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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE
(Not present.)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, 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. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here.

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. TAX ASSESSOR'S
14 REPORT, APPEAL HEARING RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER
15 28, AND OCTOBER 12 OF 2011.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS FROM
19 ROBERT & ROSSI CO. AS OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2011.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE
23 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER
24 14, 2011.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. TAX ASSESSOR'S
3 REPORT, SCHEDULED HEARINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 7,
4 SEPTEMBER 14, SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 5, AND
5 OCTOBER 19, OF 2011.

6 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
7 If not, received and filed.

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. APPLICATIONS ALONG
9 WITH THE DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
10 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14,
11 2011.

12 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
13 If not, received and filed. Are there any
14 Clerk's notes?

15 MS. KRAKE: No we don't have any
16 Clerk's notes, Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
18 council members have announcements at this
19 time?

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Go ahead.

22 MR. JOYCE: The West Side or West
23 Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Crime watch
24 will be holding a spaghetti fundraiser at
25 Villa Marie II located at 1610 Washburn

1 Street in Scranton. The cost is \$10 per
2 person. This will take place on Sunday,
3 September 25, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 6:00
4 p.m. and it's eat in or take out. With the
5 \$10 fee, you receive pasta and meatballs, a
6 salad and bread, and I have been at the
7 Villa Marie many times and you may just see
8 Scranton's finest and best DJ Johnnie
9 Superstar around, too, as an added bonus.

10 So Johnnie will pat me on the back
11 because I finally said that, but if you are
12 interested in going that's the time and
13 that's the place and it's for a very worthy
14 cause and it benefits an organization that's
15 doing a lot of great work in the community.

16 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. On October
18 9 some 2,000 runners and an accompanying
19 families and friends will descend upon the
20 City of Scranton for the Steamtown Marathon.
21 It was in the paper today that the marathon
22 is looking for -- the marathon committee is
23 looking for volunteers especially for
24 crossings during the race, which is very
25 helpful to the runners and to everyone

1 council received a letter from Susan Connors
2 regarding the Pancreatic Cancer Action
3 network, and the letter asks city council to
4 kindly consider issuing a proclamation
5 supporting the observation of November 2011
6 as pancreatic cancer awareness month in
7 order to help raise awareness in our
8 community.

9 And so, Mrs. Krake and Ms. Carrera,
10 if we could please prepare such a
11 proclamation and perhaps we can present that
12 in October.

13 MS. CARRERA: I think they want it
14 for the November 1 meeting.

15 MS. EVANS: For the November 1
16 meeting? Okay. And they also very nicely
17 included a resolution as well, so that
18 should be quite helpful to us.

19 Also, the US Postal Service is
20 studying the consolidation and closure of
21 distribution centers nationwide in an effort
22 to save money and increase efficiency. The
23 Stafford Avenue Distribution Center in
24 Scranton is one that is being considered for
25 closure and such a move would be highly

1 detrimental to Scranton and surrounding
2 areas. While Scranton suffers with the
3 highest statewide unemployment rate,
4 approximately 300 local jobs could be lost
5 due to this closure.

6 In addition, mail and packages would
7 be diverted to the Lehigh Valley
8 distribution center, thereby causing longer
9 delays in delivery service and, in fact,
10 this afternoon I have learned that in
11 addition to the diversion to Lehigh Valley,
12 Philadelphia is also under consideration.

13 Our region has suffered the loss of
14 too many large businesses and industries
15 throughout the last several years and it can
16 ill-afford another closure. I am asking
17 each of you to call your fellow
18 representatives in support of keeping the
19 Stafford Avenue postal distribution center
20 open at the following numbers: Congressman
21 Barletta, 562-6240. Senator Casey,
22 946-0930, and Senator Marino 836-8020.

23 And further, with the agreement of
24 my honorable colleagues, I would like to
25 send a letter on behalf of Scranton City

1 Council to Senator Casey and Congressman
2 Barletta and Marino strongly opposing the
3 closure of the Scranton's Stafford Avenue
4 Postal Distribution Center and respectfully
5 requesting their active support to keep our
6 local distribution center open. Do I have
7 your agreement?

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you, gentlemen. I
10 understand that the study is still ongoing,
11 but I feel sometimes if we wait to react to
12 a situation once it's been decided it's not
13 nearly as effective as being proactive and I
14 think if we bring this to the attention of
15 our federal legislators at this point in
16 time they can begin their work in lobbying
17 hopefully on behalf of our area, and that's
18 it.

19 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
20 PARTICIPATION.

21 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
22 tonight is Jim Williams. Well, Mr. Williams
23 is not here. However, I have been asked to
24 make an announcement at this time, there is
25 cell phone interference with the microphones

1 this evening and so we are asking once again
2 that all audience members and council
3 members would turn off your cell phones,
4 please.

5 Our next speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
8 for some reason or other I have been getting
9 a lot of complaints that I'm not speaking
10 directly into this thing and when the reruns
11 come out they say it's all garbled, but I'll
12 try.

13 My pet peeve, of course, is the
14 city's debt. It's been the pet peeve for a
15 long time. Way back when we started the
16 building projects when the mayor took office
17 I always said he tried to do too much too
18 quick and put us into this problem, but the
19 problem is here now and not only is it here
20 it's getting desperate, and that's not very
21 good.

22 I read the articles about trying to
23 sell off this, that or whatever, but your
24 little quirk in it says the authorities have
25 to sign off, which is almost impossible, but

1 there is one thing that can be sold back if
2 they would buy it back and that's the
3 lighting. There is no authority on the
4 lighting, so there is a possibility it can
5 be sold back to PPL where we bought it from.
6 It's only a drop in the bucket if they go
7 again with it, but that's the only real
8 viable solution to what we got now. We are
9 in trouble, deep, deep trouble.

10 I don't think anybody found out what
11 the SRA -- I mean, the Parking Authority is
12 putting up for collateral or did we?

13 MS. EVANS: We have sent
14 Right-to-Know requests to the Parking
15 Authority and we have not yet received all
16 of the responses, and in addition to some of
17 the responses that have been received, well,
18 actually, they haven't been received we are
19 being charged for the copies of all of that
20 to the tune of I think about \$125 and this,
21 in my opinion, is ludicrous. We are an
22 elected government body, we are one of the
23 two governing bodies of the City of Scranton
24 and the business administrator won't provide
25 us the information unless we give them \$125

1 for it.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: But the problem is
3 we are also the biggest debt holder of the
4 Parking Authority.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes, we are.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: We are in there for
7 \$40 million in the paper was right
8 principal. Long-term debt, of course, is
9 greater. As I pointed out last week,
10 something has got to be done with the
11 authorities. I mean, it's ludicrous with
12 even the Sewer Authority going to Court
13 because they want to the guy that was fourth
14 on the bid to be one on the bid, and I don't
15 know why. The judge said, you know, the
16 bids were put in properly. Why they were
17 overlooked, in this city anything is
18 possible. I found that long ago. What's
19 on -- what's in front of you is not
20 necessarily what is. There is too much back
21 dealing.

22 And we are back to the Redevelopment
23 Authority, of course, is bankrupt and we are
24 paying off their loan, which is ridiculous.
25 I still say we should ask the state for an

1 investigation. When an authority goes into
2 bankruptcy, well, they didn't declare
3 bankruptcy, but they declared default,
4 that's for the state to come in. Obviously,
5 you've got incompetence people running that
6 department. In fact, you probably got
7 incompetent people running all of the
8 departments. I told you a long time ago I
9 have been saying that for years and years
10 and years, you don't have the proper people
11 running anything.

12 And the Sewer Authority, of course,
13 is a joke being with the state even said, I
14 mean, it's running it. If you remember the
15 article they put out on when they lambasted
16 them for the steam heat going bankrupt, they
17 weren't very favorable of his administration
18 skills. The people that should have been
19 taking care of all of this should have been,
20 not that I care about the Germans, but the
21 American Anglican water company, they had
22 the engineers and they had the tech to do
23 what they had to do. If anything else you
24 can really complain to them. With the
25 authority you have nothing you can do. You

1 are blinded, blind sided all the way
2 through.

3 I always said there shouldn't be any
4 authorities throughout the state. There is
5 no reason for it. What is should be open
6 and available to every citizen in the city,
7 the state or whatever, and for them to
8 charge you for copies because they don't
9 want you to know, that's ridiculous.

10 Well, I hope when you get them you
11 have them printed off your little machine
12 there and they can hand the people in the
13 city copies so they can see what's happening
14 because if we lose our parking garages we
15 are still going to have to pay the debt
16 because they are going to walk off clear. I
17 see that with the hotel. That was the worst
18 deal I ever seen. I told them on the hotel
19 that when they cried they wanted to go
20 bankrupt and they were up there crying, I
21 told them let them go bankrupt. Let them.
22 Somebody will pick it up because you had a
23 \$33 million hotel that was on the books for
24 about 13 or 14 million dollars. Somebody
25 would have gladly picked it up with a good

1 deal. Okay. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you,

3 Mr. Sbaraglia.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Les Spindler.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

7 Council, Les Spindler, city resident and

8 homeowner and taxpayer.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10 MR. SPINDLER: For the last three
11 days or so the Doherty newsletter is running
12 a series of articles about the city's
13 financial crisis. Not once in these
14 articles do they put the blame on big boy
15 Chris Doherty for the financial crisis, they
16 put the blame on city council.

17 Not once did they mention about
18 Chris Doherty totally ignoring revenue
19 sources that council has come in with and he
20 totally snubs his nose at them. All they do
21 is put their own spin on to make Chris
22 Doherty look like he does everything right,
23 council does everything wrong. I think if
24 this newspaper ever printed the truth their
25 building would fall down.

1 While I'm on that subject about the
2 Doherty newsletter, I wrote a letter to the
3 editor, which they didn't put in, because it
4 makes them look bad, so I'll read it here:

5 "A recent editorial in your paper
6 criticized Scranton City Council's
7 supermajority for voting against putting a
8 park in North Scranton. Police officers and
9 firefighters are being laid off, people are
10 dying in fires, and all your editorial staff
11 cares about is criticizing the supermajority
12 for voting against the park. I would rather
13 have more police officers on the streets and
14 more firefighters in the firehouses before
15 any parks were built. I think your
16 editorial staff should get their priorities
17 in order."

18 And I want to add something to that,
19 along with Mr. McGoff.

20 Something else about the
21 firefighters which I brought up last week
22 about the mayor saying that response times
23 won't be affected, and I proved last week
24 what a lie that was, and here is more proof.
25 It's from my favorite website

1 Dohertydeceit.com, and I think it's a great
2 post, and I think it's about a firefighter,
3 but I can't be sure.

4 Prior to the mayor, if a possible
5 structure fire is called in in the Hill
6 Section the company dispatched would have
7 been Engine 15 from Ash Street that would go
8 right to the house. Ladder Truck No. 2 from
9 Mulberry Street would take the position
10 directly in front of the house in case area
11 ladder operations were needed. Engine 4
12 from Mulberry Street would stage out at a
13 fire hydrant preparing to lay a supply line
14 into Engine 15 so that the men inside the
15 burning building would not run out of water.

16 Engine 10 from East Mountain would
17 be rolling in case more water or manpower
18 was needed. Rescue 1 from Wyoming Avenue
19 would arrive, but park away from the main
20 fire location so as not to get caught up in
21 a traffic at the fire scene. This way they
22 could do their specialized rescue work at
23 the fire and yet still remain available
24 should another serious call require they
25 quickly leave the fire for another call.

1 The assistant chief would respond from
2 Mulberry Street and serve as the fire ground
3 in command. The ambulance and police do
4 their thing around the fire scene.

5 Now, Engine 15 is gone, Engine 4 and
6 Truck 2 will respond, Engine 10 is being
7 phased out. Rescue 1 is no longer on
8 Wyoming Avenue and will be responded from
9 North Main Avenue in North Scranton. The
10 other engine companies coming to help at the
11 Hill Section will be Engine 8 from Market
12 Street in North Scranton and Engine 2 from
13 the top of Pittston Avenue hill in South
14 Scranton.

15 This delay in the backup companies
16 have an enormous effect on the actions and
17 safety of the first responding companies and
18 your property unless your house has an
19 automatic water system. Now the city just
20 sends one engine company and the chief.
21 Period. Once they arrive if they find the
22 fire they will then call for more help,
23 delaying the response time of the other fire
24 trucks even longer.

25 Of course, the mayor who has no

1 training and who has not done any fire
2 studies or show how to respond to less
3 equipment and firefighters is making all the
4 decisions without so much as asking opinions
5 from those who know. And I don't think
6 anybody could say anything any better than
7 that.

8 And while I have another minute,
9 again, about this park where Lincoln Jackson
10 is, again, I have said that I think that's a
11 waste of time and money and the mayor says
12 he thinks that it would make the
13 neighborhoods better, well, if we keep
14 laying off our firefighters and police
15 officers we won't have any neighborhoods to
16 make better. They will be burnt to the
17 ground and they will be infested with crime,
18 so as far as they parks are concerned I
19 think they are just a waste. We need more
20 police officers and firefighters period.
21 Thank you for your time.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Doug Miller.

25 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,

1 Doug Miller, Scranton.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MR. MILLER: You know, I sat back
4 earlier this evening and I attended
5 tonight's meeting because I wanted to just
6 listen to some of residents from West Side
7 during our caucus here regarding the
8 proposed park over at Lincoln Jackson. You
9 know, I thought it was quite interesting
10 that Mr. Passaro came up and spoke and
11 presented some pictures to council showing
12 the parks throughout west side and
13 Novembrino, Fellows Park, Allen Park and
14 there may have been one other one mixed in
15 there and, you know, I had the chance before
16 the regular meeting started here to take a
17 look at those and I just have to say that
18 I'm completely appalled by the condition
19 that these parks are in. I knew that our
20 park system was in quite a mess right now,
21 but I never knew it was at that level and I
22 was kind of taken back by some of those and
23 I'm sure if residents took a look at those
24 pictures they would feel the same way, I'm
25 sure you did.

1 You know, like I stated last week
2 and weeks prior to that, I can't understand
3 why we are talking about parks at this time.
4 We are facing an \$8 million deficit and
5 we've heard it could be as much as 15, and
6 we go back to parks. I just -- I just -- I
7 don't understand that. I don't understand
8 why this guy, this mayor, talks about parks
9 constantly. You know, we had an issue over
10 on Perry Avenue and there was arguments
11 over, well, we should let the residents come
12 down and let them decide. Well, they didn't
13 show up of.

14 The residents from West Side they
15 came down. They know the chambers are open
16 and they know they can come down, and we
17 heard from quite a few tonight. Petitions
18 were submitted and not one person was for
19 it. That should send a message to the
20 mayor. The residents don't want a park.
21 They want to solve the deficit this year.
22 They want to know that they live in a city
23 where we focus on our financial issues that
24 we have been dealing with for 20 years. You
25 know, to take on another park at this time

1 makes absolutely no sense whatever. As I
2 stated in the past, we can't even maintain
3 what we have now, and I know I sound like a
4 broken record, but we couldn't even open up
5 a swimming pool this summer. Thousands of
6 children were deprived the opportunity to
7 swim because of a splash park. Well, drive
8 over there, I don't see a splash park and
9 you know what, we are probably not going to
10 see a splash park.

11 You know, we heard comments earlier
12 as well from an individual who came up and
13 talked about how they worry about gang
14 activity, and they worry about other
15 criminal activity throughout their
16 neighborhood, and they made a good point.
17 The solution isn't a park. You know, the
18 residents, I think, need to continue to come
19 up here and demand accountability from the
20 mayor and demand that he put their interest
21 ahead of his own, and I think instead of
22 focusing on parks right now we need to focus
23 on the deficit, but at the same time public
24 safety, and there is a lot of rumors out
25 there is more cuts in the near future, and

1 as I have stated before, I don't know
2 understand how this man can possibly
3 consider that.

4 You know, he is jeopardized the
5 health and safety of our citizens for ten
6 years now, and as I have said, it doesn't
7 phase him whatsoever. Public safety needs
8 to be the top priority of any administrator
9 whether you are a mayor, councilman,
10 whatever you are. That's your top priority.
11 When I go home at night am I confident that
12 the residents that I represent and work for
13 are they safe? I don't see how this man can
14 go home and night and say that and look in
15 the mayor or and say confidentially that the
16 residents and the stay that I run are save
17 because you can't and he is consistently
18 done this, and as I have said, it doesn't
19 phase him, it doesn't bother him, and yet he
20 wants to build another park.

21 Well, as we have heard earlier we
22 have had problems with gangs and criminal
23 activity and graffiti and the litter and
24 everything, who is going to patrol these
25 parks? Who is going to supervise them? But

1 most of all, who is going to upkeep them, as
2 I have said, and I said last week, I'd love
3 to know where this money is going to come
4 from to upkeep these parks, as I said, the
5 mayor must have a magician working for him
6 or he's going to just mysteriously find this
7 money.

8 Yeah, it's nice to get all kinds of
9 grant money. As I said, I wish we could
10 build parks all over the city. This isn't
11 Disney World. I like using that phrase.
12 This isn't Disney World, we're in reality
13 here and the reality is we're faced with a
14 deficit and it needs to be addressed, we
15 need to start setting priorities, we need to
16 forget about parks and all of that nonsense
17 and we need to start looking out for the
18 residents of this city and their health and
19 their safety and everything else because
20 that's what's important, not parks. He
21 needs to get that out of his mind and I
22 would just hope, as I said, more residents
23 would come up to this podium, demanding
24 accountability, demand the public safety
25 that they deserve and they pay for and hope

1 that this man will get it through his head
2 once and for all. That's all for tonight.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

5 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I'd
8 like to say is on records this evening.
9 Numerous times I have come to podium and
10 spoke and said that all records, whether
11 they are state, city or county records
12 should be on-line. Council nor any citizen
13 should have to do a freedom of information,
14 it should be all on-line and you should
15 print it off line. This is our government,
16 we should have access to those records, and
17 it's just in my opinion totally no excuse
18 for it.

19 Now, in regard to the parks, look
20 it, we are all well aware of the city's
21 financial situation, and you know something,
22 the parks are neglected but people are
23 wondering how the city can maintain them,
24 and I really think that what needs to happen
25 in this city is that we ask groups to

1 volunteer to maintain these parks and when
2 we ask them to maintain these parks I think
3 that we should give them a contract to do
4 that and then if they disband then they can
5 terminate, but I think that too often
6 citizens have come forward and then later on
7 they are either thrown out of the park or
8 they have had problems.

9 I just remember the ladies who take
10 care of the park in West Side and they were
11 just tossed out of there and it was wrong,
12 and I think the citizens are willing to
13 maintain these parks. It's where the state
14 park was because I went there and did
15 cleanups there a few times.

16 Now, in regard to the problem with
17 firefighters and police, there is no doubt
18 that we don't have enough firemen or
19 policemen, that's my opinion, you know, like
20 I said, I'm not a firemen, I'm not a
21 policeman, but you know, I just think that
22 if we are spending overtime money to man the
23 firehouses, at least any of them, maybe we
24 should call some of these firefighters back
25 because I thought there was a \$100,000 there

1 for overtime in the budget, I'm not sure if
2 that is true or not, but maybe we should use
3 that money to at least call one or two
4 firemen back and maybe it's a step in the
5 right way, right direction.

6 And as far as grants, look it, I
7 think we need our hands untied, and I know
8 that the city has to follow the rules in
9 dispensing these grants, but we need to be
10 able to use this grant money where we need
11 it now, okay? And, you know, if we can't
12 get our hands tied maybe we can't use the
13 money but it should happen.

14 And in regards to another issue, did
15 the mayor send his plan down to council
16 today?

17 MS. EVANS: The mayor did not send a
18 plan to council, however, I believe that the
19 business administrator forwarded three
20 pieces of legislation to city council's
21 office today for inclusion on next week's
22 agenda for introduction. I am assuming that
23 this legislation reflects at least part of
24 the mayor's plan. I really cannot -- I
25 can't state that it is the entire plan

1 because, of course, as one continues to read
2 the city newspapers it is quite apparent
3 that the administration, for example,
4 intends to order further layoffs and yet
5 those layoffs are not part of the
6 legislation that has been sent to council
7 today.

8 MR. MORGAN: Do you --

9 MS. EVANS: So I'm assuming this
10 must be part of the plan. Did he actually
11 speak with us or send us a plan, no. We
12 have received legislation, I'm assuming it
13 came from -- well, it would have been
14 generated by the legal department and sent
15 to us by the business administrator.

16 MR. MORGAN: Okay, well, would it be
17 possible for me to stop at council and read
18 that before any vote takes place? I would
19 like to know what the mayor is considering?
20 Would that be okay?

21 MS. EVANS: I would think you could
22 do that when Mrs. Krake --

23 MS. KRAKE: We were open up from
24 8:00 to 4:

25 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Well, I mean, it

1 hasn't been introduced or it hasn't been --

2 MS. EVANS: No.

3 MR. MORGAN: -- reviewed, so --

4 MS. EVANS: No, it wasn't provided
5 until this afternoon and the administration
6 is aware that all legislation has to be
7 submitted to council's office by Tuesday at
8 10 a.m. for inclusion on the following
9 Tuesday's agenda.

10 MR. MORGAN: No, look it, I would
11 just like to see it, you know, I would just
12 like to say that I just think that we should
13 proceed extremely slowly and, I mean, I know
14 we are up against the wall, don't
15 misunderstand me, I do understand all of
16 that, but the American Anglican deal didn't
17 work for the city, we have done a lot of
18 other things that haven't worked for the
19 city, and I'm not sure what the plan is, but
20 I think that a lot of the residents would
21 like to know what's going on.

22 Look it, I mean, I have been to a
23 lot of the places in the city and the
24 citizens are really disgusted with the
25 government in total, not just one part, and

1 that's not a criticism of this council, they
2 are just really desperate. They are really
3 disgusted with the PEL, and my own opinion
4 is we need to break away from PEL, and to be
5 bluntly honest with you, I think the State
6 of Pennsylvania needs to come to our rescue
7 to be really more than honest because they
8 have allowed this to continue, and I'm not
9 saying that the mayor took office and the
10 city wasn't in trouble, but the PEL didn't
11 help us and the residents understand that
12 and at least the ones I have spoken to and
13 they just don't want to lose any fire and
14 police protection, they want to feel safe
15 and secure, they want to government that
16 functions for them, and I just hope that the
17 council wouldn't do anymore fire sales of
18 our assets because that may not be the
19 answer because what sense does it make to
20 borrow if you can't pay anybody back?

21 So I just hope you really look at it
22 and I look forward to coming to council for
23 that. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Before I
25 call the next speaker, I did want to comment

1 on one issue that Mr. Morgan raised because
2 as I spoke it triggered a great deal of
3 memories concerning the privatization of the
4 Scranton Sewer Authority under American
5 Anglican.

6 Now, information was written in the
7 paper, perhaps it was today, regarding that
8 particular situation, which was not
9 accurate. The City of Scranton and city
10 council, because I was seated on city
11 council in 2004, when this happened, first
12 of all, council and the City of Scranton
13 never voted to fire American Anglican and
14 hand over control of the Sewer Authority to
15 the Scranton Sewer Authority. At the time I
16 believe three entities were involved in
17 having to vote and if only two of the three
18 approved it then American Anglican would be
19 sent packing and the Scranton Sewer
20 Authority would resume control, and the two
21 entities who approved that were Dunmore and
22 the Sewer Authority itself. Scranton never
23 approved it. Scranton never took a vote on
24 it because it was irrelevant at that point,
25 two of three had already approved.

1 I personally was not in favor of
2 what occurred at that time. I had asked --
3 I met with solicitors who represented the
4 Dunmore Borough, the Scranton Sewer
5 Authority, members of the Dunmore council
6 and that meeting was held right here in our
7 chambers, and I asked Mr. Barrett at the
8 time if before they made this decision had
9 they put the operation or the management, I
10 should say, of the Sewer Authority out to
11 bid because there were quite a number of
12 global institutions -- well, companies, who
13 would have been interested in stepping in.
14 And the answer was, "No, this hasn't been
15 put out to bid."

16 And then I had asked, "Have you at
17 least contacted any other national or global
18 companies who might be interested in taking
19 over the management since you apparently are
20 so dissatisfied with the American Anglican?"

21 And the answer was, "No, we did
22 not."

23 And I was told by Dunmore councilman
24 at the time that, you know, basically I was
25 asking too many questions and this would be

1 the best thing for everybody involved,
2 Dunmore and Scranton. And since that has
3 happened I think we have all seen that the
4 number of the employees at the Scranton
5 Sewer Authority has ballooned and, yes, they
6 are under federal mandates that even private
7 management must adhere to, however, when we
8 have a case where as a speaker mentioned
9 earlier where the Sewer Authority wants to
10 return to court in order to ensure that the
11 highest bidder is hired for their project,
12 thereby costing the ratepayers of Scranton
13 and Dunmore an extra \$2 million, and we have
14 seen so many instances now involving their
15 employes performing work using company
16 equipment on private property and we have
17 seen this ever escalating number of
18 employees over there, really the best thing
19 that could probably happen would be for the
20 Sewer Authority to be privatized and have a
21 professional firm come in because while --
22 at least while American Anglican was here,
23 and this was not noted in the newspaper,
24 employee numbers were not skyrocketing and I
25 don't think that we were faced with quite as

1 many rate increases and as we have been
2 since then and we will be in the future and,
3 yes, their bottom line was financial, but
4 the bottom line for the Scranton Sewer
5 Authority should also be financial and
6 apparently it's not.

7 So I just wanted to add to what
8 Mr. Morgan had said because I felt it was
9 important to refresh everyone's memory to go
10 back to 2004 when this turnover occurred so
11 that, you know, you are not misunderstanding
12 by what you read in the newspaper that
13 American Anglican was unfit and three
14 governing bodies were, you know, whoever
15 they are purporting agreed upon this, well,
16 that didn't occur. So anyway, I just wanted
17 to clarify that I'm sorry for taking so much
18 of your time.

19 Our next speaker, and I apologize to
20 you, is Mike Passaro.

21 MR. PASSARO: Good evening again,
22 Council.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. PASSARO: Mrs. Evans, you and
25 Lee Morgan speaking about the Sewer

1 Authority, it's not really on my list to
2 speak about, but I agree completely about
3 the ballooned work force. How many in this
4 room have gone by a Scranton Sewer Authority
5 worksite and see all the trucks and see one
6 poor laborer in the hole and ten Indian
7 Chiefs, you know, in charge, you know, and
8 on the radios and their cell phones. It
9 just is not something that is proper.

10 I'd like to thank Mr. Miller and
11 Mr. Morgan for backing me up, you know, with
12 their comments concerning the park
13 situation. I think Winston Churchill said,
14 and I'm going to paraphrase, that if you
15 have no enemies you obviously have never
16 spoken passionately or taken anything to
17 heart passionately. I'm sure with the
18 passion that I have for the Lincoln Jackson
19 Park that's proposed I'm going to create
20 some enemies. So be it.

21 Something came up before concerning
22 adoption of parks, I believe Mr. Morgan
23 spoke about that. There is a sign at
24 Fellows Park. I withheld it because it
25 didn't come out properly, but the sign

1 reads, "Adopt a park" and it's an initiative
2 of the City of Scranton and the Scranton
3 Tomorrow. "Fellows Park is proudly
4 maintained by West Scranton High School and
5 Willard Elementary in cooperation with the
6 Scranton Department of Public Works."

7 That's the part that was cut off in
8 my picture, that why I didn't submit it.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. PASSARO: I believe that I have
11 only seen, and please correct me or anyone
12 correct me if I'm wrong, the Fellows Park is
13 only maintained by West Scranton High School
14 and Willard Elementary in the summer months
15 before the July 4th celebration goes on
16 there at the park, when the bandstand is
17 there. Other than that, it's pretty
18 neglected. I go by that park two, three
19 four, five, ten times a day and never seen
20 troops of anyone cleaning anything.

21 Getting back to the school district
22 owning the Lincoln Jackson property right
23 now, they do own it, they did offer it for
24 the city for \$1. That's an extremely sweet,
25 sweet deal for the school district. The

1 onus of demolition, which could possibly run
2 \$225,000 to get it down is going to fall on
3 the city. That would eat up the majority of
4 that \$350,000 grant. Sweet deal for the
5 school district, pawn it off for a dollar
6 instead of offering it to sale for a
7 developer or retrofitter, luxury apartments,
8 condos, whatever.

9 And I just also wanted to speak, I'm
10 kind of all over the map now, but a good
11 friend of mine and neighbor and a recently
12 laid off city police officer and I were
13 speaking and it came up during our
14 conversation that they may go out on one,
15 two, three, four, traffic accidents,
16 domestics, disturbance calls, whatever, and
17 it's their job and that job sticks out for
18 that brief period of time, they move onto
19 the next one because it's their job.

20 For me, if I'm making that call for
21 a domestic problem, for a vandalism problem,
22 for a car accident, it's one of the most
23 important calls that I am making in my life.
24 I'm in a desperate situation when I'm making
25 that phone call, I need those police there.

1 There should be as many police responding as
2 possible.

3 Same thing of the fire department
4 with the layoffs, in closing fire stations.
5 God forbid your home is on fire. That's the
6 most important event that's ever going to
7 happen in your life. A firemen is not going
8 to be able to show up.

9 I think that the mayor needs to get
10 his priorities in whack. Public safety
11 should be number one. It should be the only
12 concern, citizens' safety, and that's all I
13 have, Council. Thank you very much.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is
17 Patty Fowler.

18 MS. FOWLER: Good evening, Council.

19 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MS. FOWLER: My name is Patty
22 Fowler, I'm a city resident and taxpayer and
23 housing inspector for the City of Scranton.
24 Let me just start off by saying I absolutely
25 love my job, and I certainly do hope that I

1 get to keep it into the new year, but that's
2 a conversation for another night.

3 No matter what people may think we
4 do help people every day with what we do.
5 It's not just about calling us about
6 neighbor's garbage in their yard nor getting
7 a neighbor's grass cut, it's also about the
8 helping of people in the tough economic
9 times they are in. People who are unable to
10 pay their utility bills on time get them
11 shut off or a bug infestation and we are
12 seeing much more of that lately than usual.

13 It's about children sitting doing
14 their homework in the dark. Children not
15 being able to bath because the water was
16 shut off or being in a house or apartment
17 that is so filthy and bug infested with some
18 kind of bug these children cannot get away
19 from it or they think that's the usual way
20 to live. Parents may not have any money to
21 pay the utility bills or landlords cannot
22 afford an exterminator. It's in the our job
23 to judge. It's an economic problem.

24 It's my understanding that you are
25 taking \$9,200 away from Condemnation Program

1 for United Neighborhood Centers. I'm here
2 to explain how devastating the loss of that
3 income would be in our department and the
4 work that we do. I understand that the
5 financial pain here goes from July to June,
6 but as I was just told the funding just
7 became available. Tonight Neighborhood
8 Centers has been funding these benefits up
9 until now, the funding is now available.

10 So if United Neighborhood Centers
11 hands us a bill and we pay out all of money,
12 what do we do for the rest of the year? Now
13 that we are getting into the cold season,
14 the heat season, that is one of our worst
15 times of our year. Approximately, you know,
16 December, January, February and March is one
17 of the worst times, you know, worst times of
18 the year.

19 The one kind of condemnation that we
20 do is condemnation of vacant, abandoned
21 buildings. Those condemnations cost the
22 program nothing because we do not house
23 anyone. We simply do that for a number of
24 reasons, but mostly as a precaution for
25 uniformed officers and neighbors and the

1 neighborhood. We pull the power for fire
2 safety issues, obviously, and now with a
3 full -- the water and the gas so they don't
4 freeze in the winter, but it's very
5 important when they get -- when the
6 uniformed officers get to a vacant,
7 abandoned structure that they know it's
8 condemned so that no one should really be in
9 there. If it's condemned they can see the
10 condemned sign on it.

11 If possible, like I said, we also
12 cut the water and the gas in the winter so
13 that the pipes don't freeze and destroy the
14 structure more. The other types of
15 condemnation happen most when there are one
16 or more known utilities in the house or
17 there is an infestation. Utilities may be
18 shut off due to lack of payment by either
19 the tenant or landlord and, like I said, in
20 these tough times we are seeing more of a
21 trend of that more now than ever.

22 Unfortunately, more often than usual
23 there are no judgment in our jobs and our
24 only concern is to help these people.
25 That's what we are there for. It's not up

1 to us to who is the good or bad. Let me
2 just explain to you what happens over the
3 weekend. I was called out to do this --
4 last weekend I was called out by the police
5 on Saturday to a house. The one side of the
6 property was completely filthy and infested
7 an unlivable. The other side of the
8 property had their gas shut off for lack of
9 payment. Understanding that this is not
10 heating season yet we had to condemn th e
11 property anyway for lack of gas because they
12 had no water to bath, shower or clean with.
13 If this was heating season it would have
14 been condemned also for lack of heat.

15 I put up 14 people out of those two
16 houses, it was all one structure, but two
17 different apartments. There were three
18 adults and nine children which would mean
19 approximately five to six rooms. United
20 Neighborhood Center pays a lower amount,
21 they pay \$50 per room for each room that we
22 get, so for that one condemnation on one day
23 of one weekend we paid over \$300, just one
24 condemnation. That's not counting the food
25 vouchers they get and they get other

1 benefits if needed, okay?

2 You know, sometimes they will need a
3 place to move because a condemnation can't
4 be lifted, it would be impossible, so they
5 are entitled to other -- sometimes other
6 benefits.

7 So I'm just really asking what's our
8 plan? What's the game plan if we run out of
9 money? What's the game plan if now the
10 funding has become available and it's
11 \$40,000 and United Neighborhood Centers
12 hands Ms. Aebli a bill for \$42,000,
13 understanding that the city is solely
14 irresponsible for the rest of it -- may I
15 just finish my thought?

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. FOWLER: The city is solely
18 responsible the rest of the bill, so where
19 are we going to get that money from or -- we
20 are not even into the heating season yet.
21 October 15 starts our heating season until
22 March, so where are we getting that money
23 from? It's a very, very, very serious
24 situation.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, evidently -- well,

1 you go first.

2 MR. JOYCE: In the situation where
3 the money was needed I would be under the
4 assumption that we would do a transfer from
5 one account to another in OECD as we have
6 done in the past. Now, with that in mind, I
7 know that I was taking lot of notes down
8 when the various folks spoke about some of
9 the CDBG funding for 2012, and I remember it
10 was actually Mrs. Schumacher that stated
11 according to the Caper we still had \$68,000
12 left to draw from in that account.

13 MS. FOWLER: That's great news.

14 MR. JOYCE: Now, what I would like
15 to know is exactly, just to confirm this
16 with Ms. Aebli, Mrs. Krake, if you could
17 send a letter over to Ms. Aebli or contact
18 her and ask her specifically what is in the
19 account for that specific item?

20 MS. FOWLER: Now, in days gone by,
21 and many years ago, we would actually go
22 after who the inspector felt the
23 responsibility laid upon, the tenant or
24 landlord. However, we don't do that
25 anymore. It's no one's fault. There is

1 just not enough clerical to do the jobs that
2 are there now. But, you know, that would be
3 an option to do, but again, there's no one
4 to do it. It's kind of like, you know, the
5 other programs that have been put in place
6 have kind of fallen by the wayside. I thank
7 you for the opportunity. Thank you.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. And if I may
9 interrupt again, Mrs. Krake, if you could
10 please include in that letter or
11 conversation, whichever you choose to engage
12 in, what was spent in 2009 and 2010. Okay,
13 that's all.

14 MS. EVANS: Actually, Councilman
15 Joyce said precisely what I was going to
16 say, although, I couldn't remember the
17 number that Mrs. Schumacher had cited, but I
18 was listening and trying to take notes,
19 unfortunately, you were speaking more
20 quickly than I was able, but I did note what
21 you had said just listening to you about the
22 availability of those funds, and in all
23 honesty there very likely would be
24 availability of funding in quite a number of
25 these allocation areas that have not been

1 used in the past, and that's why Councilman
2 Joyce said that a transfer can occur if
3 necessary, he is absolutely correct, but
4 that transfer will require the approval of
5 Scranton City Council.

6 MR. JOYCE: In fact, we did it for
7 the additions to paving recently.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. And my concern
9 though was, I think what I heard people
10 saying tonight who are involved in either
11 United Neighborhood Centers or OECD, is that
12 this program is exclusively for the renters
13 so my question is then what happens to the
14 homeowners, single families, homeowners, who
15 are -- whose homes are condemned by the city
16 and they are put out into the street? Does
17 that program address their situation as
18 well? I don't know, but I can say
19 throughout my experience on city council I
20 have received calls from individuals who
21 were evicted from their homes by the city's
22 LIPS Department and no type of housing or
23 food vouchers or anything of that nature was
24 provided to them. They basically were in
25 the street or at the mercy of a relative, so

1 I'm just wondering if the city recently has
2 included the homeowner as well as the renter
3 in this program.

4 And I think, too, you know, and I
5 don't want to belabor the point, but if you
6 are looking at the homeowner and there is no
7 assistance for the homeowner then I think
8 you should be that much more careful when
9 condemning a property, you know, in terms of
10 who is in there, who has the ability to fix
11 this in the amount of time that, you know,
12 that office is providing, etcetera, maybe we
13 have occasions where condemnations are
14 occurring and they really shouldn't be.

15 So with that said, I'm going to call
16 up the woman who helped us in this
17 particular issue, Marie Schumacher.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. Again,
19 Marie Schumacher. I was pleased to hear
20 Patty say that they are now shutting off all
21 the utilities, I will never forget Paul
22 Mealie's appearance before city council
23 several years ago where he was -- his home
24 was condemned for an infestation of fleas
25 and only part of the utilities were shut off

1 which caused a frozen pipe and I think
2 ultimately the whole house was bad, so that
3 was really good to hear.

4 Back to the neighborhood police
5 patrol for just a minute, reading from the
6 monitoring report out of the Philadelphia it
7 said, "The city is planning," and this is a
8 quote, "Is planning an expansion of the
9 neighborhood police patrol beginning in
10 2011. The number of positions is expected
11 to increase from 5 to 13 and the patrol will
12 be operated from automobiles. This change
13 eliminates the biggest distinction between
14 the neighborhood police patrol and the
15 regular police. It creates a major risk
16 that Scranton will at some time cut back on
17 the number of regular police."

18 So the reason, obviously, that the
19 police vehicles don't qualify is that's the
20 discriminating factor. The neighborhood
21 police patrols typically use foot or
22 bicycles or motor bikes and so that's the
23 line of demarkation.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, the I believe they
25 are saying, yes, that that's what they

1 typically do and that's why, you know, a red
2 flag went up here, but just as the police
3 officers themselves must be closely
4 supervised and there has to be specific
5 documentation daily on where they have been
6 and what their duties have been so that they
7 remain within a certain assigned low to
8 moderate income area, which is basically
9 being policed or supervised by a member of
10 the police department, those vehicles would
11 have to be documented as well that they are
12 being used only --

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Only, and I
14 understand low to moderate income areas,
15 yes, I definitely understand that.

16 Next, I would like to know if there
17 is a date available for PEL to transmit the
18 Recovery Plan that was to be based on the
19 2011 budget when I believe it was last year
20 prior to the budget that that was the
21 commitment that was made. We really
22 desperately need a multi-year budget and the
23 only way I see that happening is through PEL
24 with their new Recovery plan and we need to
25 get that brought forward and made public as

1 fast as we can. So maybe Mr. Joyce will
2 have some information on that tonight, I
3 don't know.

4 Also, Mr. Loscombe isn't here this
5 evening, but I will ask the question and
6 then I'll e-mail Ms. Carrera tomorrow and
7 she could transmit it to him on whether or
8 not he has the ability to inquire of the
9 police department as to whether there is a
10 finite number of police calls during a
11 specified time period that puts a bar into
12 the nuisance bar categories. I ask this as
13 it seems not a week goes by that there is
14 not an incident at the Coliseum Bar on
15 Adam's Avenue that makes the newspaper, so I
16 just would like to know whether that's a --
17 if there is a finite rule.

18 Next, the 300 -- getting back to the
19 Weston Trust Grant, this one is really
20 personal to me because back when I first
21 arrived back in Scranton the mayor had taken
22 out the \$72 million bond and included in
23 that was a quarter of a million dollars for
24 improvements at Robinson Park. The
25 improvements at Robinson Park didn't happen

1 and the reason given by the mayor from his
2 mouth at a neighborhood association meeting
3 prior to his second reelection -- second
4 reelection was that they ran out of money at
5 Weston -- what was being done at Weston
6 Field because they expected a grant from the
7 Weston Trust Fund and it had not come
8 through, so they took the money from -- that
9 was hoped to be used at Robinson park.

10 So it seems to me that that \$300,000
11 should not have gone into the operating
12 budget, but it should have gone back or
13 stayed in Parks and Rec on and they should
14 have done the Robinson Park improvements
15 that were planned back in, I don't know,
16 2002, 2003.

17 Now, I did have it maybe a couple of
18 days ago and part of it seems to have been
19 done. There was a -- one of the items to be
20 done was an expansion of the parking area so
21 that two rows of cars could park, and I
22 didn't measure it but it appears it has been
23 recently resurfaced and widened, so perhaps
24 at least that part has been done, which
25 certainly would be helpful.

1 Next, and this one is a bit of a
2 nit, although, I think we have got to find a
3 better way to accept donations for the
4 special funds that have been setup, I always
5 read the legal notices daily and I noticed
6 there was a legal notice regarding a \$50
7 donation that had been made for I believe it
8 was the fire and police fund, and I called
9 the Times-Tribune and asked what a
10 municipality pays for a legal ad and I did
11 the calculation and I think the cost of the
12 ad came out to something like \$145 to accept
13 a \$50 gift doesn't make a whole lot of
14 sense, so I hope we can find a better way to
15 accept those without incurring more costs.
16 And I guess the rest I'll save for next
17 week. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Our next
19 speaker is Ron Ellman.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Council, this shirt is
21 like a kangaroo pouch over here, I love this
22 shirt. Last Thursday night I was upstairs
23 and watching my little seven inch black and
24 white TV because Miss Rosie got the big one
25 and she brought the phone upstairs and said,

1 "Johnnie Superstar says it's important he
2 talk to you. It's about --"

3 Well, anyway, so I say, "John,
4 what's up," you know.

5 He said, "There is a Ronnie
6 impersonator down here."

7 I said, "Well, where are you?"

8 He said, "I'm at Murphy's and there
9 is a fundraiser for the commissioners and
10 there is Ronnie impersonator."

11 I said, "I'll be there in two
12 minutes."

13 You know, this is identity theft,
14 that is terrible. So I go down there and
15 confront the man and, of course, he buys me
16 a beer and then a few other people bought me
17 a beer and stay away from them, it was all
18 forgotten, he is a married man and a pillar
19 of the community, I guess, but I think next
20 time I will prosecute a Ronnie impersonator.

21 I saw last week in the editorial
22 page another attack on council. You know,
23 Mr. Doherty would probably be Times "Man of
24 the Year" if it weren't for council. He
25 just, you know, his only -- I have said it

1 before, his only way to have made it being a
2 mayor is to have a good administration and
3 his administration stinks. Not all of it,
4 but as a whole his is a very poor
5 administration.

6 I am trying to weigh my words. I
7 read in the -- I forgot what day it was,
8 Linda Aebli from the United Neighbors
9 Center, the executive director, she said
10 that we need to cut more expense to the fire
11 and police. For what? You know what her
12 office does? It helps people from condemned
13 houses and most condemned houses if you talk
14 to anyone it's usually the tenant's fault
15 the house is condemned, but these aren't
16 like Section 8 houses or something, if
17 someone can take care of themselves up to
18 then they can continually take care of
19 themselves, but this woman's ridiculous
20 irresponsible statement saying that we need
21 less police and firemen to give her money,
22 you know, I think her mouth shot off about
23 an hour before her brain engaged.

24 This is -- this is the kind of the
25 people in the Doherty administration. Very,

1 very poor. I guess she didn't read that one
2 of the firemen laid off helped those people
3 in the house, actually saved them, you know.
4 I just can't understand something being said
5 like that from a person. What we need to do
6 is fire Ms. Linda, and get rid of her office
7 and use the money to pay some bills. This
8 is an office that we sure don't need.

9 When is the mayor planning to sell
10 some property next? I was just wondering
11 what is left, you know, every time something
12 is sold or every time we get a grant no one
13 knows where the money went. Like a few
14 weeks ago I mentioned that we got a grant
15 two or three years ago to work on that
16 bridge, I forget that street where the truck
17 went off during the winter, where the bridge
18 is out, we got grant money to repair that
19 bridge. Nobody says where the money is.
20 The bridge wasn't never fixed. It's just an
21 ongoing situation around here.

22 The money from the golf course out
23 there, it just dwindled away, nobody can
24 account for it. This man does a worse job
25 with his budget than I do, but you know, at

1 the bottom of the steps those two statutes,
2 I'd like to make a bid for them when he
3 starts selling stuff, you know? Thank you.

4 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
5 anyone else who would like to address
6 council?

7 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie
8 Stulgis and I live in the city where
9 fireworks are more important than public
10 safety. I'm here for a lot of reasons
11 tonight. I don't know where to begin. Last
12 Sunday night, like most other people, I
13 watched a lot of shows reminding us of how
14 fast something horrible can happen and how
15 unexpectedly. What I found even more
16 difficult, as if that wasn't hard enough,
17 was the fact that many of the shows were
18 dedicated to our current first responders,
19 police, firefighters and EMT's and one
20 announcer said it's because that every day
21 they leave their homes and they leave their
22 families and deep down they know they may
23 not get home, and it actually made me really
24 sad to say I'm live in Scranton where public
25 safety means nothing and public safety

1 officers means little.

2 And just as an example, it's not
3 important to have police officers on the
4 streets, we can lose 13 of them and do more
5 with less, so they say, but if you are a
6 police officer in Scranton and you put your
7 sunglasses on your head you are going to get
8 written up and risk suspension because
9 that's a priority in the City of Scranton
10 where you put your sunglasses. That, my
11 friends, should say it all.

12 And if that's not enough, they have
13 also cut back on what calls they are
14 responding to. Oh, you won't hear that,
15 just like you won't hear a dispatcher come
16 over the air and say, "We don't have any
17 cars to respond to that call."

18 They are not allowed to do that
19 anymore. There is a new order. The
20 dispatchers have a certain protocol they
21 have to follow. Now, they have to call the
22 supervisor because the public was finding
23 out what was really going on.

24 Also, my daughter-in-law, who is
25 seven months pregnant, had her little dog

1 out for a walk in front of the house today,
2 and she was attacked by two viscous huge
3 dogs that a woman walks regularly and she
4 can't control. It's not the first time it's
5 happened with those dogs and, unfortunately,
6 it's not going to be last. And I called,
7 because I wanted a police report because
8 when those dogs seriously hurt or God forbid
9 kill someone, and they are big enough, there
10 has got it be a trail to show that these
11 dogs have caused problems before. Only you
12 know what I found out? Police don't respond
13 to those calls anymore. I called twice. I
14 called at 1:21 this afternoon and I called
15 again at 2:13. When I left my house at five
16 after six, no one had responded because it's
17 not an important call anymore. We don't
18 need to report those things. We don't need
19 to know that there are dogs or anybody else
20 out there that is going to hurt anyone.
21 That's very sad.

22 I also want to take a minute to
23 share with you a letter that the mayor
24 wrote, just a part of it, this was when he
25 ran the last time when he said he was

1 disappointed that the stream of
2 misinformation and political posturing, that
3 was meant for Dave Gervasi, other
4 firefighters, myself, and other police
5 officers, who came here and told the truth.
6 He goes onto say that, "The City of Scranton
7 has absolutely no plans to shut down
8 firehouses or engine companies or trucks.
9 To say otherwise is misleading and downright
10 false."

11 In fact it goes onto say that he is
12 going to hire five more firefighters per
13 shift. Now, let me ask you, who is not
14 telling the truth, Mayor Doherty or the
15 people that came here that were abused
16 horribly by the Scranton Times in their
17 editorials calling it scare tactics and
18 everything else, well, guess what? As we
19 speak right now Engine 15 on Ash Street
20 isn't working, they are out of service.
21 Engine 10 for East Mountain is out of
22 service. Truck 4 is out of service. God
23 forbid we have a serious fire at East
24 Mountain or Bunker Hill I want to know who
25 is going to respond, and I don't want to

1 hear that there is no time difference in
2 response because only a fool would believe
3 that.

4 One more point I want to make, we
5 lost 21 public safety employees two weeks
6 ago, three weeks ago, 21. The mayor said
7 that if we didn't vote for his Recovery Plan
8 he would have to increase taxes. The union
9 said he is going to lay off cops and firemen
10 and he is going to increase your taxes.

11 Increased the property taxes 26
12 percent, he laid off cops and firemen. If
13 we had a real Scranton Times newspaper, you
14 would have ready that this the paper, not
15 the trite and the common state stories that
16 they persist in bringing acting as the
17 mayor's PR team.

18 Do you realize that we spent three
19 times more to put a chain link fence around
20 a lot in South Side and call it a dog park
21 than this mayor is saving by laying off 21
22 public safety employees? That's
23 frightening. And one more think, he spent
24 more on garbage cans and planters than he is
25 saving getting rid of 21 public safety

1 people.

2 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there
4 anyone else who would like to address
5 council?

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
7 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton,
8 taxpayer. One thought occurred to me on
9 some of these layoffs and all of these
10 overtime issues that if there is any
11 potential, and you would have to do it
12 through the unions of job sharing and
13 possibly scheduling to get people in that
14 are unemployed and give them some at least
15 part-time work and I think it would be a big
16 help. To work somebody else to death and
17 call them out where they can't even sit down
18 on a Sunday afternoon or something and they
19 are called out to a fire and then have
20 somebody else laid off, that doesn't strike
21 me as that productive.

22 And Dave Gervasi mentioned about
23 that insurance and I'm sure he is going to
24 stay on it or through the federal government
25 where they could get subsidies for high cost

1 insurance employees and we really need it.
2 I mean, that could be a big help in keeping
3 people on.

4 And as far as these debts are
5 concerned, I'd love to see a major
6 investigation by somebody, maybe even
7 outside of Pennsylvania or we already need a
8 few FBI agents around here.

9 And I have been writing little
10 things down as we go here. When Ozzie Quinn
11 and I were talking one day he mentioned that
12 West Scranton is included in Murphy's
13 district and as a result he represents
14 Clarks Summit and that brings the wages way
15 up, the average income of the house way up,
16 and that disqualifies parts of West Scranton
17 and so that's something we might want to
18 look in especially with redistricting and
19 things going on. We don't need to have a
20 town six or eight miles away averaged into
21 incomes in West Scranton because the incomes
22 certainly are not excessive in West
23 Scranton.

24 And the only thing I would like to
25 mention on privatizing anything, if the

1 official figures, and now this has to be
2 properly run authority, is supposed to be
3 able to deliver the same services for a
4 dollar that cost a 1.80 or something like
5 that from private industry, so if we can get
6 them straightened out we are actually
7 supposed to be getting a breakout of these
8 people and not a financial kick in the gut.

9 And I guess the man's name is
10 Fitzgerald, all right, go over to the 1100
11 block of Crown Avenue and take a look at
12 Harriet Beecher Stowe and I don't know of
13 any complaints, I walked around the
14 neighborhood, they turned it into apartment
15 houses, it was formerly a storage unit for
16 20 or 30 years, the man had trailers parked
17 in the yard. Even a towing company, a man
18 that owns a towing company was complaining
19 about the mess. I mean, this guy owns a
20 towing company and he is complaining about
21 the junk cars and everything in this guy's
22 industrial yards, so I don't know of any
23 complaints about the people from Harriet
24 Beecher Stowe. I may hear them some day,
25 but the only complaint I heard was the

1 apartment house didn't want to let the kids
2 from the neighborhood play in their
3 playground and that was allegedly resolved.
4 I see the kids in their playing, other than
5 kids from the neighborhood. So it's really
6 -- it was fixed up very well, and obviously,
7 this Lincoln Jackson School is in way better
8 shape because everything was falling down in
9 the Harriet Beecher Stowe.

10 And I don't know, has anybody been
11 over Moosic Street? I'm sure you have been,
12 Mr. McGoff, right? Moosic Street? The
13 lovely paving job we had.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MR. DOBRZYN: In the 800 block, and
16 that's been one of my complaints for years
17 is our fine utilities come in and they dig
18 and they don't fix it back to original
19 specs. I mean, this street was just paved
20 by PennDOT and if you go up the East
21 Mountain lane towards the top of Moosic
22 Street you will hit a bounce. It was paved
23 a month ago. It was an impeccable job, the
24 curbs were all fixed for wheelchair friendly
25 people and everything and now I can see

1 around the edges where the edge of the pave
2 it hasn't been sealed and there is little
3 piece of asphalt missing, six months from
4 now it will be a big piece of asphalt and
5 we'll get to pay for it out of our own
6 pockets if we ever want to fix it.

7 And on the post office, just a
8 second more. Back in 2006, the Congress
9 required our post office to fund the pension
10 funds and medical care out to 75 years
11 within the next ten, so at this point that
12 is what is happening to our post office and
13 they are being required to come up with a
14 ridiculous amount of money and stick it into
15 savings and they don't have the money to
16 operate it anymore and how can the country
17 call itself a country without a post office?
18 I have been taking my mail right to the
19 local drop off point just to preserve the
20 post office box that we have in our
21 neighborhood, so I don't have to run 50
22 miles to the next post office box or another
23 mile or whatever, so I'll give the golden
24 parrot to our Congress for coming up with
25 that regulation that they have to fund the

1 post office pension for people that weren't
2 any born yet. Bawk, bawk, bawk. Have a
3 good night.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake,
5 if you could please send a letter to the
6 paving inspector regarding the 800 block of
7 Moosic Street and if, indeed, the utility
8 has caused this problem with a freshly paved
9 street then they are required to return it
10 to it's proper condition and would you
11 please look into this and then report back
12 to us. Thank you. Is there anyone else who
13 cares to address council?

14 MR. NEARHOOD: Should we wait until
15 we have a quorum?

16 MS. EVANS: I don't think you need
17 to.

18 MR. NEARHOOD: Good evening, members
19 of council. My name is Ray Nearhood and I'm
20 a Scranton resident and one of the issues,
21 Mrs. Evans, I wanted to address first was
22 just on a little side from your earlier
23 comments, I noticed that you had three
24 people who you were sending letters to with
25 regard to the newspaper -- I'm sorry, the

1 post office.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. NEARHOOD: To Mr. Barletta and
4 Mr. Marino and Mr. Casey, I would also
5 suggest that you send a letter to
6 Mr. Toomey.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes, thank you.

8 MR. NEARHOOD: I think we should get
9 both of our US senators, not just one.

10 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Thank you.
11 Mrs. Krake, if we could add Mr. Toomey as
12 well, please.

13 MR. NEARHOOD: You know, one of the
14 interesting things is I served in local
15 government in the Lehigh Valley as a city
16 business administrator for the City of
17 Easton, and one of the ways that the Lehigh
18 Valley has been very successful in bringing
19 in not only industry, but as well as why
20 you're interceding with the post office is
21 the cities that worked together. The three
22 cities would quarterly meet with the mayors
23 and their staffs and there was also a very
24 strong public private partnership across
25 both counties, Lehigh and North Hampton, and

1 that goes a long way to helping attract and
2 to maintain and to keep businesses and
3 government facilities.

4 Now, I have been sitting here this
5 evening and I have been listening to
6 comments with regard to financial records
7 that folks have been asking for, Mr. Joyce I
8 think asked for it from the CDBG Office and
9 wanted to know what the amount was left in
10 the accounts, and I think you requested
11 something which you said the business
12 administrator wouldn't provide to you which
13 deals with financial records as well.

14 What amazes me is I'm wondering
15 about this city doing what we do and coming
16 toward election time is that the city has,
17 as I see it, seven elected officials,
18 possibly eight if you want to count the tax
19 collector of the Single Tax Office. We have
20 five part-time city council members and we
21 have two elected -- two full-time elected
22 officials, the mayor and the city
23 controller. The city controller's position
24 is to control all of the expenditures and
25 finances of the city. Essentially, is the

1 chief financial officer, and as I listened
2 to council meetings and others it makes me
3 scratch my head wondering why no one is
4 requesting these records from the chief
5 financial officer of the city of the person
6 who is supposed to be keeping the city's
7 accounting and the city's accounting
8 records, the official records of the city
9 with regard to finances.

10 The city controller's office should
11 be able to provide you very simply what the
12 amount is left in this CDBG account because
13 the city controller's office should be
14 maintaining not only those records but the
15 accounting of that particular system.

16 You have requested a report from the
17 city business administrator which by rights
18 should be in the City Controller's Office
19 and if a city mayor or any other city
20 official refuses to give that type of
21 information to the city controller she does
22 have subpoena power. It is a very powerful
23 position. And as I listened to folks come
24 up here and say, "We don't know where the
25 money went to here or there," once again,

1 that is the function of the city
2 controller's office. It is to maintain the
3 accounting records and to be able to answer
4 any questions anyone should have with regard
5 to the finances of this city and where money
6 is going and where money is coming from.

7 If you want records from the city
8 Parking Authority, if there are monies there
9 which are -- should be coming to the city,
10 the city controller should be able to tell
11 you where they are and should be able to
12 give you the records with regard to those.

13 I understand Mrs. Novembrino, the
14 city controller, is a very nice woman. I
15 have heard that repeatedly, but I also
16 wonder as I sit in this and I'm doing what
17 I'm doing, which is obviously I am running
18 for that position, wondering why does no one
19 know what the city controller does? Why is
20 the city on the verge of bankruptcy and
21 nobody asks the chief financial officer of
22 in city why it's almost on the verge of
23 bankruptcy?

24 Those questions I don't hear. Why
25 is Mrs. Novembrino as city controller not

1 asked to come here and talk to city council
2 and inform you of the city's finances to
3 answer your questions with regard to all of
4 these records, to answer your questions with
5 regard to the accounting system.

6 Mrs. Evans, if I can one second?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. NEARHOOD: I have one more
9 question of you. At the meeting I was to
10 here in August you pointed out, you said
11 there are four people in the Public Works
12 Department who are being employed who were
13 not budgeted for, they were specifically not
14 budgeted for.

15 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

16 MR. NEARHOOD: Now, I'm not going to
17 get into an argument whether they are needed
18 or not needed, that isn't the question, the
19 question is very simply this, if the
20 appropriations is not in the budget how is
21 the city controller continuing to pay them?
22 Because, remember, the city controller's
23 signature goes on every check in this city,
24 goes on every expenditure in this city.
25 Nothing can be spent, nothing can come in

1 without the city controller being involved
2 in it, so why and how is the city controller
3 signing those checks? She has no
4 authorization. That is simply a ministerial
5 duty is required not to sign those checks
6 and not to allow these individuals to be
7 paid. If they are critical then it is
8 necessary that not the controller making
9 that decision, but that decision being made
10 between the mayor and the city council on
11 the appropriations made, then the controller
12 is allowed to make those expenditures,
13 otherwise, she is prohibited from doing so.

14 So I would ask her, not the mayor,
15 how are they being paid? And any other
16 expenditure that is being made that is not
17 appropriated how are those expenditures
18 being made? And, you know, once again, like
19 I said, I am running for the city
20 controller's position and, therefore, I am
21 very concerned about and wonder about all of
22 the things that I'm seeing and I scratch my
23 head and I say, "I have worked in cities
24 throughout Pennsylvania, this kind of amazes
25 me." Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

3 MS. SOFKA: Good evening, city
4 council.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MS. SOFKA: My name is Jamie Sofka
7 and I'm a resident of the City of Scranton.
8 I come before you this evening to speak out
9 against the proposed request of federal
10 grant money that the city is seeking to
11 change the old Lincoln Jackson School to a
12 park. 632. That's the amount of steps from
13 Lincoln Jackson to Fellows Park. 523.
14 That's the amount of steps from Lincoln
15 Jackson to Novembrino Pool Complex. 747.
16 That's the amount of steps from Lincoln
17 Jackson to the skate park in West Side.

18 With such a short distance between
19 all of these parks within a five to six
20 block radius of Lincoln Jackson, it boggles
21 my mind that the city is looking to obtain
22 this building in order to tear it down and
23 build another park. I believe that council
24 and the administration should think hard
25 about applying for federal grant money to

1 build a park. Our track record on securing
2 and grant money is not exactly compliant
3 lately.

4 I took a small walk today to Fellows
5 Park from Lincoln Jackson, a total of 632
6 steps. When I arrived at Fellows Park I was
7 appalled by the condition of the park.
8 There is garbage which litters the ground,
9 the play set, picnics tables and bench are
10 riddled with graffiti. This graffiti is
11 lewd in nature. The slide has a large
12 gaping hole in it which renders it useless
13 to children to slide down.

14 In the garbage that's littered on
15 the ground there are many empty cigar
16 wrappers. To give you some insight or what
17 these cigar wrappers are actually used for,
18 the juvenile and adults take the tobacco out
19 and put marijuana in it and then smoke it,
20 and this is what is riddled in our parks.

21 This is park is rarely, if ever,
22 utilized by small children to play.
23 Instead, it is being used as a hangout for
24 juveniles to participate in illegal
25 activity. I personally would not bring my

1 dogs there to urinate, let alone any small
2 children.

3 Mr. McGoff seems to be very
4 interested in parks and he stood up here and
5 spoke last week -- or he sat up there and
6 spoke about parks and how he brings his
7 family members to the local parks. I would
8 ask him if he would like to bring his
9 grandson to the park that he was shown
10 pictures tonight. I'm sure that he
11 wouldn't.

12 Next, I'd like to bring our
13 attention to the skate park on Jackson
14 Street. The park was littered with garbage
15 and gang graffiti, it was on all the park
16 walls and slides. It became a haven for
17 local gang activity such as the G-Squad,
18 formerly known as 570, to set up their
19 criminal enterprise. It was the scene of
20 many beatings to other juveniles and a place
21 littered with unwanted activities. The
22 police had many encounters at this park.
23 The residents stood up and started the
24 neighborhood watch and to the best of their
25 ability, along with the police, they have

1 cleaned it up. This should not have been
2 their plight, however. Putting a park in a
3 low to moderate area makes it a haven for
4 illegal activity, as we are all well aware.

5 Now, let's turn our attention to the
6 Novembrino Pool, which did not open this
7 year. It's a nightmare for the residents
8 who live around it. Each day the pool is
9 open the police are called at least once, if
10 not several times a day, to deal with
11 juveniles fighting, gang activity, loitering
12 and littering. The city is now looking for
13 grant money to change it to a splash park.
14 Hopefully, if they do get the money, and it
15 is used appropriately, parents will feel
16 safe to bring their children back there.
17 However, if I had small children that is not
18 the place that I would bring them.

19 Now, let's turn to Lincoln Jackson.
20 The city is looking to file for federal
21 grant money to tear down the school and make
22 it a park. The city cannot even own this
23 building for another year, but yet they feel
24 like they need to get this grant money for
25 2012. Well, in early May I happened to be

1 in a local diner in West Scranton and I
2 overheard a developer say that he wanted to
3 buy the building. He said that to appease
4 the residents in West Scranton he would make
5 it a housing complex for elderly people or
6 people 55 and older, actually. I thought
7 how great that would be, it would fit in
8 right with our neighborhood.

9 Well, I found out now that is not
10 the case as someone from the administration
11 has told the developer to back off, that is
12 going to be a park. That's hard for me to
13 hear as a taxpayer of the city. A park does
14 not always add value, it does not collect
15 taxes, which would help with our deficit.

16 For the last three years or even
17 longer this area of West Scranton has gotten
18 worse. We have a definite gang presence
19 whether or not the mayor wants to admit it.
20 The tag 570 can be seen on all the parks I
21 have mentioned along with businesses in the
22 area. This is a gang logo, which now the
23 G-Squad. Recently there was an article in
24 the paper that two members were arrested for
25 the beating of a Dominoes' delivery man.

1 Those two people who were arrested were
2 members of our 570 gang or G-Squad,
3 whichever name they are going by today.
4 That is very disheartening to me that these
5 people were involved in such a heinous
6 crime. And one of the places that they
7 liked to frequent was Lincoln Jackson Park.

8 Maybe Lincoln Jackson Park could be
9 dangerous to the residents who reside
10 thereby. The school is rarely utilized by
11 young children. The park would further
12 encourage criminal activity in the area.
13 Mr. Mayor, I ask, would you like a haven for
14 criminal activity in your backyard? I think
15 not. Please do not put it in ours. I think
16 the time of council and the mayor could be
17 better utilized by fixing our deficit and
18 not arguing over parks. I thank you for
19 your time.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening again,
21 Council. Bill Jackowitz, South Scranton
22 resident.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: I also am curious as
25 to why our city controller, Roseann

1 Novembrino, has never been held accountable
2 for anything really. Why hasn't she ever
3 been invited in to a city council meeting
4 and for her to bring all her records and
5 documentations with her? And, you know, she
6 is an elected official so she is not only
7 the controller of the Honorable Mayor
8 Doherty because she is an elected official
9 elected by the citizens of Scranton. She
10 should have all of the records and
11 documentation where all of the money has
12 gone, what's it's been spent on, how it's
13 been spent and so on and so forth.

14 Instead of city council getting all
15 the blame all the time maybe the newspaper
16 and the news media and the citizens should
17 concentrate more on our city controller's
18 office, and I would really like to see city
19 council invite her into -- or correction, to
20 attend a city council meeting and let's have
21 like an hour, an hour and a half caucus,
22 because there is a lot to be answered for
23 and have her bring her records and
24 documentations with her so we can know where
25 the money has been spent.

1 Also, I disagree with what was said
2 last week by Councilman McGoff. Someone is
3 accountable and responsible for the mess
4 that the City of Scranton is in. That
5 someone is Mayor Doherty, Roseann
6 Novembrino, and past city council members,
7 Murphy, Pocius, McTiernan, Gilhooley,
8 Gatelli, Fanucci, McGoff, all of these
9 people who have voted right along step with
10 the mayor for the last ten years.

11 The mayor is responsible for us, for
12 Anglican water company and us paying them 5
13 1/2 million. No one else, the mayor is
14 responsible for that. The mayor is
15 responsible for the 100 people he laid off
16 his first year in office, no one else is
17 responsible or accountable for that. The
18 mayor is responsible for the layoff of 21
19 police officers and firefighters, nobody
20 else. The mayor and city council, McGoff,
21 Fanucci and Gatelli are responsible for
22 raising taxes 26 percent. I mean, I could
23 go on and on and on.

24 You know, someone is responsible,
25 someone is accountable. Is now the time to

1 put blame? Probably not. Speakers have
2 been coming up here for years, Nelson, Andy,
3 Ozzie, Marie, Dave, I mean, they have been
4 coming up for years and saying that this is
5 going to happen. We were ignored. Council
6 members sitting there holding their heads
7 up, council members read, we had two council
8 woman who ate and chewed gum and carried on
9 conversations while speakers were speaking,
10 they are responsible and they are
11 accountable because they voted.

12 You cannot run or hide from your
13 voting record. Your voting record is
14 permanent. It will always be there. When
15 you vote to cut firefighters and police
16 officers your voting record is there. When
17 you vote to raise taxes, what did the tax
18 raise do? By raising taxes 20 percent did
19 it help the city? Did it get the city out
20 of distressed status? No. Did it improve
21 services? No.

22 It's just like PEL. PEL is
23 responsible, Pennsylvania Economy league,
24 because they have done absolutely nothing
25 for 20 years except steal the taxpayers'

1 money. That's all they have done. Governor
2 Rendell, he is responsible. We can go on
3 and on and on. I want you to, you know,
4 accountable and responsibility. Sergeant
5 Dakota Meyer was just awarded the medal of
6 honor this past week by President Obama.
7 You know what that man did? He held up to
8 his responsibilities and accountability. He
9 didn't run from it. He was shot at, him
10 along with his sergeant, was shot at over
11 2,000 times. They went in there five times.
12 The helicopter pilots couldn't believe what
13 they saw. They kept going back and going
14 back. Sergeant Meyers stated that he was
15 willing to die and ready to die and so was
16 the other sergeant who was with him who
17 drove the vehicle.

18 Sergeant Meyers manned the machine
19 gun, and I tell you what, they did their job
20 and they held up and they were responsible
21 and accountable for their actions. I'm
22 asking Mayor Doherty and his band of merry
23 men and women to stand up, be a man and
24 admit that they are responsible for the
25 financial disaster that they have placed the

1 City of Scranton in, but not only the
2 financial disaster, but the public safety
3 disaster that people like Mr. McGoff who
4 have voted to cut police officers and
5 firefighters, he has been against police
6 officers and firefighters from the
7 beginning, but yet he supports Chief Davis
8 who has a 93 percent no confidence vote.

9 MR. MCGOFF: I never --

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: Please do not
11 interrupt me, Mr. McGoff, you will have your
12 time when it is your time. Right now it is
13 my time and, yes, look at your record it's a
14 matter of public.

15 MR. MCGOFF: I never voted --

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Pull up your record.
17 You voted against the firefighters and
18 police officers every single time. You can
19 play with words all you want, read your
20 record. I have --

21 MR. MCGOFF: No, you haven't.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: -- and I have been
23 here for these meetings, and you know what,
24 you couldn't tie Sergeant Meyer's boots.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Just for clarification

1 sake, I never voted for cutbacks in public
2 safety. Apparently what you have read you
3 didn't comprehend very well.

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Frankie.

5 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy.

6 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Look at those
7 glasses. You look good in those. Janet, we
8 got whipped back. We got whipped good.
9 13-13. West is still the best, right, Pat?
10 Remember that.

11 MR. ROGAN: That's right.

12 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Good luck, boys.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chrissy.

14 MR. JOYCE: Sorry, West is best.

15 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.

16 Nelson Ancherani, resident and taxpayer and
17 recording secretary of the FOP, First
18 Amendment Rights. Just a reminder, I
19 arrived at the end of Mrs. Evans speaking
20 about American Anglican. That American
21 Anglican debacle cost ratepayers 56 percent
22 rate hike. We are going to pay that
23 forever. As long as we pay sewer bills, we
24 are going to be paying that 56 percent rate
25 hike forever.

1 Well, reading the slimes tabloid it
2 looks like the city partnered with PEL
3 again, PEL carries the water for them.
4 Looks like it's going to be a game of
5 chicken to see who flinches first, the city
6 or council. It should be interesting. Two
7 monster trains on the same track racing
8 towards each other at 90 miles per hour.
9 Who flinches?

10 PEL on one train with the city
11 backing the multi-million dollar loan to
12 plug the 8.2 million projected deficit for
13 2011. Tax increases. On the other, city
14 council fighting for saving taxpayers' money
15 getting the blame for the 8.2 million
16 deficit. Who is going to flinch, council or
17 the city?

18 Stay strong, Council. Who wins?
19 Actually, no one. The losers are the
20 taxpayers. The taxpayers reborrow 8.2
21 million or more or less, it just gets added
22 to the 310 million plus long-term debt. I
23 know I won't have to worry about it, my kids
24 and grandkids will pay for it. Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there

1 anyone else who cares to address council?
2 Mrs. Krake?

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Please. First, a
7 couple of comments regarding the hearing
8 that -- the public hearing on the CDBG
9 allocations. One thing was mentioned about
10 funding programs regarding feeding of the
11 poor and homeless, whatever, just a reminder
12 that we can only provide funding for those
13 programs that actually apply, and there were
14 a number of programs that we had seen in the
15 past that did not apply that were in that
16 category, so funding cannot be provided
17 under the 2012 funding for such programs.

18 I guess I'm being -- because of my
19 support of the Perry Street Park I'm being
20 characterized as being in favor of every
21 park that's proposed or built or anything
22 else. The proposal that's being made for
23 Lincoln Jackson School is entirely different
24 than what was for Perry Street. The Perry
25 Street Park idea was a project specific

1 grant and it was one that was at least in my
2 estimation favored by the residents of that
3 area.

4 I think the Lincoln Jackson Park
5 proposal is entirely different. We don't
6 have community support for it, and the
7 funding for that park is not project
8 specific. That money could be used for
9 something that is, you know, probably far
10 more useful to the community than a park,
11 and prior to the meeting I had given
12 Councilman Rogan some suggestions I had for
13 the 2012 allocations, and one of the things
14 I did was eliminate the \$350,000 for that.
15 I don't think that we should fund anything
16 in any part of that proposal and I would
17 support that, you know, throughout this
18 process.

19 As far as the United Neighborhood
20 Centers, I know that Mr. Hanley, you know,
21 spoke about a number of different projects
22 and it seems as though United Neighborhood
23 Centers, as you look at some of the
24 proposals, they are asking for a great deal
25 of money. The thing is that many of these

1 programs are things that I think are very
2 important to the community and I don't think
3 that they should be I'll say punished for or
4 because of the fact that they are involved
5 in so many different programs. You know,
6 Project Hope and the after school programs
7 that they run and SCOLA and the Condemnation
8 Assistance Program, I think they are all
9 very valuable programs to the community and
10 hopefully we can see our way to providing
11 some funding for those.

12 And the last from the hearing, I was
13 glad to hear Mis Iezzi from the Dress for
14 Success. I think it's good when people come
15 and present at least a short, you know, or,
16 you know, should have a short presentation
17 for what the funding could be used for. I
18 was unaware of the lot of the things that
19 Dress for Success did and her presentation
20 made me rethink perhaps, you know, what I
21 had originally thought about the program and
22 about funding for the program, as did the
23 gentleman from the healthy NEPA Initiative
24 on the suicide prevention.

25 The short synopsis that we get with

1 these programs is something apparently
2 sometimes not adequate to actually know what
3 those programs do and so I would thank those
4 two people especially for being here this
5 evening and providing us with a little bit
6 more information about their programs.

7 Away from that, a couple of other
8 things. Yesterday I attended the PEL
9 meeting, it was held here in city hall.
10 Mrs. Krake was also present at the meeting
11 and during that meeting I conveyed to
12 Mr. McGowan what was stated by Mrs. Evans
13 that she would like to see a proposal from
14 the administration and that we had gotten
15 one from PEL, but she was not sure that that
16 proposal was, you know, what the
17 administration, you know, wanted and
18 Mr. McGowan said that he would do that.

19 In speaking with him today, he said
20 that he did send some things to council and
21 I'm assuming, I haven't seen them, but my
22 assumption is from what he told me that this
23 is the mayor's proposal for dealing with the
24 deficit, the budget deficit for 2011. It's
25 my hope that council can review these, this

1 proposal or these proposals and initiate a
2 dialogue with the administration. I think
3 that it's through that dialogue with the
4 administration and with PEL that we can
5 avoid further layoffs, we can pay our bills
6 and hopefully move towards 2012 in a better
7 financial situation than we are now.

8 I don't know, again, I haven't seen
9 the proposal, I doubt that it's a -- you
10 know, it probably does need some discussion,
11 but I think it's a starting point or a point
12 at which from which we can proceed and
13 hopefully we can do so.

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, I'm just --
15 I'm sorry to interrupt you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine.

17 MS. EVANS: I'll just speak for what
18 I received. It's not a proposal, it's three
19 pieces of legislation to be included.
20 Mr. McGowan has asked that council would
21 introduce those two pieces of legislation at
22 it's September 27 council meeting.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Right.

24 MS. EVANS: And so, you know, as I
25 said earlier, I'm assuming that that is

1 their idea of a proposal, but, you know, as
2 I also stated, the concern remains because
3 Mr. McGowan was also quoted this weekend in
4 the newspaper as indicating very clearly
5 that there is going to be additional
6 layoffs. So, you know, that where that fits
7 into the proposal here I don't know.

8 MR. MCGOFF: At the meeting that we
9 had yesterday the one question that I asked,
10 and I asked it actually of PEL and of
11 Mr. McGowan, and the question that I asked
12 was if we were to follow the suggestion of
13 PEL, the 8.2 million of unfunded debt, would
14 that prevent further layoffs for 2011? And
15 the response from Mr. McGowan was, yes, but
16 I'll say a qualified yes, that probably that
17 would cover it. And then Mr. Cross said
18 that that is what that 8.2 million would
19 include. That they -- it was funding for
20 salaries for current staff.

21 MS. EVANS: It wasn't to be used for
22 the TAN repayment?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Well, that was another
24 aspect of it, but it would cover -- that was
25 part of the calculation that it would pay

1 done, that ordinance passed prior to 2012,
2 so that it can be hopefully enforced during
3 the 2012 year.

4 I did receive two items. Most of
5 the requests I get from citizens are over
6 the phone and I don't -- but I did receive
7 two notes, one from a person that I think I
8 know from my childhood, my little league
9 days, and one that had my name in it, so I
10 felt it perhaps that I should respond since
11 I hadn't talked with these people over the
12 phone.

13 One of them involves Martin Place,
14 which I'm not familiar with, but it does
15 have a description of where it's at and I
16 would just like to tell the person that or
17 just say that to the person that did send
18 the letter that I will be making a call to
19 DPW tomorrow concerning this, and I'm also
20 going to call the resident for two reasons,
21 just to get further identification of what
22 the problem is and also to find out if it
23 is, in fact, somebody that I haven't seen in
24 quite a long while.

25 The second one involves the Ten

1 Hundred block of Hickory Street which is in
2 South Scranton, which I am familiar. It's a
3 dead end leading down toward what used to be
4 part of the city dump and down the Harmon
5 Field Little League, and apparently there
6 are some problems with that, and again, I
7 will call DPW concerning that and also
8 hopefully contact the resident who sent the
9 letter.

10 This past week I was also privileged
11 to attend the inauguration of Reverend Kevin
12 Quinn, SJ, as the 25th president of the
13 University of Scranton. I know in the past
14 we have had some contention with the
15 University of Scranton, but I also think
16 that the University of Scranton represents a
17 vital part of the City of Scranton and
18 hopefully we can build a relationship with
19 the new president and with the University of
20 Scranton, one that is applicable and
21 serviceable for the City of Scranton and
22 during that time I also had have spoken with
23 a member of the Community Relations
24 Department there and we have talked about
25 some possibilities for doing things that

1 would somehow build a relationship between
2 the University of Scranton and the City of
3 Scranton.

4 One of them that I suggested to her
5 was the possibility of representatives,
6 student representatives, from the University
7 of Scranton coming to city council and
8 speaking with us about some of their -- what
9 they plan on doing as, you know, a part of
10 the University and also part of the city, so
11 hopefully we will be hearing from them in
12 the near future.

13 And lastly, I just do have to just
14 one response, last week I did say that you
15 could blame me for all of the problems that
16 the city has. I said you can blame anybody
17 because at this point in time blame is
18 irrelevant and that's what I said, that what
19 we needed to do was start moving toward a
20 solution and stop with the blame and point
21 of record. I have never voted and I don't
22 know that we ever had any legislation
23 involving cutbacks in fire or police before
24 us, the only thing that I can remember that
25 involved that was the mayor's budget

1 proposal from 2011, which I did vote
2 against. Thank you.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Before my
7 comments, since Mr. Loscombe is not here
8 today I would like to make a motion to
9 appoint Frank Joyce as the temporary chair
10 for the Committee on Public Safety.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
13 floor and a second to appoint Councilman
14 Joyce as the temporary chair for the public
15 safety. All those in favor -- or on the
16 question? All those in favor signify by
17 saying aye?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
22 have it and so moved.

23 MR. ROGAN: I guess I'll start off
24 with the CDBG money since that's what most
25 of the conversation was about tonight, and I

1 will start with the park in West Scranton.
2 I live only a few blocks away from where the
3 proposed park is going to be built myself
4 and as far as I'm concerned that proposal is
5 dead on arrival. Spending \$350,000 for a
6 park in that neighborhood, when as many of
7 the constituents relayed to us, they are
8 many other parks in the area and they are
9 some of the more -- some of the parks that
10 have been neglected over the years and we
11 saw the pictures and everybody did a good
12 job of relaying to those out in TV audience
13 what it's like because I drive-by there
14 every day through that neighborhood.

15 Further comments on the CDBG money,
16 looking it over there are a lot of good
17 programs in here and there are a lot of I
18 wouldn't say -- I don't want to say
19 frivolous, but a lot of programs that the
20 money seems wasteful, and when we are making
21 these decisions about the CDBG funding the
22 one thing that is important for me to keep
23 in mind and for everyone else is when we say
24 grant money people think it's free money,
25 but as we all know there is no such thing as

1 free money.

2 This is funded by the federal tax
3 dollars, so as we go through and make these
4 decisions we have to make sure we are
5 spending the money and we are going to get
6 the most bang for the buck for all the
7 people throughout the city.

8 Now, Mr. McGoff did give me his
9 proposal and I will talk to my other
10 colleagues as well during the week and have
11 something by the end of the week to submit
12 to Mrs. Krake, but just some ideas that I
13 was floating around that I wanted to mention
14 publically here, and I want to give an
15 example of some of the programs that I did
16 not pick that should be receiving CDBG
17 money.

18 We would start off with, give me one
19 moment. Providing free tickets for low to
20 moderate income families that would like to
21 attend Broadway shows, \$10,000. I don't
22 think anyone could support \$10,000 for
23 people to go to New York on your tax
24 dollars.

25 MS. EVANS: I think it might be at

1 the Cultural Center more likely.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Broadway-type shows.

3 MR. ROGAN: Okay, Broadway-type
4 shows. I still wouldn't want to give
5 tickets to paid by your tax dollars for
6 somebody to go to see a Broadway-type show.

7 I agree with the comments that were
8 made wholeheartedly about the park, as I
9 mentioned before.

10 Now, First Night Scranton, although
11 it is a nice program, when we are making
12 these decisions \$20,000 for First Night
13 Scranton or would rather have \$20,000 go for
14 paving for low to moderate income areas?

15 Getting to paving, I am very
16 pleased, and I'm sure my colleagues are as
17 well, that Mr. Brazil applied for much more
18 than he did last year in funding. This year
19 he applied for \$2 million, which would be
20 almost impossible to get to that amount
21 without cutting everything completely, but I
22 would definitely like to put as much money
23 for paving as we could because everyone uses
24 the roads. Now, that's using federal money
25 for paving helps everyone in the community,

1 whether you live in the low to moderate
2 income area or just driving through we all
3 use the roads in the City of Scranton.

4 Here is another one that I would
5 prefer to eliminate, a cultural program for
6 low to moderate income persons. Again,
7 cultural programs are nice, but when you
8 have to make the decision whether or not to
9 pave roads, tear down houses, and I also
10 like the one program that's in here for
11 Vacant Property Review Committee. I agree
12 with what Ms. Schumacher said. If we could
13 rehab a house, and I think we all agree on
14 this because we did have many discussions
15 about it, if we can rehab a house and keep
16 it on the tax rolls instead of just tearing
17 it down that's better for everyone. It's
18 better for the community, it's better for
19 the taxpayer, and just a win all around, so
20 I do think that would be a good use of these
21 funds.

22 Another one that seems a little
23 wasteful, provide free tickets for low to
24 moderate income families to attend the
25 Scranton Jazz Festival. I don't know if

1 anyone out there thinks that's good use of
2 your tax dollars, I personally don't.

3 Another one, demolition of a
4 bathhouse and construction of restrooms,
5 drinking repair for children's wading pool
6 and landscaping, and again, it would nice if
7 we had extra money to throw around, but we
8 don't, we need to put this money towards
9 areas that are going to help more people.

10 DPW applied to tear down the vacant
11 school building. I already went through
12 that one, right? That one should just be
13 completely X'd out.

14 The City of Scranton forestry
15 \$75,000 they applied for, Linda suggested
16 \$25,000, I think that this is good spending
17 of money even though you would think we are
18 just cutting down trees, but as was
19 mentioned by speakers, especially with the
20 weather we have had this year, you know, if
21 one of these trees could fall on a car and
22 injury somebody, take down power lines,
23 destroy somebody's home, so it does seem to
24 be a very good way to spend this money.

25 I don't want to go through them all

1 right now, we would be here all night, but
2 there is just a few of them I want to
3 highlight and some of them that I felt are
4 extremely wasteful and others that I felt
5 were really good, but most importantly to
6 remember it's your tax dollars. You are
7 paying for these programs, it's not free
8 money to the City of Scranton. We wish we
9 could get free money, but it doesn't exist.

10 Moving on, the newspaper has been
11 doing a series on the deficit in the city
12 and it said approximately \$8 million and
13 much of the blame of these articles and by
14 the general public has been directed at
15 Scranton City Council. Unfortunately,
16 contrary to popular opinion in the media,
17 this majority of city council has only
18 passed one budget. We did not rack up an \$8
19 million deficit in less than one year. You
20 know, Mayor Doherty has been in office for
21 ten years now. He has constantly kicked the
22 can down the road every chance he got and he
23 is trying to get out. Everyone knows that.
24 Tried running for governor, lieutenant
25 governor, state senator. He tried getting

1 appointed to jobs in different
2 administrations and he has no where to go.

3 And that leads us to the breaking
4 news on the ScrantonTimes.com today.

5 "Scranton seeks to sell meters to cover
6 deficit." Now, this deal is like putting a
7 Band-Aid on a heart attack. It doesn't fix
8 the problem at all. They plan on selling
9 the meters for \$6 million to the Scranton
10 Parking Authority and borrowing up to \$4
11 million. Now, getting the \$6 million in
12 right away will help us short-term, but as
13 Mr. Joyce confirmed earlier these meters
14 bring in around \$2 million a year, so it's
15 easy to do the math in just three years you
16 are on the losing end of this borrowing.

17 Also, by selling these meters the
18 very next year we are going to have a \$2
19 million deficit created by the sale, money
20 that we will not be getting from the parking
21 meters, so we are robbing Peter to pay Paul
22 once again. It should be Chris Doherty's
23 motto. It would help the Parking Authority,
24 as we know they are broke, also. They would
25 have the \$6 million upfront to the city then

1 they would be getting that money in every
2 year, they would become solvent, but the
3 city would become deeper and deeper in debt.

4 The Sewer Authority. I agree
5 wholeheartedly with Mrs. Evans comments
6 earlier, and I know myself you have been
7 hammering away for years for you and a year
8 and a half for me about privatizing and
9 selling the Sewer Authority. And when you
10 see the highest bidder selected for a
11 contract and they go to court to defend it
12 you have to look at who is making these
13 decisions, and the mayor is going to stand
14 back and say, well, the Sewer Authority is
15 on their own, they don't do anything. I
16 don't want anything to do with them. He
17 makes the appointments. He appoints his
18 cronies there, Liz Randol and Stu Renda to
19 those boards and from what everyone is
20 saying he is trying to groom Liz Randol to
21 take over his spot as mayor and judging by
22 these actions she would do just the same as
23 Mayor Doherty, highest bidder, giving these
24 contracts to friends, that's what's wrong
25 with the city. If we are going to sell any

1 of our assets, if we are going to sell
2 anything, it has to be the Sewer Authority.

3 I give everything we vote on
4 consideration, but the sale of an asset that
5 brings in \$2 million per year for just \$6
6 million it's a no-brainer. I'll tell you
7 right now I'm voting "no" next week.

8 And finally, it was mentioned about
9 the legal ads to accept donations for the
10 public safety fund that it was costing more
11 than -- it was costing more to advertise
12 than accept the donation and, Mrs. Krake,
13 could we actually request some Attorney
14 Hughes if it would be legal for us to bundle
15 them, and say we had ten donations over the
16 course of three months for \$50 if we could
17 bundle all into one ad and accept them all
18 at once.

19 MS. KRAKE: I hesitate to say what I
20 think Mrs. Schumacher was referring to, but
21 I believe she was referring to the ad for
22 the ordinance, so therefore, that is
23 covered. It's the ad for the ordinance and
24 then every time there is an account created
25 by an ordinance any donation coming in would

1 then fall into that. We would not have to
2 readvertize. I believe that's what she was
3 referring to, I don't want to --

4 MR. ROGAN: Well, I'll ask Attorney
5 Hughes.

6 MS. KRAKE: I guess your point is
7 covered.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, but the point is
9 we have to vote on each check that comes in.

10 MS. KRAKE: Yeah, but you created an
11 account with the one ordinance.

12 MR. ROGAN: We have done that,
13 haven't we, to accept the checks?

14 MS. EVANS: They come in the form of
15 legislation from I'm assuming the legal
16 department, so whether it's an ordinance or
17 a resolution I think what Mrs. Krake is
18 saying those things have to be advertised by
19 law.

20 MR. ROGAN: I understand that, but
21 what I'm saying is instead of having one ad
22 for each one, say one every other week, if
23 we could hold off on voting on them and set
24 them on altogether as one piece of
25 legislation.

1 MS. KRAKE: I may be incorrect, but
2 I don't believe we are advertising each time
3 we receive a check. We had to create an
4 account, a different account for this
5 particular check. That's the only time we
6 advertise is when we have legislation, so
7 that's -- I'm not speaking as to what Mrs.
8 Schumacher asked, but that's what I'm
9 thinking she saw.

10 MR. ROGAN: I will talk to the
11 parties after the meeting.

12 MS. KRAKE: We don't advertise when
13 we get a check, the only thing our office
14 advertises is legislation or public
15 hearings.

16 MR. ROGAN: Okay. And that is all I
17 have. Thank you.

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

20 MR. JOYCE: I do. First, council
21 speaker spoke tonight and mentioned about
22 the long-term debt and borrowing money and
23 whatever and how, you know, he was glad that
24 he didn't have to worry about it, but some
25 day his grandchildren will and so on and so

1 forth. The truth of the matter is we all
2 have to worry about it now. As far as
3 long-term debt is concerned, we pay seven
4 plus million dollars in debt service
5 payments out of each of our annual operating
6 budgets, well, at least in 2011 and I
7 believe it was the case in 2010 and the year
8 before that, so the truth of the matter is,
9 yes, we do have a large amount of long-term
10 debt, but we are paying those payments with
11 the money that is brought in through tax
12 collections at the present time, so we are
13 still all being effected by that.

14 Secondly, as far as the public
15 hearing and the CDBG funds, I would like to
16 thank Mrs. Iezzi, Dr. Zalosky, I believe,
17 and I apologize if I'm pronouncing his name
18 wrong, and Mr. Hanley for coming in and
19 speaking on their respective programs such
20 as Dress for Success, Healthy Northeast and
21 United Neighborhood Centers. As Mr. McGoff
22 mentioned before, it's very nice to see an
23 explanation of what all of these programs
24 do, rather than just see an application or a
25 description on a piece of paper.

1 Secondly, I have a number of
2 requests that I would like to make and the
3 first is to Mr. McGowan actually, our
4 business administrator, and Mr. McGowan had
5 sent me an e-mail and he contacted me and
6 asked me about meeting with some of the
7 banks that loan us our TAN or tax
8 anticipation notes and, Mrs. Krake, what I
9 want to do is I want to do this in writing
10 so it's official and it's on council
11 letterhead rather than through phone
12 conversations or e-mails or whatnot, and I
13 want you to draft this letter and please
14 state as follows:

15 I am in receipt of your invitation
16 to attend the meeting with various local
17 banks, however, first, since I have other
18 work obligations during normal business
19 hours, I am unable to attend at any time
20 during the normal hours of operation of a
21 bank and I am unable to attend any meetings
22 before 6:00 p.m.

23 Furthermore, it is the mayor, and
24 not a city council member, who must attend
25 meetings with banking institutions, and he

1 was not copied on any of the e-mails that
2 were sent to me that the bankers were copied
3 on. The mayor alone reinstated positions to
4 the 2011 operating budget and refused to
5 implement new revenue generators.

6 Further, the mayor and former
7 business administrator, Mr. Renda, as well
8 as yourself have manipulated TANS and
9 Workers' Compensation Funds in excess since
10 2009 in order to use current year funds to
11 pay off previous year debts.

12 Consequently, both you and the mayor
13 would seem to have the complete information
14 regarding the financial status of the City
15 of Scranton, much of which is not even made
16 aware to council until information is
17 provided to us by our independent auditor,
18 as was the case -- well, don't write this,
19 as was the case in borrowing money out of
20 the Workers' Compensation account in 2009
21 and subsequently in 2010.

22 Back to what you are supposed to
23 write: Also, on the topic of our
24 independent audit, my colleagues and I
25 believe that it is imperative that all of

1 the banks receive a copy of the 2010
2 independent audit of the City of Scranton
3 prior to entering into any agreements.
4 Unfortunately, your office has been
5 delinquent in providing information and
6 other documentation requested by the
7 auditors in order to see that the audit is
8 completed as directed by the deadlines
9 specified in the Home Rule Charter.

10 In fact, though you were not the
11 business administrator at the time, the 2009
12 audit suffered similar delays comparable to
13 the 2010 audit and, therefore, was not
14 completed and presented to council until
15 2011 in January at a meeting which occurred
16 right at this table that you see our
17 stenographer sitting at.

18 Secondly, in regard to a letter that
19 Mr. McGowan sent to our office about the
20 2012 operating budget, please prepare a
21 letter on council letterhead stating the
22 following: I am in receipt of your letter
23 offering to me to discuss budgetary issues
24 for 2012 on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.

25 Unfortunately, due to my full-time

1 employment in the private sector, I am
2 unable to meet at this time. I would like
3 to discuss budgetary matters for the
4 upcoming year and would be willing to do so
5 outside of our normal full-time working
6 hours at any time past 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. on
7 weekdays.

8 And as far as the plan or what is
9 proposed to be the plan, there were three
10 pieces of legislation sent to our office
11 today and in that letter or in those pieces
12 of legislation there was an e-mail addressed
13 to me, and please prepare this response for
14 that such e-mail:

15 I am in receipt of your letter
16 asking me to take action and place the
17 proposed legislation that you sent down to
18 council's office today regarding the plan to
19 payback the 2011 TAN-B payment. As the
20 Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I
21 do not have the authority to place
22 legislation on the agenda as was asked of me
23 in the letter though it may fall into my
24 committee. Only the president of City
25 Council, Councilwoman Janet Evans, is the

1 only member of the city council that has the
2 authority to place legislation on the agenda
3 for the upcoming meeting.

4 So I wanted to make that distinction
5 clear. Though this is something that falls
6 in my committee, I don't simply carry the
7 magic wand to say it's going to be on the
8 agenda next week. That is the one of the
9 duties of our council president.

10 Outside of that, I do have some
11 citizens' requests. The first deals with
12 Hamm Court. I have received several
13 complaints from South Scranton residents
14 that there is a disruptive neighbor living
15 on the 500 block of Hamm Court. For the
16 sake of privacy, I'm not going to mention
17 the address, but, Mrs. Krake, can you please
18 contact Chief Duffy with the address, and
19 I'll provide it to you after the meeting,
20 and also inform him that this activity
21 that's being very disruptive and very
22 disturbing to neighbors usually is taking
23 place during late night hours.

24 Secondly, residents of the Tripp
25 Park development have informed me that a

1 stop sign on the -- right at the 1500 block
2 Euclid Avenue is very, very faded and you
3 could barely even see the word "Stop." I
4 actually drove by there and it's just kind
5 of like a red blur, even though I have
6 glasses now I still know what it was a big
7 blur then, though I'm a little nearsighted,
8 but, Mrs. Krake, if you would please contact
9 Mr. Brazil and notify him of this and ask
10 him if he could rectify the situation.

11 Several residents have informed me
12 that there are issues with empty field
13 located at Jackson Street. Again for the
14 sake of privacy, I'll provided the address
15 after the meeting. Anyhow, it's unknown
16 whether a field is owned by the City or
17 whether it's owned by resident, however, the
18 neighbors inform me that the field has
19 become a breeding ground for mice and skunks
20 and would like to see something done as soon
21 as possible.

22 So, Mrs. Krake, if you could please
23 contact Mr. Seitzinger and inquire whether
24 or not this is a city-owned property and if
25 it is a city-owned property please contact

1 Mr. Brazil and ask him if he could take care
2 of the situation. If it's not a city-owned
3 property, please ask Mr. Seitzinger to
4 contact the resident that owns the property,
5 whether or not it is a resident of the city
6 or somewhere else.

7 And several West Scranton residents
8 have voiced their concern about the double
9 house located at 126 Price Street. This was
10 originally condemned, however, residents
11 report that the condemned sign has been
12 removed, yet, the grass is still over two
13 feet high, there is a shopping cart, garbage
14 and other debris in the backyard, including
15 empty beer cans that are just thrown around.

16 Mrs. Krake, can you please add this
17 to the issues to contact Mr. Seitzinger
18 about and please inform him that this
19 property is owned by a New York resident who
20 may not be aware of these happenings at the
21 property location.

22 I have received various complaints
23 from West Scranton residents that there is a
24 condemned house, actually, it's one side of
25 a double home on the 100 block of North

1 Everett Avenue where the former resident is
2 still residing although the home is
3 condemned, so I guess maybe he doesn't want
4 to take part of condemnation assistance
5 program that Mr. Hanley spoke about for some
6 reason.

7 However, Mrs. Krake, please contact
8 Chief Duffy and inform him of the situation.
9 From the information provided by the
10 residents, they do not believe that the
11 owner of the property is even aware that the
12 man is coming back to the property after
13 it's been condemned since the landlord is a
14 New York State resident and doesn't visit
15 the property often, picks up to make
16 necessary repairs and to collect rent.
17 Obviously, it's delinquent and they don't
18 send it to him.

19 Several North Scranton residents
20 have informed me that the condition of
21 Greenbush and Reese Street are subpar as
22 there are many potholes and the cracks
23 making the travel conditions difficult. Not
24 only do these residents reside on this
25 streets, but this is also an entrance and a

1 exit to the Career Technology Center and
2 this is something that workers have
3 contacted council about in the past.

4 Mrs. Krake, if you could please add
5 this to the issues to address with
6 Mr. Brazil, and to give the DPW credit for
7 the information provided by the residents
8 the DPW has traveled up there before in the
9 past to patch up some of the potholes and
10 cracks, however, with some of the weather
11 and the storms that we have had throughout
12 the summer, you know, the patching has
13 become loose, and therefore, these potholes
14 and have been opened up and they are
15 creating some trouble for the residents.

16 And finally with the requests,
17 several West Scranton residents have
18 contacted me and informed me that the 100
19 and 200 blocks of North Everett Avenue are
20 in rough shape as many potholes and cracks
21 in the road are making travel conditions
22 difficult.

23 Mrs. Krake, please add this to the
24 issues to address with Mr. Brazil and ask
25 him if he could address these as soon as he

1 can.

2 Finally, I just want to say, as you
3 can see many of the citizens' requests that
4 I addressed tonight that I received over the
5 past week deal with public safety and
6 blight. Last week there was a negative
7 editorial regarding the amendments to the
8 2011 CDBG funds which were amended last week
9 as the newspaper stated that they were
10 ill-advised.

11 The amendments made last week to the
12 CDBG allocations primarily did three things:
13 First, they funded police vehicles in low to
14 moderate income neighborhoods, the bulk of
15 where the crime takes place.

16 Secondly, they restore much of the
17 funding to the Pinebrook Neighborhood
18 Association which is a neighborhood in need
19 of some serious revitalization.

20 Finally, last but not least, the
21 amendments allocated nearly \$200,000 more
22 than what the OECD Office allocated to
23 assist in the demolition of the blighted
24 properties in low to moderate income
25 neighborhoods.

1 There is no way that I would deem
2 these amendments to be ill-advised. Also,
3 the editorial pointed out that there are
4 strict federal guidelines that have to be
5 followed, however, there is nothing
6 mentioned in the editorial that Scranton
7 City Council violated any guidelines. In
8 fact, one of the primary guidelines of CDBG
9 fund allocations besides the fact that they
10 must be used to assist eligible projects in
11 low to moderate income neighborhoods, is
12 that only 15 percent of the total allocated
13 amount can be used for projects classified
14 as public service.

15 Our amendment, which was unanimously
16 passed by council, the requirement that only
17 15 percent of the total funding to be used
18 for public service was met to a "T". In
19 fact, out of the total funding allocated in
20 the amendment 14.9996 percent was allocated
21 for public service activities.

22 Also, out of CDBG allocations from
23 the past, I have become aware that it is the
24 administration who may not be in compliance
25 with the strict federal regulations imposed

1 by the government. In fact, in the 2011
2 operating budget that was sent to Scranton
3 City Council, funding for police officers
4 salaries were included. However, it was
5 later found that this federal funding which
6 was projected to be used to fund 13 officers
7 must be used to add neighborhood patrols not
8 supplement the salaries of the existing
9 police force. In turn, we cannot use this
10 money. Ironically enough, recently the
11 mayor chose to layoff 13 officers. Go
12 figure.

13 If the newspaper wants to write an
14 editorial about regulations and the use of
15 CDBG money, I would suggest that they write
16 a piece on the audit that is currently being
17 conducted by HUD and the possibility of the
18 city having to return funds to the federal
19 government if not found in compliance, not
20 city council's amendments to CDBG
21 appropriations.

22 The title of the editorial that was
23 in Friday's newspaper was, "The city has one
24 government." And, yes, I do agree that the
25 city has one government and that there

1 should be cooperation between the mayor and
2 the council and the city controller.

3 However, one of the hallmarks of cooperation
4 is being honest. Being honest is something
5 that the administration has failed to do.

6 In fact, in the meeting that Council
7 President Evans and I attended regarding the
8 proposed plan to handle the current
9 financial situation, there is no mention of
10 laying off eight firefighters and 13 police
11 officers.

12 In regard to honesty, I wish to read
13 a letter that was mentioned by a council
14 speaker that was written by Chris Doherty
15 just two years ago and it states, I'll just
16 read one paragraph, "Let me be very clear.
17 The City of Scranton has absolutely no plans
18 to shutdown firehouses or retire fire engine
19 companies or trucks. To say otherwise, is
20 misleading and downright false. In fact,
21 under my plan the city will be adding more
22 firefighters per shift because of shift
23 changes. This will allow the city to
24 provide even better fire protection to it's
25 citizens."

1 One that I'm familiar with is the City of
2 Chicago. They sold the parking meters for
3 \$1.16 billion, actually, they leased them
4 out to a private firm, I believe, for a term
5 of 75 years and they received 54 percent of
6 the revenue that the parking meters would
7 generate over that period of time, which
8 obviously isn't the case if we sell the
9 parking meters to the SPA and they are gone
10 forever because that would be made up,
11 actually, I know I said to Mr. Rogan that
12 the meters and the citations generally bring
13 in \$2 million a year, but you do have to
14 factor the cost that we pay the Parking
15 Authority to monitor the program which is
16 about \$600,000, so say \$1.4 million. That's
17 going to be gone within four years.

18 And this is one thing about working
19 together, perhaps something with the parking
20 meters could be entertained if there are
21 stipulations, such as that we receive part
22 of the funding that the parking meters
23 collect and in regard to the sale. For
24 instance, the City of Chicago if any of the
25 collections exceed a certain percent the

1 city receives a 50/50 split of such excess
2 collections, so I think there is a lot of
3 things to be looked at, however, just
4 selling the parking meters outright is not
5 the best idea in and it's not a very good
6 return on investment because that money, as
7 Mr. Rogan said, will create a hole and that
8 hole will have to be filled in the following
9 years, and that's all I am going to comment
10 on tonight about that matter and I'll have
11 more to discuss next week as I research into
12 other cities and the types of transactions
13 that they may have made with such matters
14 and that's all.

15 MS. EVANS: And thank you,
16 Councilman Joyce. Good evening. Before I
17 begin I'm going to perhaps continue this
18 discussion of the proposed legislation very
19 briefly, but I think it's important to
20 understand that the agreement with the
21 Parking Authority is not just for \$6 million
22 for the sale of parking meters, it's a \$14
23 million borrowing issue, so that 8 million
24 of that 14 million is going to the Parking
25 Authority. I have not read all of the

1 legislation carefully enough to say what it
2 is -- what the \$8 million is for, but I
3 might conjecture that it's going to help
4 them make bond payments that they have been
5 unable to make independently at least over
6 the last two to three years.

7 In addition to that, the city will
8 be using it's taxing powers to guarantee
9 this borrowing for the Scranton Parking
10 Authority. And as you know, they very
11 already amassed significant debt which is
12 guaranteed by the taxing authority of the
13 City of Scranton. So I think it's important
14 for everyone to see the whole picture there,
15 that's it's not merely the \$6 million for
16 the purchase of parking meters that's at
17 stake, it's \$14 million in total and it's
18 putting the taxpayers on the book for a
19 municipal authority that has been unable to
20 make it's bond payments every year.

21 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Evans, if you
22 don't mind me interrupting very briefly. I
23 will just say I did not mention that part of
24 it, and that's one of the reasons. This was
25 just sent to us today and that's why I think

1 a lot of research needs to be done before
2 making a concrete decision on the issue.

3 MS. EVANS: Well, Mrs. Krake, if we
4 can ask for the following things, there may
5 be more, but as of tonight what appears to
6 be missing from the legislation for the
7 acquisition of the parking system by the
8 Parking Authority from the City of Scranton:
9 First of all, council requests a complete
10 breakdown of the 8 1/2 percent interest
11 rate.

12 And next, three crucial documents
13 that are referred to in the legislation have
14 not been attached, they are as follows:

15 The operating agreement between the
16 City of Scranton and the Scranton Parking
17 Authority, the trust indenture, and the
18 report from McGrail, Merkle and Quinn,
19 Consultants.

20 Now, since Mr. McGowan was the
21 individual who forwarded this legislation to
22 Councilman Joyce, you might want to approach
23 him as well as the legal department in terms
24 of these letters. We need this information,
25 however, I would -- I'm requesting the

1 information by this Thursday, that would be
2 September 22 if the legislation is to be
3 placed on the September 27 agenda for
4 introduction. If we do not receive in
5 information prior to Thursday, the
6 legislation will be withheld until we
7 receive the required documents that are very
8 obviously missing from the legislation.

9 Councilman Loscombe is absent from
10 tonight's meeting because of illness.

11 Now, prior to tonight's regularly
12 scheduled meeting, Scranton City Council
13 conducted a public hearing regarding the
14 administration's proposed 2012 CDBG
15 allocations. I have not yet developed any
16 recommendations for amendments to these
17 allocations because of I wish to hear first
18 from the public.

19 Councilman Rogan will draft proposed
20 amendments which will be given to council
21 members for their final consideration and
22 modifications. The final product will be
23 made public prior to the final vote in
24 Seventh Order, which will not occur until 30
25 days following tonight's public hearing.

1 On a related topic, Ms. Aebli state
2 recently in the Scranton Times that the
3 layoffs of 13 police officers in August
4 required the elimination of the neighborhood
5 police patrol. "If you don't have
6 neighborhood police, why fund the vehicles
7 for them?

8 What Ms. Aebli didn't tell you was
9 that there is over \$650,000 in CDBG funds
10 available for the neighborhood police
11 patrols that's been accumulated over the
12 last few years. In addition, the
13 administration's proposed 2012 CDBG
14 allocations including an additional \$200,000
15 for neighborhood police patrols. When in
16 Ms. Aebli's words the neighborhood police
17 patrols have been eliminated.

18 The better question should be asked
19 of Ms. Aebli, since you have eliminated
20 neighborhood police patrols, why continue to
21 fund them with over \$800,000? The reality
22 is that our city has lost six to eight
23 hundred thousand dollars worth of federally
24 funded neighborhood police for at least the
25 next 12 months because the mayor cut 13

1 police officers in August.

2 Additionally, when the mayor stops
3 cutting regular police officers, once again
4 the city will be become eligible for CDBG
5 funding of the neighborhood police patrols
6 following 12 calendar months without
7 layoffs.

8 For example, if no police layoffs
9 occur from January 2012 through December
10 2012, the city may then use CDBG funds to
11 hire new neighborhood police patrols in
12 January 2013 and at such time the city may
13 also use CDBG funds to purchase police
14 vehicles only for these neighborhood police
15 patrols. The uses of both allocations and
16 must be well documented to remain eligible.

17 The administration's stockpiling and
18 continued funding of neighborhood police
19 patrols clearly indicates the intention to
20 create neighborhood police patrols at some
21 future date when the city becomes eligible
22 to do so. The funding of police vehicles,
23 therefore, remains important to the needs
24 and success of the future neighborhood
25 police patrols. The more cuts the mayor

1 orders to the police department, the longer
2 it will take to return neighborhood police
3 patrols to our city.

4 If the mayor intends to make
5 additional personnel cuts in 2011, it
6 appears that he should look to departments
7 outside of public safety, rather than
8 continuing to jeopardize the health, safety
9 and welfare of Scranton residents and to
10 prevent the hiring of neighborhood police.

11 Next, city council continues to
12 await the full recommendations of Mayor
13 Doherty to address the reported 2011 \$8.2
14 million deficit and timely pay the 2011
15 TAN-B as well as the completion of the 2010
16 independent audit which demands the
17 cooperation of the business administrator to
18 provide required financial documents to
19 Rossi & Rossi & Sons, auditors. If business
20 administrator McGowan is genuine in his
21 request for council's cooperation in the
22 formulation of a 2012 budget, he should
23 immediately provide information and
24 documents to complete the 2010 audit and
25 provide financial information to city

1 council filed by Right-to-Know requests
2 without charging council for this very same
3 information that should be have been
4 provided initially to the legislative branch
5 of the city government without having to
6 file a Right-to-Know request.

7 Further, I wish to correct
8 statements made by Ryan McGowan in the
9 September 9 edition of the Scranton Times.
10 Mr. McGowan contends that council's tax cuts
11 resulted in a loss of \$3 million in revenue.
12 Mr. McGowan said the \$3 million in lost
13 revenue includes \$1.2 million in real estate
14 taxes, \$500,000 in business privilege and
15 mercantile taxes, about \$1 million in wage
16 taxes, and money lost due to the inability
17 to takes residents to Court over delinquent
18 taxes and refuse fees.

19 For as much as we wish we could do
20 so, city council never lowered the wage tax.
21 In addition, NCC stopped collecting
22 delinquent taxes and garbage fees in
23 November 2010 and council was not notified
24 by either the administration or the Scranton
25 Redevelopment Authority until it received

1 legislation from the administration to
2 repeal the 2007 ordinance which set 23 costs
3 fees and penalties, and to hire a new
4 collection company in midyear 2011.

5 Council acted thereafter in concert
6 with Northeast Revenue Services to develop a
7 contract that is fair to both the city and
8 the delinquent taxpayers. The
9 administration dragged it's feet on this
10 issue as well until finally, finally,
11 Northeast Revenue Services, the new company,
12 began it's work in September.

13 Meanwhile, in January of 2011 the
14 mayor removed the tax clerk from the City
15 Treasurer's Office which caused the office
16 to fall behind in it's delinquent tax
17 collections. Thus, city council will not
18 accept blame for revenue shortfalls caused
19 by the administration regardless of the
20 numerous futile efforts made by Ryan
21 McGowan.

22 Furthermore, Mr. McGowan has again
23 made questionable or contradictory
24 statements regarding city finances. In
25 March, 2011, Mr. McGowan stated that he used

1 \$5 million from the Workers' Comp Fund to
2 repay the 2011 TAN-A early, thereby,
3 reducing the fund from 20 to 15 million
4 dollars.

5 At the September 12 PEL meeting,
6 Mr. McGowan stated that the Workers' Comp
7 Fund is 75 percent funded, which would mean
8 that approximately \$15 million remains in
9 the account. However, in the September 19
10 Scranton Times' article, Mr. McGowan said
11 that the fund is now back at the \$20.5
12 million dollar level required by the state.
13 Thus, it appears that either the city found
14 \$5 million between September 12 and
15 September 19 or Mr. McGowan's statements to
16 PEL and the newspaper contradict one
17 another.

18 Consequently, I would like a letter
19 sent to Mr. McGowan on behalf of city
20 council requesting responses to the
21 following questions on or before September
22 26, 2011:

23 Was \$5 million returned to the
24 Workers' Comp Excess Fund? If so, on what
25 date was the \$5 million refunded? What

1 revenue was used to refund \$5 million to the
2 Workers' Comp Excess Fund without council's
3 approval? If the Workers' Comp Fund
4 currently contains \$20 million will the
5 administration, with the approval of
6 council, use the available \$5 million to pay
7 the 2011 TAN-B?

8 And just so the public can
9 understand, if indeed that \$5 million
10 mysteriously, miraculously reappeared into
11 that account within the last week, it can be
12 used again with the consent of the city
13 council and the city then has a five-year
14 period in which to repay that \$5 million to
15 the account if it is still needed according
16 to the regulations.

17 Additionally, I would like to remind
18 the reporter that I suggested buyouts and
19 retirements during the summer months of 2011
20 prior to any statements made by the
21 administration. If the city were interested
22 in accepting my suggestions, it could have
23 begun the process of pursuing these cost
24 saving measures in August, but it has failed
25 to do so, just as since January it refused

1 to implement the StreetSmart Technologies
2 Parking Program and the Rental Registration
3 Program to raise revenue.

4 Lastly, when I raised the issues of
5 a payroll tax and commuter tax, both taxes,
6 at the September 13 council meeting, I
7 explained that these were long-term
8 solutions that the city must pursue in order
9 to rebound financially. At no time did I
10 state that these were immediate solutions to
11 the current deficit since council was
12 awaiting the mayor's recommendations.

13 Also, during last week's meeting, I
14 announced that the Pennsylvania Economy
15 League recommended borrowing \$8.2 million to
16 fill the Doherty deficit and that such
17 borrowing would need to go before the Court
18 of Common Pleas for approval, and that's
19 according to PEL. Municipal borrowing is
20 governed by the Unit Debt Act, and as we all
21 know, Mayor Doherty borrowed significant
22 dollar amounts from 2003 through at least
23 2008, however, under the Unit Debt Act none
24 of these borrowings carried Court approval.

25 Also, the newest proposed borrowing

1 by the Scranton Parking Authority for the
2 \$14 million will not require Court approval
3 and the city is required, as I said
4 previously, to pledge it's taxing authority
5 as part of that agreement.

6 PEL was asked to provide council
7 with the written, legal requirements for the
8 current proposed borrowing and in response
9 if forwarded a copy of the United Debt Act
10 today. According to this document, the
11 governing unit or city may seek Court
12 approval for unfunded debt. Court approved
13 borrowing carries a maximum payment term of
14 only ten years, and more importantly, the
15 Court may levy debt service millage to
16 ensure the full and timely repayment of the
17 loan according to PEL. These tax increases
18 would be set aside solely for the repayment
19 of this borrowing.

20 If this matter moves forward to the
21 Court of Common Pleas, I would hope that
22 it's heard and decided by a local judge who
23 is elected by the voters of Scranton to
24 represent and serve us. I would note like
25 to see an another judge brought in from out

1 of town who has no stake in our community to
2 decide this case. Because most city council
3 members have stated their opposition to tax
4 increases, could this be an avenue to
5 circumvent city council and force a tax
6 increase on Scranton residents which is
7 after all part of the Pennsylvania Economy
8 League's and the mayor's plan?

9 As I receive additional information
10 I will update you, the public, and until
11 council's questions are answered by
12 Mr. McGowan and PEL and the 2010 audit is
13 completed PEL will not receive the privilege
14 of presenting it's revised Recovery Plan
15 before Scranton City Council.

16 Next, ten city businesses have filed
17 commercial appeals of their property taxes
18 which are scheduled for hearings on October
19 26, 2011. Mrs. Krake, please forward a
20 letter to the mayor and City Solicitor Kelly
21 on behalf of council requesting that the
22 city solicitor or his representative will
23 attend these hearings and oppose tax
24 reductions which effect the city's revenue
25 in light of the significant deficit and 19

1 years as a distressed municipality. And I
2 believe one of those commercial appeals, in
3 fact, involves a bank, banks who don't pay
4 business taxes to the city and now they are
5 looking for a cut in their property taxes,
6 so I think it's very important that if the
7 administration is truly concerned about the
8 financial state of the city they are going
9 to start to take some proactive measures at
10 these hearings.

11 Now, I did have a list of citizens'
12 requests, but I am going to forego reading
13 them, however, they will be submitted to our
14 office and the requests will be made this
15 week of the appropriate departments, and
16 that's it.

17 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT
18 THIS TIME.

19 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
20 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 53,
21 2011 - AN ORDINANCE- AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
22 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY
23 OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO
24 IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR
25 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

1 TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2 BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
3 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
4 SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
8 pass reading by title.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, will the amended
12 allocations be available prior to the final
13 vote?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes, that's what I
15 stated.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yeah, will they be
17 available to the public as well?

18 MS. EVANS: They should be in
19 council's office available to the public.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: We have a 30-day window
22 before that happens.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. Thank you very
24 much.

25 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. Anyone

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
9 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 54, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE-
10 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY
11 ACCOUNT NO. 02.229601 ENTITLED "BE PART OF
12 THE SOLUTION" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
13 DISBURSEMENT OF DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE
14 POLICE DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THEIR CRIME
15 PREVENTION CAMPAIGN.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
19 pass reading by title.

20 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR ADOPTION
5 -FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 51, 2011- SALE OF TAX
6 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
7 PT5/REAR 3118 JONES STREET, TAX MAP NO.
8 16620-010-006, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO
9 JOHN J. GAUGHAN AND MARIE A. GAUGHAN, HIS
10 WIFE, 99 CRANE STREET, SCRANTON,
11 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, FOR THE CONSIDERATION
12 OF \$2,700.00.

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

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

19 MR. ROGAN: One. Or second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 7-B.FOR CONSIDERATION BY
7 THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY FOR
8 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 52, 2011-
9 VACATING THE EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY AND
10 ACCEPTING AND ORDAINING A NEW RIGHT OF WAY
11 TO WIDEN A PORTION OF MURPHY COURT TO
12 INCREASE ITS RIGHT OF WAY TO 22 FEET.

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

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

19 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. If
there is no further business, I'll entertain
a motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER