small or not, that is what  
15 happens.

16 Now, I looked at editorial this  
17 morning and, you know, the mayor and  
18 Scranton Times are not holding itself  
19 accountable for what's going on here, and it  
20 says here, "Scranton's problem is that it  
21 might require a Federal Court intervention  
22 to overcome the political dysfunction  
23 brought by a city council that will not  
24 approve the administration's Recovery Plan  
25 while refusing to produce one of it's own."

1                   Now, what they are doing, they are  
2 going out and they are doing the big public  
3 relations, and the mayor, he is sitting down  
4 and meeting with the TV and giving these  
5 interviews and sort of putting everything on  
6 your back, and I had a person come up to  
7 here me that I know doesn't read the paper  
8 all the time and all they do is listen to  
9 the radio and what not and said, "What is  
10 council doing?"

11                   And you have to explain, and this is  
12 their game. They get you people driven down  
13 so that, you know, the people think that are  
14 you to blame. Well, I want to tell you  
15 something, I could write a Recovery Plan  
16 today and put a 78 percent tax in there and  
17 add 22 more percent -- \$22 more dollars in  
18 the garbage tax, it's all academic, you  
19 know. You can be like a Scranton Times and  
20 run it through a political science professor  
21 and say, "Here, don't you think this will  
22 solve the problem?"

23                   And they'll say, "The man in the  
24 books says that will solve the problem," but  
25 being the realists, as you people are, you



1 know that the City of Scranton the median  
2 income is \$35,000 and you know what a median  
3 income is, it means of the 30,000 households  
4 15,000 households are making less than  
5 \$35,000 --\$35,000 or less, so how could they  
6 ever put a 21 percent poverty rate and  
7 ever listen to it or, you know, even  
8 consider a tax raise. It would kill the  
9 city.

10 And I just want you know that I'm  
11 behind you people 100 percent, I know that  
12 the Scranton Times, and I'm going to tell  
13 you I have the documentation that shows that  
14 they monetarily contribute to the mayor's  
15 election every time he runs for a campaign  
16 and it is not only immoral, it's a illegal  
17 for them to, you know, under the social of  
18 journalism to do something like that and  
19 yet, you know, how can they say that they  
20 are supporting this here city and community.  
21 They have turned their backs on the  
22 community. They want to put you people out  
23 so they can save their laced curtain  
24 Mr. Doherty, okay? And it's ashame and I  
25 want to let you know that anything I can do

1 to help you I would appreciate it. You call  
2 me. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy  
4 Sbaraglia.

5 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
6 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians.  
7 I realize they are going to have trouble  
8 living on the minimum wage, but is this  
9 going to go on for ten years this minimum  
10 wage or not? But your tax increase will.  
11 That will saddle us forever.

12 I'm a union person, I always said I  
13 was there is no way I could live on -- I  
14 live on an union pension and I would hate to  
15 see anybody, you know, do without or one way  
16 or the other, but now we have to get down to  
17 basics. The basic is Scranton is in a cash  
18 flow problem. When the mayor was down  
19 touting his sales tax increase or down there  
20 crying for a commuter tax why didn't he ask  
21 the legislature to allow Scranton to collect  
22 their own wage tax, which would have helped  
23 us tremendously for our cash flow. He  
24 didn't do that and he didn't care to do it  
25 and it didn't even get down there and talk

1 to the people when they were thinking of  
2 doing it. You got to look at things  
3 realistically and things further out.

4 Government doesn't stop at your  
5 nose, it goes on. What you do up there  
6 effects all of us in the city, 76,000 of us,  
7 and not just for today or tomorrow it's for  
8 years and years and years and our children  
9 and grandchildren. Does anybody here ever  
10 contact Carbondale up there to see how that  
11 plan they got with the fire taken out of  
12 their taxes and charge extra for it and if  
13 the nonprofits are paying for that? I mean,  
14 you got to look at things to get the  
15 nonprofits to pay. There is no way out of  
16 it. There is no way the common man in this  
17 city can come up with all these taxes. We  
18 are charged 2.4 for every dollar we earn.  
19 We are charged \$52 just to work in the city  
20 and you are charging everybody else even  
21 outside of the city \$52 bucks, and it hasn't  
22 made a dent in our problems and it never  
23 will make a dent in our problem because  
24 these bills will keep growing and growing  
25 and growing.

1                   Buildings fall apart, engines fall  
2                   apart, even people fall apart, that's why  
3                   they have health insurance. All of these  
4                   problems are there, but nobody cares.

5                   I'll mention Brian Reap again  
6                   because I was here when they are were  
7                   passing that deal where if you retired you  
8                   get lifetime medical, okay? Brian Reap at  
9                   that time said, "Hold on, why don't we just  
10                  take them until their 65 and then let them  
11                  get on medical care and so forth and that  
12                  would save a lot of money to the city," but  
13                  he didn't do that. Now, you claim we can't  
14                  pay the medical bill. Did anybody ever look  
15                  other than Brian about what was going to  
16                  happen in the future?

17                  Government isn't something present,  
18                  unfortunately, I wish it was. I wish we  
19                  would say we could vote somebody out of  
20                  office in a year, but it doesn't work that  
21                  way. In this state you are there for four  
22                  years and there is no way to change what was  
23                  going to know happen. Too much damage can  
24                  be done in four years in office.  
25                  Unfortunately, it's that way.

1                   And I wish people get out there and  
2                   look at what's happening within your  
3                   community or anywhere and I know some poor  
4                   people paying a commuter tax to the city and  
5                   I don't support them anyway -- anyway  
6                   contributing to the city other than the 52  
7                   bucks, I mean, they got their own community  
8                   to take care of. It's ashame that we have  
9                   to go back and say, "We are going to tax you  
10                  on top of whatever taxing our poor people of  
11                  Scranton."

12                  But I suggest you contact Carbondale  
13                  and see how that plan up there is working  
14                  and that the nonprofits have to pay up  
15                  there. I mean, that's as simple as only a  
16                  phone call to the mayor up there to find out  
17                  what's going on there with the tax because I  
18                  come up here many times and told you split  
19                  off the services. You got to force the  
20                  nonprofits to pay.

21                  I don't have anything to get from  
22                  all of this. Really, I didn't -- I'm old  
23                  enough now where my future home is up the  
24                  Cathedral, too, but you guys to do something  
25                  for the children of Scranton. If you want

1           to get here and you have to raise a family  
2           in here I suggest get out there and try to  
3           get some way to keep people here so they can  
4           live here. It's bad enough we don't have  
5           our jobs here. Thank you.

6                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next  
7           speaker is Bernie Passat.

8                   MR. PASSAT: Good evening, everyone.  
9           Within this last week I took it upon myself  
10          to, I wrote a little note and I went around  
11          and I only got to a few streets in West  
12          Scranton area, I'm from West Scranton and my  
13          note is to Mayor Doherty and it says, "Does  
14          Mayor Doherty think that money grows on  
15          trees? Tell Mr. Doherty that you cannot  
16          afford more taxes. Tell him to find other  
17          ways to finances the city's debt that has  
18          resulted from business mismanagement,  
19          delinquent taxes, inflated pensions with  
20          salary, unnecessary appointments and general  
21          disrespect for taxpayers. Our taxes are  
22          high enough. No more, Mr. Doherty. No  
23          more."

24                           And then I have a place for people  
25          to sign. Well, I'm telling you it was -- it

1           didn't take me any time at all. I went  
2           maybe a half hour after summer, a half hour  
3           in the afternoon. Coming home from the  
4           store I said, "I think I'll stop on this  
5           street" and people were like, "Give me that.  
6           Give me that."

7                         But one thing I did have to amend it  
8           because they said, "It's not only Mayor  
9           Doherty, it's also city council."

10                        This is what -- and I'm prepared to  
11           hand over a copy of those names, too, that  
12           signed, I only hit a few streets in West  
13           Scranton, I'm going to continue. I didn't  
14           get to South Side yet, Tripps Park, North  
15           Scranton, the Hill Section, East Mountain,  
16           I'm going to keep going. People are  
17           disgusted. It's the council, the mayor,  
18           lawyers, the unions, council, mayor,  
19           lawyers, unions, and people they just  
20           feel -- they said, "I'll sign it, but they  
21           are probably not going to look at it,  
22           they'll just toss it. They don't care how  
23           many names you get."

24                        And I said, "Well, you know what,  
25           I'm so aggravated reading the paper I just

1           feel I have to do something."

2                       And I started this and I'm going to  
3           keep going with, and I just wrote down a few  
4           things that I kept hearing the same thing  
5           over and over and over, that it's the mayor,  
6           as well as the city council, and both sides  
7           are to blame, and I understand, you know, I  
8           read, I'm up on what's going on and so are a  
9           lot of these people, in fact, a couple of  
10          people I told them, I said, "Would you run  
11          for mayor?" I said, "I'll back you up 100  
12          percent."

13                      Good ideas, good sincere, not  
14          political people, and I think that's what  
15          you need in there, so it was the city and  
16          the mayor both responsible. Taxpayers feel  
17          like they have no say. I think that's why  
18          they were happy to sign this because at  
19          least they are going their two cents in.  
20          The mayor and city council do not care about  
21          the taxpayers. There is that big feeling  
22          out there and the people are -- many people  
23          are destitute.

24                      Now, I feel very bad for -- and I'm  
25          also upset that all of those union people



1 left. They don't really care what the  
2 taxpayers have to say. That's how I feel  
3 when I saw them all go out the door. If one  
4 or two them stayed, you know, it would have  
5 been nice. But people are destitute. So  
6 many people I talked to that signed this  
7 they don't have a job. They can't make  
8 their mortgage payments. They want to leave  
9 Scranton, they really do, and you can see it  
10 by the "For Sale" signs going up.

11 They are destitute, lost their jobs  
12 and they cannot pay a tax increase,  
13 especially of 78 percent. I don't care if  
14 it is over three years. Increases in  
15 garbage fees. Different permits. I hear  
16 about people trying to fix their houses and  
17 they say the permits have gone up sky high.  
18 They also feel that too many people are not  
19 paying their taxes. They feel that there  
20 might be people out there, maybe you know, I  
21 hear rumors, other people, that they got  
22 some kind of a connection and they don't  
23 have to pay their taxes, they don't have to  
24 pay their garbage fees. So, you know, just  
25 raise the taxes let those that are paying

1 let them pay, and a lot of these people are  
2 people that can afford to pay.

3 The mayor, here's the big thing, the  
4 mayor, why isn't he at these city council  
5 meetings? I hear that over -- other almost  
6 every one of the 237 people said that. Why  
7 isn't the mayor at the those meetings to  
8 discuss with council?

9 And there is just a general feeling  
10 of disgust and distrust with all of the city  
11 officials and really politicians in general,  
12 and I want to say I feel very bad those  
13 people if they are going to have live on  
14 their minimum wage with their benefits and  
15 job security, but a lot of these people I  
16 talked to they would give their right arm to  
17 have one of those positions at minimum wage  
18 working for the city.

19 And, like I said I just got started,  
20 it took me a couple of hours going here and  
21 there and, boy, they just grabbed that  
22 paper, "I'll sign it. I'll sign that  
23 paper," because people are disgusted. Thank  
24 you.

25 MS. EVANS: I hope that as you can

1 continue to make your rounds for signatures  
2 that you can explain to people who have been  
3 mislead by the newspaper or other sources  
4 that city council is working for them.

5 MS. PASSET: A lot of them agree,  
6 yes.

7 MS. EVANS: And we are the ones  
8 standing between you and that 78 percent tax  
9 increase.

10 MS. PASSET: Oh, I know that, yeah,  
11 and I agree with that and I told them, but a  
12 lot of them wouldn't sign it unless I put,  
13 you know, that -- put that in there and I  
14 said, "Okay," you know, but I agree with  
15 that. And I told them, I said, you know,  
16 the taxpayers need to crowd this room and  
17 they need to get the mayor here. That  
18 was -- I would say almost every one of those  
19 237 people said, "How come he doesn't go to  
20 the meetings? Where is he at?"

21 And a couple of people mentioned  
22 Mrs. Novembrino, the city controller  
23 because, I mean, they said, "Maybe she  
24 should be at that meeting too because she  
25 has to approve payments," I guess and there

1           are maybe four people that wouldn't sign it  
2           for different reasons, you know, but that  
3           was it. And it didn't take me any time at  
4           all so I'm going to keep going. I'm not  
5           discouraged yet.

6                     MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

7                     MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
8           Doug Miller, Scranton. You know, sitting  
9           back here tonight listening to a lot that  
10          goes on here earlier, I'd just like to  
11          address some of the comments made by the  
12          previous speaker and we talked about why the  
13          mayor hasn't come here. It's very simple  
14          why the mayor doesn't come here, he doesn't  
15          care. It's that simple. His arrogance he's  
16          spewed over the last ten years speaks  
17          volumes and you are not going to see this  
18          man here he just doesn't care.

19                    You know, if I hear one more time  
20           that this council majority refuses to sit  
21           down and negotiate with the mayor one more  
22           time I think I'm going to become even more  
23           sick to my stomach that I already am. I  
24           can't tell you how tired I am of hearing  
25           that in the newspaper and on TV that the

1 council majority refuses to negotiate with  
2 the mayor. This council majority had five  
3 months of negotiations with this mayor in a  
4 room and with this man promised that he  
5 would include your proposal in his revised  
6 Recovery Plan and yet again it's time and  
7 time where you negotiate with this man and  
8 you think you are going somewhere and you  
9 walk out of the room and it's not knives in  
10 the back and he just continues to drive them  
11 down your spine. The man's word is no good.  
12 He can't be trusted. He is incompetent and  
13 he needs to be held accountable.

14 But I would like to begin tonight by  
15 addressing his recent decision to pay all  
16 union and nonunion city employees the  
17 minimum wage requirement of \$7.25 an hour  
18 beginning on July 6, 2012. The mayor's  
19 decision, which is clearly illegal, as it  
20 violates union contracts, is simply an  
21 attempt to lead the council supermajority  
22 down his path of destruction. This is all  
23 being done because the council majority  
24 won't pass his flawed Recovery Plan that  
25 places astronomical tax increases on the

1 residents of this city.

2 With all of this in mind, the  
3 council majority has yet again put it's foot  
4 down and refusing to place these burdens on  
5 the taxpayers. This is just another example  
6 of the council majority watching out for the  
7 little guy that has continued to take blow  
8 after blow by the Doherty administration.

9 In an attempt to put a political  
10 spin on the financial situation, the mayor,  
11 his administration and his lone rubber stamp  
12 member of council want to place blame on the  
13 council majority for "not having a plan" and  
14 to refusing to sit and negotiate.

