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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, October 18, 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

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
15 ASSESSOR'S REPORTS, HEARING DATES SEPTEMBER
16 12TH, 26TH, AND 27TH OF 2012.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS FROM
20 ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED OCTOBER 9TH
21 2012.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
25 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND

1 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 28TH,
2 AND OCTOBER 2ND OF 2012.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
4 If not, received and filed. Do we have any
5 clerk's notes, Ms. Krake, tonight?

6 MS. KRAKE: No.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
8 council members have announcements at this
9 time? Councilman Rogan is unable to attend
10 tonight's meeting.

11 The Little Sisters of the Poor will
12 hold a roast beef dinner this Sunday,
13 October 21 12 to 4 p.m. at Holy Family
14 Residence, 2500 Adams Avenue in Scranton.
15 Catering will be provided by Stirna's
16 restaurant. Call 343-4065 for tickets and
17 more information.

18 The West Scranton Hyde Park
19 Neighborhood Watch and West Scranton
20 Business Watch Associations will sponsor the
21 West Side Zombie Escape Route 5-K run/walk
22 this Saturday, October 20, at Allen Park
23 located on the corner of the North Main
24 Avenue and Price Street. Registration
25 begins at 7 a.m. and the run/walk takes off

1 at 9 a.m. Admission is \$20 or \$20 for those
2 on teams of ten or more. Children seven and
3 under can walk for free with the supervision
4 of a parent or guardian. All proceeds
5 benefit the neighborhood watch. And that's
6 it.

7 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
8 PARTICIPATION.

9 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
10 evening is Regina Yetkowskas.

11 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Good evening,
12 Council.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

15 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Regina Yetkowskas,
16 Scranton resident. I'd add a little to what
17 you said about the Little Sister's upcoming
18 event.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. YETOKOWSKAS: The Little Sisters
21 of the Poor at Holy Family residence will
22 have their annual homemade roast beef dinner
23 this Sunday, October 21, from 12 to 4 p.m.
24 at Holy Family Residence, 2500 Adams Avenue
25 which is adjacent to Marywood College. The

1 dinner will be catered courtesy of Stirna's.
2 Take out dinners will be available all day.
3 The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for
4 children ten and younger. Tickets will be
5 available at the door and the menu, I'm sure
6 you want to hear about that, the menu
7 includes roast beef, mashed potatoes and
8 gravy, carrots, apple sauce, rolls and
9 butter, pie and assorted beverages.

10 In addition to the dinner, the
11 Sisters will have a bake sale which will
12 include their famous homemade scones and an
13 assortment of other baked goods. There also
14 will be raffles for gift baskets, gift
15 certificates for area restaurants and
16 businesses and a \$5,000 Mt. Airy Casino
17 Resort weekend give away prize package. All
18 proceeds will benefit the Little Sisters in
19 their mission of caring for the elderly,
20 poor with respect, dignity and love, and I
21 thank you for allowing me to speak.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. It's so good
23 to see you.

24 MS. YETKOWSKAS: Our next speaker is
25 Bill Jackowitz.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening, city
2 council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton
3 resident and member of the Taxpayers'
4 Association.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: You know what, this
7 is my opinion and my opinion only. Honey
8 Boo-Boo would be able to run the City of
9 Scranton better than the mayor and the
10 administration is running it. The city
11 seems to continue to fall and fall and fall.
12 You know, being a Scranton resident and
13 being a Scranton taxpayer, I think I would
14 rather be me being a waterboard in Gizmo
15 Penitentiary Prison than being a resident in
16 this city. It is one embarrassment after
17 another.

18 Now I understand that the gas has
19 been turned off in the South Scranton Fire
20 Station, but I also understand that the
21 check is in the mail. Well, you know what,
22 that's not good enough. The check in the
23 mail is not good enough. That's the oldest
24 line in the world, the check is in the mail.

25 MS. EVANS: Mr. Jackowitz, if I

1 could, I can just comment on that quickly?

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Sure. Go right
3 ahead as long as it's on your time.

4 MS. EVANS: The heat was turned back
5 on this afternoon. It turned out that UGI
6 was mistaken and at fault and they have
7 apologized to the city.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. Well, that's
9 good news. Was the bill paid on time?

10 MS. EVANS: The bill was paid
11 apparently, yes.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: It was paid on time?

13 MS. EVANS: I don't know that it's
14 paid on time.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, that doesn't
16 really matter, the main portion of the thing
17 is that the gas was turned back on.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: But still it should
20 never have happened. Never should have
21 happened. You know, if we can't afford --
22 if we can't afford to pay our bills then you
23 know what, we have had this discussion a
24 million times and we need to go bankrupt.
25 It's as simple as that, and I know there is

1 people that are going to disagree with that.

2 Now, as far as these loans, I read
3 in the paper that there is five banks
4 willing to give us loans, what is the status
5 on that?

6 MR. JOYCE: Right now as far as I
7 know there hasn't been a lender that has
8 been selected for the TAN, however, I will
9 check with Ryan McGowan and see if he --

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, because we
11 were told that the loan will be coming
12 through this week and it's Thursday now.
13 You know, UGI turned off the gas, whether it
14 was their mistake or not, you know, it was
15 turned off. You know, West Side fire
16 stations are browned out. The people in
17 West Side are very upset. I guess there was
18 a meeting last night at Keyser Valley.
19 That's the main purpose of government is to
20 provide for the safety of the people and
21 guess what, fire protection is very
22 important. We got fire stations closed and
23 so on and so forth. Unacceptable. Why do
24 we pay taxes?

25 You know, taxes continue to get

1 raised. The county raised taxes. School
2 district raised taxes. The city council and
3 the mayor raises taxes. The state raises
4 taxes. The federal government raises taxes.
5 Everybody is raising taxes. When is
6 somebody going to do something for the
7 citizens? When does somebody do something
8 for the taxpayers?

9 We live in a city that is
10 distressed. You know what, and it's been
11 distressed for 250 months. Does that
12 register with you people? 250 months we
13 have been distressed. We have been
14 distressed for 7,587 days. Does that mean
15 anything to you people? Does that mean
16 anything to our elected officials? It means
17 a lot to me.

18 How much longer are the citizens of
19 Scranton going to be embarrassed? Do you
20 know that they are talking -- my nephew
21 lives in Australia, he is the principal of a
22 high school in Australia. Do you know on
23 Australian news they are talking about
24 Scranton, Pennsylvania. A coal worker was
25 in Brazil, do you know on the Brazilian news

1 they were taking about Scranton,
2 Pennsylvania, about how inept and how
3 unqualified the leaders of this city are?
4 Do you think that he is nice? You think
5 that's something to be proud of? When is it
6 going to stop? When is it going to stop?

7 We are going to borrow more money
8 and we have two more loans pending, we are
9 going to borrow more money for what? You
10 are going to borrow your way out of this?
11 When is someone going to give me a definite
12 answer of when we are no longer going to be
13 distressed. That's what I want to know.
14 What day will this city no longer be a
15 distressed city after 250 months. You know,
16 how much longer. Headline after headline
17 about how screwed up, pardon my language,
18 Scranton is.

19 Every day city in crises. It's not
20 a city in crises, it's really not. The
21 crises was two, three years ago. I mean, it
22 has got to stop. It's as simple as that. I
23 mean, the commuter tax. The commuter tax
24 was -- is the commuter tax going to be the
25 answer? Is that going to pay all of our

1 bills? Is that going to put us out of
2 distressed city status or is that just going
3 to alienate us from the other communities in
4 this are? What's it going to do? It's not
5 going to help us because it's not going to
6 pay the bills. It might pay a little bit of
7 the bills.

8 And, Mr. McGoff, I've got a question
9 for you, since you support the University of
10 the Scranton let me ask you a question, if
11 you would give every neighborhood ten years
12 tax exemptions from paying Scranton taxes,
13 tax exempt, do you think the neighbors can
14 beautify the neighborhoods and make your
15 neighbors -- neighborhoods look as good at
16 University of Scranton has?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Do I think the
18 neighbors could?

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, if they didn't
20 have to pay taxes for ten years?

21 MR. MCGOFF: No.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: You don't think so?

23 MR. MCGOFF: No.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Then you don't have
25 very much confidence in your fellow

1 neighbors, do you?

2 MR. MCGOFF: No.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: Because if they
4 didn't have to pay taxes I guarantee you
5 that they could pave the roads.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Do you want me to
7 answer you?

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Pardon me?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Do you want me to
10 answer you or are you just --

11 MR. JACKOWITZ: You just did, you
12 said, no, but go right ahead.

13 MR. MCGOFF: You need somebody to
14 arrange the capital to bring the capital to
15 make the improvements. That's what
16 capitalism is all about. Secondly --

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: You don't think the
18 neighbors can do that?

19 MR. MCGOFF: No.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: There is no one
21 smart enough in the City of Scranton --

22 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, I never said
23 smart enough.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Well, you said they
25 had to be able to arrange it. Go ahead,

1 finish?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I never said smart
3 enough, I said that --

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, those were my
5 words. Go ahead.

6 MR. MCGOFF: No, I'm finished.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, because you
9 don't have the answers.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I tried to give you an
11 answer.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: So defend the
13 University of Scranton all you want.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
15 Mr. Jackowitz.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Before I
18 call on the next speaker I just wanted to
19 clarify something that was stated by
20 Mr. Jackowitz and Councilman Joyce a few
21 moments ago, the money to which
22 Mr. Jackowitz was inferring, financing
23 specifically, was for a 2013 TAN. The five
24 banks that are interested attended a prebid
25 conference where they can ask questions and

1 receive information and so the bids
2 themselves I believe are not even due yet,
3 and so until that happens and the
4 administration reviews it and decides which
5 bidder is selected we really don't know
6 anything more than that. But, as I said,
7 that is for a 2013 tax anticipation note.

8 And the next speaker is Ron Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Yeah, thank you.

10 Counsel. I have to say that I entered these
11 chambers in a fowl mood to start with. I
12 buttoned my shirt wrong, Miss Rosie made so
13 much fun of me she said even the dog was
14 laughing at me, so I told her I was just
15 going to wear it like that, but I relented.

16 Well, all isn't good in Mudville
17 tonight. I was reading poor Austin Burke is
18 so concerned about the city's plight he
19 believes we need to advocate some reforms.
20 I think he needs to advocate paying for his
21 building permits like the rest of us have
22 to.

23 United Way is so concerned about not
24 making its goals. As I have said before, if
25 they quit supporting ARC, which has a nice

1 bank account of its own, maybe people would
2 give to him. I personally won't give
3 nothing to United Way.

4 Year after year we have been hearing
5 that it's coming from the Goodwill. I went
6 by there today, I was at the stop light,
7 there is nothing being done at that school
8 and I was told by a man that lives across
9 from the school that the city cuts the grass
10 there. I don't know if that's true. That's
11 what he told me at a car wash over there one
12 day during the summer. I can't understand
13 if it is why the city has to cut the grass,
14 but maybe it wouldn't get cut.

15 You know, there is \$2 1/2 million
16 unaccounted for that's all tax money and
17 nobody seems concerned about it, you know,
18 the state ought to be jumping up and down.
19 Then our very own version of the three
20 stooges said yesterday they are going to let
21 20 people go, but this isn't the same 20
22 people and the same friends that they just
23 hired, so there will be a problem going on
24 with that.

25 And the SPA back in the news today

1 the way they are glued to the city we will
2 be hearing about them forever thanks to the
3 Doherty and the last council. I don't know
4 why Doherty just doesn't pack up all of a
5 gang of high school buddies and ship them
6 down to Maryland or wherever he built that
7 new plant so he wouldn't have to pay taxes
8 here and the county taxes and city taxes.
9 You know, if he paid them \$5 an hour that
10 gang could be overpaid after what they have
11 done to this city.

