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REORGANIZATION MEETING OF
SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL

HELD:

Monday, January 4, 2010

LOCATION:

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

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

MS. JANET EVANS

MR. BILL COURTRIGHT

MR. PATRICK ROGAN

MR. ROBERT MCGOFF

MR. FRANK JOYCE

MS. NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MS. SUE MAGNOTTA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

MR. BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 MR. COOLICAN: Please stand for the
2 pledge of Allegiance and please remain
3 standing for the invocation of Reverend
4 Burke.

5 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
6 invocation given by Reverend Burke.)

7 MR. COOLICAN: In accordance with the
8 Home Rule Charter and the City of Scranton
9 designating the first Monday of January as
10 the day for city council to reorganize, I
11 hereby call this 2010 reorganization meeting
12 to order. Roll call, please, Sue.

13 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

15 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

17 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Here.

19 MR. COOLICAN: I have before me the
20 certificates of election for Janet
21 Tomko-Evans, Pat Rogan and Frank Joyce as
22 city council persons. Will council adopt
23 the motion to the effect that the
24 certificates be received and were filed and
25 made part of the minutes.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I so move.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

3 MR. COOLICAN: All those in favor
4 say aye.

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Those opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so ordered. I will now ask
10 Judge Terrence Nealon to step forward to the
11 podium and administer the oath of office to
12 Janet Tomko-Evans to the elected office of
13 city council.

14 HONORABLE JUDGE NEALON: I want to
15 thank Janet for the honor of swearing her in
16 today. I had the pleasure of swearing her
17 in when she was first elected to city
18 council and it's a real honor to do it
19 again. Janet, if you could raise your right
20 hand and repeat after me.

21 (JANET TOMKO-EVANS was administered
22 the oath of office by the Honorable Terrence
23 J. Nealon and was sworn in as a Scranton
24 City Council member.)

25 MR. COOLICAN: I would now ask Judge

1 Terrence Nealon if he would stay at the
2 podium to administer the oath of office for
3 Pat Rogan for the elected office of city
4 council.

5 HONORABLE TERRENCE NEALON: I'd like
6 to thank Pat as well. I had the opportunity
7 to get to know Pat and Frank pretty well
8 during this past campaign season. Every
9 political and civic event that I attended in
10 the city they were at. I would leave one
11 event and before I would get to the next one
12 they were somehow there already. I thought
13 they had stunt doubles during the campaign
14 but they worked very, very hard, and again,
15 it's a pleasure and a privilege for me to
16 administer the oath to them. Pat, if you
17 could raise your hand right and repeat after
18 me.

19 (PATRICK ROGAN was administered the
20 oath of office by the Honorable Terrence
21 Nealon and was sworn in as a Scranton City
22 Council member.)

23 MR. COOLICAN: I would now ask Judge
24 Terrence Nealon again if he would stay at
25 the podium and administer the oath of office

1 to Frank Joyce to elected office of city
2 council.

3 (FRANK JOYCE was administered the
4 oath of office by the Honorable Terrence
5 Nealon and sworn in as a Scranton City
6 Council member.)

7 MR. COOLICAN: I will now accept
8 nominations for temporary chairperson, what
9 is your pleasure?

10 MR. ROGAN: I move that Frank Joyce
11 be appointed as temporary chair.

12 MS. EVANS: I second the motion.

13 MR. COOLICAN: All those in favor
14 say aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MR. COOLICAN: Those opposed? The
21 ayes have it and so ordered. Mr. Joyce,
22 will you please take over as temporary
23 chairperson?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I now would like
25 Mr. Courtright to speak.

1 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would like to hand
2 my resignation to the Scranton City Council
3 because I will be moving to the tax office.

4 MS. EVANS: I now make a motion to
5 accept Mr. Courtright's resignation.

6 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

7 MR. JOYCE: All those in favor say
8 aye?

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Those opposed? The ayes
14 have it and so ordered.

15 MR. COOLICAN: I have before me the
16 certificate of election of William
17 Courtright as tax collector. Will council
18 adopt the motion to the effect that the
19 certificate be received and ordered filed
20 and made part of the minutes?

21 MS. EVANS: I so move.

22 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

23 MR. JOYCE: All those in favor
24 signify by saying aye?

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Those opposed? The ayes
5 have it and so ordered. I will now ask
6 Judge Thomas Munley to step forward to the
7 podium and administer the oath of office to
8 William Courtright to the elected office of
9 tax collector.

10 HONORABLE THOMAS MUNLEY: Thank you,
11 councilman. I do want to say that
12 Mr. Courtright has been my close friend for
13 over 20 years and I am honored to be part of
14 this, Bill, I want you to know that. It
15 means a lot to me and we speak all of the
16 time and we are very close friends and I
17 know your family is very proud of you, also,
18 and raise your right hand, please, and
19 repeat after me.

20 (WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, was
21 administered the oath of office by the
22 Honorable Thomas Munley and was duly sworn
23 in as Tax Collector.)

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I never talked from
25 this side. Is it on? I just want to wish

1 you all the best of luck. As I said before,
2 you're in for the ride of your life. I just
3 wanted to thank my family for coming up here
4 with me. My son Patrick is at college so he
5 couldn't make it, so I just wanted to
6 recognize him. Once again, best of luck to
7 all of you. Thanks for all your help.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. JOYCE: I now ask for
10 nominations for city clerk.

11 MS. EVANS: I nominate Nancy Krake,
12 city clerk.

13 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

14 MR. JOYCE: I'd ask for a roll call.

15 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Joyce.

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. JOYCE: I now call for
24 nominations of a permanent president of
25 council for the ensuing two years and I'd

1 like to nominate Mrs. Janet Tomko-Evans as
2 permanent chairperson and president of city
3 council.

4 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

5 MR. JOYCE: I'd ask for a roll call.

6 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

8 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

12 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MR. JOYCE: The motion is adopted and
15 I declare Janet Tomko-Evans duly and legally
16 elected president of city council. I now
17 call for a nomination of the vice-president
18 for council for the ensuing two years.

19 MS. EVANS: I nominate Pat Rogan as
20 vice-president of Scranton City Council.

21 MR. JOYCE: I second the motion.

22 I'll ask for a roll call, please, Sue.

23 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Rogan.

1 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

2 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Joyce.

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

4 MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. The motion is
6 adopted and I declare Pat Rogan duly and
7 legally elected vice-president of city
8 council.

9 MR. ROGAN: At this time I'd like to
10 make a motion that we appoint Boyd Hughes to
11 the position of council solicitor.

12 MR. JOYCE: I second that motion.
13 All those in favor say aye?

14 MS. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. JOYCE: Opposed? The ayes have
19 it and so ordered. I will now ask
20 Councilwoman Evans to come forward to the
21 podium to be sworn in as council president
22 by Judge Terrence Nealon.

23 (JANET TOMKO-EVANS was administered
24 the oath of office by the Honorable Terrence
25 Nealon and was sworn in as president of

1 Scranton City Council.)

2 MR. JOYCE: I will now ask Councilman
3 Rogan to come forward to the podium to be
4 sworn in as council vice-president by Judge
5 Terrence Nealon.

6 (PATRICK ROGAN was administered the
7 oath of office by the Honorable Terrence
8 Nealon and sworn in as vice-president of
9 Scranton City Council.)

10 MR. JOYCE: I will now ask Nancy
11 Krake to come forward to the podium to be
12 sworn in as city clerk by Judge Terrence
13 Nealon.

14 THE COURT: Again, I want to thank
15 Nancy. Nancy and I went to high school
16 together, I actually went to grade school
17 with her husband, Ray as well. I don't
18 think he has had a Bible in his hand since
19 Nativity grade school, we won't go there.

20 (NANCY KRAKE was administered the
21 oath of office by the Honorable Terrence
22 Nealon and sworn in as City Clerk.)

23 MR. JOYCE: We are now ready to
24 consider the rules of the procedure by which
25 this council will be governed during the

1 next two years, what is your pleasure?

2 MR. JOYCE: I move that the Rules of
3 Council be adopted by Resolution No. 1,
4 2010, as required by the Home Rule Charter.

5 MR. ROGAN: I second the motion.

6 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, would you
7 please read Resolution No. 1?

8 MS. KRAKE: RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2010,
9 ADOPTING THE RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS OF
10 THE SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL, SCRANTON,
11 PENNSYLVANIA.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MS. EVANS: Aye. Those opposed? The
18 ayes have it and it is so ordered. The
19 following will be the committee chairpersons
20 for the next two years. Community
21 development: Pat Rogan. Public works: Bob
22 McGoff. Public safety: Council appointee.
23 Finance: Frank Joyce. Rules: Janet Evans.

24 Subcommittees: Pension review
25 administration: Bob McGoff. Downtown

1 revitalization: Appointee. Boards and
2 commissions: Pat Rogan. Revenues, taxes:
3 Frank Joyce. Intergovernmental Relations:
4 Janet Evans.

5 I will now call on each council
6 member for a few brief remarks. Mr. McGoff?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I would like to welcome
8 Mr. Rogan and Mr. Joyce to council and I
9 hope that over at least the next two years
10 of my term, what's remaining of my term,
11 that we can work together along with the
12 administration to bring about the continued
13 development of the City of Scranton. I
14 think all of us no matter what others
15 believe we are all interested in what is
16 best for the city and hopefully we can work
17 together to accomplish that. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Rogan?

19 MR. ROGAN: I would like to start off
20 by thanking everybody who made this day
21 possible. If it weren't for my family,
22 friends and supporters I would not be
23 sitting in this chair today. I would also
24 like to thank Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci
25 for their service to our city and I would

1 like to congratulate Councilman Courtright
2 on his election as our tax collector. As
3 your councilman, it is my duty to work each
4 and every day to represent the interests of
5 the citizens of the Scranton. I am truly
6 honored by this opportunity. I pledge to
7 you that I will work tirelessly every day to
8 make Scranton a better place for all of us.

9 For many years council meetings have
10 been know for chaos and comedy instead of
11 productivity. Today we have an opportunity
12 to erase the mistakes of the past and begin
13 an era of productive cooperation.

14 Over the next four years we will
15 face many challenges. Our city is strapped
16 with many problems that did not occur
17 overnight and they will not be fixed
18 overnight, but through hard work, creative
19 ideas and love for City of Scranton we will
20 overcome these challenges.

21 President Reagan once said,
22 "America's best days are yet to come, our
23 proudest moments are yet to be and our most
24 glorious achievements are still ahead."

25 I believe the same to be true for

1 the City of Scranton and together with my
2 colleagues on council we will work every day
3 to make sure that Scranton's best days are
4 yet to come. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, do you have
6 any remarks at this time?

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes. My fellow
8 Scrantonians, I'd first like to thank both
9 my family and friends and all of the folks
10 who supported me in the election. Without
11 you this wouldn't be possible today, and I
12 would also like that our previous council
13 and other council before for their service
14 to Scranton. Today as we mark on a new
15 beginning I'm both humbled and honored to
16 sit here before you as one of your
17 councilmen. With no prior service in this
18 office, I was elected on the promise of what
19 I would provide to the residents of
20 Scranton. This is a promise that I vow to
21 keep. I vow to thoroughly research all of
22 the matters in which I will vote on and use
23 my best judgment as to what I feel is best
24 for the city and it's residents, that I will
25 listen to your concerns and put forth my

1 best efforts to address them appropriately
2 and that I will listen to your comments and
3 opinions regarding all city matters with
4 respect and that I will discuss these
5 matters with you whether we agree or
6 disagree.

7 In closing, I would just like to
8 thank the residents of Scranton again. I am
9 honored and eager to serve you. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Beyond the pomp and
11 circumstance of this swearing in ceremony
12 and reorganization meeting, today is truly a
13 day to give thanks for many blessings. To
14 begin, our new council majority wishes to
15 thank the Honorable Judge Terrence Nealon
16 for administering our oaths of office and
17 the very Reverend Richard Burke, C.P.,
18 rector of St. Ann's Shrine Basilica for
19 blessing this council, these chambers and
20 all of those in attendance today. How
21 fortunate we are to have been graced by two
22 such venerable men.

23 We also thank all of you who have
24 taken the time to be present at today's
25 ceremonies, demonstrate your support and

1 wish our new council well.

2 I particularly wish to thank all of
3 my loyal campaign workers and supporters for
4 your dedicated work and unconditional
5 support of my candidacies and public service
6 since 2003. You are my inspiration and my
7 motivation and I love you all.

8 I must also thank Councilman Joyce
9 and Rogan for having the courage and passion
10 to join me on a council team that is
11 dedicated to putting people first. Both the
12 Joyce and Rogan families worked tirelessly
13 throughout past year for the success of a
14 new majority and I am deeply grateful to
15 them.

16 What is most important to me is my
17 family. My father, Carl Tomko, passed away
18 during my first year on council. He was my
19 teacher, advisor, biggest supporter and best
20 friend. He was my rock. No one could be
21 more pleased today than he and I hope I will
22 always make him proud. He and my mother
23 gifted our family with priceless life
24 lessons and never ending love and support.
25 I am so very grateful and thrilled that my

1 dear mother, Marian Tomko, is here with me
2 today. All that I am and I have I owe to
3 you and I love you, Mother.

4 My father's passing left a deep
5 void, one that I thought could never be made
6 whole. My son long ago recognized his
7 grandfather's role in our family and so he
8 tried on Carl Tomko's shoes in 2003 and
9 laced them up in 2004 willingly, unselfishly
10 and lovingly. I thank him today and always
11 for his strength, his intelligence, his
12 tenacity, his loyalty and his love.

13 This new council majority was born,
14 raised and guided by the steady firm hand of
15 Chris Evans. A young man of great
16 principals who is the heart of my heart much
17 like his grandfather. His lovely wife,
18 Terry, has sacrificed and shared him with
19 this team and many of you and I thank her.
20 Their beautiful baby, Cara, my youngest
21 grandchild, provides the fourth generation
22 of our family to be present today to my
23 great delight.

24 Finally, I wish to thank my husband.
25 Public service can take a toll on any

1 family. Dave has shared me with thousands
2 of Scrantonians while I worked on the issues
3 of the council and the business of the
4 people. More importantly, he has supported
5 and defended me unconditionally throughout
6 every election, every council meeting and
7 newspaper article and editorial and has
8 tried to see the harshness of the political
9 life. He is the one who makes each day
10 easier and more tolerable since my struggle
11 with back injuries began several months ago.
12 He is also a dutiful son-in-law who assumes
13 the many responsibilities that I can no
14 longer perform. Any man can share the
15 better times, but it takes a great husband
16 to share the many worst times, continue to
17 love and support his spouse and care for his
18 mother in law and thank you, Dave.

19 I must also thank Mrs. Krake and
20 Attorney Hughes for joining this new council
21 majority in it's endeavor to do the people's
22 work. Vital to the success and
23 professionalism of city council is the
24 painstaking selection of a city clerk and
25 solicitor who share similar principals and

1 philosophies, who possess a demonstrated
2 working knowledge of city government and
3 each of it's departments and who have earned
4 the absolutely trust, respect, and
5 confidence of council members. Both
6 individuals own a strong work ethic and
7 unwavering passion to do what is right and a
8 solid commitment to the taxpayers of
9 Scranton. Council is indeed fortunate and
10 honored to appoint Mrs. Krake and Attorney
11 Hughes today.

12 Last year, I respectfully asked the
13 citizens of Scranton to elect my slated
14 candidates to form a new majority on city
15 council conceived in and dedicated to the
16 principal of putting people first. It is
17 beyond my ability to express the profound
18 gratitude and honor I feel toward the
19 citizens of the Scranton for bestowing their
20 great trust in this new majority.

21 Today we reorganize in these city
22 council chambers as a new majority with the
23 consent of, at the behest of and with the
24 mandate of the voters to do the people's
25 work. This mandate dictates among other

1 things to serve as a true system of checks
2 and balances in city government, to work
3 with the mayor, not for him, to continue
4 progress, but in a financially responsible
5 fashion, to increase accountability and
6 transparency from authorities and department
7 heads, to develop alternative budgets that
8 contain necessary cuts and seek new streams
9 of revenue, to restore decorum in council
10 chambers and to treat all people with
11 respect.

12 As we begin this new year, this new
13 decade, and this new council turn, let us
14 together pledge our firm and sincere
15 commitment to truth, accountability, fiscal
16 responsibility, fairness and a reciprocity
17 of respect and concern for our city and each
18 other. God bless Scranton and all of you.
19 Thank you.

20 I would now ask the Reverend Richard
21 Burke to come forward once again to offer
22 our benediction. Please rise.

23 (Benediction given my Reverend
24 Richard Burke.)
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MS. EVANS: I will now call for a motion to adjourn.

MR. ROGAN: So moved.

MR. JOYCE: Second.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is adjourned. There being no further business our next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. Thank you all for attending today.

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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