15 Well, once again I'll state it for  
16 the fourth consecutive week now, this  
17 council majority does have a plan, however,  
18 the mayor has arrogantly ignored it time and  
19 time again. Let us remember for the last  
20 ten years it's Chris Doherty who has been  
21 captain of this ship. In the past, his  
22 rubber stamp councils sat back and did  
23 nothing. They allowed the reckless  
24 borrowing and spending policies to just  
25 continue. They allowed him to take care of

1 the good ole' boy club rather than doing  
2 what was right for the residents of this  
3 city.

4 Now it's time to pay the piper,  
5 Chris. Four people were elected to council,  
6 better known as the supermajority, and they  
7 have called you out and they have put you in  
8 your place and your time of irresponsible  
9 borrowing and spending is over and you need  
10 to get that through your head. You can no  
11 longer intimidate or attempt to extort  
12 through your threats of scare tactics when  
13 you don't get your way.

14 I truly believe that the time has  
15 come now for law enforcement officials above  
16 the city to file appropriate extortion  
17 charges against Christopher A. Doherty for  
18 his recent actions that clearly jeopardize  
19 the health, safety and welfare of the  
20 residents of this city.

21 And finally this evening, I would  
22 like to take the time to address a few  
23 comments, I normally don't respond to  
24 irrelevant people, but I do want to take the  
25 time to respond to a few comments made by

1 Chris Kelly of the Scranton Times in his  
2 Sunday, June 24, column titled "Words Over  
3 Deeds."

4 In this week's column by Mr. Kelly  
5 he continues his tradition of making insults  
6 and personal attacks towards the council  
7 majority. Tonight I would like to say to  
8 council, stay the course and don't let Chris  
9 Kelly drag you in and drag you by your nose  
10 down to his level of, oh, let's have another  
11 cold beer and a cigarette as he blindly  
12 types behind his smoke-filled room at his  
13 computer.

14 In this article he goes onto attack  
15 Councilman Frank Joyce by stating,  
16 "Mr. Joyce resembles a dog watching  
17 television who says very little as he waits  
18 for Mrs. Evans to yank on his leash."

19 I think it's important for Chris  
20 Kelly to know that Councilman Joyce's  
21 comments are self-motivated, but more  
22 important, Mr. Kelly, Councilman Joyce knows  
23 something that he was taught at a young age  
24 that evidently you weren't and that is that  
25 you engage the brain before you put your



1 mouth in gear.

2 Councilman Joyce speaks each week  
3 were professional and authoritative opinion.  
4 He is a man of his convictions as can be  
5 said of his three other colleagues on  
6 council.

7 He then finds time to go on and  
8 immaturely attack Councilman Loscombe, a man  
9 who woke up every day putting his life on  
10 the line to defend the residents of this  
11 city, including Mr. Kelly himself, and today  
12 he has been unfairly revoked of his pension  
13 while serving on council when in the past  
14 members of the council is up there  
15 collecting hefty pensions, but yet we don't  
16 want to say anything about that, we just  
17 want to sweep that under the rug as we  
18 continue to play politics.

19 I just have to say tonight to  
20 Councilman Loscombe keep fighting and  
21 standing up for the people of Scranton, you  
22 need to know that the criticism is coming  
23 from a complete clown.

24 Mrs. Evans, I have here tonight with  
25 me a leash since Chris Kelly seems to be

1 fascinated with dogs and leashes and since  
2 Mr. Kelly wants to sit behind his computer  
3 and tell us how to run the city since he is  
4 just so well educated on finance, well, then  
5 perhaps we should invite him in, drag him in  
6 on his leash, maybe even consider a muzzle  
7 because to be honest with you he has yet to  
8 have anything intelligent come out of his  
9 mouth at this point and let him tell us how  
10 we should run the city and, you know, if he  
11 is a good dog we may even consider throwing  
12 him a couple of treats.

13 But the bottom line here is really  
14 simple, we are in this financial situation  
15 due to the actions of our ship captain Chris  
16 Doherty, and tonight we need to send a  
17 message loud and clear across this city that  
18 we will take our city back and Chris Doherty  
19 and the Pennsylvania Economy League and DCED  
20 will be held accountable once and for all  
21 whether they like it or not. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

23 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, everyone.

24 Hello, Council. I just don't know where to  
25 start listening to everybody.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. ELLMAN: They are all just such  
3 good speakers and I come up here and I see  
4 sideways and upside down and backwards and I  
5 just try to kind of say some things like  
6 last week that people tell me to relate to  
7 you. You know, I often talk about people  
8 holding onto their property by their  
9 fingertips year after year, this is like the  
10 coup de' grace, it's over with for a lot of  
11 people. It's just -- it's impossible to pay  
12 this new tax base, you know, for -- I don't  
13 know percentage wise, for a lot of people  
14 that I talk to.

15 Last week the Lackawanna Heritage  
16 Valley Authority bought a property on  
17 Railroad avenue for \$700,000. \$700,000.  
18 That's \$12,000 a year taxes. That's one of  
19 you alls salaries that's off the -- how many  
20 times have I stood here and related about  
21 property left and right being taken off the  
22 tax rolls by these universities and all of  
23 these phoney nonprofits like this?

24 You know, if they can pay \$700,000  
25 they can pay \$12,000 a year taxes. It's

1 just -- you have got to stop it somehow.  
2 The nonprofits are the one that bankrupt  
3 this city, besides that the incompetent  
4 Mr. Doherty and his stupidity in finance  
5 year after year, it's just a combination.  
6 There is just not solving these problems.  
7 There is no way to solve the problems that  
8 we are in right now. Financing, just not  
9 any ability whatsoever to finance it and  
10 mismanagement.

11 It just seems like we are attacking  
12 the homeowners and just attacking at every  
13 level. It just doesn't stop, you know.  
14 Just look at the two knew commissioners real  
15 quick, they have hired 20 people in a matter  
16 of weeks, one of them is so incompetent they  
17 hired a wet nurse for him for 21 people.  
18 They are all friends and supporters. Look  
19 at the school board inventing all kind of  
20 ridiculous positions for their friends, a  
21 wellness coordinator. I'm sure, you know,  
22 the city will fall apart if we don't have a  
23 wellness coordinator and I don't know how  
24 you stop these things.

25 You know, you people approved that

1           121 unit apartment building that they said  
2           it's going to cost 10 or 15 million, I'll  
3           bet my antique car there is not a building  
4           permit for anything like that and it  
5           probably will be like another \$19 permit  
6           like all Austin Burke got, and their own  
7           figures, this building is supposed to bring  
8           in over a million dollars a year in rent.  
9           Why can't they pay taxes? They are a "For  
10          Profit" company. You people blink when you  
11          don't have to.

12                    I bet they have new sidewalks and  
13           streets and streetlights and everything that  
14           North Main Avenue doesn't. I probably won't  
15           ever see a sidewalk and a curb in my  
16           neighborhood. And these people have police  
17           protection and fire protection that you and  
18           me and these people out here are paying for  
19           and they are not paying taxes for ten years.  
20           Shame on council for allowing that.

21                    I don't know, I just -- I just give  
22           up with it. I got better things to do.  
23           This is my fanfare tonight. I know you  
24           people will probably be happy you won't have  
25           no more of my tirades. I wish each and

1 every one of you the very best. You guys  
2 got to pull a rabbit out of a hat somehow  
3 and I don't know how you are going to do it.

4 I talked to some successful business  
5 people in the morning when I have coffee and  
6 they don't see -- they don't see you coming  
7 out of it. Bankruptcy is not going to help.  
8 They is just no tax base left because of the  
9 nonprofits and the city and you people and  
10 the council just refuse to attack them.  
11 That's it.

12 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

13 MR. ELLMAN: Hundreds of nonprofits  
14 that aren't doing one thing for this city.  
15 Tell me how that sign that's supposed to be  
16 a religious ornament welcoming people to the  
17 University of Scranton, there was I think it  
18 was a lawyer's office in that big building.  
19 That sign is costing us a \$100 a week in  
20 lost taxes.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

22 MR. ELLMAN: A big empty lot with a  
23 sign on it. This goes on all of over the  
24 city with these nonprofits, you are just  
25 afraid of them or something. But until you

1 people solve these nonprofits problems,  
2 well, I'm going to join them. I'm not  
3 paying no more house taxes. I just give up.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

5 MR. ELLMAN: I'll put it in escrow  
6 or something, but I'm not paying no more  
7 house taxes to have absolutely fools like  
8 running the SPA take my land.

9 MR. JOYCE: You are out of time.  
10 Just out of respect --

11 MR. ELLMAN: I work too hard for my  
12 money to have it squandered away like this.  
13 Three or four million dollars down there.  
14 That doesn't make sense to anybody. Thank  
15 you and good luck to everybody and God bless  
16 you all. I'm through. I'm through with the  
17 council, I'm through with the mayor, I'll  
18 just go my way.

19 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.  
20 Our next speaker is Bob Jones.

21 MR. JONES: Boy, he is a hard act to  
22 follow, I'll tell you. Hi. Bob Jones,  
23 member of the Taxpayers', resident of  
24 Scranton. Hello, Mayor Chris. Lowering  
25 city employees' salaries to minimum wage

1 does that not require that they are eligible  
2 for unemployment benefits, the reason that  
3 you fought against the firefighters in  
4 giving that money back after of that \$8  
5 million? You don't want to pay unemployment  
6 to the firefighters, but now they are  
7 eligible for unemployment, so think about  
8 that, Chrissy. Are you looking at me? So  
9 that's your excuse.

10 Seems every time we turn around you  
11 are doing something against the people of  
12 this city, between raising taxes, laying off  
13 firefighters, giving the shaft to city  
14 employees, oh, that's nice.

15 I wanted to mention the good Chris  
16 gave me this sheet, I was looking at the  
17 website today as well and Chris printed it  
18 out, half the fire stations are still closed  
19 today, four of them, as I can count, and I  
20 will show everyone. Our other Chris is out  
21 there, the good Chris, and if I could  
22 approach council I'll show it to Jack and  
23 everybody. This is as of the 29th. I don't  
24 what excuse you have for that, too. You  
25 haven't hired back any firefighters. You



1 have done nothing.

2 But anyway, I would like to -- if  
3 anybody wants the remainder of my time I  
4 wrote a lot of things down but it's all  
5 curse words towards Mr. Doherty. If anybody  
6 wants the remainder of my time with  
7 council's permission they can have it. It  
8 not, thank you.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Bob.

10 MR. JOYCE: Our next speaker is Lee  
11 Morgan.

12 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

14 MR. MORGAN: Gee whiz, you know,  
15 where did you start? I guess at the  
16 beginning, but we are at the end, so we'll  
17 start there. I'm a person who makes my  
18 decisions basically based on fact and  
19 documents that I can collect or have access  
20 to. Right here, so that everybody can  
21 understand this, I do have a copy of the  
22 Recovery Plan with me here today, so I do  
23 have that.

24 The one thing that has been  
25 troubling here is that I called council to

1 ask for a copy of their -- I won't call it a  
2 plan, because you don't have a plan, and  
3 that's not a criticism, but, you know, a  
4 copy of anything that you had proposed.

5 I don't go to the Scranton Times, I  
6 don't go to the Times for information, but  
7 as a concerned citizen who has come to these  
8 meetings for over a couple of decades,  
9 hopefully a couple of more, I would like  
10 council to give me a copy of their  
11 proposals, Mr. Joyce, and since you are the  
12 president here tonight I'm asking you  
13 personally to present me with a copy of your  
14 proposals because I'm not going to say that  
15 I support the mayor's plan because I haven't  
16 read yours, and I don't like to make  
17 decisions based on sound bites and partial  
18 information, and I would like to ask if you  
19 would authorize that this evening.

20 MR. JOYCE: During motions I will go  
21 over what we -- or what has been proposed to  
22 the mayor for the Recovery Plan.

23 MR. MORGAN: Okay, but could I come  
24 to council tomorrow and pick up a copy of  
25 that proposal?

1 MR. JOYCE: I could type out a list,  
2 yes.

3 MR. MORGAN: That would be fine. I  
4 would just like to having that I can read  
5 and research and come to my own conclusions  
6 and that's what I'm asking for tonight. I  
7 would like to know if that would be  
8 possible.

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'll send a list to  
10 our secretary and she can print it out.

11 MR. MORGAN: I appreciate that.  
12 Now, I want to move to something else here.  
13 The Home Rule Charter gives the power of  
14 subpoena. It hasn't been used even as of  
15 now for anything, whether it has to do with  
16 the Parking Authority or anything else for  
17 that matter that's financial in scope, but  
18 the one that really troubles me the most is  
19 I don't understand how being a city  
20 councilman, how council can meet with the  
21 mayor and, you know, I don't know if you  
22 bring your solicitor or if he is informed,  
23 but as these negotiations progress I can't  
24 understand why they weren't put in writing  
25 as the progress was allegedly made and

1 signed.

2 And, you know, I think that if I'm a  
3 negotiations with somebody, especially  
4 somebody that I don't trust, I want  
5 everything in writing and I'm just -- I  
6 think there is something else here we are  
7 not talking about either and that's the  
8 shortfall in the city's pension plans. I  
9 mean, I haven't heard them discussed tonight  
10 and they are the real gorilla in the closet.  
11 I mean, my opinion is, like I said, I don't  
12 know everything and I haven't come to any  
13 super firm conclusion, but I think we need a  
14 200 percent or 300 percent tax increase to  
15 be real honest with you, because I don't  
16 know where the \$100 million alleged  
17 shortfall in the pension plan is going to  
18 come from, and to be really honest with you,  
19 you know, it's not a secret that we have had  
20 trouble with the PEL for an extended period  
21 of time, and like I said before, you know,  
22 all of the easy solutions have been taken  
23 and now we are pressed.

24 It's also my understanding that some  
25 firemen are coming back to work soon. I

1 don't know if that's true or not either, but  
2 that's what I have been lead to believe  
3 here, but I'd really like to say that the  
4 process needs to be open and in my opinion  
5 the Recovery Plan, as late as it is now, not  
6 that I don't have any faith in the  
7 administration or council, this thing really  
8 needs to go on the ballot, and I agree with  
9 what the lady said who collected all of  
10 these signatures because, look at, I only  
11 campaign like I told you for 16 hours, eight  
12 hours Minooka, eight hours in West Side and  
13 there is just no faith in council, the mayor  
14 or the government, and I'm not surprised by  
15 the signatures she has collected because  
16 they are just disgusted and there is no more  
17 money left here.

18 And I have talked to people, and  
19 pathetic as it may sound, and not that I  
20 agree, if we lost the fire department and  
21 their house burned down they wouldn't care.  
22 They just can't pay anymore. They don't  
23 want to pay any more taxes, they just have  
24 nothing more to give, okay? And I said to  
25 this person, "What do you mean?"