12 And again, there is pages and pages
13 of nonprofits. It's unheard of. Gas
14 stations and restaurants and bars and
15 doctors, they are not nonprofits. They are
16 just hiding behind the guise. That's where
17 we are losing our tax money that the rest of
18 us have to make up. These parasites just
19 need to be terminated immediately. You
20 know, it's not good in Mudville tonight, is
21 it, Jack?

22 This bribe taking obscenity of a
23 school board, they are talking about another
24 \$17 million school, the first school
25 shouldn't have been closed because of mold.

1 Mold is one thing, no maintenance. Nothing
2 else in the world, it's not good
3 maintenance, it's a leak, a pipe leaking for
4 something that's -- there is over 130
5 custodians for this school system. This
6 shouldn't happen. I tell you every last SOB
7 involved with those two closed schools need
8 be fired. I don't care whose feelings get
9 hurt. They have cost the taxpayers of this
10 city millions of dollars, now the eventually
11 of another school and the children being
12 abused and without a home because of no
13 maintenance, and that's why I said they
14 should be fired and I know some of them. I
15 have met a couple of them, they still should
16 be fired. I don't care what they think of
17 me.

18 Maybe I'm getting to strong, but we
19 just built a \$17 million school for all of
20 these people on Keyser Avenue that don't pay
21 taxes and won't have to for another couple
22 of years, now we are talking about another
23 \$17 million school. We're in a city with no
24 money whatsoever and the school board just
25 doesn't want to acknowledge it.

1 You know, this is Scranton. This is
2 a shameful disgrace for the people of this
3 city. I bet half the people aren't even
4 involved in this system, and I tell you, I
5 had a banker tell me the borrowing has just
6 come to an end. He said he can't think of
7 any more lending agencies foolish enough to
8 give this city any money and that come from
9 a banker, that's not coming from me.

10 You people have to work with the
11 facts and figures you know are there. You
12 just can't keep going on hoping things have
13 changed. They are not going to, it's
14 getting harder and harder for the people in
15 this city to survive.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you, Ms. Evans.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is
20 Ozzie Quinn.

21 MR. QUINN: Good evening. Ozzie
22 Quinn, Scranton.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. QUINN: Good evening. I want to
25 thank the council for standing up for what

1 you have been doing for the electorate in
2 the City of Scranton, okay? I know it's
3 very difficult if you live outside of the
4 City of Scranton and you all have friends,
5 relatives, and whatnot, okay, and I would be
6 mad, too, there is no doubt about it, but I
7 voted for you three and, you know, I am
8 really happy that you were able to work that
9 out, that you were able to find solution to
10 part of the recovery plan and you should be
11 commended for that, okay?

12 And you are not the people that they
13 should be hollering at. No way should they
14 be hollering at you people. They should be
15 hollering at Mr. Doherty and our old friends
16 the Scranton Times down there downtown that
17 takes up more space than it needs.

18 Actually, 2003 to 2008 Mr. Doherty
19 spent -- put millions out that front door,
20 literally millions, you know, because as I
21 said last week or two weeks ago Southern
22 Union was going to be built, the natural gas
23 company, 4,500 jobs, you know, none of that
24 came to fruition. And, you know, the
25 Scranton Times didn't print that story about

1 Southern Union until after the election or
2 Doherty might not have won the election, you
3 know?

4 So the people out there in
5 municipalities I feel sorry for you, I
6 really do, but you've got to realize that if
7 you're come into this city to work and you
8 saw earlier we are trying like heck to keep
9 the safety protection and police protection,
10 fire protection and health and the roads
11 open so you can get to work and it's going
12 to be a tough stretch, so try to bear with
13 the people in the city here.

14 And it's too bad the history books
15 will show that Mayor Doherty is -- will be
16 the worst mayor ever to be elected in the
17 City of Scranton. If it doesn't show that
18 way, then the Scranton Times wrote it
19 because of the fact that what he has done
20 for this city, and since 2003 to 2008, and I
21 know myself coming up here and telling them
22 about borrowing and borrowing and Mrs. Evans
23 warning about the Doherty debt, the Doherty
24 debt, and just kept on rolling and rolling
25 and rolling and rolling.

1 You know, you talk about what he did
2 to parks. I saw the other day a guy wrote
3 in letters to the editor and I saw a picture
4 somebody went up to the new park on
5 Greenridge and tried to go to play tennis
6 and there was a couch on the tennis courts
7 and they went to the other courts and there
8 was no nets. I mean, this guy is walking
9 around saying he is doing so much, but you
10 notice lately, lately the Scranton Times is
11 putting him in the background. He is fading
12 away, you know, and he is more -- and they
13 are more or less bringing you people out
14 and, Janet you are on the front line out
15 there.

16 MS. EVANS: I know.

17 MR. QUINN: You are on the front
18 line out there as you saw in their -- where
19 they are supposed to have their comic in the
20 paper this morning, you know? Actually one
21 of the linemen should be on one of the end
22 there because they are responsible for a lot
23 of what went on in the City of Scranton.
24 There is no doubt about it.

25 You know, I speak with other people

1 and it's not just myself, other people they
2 are starting to become aware of it. I think
3 the audits that they showed in the last
4 Sunday Times and the week before that they
5 are decreasing, their circulation has
6 decreased. They are showing that people are
7 starting to realize, you know, that the
8 paper is just a bunch of spin on their own
9 feelings and they get what they want off the
10 net for the same thing, okay?

11 So try to keep up the good work and
12 I know it's very difficult under the
13 circumstances and you are going to have a
14 lot of people out there, you know, hollering
15 and cursing and everything else, but, you
16 know, you are to be commended and I really
17 thank you. I voted for you so you would
18 protect me and that's what you are doing, so
19 thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
24 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,
25 homeowner and taxpayer.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Last week quite a few
3 people came here talking against the
4 commuter tax. It's been said here before we
5 have been distressed for 20 years. I find
6 it hard to believe that the people who live
7 in this city would come here and criticize a
8 revenue source that would help possibly get
9 us out of the distressed status. As
10 Mr. Jackowitz said, it won't get us out of
11 distressed status, but it will help.
12 Anything that comes into the city is a help
13 and I can't believe someone who lives in
14 this city would be against that. I can see
15 if you don't live in this city, yeah, but if
16 you are a citizen of this city anything, any
17 amount of money coming into this city is
18 going to help.

19 And I think this council is doing a
20 great job and that's one step they are
21 taking. What happened with the Parking
22 Authority was another step, so it shows that
23 council is doing their job and I have the
24 opinion of a commuter. I just recently
25 spoke to a prominent doctor, I asked him

1 what his opinion of the tax was and he said,
2 well, if the money is mismanaged the way it
3 has been for the last first eight years of
4 Chris Doherty's administration then he said
5 I'm against it. But he said if it's put to
6 good use he said I'm all for it, he said, I
7 don't mind paying it.

8 And he had examples of the
9 mismanagement, he said, we didn't need a
10 tree house, which many of us say, we don't
11 need the Electric City sign lit up every
12 night. How much money that's costing us on
13 electricity I have no idea, but this
14 doctor said, he is a commuter, he said if
15 it's put to good use he has no problem
16 paying it and I have every faith in this
17 council that it will be put to good use
18 since you have taken Chris Doherty's
19 checkbook away.

20 Next thing, the railroad bridge on
21 Main Avenue between West Side and North
22 Scranton, I think everybody knows about
23 that, trucks are hitting that left and
24 right. The last two weeks, last week and
25 this week just a few days ago trucks got

1 struck and it really causes a havoc there
2 with traffic and whether we need more signs
3 or bigger signs I don't know what the
4 problem is, but it's almost a weekly
5 occurrence anymore and so something has got
6 to be done.

7 I'm not an engineer, but it's my
8 opinion when that bridge takes a hit it's
9 got to be weakened, and I have spoken about
10 it in the past about how the supports that
11 are holding that bridge up are all rusting
12 out, and I know council did send a letter to
13 the railroad, I don't think you ever heard
14 anything, but I drive by there every single
15 day I go underneath that and the supports
16 are all rusted. There is actually holes and
17 parts missing. I don't know. I can't
18 believe that that's safe. That's all on
19 that.

20 On a good note, last couple of weeks
21 I have seen a couple new police cars driving
22 around and they are pretty spiffy looking,
23 so I hope they stay that way for awhile.
24 It's nice that we have some nice cars on the
25 road now, now we need more police officers

1 on the road and firefighters, and while I'm
2 talking about firefighters, I was really
3 disturbed to hear what Councilman Loscombe
4 was talking about last week, the way our
5 fire houses that aren't being used are
6 deteriorating it's really disturbing what he
7 said with rats being in there and the place
8 is just deteriorating, there is no excuse
9 for this and there is one man to blame and
10 we all know who that is, the man that
11 resides downstairs. And something has got
12 to be done, and like I said, everybody came
13 to this podium said you never should have
14 returned that money from the SAFER grant
15 and, you know, he said in two years he can't
16 pay the unemployment. Well, we don't know
17 what's going to happen in two years. Maybe
18 we will be in much better shape, and I told
19 him that, I questioned him when he was here
20 that night and I told him, I said, "Well,
21 you might not even be here in two years."

22 With the hope of God he won't be
23 because if he is then we are really in deep
24 trouble, but something has got to be done.
25 These firehouses have to be kept up and we

1 need firemen in there to keep them up.
2 That's all I have to say tonight. Thank you
3 for your time.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

6 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,
7 Doug Miller, Scranton.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10 MR. MILLER: I'd like to spend
11 tonight by addressing the meeting that was
12 held back at Keyser Valley by the
13 association regarding the closing of Engine
14 7. As a West Scranton resident I did attend
15 this meeting and participate in the question
16 and answer segment and I think anyone that
17 was in attendance, including Councilman
18 Loscombe could attest to the fact that it
19 was a pretty heated meeting, tempers did
20 flare. There was a passionate discussion,
21 the bottom line is people are totally
22 disgusted that for the months of July,
23 August and September 82 percent of the time
24 Engine 7 has been closed.

25 And the first question that the

1 majority of the people had for Chief Davis,
2 who was in attendance, was why was the
3 station closed? Who made the decision to
4 close it? And Chief Davis stated on
5 numerous occasions that he was the one who
6 made the decision to close Engine 7. He was
7 then asked what made him make that decision
8 and he stated that they want by a study done
9 that went back 10, 15 years that analyzed
10 fires that took place in West Scranton and
11 that's how they determined which stations to
12 close.

13 I find that explanation to be
14 totally ludicrous and absurd. We are taking
15 a look at fires that took place in the past
16 and using that as our reasoning to determine
17 what stations we are going to close and as
18 if we have some crystal ball that we can
19 predict when fires are going to occur.

20 I believe the statistic that was
21 stated last night was that 33 percent of our
22 population in the City of Scranton is based
23 out of West Scranton and Chief Davis went
24 ahead, a West Side resident himself, and
25 made a decision to close a station that, as

1 I stated, has been closed 82 percent of the
2 time for July, August and September and
3 today it's still closed.

4 He then went ahead to say that he
5 continues to fight daily, walking into --
6 marching into the mayor's office urging him
7 to reopen it. I find that be to kind of
8 quite odd. I found the chief to sort of
9 talk in circles for most of the evening and
10 I did question him on that, that in one
11 sentence he is saying he made the decision
12 to close Engine 7, and then in the next
13 sentence he's saying he is in the mayor's
14 office urging him to reopen it. Well, if he
15 made the decision to close it then common
16 sense would tell you he would have the
17 ability to make a decision to reopen it, so
18 his reasoning behind it is, as I stated,
19 absurd. There is no justification for it.
20 It's stupidity.

21 The second issues that was brought
22 up was the SAFER grant. I believe it was
23 initially, we only expected to receive, and
24 I'm sure you can correct me if I'm wrong, in
25 the neighborhood of \$600,000. Am I correct

1 on that? It was in that area, I do recall
2 that. The federal government came in and
3 said, here is \$8 million where you now have
4 the ability to maintain a full compliment of
5 firemen and keep our stations open. What do
6 we do? We say, "You know what, we don't
7 want all of this. Take \$3 1/2 million of it
8 back in that area. We don't want it."

9 The chief was asked this question,
10 "Why would you give \$3/ 12 million back?"

11 "Well, we are worried two years from
12 now what are we going to do."

13 No, we are not worried about two
14 years from now, two years from now we worry
15 about that situation when with get there.
16 We need to worry about the present, and the
17 present right now is that you jeopardized
18 the health, safety and well-being of the
19 residents of this city, including myself and
20 everyone in attendance at that meeting last
21 night and every one of my neighbors in West
22 Side. You have done this and then are you
23 going to stand before us last night and tell
24 you that you care.

25 And I stated this right to his face,

1 I told him that he doesn't care because his
2 actions prove it. The mayor doesn't care
3 and Chief Tom Davis doesn't care because if
4 he cared Engine 7 would be open today, so
5 his political rhetoric that he spewed last
6 night is nothing more than the rhetoric he
7 hears from the mayor every day. I'm sure he
8 was given specific orders on what not to say
9 and what to mislead the public on.

10 We were also made aware that
11 initially when our stations were shut down
12 throughout the city are firemen, who looking
13 out for the residents of this city because
14 that's what they do, put signs up all the
15 stations that were closed to notify the
16 public that your station was closed today
17 and that you should call 911 if there is an
18 emergency. Chief Tom Davis ordered that
19 those signs be removed. Does this sound
20 like an individual fire chief who cares
21 about our safety? I don't think so. He
22 could stand before me and say whatever he
23 wants, he does not care.

24 There is no justification for giving
25 back \$3 1/2 million. His answer for

1 everything was economics, and I sort of
2 found that amusing as well, because we want
3 to cite economics yet we are giving free
4 money back, so his rhetoric was certainly
5 insulting, his lack of information was
6 insulting as a fire chief. He had an
7 inability to answer most of the questions.
8 He was asked what study was done, who did
9 the study and where is it, can we see the
10 study, didn't have an answer on that. I'd
11 like to see that study and I know all of
12 those in attendance would like to see that
13 as well because 82 percent of the time that
14 station is closed.

15 And as I believe was stated last
16 night, I believe Councilman Loscombe stated
17 it, he is absolutely right, the mayor and
18 Chief Davis they must have guardian angels
19 up above them looking after them because,
20 I'll tell you what, they are lucky nothing
21 major has happened catastrophic over there
22 because when that day does happen, and I'm
23 praying that it doesn't, but God forbid
24 something tragic does occur over there, I
25 will hold Chief Davis responsible, as I did

1 state to him last night, I looked him right
2 in the eye and I said, "I will hold you
3 accountable for your actions and Chris
4 Doherty for your actions."

5 But the bottom line here is they
6 don't care and they can say what they want,
7 they can blame it on economics, the bottom
8 line is you had \$8 million and you give 3
9 1/2 of it back, the fact that we could staff
10 Engine 10 on East Mountain with overtime
11 knowing full well that Engine 7 is closed
12 there is no excuse for it. I'm not saying
13 East Mountain isn't entitled to service and
14 protection, they are, but when you know full
15 well that 82 percent of the time West Side
16 is not protected and you go ahead and you do
17 what you do, there is no justification for
18 it.

19 You know, today we find out that
20 Engine 2 the gas was shut off, and I
21 understand it's been turned back on, but the
22 point still is it happened and we let it
23 happen. We have no problem paying the
24 electric bill up at Nay Aug for those
25 Christmas lights though or the electric city

1 sign, but when it comes to the essentials we
2 lack, and that's because the administration
3 does not care.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MR. MILLER: And they need to be
6 held accountable once and for all, and the
7 people can no longer tolerate it. They need
8 to come forward and demand that Engine 7 is
9 open. I'm looking out for West Side and my
10 neighbors and I won't stand for it. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

18 MR. MORGAN: I guess my opinion
19 usually runs counter to most people's, but I
20 really appreciate the study and the
21 questionnaire that the Chamber of Commerce
22 gave and the results they have received and
23 I totally believe that the commuter tax is
24 unjustifiable and most certainly wrong.

25 I just find it really troubling when

1 someone decides that someone who lives in
2 another community should make up for
3 mismanagement of government, of someone
4 else's government. You know, people say,
5 well, we need the money. No, what we really
6 needed was a government that understood that
7 people's pockets are only so deep and that
8 the problems facing the city have been
9 ongoing for a very long time.

10 I would like to go in the Scranton
11 Times' archives when the last Home Rule
12 Charter was written because I believe when
13 you read the charter that council had the
14 ability from the date of inception of that
15 charter to until today to make the tough
16 choices and to really change the city's
17 fiscal course and it didn't happen.

18 Now, we can all point fingers, but I
19 think it's time to live in a world of
20 reality. You know, PEL hasn't done us any
21 favors. I'm hoping that the banks refuse to
22 loan the city any money because I'm thinking
23 that they would be doing us a favor and they
24 would be doing something that I think
25 council should have done. I think council

1 should have proceeded and tried to go
2 forward with bankruptcy. I think that when
3 you see the people in this city living in
4 poverty and asking them for more money,
5 which they already do not possess, and it's
6 already been discussed many times in this
7 chamber the wage base in the city seriously
8 diminished. I'd really -- I think it's time
9 for everybody to really open their eyes.

10 You know, I was at Gerrity's today
11 standing next to a woman at the meat case
12 and she just couldn't believe the price of
13 things and how diminished her life has
14 become and she didn't make a comment about
15 council, she made a comment about government
16 in general. Government is completely out of
17 control. It's no doubt that Washington has
18 cut funds that used to come to this city at
19 one time. It's also a fact that federal
20 elected officials gave all our jobs to other
21 countries. That's a fact. We have worried
22 about the rich and the people with access to
23 the halls of the power.

24 We had a discussion tonight,
25 somebody brought up the North Scranton

1 Junior High School. I think it would be a
2 great thing for people to go into the
3 Scranton Times' archives and see what
4 happened when that building left the
5 ownership of the Scranton School district
6 and the amount of money that Mr. McDade came
7 forward for that project.

8 And really what's happened here is
9 the ordinary people have lost their voice.
10 Really, maybe, you know, Mr. McGoff talked
11 about capitalism, but I think people need to
12 read some history and find out what kind of
13 nation actually have and if we do, in fact,
14 actually function as a capitalistic society
15 because I think the people here may be
16 shocked. We talk one thing, but we do
17 something else.

18 And in regards to the Scranton
19 Parking Authority, that fiasco is still
20 ongoing, and I think in my opinion and only
21 my opinion that this commuter tax should
22 never, ever, ever come to be realized. This
23 city has to take itself out, it dug itself
24 in. Lack of political leadership is not an
25 excuse. Blaming the Scranton Times, well,

1 you know, you can blame them, but they print
2 a newspaper. The people who live in this
3 city go outside their door and they can see
4 what's occurring here, and an informed
5 citizen, they may not be in this council,
6 but they should trying to find things out
7 that are factual. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
9 Dobrzyn.

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

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: One thing I wanted to
14 report, by the way, I missed John at one
15 meeting last week I was busy, two weeks ago
16 there was some kids jumping out in front of
17 the cars on the South Scranton Expressway
18 coming home from school and they were joking
19 around that I stopped and I said you
20 shouldn't do that and they said, "Well, we
21 are trying to get some insurance money."

22 Well, I told them I was driving
23 without insurance, but if anything could be
24 done with the police to watch out for stuff
25 like that, somebody is going to get hurt.

1 Also, the poor jerk that hits him will be in
2 a lot of trouble.

3 First of all, I would like to start
4 off that we have the government we voted for
5 and for years we voted and somebody got
6 elected as mayor and that's the way it is.
7 No doubt that he didn't build a ballot box
8 with personally signed receipts so people of
9 Scranton should be willing to pay their
10 taxes and the people that donate to small
11 races to this town from out of town they
12 don't have any right to complain about a
13 commuter tax because I personally believe
14 that all of these corporations and interest
15 that they are going to donate \$100 million
16 to a presidential campaign then maybe they
17 can afford to pay more taxes, that's the way
18 I see it.

19 And I have been reading some of
20 these comments on this commuter tax and in
21 reality I would wish that these people would
22 petition their state representatives to,
23 one, restore the revenue sharing to this
24 town that's been taken away; and number two,
25 we have a state constitution here that

1 requires us to just sit by idly while one
2 tax exempt after another moves into the city
3 or buys property up and it's not just the
4 "U", a lot of speeches have been -- we have
5 Lackawanna Junior college, Johnson Technical
6 has always had a lot of space, Johnson's
7 College, they had, what, 60 acres or
8 something like, they were found in the early
9 1900's, but I would like to see PILOTS from
10 all of them, and the Pennsylvania
11 Association of Nonprofit Organizations has
12 to start to relay to these people that if
13 the city becomes unsafe it's not in their
14 better interest at all. You could have
15 students being preyed upon by criminals and
16 so forth and we seen it. We have seen it.

17 I offered somebody a ride up in the
18 Hill Section one night back when Biden was
19 in town and I don't know why they didn't
20 take me up on it and I picked up the paper
21 the next day and three hours later somebody
22 had a broken nose and had been robbed in the
23 same neighborhood. They were parking cars
24 up there so they didn't have to pay the
25 exorbitant parking fees and so forth, so

1 school board, I think the next time I go to
2 vote it's just going to for none of the
3 above, and that's all there is to it.

4 It says, "Engineers force to train
5 Chinese employees so the company could be
6 outsourced, Chinese replacements, owned by
7 Bain Capital and we all know who owns Bain
8 Capital by now, and I guess the name is
9 Des-Jarlais or something like that from
10 Tennessee, he is a state senator, Pro-Life
11 tea party doctor demanded his fourth
12 mistress to get an abortion, it was on the
13 news. Shame, shame, shame. I mean, he
14 probably signed that pledge to ban hormonal
15 contraception. Thank you and have a good
16 night. Bawk, bawk.

17 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who
18 cares to address council?

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
20 Council. Marie Schumacher. On 7-A I have
21 an issue with it, that is, I went on the
22 Pennsylvania Secretary of State's
23 Corporations website today and they have no
24 520 Madison Avenue Associates, LLC, though
25 they do have a 520 Madison Associates, LLC.

1 The County Assessor's website shows the 520
2 Madison Avenue property is owned by Madison
3 and Vine Associates. So my question then is
4 the loan going to a corporation other than
5 the owner of the property, perhaps a lessee
6 for purposes of operating the bed and
7 breakfast, and if so, what the length of the
8 lease, is it at least as long as the loan
9 repayment schedule? Anybody know?

10 MR. MCGOFF: From the narrative that
11 I received from OECD, it is a property that
12 is owned by Mr. Nasser, who was here a few
13 months ago, I guess, you know, speaking to
14 it and I believe that he is the owner and
15 going to be the operator of the bed and
16 breakfast.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

18 MR. MCGOFF: That is my
19 understanding.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, it just seems
21 strange to me that the Secretary of State --
22 that we are doing a business with an LLC
23 that's not listed in the Secretary of State
24 as a valid corporation so --

25 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: For what it's
2 worth, you know. Also, I notice a large
3 increase in the number of the properties
4 owned by limited liability corporations.
5 Does this limited liability impede such
6 things as enforcing blight legislation for
7 property or collecting unpaid balances on
8 CDBG loans if the endeavor goes belly up
9 before the loan is satisfied? No answer.

10 Okay, speaking of CDBG loans, I do
11 hope we'll have that list tonight,
12 Mrs. Evans will speak to it when she
13 returns.

14 Also, adding insult to injury of the
15 commuter tax being rammed through all three
16 readings last week, I opened Monday's
17 Times-Tribune to find almost five inches of
18 legal notice announcing the city would be
19 voting on a commuter tax on October 25 even
20 though it was rammed through last week.
21 Legal notices are not inexpensive. When you
22 have half a million dollar cash on-hand,
23 almost seven times that amount in
24 outstanding bills, we shouldn't be wasting
25 the expensive advertising dollars on dead

1 issues.

2 Now for a couple of follow-ups,
3 Mr. McGoff, do you have the current number
4 of rental properties in the database?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I do not. I have not
6 checked that.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, maybe you
8 could do that for next week, but, you know,
9 I'm really astounded that probably the
10 largest percentage of likely rental
11 properties could readily be obtained by
12 asking the County IT Department to provide a
13 list of property owners with improvements
14 whose billing address does not match the
15 property address. Can you please tell me
16 why this has not been done? Someone?

17 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, I was
18 looking through the Madison Avenue --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: No. Why, as I say,
20 most of the properties that are owned by
21 out-of-state are rental properties, the bill
22 goes to a different address than the
23 property and I know that the county has been
24 willing to provide that list to the city and
25 why haven't we asked for that? That's

1 probably over 80 percent of the properties?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know that we
3 haven't, I don't know that we have.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Could you find out
5 for next week?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I will ask.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

8 Mr. Joyce, back to you, budget time must be
9 coming. Two weeks ago you offered to obtain
10 the information I requested on how close we
11 are to our ceilings under the Unit Debt Act,
12 do you have that information for me this
13 evening?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I was looking into
15 this and I also spoke with our business
16 administrator about it via e-mail and
17 conversation and he said the general
18 obligation debt that we can borrow is
19 roughly \$35 million, and general obligation
20 debt that the city could borrow with leasing
21 or subleasing is roughly \$90 million. I'm
22 going to actually go back to him and ask him
23 for some more clarification on that.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, yeah, I mean,
25 I know that's about what I had estimated on

1 the 35, at the 35 on what our billing amount
2 is, but I'm just wondering where we are
3 going to be when we get all these loans for
4 this year combined with the loans for last
5 year and, of course, we would have that if
6 we had an audit, but since we don't seem to
7 able to produce an audit it goes by the
8 wayside I guess, but maybe you could get
9 where we are now and what our general
10 obligation principal amount is currently and
11 what it will be after we obtain this year's
12 funding and not next year's.

13 On March 29 of this year I provided
14 the case law regarding commercial operators
15 of government-owned facilities and their
16 obligation to pay property taxes. Three
17 weeks ago I inquired how far along you are
18 in investigating this issue, which you said
19 you were, which could increase annual
20 property tax revenue by half a million
21 dollars and I'd like to know where does your
22 investigation stand of this evening?

23 MR. JOYCE: I'm still working on
24 that, I apologize.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you plan to have

1 it before the budget this year?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'm hoping to.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Now,
4 reading from the October 4 council meeting,
5 in regard to the real estate tax collections
6 so far this year the tax office has
7 collected and distributed roughly \$11.9 --

8 MR. JOYCE: That's accurate.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- in current real
10 estate taxes, however, the last time I
11 checked August preceded October, so I'd like
12 to know why the controller's report for the
13 month of August records \$13.7 million in
14 real estate income. Could you please
15 explain and when you compare the 2012 to the
16 2011, do you -- last week or two weeks ago I
17 think you noted that it was like 8.4
18 percent, this year's collections are 8.4
19 percent, does that include the millage
20 increase for this year or is it an apples to
21 apples, 2011 to 2012.

22 MR. JOYCE: Well, that is with
23 millage increase.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, okay.

25 MR. JOYCE: So it's really not

1 comparing apples to apples, the millage was
2 increased by 4.8 -- or 4.9 percent, so you
3 would expect a 4.9 percent increase in
4 collections, but the increase in collections
5 was I believe it was 8.7 off the top of my
6 head. It was something like that.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that was back
8 on the 4th of October that it was 8.4, so
9 yeah, I'll save the rest for next week.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

12 MR. MCGOFF: May I just -- Ms.
13 Schumacher, I did find the note that we got
14 from OECD. It says, "520 Madison Avenue
15 Associates, LLC, is a new four-unit bed and
16 breakfast located at 520 Madison Avenue,
17 which is owned and operated by William
18 Nasser, JR., CPA, so that is what I'm
19 basing --

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Would you repeat
21 that, that's the same -- what was the name
22 of the corporation?

23 MR. MCGOFF: 520 Madison Avenue
24 Associates.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, but as I say,

1 the only thing the Secretary of State's
2 website says 520 -- they have no 520 Madison
3 Avenue, but they do have a 520 Madison
4 Associates, LLC, and before we execute a
5 loan agreement I think we should check to
6 make sure we have the correct name of the
7 corporation and that it is a valid
8 corporation in the Commonwealth. Thank you.

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie, you
10 handsome devil you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet.

13 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

14 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, tomorrow
15 night, Jack. We are going to get whooped
16 tomorrow, you know that. I want to say one
17 thing on the air, jack. Good luck tomorrow.
18 Hey, Frankie, we aren't going to win it this
19 year, but we're not going to win it this,
20 maybe next year, Frank, but not this year we
21 won't. Next year. Thank you.

22 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

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

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

1 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: As you know we plan
5 to pass this commuter tax, if the Court
6 okays it, it will go into effect. Who is
7 exempt from paying this tax? Federal
8 judges? County judges? People who work in
9 the courthouse? People who work in the
10 federal building? I want to know who is
11 exempt from this tax, not who has to pay.
12 I'm more concerned with that cleaning woman
13 that's going to get hit with this no matter
14 what, but I want to see it implemented
15 fairly across the board to everybody that
16 works in Scranton.

17 If you consider the federal judges
18 federal employees, not working in Scranton
19 but in the federal building, then they would
20 be exempt. And that's the important thing
21 about this whole commuter tax that it be
22 imposed if it is imposed fairly. On
23 principle, I can't find favor in it, but the
24 principle isn't really going to make much
25 matter if the Courts approve it, but the

1 exemptions are, and I believe that should be
2 spelled out. Somewhere along the line the
3 exemptions from this commuter tax be spelled
4 out so the people across the area that's
5 going to be effected by it will have the
6 chance to either say something one way or
7 the other or at least know it.

8 I hate to see that poor cleaning
9 woman get hit with all of this tax and the
10 federal judge walk away or a county judge
11 walk away or the commissioners walk away and
12 say, "We don't have to pay it, that's only
13 for the peons, not the elected officials."

14 This is the important things about
15 any tax. It has to be fair. And the thing
16 you got, the tax report from the assessor's
17 office down there and a lot of properties
18 were reduced and if this is, you know, two
19 weeks reduction of about 35,000 how many
20 properties were reduced within the last four
21 years or five years? That's your tax base.
22 Not only do you blame the University, okay,
23 they are eating up properties, the
24 nonprofits are eating up properties, but
25 people going to the Tax Assessor's Office

1 and getting their tax lowered are eating
2 into our base.

3 At one time they were going to send
4 somebody down there and actually represent
5 the city any time somebody came up for a
6 reduction. I don't know what happened to
7 the plan, that was quite awhile ago, Judy
8 Gatelli was there at that time, I guess it
9 never really got that far, but at least you
10 do get the report. But, like I say, when
11 you get the report it's already a done deal,
12 there is nothing you can do about it, and
13 the worst part about it is if you went back
14 to those people that reduced them taxes and
15 say, "Where is the backup? Where is the
16 information they gave you to reduce the
17 taxes," it's nonexistent. I went down there
18 one time and tried to find out some of that
19 information and they said it don't exist.
20 They don't keep records other than what they
21 gave you of the backup and the reason why it
22 was done.

23 And that's important, too. That's
24 what is wrong with what's happening. That's
25 why you consider Scranton to be corrupt, and

1 I can understand that. Fairness in taxes is
2 the cornerstone of the Democratic Republic
3 and if you have no fairness in taxation we
4 might as well just go to a dictatorship or
5 back to the old surf system because we are
6 headed that way as it is, I'm sorry to say.

7 I always said this along time ago I
8 was more afraid of Washington than I was
9 afraid of Moscow, and that was at the height
10 of the cold war because Washington can do a
11 lot more damage to you than Moscow could
12 have ever done, because anyone with common
13 sense knows an atomic war was going to get
14 us anyway, and they always said that.

15 The government is your enemy, your
16 weapon is your vote. You got to utilize
17 that vote to the maximum. If you don't we
18 are in for a decline, and as you can see, we
19 are declining. I know people have their
20 reasons. When you vote don't vote on a
21 name, don't vote on a party, vote on the
22 individual and everything you find out about
23 that individual, and usually by talking to a
24 neighbor, a friend, even an enemy, you will
25 find something about that individual and

1 then when you cast the vote you cast a more
2 intelligent vote. Where we are now, as you
3 can see, we haven't been very smart in our
4 voting. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

7 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MS. FRANUS: I hope Pat Rogan is
10 feeling better. I just wanted to give a
11 different approach here, I respect Ms.
12 Schumacher and Lee Morgan, but I have to
13 disagree completely with what their views
14 are on and this commuter tax. They seem to
15 think that bankruptcy is the idea. Well, I
16 don't think these commuters would have to
17 worry if the city went bankrupt, they
18 wouldn't have a job to go to. Some places
19 would probably close up. But, also, if you
20 live in this city you should hope that our
21 city council and our government is doing
22 everything you can to keep our taxes down.

23 Now, without this commuter tax our
24 taxes would probably raise and we simply
25 can't afford it, so I can't comprehend

1 people in the city not wanting this. How
2 about entertainment? The people out of town
3 what do they do? They go to the parks, Nay
4 Aug Park, they go to the parks in Scranton,
5 they go to the Cultural Center, they go to
6 the museum, that's in Scranton. They come
7 here all the time. Nay Aug Park at
8 Christmas time they go to the hospitals,
9 they go to the doctors in Scranton. Not
10 only that, the DPW plows the street in
11 Scranton that these people come to work on
12 so they can get to work.

13 So, I mean, all of these services
14 that they seem to take for granted they
15 don't realize. Same with the fire and
16 police, 24-hour protection. Sure, maybe
17 someone isn't in a fire, thank God they
18 weren't, but if they were the police and
19 firemen would be there to help them on our
20 dime, so I don't think it's asking that
21 much. I myself go to different towns and
22 stuff for lunch and stuff like that. Other
23 people, we have our mall that they come to,
24 we go to their towns, they come to our
25 towns, that's the way it should be. It

1 should be one helping each other out, and
2 I'm sure we can do that for them if we
3 could, so I just think that there should be
4 a different approach and that people should
5 try to see why this commuter tax is very
6 important. I mean, you are doing your best
7 to try to keep the taxes down as low as
8 possible and I appreciate it.

9 So I hope it goes throughout and I
10 hope people remember all of the services and
11 not just a few, there is many, many more.
12 Their children go the University of
13 Scranton, Lackawanna College, Johnson
14 School, that's in Scranton. How about that?
15 They are here all day long, so think about
16 it twice before you say they don't get
17 anything from Scranton. They get far more
18 from Scranton than we get in other little
19 towns. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini,
22 recently returned to Scranton and registered
23 voter.

24 MS. EVANS: Welcome back.

25 MR. TALIMINI: I've been here on

1 many occasions and I have seen you people
2 get hammered left and right and I have done
3 it myself on occasion, of course, I had much
4 more fun with the previous fun council, but
5 the only thing you haven't been blamed so
6 far is what happened in Libya and why the
7 gas prices are so high and you ought to be
8 accountable for that, too, but we'll save
9 that for another day.

10 Personally, I think the biggest
11 problem with this town is something that is
12 obvious to everybody and nobody wants to
13 admit it and that's this town is still run
14 by the good ole' boy network and by this
15 ridiculous Home Rule Charter where you
16 people don't have any power. The power goes
17 to the mayor and he has dictatorial powers
18 and I'm glad to see that the past year you
19 have at least gotten someplace with it, you
20 forced his hand. But, you know, quite
21 frankly, I have seen him on two occasions in
22 public. The other times he is at the
23 Chamber of Commerce, and those people don't
24 vote for him, I'm sure they gave him money,
25 but I don't know what he does.

1 I just came back from the south, I
2 spent 14 months down there and I attended 16
3 different city council meetings and they all
4 have a mayor and council form of government,
5 they all have a pay as you go plan, and
6 these are the people who are supposed to be
7 so backward. My God, they are light years
8 ahead of us for the simple reason that every
9 agency in the city is accountable to the
10 public and they attend council meetings.
11 There is not an agency in this city that
12 should be exempt.

13 And it's nice that, you know,
14 finance people go to Mr. Joyce, but
15 Mr. Joyce also works full-time and Mr. Joyce
16 doesn't have the option to sit there and
17 understand these things. I think everybody
18 that gets any money from the city should be
19 here to account for to the public, every
20 agency, and that includes the fire
21 department, the police department and the
22 city clerk, everybody. Everybody who deals
23 with public funds should be accountable to
24 the public and should be required to attend
25 the meeting. You are not going to do this

1 until you get a mayor and council form of
2 government where you have equal authority.

3 Now as it is right now you are
4 technically a legislative branch, but how
5 far can you push legislation? Only so far,
6 we all know that. Your hands are tied. You
7 have to play games, and again, we go back to
8 the good ole' boy network, and I just
9 recently noticed that one of the schools
10 they signed off on one of the schools and
11 the gentleman in charge, who has several
12 previous jobs within the city, I don't know
13 what his qualifications are for the present
14 job, didn't even know which school he signed
15 off on. That's ridiculous. Come on. You
16 are paying the guy 50, 60 grand a year and
17 he didn't know who the hell he is signing
18 off on. These kids are going to that
19 school. Fortunately, I understand that they
20 started moving the kids.

21 But this is the thing, somebody has
22 got to held accountable. As it is right
23 now, the mayor is accountable. The mayor
24 does not appear at these meetings, nobody
25 from any of the agencies appears at these

1 meetings, you have no idea what's going on.
2 You saw the fiasco with the Scranton Parking
3 Authority. The Sewage Authority is in the
4 same situation. Every agency in this
5 community and who is accountable? Who tells
6 the public what's going on? Nobody. I can
7 come up here and ask any one of you
8 questions, you have to get answers because
9 you don't have any, and that's not right.
10 That is not what government is about.

11 It's about time and I am proposing
12 right now that the citizens of this
13 community get together to repeal the Home
14 Rule Charter and enact a mayor and council
15 form of government because that's only way
16 you are going to solve this problem. You
17 need accountability, you need transparency.
18 Right now you don't have it.

19 So, as I said, I apologize that you
20 don't have the answers on Libya or the high
21 gas prices, but I'm sure one of you can come
22 up with it for next week.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

1 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
2 you have any comments or motions this
3 evening?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Very quickly tonight.
5 Just one item from the meeting with the
6 Pennsylvania Economy League on Monday, it
7 was talking about, you know, the
8 implementing various parts of the recovery
9 plan and one of the things that did come up
10 was the fact that there were three things in
11 the recovery plan for which council had
12 basic responsibility for or some
13 responsibility, the amusement tax, real
14 estate transfer tax, and I am missing the
15 third one, Mrs. Krake? There were three at
16 the top of the page and I forgot to bring
17 the -- to implement it, but anyhow.

18 MS. KRAKE: I don't remember.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know. There
20 were three and I mentioned before but one of
21 the things that was mentioned was that
22 passage of these three prior to appearance
23 in Court for the commuter tax would probably
24 be a good thing to do since one of the
25 things that the judges will look at is

1 whether we have exhausted other revenue
2 streams, so it was just a comment that was
3 made and I know Mr. McGowan mentioned that
4 the legal office was working on some of
5 this, but, you know, perhaps we should move
6 it along, try and move it along a little bit
7 so you can get this done, you know, prior t
8 appearing in Court.

9 MS. EVANS: I'll just respond that I
10 did talk to the mayor about these issues
11 throughout the last week and at the top of
12 my list was the amusement tax and I
13 requested that the city solicitor would
14 draft the legislation and send it to us as
15 soon as possible because I had mentioned to
16 the mayor we need to keep to a timeline and
17 I think it's something also that must be
18 included in the budget and he agreed and he
19 does have Mr. Kelly at work on it, so I'm
20 hoping that we should receive that for
21 either next week's meeting or the following
22 week.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you, and that was
24 all I have. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,

1 Councilman Loscombe, do you have any
2 comments or motions?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, just briefly, I
4 just wanted to touch on what I believe
5 Mr. Miller mentioned it at the podium this
6 evening that there was a meeting in Keyser
7 Valley last night concerning the lack of
8 fire protection on the west side, more
9 importantly, Luzerne Street station being
10 closed the majority of the time and the
11 conditions of the buildings because of the
12 closures.

13 It was a pretty interesting meeting
14 last night. There was some slight
15 contentiousness, but a lot of facts were
16 laid out, the public got to ask questions.
17 I do appreciate the fire chief for attending
18 the meeting and answering the questions and
19 our deputy chief was there with, you know, a
20 lot of facts and figures and, of course,
21 there were members of the fire department
22 residents of the West Side, particularly the
23 West Mountain, too, where there is no water
24 for fire protection and now that we are
25 getting into the heating season it's getting

1 even more, you know, important that we have
2 protection over there, and I don't think the
3 people in Keyser Valley were looking to one
4 step any other part of town, they were
5 just -- they are just wondering why they are
6 closed. I believe the figures were 88
7 percent. 12 percent they were open, 88
8 percent of the time that station was closed
9 and no other stations are closed that amount
10 of time.

11 You know, if it's going to be fair
12 it's going to be roving brownouts then every
13 station there should be a rotational
14 pattern, you know, we are rolling the dice
15 as it is. We are rolling the dice with the
16 closings up to this point. West side is a
17 massive area. The whole city should -- the
18 protection that we had previous with all of
19 the stations open worked adequately for
20 years and years. It changed that, and
21 again, there is no actual study that they
22 used, they used the dartboard method, which
23 I stated before.

24 You know, it's a situation where we
25 are playing with people's lives. Sometimes

1 it's a matter of calling on one person for
2 overtime and they could open that station,
3 but they refuse to do that. They are
4 calling in people to work overtime to man
5 the East Mountain station, but I just don't
6 know. Last night the chief admitted it was
7 him that decides which stations close or
8 which, you know, when they are open and when
9 they are closed, however, I don't know on
10 what basis they utilize that, but it's a
11 disaster waiting to happen and we are trying
12 to nip it in the bud before it happens.

13 But I did state the fire stations on
14 the West Side are in pretty deplorable
15 condition because of the vacancies. You
16 could imagine leaving your home at this time
17 of the year to go somewhere for three or
18 four weeks at a time, you know, the
19 creatures are coming in, in from the cold,
20 and that's what's happening.

21 Now, last night the chief said they
22 were going to have professional cleaners
23 come in this week and, you know, I will be
24 following up on that. I'll be following up
25 on the station reopenings, he said he was

1 going go to reopen it again. There was some
2 confusion on if he has the determination to
3 do it or does he have to go through the
4 mayor.

5 But we even had a gentleman there
6 who lives on Dewey Avenue that experienced a
7 fire in his elderly mother's home and he was
8 expecting the fire truck from Luzerne Street
9 to be right there and he waited and waited
10 until they came from downtown. You know,
11 seconds count in an emergency. It's
12 fortunate that there were no lives lost in
13 that.

14 But how many times, how many times
15 are we going to spin the wheel and continue
16 to hope that it doesn't happen because it's
17 going to happen. We have been very
18 fortunate. It will be too late when
19 something drastic does happen, and I know I
20 have preached this many times. I lived it.
21 I have seen it. I worked the job. I live
22 in West Side. I live in an area where there
23 is no water, no hydrants. I have an elderly
24 woman that lives across the street from me,
25 85 years old and she lives alone, God forbid

1 if her house is on fire there is nothing
2 they can do. There is no hydrants. By the
3 time they climb that mountain and get around
4 that house it's a tender box. It was built
5 in the 20's and even earlier than that.
6 This is what we are facing.

7 You know, the population of the city
8 may have gone down, but the city's borders
9 have expanded. We have got construction
10 farther and farther on the west mountain, on
11 the east mountain, Montage mountain, farther
12 areas for our equipment to run and we just,
13 you know, again, we are rolling the dice. I
14 don't know how long this can go in our
15 favor, but we're rolling the dice on your
16 lives, we are rolling the lives on the lives
17 of the firefighters, and the chief said it's
18 economics. You know, I don't know if that
19 means we put a price on a life or what. I
20 don't want to read it that way, but if it's
21 economics -- but they had the economics.
22 They had that \$3 1/2 million to man every
23 station that was required. You would have
24 the full protection that you deserve. We
25 had two years to determine how we are going

1 to offset it. We can reapply in two years,
2 a number of firefighters would be retiring
3 within that time so we wouldn't have to
4 worry about unemployment, there are many
5 things to look at in that two years, but to
6 gamble with lives in those two years really
7 has me upset and I was a little upset at the
8 meeting last night because I know the
9 reality and the consequences of what can and
10 may happen and who is going to take the
11 blame? Who is responsible?

12 You know, I was told that, well,
13 city council didn't put any overtime in for
14 the fire department. Well, we did put
15 overtime in, they haven't even utilized all
16 of the overtime at this point. We put
17 overtime in for the police department, they
18 have utilized probably three times what we
19 put in so why is it any different? Why
20 can't they still use overtime? You know, we
21 have other funds -- or discuss it with
22 council, discuss it with the us, the Finance
23 Chair, the Director -- or the Public Safety
24 Chairman to find ways to protect you.
25 That's what we are here for, too, but when

1 things are done unilaterally, like, turning
2 back \$3 1/2 million without our knowledge
3 until after the fact that's a disgrace.
4 That's one man making the decisions with
5 your lives and this is what's been going on
6 here in this city.

7 We are all supposed to be part of a
8 team. Yes, we batted back and forth, we
9 don't always agree with the mayor, but we do
10 agree to work together for your sake and you
11 have seen that happen with the recovery
12 plan. Mrs. Evans, Mr. Joyce, worked real
13 hard on that along with our solicitor to
14 make a recovery plan that was going to be in
15 the best interest of everyone. Were there
16 some hard decisions in that recovery plan?
17 Certainly. I have friends, again, I have
18 family, I have relatives, I have elected
19 officials in many of the surrounding area
20 that are good friends of mine that aren't
21 too happy about the commuter tax.

22 All we are asking is for a little
23 bit of help for a couple of years. I know
24 there has been a battle over this city for
25 years, the black hole is talked about, I

1 think the majority of people in this city
2 have seen a change. There is more
3 accountability. We haven't been able to do
4 it overnight, we have been working hard for
5 the last almost three years to turn
6 something over that's been going away for
7 ten years, and we can't do it overnight and
8 it's still going to take time, but I think
9 you are starting to see some of the fruits
10 of our work. Those that pay attention, not
11 those that read, but those that pay
12 attention to the meetings and speak to
13 people on the street, they are ones that the
14 see the reality of what we are doing here.

15 But we are concerned with your
16 pockets. Somebody mentioned how deep can
17 you go in our taxpayers' pockets. That's
18 why we looked at this recovery plan with
19 many different facets, different revenue
20 sources. It would have been easy to just
21 say, yes, let's just throw that 89 percent
22 tax increase out there we will be set. We
23 have to get innovative. And if that
24 requires asking our neighbors for some help
25 at this time, and we are not the only ones

1 in the state that do that. Reading,
2 Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, they all do it.

3 Our situation is a little different,
4 different in the fact that, you know, we
5 have to apply each year for that and we only
6 have it in our recovery plan for three
7 years, so with the right fiscal juris
8 prudence here watching over the money that's
9 coming in from that and designating it to
10 where it should go, not to the black hole
11 like it used to, I think we are able to turn
12 this around and it's going to be a benefit
13 to not only our residents, but those people
14 out of the city who will benefit from a
15 greater and stronger Scranton area. And by
16 us being stronger we will be able to help
17 those areas at times, too.

18 That's what it's about. There are
19 family. All the areas around here are part
20 of Scranton family. We happen to be the
21 county seat and we happen to have a majority
22 of nontaxable profits -- or nontaxable
23 properties, and again, that's not something
24 we can resolve overnight, but we are working
25 on legislation and avenues to get money from

1 the PILOTS. We are not alone in this and
2 there has been other areas in the state
3 where they are tried different things and
4 rather than us reinvent the wheel we are
5 working with these other areas to see what
6 will work for everybody.

7 But, you know, we have lot of
8 issues. We have been confronted with a lot
9 of issues. A lot of issues financially, and
10 the issues about public safety and someone
11 mentioned the police cars before. I believe
12 I had mentioned a couple of years ago when
13 we had found out that there was money coming
14 from the landfill for equipment and it was
15 going to the DPW every year and when we read
16 the legislation it said for public safety or
17 whatever, and I believe I suggested at that
18 time we can use that for police or fire
19 vehicles and I'm glad to see those 40 police
20 cars were purchased through that fund. So,
21 someone was listening to us.

22 You know, you don't see us in photo
23 opportunities in the newspaper ever day, you
24 know? First of all, you don't see many
25 favorable comments about us in the

1 newspaper, that's a given, but we sit here
2 week after week, day after day and do our
3 jobs and do in our hearts what we feel is in
4 the best interest of everyone here yet we
5 see cartoons bashing us. We see editorials
6 bashing us and that's fine. You know, I
7 don't like to call us politicians. We are
8 you. We are one of you. We are here
9 working for you. I've said it before, not
10 one of us on this panel can give anybody
11 jobs. We can't give out contracts. We are
12 not like the other political entities around
13 here where we can hire people, build
14 buildings, set up contracts and all of that.
15 You come to one of our rallies you won't see
16 many contractors there or employees or
17 anything like that because we don't have
18 anything to give them, we are here working
19 for the taxpayer, and I think this is one of
20 the few elected bodies in this area that
21 works specifically for the taxpayers.

22 We are providing you with your
23 public safety, your police, your fire, you
24 are garbage pick up, your interconnection
25 when you come to city hall through our

1 clerical workers in are offices here, but
2 you we're always finding ways to help the
3 taxpayers, reduce the tax burden even though
4 we had to increase the taxes, but it's been
5 a runaway for years. That's been a hard
6 decision. Very hard decision. We are here
7 to make the hard decisions and, you know, we
8 are going to continue and we are going to
9 continue to fight for you. We are not going
10 to give up. We don't need the glory of our
11 picture in the every day, we don't need the
12 glory of headlines or anything like that.
13 Our glory is going to be a few years down
14 the road when we can see this city turn
15 around because we demanded accountability.
16 We demanded transparency, and we are and
17 will continue to work our butts off for you.

18 And you can lash out at us all you
19 want, you can talk about different ways of
20 resolving problems in this city, but I think
21 between the five of us here we put our
22 collective heads together and we have worked
23 out these issues to the best of our ability
24 and, you know, we have to go with that I
25 would hope that you elected us with that

1 believe that we can lead this city out of
2 the problems we've had, and I personally
3 feel we have, even though you won't read
4 about it every day, but I could go to sleep
5 at night knowing that the decisions that we
6 made here, and it's not "I", we are a team
7 and we may not agree on every issue here. I
8 have stated this before, you know, I'm
9 married 33 years. I don't know if me and my
10 wife agree on half the things, but we have
11 been together 33 years and we made it work
12 and that's what we are doing here.

13 We may have different ideas but once
14 you put your heads to the and come up with a
15 consensus that that's going to be the best
16 way to do it, that's what happens. It's
17 easy to second guess us, it's easy to blast
18 us for raising taxes, it's easy to blast us
19 for commuter taxes, but had some of our
20 ideas been put into place three years ago
21 when we first suggested them we would be in
22 a much better position now.

23 Perhaps, if those employers that
24 employ the majority of the out-of-town
25 people and/or nonprofits would have

1 contributed more over the years perhaps we
2 wouldn't have to go after the commuters.
3 It's a tough decision. We had a mixed bag.
4 We had to work it out with the recovery plan
5 and I believe all in all with everything
6 that we have put together in the next couple
7 of years we are going to be able to sit back
8 and say the tide has turned, the city has
9 changed. There is accountability, there are
10 watchdogs here.

11 It hasn't been easy for the last two
12 and a half years and it's not going to be
13 easy for the next four years, but we didn't
14 get up here to be easy. We didn't get up
15 here for an easy job, we came up here
16 because our hearts are in this city. I have
17 children and grandchildren, and hopefully
18 great-grandchildren that I want to see live
19 in this city. I have been here all my life
20 and I plan to be here the rest of my life.

21 So I sleep good at night knowing
22 that the decisions I made are in the best
23 interest of everyone overall. We will get
24 flack, we are use to that, but I just wanted
25 to explain where we are coming from. Your

1 tax dollars are here to pay for your public
2 safety, your police protection, your fire
3 protection, your garbage, your clerical
4 workers, and hopefully good government, and
5 I don't want to be tainted by any problems
6 that we have had prior in government or
7 anything like that. I wasn't part of it. I
8 want to be part of the new government, the
9 government that we have tried to change
10 here.

11 If we didn't bring up the issues
12 with the Parking Authority yet, again, as
13 you see they are rolled that over and tried
14 to blame us for the positions the employees,
15 some of the employees are in now, they are
16 going to play this game for a little bit
17 more, but yet you will see some of those
18 employees, and maybe one of the executives,
19 will end up on his feet somewhere else with
20 another position in another government body
21 within the city with no loss whatever.

22 They have hundred dollar people
23 running the administration now and \$10 an
24 hour people are told they have to sue to get
25 their back pay. It's a disgrace. This is

1 the good ole' boy network and, believe me, I
2 have said before we have no jobs to give out
3 or anything. I have lost more myself and
4 family members by being in this position
5 than anyone has ever gained. I have been --
6 there has been retribution to myself and my
7 family members from other political good
8 ole' boys, I may as well say, that will some
9 day -- some day be cleared up.

10 But, you know, I believe in God and
11 I believe what I'm doing is right and I
12 believe that should be the end of my sermon
13 tonight and God bless you all and we are
14 here for you. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, and if I
16 might just suggest though just as we all
17 came together to mitigate the Supreme Court
18 award and to address contracts and provide
19 security for the citizens of Scranton for
20 the coming years, wouldn't it be possible
21 say for yourself, maybe some members of the
22 fire department, the fire chief, the mayor,
23 to work together with what we have right
24 now, the number of the men we have, the
25 equipment that we currently possess, you

1 know, can we be utilizing it in a manner in
2 which it will provide more equitable
3 coverage and, you know, rather than I think
4 what often happens is we all know what's
5 wrong and we talk about and talk about it,
6 but nothing much changes.

7 And I think maybe the best route to
8 take here is to see if there is a way where
9 these two sides would come together and say,
10 "This is how we can maybe use the manpower
11 more effectively or by maybe moving around
12 this equipment we can use it more
13 efficiently and effectively."

14 So if maybe you could try to bring
15 those parties together.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure, and I agree.
17 This is something that was touched on by one
18 of the commentators last evening, and as you
19 said, I mean, working with the
20 administration we would be able to resolve
21 some of the issues and I do believe that
22 with the chief being there last night, the
23 deputy chief, our union officials, myself
24 and the mayor I believe we can sit down
25 because in those negotiations over the

1 Supreme Court issues there was a pretty good
2 consensuses between the union and the
3 administration that we would try to resolve
4 these issues before they really went into
5 arbitrations or upper level grievance
6 procedures and all of that, and I think, you
7 know, that the tide has turned on that and
8 we have been working on that.

9 There is a cooperation going on and
10 that will definitely be my goal. I will
11 stop down city hall tomorrow and try to get
12 in touch with the mayor and the chief and
13 our leaders of the unions, police and fire
14 and see what we can do. Definitely. It
15 will be a benefit to everyone.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
19 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments
20 or motions tonight?

21 MR. JOYCE: I do. Some time ago on
22 August 15 a five-year capital budget was
23 sent down to council for years 2013 to 2017.
24 The original capital budget that was sent to
25 us by the administration included four

1 sections being the fire stations and
2 equipment, bridges, roads, curbs and
3 sidewalks, building improvements and the
4 park system.

5 The original capital budget sent
6 down by the administration in the capital
7 budget projected costs for fire stations and
8 equipment of \$2.5 million, projected cost
9 for bridges, roads, curbs and sidewalks was
10 \$3 million. Projected costs for building
11 improvements was 1.5 million and the
12 projected cost for the parks system was \$7
13 million. This is a grand total of \$14
14 million.

15 The funding for projects in the
16 capital budget that was sent down by the
17 administration was to come from grants and
18 contributions, one-time revenue sources, and
19 operating transfers from other funds. None
20 of the funding for the projects in the
21 capital budget was to be funded from
22 long-term debt.

23 The capital budget that was sent
24 down by the administration went through the
25 first two readings and was later tabled.

1 This legislation was tabled to obtain
2 suggestions for amendment by council members
3 and also to obtain suggestions for creating
4 a priority order of the projects. I have
5 received some suggestions from council
6 members, however, not all council members
7 offered suggestions.

8 Tonight I am going to make a motion
9 in Seventh Order to take the capital budget
10 off the table. Out of the council members
11 that offered suggestions for the capital
12 budget, the top priority was bridges, roads,
13 curbs and sidewalks as improvements are need
14 within the City of Scranton's
15 infrastructure, projects related to bridges,
16 roads, curbs and sidewalks may include, but
17 are not limited to, street resurfacing,
18 bridge reconstruction and sidewalks,
19 obviously.

20 The second priority for the capital
21 budget was tied between building
22 improvements and fire stations and equipment
23 making them dually important. As one may or
24 may not know, there are eight fire stations
25 in the City of Scranton. Fire stations are

1 in need of renovations and repair. In
2 addition, certain major equipment and
3 apparatus will need to be replaced.
4 Renovations and repairs need to take place.

5 Along with this, improvements are
6 needed for buildings owned by the City of
7 Scranton. This includes city hall, the DPW
8 complex and police headquarters. Building
9 improvement projects may include, but are
10 not limited to city hall improvements, such
11 as general maintenance to the exterior of
12 city hall, new electrical wiring and the
13 replacement of the elevator located inside
14 of city hall, which we all know, especially
15 those sitting in the audience, is in
16 definite need of repair.

17 The third and final priority for the
18 capital budget was the parks system. Within
19 the park system the first priority viewed by
20 council members who responded to me was the
21 construction of replacement fields and
22 facilities for the South Side complex. The
23 second priority was the Capouse Avenue pool.
24 The third priority was the Novembrino pool
25 complex. The fourth priority was Weston

1 Field, the fifth priority was Weston Park,
2 and finally, the sixth priority was Nay Aug
3 Park.

4 Out of all the council members that
5 responded to me, there were certain projects
6 within the park system that were not a
7 priority and were not wanted. For instance,
8 the installation of the splash parks was not
9 a project that was wanted. This was
10 originally in the capital budget for the
11 Capouse Avenue pool and the Novembrino pool.

12 Instead of installing splash parks,
13 it was the suggestion of council members
14 that responded to repair the pools in these
15 parks instead.

16 Also, in addition, it was suggested
17 by city council members to not install
18 security cameras since the security cameras
19 that are currently in place in some city
20 parks are not being monitored at all.

21 Along with this it was suggested by
22 council members that lighting be removed
23 from Weston Park and Weston Field and
24 instead just to maintain the lighting
25 systems that are currently in place.

1 Also, it was suggested by council
2 members that the garages not be installed
3 and instead the garages that are in place be
4 maintained at Weston Field and Nay Aug Park.

5 All in all with the cuts being made
6 to the capital budget for the parks system
7 it was suggested that the amount of money be
8 spent in grants and contributions are to be
9 received be reduced from \$7 million to \$5
10 million.

11 With this in mind, it was suggested
12 by council members that revenue from
13 one-time revenue sources be eliminated in
14 the capital budget as it was the thought of
15 the council members that responded to me
16 that if a one-time revenue sources realized
17 in the upcoming years they should be spent
18 on general city operating expenses or to
19 create a surplus or even pay down debt.
20 This amounts to a total of \$1.5 million.

21 Moving onto the 2013 budget, with
22 the budget season fast approaching I have
23 been informed that our business
24 administrator, Ryan McGowan, has sent out
25 worksheets to each of the respective

1 department heads. Mr. McGowan has asked
2 that each of the department heads to reduce
3 their spending in order that the -- in their
4 respective departments by at least 10
5 percent at their discretion and,
6 furthermore, that if their spending is not
7 reduced that the Business Administrator's
8 Office would make the cuts.

9 The reduction of departmental
10 expenditures is necessary for the
11 implementation of the revised recovery plan
12 as departmental expense reductions have been
13 included as part of the plan.

14 Finally, there has been some
15 reported opposition to the commuter tax by
16 council speakers, and especially by the
17 newspaper it has been documented recently.
18 To remind, the commuter tax is an integral
19 part of the recovery plan. If Scranton is
20 not granted a commuter tax, it will have a
21 negative effect on the real estate tax
22 increase in the City of Scranton. In the
23 City of Scranton, the commuter tax is
24 proposed to generate \$2.5 million in revenue
25 if and when it is implemented for next year.

1 If we did not obtain this \$2.5 million in
2 revenue, it would have to be made up in the
3 operating budget.

4 To provide a brief background, a
5 \$139,000 increase in real estate tax revenue
6 results in a 1 percent real estate tax
7 increase for Scranton residents. If one
8 does the math, \$2.5 million divided by
9 \$139,000 results in a tax increase of 18
10 percent next year on top of the Court
11 ordered 12 percent tax increase associated
12 with the unfunded debt.

13 Therefore, if the commuter tax is
14 not granted and if you oppose the commuter
15 tax essentially you may be in favor likely
16 of increasing real estate taxes for Scranton
17 residents by 30 percent rather than 12
18 percent, and that's all I have for tonight.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I'm
20 sorry, I forgot one thing.

21 MS. EVANS: Sure.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I happened to see in
23 our mail today a request for proposals,
24 professional architectural services, this is
25 for Engine 9 fire station on North Main

1 Avenue. It says, "Architectural services to
2 develop plans, specifications and contract
3 documents for renovations of the new
4 overhead doors, man doors and new windows
5 for the City of Scranton's Fire Department,
6 Engine 9 buildings located at 1047 North
7 Main Avenue. Provide general project
8 management by attending meetings, approve
9 shop drawings, answer questions during
10 construction, inspection of final
11 construction work, approve all requests for
12 payments by contractor."

13 This is it all well and good, this
14 is something that's definitely needed and I
15 know the chief had mentioned they were going
16 to do something like this, but when I went
17 around to the stations last week with the
18 situation that we have had with the mice and
19 stuff like it, Engine 9 especially stood
20 out. I believe that we need more than
21 windows and doors there. I believe there is
22 some structural deficits and there should be
23 an engineer to check that out first.

24 The rear door does not open -- or
25 close at all because there is settlement in

1 the building, there is large cracks. The
2 front facade is pulling away. The lock at
3 the top on the driveway side of the building
4 is caving in. The glass in the back is
5 cracked from settling, so I don't believe it
6 would be prudent to put in new windows and
7 have them crack two weeks later because
8 there is still more settlement. It's like
9 spend bad money after -- or good money after
10 bad.

11 My suggestion is that they have a
12 structural engineer look at this building
13 before they issue these contracts for the
14 windows and doors because there may have to
15 be some other work done on those buildings.
16 I know all of the buildings need some work,
17 but Engine 9 more specifically has
18 definitely structural deficits that have to
19 be addressed before cosmetic work is
20 completed.

21 And it's the same thing I happen to
22 see many times and I know what would happen.
23 Let's get it straightened out now before
24 it costs us three times as much. How many
25 times we have homes on our demolition list

1 and there is bids put out then we get the
2 revisions, it's time after time and I don't
3 know why they don't do it, but time after
4 time you get revisions where the person that
5 received the contract gets an increase of
6 four or \$5,000 here, \$2,000 there because
7 there was asbestos in the property they were
8 tearing down. I think that should be
9 investigated before those structures are put
10 out to bid.

11 I mean, that's my opinion, but it's
12 simple to do and have somebody, I mean, we
13 have an inspectors in the city they can go
14 in and tell you it's asbestos and it has to
15 abated before it comes down, but time after
16 time after time I think just about every
17 demolition group that we have had so far
18 there has been revisions to pay extra to
19 have asbestos abated. Let's know up front
20 what it's going to be. Maybe another one of
21 those other bidders would have been cheaper
22 including the asbestos removal. That's my
23 opinion on that, but I could see that
24 happening with the Engine 9, put all of
25 those windows in and then they start popping

1 again and the doors won't close. It could
2 end up being a lot more costly, but it's,
3 you know, a little more prudent to do a
4 little more investigating before we jump
5 into something like this and not that it's
6 not sorely needed, but let's spend the money
7 wisely.

8 So I would suggest we send a letter
9 to OECD requesting that they have an
10 engineer check this building before any of
11 this work is approved.

12 MS. KRAKE: Mr. Loscombe, may I
13 suggest we send them to the city engineer?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Certainly. I'm
15 sorry, that's all.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
17 evening. Following the publication of the
18 fees included in previous 2012 debt
19 financing, I requested similar information
20 for all bond issues, TANS, letters of
21 credit, lease backs and borrowing that
22 occurred from 2002 through 2011. In
23 response, Mr. Henry Seliski, managing
24 director of RBC Capital Markets, LLC,
25 provided a complete list of fees and

1 expenses charged by various companies
2 relating to Bond Series A, B, C and D of
3 2003, all of which were paid from the
4 proceeds of the bonds. Among the numerous
5 fees included in the correspondence are the
6 following:

7 Financial advisor's fee of
8 \$106,666.63. Bond counsel fees of \$100,000,
9 and underwriter's counsel fee of \$50,000.
10 The total of 2003 fees and expenses is
11 \$2,176,503.94.

12 Also, in response to counsel's
13 request, Mr. William Rhodes of Ballard Spahr
14 provided a chart that includes the billed
15 fees related to city debt financing that
16 were paid to Ballard Spahr for a total of
17 \$224,150 for the years 2003, 2004 and 2008.

18 In addition, Mr. Brain P.
19 Koscelansky of Stevens & Lee submitted
20 closing statements from the four City of
21 Scranton's financings for which Stevens &
22 Lee served as bond counsel, and I am not
23 going to read all of that, but just I'll
24 highlight some of each year from December
25 22, 2004, we have Stevens and Lee, special

1 counsel fee and expenses \$45,000. RBC Dain
2 Rauscher, financial advisor, fee of \$25,000.
3 Jeffery J. Belardi, Esquire, authority
4 co-solicitor fee \$4,000. William B. Peters,
5 Esquire, co-solicitor fee \$4,000.

6 Pepper Hamilton, LLP, Authority
7 special counsel fee 1,500. Ballard Spahr,
8 bank and counsel fee and expenses \$5,500,
9 and there are there is more, but the total
10 for December 22, 2004, is \$93,000.

11 In 2005 we have, again, Stevens and
12 Lee, \$30,000. RBC Dain Rauscher, \$15,000.
13 Jeff Belardi, co-solicitor \$4,000. James
14 Mulligan, Esquire, authority co-solicitor
15 \$4,000. Ballard Spahr \$3,500, and a few
16 more for a total of \$67,500.

17 In 2006, we have Stevens & Lee, bond
18 counsel fees and expenses for a total of
19 \$60,362.50. Cummings Law Firm, \$6,000.
20 McGrath Law Firm, 6,000. Carl Greco,
21 \$5,000, and there are more, and that's a
22 total of \$92,064.50; and then finally in
23 2008 we have Stevens & Lee, bond counsel
24 fees and expenses for \$58,000. Ballard
25 Spahr \$20,000. Koziell and O'Connor,

1 special counsel to the city, \$27,500. Carl
2 Greco, \$7,000. The Redevelopment Authority
3 of the City of Scranton \$10,000 for an
4 authority fee and that grand total, because
5 there are many more, it comes to
6 \$202,936.90.

7 So the total of billed fees paid for
8 these four financings in 2004, '5, '6 and '8
9 is \$455,501.40. To date these are the firms
10 who responded. All fees with the exception
11 of the \$31,000 paid by the city post-closing
12 in renege 2003 for post-issuance escrow
13 restructurings appear to have been paid from
14 the proceeds of their respective financing.

15 Because all of these billed fees and
16 expenses may not have been made public by
17 the local newspaper and the administration
18 from 2003 through 2008, it is important to
19 provide the information to the taxpayers
20 regarding all city financings, not only
21 those that occurred this year. Financing
22 requires the work of multiple firms and
23 their counsels, all of whom are compensated
24 for their time and effort.

25 Next, I believe we received copies

1 of the city's noise ordinance this week and
2 I ask that all council members, and
3 particularly Mr. Loscombe, Public Safety
4 Chair, would review it as I will and propose
5 any amendments that may be needed to stop
6 boom cars from blasting music on a city
7 streets 24/7.

8 I'll also forward to you,
9 Mr. Loscombe, a website that contains
10 valuable information and procedures
11 implemented in other cities to address this
12 type of constant nuisance.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. I spoke
15 with the mayor earlier today, as I noted
16 during citizens' participation, and he
17 stated that the heat has been turned back on
18 at Engine 2 fire station. UGI said it was
19 their mistake and they apologized for the
20 inconvenience.

21 Also, I am pleased to report that
22 the streetlight installation request at
23 Lafayette Street and Boyland Avenue was
24 approved by the city engineer this week. He
25 directs Mr. Dougher, DPW director, to

1 coordinate its installation with the
2 appropriate parties.

3 In addition, the administration
4 hopes to submit legislation to halt truck
5 traffic on Lake Scranton Road to city
6 council for placement on next week's agenda.

7 And finally, I have but one
8 citizen's request for the week, residents of
9 Cedar Avenue request the posting of a speed
10 limit sign in the 300 or 400 block of Cedar
11 Avenue. They report daily speeding on this
12 road. And that's it.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to going to Sixth
14 Order could I have one last thing, personal,
15 just a congratulations to my niece, Mary
16 Clare Hopkins, recently honored for 20 years
17 of working with United Neighborhood Centers
18 and Project Hope and Head Start Program, but
19 I do want to mention that. Thank you.

20 MR. JOYCE: Congratulations.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes, congratulations
22 from all of council. Mrs. Krake?

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. APPROVING THE
24 TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE
25 CURRENTLY OWNED BY CALANNI'S INC. T/A

1 LITTLE NIKKI'S PASTA HOUSE, 77 FALLBROOK
2 STREET, CARBONDALE, PA 18407, LICENSE NO.
3 R-14028 TO PASS RUSH LLC FOR USE AT BIG
4 HOUSE TOBACCO OUTLET LOCATED AT 200 GREEN
5 RIDGE STREET, SCRANTON, PA, 18509, AS
6 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR
7 CONTROL BOARD.

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

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

12 MR. JOYCE: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not familiar with
15 Big House Tobacco Outlet and why they would
16 need an -- oh, it's for -- is it for the
17 Tobacco Outlet or is it for the pasta house?
18 No, it's transferred. Why would they need a
19 liquor license?

20 MR. HUGHES: I would think that this
21 is a -- probably it's a delicatessen license
22 where they could sell up to two six pack of
23 beer up to four quarters of beer at a time.
24 I don't know if that's what it is, but it
25 seems that if it's coming from Little

1 Nicki's Pasta House that would be a
2 restaurant license.

3 MR. MCGOFF: It says transfer
4 restaurant liquor license.

5 MR. HUGHES: If it's a restaurant
6 liquor license they are going to have to
7 have so many tables in there in order to
8 meet the requirements of the control board,
9 and it would seem they would have to run a
10 restaurant there. I mean, that's the rules
11 of the Liquor Control Board. But it could
12 be looked into. I haven't seen the
13 legislation to support it, but, you know,
14 what the write up is, but whoever the
15 lawyers are it could be a letter written to
16 them and also would be on the PLCB
17 application. I don't know what the
18 supporting documentation is on this.

19 MR. MCGOFF: This is just for
20 introduction so --

21 MS. EVANS: Right. We can do the
22 investigation in the mean time.

23 MR. MCGOFF: We can produce it, but
24 I think we should find out what the purpose
25 is.

1 MS. EVANS: I agree. All those in
2 favor --

3 MR. HUGHES: Since it's coming from
4 Carbondale into Scranton we have to approve
5 it, you know, to transfer from that
6 municipality to this municipality.

7 MS. EVANS: Um-hum. All those in
8 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

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

15 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 63,
16 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE
17 COUNCIL NO. 46, 2012, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
18 "AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 33, 2012
19 ENTITLED "ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE IN
20 THE 900 BLOCK OF NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE
21 (S.R. 3023) ON THE WESTERN MOST SIDE OF SAID
22 STREET PURSUANT TO THE HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY
23 PERMIT APPLICATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH
24 MEDICAL COLLEGE FROM SR 3023 SEGMENT 0090
25 OFFSET 1000 TO SR 3023 SEGMENT 0090 OFFSET

1 1219 FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN
2 (219) FEET" TO CORRECT THE INCORRECTLY
3 IDENTIFIED SEGMENT NUMBERS OF SR 3023" TO
4 CORRECT THE INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED OFFSET
5 NUMBERS FOR THE NO PARKING ZONE.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: I move that Item 6-A
9 pass reading by title.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER.

19 MR. JOYCE: Before we begin Seventh
20 Order, I would like to make a motion to
21 appoint Jack Loscombe as temporary
22 chairperson for community development?

23 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
24 floor, do we have a second?

25 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
2 signify by 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. Favor.

8 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
10 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 44, 2012 -
11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
12 CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO
13 ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND MAKE A LOAN
14 FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
15 PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.35 IN AN AMOUNT NOT
16 TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 TO 520 MADISON AVENUE
17 ASSOCIATES, LLC TO ASSIST AN ELIGIBLE
18 PROJECT.

19 MS. EVANS: What is the
20 recommendation of the Chair for the
21 Committee on Community Development?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: As acting Chairperson
23 for the Committee on Community Development,
24 I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just on the question
3 since Mrs. Schumacher brought it out, if we
4 can just make sure that this loan is made
5 out to the proper entity if our solicitor
6 can check on that.

7 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

8 MR. HUGHES: I would think that, I
9 mean, this is OECD, I'll look into it, but
10 if you pass it tonight it's passed and the
11 only thing you could do is table it until
12 next week to see -- and have OECD -- you
13 know, I'll look into it, but you can't pass
14 it and then look into it and then -- I mean,
15 the only thing you can do is table it and
16 take a look at it next week.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well --

18 MR. HUGHES: It's up for final
19 adoption tonight.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's on the table
21 now. Based on that question, just so we do
22 have an accurate entity, I am going to vote
23 -- or make a motion to table this until we
24 can check that out with OECD next week.

25 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to

1 table Item 7-A, do we have a second?

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I guess I don't
5 understand -- maybe I just don't see what
6 the problem is, and we have all of the
7 backup and, you know, the names are
8 consistent. I would just -- it's putting
9 off the inevitable.

10 MR. HUGHES: I think what the
11 problem is what Mrs. Schumacher stated is
12 that, you know, I don't know how accurate it
13 is, but what she checked there is no such
14 entity on the corporate bureau as 520
15 Madison Associates, LLC. Now, I don't know
16 if it's going to be formed, I don't know if
17 she did the search right, but if there is no
18 such entity how could the city make a loan.
19 I think that's what her question was, and
20 certainly that this is who the loan is being
21 made to and it doesn't exist, you know, one
22 week isn't going to matter to find out who
23 it is. I don't even know who the attorneys
24 are or anything like this.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just for legal
2 clarification.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

4 MR. HUGHES: I would think that OECD
5 should have checked all of that to make sure
6 that it is a -- it is a LLC that is
7 registered and it is, you know, an LLC
8 that's registered in Pennsylvania.

9 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
10 tabling Item 7-A signify by saying aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
15 have it and so moved. Item 7-A is tabled.

16 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-
18 FOR ADOPTION -RESOLUTION NO. 45, 2012
19 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
20 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF
21 SCRANTON TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND
22 MAKE A LOAN FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
23 BLOCK GRANT LOAN PROGRAM, PROJECT NO. 150.34
24 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 TO
25 FRECKLES AND FRILLS, INC. TO ASSIST AN

1 ELIGIBLE PROJECT.

2 MS. EVANS: What is the
3 recommendation of the acting Chair for the
4 Committee on Community Development?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: As acting Chairperson
6 for the Committee on Community Development,
7 I recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question? As I
10 noted last week, the taxes, the delinquent
11 taxes, were paid for the 420 Madison Avenue
12 Associates, LLC. We also received, however,
13 during the week notifications from OECD that
14 taxes for Freckles and Frills are also
15 up-to-date and we did receive copies of the
16 receipts for payment and I thank OECD. I
17 know last week I believe I mentioned that we
18 would like that to be looked into for each
19 one of the loans and we would like council
20 to be notified prior to placing the loans on
21 the agenda, and we required proof of
22 payment. Is there anyone else on the
23 question? Roll call, please?

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

8 MR. JOYCE: I would like to make a
9 motion to take File of Council No. 54-2012
10 from the table.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION -
20 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FILE OF
21 COUNCIL NO. 54, 2012 - PREVIOUSLY TABLED -
22 APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE CITY OF SCRANTON
23 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2013 PURSUANT TO
24 SECTION 904 OF THE CITY'S HOME RULE CHARTER.

25 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to amend

1 Item 7-C as per the following changes:

2 2013 capital budget, number one,
3 insert on page two under park system:

4 (1). South Side Complex
5 construction of replacement field and
6 facilities.

7 (2). Under Weston Field delete "New
8 garage, new show mobile, new lighting."

9 (3). Under Weston Park delete
10 "Security cameras and new lighting."

11 (4). Delete Connell Park "Security
12 cameras."

13 (5). Under Capouse Avenue Pool,
14 after demolished delete "pool and" delete
15 "install splash park" and insert "repair
16 pool."

17 Under Novembrino Pool after
18 "demolish" delete "pool and" delete "install
19 slash park" and insert "repair pool."

20 Under Nay Aug Park delete "new
21 garage, security cameras, new filtration
22 system building."

23 After projected costs delete "seven"
24 and insert "five."

25 After total delete "\$14 million" and

1 insert "\$12 million."

2 On page four, capital fund
3 improvement plan budget spreadsheet, in Row
4 4, Column C, delete "\$1.5 million."

5 In Row 4, Column F, delete "\$1
6 million."

7 And Row 4, Column G, delete
8 "\$500,000."

9 In Row 7, Column C, delete "\$2
10 million" and insert "\$1.5 million."

11 In Row 7, Column D, delete
12 "\$500,000."

13 In Row 13, Column C, delete "\$14
14 million," and insert "\$12 million."

15 In Row 13, Column E, delete "\$2.5
16 million," and insert "\$2 million."

17 In Row 13, Column F, delete "\$2.5
18 million" and insert "\$1.5 million."

19 In Row 13, Column G, delete, "\$5
20 million" and insert "\$4.5 million."

21 On page five, capital fund
22 improvement plan budget spreadsheet, in Row
23 12, Column C, delete "\$7 million" and insert
24 "\$5 million."

25 And in Row 12, Column G, delete

1 "\$3.5 million" and insert "1.5 million."

2 In Row 13, Column C, delete "\$7
3 million" and insert "\$5 million."

4 In Row 13, Column G, delete "\$13.5
5 million and insert "\$1.5 million."

6 In Row 16, Column C, delete "\$14
7 million" and insert "\$12 million."

8 In Row 16, Column G, delete "\$5
9 million and insert "\$3 million."

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

11 MS. EVANS: On the question?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I noticed
13 Mr. Joyce mentioned the deleting of the
14 security cameras. I think in the capital
15 budget security cameras are just a way of
16 protecting the investment that you are
17 making and for what I would consider
18 probably be a small cost in each of these
19 areas to install cameras that I think that
20 they should be -- that should be reinstated
21 for the various parks.

22 Since vandalism at those places is
23 one of the major problems, I think security
24 cameras in the capital budget would be a
25 good idea.

1 MS. EVANS: The only thing in the
2 way of response I could make, is that as we
3 are all aware the city has had security
4 cameras and that program was very
5 unsuccessful and a waste of taxpayers'
6 money. I don't know who would be watching
7 these cameras because, as I said, the
8 cameras that were installed throughout the
9 downtown previously that was another project
10 that went belly up. So as much as, you
11 know, I do appreciate what you are saying I
12 think the city is in such dire financial
13 circumstances that it really has to try to
14 manage what can be done and in what stages
15 it can be done and when all is said and done
16 this capital budget, quite frankly, is
17 nothing more than a wish list.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Which is why I thought
19 that taking them out was unnecessary. That
20 since we are not voting to spend money to do
21 it at this point in time, I just believe the
22 security cameras are a good idea and should
23 be considered in the future when we do make
24 the capital amendments. That's all.

25 MS. EVANS: And you know hopefully--

1 MR. MCGOFF: It can be added at the
2 time.

3 MS. EVANS: I hope that it can be
4 done and I hope we will have people or have
5 the money to do so and have the manpower
6 assigned to actually monitoring it.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

8 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
9 question? All those in favor of the motion
10 to amend Item 7-C signify by saying aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
15 have it and so moved.

16 What is the recommendation of the
17 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance?

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

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-C, as amended, legally and lawfully
8 adopted.

9 If there is no further, I'll
10 entertain a motion to adjourn.

11 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

12 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
13 adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
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