1                   And he said, "Well, if we laid off  
2                   every fireman, I'd take my chances."

3                   I mean, that's how pressed people  
4                   are. They have no money, no jobs. You read  
5                   page after page of houses for sale. But,  
6                   look at, I won't take anymore of your time,  
7                   but I would like to stop tomorrow and pick  
8                   that up, Mr. Joyce, please. Thank you.

9                   MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next  
10                  speaker is Les Spindler.

11                 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
12                 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and  
13                 homeowner and taxpayer. I, too, want to  
14                 comment about the mayor lowering the  
15                 salaries of city workers to minimum wage. I  
16                 mean, I'm not a lawyer, but he can't do  
17                 that. These people have contracts. He  
18                 can't break contracts like that. These  
19                 people have to be paid what's written in the  
20                 contract and he has a nerve to come on the  
21                 news last night and say, "Let me sue me,  
22                 where are they going to get the money from?"

23                 That's the arrogance that he has  
24                 shown for ten and a half years now and  
25                 that's why we are in the trouble we are in

1 now. He is arrogant. It's his way or the  
2 highway and that's why we are in the trouble  
3 we are in, and he'll never come to these  
4 meetings like people want to because, like I  
5 said, he has shown up here three meetings  
6 two to ask for money and one to put his  
7 puppet Mr. McGoff up there. So he will  
8 never show up here for any other reason.

9 Moving on, it was in the Doherty  
10 newsletter the other day I guess we are at  
11 126 firefighters and because the mayor  
12 returned \$3.1 million of the SAFER grant we  
13 won't be going any higher than that. If the  
14 40 people that are eligible to retire in two  
15 years we are going to be down to 86  
16 firefighters. You think you had bad fires  
17 in this city before, you ain't seen nothing  
18 yet. With 86 firefighters this city is  
19 going to burn to the ground and you can  
20 blame the man downstairs for that.

21 Everybody, please, I'm begging you,  
22 you cannot reelect this man next year. Tell  
23 your friends, relatives, we have to have a  
24 new mayor in this city next year or like a  
25 business owner told me downtown last week if





1 naming all of the lies he has done over the  
2 years. He said he would be the sixth  
3 councilman, that's a lie. He said he  
4 wouldn't close firehouses, that's a lie. I  
5 could go on and on and on. This man has  
6 nothing but lied. He had a handshake  
7 agreement with the unions and he backed out  
8 on that. There is another -- the man has  
9 done nothing about lie and Mr. McGoff  
10 supports him. It's pathetic.

11 And the next thing, an article about  
12 the Parking Authority in Tuesday's paper.  
13 Attorney O'Brien wants to meet with the  
14 mayor and council and other officials, I  
15 hope council isn't going to take that  
16 invitation. I hope they let the Parking  
17 Authority drown in their own debt and let  
18 them get taken over like Attorney Hughes  
19 suggested.

20 One thing, I don't know if this  
21 would be legal, but I have an idea to try to  
22 get money out of the nonprofits. Just tell  
23 them, you know what, if you don't give us  
24 anymore money in lieu of taxes we are not  
25 going to provide services anymore. Let the

1 University of Scranton burn down. Then  
2 maybe they will give us more money in lieu  
3 of taxes. I don't know if that's legal, but  
4 maybe you could talk to your solicitor and  
5 find out because nothing else is working so  
6 I wouldn't provide services to these  
7 nonprofits.

8 Lastly, a streetlight on my corner  
9 has been burned out for about three weeks.  
10 It's pitch dark, you can't see anybody  
11 standing in front of my house. Two Fridays  
12 ago I had to call 911, it woke me up,  
13 somebody was breaking into cars on our  
14 block. Luckily someone on the block saw  
15 this person, they were in my daughter's car.  
16 One police officer was in the area and he  
17 drove up and arrested the person, but I  
18 called the number that's on the pole, they  
19 say it's out of service now because I guess  
20 MEM doesn't do it anymore.

21 MR. JOYCE: No, it's a different  
22 provider. If you could get a copy of the  
23 streetlight number and --

24 MR. SPINDLER: You know, I do have  
25 that, but I forgot to bring it tonight. I

1 called DPW and they said they would let  
2 somebody know, so far -- that was a couple  
3 of days ago and it's still dark.

4 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

5 MR. SPINDLER: I don't know who is  
6 taking care of that now.

7 MR. JOYCE: If you can get a copy of  
8 the streetlight number and to call our  
9 office we could handle that for you.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you because it  
11 goes to prove it's not safe. Thank God a  
12 police officer was in the area. Thank you  
13 for your time.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.  
15 Our next speaker is Fay Franus.

16 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

18 MS. FRANUS: Good evening. I'd like  
19 to thank Mr. Judge from the firemen's union  
20 and Mr. Martin from the policemen's unions  
21 for expressing their thoughts to council and  
22 really saying it like it was. They didn't  
23 have to come forward and say all they did.  
24 They took a chance and they went overboard,  
25 meaning, they took a risk because there is

1 lot of retaliation when you speak against  
2 the mayor, and they were wonderful and I  
3 want to thank them working for minimum wage  
4 for the time period they will be doing.  
5 They are really doing us a great service and  
6 they should be thanked.

7 Another thing, Mr. McGoff, I'd like  
8 to ask you something, would you prefer the  
9 mayor's 78 percent tax increase plus the  
10 other that's for the 30 million for the  
11 firemen --

12 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I didn't  
13 hear the end of that?

14 MS. FRANUS: Would you prefer having  
15 the mayor's Recovery Plan with 78 percent  
16 plus tax increase over your own council's  
17 recommendations to the mayor that were  
18 ignored? What would you rather, which one?  
19 Are you fighting for council's  
20 recommendations?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to see a  
22 plan that is viable. I don't want to see a  
23 massive tax increase, but I think some of  
24 the recommendations that were made by  
25 council do not have hard numbers with them

1 and I was going to address that as well. We  
2 need to get some hard numbers so that we can  
3 mitigate what is an excessive -- maybe an  
4 excessive tax increase.

5 MS. FRANUS: I also have a problem  
6 with Pat Rogan's statements that was on  
7 Channel 16 when he said that the reason  
8 there is no Recovery Plan is because the  
9 president of city council and the mayor are  
10 fighting. That's an out and out lie.  
11 Mrs. Evans, the president of council, has  
12 been meeting with the mayor for five months.  
13 No one has been working any harder than she  
14 and the other two councilman have to get a  
15 Recovery Plan that would decrease the tax  
16 increase that the mayor would like to have  
17 on the people and he knows this but yet he  
18 said this. And then WNEP never put  
19 Mrs. Evans side of story on. It's very  
20 biased. And then he goes onto say in Mr.  
21 Kelly's article that he is not part of the  
22 supermajority. That's true, but when he was  
23 running for election he sure ran under the  
24 coat tails and made sure he was at every  
25 campaign party to get elected. He used them

1 to get elected, once he is in there he  
2 doesn't want to be part of it. It's  
3 outrageous.

4 He also said he thought city council  
5 should meet with the mayor and come up with  
6 solutions. I'd like to see Mr. Rogan --  
7 maybe you, Mr. McGoff, get together with the  
8 mayor and see if he would -- if Mr. Rogan  
9 had any suggestions to the mayor. I wonder  
10 if Mayor Doherty would implement anything  
11 Pat Rogan wanted. I doubt it very much.  
12 Just like he ignored everything that  
13 Mrs. Evans has suggested and Mr. Joyce.

14 Five months they talked back and  
15 forth and Mayor Doherty promised Mrs. Evans  
16 StreetSmart, Parking Authority garages sold,  
17 da, da, da, da, Mrs. Evans and Frank Joyce  
18 can probably tell you who listed them maybe  
19 this evening. He lied to them. And you  
20 went along with -- you, Mr. McGoff,  
21 Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci everything you  
22 gave him, every borrowing you voted for,  
23 that's why we are in the shape we are in.

24 That's like if I had a Mastercard  
25 bill of \$15,000 and I expected my neighbors

1 to pay for it. That's what the mayor has  
2 doing. He buried it and we can't do it.  
3 I'm a senior citizen and I can't handle this  
4 too much more. I'm thankful that I have a  
5 sister that helps me and my children that  
6 are always there for me because if I didn't  
7 have them I would have to move out of town.  
8 Most people don't have what I have.

9 Unfortunately, what about the people  
10 that don't have that? How are they going to  
11 live here? I'm sure they are very upset and  
12 very worried and I'm sure they are very  
13 thankful Mr. Loscombe, Mr. Joyce and  
14 Mrs. Evans for fighting and fighting and  
15 fighting.

16 And, Mr. Hughes, very much so  
17 Attorney Hughes saying that they will fight  
18 this as long as they have to, and even go to  
19 the Supreme Court, thank you so much for  
20 doing this. I know it's hard because you  
21 are under so much pressure. The people in  
22 this city are ill-informed, unless they see  
23 these council meetings the Scranton Times  
24 lie and they don't say the truth, and the  
25 television stations they had Mayor Doherty

1 on here today saying -- yesterday, rather,  
2 saying that you don't have a plan. That's  
3 and out and out lie.

4 So thank you and I hope you stand --  
5 I know you will stake to your guns, I know  
6 you will. I just hope the people in this  
7 city know, and they do, that you are  
8 fighting for them more than ever before and  
9 I hope you stand by them. And, Mr. Hughes,  
10 I appreciate you standing by council, too,  
11 and doing all the hard work you are going to  
12 be doing because you have a tough road ahead  
13 of you and thank you for going today.  
14 That's all I can say and thank you very  
15 much.

16 MR. HUGHES: That's the most fun  
17 I've had for \$7.25.

18 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is  
19 Francis Tyson.

20 MR. TYSON: Francis Tyson, resident  
21 of Scranton, member of the American Flag  
22 Committee. Good evening, ladies and  
23 gentlemen.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. TYSON: Madam President, council



1 members, I wish to invite you to join with  
2 us along with the members here this evening  
3 and your viewing audience to be with us on  
4 the Fourth of July up at Nay Aug Park, that  
5 will be this coming Wednesday Fourth of  
6 July, Independence Day.

7 We plan on having a ceremony that's  
8 presented by veterans, military veterans  
9 conduct this ceremony every year with the  
10 assistance of some boy scouts and what we do  
11 is principally try to teach good citizenship  
12 to our youngsters, so all of those in  
13 attendance if you could bring your  
14 youngsters, children or grandchildren, we'd  
15 appreciate that and show them how we as  
16 adults are celebrating Independence Day and  
17 this is what we like to pass on to your  
18 young people.

19 As I said, it's on Wednesday, it  
20 will 10:30 in the morning sharp and we start  
21 the ceremony off with a patriotic music by  
22 the Green and Gold band and then proceed  
23 into our regular program. And as I  
24 indicated, it's done principally by your  
25 military veterans.

1                   What I would also like to say is we  
2                   are very fortunate to be here at this  
3                   particular time of the year because this  
4                   happens to be the 250th year anniversary of  
5                   the constitution. We are celebrating that  
6                   this year and if anybody might be interested  
7                   and you should browse through it from time  
8                   to time to see our local representative your  
9                   senator and your congressman and stop by his  
10                  office he will be glad to give you a free  
11                  copy. Any questions?

12                 MR. LOSCOMBE: What time did that  
13                 start, Mr. Tyson?

14                 MR. JOYCE: 10:30.

15                 MR. MCGOFF: Every year that I have  
16                 gone the speakers have been very good, is  
17                 there a principal speaker this year?

18                 MR. TYSON: Yes, we have a principal  
19                 speaker. His name is Mike Semian. He is  
20                 the commandant down here at the Gino Merli  
21                 Veterans' Center this year.

22                 MS. EVANS: Very good. And I thank  
23                 you for coming to make this announcement  
24                 because I had actually received several  
25                 e-mails in the last week from city residents



1           what I'm going to touch on is probably about  
2           a year ago if you I remember I came in here  
3           and talked about a family member of mine  
4           that was involved with an incident in this  
5           city. Well, it's no secret now,  
6           Mr. Spindler brought it up last week and it  
7           was my son. Now, if you read that lawsuit  
8           the Scranton Times had in the paper that  
9           there was no settlement made, totally false.  
10          There was a settlement made in March 9 of  
11          this in the federal courthouse with a city  
12          attorney and the things that were supposed  
13          to come out of that, I'm not going to  
14          disclose the amount of money, but it was a  
15          very large sum of money, handshake agreement  
16          that they are sorry for what happened and  
17          the police officers involved were supposed  
18          to go for training because they were 100  
19          percent wrong.

20                    So they were supposed to get -- the  
21                    deal was supposed to get done next week,  
22                    they got a call like everybody else did and  
23                    said, "We are not going to pay your money  
24                    because we have no money to do this."

25                    They are asking for another 60 days.

1 Well, I'll tell you what, we are checking  
2 with our attorneys now, and I told my son I  
3 believe this happened to you because of what  
4 your last name was, and then when this Chief  
5 Duffy said if he had to do it all over he  
6 would do it again, so what you are telling  
7 me what you would do again, you would pull  
8 people over, assume they did something  
9 wrong, hold them down in police headquarters  
10 for about four hours, make them take their  
11 clothes off, strip search them, do  
12 everything else, never arrest them, and then  
13 say, "Well, sorry for your troubles. "

14 So that's what you would do again?  
15 Terrible, terrible police chief. So I think  
16 what we are going to have to do is we're  
17 going to pull back out of the deal, we'll go  
18 with the original plan. These police  
19 officers are supposed to be charged with  
20 sexual assault and abuse and all of this  
21 other kind of stuff, it's in the original  
22 report. I think the best thing to do is  
23 have them arrested, go to Court and let a  
24 jury decide, and I'm sure a jury will decide  
25 much more of an award. We did a favor

1           because we know the city was in trouble, but  
2           now they don't want to pay that either so I  
3           think that's going to end up going to court.

4                        But the point of it is it was  
5           settled, Scranton Times had it wrong. It  
6           was on Channel 28 about two days before it  
7           came out in the Scranton Times and they got  
8           it right that there was a settlement reached  
9           so they always was a settlement reached, the  
10          Scranton Times, as usual, was wrong.

11                      And I want to talk about the  
12          Recovery Plan a little bit. What happened  
13          today I believe in the Supreme Court, what  
14          was made, was a far reach of government to  
15          expand government and I think it's going to  
16          make this country in worse shape than it is  
17          and I think what's what happening in the  
18          city here. We cannot afford a 78 percent  
19          tax increase on top of what you have  
20          already, you know, the 10 percent that's  
21          already in there.

22                      And when I read the paper this  
23          morning, you know, I have been a laborer for  
24          30 years, but I've also got some common  
25          sense when it comes to doing contracts, I

1 think it's a disgrace that these men and  
2 women have to work for \$7.25 an hour, but I  
3 was coming to council here many times when  
4 Mrs. Gatelli was up there and I was saying  
5 when they gave the police chief raises and  
6 the fire chief like \$15,000, \$10,000 and I  
7 said years ago, "Every raise you give them  
8 you got to give the retired guy 50 percent."

9 So that means for that 15 grand in  
10 his pension he gets other \$7,500. That's a  
11 five or six-hundred dollars a month extra in  
12 your pension, and that goes for the fire  
13 chief, whether it's given to -- they get 50  
14 percent of that. She said, oh, well I don't  
15 think it was true. Fine. She called me on  
16 her cell phone and she goes, "Oh, boy, you  
17 were right."

18 I said, "Well, I know I was right,  
19 you should have listened."

20 So the point of this is how much did  
21 that cost you? I cannot believe in this  
22 morning's paper that I read that we have 400  
23 employees and we are paying for 2,200. I  
24 mean, I'm about as pro labor as you can get  
25 but I'm also pro taxpayer and common sense

1 as you can get. Whoever negotiated a deal,  
2 whether it's Mayor Connors or how far back  
3 it was, obviously these kind of things are  
4 Democratic proposals, but whoever decided to  
5 do this I can't believe that they made a  
6 deal to go out that far. I mean, I worked  
7 at a company for 30 years and when I retired  
8 and for those three years I had no copay on  
9 my insurance whatsoever. My company paid a  
10 100 percent, but the thing was when I left  
11 it left with me. I don't want to -- that's  
12 what happened in the auto industry and  
13 that's why they went bankrupt and the  
14 taxpayers had to pay it out, but I just  
15 can't believe that, when I read that number  
16 this morning's paper, we will never -- I  
17 know it doesn't happen now, since 1993's  
18 contracts, but if we don't do something with  
19 the language and we don't do something with  
20 the Recovery Plan we are never going to  
21 sustain these bills.

22 When Mr. Hughes was talking before  
23 about \$9 million, and you mentioned,  
24 Mrs. Evans, about what we needed for last  
25 year's bill, we should never be walking into



1 a bank, any fiscal person should tell you,  
2 you should never be walking into the bank  
3 and saying, "I need to borrow \$9 million for  
4 last year's bills," because if I was the  
5 banker I would tell you to the hit road. If  
6 I went in the bank tomorrow and I wanted to  
7 borrow \$10,000 and the banker said, "What do  
8 you need?"

9 And I said, "Oh, I got four months  
10 behind on my mortgage payments and my  
11 utilities," he is going to tell me, "Are you  
12 crazy?"

13 We should never spend more than we  
14 bring in. If we continue to do this with  
15 the country and this city the last one on  
16 the city shut the lights out because there  
17 will be nobody left.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And Charlie  
19 Newcomb, Jr.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
21 city council.

22 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

23 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Before I get into  
24 the nuts and bolts of what I want to speak  
25 on, I haven't been here in awhile, as we all

1 know I was adamant on the Washburn Street  
2 Cemetery and getting that cleaned up and it  
3 seems to be this summer that it is cleaned  
4 up and being taken care of pretty good.

5 Also, we all know about the flooding  
6 problem in the Keyser Valley, I have been  
7 working with Mr. Skeleton from the Sewer  
8 Authority and hopefully there will be a  
9 remedy to this situation as much as they can  
10 soon and I'll keep you updated on that and I  
11 want to publically thank him for all of the  
12 work and the phone calls that he got back to  
13 me on.

14 Now, the following people:  
15 Mr. Pocius, Mr. Hazzouri, Mr. Gilhooley, Mr.  
16 McTiernan, Mr. McCormick, Ms. Fanucci, Ms.  
17 Gatelli, and Mr. McGoff, along with Mr.  
18 Doherty, PEL, DCED, and believe it or not,  
19 the Waverly Times, these are the people that  
20 put us in the situation that we are in  
21 today, not the four people sitting before  
22 me. These people that I just read are the  
23 reason we are in the situation we are in  
24 today. These people are the reason.

25 Mr. McGoff, how can you shake your

1 head? I mean, I didn't see --

2 MR. MCGOFF: I didn't shake my head.

3 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: They are the  
4 reason why the people of this city, the  
5 hardworking employees of this city, you  
6 included, will be getting paid \$7.25 an  
7 hour. Not because of Mr. Loscombe, not  
8 because of Mr. Joyce, not because of  
9 Mrs. Evans and not because of Mr. Rogan,  
10 because of the ten people along with PEL,  
11 DCED, and the Scranton Times for putting the  
12 spin on it are the reason why we are in the  
13 situation that we are in today.

14 I pay thousands of dollars to this  
15 city on a monthly and a yearly basis for my  
16 property taxes and the 3.4 ridiculous wage  
17 tax that I pay. I get zero in return for  
18 it. Unless I use the fire department or the  
19 police department, I get zero. Do I  
20 complain? No. I will be the first person  
21 to stand here and tell you that I am one of  
22 the many people in any 30s that are raising  
23 children in this city that actually want to  
24 stay here, but if this mayor puts forth a 78  
25 percent tax increase I am the first one to

1 go.

2 I have a contract that I had with  
3 somebody to put an addition on my house and  
4 the city would have thousands of dollars  
5 that I would pay in permit fees and I refuse  
6 to do it unless this guy downstairs figures  
7 how to get the city under control. I stood  
8 at this podium, I pulled up the minutes  
9 on-line, and I'm going to read you exactly  
10 what I said in October before the last  
11 mayoral election, "If this city reelects  
12 Chris Doherty as its mayor and Mrs. Gatelli  
13 and Mrs. Fanucci on council, four years from  
14 now this city will be beyond help."

15 I told you, the people that came  
16 before this told you, and I sat here and I  
17 watched Mrs. Evans the first day she took  
18 her seat when she beat thank God  
19 Mr. McCormick and sat where Mr. McGoff is  
20 and she sat here relentlessly and said, "No,  
21 no, no," and she went on deaf ears.

22 That is the reason why we are in the  
23 condition that we are in. The water slides,  
24 the tree houses, the flower pots, the  
25 electric city sign. Remember the "Restoring

1 the Pride" slogan? Whose pride is being  
2 restored now? Not mine. Sure as heck not  
3 the people who are going to make \$7.25 an  
4 hour for God knows how long. They were put  
5 all of the over the city. There were signs  
6 all over of the city, they were put on every  
7 garbage truck, "Restoring the Pride."

8 I don't know whose pride is  
9 restored. Please do not budge to this  
10 mayor. Somebody said it before and I'll say  
11 it again, it's extortion. Do it my way or  
12 this is what's going to happen." And  
13 previous before you people came and saved us  
14 he got his way all the time. All the time.

15 I support the unions, I have always  
16 did it, I've always gone forward, went to  
17 bat for them, got intimidated because I went  
18 to bat for them by this administration, but  
19 I'll do it again. What right is right and  
20 what's wrong is wrong. I commend them for  
21 making \$7.25 an hour, and I don't care how  
22 long they have to make \$7.25 an hour until  
23 this city gets fixed, and I ask you from  
24 somebody like me who is stupid enough to  
25 stay in this city because they want to make

1           it a better place, please do not give into  
2           this man.

3                        On a final note, my HR director when  
4           I started my job called me on the phone and  
5           said, "I did everybody else's income tax and  
6           they are between 1 on 1.5 percent, are you  
7           sure that the City of Scranton has their  
8           information correct and that you pay 2.4  
9           percent wage tax of the City of Scranton?"

10                      He told me that I was crazy, but I  
11           will not stay in this city if I am hit with  
12           a 78 percent tax increase. My children are  
13           already paying for next 25 or 30 years  
14           because of the people's names that I just  
15           read before you. Mrs. Gatelli sat on  
16           council when I was here and showed a picture  
17           of her grandson and said that she doesn't  
18           want him to have to pay, well, because of  
19           her along with Mr. McGoff and everybody else  
20           they are. Please do not cave into this man  
21           and I thank you and next time people say  
22           council they are the names that they need to  
23           read, not this council.

24                      MS. EVANS: Luanne Hennahan. Is  
25           there anyone else who cares to address

1 council?

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
3 South Scranton resident and member of the  
4 Taxpayers' Association, founder of the  
5 Legion of Doom.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: I told you so. I  
8 told you so years ago that this was going to  
9 happen, so did a lot of other people. It  
10 fell on deaf ears. Mr. Loscombe, Mr. Joyce,  
11 Mr. Rogan and were not here. Mrs. Evans  
12 was here and Mr. McGoff was here along with  
13 Mrs. Gatelli, Mrs. Fanucci and the other  
14 list of the names that Mr. Charles Newcomb,  
15 Jr., just mentioned and I brought that up  
16 months ago also, so those are the people who  
17 are responsible for this. Someone has to  
18 accept responsibility because it happened.  
19 It's as simple as that. It's a fact. It's  
20 not -- it's not speculation, it's not --  
21 it's a fact. The City of Scranton is doomed  
22 and, you know, we are in ruins and crises or  
23 whatever you want to call it.

24 And I guess the thing that bothers  
25 me more than anything right now is the fact

1           that I still believe that the taxpayers are  
2           being left out of the loop. The unions are  
3           meeting with the mayor, city council is  
4           meeting, everybody is meeting with the  
5           mayor, everybody except for the citizens.  
6           We can't see the mayor because he is a  
7           coward, okay? He is a coward. He won't  
8           come here. He won't hold a meeting at the  
9           Scranton High School where citizens can come  
10          there and pepper him with questions for  
11          about four or five hours and bring along his  
12          business administrator and a city treasurer  
13          who can't even keep track of the garbage  
14          fees for God's sake.

15                    You want to know why we are ruined  
16                    and doomed and gloomed and everything else,  
17                    because we have had incompetent people  
18                    running this city and the mayor has been in  
19                    charge, Mayor Christopher A. Doherty,  
20                    Scranton Prep graduate, Holy Cross graduate,  
21                    has been in charge for 15 years. Four years  
22                    as Finance Chair on the city council and 11  
23                    years as the mayor. He is the one who  
24                    appointed these people. He is the one who  
25                    said you got to pay big money and good money



1 to get the best. Look at what we got. Stu  
2 Renda, what's her name who had a degree in  
3 fashion design from Marywood College who was  
4 the HR director, Chief Elliott who was  
5 responsible for the city being sued, now we  
6 got Chief Duffy who is responsible who  
7 possibly might be responsible for the city  
8 being sued. These are all of the people  
9 that Christopher A. Doherty appointed.

10 I wish the Scranton Times would get  
11 it straight for once. They weren't  
12 appointed by you four, they weren't even  
13 appointed by Mr. McGoff. Mr. Doherty  
14 appointed Mr. McGoff and look at what we  
15 got. No baseball game tonight? I guess  
16 not, you are here.

17 MR. MCGOFF: No there was, I missed  
18 it.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: I didn't ask for  
20 your input, please. Don't interrupt me.

21 MR. MCGOFF: You asked me if there  
22 was a game.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, I didn't -- I  
24 was being facetious. I don't know if you  
25 understand what that word is.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, I went to  
2 high school with you, Mr. Jackowitz.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: But anyway, it was  
4 these people who caused these problems and  
5 that's just the way it is, and now the  
6 taxpayers got to take it in the shorts again  
7 and again and again and again, you know? We  
8 have firehouses closed. Why do we  
9 firehouses closed? Why do we have fire  
10 stations and rescue units and everything  
11 else closed and not available? Why?

12 I have been told that the swimming  
13 fee has going up to \$5, is that true,  
14 Mr. McGoff?

15 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry?

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: I was told that the  
17 swimming fee went up to \$5, is that  
18 accurate?

19 MR. MCGOFF: I have no idea.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, that's what I  
21 was told. It was two dollars and now it  
22 went to three, then it went to four and I  
23 was just told recently that it was up to \$5  
24 this year. I don't know if it's true or not  
25 because quite honestly I'm going to adopt

1 Mayor Doherty's philosophy, I don't care.  
2 Don't care anymore. You know, I'm tired of  
3 people laughing at me because I live in  
4 Scranton. You know, we're the laughing  
5 stock of the entire state. I get calls and  
6 e-mails from everybody laughing at us, like,  
7 what the hell are you people in Scranton  
8 doing? Where did you get this mayor from?  
9 What hole did he crawl out of it -- from  
10 under?

11 I mean, I get e-mails and phone  
12 calls from people out of state who I know  
13 from my connections and they say, "I was  
14 on-line, I'm reading your newspaper, that  
15 can't be true."

16 I say, "Oh, yes, it is true. I'm  
17 sorry to say, but it is true."

18 You know, I'm tired of it. And as  
19 far as tax increases go, you know, if you  
20 raise taxes, hey, the city is a ghost town  
21 already. There is too many people in the  
22 city that don't pay taxes, too many people,  
23 and there are going to be more. So, I mean,  
24 we are talking about millions of dollars, we  
25 are not talking about hundreds of thousands

1 of dollars, we are talking about hundreds of  
2 millions of dollars, and it was all caused  
3 by the list that Mr. Newcomb read off. I  
4 read that list off a couple of months ago.  
5 It was a big joke back when Fanucci, Gatelli  
6 and McGoff were here. They used to sit up  
7 there and eat candy and chew gum. I don't  
8 know if people remember those days, but I  
9 do, I remember them very well. It was  
10 everything was funny. We used to get  
11 lectured from Fanucci and Gatelli every week  
12 about how right they were and how wrong we  
13 were. Where are they? Have they attended a  
14 council meeting since they got voted out of  
15 office? Come to a meeting, Gatelli and  
16 Fanucci wherever you are, and bring the  
17 mayor with you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
19 anyone else?

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening. I  
21 came tonight with the intent to share only  
22 one thing, but I guess I can't stay away  
23 from financials. So, Mrs. Evans, tonight  
24 you said the agreement that you all  
25 negotiated in private saves \$20 million, so

1           how much is left?

2                   MS. EVANS: Which agreement now?

3                   MS. SCHUMACHER: The one that was  
4 revealed tonight by the unions.

5                   MS. EVANS: According to the e-mail  
6 that I read from Attorney Jennings it saves  
7 approximately 15 million.

8                   MS. SCHUMACHER: And how much is  
9 left?

10                   MS. EVANS: At least 15 million.

11                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I'm shocked  
12 that if you negotiated we don't have a  
13 precise figure, but we don't.

14                   MS. EVANS: Maybe we could ask  
15 Mr. Loscombe for that because, as I said, I  
16 was not present at the two final meetings, I  
17 was at the present two initial meetings.

18                   MS. SCHUMACHER: You did, and then  
19 also I would like to ask Mr. Joyce if he  
20 would also share the data that is he going  
21 to provide to Mr. Morgan, I would also like  
22 that.

23                   MR. JOYCE: Yes, the recommendations  
24 for the Recovery Plan I will make them  
25 available to the public. I will send them

1 to our secretary and she can make copies for  
2 everyone who would like them.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now,  
4 I'll get back. I originally intended to  
5 talk about the cities revenue shortfall  
6 tonight, but I couldn't quite get my eyes  
7 and my arms around it, so I did what I  
8 always did, before I went to bed last night  
9 I prayed about some inspiration so that I  
10 would know how to do it. I do that a lot,  
11 and when I got up this morning I didn't have  
12 a solution but I did what I always do and  
13 that is to turn on my computer and read a  
14 daily devotional by Dr. Charles Stanley in  
15 Atlanta, and I thought it sort of was the  
16 answer and so I decided that what I was  
17 called to do was to share it with you all  
18 tonight, so I will, even though it's  
19 copyrighted I consider this a personal use.

20 "Everyone faces challenges in life.  
21 Whether our struggles are financial,  
22 vocational, relational or physical we can be  
23 certain that nobody is exempt. Fortunately,  
24 we serve a God who is both interested in our  
25 problems and able to take care of them.

1                   When trouble looms, prayer is always  
2                   a good first step to take, but having a  
3                   foundation upon which to build prayers also  
4                   makes a difference. Jehoshaphate, King of  
5                   Judea, faced an enormous challenge. Three  
6                   different tribes, the Moabites, the Amonites  
7                   and the Meunites, simultaneously waged war  
8                   against him. Most leaders would have  
9                   crumbled under such pressure, or at the very  
10                  least taken drastic measures, but  
11                  Jehoshaphat was a wise king. Through  
12                  afraid, he did not strike out against his  
13                  enemies. Instead, knowing God was  
14                  interested in his dilemma he turned his  
15                  attention to seek the lord and proclaim a  
16                  fast throughout the land.

17                  Jehoshaphat also knew that God, who  
18                  was greater than any earthly problem, had  
19                  done miraculous things for Abraham, Issac,  
20                  Jacob, Moses, David and Daniel. That same  
21                  God would help, too, in his hour of need.  
22                  We should never underestimate the Lord's  
23                  interest in our affairs. He helped our  
24                  ancestors in the Bible and he can and will  
25                  help his children today.

1                   It's easy to think our problems are  
2                   unimportant in the eyes of God but he  
3                   doesn't feel that way at all. Whatever  
4                   concerns us concerns him. If we like  
5                   Jehosaphat turn right to God and proclaim  
6                   his power. He will intervene. And no  
7                   matter how great our challenges are, God is  
8                   greater. He has promised if my people who  
9                   are called by my name will humble themselves  
10                  and prayer and seek my face and turn from  
11                  their wicked ways then I will hear them from  
12                  heaven and I will forgive them and their  
13                  sins and heal their land."

14                  And so I ask for you to select a day  
15                  and ask the citizens of this city to have a  
16                  day of prayer and fasting for our city and  
17                  the resolution of the many problems, and I  
18                  trust he will answer. Thank you.

19                  MS. ROSKY: Good evening, Council.  
20                  Marry Ann Rosky, homeowner for 38 years in  
21                  this -- I was going to say something, in  
22                  this city. I'm frustrated, I have things  
23                  jotted down, I may go in different  
24                  directions, so please bear with me, and I  
25                  commend our council, four members of



1 council.

2 Now, Mr. McGoff I don't want to go  
3 back to you because you have been the with  
4 the Gatelli and the Fanucci and it was  
5 always three to two. The mayor's a 1,000  
6 percent wrong and it's three to two, okay?  
7 Prior to you, you got Pocius, McTiernan and  
8 the other ones, three to two. So when did  
9 this start with the mayor and the Muppets?  
10 How many years ago? Why are we in this  
11 position now? 78 percent hike in taxes?  
12 That's unreal.

13 I hope and I do, I trust four  
14 council members, I think Mr. McGoff is not  
15 going to vote for this, but you four council  
16 members I know you will do and you have done  
17 a lot for us taxpayers. And you know what I  
18 think, I know how maybe the mayor and the  
19 city can make money? This is like a reality  
20 show starring Chris Doherty and you got the  
21 Times, you got Chris Kelly, how dare he.  
22 How dare he make fun of Councilman Loscombe.  
23 Who raised him to make fun of somebody who  
24 can't walk right or who says something wrong  
25 or who criticizes the way they talk, they

1 speak? How dare he. As far I'm concerned,  
2 in my opinion he is a scumbag Chris Kelly.  
3 Scumbag. And he should be making \$7.25 an  
4 hour.

5 And now another thing, you know, I  
6 have to get the number for CNN because this  
7 is like national news, police and firemen  
8 making \$7.25 an hour, I mean, there is a lot  
9 of people making minimum wage and they are  
10 happy for it, but our police and our firemen  
11 going down that low and putting their lives  
12 on the line?

13 So, I mean, like, this has to be  
14 like a city in depression. It has to be.  
15 The only city that I -- I never heard of  
16 anything like that. Your police and firemen  
17 are getting \$7.25 an hour and they are  
18 blaming council. Everybody is blaming  
19 council. This is what I don't understand.  
20 It's the mayor and he is spoiled rotten. He  
21 is spoiled -- he is a spoiled brat. You  
22 know, people raise their kids three, four  
23 years old, five years old that teach them  
24 not to spoil them, this man has been spoiled  
25 rotten for years and you people are going to

1 correct it, and I know you will. I trust  
2 you. Councilman Loscombe, Joyce, Janet  
3 Evans and Mr. Rogan.

4 Mr. McGoff, whatever way you decide  
5 is whatever way you are going to decide.  
6 You know, in your opinion and my opinion,  
7 you know, you are going to do whatever you  
8 feel that you have to do. And I want to  
9 know is there going to fireworks in the city  
10 on the Forth of July. I want to know where  
11 the money is coming from if they are going  
12 to have fireworks? Does anybody know?  
13 There better not be. Oh, there better not  
14 be because I want to know where that money  
15 is coming from.

16 And there is so many things, there  
17 is just so many things, and the mayor -- now  
18 I heard on the news tonight that the  
19 paychecks in August comes whatever,  
20 whatever, whatever, they will go back to the  
21 regular paychecks the city work employees  
22 retroactive, you know who is going to fight  
23 for that? The mayor won't give it to them.  
24 Mr. Martin will be here fighting for it,  
25 somebody else will be here fighting for it.

1 He won't give it to them. He is going to  
2 give them -- he will give them a hard time,  
3 going to give you a hard time.

4 Now, another thing I need to address  
5 is -- okay, yeah, the 3.4 wage tax, will  
6 that ever, ever, ever change. Is that in  
7 a law that's going to be here forever, the  
8 people that work in this city?

9 MS. EVANS: Well, 2.4 percent goes  
10 to the city and the remainder goes to the  
11 Scranton school district, which is beyond  
12 our control.

13 MS. ROSKY: Right.

14 MS. EVANS: But with the historic  
15 debt amassed by the Doherty administration  
16 and the city authorities I don't see that  
17 there is going to be any movement in the  
18 earned income tax for many, many years to  
19 come because the weight of the debt that's  
20 been amassed is just too extensive.

21 MS. ROSKY: Thank you. Attorney  
22 Hughes, I want to applaud you as well  
23 because I think you should be getting all of  
24 the city solicitor's money. All of it.  
25 That he should go, the mayor has got to go,

1 PEL has got to go, DCED has got to go, and I  
2 can see the Parking Authority as well, but  
3 we know where we are at with them, but I  
4 think that's it for now and we can't  
5 afford -- I can't afford, I don't where,  
6 like, everybody is. There is people that do  
7 live in the city and own homes, I don't know  
8 where they are at, like, somebody has got to  
9 appear when your taxes are going to be  
10 hiked. They have to be. I don't know. I  
11 don't know. If they go up I'm out of here.

12 Thank you, Council. I trust you and  
13 God bless you in your decision. We need  
14 you. We need you.

15 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
16 cares to address council?

17 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.  
18 Gerard Hetman from the Lackawanna County  
19 Department of Community Relations. First, I  
20 have to apologize for being a little bit  
21 late, I had to attend by Leadership  
22 Lackawanna class graduation this evening.

23 MS. EVANS: Oh, congratulations.

24 MR. HETMAN: So, Mrs. Evans, I'm now  
25 have the Honor alongside of you as being

1 Leadership Lackawanna alums, so good to be  
2 here to get in time to speak so thank you  
3 for accommodating me.

4 One announcement -- a couple of  
5 announcements that we do have. First, at a  
6 recent meeting I spoke about the drive-in  
7 downtown outdoor movies series that's taking  
8 place on courthouse square during the months  
9 of June and July. Since my last  
10 announcement regarding the movie series,  
11 there has been decided that the fifth movie,  
12 which was yet to be announced at the time of  
13 my last announcement, will be decided by a  
14 poll that's currently running on the  
15 Lackawanna County website at  
16 [www.LackawannaCounty.org](http://www.LackawannaCounty.org). I believe there  
17 is five or six movies. They are all 1980s  
18 genre movies and people can go on a vote as  
19 many times as they wish, I believe, via  
20 [www.LackawannaCounty.org](http://www.LackawannaCounty.org), and the fifth  
21 movie will be chosen by public vote. The  
22 link is also available on our Facebook and  
23 Twitter pages and the public can vote for  
24 whichever 1980's movie they wish to see on  
25 courthouse square so the voting is open and

1           vote away.

2                       Also, I believe with council the  
3           updated schedule for the 2010 summer events  
4           on courthouse square, which includes the  
5           Friday afternoon concerts and also the  
6           Saturday evening concerts which are said to  
7           begin July 7 with Daddy'o and the Sax  
8           Maniacs and, of course, the June list of  
9           noon concerts continue from this Friday John  
10          Quinn through August 4, so every Friday  
11          there will be entertainment there.

12                      I know several regular visitors and  
13          speakers have either asked me for a copy of  
14          themselves and I have also seen the ones  
15          that you have put up outside, so we  
16          appreciate your cooperation with getting the  
17          word out on those events.

18                      And lastly, we would just like to  
19          remind everyone of the Scrantastic  
20          Spectacular celebration which will be taking  
21          place on Tuesday evening, July 3, right  
22          there again on courthouse square. The  
23          entertainment starts at 4 p.m. and includes  
24          the Northeast PA Philharmonic's annual July  
25          4 show and then the fireworks start at dusk.

1           It's going to be a great time, lots of fun  
2           out there for everyone, and we would like  
3           everyone to come down and have a great time.  
4           I was there last year purely as a spectator,  
5           I have been at major baseball games and  
6           major sporting events and walking downtown  
7           was very much like walking out after a big  
8           sporting event so it was great to see. So  
9           that's all we have for this evening and  
10          thank you for accommodating me. Thank you.

11                 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Jack, you handsome  
12                 devil you.

13                 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

14                 Ms. Evans: Hi, Chrissy.

15                 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Jack, those games  
16                 this year it's going to be August 4 this  
17                 year. August 5 this year. Support the  
18                 team. Thank you.

19                 MR. LOSCOMBE: All right, Buddy.

20                 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.

21                 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer and  
22                 recording secretary of the FOP and  
23                 exercising my First Amendment Rights with my  
24                 opinion, and please excuse me, I wrote this  
25                 here, so does this sound familiar?



1 "Doomsday scenario. Recently  
2 Gerald Cross, PEL director, warned the  
3 residents of this city about a Doomsday  
4 scenario if city council doesn't approve the  
5 \$44 million borrowing plan."

6 Stacy Brown, the staff writer for  
7 the tabloid wrote, "Scranton is facing a  
8 grim financial future."

9 That was 2006. Here we are in 2012.  
10 Dire financial straights. What changed?  
11 Are we in a time lapse? We, police and  
12 fire, along with the mayor and city  
13 representatives were involved in weeks of  
14 negotiations at the University with three  
15 state mediator as witnesses. We had  
16 something to bring it back to our bodies and  
17 DCED all they had to do was sign off on  
18 that. They didn't in the time limit agreed  
19 upon by the city unions. DCED has not  
20 signed off on it yet. They basically threw  
21 the mayor, the city and the taxpayers under  
22 the bus. DCED and PEL basically left the  
23 city and taxpayers high and dry. The mayor  
24 trusted DCED and they gave them the shaft.  
25 They basically sanctioned the city and there

1 will be no money coming in to help us out.

2 I will say the mayor should have  
3 taken his own advice when he trusted the  
4 DCED and PEL. He should have listened to  
5 himself, don't take the bait. PEL has been  
6 involved with the city for 20 years in Act  
7 47.

8 The city, in my opinion, basically  
9 fired me, I had 36 years of service, so they  
10 fired me basically because of my age, but I  
11 believe it's retaliation. DCED and PEL,  
12 it's time for them to be fired. We are \$300  
13 million in long-term debt and another 100  
14 million if we add in the Scranton Parking  
15 Authority. 400 million long-term debt.  
16 That's on their watch.

17 And, as I said, we are basically  
18 sanctioned by the state. No bank money, no  
19 state money. We have to do it on our own.  
20 So sell the Scranton Sewer Authority. Sell  
21 the Scranton Parking Authority, sell the  
22 garages, lease the garages. Sell Park  
23 Gardens. Incorporate all of council's ideas  
24 to raise money and use the 35 ideas that the  
25 fire department gave the city years ago as

1 revenue producers. Example, start our  
2 ambulance service.

3 So, in conclusion, fire DCED and  
4 PEL. They left us to fare on our own and  
5 for ourselves. We are on our own. We will  
6 have to do it on our own.

7 And one question, will there be fire  
8 works on the Fourth of July? Anybody know?  
9 Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? Mrs.  
11 Krake? 5. MOTIONS.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Please. A couple of  
15 responses. First of all, it was a tough  
16 choice between Princess Bride and ET, but  
17 please put my vote in for Princess Bride and  
18 Dread Pirate Robert for the fifth movie.  
19 There were two of the choices.

20 As far as the word facetious, since  
21 I'm being questioned as to my English  
22 knowledge, perhaps since Mr. Jackowitz and I  
23 went to high school together maybe we could  
24 go back and take a look at our report cards  
25 and compare and decide who is more likely to

1 know the meaning of the word facetious, but  
2 serious business.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: You went to Hofstra,  
4 didn't you?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I did, on an  
6 academic scholarship if you really want to  
7 know.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, okay.

9 MS. EVANS: Please continue,  
10 Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, to more serious  
12 business. We are looking at a revenue  
13 crisis. We have -- the city has no money.  
14 It's living day by day and while the recent  
15 announcement and the reduction of the  
16 salaries for minimum wage I don't know if  
17 it's a necessary thing. I don't know -- it  
18 certainly is another step toward a  
19 catastrophic event, but the city needs to  
20 pay its bills and one of the things that I  
21 think we need to do is to continue to pay  
22 Blue Cross and Blue Shield for health  
23 insurance.

24 I think the more catastrophic event  
25 would be if health insurance were to lapse.

1           That would effect people I think to a  
2           greater extent than temporary loss of some  
3           salary. Lapse off the health insurance  
4           would do no one in the city any good,  
5           including the city itself which would have  
6           to find a new carrier, probably cost a  
7           premium that we couldn't afford, but the  
8           simple fact is that we need to pay some of  
9           these bills and there is no money or very  
10          little money.

11                        There is a hole in our budget that  
12          needs to be filled. We budgeted, and we can  
13          argue the amount whether it's 9 million, 16  
14          million, whatever the amount is, that needs  
15          to be filled with the cooperation of the  
16          lending community. It's the only way it's  
17          going to be filled and over the past couple  
18          of months I think our actions or inactions  
19          have made some of these institutions  
20          skeptical about whether we have the ability  
21          or the will to repay the debts that we may  
22          have.

23                        I know Attorney Hughes mentioned  
24          before that some of this should be separated  
25          out. I know that business administrator

1 McGowan contacted banks seeking to do just  
2 that and there was no one that was  
3 interested at that time, even though we have  
4 a guaranteed tax millage increase. There  
5 was simply no one that wanted to take up  
6 that challenge.

7 The banks are looking for a plan, an  
8 economic plan. I don't -- I won't call it a  
9 Recovery Plan, they want a viable economic  
10 plan for the future. The banks are telling  
11 us very simply they want some assurance that  
12 they will be secure in loaning us money  
13 going forward, and if that requires a  
14 Recovery Plan then I think we need to do  
15 that.

16 Yes, I did talk to one person about  
17 coming to the meeting tonight. I felt it  
18 was important that people be here. There  
19 are two decision makers in this city right  
20 now, the mayor and the council president,  
21 and this problem is not going to be resolved  
22 until the two decision makers get together  
23 and make those decisions that are necessary  
24 for the well-being of the city.

25 Did I ask that someone demand that

1 the council president or council meet with  
2 the mayor? Yes. I also went to the mayor  
3 and made that same demand. I think that we  
4 should demand of everyone that they meet and  
5 resolve this problem. The crisis is not  
6 going to be settled until there is an  
7 agreement, and we are looking at minimum  
8 wage, possible payless paydays going forward  
9 until the problem is resolved.

10 I have never voiced support for all  
11 of the mayor's Recovery Plan. I asked that  
12 it be put on the agenda so that we could  
13 discuss the plan. I think it needs  
14 discussion. I think it needs to be  
15 implemented, something needs to be  
16 implemented so that we can go to the banking  
17 communities and to the banking community and  
18 say, "We have a plan. This is it. Now that  
19 we have this plan in place can we secure the  
20 revenues that we need to keep the city  
21 solvent?"

22 Council has made some proposals to  
23 the mayor for the Recovery Plan. For a  
24 number of weeks it was asked not to discuss  
25 these, that they weren't for public release.

1           Tonight, you know, Mr. Morgan asked, you  
2           know, what were they? Can we see them? I  
3           think it's time that we do discuss these and  
4           that they become, you know, sort of part of  
5           the public discussion.

6                         Many of the proposals, despite  
7           what's been said, many of these proposals  
8           are in the mayor's plan. If we want to  
9           mitigate the proposed action increases in  
10          the mayor's Recovery Plan then what we need  
11          to do is to provide some hard numbers for  
12          how those -- for how that percent can be  
13          decreased, and in the proposals that were  
14          made through council those hard numbers  
15          aren't there, and that is something that I  
16          think that need to discussed between the  
17          decision makers in this event.

18                        Things that were in the proposal,  
19          and I know Mr. Joyce said he was going to  
20          mention these, maybe I'm stealing his  
21          thunder somehow, but maybe we can discuss  
22          them as we go along here. Sale of the water  
23          conveying system. It's in the mayor's plan,  
24          page 42, but in the proposal there is no  
25          projected revenue. We don't know what that



1           could bring to the city. We can't just put  
2           into a Recovery Plan some nebulous amount.  
3           There has to be something that's, you know,  
4           a hard number.

5                        Refuse fees, will not increase  
6           refuse fee and real estate taxes  
7           simultaneously. I think that's something  
8           that probably may be sudden included, but if  
9           we are not going to put the refuse in for  
10          2013 then that amount we need as a council  
11          to determine where that difference is going  
12          to come from.

13                       Commuter tax. It's in the Recovery  
14          Plan, page 44 of the mayor's plan. Again,  
15          I'm not sure what the amount is that we can  
16          generate from the commuter tax, but I  
17          certainly believe that we need to come to  
18          some hard number, at least a hard projection  
19          on what that would be.

20                       Sale or lease of the parking meters,  
21          delete this section. Okay, if we are going  
22          to delete the sale of these parking meters,  
23          again, where is the revenue that this would  
24          have generated? Where is it going to come  
25          from and how much?

1 Proposed real estate taxes. Council  
2 says it would only approve the Court-ordered  
3 tax increases. Fine, but again, if we are  
4 only going to do the 10 percent increase  
5 then how do we makeup the difference? Where  
6 will that come from?

7 Parking theater enhancement program.  
8 I agree that should be in the Recovery Plan.  
9 I think it's something we should do.  
10 Supposedly, I know that there is a RFP being  
11 prepared for doing that soon. But again, we  
12 need to -- what are the revenues that can be  
13 projected from the implementation of the  
14 parking meter program.

15 Sale or lease of the parking  
16 garages. It's mentioned in the Recovery  
17 Plan, on the mayor's Recovery Plan on page  
18 49, but again, it's only a possibility. And  
19 also, we don't know what the dollar amounts  
20 from that would be. There are no  
21 projections in council's proposals.

22 Number eight was dealing with the  
23 IAM unions, Local 2462, again, I think this  
24 is something that could be negotiated and  
25 easily settled. Although, it's not in the

1 Recovery Plan I think that that's something  
2 that could be handled easily.

3 Payments in lieu of taxes will be  
4 increase by \$300,000 per year. That's nice  
5 to say, but as we know any attempts to  
6 increase PILOTS has met with a refusal.  
7 There is no guarantee and you can't make a  
8 guarantee that the institutions involved  
9 will increase their donations. Donations or  
10 payments, whatever you want to call it.  
11 Yes, should they -- should we pursue it?  
12 Absolutely. And in the past it has been  
13 pursued. It's been pursued by council and  
14 they were rebuffed, so into the future can  
15 we guarantee that we are going to get  
16 \$300,000 from this? I don't think so. It's  
17 nice to put in there, but it's not a hard  
18 revenue.

19 The others, workforce mandates,  
20 fine, you know, the last was the amendments  
21 to the Recovery Plan should be approved by  
22 city council. Absolutely. No problem.

23 These are things that can be  
24 implemented. Other things we have talked  
25 about revenue generators that aren't --

1 market based revenue opportunities on page  
2 42. Amusement tax, page 44. Payroll tax,  
3 page 49. The union award, while it's in  
4 there at 14.5 because that was the number  
5 that was available from the audit, 14.5 five  
6 million and it's there, and then there were  
7 some revisions given to PEL or worked with  
8 PEL if, in fact, that amount were to be  
9 greater than 14.5, so it's there.

10 The sales tax that we have talked  
11 about, that's been talked about, again, that  
12 needs state approval. We can't guarantee  
13 that that will ever occur. Hopefully, I  
14 think that that's something that should be  
15 looked at, but it can't be included if we  
16 don't have an amount, if we don't know that  
17 the state is going to implement it or allow  
18 us to implement it.

19 As far as the things that were  
20 mentioned last week by Mrs. Evans, the  
21 governor certification of the last two US  
22 censuses, I think they should be put in  
23 there, that would be fine.

24 And the other three dealing with  
25 Parking Authority, I don't know why they

1 would need to be in there, but I don't see  
2 why they would be excluded. They really  
3 don't add anything to the revenue, it just  
4 maybe explains some of the issues with the  
5 Parking Authority, but as far as the  
6 Recovery Plan I don't necessarily see that  
7 they need to be in there, although, it would  
8 be -- I don't see why they couldn't be  
9 included.

10 We have gone back and forth or it's  
11 been talked about that the mayor's Recovery  
12 Plan is not acceptable. Fine. We can't go  
13 through the process of the mayor sending  
14 another Recovery Plan and then having  
15 council say, "No, we don't like that one.  
16 Send it back to the mayor," then another one  
17 and another one.

18 What we need to do is council,  
19 council president, council financial  
20 director is sit down and go through the plan  
21 and agree, come to an agreement and then  
22 present it to PEL, DCED, whoever it has to  
23 be presented to, but there should be  
24 agreement before it gets to us. We should  
25 agree on what's going to be in there and we

1           need to do it quickly. This isn't something  
2           that we can push week after week after week.

3                       Yes, there were people here talking  
4           about, you know, the problems that minimum  
5           wage salaries were going to present, we  
6           can't allow that to continue. We can't  
7           allow it to continue to August 3 when we go  
8           before a judge. I think that was -- I see  
9           no hope in that either. I don't know why  
10          that was ever done, but before that Court  
11          hearing takes place we need to deal with the  
12          problem ourselves. We don't need some judge  
13          to tell us to do that. We all know that we  
14          need to deal with our own problems and the  
15          only way that is going to come about and the  
16          only way is resolution is going to come  
17          about is when council president and the  
18          mayor sit down together and hammer out an  
19          agreement and do not do not stop until that  
20          agreement is reached, and that's all. Thank  
21          you.

22                       MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23                       Mr. Loscombe, if you don't mind, I'd just  
24                       like to respond?

25                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

1 MS. EVANS: I have already done  
2 that, Mr. McGoff, with very, very  
3 disappointing, troubling results. But, you  
4 know, I would certainly like you or  
5 Councilman Rogan if you would like to sit  
6 down with the mayor and try to work  
7 something out that's better than what we  
8 have proposed.

9 Now, as Mr. McGoff said some of  
10 these revenue generators are contained in  
11 the plan, but as optional alternatives not  
12 requirements. Now, for the water conveyance  
13 system the mayor wanted that sold. Council  
14 agreed to that. A number appears to have  
15 been picked out of the air and so council  
16 asked, and this is what was Mr. McGoff  
17 doesn't tell you, that the city conduct an  
18 appraisal of the water conveyance system  
19 prior to the sale of this city-owned asset  
20 and then the projected revenue from the sale  
21 would be adjusted following the required  
22 appraisal.

23 As for the refuse fee, again,  
24 Mr. McGoff did not tell you that any refuse  
25 fee increase in 2014 and 2015 will be

1 dependent upon reductions in the Department  
2 of Public Works. There have been no  
3 reductions in the Department of Public  
4 Works. As soon as an employee retires,  
5 resigns or is fired they are replaced.

6 As for the commuter tax, the  
7 administration did include it as a figure of  
8 about \$1 million to \$1.2 million, whereas  
9 according to the report provided by PEL from  
10 the institute for public policy, they're  
11 projecting \$4 million would be collected in  
12 year one.

13 Sale or lease of parking meters  
14 should be deleted and you don't have to make  
15 up that \$6 million because what Mr. McGoff  
16 is forgetting is that \$6 million when you  
17 sell those parking meters to the Scranton  
18 Parking Authority the city has got to  
19 guarantee that debt, and just like the city  
20 right now had to make a bond payment because  
21 the Parking Authority is upside down it's  
22 expenditures exceed it's revenues. The city  
23 is responsibility for that for the next, I  
24 don't know, it's at least 24 years.

25 Now, you might want to pretend that



1           doesn't exist or that they are not really on  
2           the hook for it, but they are. We have seen  
3           that already. We just paid them a million  
4           dollars. Well, we paid the million dollars  
5           because they can't.

6                     Then we have the parking meter  
7           enhancement program. Well, I refer the  
8           administration to the presentation made by  
9           Mr. John Miskel the Spring of 2011, he put  
10          in writing, and each council member has it,  
11          the proposed revenue that would be brought  
12          in by the implementation of the parking  
13          meter enhancement program.

14                    As for the IAM union Local 2462,  
15          yes, it's in the plan actually, but the  
16          administration lists it as having a contract  
17          and that the cuts to this union aren't going  
18          to begin to occur until 2015, but that union  
19          has no contract right now. It was never  
20          approved by city council and so if the mayor  
21          wants to follow his own Recovery Plan here  
22          from the get go he needs to sit down and  
23          start negotiating that 10 percent reduction  
24          in their union that he proposed in his very  
25          own plan rather than covering it up in his

1 plan and pretending to have a contract and  
2 putting it off until 2015 because they do  
3 not.

4 Then the payment in lieu of taxes,  
5 well, as we all know the mayor doesn't enjoy  
6 trying to pursue any of that, and it's  
7 amazing to me though because, you know, as I  
8 said last week, I talked about the mayor of  
9 Providence Road Island and how he has  
10 brought in tens of millions more in 2012  
11 from the biggest nonprofits in this city and  
12 you know why? The mayor went to them and  
13 said, "Providence is going bankrupt. We  
14 need your help. You have got to step up to  
15 the plate or we are going under."

16 And they did and then we have the  
17 mayor, it's mayor Vaughn D. Spencer of  
18 Reading, he is also been working on PILOT  
19 payments, he sent letters out in April to  
20 the property tax exempt organizations, 240  
21 of them, asking them to contribute or to  
22 increase their contributions. They have  
23 been responding. One, for example, who used  
24 to give a \$1,000 a year increased it to  
25 \$5,000, so since the end of April he has

1 brought in an additional \$38,000.

2 Now, in the big scheme of things in  
3 Scranton I know that's not a lot of money  
4 with what we are facing, but you know what,  
5 that's a good effort. In addition to that,  
6 he has asked them -- he sent more letters  
7 out this month asking them to help the city  
8 conduct a hundred cleanups around the town  
9 or adopt a block or a park and maintain it  
10 and they are answering that, too, but in  
11 Scranton nothing happens and the only reason  
12 any nonprofit was ever approached is because  
13 this council did it and as a result we got  
14 it.

15 MR. MCGOFF: That's not true either,  
16 because when I was president of the council  
17 we did go to many of the nonprofits.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, not that I was  
19 aware of and I was here, but this council  
20 went and every University slammed the door  
21 in our faces, so I think what you need is a  
22 mayor on board acting as other mayors do and  
23 reaching out to all of these nonprofits,  
24 explaining the situation and asking for  
25 their help and putting it in writing and

1           then publicizing who gives and who turns  
2           their cheek, just as was done in Providence  
3           and just as is being to know in Reading.

4                       And as for DCED and PEL, according  
5           to a lawsuit filed by the mayor against  
6           council they have already approved the  
7           mayor's Recovery Plan so they are not  
8           interested in our suggestions. They had  
9           them, they were aware of them, they have no  
10          interest in them.

11                      And on that note, I'm going turn it  
12          over to Councilman Loscombe.

13                      MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. Just a  
14          couple of comments. First some good news,  
15          someone asked me before about the  
16          firefighters, I received a letter as of  
17          Saturday the SAFER grant will be in effect  
18          and 17 firefighters will be brought back on  
19          the job. As I stated though it's still  
20          going to be -- there are still going to be  
21          some brownout situations. They were looking  
22          for the full amount and they returned three  
23          and a half million, so we'll discuss that  
24          another time.

25                      But I would like to commend the

1 union presidents that were here representing  
2 their members and, you know, the courtesy  
3 they showed and I believe they see the whole  
4 picture especially, you know, police and  
5 fire who have had negotiations with this  
6 administration many times and walked away  
7 happy and then the next day found out that  
8 the deal fell through as they alluded this  
9 evening to a possible savings of \$15  
10 million, which is very close to falling  
11 through at this point and another  
12 arbitration that will be coming up shortly  
13 that they agreed to let go. And Mrs. Evans  
14 read a letter from Attorney Jennings, that's  
15 back on the table. That could be a  
16 considerable amount of money. I just don't  
17 understand it.

18 But I do want all of the city  
19 employees and retired employees, it's hard  
20 to get the message out, as someone mentioned  
21 before, because they believe everything they  
22 read in the print and, you know, sometimes  
23 it's right and sometimes they use sound  
24 bites and maybe tweak it a little bit  
25 differently, but, you know, I believe those

1           who observe the meetings live or who are  
2           here in person can see the whole picture.

3                       As I have stated many times, we are  
4           not perfect, we don't have all of the  
5           answers, but we have worked hard, we have  
6           opened up our time to meet with the mayor  
7           and different administration officials and  
8           stuff like that, but I do want to say to all  
9           of those employees, it was the mayor who  
10          unilaterally changed their wages. I found  
11          out from the news media.

12                      You know, it's okay to sit there on  
13          TV and the newspaper and blame council for  
14          everything, but, you know, don't count us in  
15          when there is decisions to be made, but  
16          still blame us and the leveraging that's  
17          been going on, you know, I have been doing a  
18          lot of thinking the last week or so and I  
19          have to agree, not that I'm a friend of PEL  
20          or DCED, but I could see it. They are  
21          looking for their own longevity. That's why  
22          they are pushing for a plan. I find it  
23          interesting that the plan expired in 2005  
24          and we have never had a problem getting a  
25          bank to give us money all the way up until

1           now until this council tightened the purse  
2           strings, and I said it before and I'll say  
3           it again, a smart bank would feel more  
4           confident now, I don't understand, but I  
5           think it's a conspiracy with DCED and PEL to  
6           force a plan for their longevity here, and I  
7           have agree with many of the comments, kick  
8           them out. I'm not in favor of them, they  
9           haven't helped us, we are farther and  
10          farther in debt after 20 years with them  
11          here, and even with the plans in place they  
12          have let the mayor pick and choose, yet  
13          under a prior administration they sanctioned  
14          him for minimal infractions. So as  
15          Mrs. Evans said, the only plan that would  
16          work is one that has teeth, and I still  
17          don't see one having teeth.

18                        It just amazes me that, you know,  
19                        all of a sudden they need a plan. We have  
20                        the agreement in place, as Mr. Hughes said,  
21                        for the borrowing which is outside of the  
22                        Recovery Plan, the bank approved the tax  
23                        increases there, did DCED and PEL going  
24                        knocking on the bank's door and say, "Hey,  
25                        hold up, we are going make them come up with

1 a plan."

2 We want to protect your taxes going  
3 up. That's the only plans they have ever  
4 come out with, raise your taxes, raise your  
5 garbage fees. They haven't been creative in  
6 anything, and that's a disappointment to me  
7 because we get blamed just as much and we  
8 have nothing to do with that, and we are  
9 holding strong here to fight.

10 Obviously, i believe there will be a  
11 tax increase but we've got to keep it to the  
12 minimum and a plan that doesn't include the  
13 funding for -- they didn't even include the  
14 parking garage so that was a wrong situation  
15 there, but as I stated many times here, if a  
16 plan does not have the full agreement that  
17 was reached with the unions to save us that  
18 money we don't know where we are going  
19 forward. If we don't have a signed  
20 agreement in that plan what are we going to  
21 guess at, 14 million? 30 million? You  
22 know? That's a big significant difference.  
23 That's not a plan. A plan should show  
24 everything right up-to-date and we know  
25 where we are going forward.



1                   And I agree if, you know, the mayor  
2                   wants to be part of this, he is the head man  
3                   here. He is the head man when he wants to  
4                   be. When he doesn't want to be it's us,  
5                   it's our fault, but what I'm saying is he  
6                   has us on the precipes right now and he is  
7                   going to the newspapers and the news media  
8                   every day, I welcome the mayor to come here  
9                   and sit with us as a body at any time. Any  
10                  time. He is the head of this city. He has  
11                  to come here and sit with us if he wants to  
12                  get a Recovery Plan together, not one or  
13                  renege people because we see what happens  
14                  when you go in one-on-one, one or two. No  
15                  more of that. It's got to be done here in  
16                  public with all council people, and if he  
17                  fails to do that that's his problem. That's  
18                  his fault.

19                  We are here trying to work for you,  
20                  and again, as someone stated before the  
21                  comments from people on the streets and  
22                  stuff like that, yes, they are observing the  
23                  printed media because it's, you know, it's  
24                  all one-sided. It's his way or no way and  
25                  people have to realize that at this point,

1 and I'm getting frustrated myself. I'm  
2 telling you, it's wearing me out. I can't  
3 imagine my colleagues, especially my  
4 president here.

5 I don't know where I'm going. I  
6 don't know where this city is going, but we  
7 have met with the mayor, I have met with him  
8 personally, every one of us has met with him  
9 personally and we are no farther ahead at  
10 this point. Let's all meet together then,  
11 the mayor in front of everybody. Show the  
12 people what he is doing here. Show him why  
13 he is the mayor.

14 Again, that bank should have given  
15 us that loan, it was already approved, so  
16 use that as a poor excuse, but secondly, we  
17 haven't had a plan since 2005 and the banks  
18 have given us money freely every year and  
19 all of a sudden they want a plan, but enough  
20 said on that because we have discussed that.

21 But it was alluded to tonight, and I  
22 wasn't going to comment on it, but Chris  
23 Kelly pointed out in his Sunday slam, I may  
24 not be the most eloquent speaker, but my  
25 comments come from my heart, my experience,

1 and from those of you who I meet on the  
2 street or through e-mails I address your  
3 situation, your problems. I'm one of you.  
4 I'm not the country club set. I'm an  
5 average Joe in this town, I'm not a  
6 politician, never planned on being a  
7 politician, I don't plan on going any  
8 further, I'm not looking for any additional  
9 office, I just came to this position at the  
10 urging of my family to try and help with  
11 this city and, you know, we are accused of  
12 being a super majority and all of that,  
13 again, I take that with respect because  
14 finally there is a majority of people  
15 fighting for the average citizen in this  
16 town. That's the way I feel.

17 And I run into people all the time  
18 grocery stores, drug stores, on the street  
19 walking, and they are all telling me to keep  
20 up the fight, we have to keep up the fight  
21 for them and we see that and we know that  
22 they can't handle the 78 percent tax  
23 increase, and some of the comments made  
24 about the revenue sources that we put in,  
25 oh, well, you know, there's no hard numbers,

1           it's a little too late, we don't have this  
2           and that, these ideas were given years ago  
3           to them, you know? Don't wait until we are  
4           falling off the cliff and use that excuse,  
5           that's exactly what's happening.

6                         But again, you know, I didn't have  
7           -- just like I was talking about Chris Kelly  
8           and his article Sunday, you know, I just  
9           have to say up here I don't have the luxury  
10          of sitting at computer with my dictionary  
11          and thesaurus. What you see is what you get  
12          and, you know, I'm not apologizing for that  
13          and I'm working for you. Thank you.

14                        MS. EVANS: Thank you, Councilman  
15          Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, do you have any  
16          motions or comments?

17                        MR. JOYCE: I have a few comments,  
18          as one knows there has been a great deal of  
19          talk about the mayor's proposed Recovery  
20          Plan. It has been the goal of Scranton City  
21          Council to achieve a Recovery Plan that  
22          works for everyone. Both Mrs. Evans and I  
23          met with the mayor a number of times for  
24          months to discuss the construction of a  
25          Recovery Plan that works for everyone.

1           However, the mayor left out many of  
2           council's recommendations and ideas for  
3           revision or at least in their entirety.

4                         It should be the goal of council and  
5           the mayor to have a joint plan, not a  
6           one-sided plan. It is still the goal of  
7           council to have a joint plan that works in  
8           the best interest of the residents of the  
9           city. For instance, Mr. McGoff offered some  
10          ideas than were e-mailed to Mayor Doherty in  
11          regards to the Recovery Plan, those were  
12          some requirements by city council and I'll  
13          just go over some of them again.

14                        One, the sale of the water  
15          conveyance system, this was in the mayor's  
16          plan, however, it was council's intention to  
17          that the city should conduct an appraisal of  
18          the water conveyance system prior to the  
19          sale of the system to the Scranton Sewer  
20          Authority and, furthermore, that the  
21          projected revenue from the sale must be  
22          adjusted following the required appraisal.

23                        The refuse fee, an increase in the  
24          refuse fee is in the mayor's Recovery Plan  
25          however, it was council's intention that in

1           2013 council would not increase refuse fees  
2           and real estate taxes simultaneously and  
3           that any refuse fee increase in 2014 and  
4           2015 would be dependent upon reductions to  
5           the Department of Public Works.

6                     Three, the commuter tax. This was  
7           included in the Recovery Plan and projected  
8           at about \$1.5 million for the first year.  
9           However, according to the study provided to  
10          PEL by the Institute for Public Policy, it's  
11          projected that \$4 million may be collected  
12          by instituting a commuter tax.

13                    The sale and lease of the parking  
14          meters. This was a part of the mayor's  
15          Recovery Plan, however, it was the intention  
16          of the city council that the parking meters  
17          not be sold or leased to the Scranton  
18          Parking Authority.

19                    Parking Meter Enhancement Program.  
20          This was not the part of the mayor's  
21          Recovery Plan, however, it was the intention  
22          of city council that the city shall  
23          implement a parking meter enhancement  
24          program in 2012, and that projected revenues  
25          for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 shall be

1 included in the Recovery Plan. This was not  
2 done.

3 The sale or the lease of the parking  
4 garages. Because the City of Scranton is  
5 unable to fund the Parking Authority's  
6 annual financial obligations, SPA parking  
7 garages must be sold or leased either in  
8 part or in their entirety.

9 Tax increases. In 2013 the tax  
10 increase should only be what the  
11 Court-ordered millage was for the borrowing  
12 and subsequent years no more than 10  
13 percent.

14 Payments in lieu of taxes. It was  
15 the intention of the city council to require  
16 tax exempt contributions to be increased by  
17 \$300,000 per year in the revised Recovery  
18 Plan. As the previous Recovery Plans, the  
19 mayor and the business administrator would  
20 be charged with the collection of such  
21 payments.

22 IAM Union Local 2462, which is the  
23 clerical union, to this date the union  
24 doesn't have a contract. The legislation  
25 was tabled by city council and remained so.

1 With this in mind, it was Scranton City  
2 Council's intention that the city negotiate  
3 with the union to achieve immediately a  
4 reduction of 10 percent as mandated by the  
5 Pennsylvania Economy League.

6 Work force mandates, city council's  
7 requirement was that it was -- is the  
8 intention of the city to negotiate good  
9 faith with the bargaining unit  
10 representatives of its employees to decrease  
11 city expenditures, provide for the health,  
12 safety and welfare of all of its citizens  
13 and produce stability for the city, its  
14 residents and municipal unions.

15 Any settlement that is mutually  
16 agreeable to the elected leadership of the  
17 city and it's municipal leaders shall be  
18 implemented and shall supercede any related  
19 provisions and mandates enumerated  
20 throughout the Recovery Plan.

21 City council approval that was  
22 another thing that wasn't included. It was  
23 city council's intention that any and all  
24 amendments to the 2012 Recovery Plan shall  
25 be approved by Scranton City Council because



1 currently the way it stands any adjustments  
2 to our Recovery Plan can only be approved by  
3 PEL and DCED.

4 And with that, I have a few  
5 citizens' requests: Daron Northeast,  
6 residents of lower Greenridge have voiced  
7 their concerns that property owned by Daron  
8 Northeast contains grass and weeds and has  
9 not been cut this summer. Residents have  
10 informed that this is leading to rodent  
11 infestation in their back yards and would  
12 like to see the problem resolved as soon as  
13 possible.

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

18 Kane Street, Minooka residents have  
19 voiced their concern with Scranton City  
20 Council that there are huge potholes on Kane  
21 Street that need to be filled. Residents  
22 fear that the situation is causing a  
23 dangerous situation since motorists are  
24 veering in the opposite lane to avoid the  
25 potholes.

1                   Mrs. Krake, will you please contact  
2                   Director Dougher and ask him to handle the  
3                   situation in the best way that he sees fit.

4                   And Scranton's City Council's office  
5                   has been notified of large potholes in the  
6                   following locations that need to be filled.  
7                   These locations are the 300 block of  
8                   Mulberry Street, the corner of Wyoming and  
9                   Spruce Street across from the bank, 100  
10                  block of Meadow Avenue in front of the CVS  
11                  pharmacy, the 300 block of Meadow Avenue in  
12                  front of Wells Fargo Bank.

13                  Mrs. Krake, please add these to the  
14                  issues to contact Director Dougher about,  
15                  and that is all for tonight much.

16                  MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
17                  evening. First, I ask for your prayers for  
18                  Arlene Devine who passed away this week.  
19                  Beloved mother, sister, friend and cherished  
20                  grandmother, affectionately known as "Ween."  
21                  Arlene worked here in city hall in the  
22                  Treasurer's Office where her keen wit and  
23                  tireless commitment to continue to work long  
24                  as she was able will be sorely missed. God  
25                  bless you and keep you, Arlene.

1                   This morning Mayor Doherty through  
2                   his solicitor Paul Kelly presented a  
3                   Petition for Special Relief and Rule to Show  
4                   Cause and motion -- or, excuse me, in motion  
5                   Court before Judge Mazzoni. Council  
6                   Solicitor Boyd Hughes was present to  
7                   represent the four members of Scranton City  
8                   Council whom the mayor has taken to Court.

9                   At this time, I ask Solicitor Hughes  
10                  to inform the public regarding the  
11                  proceedings.

12                  MR. HUGHES: Yes, Madam President.  
13                  Ordinarily it would only take a few minutes  
14                  to go in, I didn't have to be there, I just  
15                  went in to inform the Court as to what my  
16                  position was regarding this lawsuit. After  
17                  a petition and rule was presented, Attorney  
18                  Kelly wanted to present Judge Mazzoni with  
19                  some material regarding the financial  
20                  condition of the city and Judge Mazzoni told  
21                  him that the only purpose of this was to  
22                  establish a date for council to answer the  
23                  petition and set a hearing date for the  
24                  rule.

25                  I told Judge Mazzoni that while we

1 had been served the complaint last Thursday,  
2 due to my schedule I have been very busy, I  
3 have perused it. I informed him that in my  
4 opinion this complaint and the legal issues  
5 presented would be akin to Arizona Senate  
6 Bill 1070 that raises substantial  
7 constitutional issues. I will be presenting  
8 preliminary objections to this complaint.  
9 There is -- I won't state exactly what they  
10 are tonight. It will be filed and I believe  
11 that our position will be meritorious to  
12 have this unfounded complaint dismissed.

13 I have appellate cases in our favor  
14 that the Court cannot grant an injunction  
15 against council, it can't issue a mandamus  
16 as requested by the mayor, after which  
17 discussion back and forth, Judge Mazzone  
18 stated that he had reviewed the entire  
19 lawsuit preparation for the presenting of  
20 the petition today. My notes reflect that  
21 he stated that he has doubts about the  
22 validity of the lawsuit. He said the city  
23 is asking this Court to instruct a  
24 legislative body to legislate. I don't know  
25 if that request is appropriate.

1                   In my opinion it's not, it's  
2                   contrary to the law, that's what why I'm  
3                   going to file preliminary objections. They  
4                   will be filed and when it is the rule will  
5                   be no hearing on -- it was set for today --  
6                   or today that was set for August 3 because  
7                   the preliminary objections that I filed will  
8                   be the same preliminary hearing objections I  
9                   filed to the answer which was due July 16.

10                  Once the preliminary objections are  
11                  filed, they will have a briefing schedule  
12                  and there will have to be argument on that.  
13                  I would say that will probably be after  
14                  Labor Day.

15                  Judge Mazzone, wanted to know why  
16                  the Recovery Plan was not introduced by  
17                  council. I stated that was on my advice on  
18                  the basis that there were people present  
19                  there from PEL and DCED. Based on the fact  
20                  that, and I stated this before, that the  
21                  procedural requirements of Act 47 for the  
22                  amendments to the plan were not complied  
23                  with that had this been introduced and  
24                  adopted that any member of the public could  
25                  file a taxpayers' suit and challenge it and

1 I believe they would win, and as a result  
2 that's I think that is going to be part of  
3 my preliminary objections from a procedural  
4 standpoint is to why the Recovery Plan could  
5 not be introduced.

6 That's pretty much what happened.  
7 To go on, we had to go down to the Court  
8 Administrator and Mr. McLane, you know,  
9 looked at the Court schedule. Pursuant to  
10 the local rules of Court I would have 20  
11 days to answer the petition and that's  
12 pretty much what it comes down. I believe  
13 it was 19 days, maybe 18 days the 16th, in  
14 two days the 28th, tomorrow is the 29th and  
15 the 30th, so I don't mind that, but we will  
16 be filing preliminary objections to the  
17 complaint and they will have to be argued.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Attorney  
19 Hughes. Tonight, I state for the record  
20 once again that refinancing at a \$5 million  
21 figure was included in the mayor's proposed  
22 budget and business administrator Ryan  
23 McGowan and Mayor Doherty asked city council  
24 to increase the dollar amount to 6.4  
25 million. Mr. McGowan stated that because

1 the city would pursue refinancing early in  
2 2012 and an additional \$1.4 million would be  
3 realized from the transaction. Council  
4 cooperated.

5 In addition, city council never  
6 proposed unfunded debt borrowing. That was  
7 the brain child of the Pennsylvania Economy  
8 League and the administration. Council was  
9 not even aware of such a possibility for the  
10 city and what it would entail until we were  
11 advised by the administration to include  
12 such borrowing in our amendments, and in the  
13 spirit of cooperation we did so. These are  
14 the facts, try as Chris Doherty might to  
15 twist them in the local media.

16 Further, council followed through on  
17 its actions and approved legislation in 2012  
18 for up to \$26 million in unfunded debt  
19 borrowing, refinancing and a Court-ordered  
20 tax increase to repay the 9.85 million in  
21 unfunded debt borrowing. These are facts.  
22 Mayor Doherty is a desperate man using  
23 desperate measures to bully city council and  
24 to hand all of his debt to you, the  
25 taxpayers.

1                   However, Councilman Joyce,  
2                   Councilman Loscombe and I are standing  
3                   strong together against the mayor's 78  
4                   percent tax increase. This is unequivocally  
5                   not a personal fight between the mayor and  
6                   council or the mayor and me, as some have  
7                   suggested. This is purely about you, the  
8                   people. We don't want you to lose your  
9                   homes and blacken your credit ratings  
10                  because you can't pay monstrous tax  
11                  increases.

12                  After nine years in this council  
13                  seat, you know how hard I have worked for  
14                  you, fought for you, exposed the  
15                  mismanagement and secret financial  
16                  transactions of this administration, PEL and  
17                  DCED and stopped wasteful spending. You  
18                  elected a council supermajority because you  
19                  trusted me and you wanted a council to  
20                  create a balance of power, not act as a  
21                  rubber stamp. Rest assured that we three  
22                  will continue to stand firm and strong for  
23                  the people of Scranton, not merely in our  
24                  words but in our work and our actions.

25                  We attended negotiations with the





1 change it's classification to a Third Class  
2 city. Governor Corbett certified the census  
3 reports of the city. The city will  
4 immediately enforce the 15 percent parking  
5 tax. The city will immediately adopt and  
6 enforce a parking meter program. PEL, which  
7 acts as a lobbyist in addition to its role  
8 as Act 47 coordinator for distressed  
9 Pennsylvania municipalities and DCED will  
10 lobby for a payroll tax immediately. The  
11 administration will negotiate immediately a  
12 10 percent reduction with IAM Union Local  
13 2462 because it has no new contract.  
14 Immediately increase PILOTS from large tax  
15 exempts and aggressively peruse payments,  
16 and Councilman Rogan strongly recommends the  
17 privatization of the Scranton Sewer  
18 Authority.

19 Now, all of this could have been  
20 happening all of these months, but the mayor  
21 has done nothing. The solution is clear and  
22 reasonable, the mayor must include council's  
23 recommendations plan into his revised  
24 Recovery Plan in order to generate new  
25 revenue and cut his 78 percent tax increase.

1 Mayor Doherty's 78 percent tax  
2 increase is out of the question because the  
3 taxpayers can't afford it. They don't have  
4 incomes or salaries that can support a 78  
5 percent increase, therefore, the city won't  
6 realize those monies. So if we want to talk  
7 about fabricating revenue and revenue that  
8 can't be counted on, a 78 percent tax  
9 increase is not revenue that can be counted  
10 on because it's not going to come in and I  
11 don't know what city council now or in the  
12 future is ever going to even vote for a  
13 budget that includes a 78 percent tax  
14 increase, and in January raise the millage  
15 to meet that tax increase. I don't think  
16 are going to find four or five Scrantonians  
17 who are going to do that.

18 What the mayor will create, however,  
19 is blight and flight. Blight in our  
20 neighborhoods as Scrantonians lose their  
21 homes, and flight from our city by those who  
22 can still afford to get out.

23 City council wants the tax increase  
24 cut by alternate revenue generators, yet the  
25 mayor has done nothing to bring an extra

1           dollar into our city except through taxes,  
2           of course. No parking meter program, no  
3           enforcement of the parking tax, no  
4           enforcement of the rental registration  
5           program, no attempt to increase PILOT  
6           payments, unlike the mayors of Reading and  
7           Providence, Rhode Island, who took immediate  
8           action in 2012 and met with success, and no  
9           cuts to his spending habits.

10                   As per the June 22, 2012, news  
11           release from the Pennsylvania League of  
12           Cities and Municipalities, he remains a  
13           member of PELCM, a very costly membership,  
14           which entitles him to sit on it's board of  
15           directors. He is listed among them. He  
16           keeps his city-owned vehicle, as do all of  
17           other employees with nonemergency vehicles  
18           despite councils call to return all such  
19           vehicles to the city.

20                   Employees who are cut in council's  
21           budget amendments continue to work because  
22           the mayor kept them, but Chris Doherty has  
23           no problem raising your taxes 78 percent, in  
24           fact, he even has help. His friends at DCED  
25           and PEL have approved his revised Recovery

1 Plan to crucify the taxpayers as included in  
2 his lawsuit against council and convinced  
3 local banks that his plan is the answer to  
4 all of the problems. Without the mayor's  
5 Recovery Plan DCED and PEL don't want the  
6 banks to give the city a penny. Thus, we  
7 are told that no bank anywhere in the  
8 country wants to lend 9.85 million to  
9 Scranton, a loan which is fully guaranteed  
10 by a tax increase that was already legally  
11 approved and adopted by the mayor and city  
12 council. Does this make sense?

13 Simultaneously, the banks are asked  
14 to believe that the revised Recovery Plan  
15 will be followed. Despite Mayor Doherty's  
16 naked record of failure to follow a Recovery  
17 plans. The mayor makes and follows special  
18 rules that apply only to him. As he says,  
19 "Just make a Recovery Plan and pass it. You  
20 don't actually have to abide by it."

21 And he certainly lived up to his  
22 word because he violated his own plan  
23 countless times since 2002. Perhaps the  
24 best and fairest solution is to allow the  
25 taxpayers of Scranton to vote on the mayor's

1 Recovery Plan in the next election,  
2 particularly since DCED and PEL don't want  
3 any public input regarding this particular  
4 plan. They seem to think that the Act 47  
5 process doesn't need to be followed at this  
6 time for this select revised Recovery Plan.  
7 They appear to want to avoid public hearings  
8 and prevent written public comments on the  
9 mayor's plan as required by Act 47.

10 Thus, it might well be best for you,  
11 the people, to vote on the mayor's plan and  
12 his 78 percent tax increase, and if you do  
13 remember that Chris Doherty's plan also  
14 sells the city-owned parking meters to  
15 itself and doesn't include the full Supreme  
16 Court award for the SPA bond payment, which  
17 will put you on the hook for even more tax  
18 increases because the mayor doesn't want  
19 professional management of the Parking  
20 Authority or a sale of its garages to pay  
21 down it's debt. He wants you to pay that  
22 debt.

23 Equally important, PEL and DCED are  
24 holding this city hostage through its  
25 actions involving a negotiated settlement

1           between elected city officials and the  
2           municipal unions and by pouring poison into  
3           the ears of local banks in order to ensure  
4           that the Pennsylvania Economy League will be  
5           employed by Scranton for another 20 years.

6                       Ladies and gentlemen, again I say,  
7           let the mayor include council's  
8           recommendations for revenue generators in  
9           his revised Recovery Plan. Implement and  
10          enforce them as soon as possible and cut the  
11          78 percent tax increase, follow the Act 47  
12          process and let the taxpayers be heard then  
13          city council will adopt a revised Recovery  
14          Plan.

15                      And finally, I have citizens'  
16          requests for the week. A city resident  
17          reports that Scranton police cite anyone  
18          using M-80s and other illegal fireworks  
19          throughout the Fourth of July holiday. Many  
20          Scranton homes are older and being  
21          constructed of flammable materials residents  
22          fear that fires may occur to their homes and  
23          wooded areas within city limits.

24                      City residents ask if the DPW could  
25          install a sign at the intersection of Parker

1 Street and Bailey Avenue. Plot residents  
2 state vehicles block this intersection while  
3 awaiting the traffic light to change at the  
4 one-lane bridge over Parker Street. They  
5 request a sign to indicate that the  
6 intersection must remain open at all times,  
7 and that's it.

8 Oh, and just one final thing, the  
9 information that I cited regarding Mayor  
10 Vaughn D. Spencer of Reading comes from the  
11 Reading Eagle newspaper. Mrs. Krake.

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE  
13 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
14 TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A GRANT APPLICATION  
15 AND IF SUCCESSFUL A GRANT AGREEMENT AND  
16 ACCEPT THE FUNDS RELATED THERETO THROUGH THE  
17 BJA FY 12 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE  
18 GRANT ("JAG") PROGRAM LOCAL SOLICITATION IN  
19 THE AMOUNT OF \$24,354.00.

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

23 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? All



1 those in favor of introduction signify by  
2 saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AMENDING FILE OF  
9 COUNCIL NO. 53, 2011, ENTITLED, "AN  
10 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER  
11 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF  
12 SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO  
13 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR  
14 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
15 (AS AMENDED) TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE  
16 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
17 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)  
18 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG)  
19 PROGRAM", BY TRANSFERRING \$500,000.00 FROM  
20 THE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLVING LOAN  
21 REPAYMENT FUND TO PROJECT 12-04  
22 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND HANDICAP CURB  
23 CUTS.

24 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll  
25 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be

1 introduced into its proper committee.

2 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
5 those in favor of introduction signify by  
6 saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

9 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO  
13 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
14 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
15 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 25, 2012 -  
16 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
17 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A  
18 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE  
19 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
20 AGRICULTURE, BUREAU OF RIDE AND MEASUREMENT  
21 STANDARDS REGARDING THE SEALING OF WEIGHTS  
22 AND MEASURES AND ALSO RESPONSIBILITY WITH  
23 RESPECT TO JEWELERS SCALES IN THE CITY OF  
24 SCRANTON.

25 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the

1 Committee on Rules, I recommend final  
2 passage of Item 7-A.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

4 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
5 call, please?

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

17 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Once again, before we  
19 adjourn just again, please, a safe and happy  
20 Fourth of July and please attend the  
21 ceremonies at Nay Aug, a very nice  
22 attendance would be appreciated.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you and good  
24 night.

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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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER