

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Joyce.

9 MR. JOYCE: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

14 MINUTES OF THE NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION
15 BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2009.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
19 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON
20 NOVEMBER 18, 2009.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
24 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON
25 NOVEMBER 18, 2009.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES OF THE
4 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
5 HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2009.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE
9 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD
10 ON DECEMBER 16, 2009.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
14 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE
15 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2009.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. TAX COLLECTION
19 COMPARISON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE SINGLE
20 TAX OFFICE ON DECEMBER 31, 2009.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. CONTROLLER'S
24 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 30,
25 2009.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 3-I. AGENDA FOR THE
4 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON
5 JANUARY 13, 2010.

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

8 MS. EVANS: Do any council members
9 have announcements at this time?

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I have been
11 notified by Charlie Spano, who is organizing
12 many of the efforts in the 2010 census in
13 Lackawanna County to inform that the Census
14 Bureau is seeking the census taker
15 applicants amongst our employees to perform
16 a variety of jobs. To learn more about the
17 opportunities available, I encourage you to
18 visit the census bureau's website at
19 www.2010census.gov and to click on job
20 seekers. From the site you will be able to
21 learn about the positions available and also
22 viable applicants are strongly encouraged to
23 apply.

24 To qualify for a position, you must
25 pass a background check and also complete a

1 28 question basic skills test which can also
2 be seen on the website, so if you are
3 interested you may submit applications at
4 the census bureau's local office on
5 Lackawanna Avenue and they can also be
6 reached by calling 903-6020, that's area
7 code 570, and I encourage all who are
8 interested to seriously consider applying
9 because it's very important that everybody
10 is counted in the census.

11 The data that is generated -- or
12 gathered from the census is used in a
13 variety of ways, but one of those ways is to
14 determine grant eligibility for many of our
15 neighborhoods, so it's very important that
16 everybody is counted.

17 Second, I have also been asked to
18 read that there is a CPA wrestling show
19 January 23, 2010 at the St. Mary's Center.
20 Doors open at 6:30. Bell time is 7:00 and
21 that's located on 320 Mifflin Avenue,
22 tickets are \$10 for kids five and under --
23 for kids five under they are free, otherwise
24 \$10 and you can also call 955-0923 for
25 tickets or you can get them at the door and

1 proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Center.
2 That's all.

3 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

4 MR. ROGAN: Nothing at this time.

5 MS. EVANS: On behalf of Scranton
6 City Council I wish to congratulate the
7 Honorable US District Court Judge William J.
8 Nealon for his 50 years of service on the
9 bench as of last Tuesday, January 5, 2010.
10 He is a highly respected and revered
11 judicial member, a loving dedicated man of
12 faith and family, a marine corp veteran and
13 an endearing, compassionate human being.

14 The public suffered a blow to our
15 faith and trust in government following the
16 corruption scandals in Luzerne and
17 Lackawanna Counties in 2009. In these
18 troubled times, Judge Nealon's stellar
19 half-century career serves as an example to
20 his colleagues, an inspiration to the legal
21 community and a shining beacon to the
22 public. He is he is proof that good men
23 live among us and truth and justice prevail
24 in some courtrooms. Congratulations, Judge
25 Nealon, and Scranton City Council will

1 present Judge Nealon with a formal
2 proclamation at sometime in the future.

3 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion for
4 nominating a person to fill the vacant seat
5 of Councilman William Courtright's position
6 as a member for the remainder of his term of
7 office which will expire at twelve noon on
8 January 2, 2012, which nomination will
9 require a second.

10 MS. EVANS: A motion has been made
11 and for nominating a person to fill the
12 vacancy of Council Member William
13 Courtright's position as a council member
14 for remainder of his term of office which
15 will expire at 12 p.m. noon on January 2,
16 2012, which nomination will require a
17 second. Is there a second?

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25 have it and so moved.

1 MR. ROGAN: I nominate Jack Loscombe
2 to fill the unexpired term of Councilman
3 Courtright.

4 MS. EVANS: Is there a second?

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: Seeing that there are no
7 further nominations, I now entertain a
8 motion to close nominations.

9 MR. MCGOFF: We have a motion on the
10 floor.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: A motion has been made
13 to close nominations, is there a second?

14 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
16 signify by saying aye?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
21 have it and so moved. On the nomination of
22 Mr. John Loscombe to fill the vacancy of
23 Councilman Courtright for his unexpired term
24 which will expire at 12 p.m. noon on January
25 2, 2012, may we have a roll call, please?

1 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Joyce.

6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. So ordered.

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

11 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
12 Mr. Quinn.

13 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, member of
14 the Scranton-Lackawanna County Taxpayers'
15 Association, Inc. I want to congratulate
16 the newly elected members and the re-elected
17 member, Janet.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19 THE COURT: And I also want to
20 Mr. Hughes, Attorney Hughes, as the new
21 solicitor, it's an adventure. I heard today
22 a woman went down to the Sewer Authority and
23 they reversed their decision in regard to
24 the flat sewer rate and they reverted back
25 to the old sewer rate. Now, did you hear

1 anything on that?

2 MS. EVANS: No, I haven't.

3 MR. QUINN: That woman called me
4 today and told me that she did, that's what
5 happened, but how it got there disturbs
6 because of the fact that in 1968 the Sewer
7 Authority would venture with the Dunmore
8 Borough became the Scranton-Dunmore Sewer
9 Authority, '74 we elected to have the Home
10 Rule Charter which was by the citizens of
11 the Scranton, we elected that, and then in
12 '79 we had a contract -- in '99 we had a
13 contract with Anglican American Water
14 Company and in 2007 the mayor signs a lease,
15 lease termination, global settlement and
16 general release for \$6,595,000, the city.
17 That's not including Dunmore, okay? Dunmore
18 was \$1,362,000, and it was -- I don't know
19 if you know anything about this here, and it
20 was seconded and witnesses by Sally Doctor,
21 whoever that is. No city council signatures
22 on this, no solicitor's opinion, no
23 solicitor's signature.

24 And also at this time he said that
25 now the sewer authority is autonomous and

1 they could set the rates. That's a bunch of
2 baloney. In 1974 when the Home Rule Charter
3 was set there was a stipulation, a
4 regulation in there said that the city
5 council has to set the rates and that was
6 because they didn't want these authorities
7 just to go where the heck they wanted to go,
8 and what happened was Mr. Doherty and the
9 through the Sewer Authority circumvented
10 this city council and the former majority
11 didn't do anything about it, went along with
12 it, and now they got a raise, a 56 percent
13 raise in 2007, June of 2007, the payoff was
14 6.5 million and now they changed the fat
15 rate to \$90, which now it's rescinded, but
16 they should not never been allowed to do
17 that.

18 I'm going to ask Attorney Hughes,
19 I'm asking you Mrs. Evans, Madame President,
20 to ask Attorney Hughes if this is legal. If
21 they can just arbitrarily say that we are
22 going to raise the rates without going
23 before the city council. As I read the Home
24 Rule Charter it says that they cannot do it.
25 So I appreciate that if you would do that

1 for us, okay?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. QUINN: We've got to have
4 control of what's going on in this city
5 council and in the city because these
6 authorities and that's what they form
7 authorities. Back in the 70's, Attorney
8 Hughes will remember this here, Dr. Harry
9 Strickland from the University of Scranton
10 wrote a book, "The Trojan Horse" and what
11 that book was about was at one point, as you
12 know in history, the Trojan Horse opened and
13 all the soldiers come out, well, this is
14 what he says is happening with authorities.
15 That horse is opening up and all of these
16 authorities are coming out and these
17 authorities are controlling government when
18 the elected should be controlling it, when
19 the elected officials should be controlling
20 it and the authorities are saying they are
21 autonomous and they are trying to control
22 it. Thank you very much.

23 MS. EVANS: Mr. Quinn, I'm sorry, if
24 you would be so kind as to give Neil the
25 information from which you were quoting and,

1 Neil, if you can make copies of that please,
2 for Attorneys Hughes and for council as
3 well? Thank you.

4 MR. QUINN: Okay. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Robert
6 Neveroski.

7 MR. NEVEROSKI: I lost 17 pounds,
8 Janet.

9 MS. EVANS: You look wonderful.

10 MR. NEVEROSKI: Thank you. Council,
11 Nancy, Neil, Attorney Hughes, always a
12 pleasure to see you, sir.

13 MR. HUGHES: That's likewise, Bob.

14 MR. NEVEROSKI: Ozzie stole my
15 thunder here, I want to talk about the same
16 thing. Our forefathers in Boston had a
17 revolution over the taxes that we called the
18 Boston Tea Party. I got the letter from the
19 authority, I live alone. I use about 2,000
20 gallons of water a month. Why should I
21 subsidize somebody who uses and got a big
22 family and uses a lot more water? When they
23 did the deal with American Water and got the
24 6 million dollars which went down the black
25 hole then they undid the deal and they said

1 we won't be penalized, it was illegal, but
2 then we had to pay back that 6 million
3 dollars. They usurped the city charter, the
4 Home Rule Charter by doing that which was
5 illegal, so I would ask that you ask
6 Attorney Hughes to research that.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. NEVEROSKI: And get it back on
9 track again because these people -- the only
10 person to vote against that was Noone and
11 the rest of them are unelected officials,
12 not even an official, they are just
13 unelected people who got put on an authority
14 who nobody knows where they meet or what
15 time they ever meet because I never seen it,
16 so they are meeting in secret like the
17 Senate did now to pass this health bill,
18 they are meeting in secret, so let's know
19 where they meet. The people should go down
20 and voice their outrage at this most unfair
21 rate increase. And I never mind paying a
22 sewer bill, because we all clean the rivers
23 up which we did a great job here, but not to
24 get raped which is what they are doing now.

25 And the second reason I came here,

1 Ozzie, what's that address at the Bunker
2 Hill Street, with the house?

3 MR. QUINN: 1023.

4 MR. NEVEROSKI: I believe 1023
5 Bunker Street there is a burnt out house,
6 it's been burned out for three or four
7 years, Mr. Quinn and I met with Ray Hayes,
8 Seitzinger and Oleski down in Ray Hayes'
9 office, we were assured that they would look
10 into this house. Then we got a letter
11 saying there was people living in it. The
12 roof is burned out, there is no roof, every
13 window in the house is broke. We
14 subsequently sent two or three more letters
15 now we have never heard, seen a city
16 official, so how do you get these people to
17 do something?

18 MS. EVANS: Mr. Neveroski, when did
19 that meeting occur between yourself and
20 Mr. Hayes and the representatives?

21 MR. NEVEROSKI: Six, seven months
22 ago, Ozzie? Yeah, at least six or seven
23 months. Ozzie and I went down and we met
24 with them three gentleman, we were assured
25 that they would take care of that house.

1 The front yard is full of -- the whole roof
2 is laying in the front yard along with all
3 kind of garbage, garbage cans, debris, it
4 stinks. The backyard is full of garbage
5 bags, debris, the neighbors are complaining
6 and nobody is doing nothing. We are
7 complaining, it's falling on deaf ears, so I
8 would ask you people to help us out with
9 this because the city is doing nothing for
10 us. Nothing.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. NEVEROSKI: I would ask for your
13 help.

14 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

15 MR. NEVEROSKI: Thank you very much.

16 MS. EVANS: And I just wanted to
17 respond to something you said earlier very
18 quickly, the Sewer Authority I believe meets
19 the fourth Tuesday of every month at Dunmore
20 council chambers. I do not know the time,
21 however.

22 MR. NEVEROSKI: I would ask
23 everybody to go to that and raise their
24 concerns about this outrageous rate that
25 they are trying to impose upon the

1 ratepayers. Like I say, I say, Mrs. Evans,
2 nobody minds paying a sewer bill, I
3 certainly never did, but I don't like to get
4 raped while I'm doing it, you know, and I
5 don't want to subsidize anybody. Them guys
6 down there like the school board, they never
7 seen a tax increase they didn't like. They
8 voted in the past 13 years they voted for a
9 tax increase every year, but we vote --
10 well, I didn't vote them in, but certain
11 people did, so you are stuck with what you
12 got. Thank you very much.

13 MS. EVANS: Andy Sbaraglia.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
15 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.
16 The only thing I want to say about this
17 sewer authority is that the people in Moosic
18 is being billed by Moosic's Sewer Authority
19 even though they use our plant. Do remember
20 that because I find it very offensive that
21 we would pay 90 bucks and they would pay
22 whatever they are paying.

23 Okay, 5-E, amending File of Council
24 NO. 11, 1976, entitled "An Ordinance (As
25 amended) enacting, imposing a tax for

1 general revenue purposes in the amount of 2
2 percent on earned income and net profits of
3 persons, individuals, associations and
4 businesses who are residents of the City of
5 Scranton or non-residents of the City of
6 Scranton for work done.

7 How is the tax office collecting
8 that money? Does anybody know. A
9 doctor who performs an operation up at the
10 Mercy Hospital is required to pay 2 percent
11 to the City of Scranton, that's your
12 legislation there. As a non-resident
13 anybody that does any kind of business
14 within the city, okay, according to that
15 piece of legislation. Lawyers in the city
16 of Scranton, 2 percent. There is where we
17 with are not getting our money.

18 You can believe me if you read that
19 piece of legislation. And you have your
20 lawyer clarify it because to me it looks
21 fairly simple, they are supposed to pay 2
22 percent no matter whose does business within
23 the City of Scranton, whether it's anybody
24 within it. A doctor, a lawyer, an Indian
25 Chief or whatever. Me, in turn, I have to

1 pay -- well, I shouldn't say it, but I pay
2 the 2.4, 2.2 and then 2.4 and was glad to do
3 it, but here's where I believe our shortfall
4 is coming from in the city. We are not out
5 there getting the money from them people.

6 The other is the nonprofits. Marie
7 said there was 31 percent in the city is not
8 paying taxes, they are listed as nonprofit,
9 and that figure is appalling. Now,
10 somewhere down in I think I was Pittsburgh
11 was going to after universities and was
12 going to tax the students in there some way.
13 You got to look at that. You got to go 101
14 ways to get more money, revenue into the
15 city from people who are not paid.

16 And another thing is if you open up
17 the budget your attorney should be tripled
18 the amount of money you put away for him
19 because you are going to need it. You are
20 going to have to fight the mayor tooth and
21 nail and there is no way out of it. The
22 first thing he did was try to get rid of
23 Billy's job. There it shows you what he is
24 thinking of. Hire out a different agency to
25 collect. We went through all of this. We

1 sold our good loans, we sold everything that
2 we could sell. We sold the golf course. Of
3 course, you know all of that, there is no
4 sense being redundant on it.

5 But to correct problems of this city
6 you are going to have to go back eight years
7 to when this man took office and work your
8 way up and unless you do that we can't go
9 forward. The only way we are going to ever
10 go forward is to go backward, back where he
11 took 20 percent, 10 percent used to come
12 before the council on this contracts, he
13 upped it to 20 percent and it started from
14 there and went forward and forward and
15 forward.

16 There is no way we can take this.
17 We are distressed, we are going to be
18 distressed, we are continuing to be
19 distressed. Only if you go back the eight
20 years and start correcting everything that
21 was done during them eight years and find
22 out why we are paying money on the South
23 Side Complex, why we are still carrying that
24 on our books. Same way with the DPW site,
25 why are we paying that and how long are we

1 going to be paying that? Because he has
2 already going to add commercial development
3 there. Now, are we going to be responsible
4 for the liability with that commercial
5 development on any piece that -- parcel that
6 somebody may trip on. You have to do this.
7 And you are going to have to fight tooth and
8 nail all of the way up because there is no
9 way out of it.

10 I'm just sorry we have to do it.
11 I'm sorry it falls on you really, but for
12 eight years whatever promises were made to
13 the councilmen that were up there it was
14 done and they certainly weren't acting in
15 the best half of the people. It's your --
16 it falls upon you to do it, to really go
17 back and check it, everything you can check,
18 everything that you can change, change it
19 because that's the only way we are ever
20 going to get out of distressed and God knows
21 what PEL is going to be doing. If you read
22 some of that it was in the newspaper about
23 PEL, it's not a very bright future we are
24 going have in this city if they get their
25 way, and that was a heck of a way.

1 As you know, the EMS tax is going up
2 to 120 some bucks and so forth and so on
3 that you he wanted to do there and God knows
4 what else, but I don't know if you got with
5 PEL yet or who is going to represent you
6 with PEL, but there is something you're
7 going to have to get with, too.

8 But your main business is really get
9 the city out of distressed status someway,
10 somehow and let's go forward, but like I
11 say, you are going to have to go backward to
12 go forward. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The next
14 name on the list I'm not unable to read.
15 Thank you, Mr. McGoff. Mr. Stucker.

16 MR. STUCKER: Hey, guys. Hi, Janet.

17 MS. EVANS: Hello.

18 MR. STUCKER: Are they still going
19 to do that house on Greenridge yet? I went
20 by there the other day and it's still up.

21 MS. EVANS: And what block of
22 Greenridge is that?

23 MR. STUCKER: Right across the
24 street from McGinty's.

25 MS. EVANS: Across the street from?

1 MR. STUCKER: McGinty's.

2 MR. JOYCE: We'll have to look into
3 that for you, Jim.

4 MR. STUCKER: Because I asked
5 Courtright about it and he was supposed to
6 see and he never did, so maybe you two could
7 to something. There is people living in
8 there and snakes, a lot of snakes and rats.

9 MR. ROGAN: They did start to do
10 some work on that sight and they took out
11 some trees and some bushes.

12 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, I seen that.

13 MR. ROGAN: But I think it's on the
14 list to be demolished.

15 MR. STUCKER: They took the trees
16 down. Now there is two of them right across
17 Mercy Hospital. There is a rock building, a
18 rock apartment, it used to be a doctor's and
19 right up the street next to it there is a
20 wooden house with the windows all busted out
21 of it.

22 MS. EVANS: On Jefferson Avenue?

23 MR. STUCKER: Yeah, the one up the
24 hill on Jefferson, yeah, and that rock
25 building it must being a doctor's office a

1 long time ago.

2 MS. EVANS: Okay, Jim, we'll look
3 into that.

4 MR. STUCKER: And our garbage has
5 been picked up a lot now.

6 MS. EVANS: Good.

7 MR. STUCKER: Our streets have been
8 plowed, so I'm glad you two got in, I'm
9 happy, I vote for Janet and you two.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

11 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Jim. Dianna
13 Harris.

14 MS. HARRIS: Good evening. My name
15 is Dianna Harris and I have been a Scranton
16 resident all my life and I'm here to talk
17 about the sewer bill rate adjustment now,
18 also, and I would like to believe that the
19 council will help us fight this unfair
20 adjustment. And I, too, heard today that
21 someone called the Sewer Authority and they
22 said that they rescinded it and they didn't
23 inform you of any of that?

24 MS. EVANS: No, I have not received
25 any information.

1 MS. HARRIS: Okay, if I may read
2 little excerpts from the letter I know I
3 forwarded to you.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. HARRIS: I appreciate your
6 response. When I read the letter, you know,
7 I was shocked and dismayed and to my
8 surprise the payment would now be shared
9 equally by all customers regardless of the
10 level of water consumption. This new shared
11 rate rewards those who waste and penalizes
12 who conserve. Conservation and
13 environmental awareness has always been a
14 high priority for me and my family. To
15 conserve water and save energy, we recently
16 installed the smaller energy saving hot
17 water heater. Our water consumption is the
18 lowest ever.

19 Now, you inform us that we are no
20 longer going to be charged by usage, but
21 instead a flat rate and we will be charged
22 for what other's waste. While this new
23 policy does effect me directly, I am not
24 complaining only for selfish reasons. What
25 about the large elderly population in our

1 area on fixed incomes? Most live alone and
2 usually have minimal water usage. Was any
3 consideration given to these people? Sure,
4 families are getting a big break, but there
5 is no incentive for these families to teach
6 their children to conserve.

7 In a time when the society is
8 struggling to impact the environment
9 awareness world over, you are sending the
10 wrong message about responsible water usage.
11 This shared equally rate adjustment which
12 the sewer authority says is not a rate hike
13 has divided the city. There are those whose
14 rates will increase exorbitantly and those
15 who will go down exponentially. The more
16 affluent are gloating over the fact that the
17 poor and watchful citizens will help them
18 fill their pools this summer. I would like
19 to know how this can possibly be fair?

20 Better yet, how could intelligent
21 people come up with this idea and believe
22 that it's fair and just for all? I believe
23 there was one sewer authority board member
24 who voted in opposition and he called me
25 personally. Mr. Noone said that -- I

1 applaud Mr. Noone for calling me and making
2 me aware of it and I applaud him for
3 standing up against the other members. I
4 would like it know though how it affected
5 each board member? Did they, you know, vote
6 according to how it would adjust their sewer
7 rate personally? We don't know that because
8 we know it's not fair for the public.

9 According to the Time's report, 40
10 percent of the sewer authority customers
11 currently pay the minimum, which is \$205.
12 Their sewer rate is going to go up \$155.
13 While it was not reported what the rates are
14 for the remaining 60, I would imagine a
15 large group of them will experience some
16 type of increase under this new payment.
17 The remaining customers would be those whose
18 rate will go down under this new system.
19 Lucky for them, bad for us.

20 How many letters of thanks did the
21 Sewer Authority get saying, "Thank you for
22 lower my rate." People generally want what
23 is good for the collective society, even
24 they know it's wrong but for selfish reasons
25 most will not speak out. One gentleman,

1 however, on the Times' website did say his
2 was going down \$100, but he said it's not
3 fair.

4 I believe if we all work together to
5 right this wrong, and I ask council to come
6 with us to the meeting which is on the 26th,
7 and they -- sometimes they meet in Scranton,
8 sometimes they meet in Dunmore, and are they
9 meeting in Dunmore this time?

10 MS. EVANS: Well, I believe the 26 th
11 would be a Tuesday evening, which is the
12 time and date of the council meeting, so I
13 would assume they would be in Dunmore.

14 MS. HARRIS: Okay. Oh, okay. Well,
15 thank you, and I hope the news is true that
16 they did rescind the rate.

17 MS. EVANS: As do I.

18 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, I tried to
20 call a member of the sewer authority to
21 verify that. They said that -- I just got a
22 voicemail. I asked that they call back at
23 some point in time, so I don't know that
24 they will.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lynn Bloom.

1 MS. BLOOM: Good evening. Lynn
2 Bloom, Scranton resident. First I'd like to
3 say Happy New Year to everyone and
4 congratulations on our newly elected,
5 re-elected and appointed party people.

6 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

7 MS. BLOOM: You are welcome. I
8 guess I'm going to sound a little
9 hypocritical because I'm going to complain
10 about PILOTS and then asked to make a public
11 announcement about a fundraiser, so I find
12 it obscene that 31 percent pays nothing. A
13 couple of months ago there were two
14 University of student -- University of
15 Scranton students here to a council meeting,
16 they were appalled that from the University
17 of Scranton the City only gets \$118,000. I
18 didn't ask what their tuition was, but by
19 the looks of their face the two of them
20 going for four years I bet it's pretty close
21 to \$118,000. It's just unacceptable. It's
22 unacceptable that this city is so nonprofit
23 heavy. There has to be recourse. There has
24 to be.

25 I have lived thankfully throughout

1 most of this country and overseas. I have
2 never seen a college town so at war with
3 itself and the college that occupies so much
4 of it's space. There are very, very
5 successful communities. Ashland, Oregon, is
6 an absolutely beautiful, beautiful
7 University town, the landscaping in Ashland
8 is gorgeous. It's a very dry area. The
9 community, the college, the University gives
10 back. They make it beautiful.

11 I just can't understand in the 21st
12 century how a University can expect to get
13 something for nothing. And the other
14 nonprofits, Lackawanna, I understand they
15 don't pay anything, Johnson's doesn't pay
16 anything, the list goes on and on. The
17 hospitals, we are talking hospitals. Health
18 care is a big business and big money.
19 Something has to has to be done. This
20 community can't absorb anymore.

21 The high population with the
22 elderly, they don't get raises. This year I
23 believe no COLA was allocated for social
24 security. That's it. They are living on
25 2009 money in 2010. The school tax went up,

1 the sewer may or may not go up, electricity
2 is going up. I mean, I don't think as a
3 community we want to hear about our elderly
4 becoming homeless or freezing to death or
5 going back to the 70's when people ate dog
6 food just to keep alive. I know I don't
7 want that.

8 It's been pointed out to me that I'm
9 a newcomer to this city and I have to say
10 most of Scranton is very welcoming, but
11 there is a mindset that when you are new you
12 don't fit in, you don't belong and people
13 don't want to hear from you. And I have to
14 be totally honest, this city hasn't survived
15 on it's own. It needs newcomers, it needs
16 new industry, it needs new ideas and I hope
17 my expectations will not be disappointed
18 that the group of elected officials are
19 going to listen to those new ideas.

20 I just want to talk moment about my
21 son's elementary school. It's Neil
22 Armstrong Elementary in North Scranton. It
23 is a wonderful, wonderful environment for my
24 son to learn in. He is nurtured and
25 supported and is getting a fantastic

1 education. My son spends his recess on a
2 parking lot, a cement parking lot. They
3 have to go down I guess about ten concrete
4 steps to go to a parking lot, a former
5 parking lot. The school doesn't even have a
6 playground. It's -- why? They built a
7 beautiful high school, but elementary
8 schools don't have a place for elementary
9 school aged children to play? So we are
10 having fundraisers, the PTA, which I'm a
11 proud member of. We having a fundraiser
12 tomorrow night at the Friendly's in Clarks
13 Summit from I believe it's 5:00 to 7:00
14 p.m., 20 percent of all proceeds will go to
15 Neil Armstrong PTA. We have lot of fires in
16 the -- a lot of coals in the fire. We want
17 to help the gym teacher, we want to help the
18 music department, we want to have a
19 playground, but we need our community
20 support, and I know it's a bad time to ask
21 people for money, and I'm looking into if
22 maybe, because we have so much talent in
23 this city and so many good people in city if
24 maybe we can get it done with donations.

25 You know, we are just in the

1 planning stage because we know times are
2 hard, but these are our kids and we are
3 teaching them. We teach them, you know,
4 kids make that visual. They see, they feel,
5 they value, that's how they interpret their
6 worth to us and if we don't get these kids
7 on the right track it's -- West Scranton,
8 the things that we are hearing about with
9 the teenagers, it has to be instilled in
10 them now that we value them now, so when
11 there are 16 and 17 they will stop and think
12 about all of the people that value them so
13 much and it might help them make a better
14 choice. Thank you very much.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I cannot
16 make out the first name, but the last name
17 is Cerebro.

18 MS. CEREBRO: Valerie.

19 MS. EVANS: Oh, Valerie.

20 MS. CEREBRO: Thank you. I pass.
21 People expressed my sentiments, it was about
22 the sewer authority. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you very
24 much. Lee Morgan.

25 MR. MORGAN: Right here. Do you

1 want me to go after the next speaker?

2 MS. EVANS: That would be fine.

3 Yavonne Zanthis.

4 MS. ZANTHIS: Good evening, Council.

5 Yavonne Zanthis, and best wishes --

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MS. ZANTHIS: To you, Nancy Krake,
8 Attorney Hughes. My name is Yavonne
9 Zanthis. My daughter, Kristen, we live on
10 Dickson Avenue in lower Greenridge. The
11 reason I'm here is across from us 22 feet is
12 a cement plant. They don't manufacture any
13 more, but they still have blocks. The
14 blocks during the last wind storm, during
15 last wind storm we had so much sand we had
16 to dust off our Christmas decorations. The
17 sand was at least two inches deep on theses
18 decorations. Our house is completely -- I
19 mean, we clean it every day with a wet/cry
20 vac. We come up with enough sand in there
21 it seems like we live across from a beach.

22 The reason -- the main reason we are
23 here is we have to have our zoning changed.
24 This light industrial we don't know what's
25 coming next. What could come across the

1 street next? We can't sell our home.
2 Everyone asks us what's coming next. We
3 don't know. I mean, they haven't pulled out
4 of there completely. They are still
5 bringing in 18 wheelers. I mean, we have
6 lived the last several years in hell,
7 between the 18 wheelers sometimes four-feet
8 from my front door idling and all night long
9 the forklifts. Now we finally have some
10 peace but I'm afraid what's coming next.
11 It's no longer a KOZ after this year, but
12 will it become a KOZ again if a new industry
13 comes in. Could you please help us? We
14 need the help. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

17 MS. EVANS: This is Lee Morgan.

18 MR. MORGAN: Yes. I have a question
19 in regards to the Sewer Authority and my
20 question is will council use it's solicitor
21 to gain control of the Scranton Sewer
22 Authority through Court intervention if
23 necessary?

24 MS. EVANS: Would you like an answer
25 now?

1 MR. MORGAN: Well, yeah, that would
2 be a nice thing.

3 MS. EVANS: As was requested earlier
4 tonight by two speakers, I will be asking
5 Attorney Hughes to look into all of the
6 paperwork that has been provided and to see
7 what the best and legal course of action
8 will be for council to follow.

9 MR. MORGAN: 5-C, this has to do
10 with the waste and collection fee, does the
11 city have an agreement with the landfill
12 that we pay \$40 a ton? Is that still in
13 affect?

14 MS. EVANS: 5-C?

15 MR. MORGAN: Yes, 5-C, and it's the
16 \$178 waste disposal and collection fee -- or
17 5-G rather, "G", I'm sorry.

18 MS. EVANS: We can get that answer
19 for you for next week.

20 MR. MORGAN: Could I also have an
21 answer as to how much it costs to collect
22 the garbage and, in other words, what does
23 the city pay to collect the garbage and what
24 does it pay to dump the garbage, because I'm
25 wondering should this fee be lower, are the

1 costs actually lower and should this be --
2 should this fee itself be lower?

3 And the last think I have here today
4 is it possible for council to put all of the
5 legislation that's going to come before this
6 body on it's website with all of the backup
7 documentation so that the residents and
8 taxpayers can know what's on the agenda,
9 what backup information is also available to
10 the council members before a vote and would
11 it be possible to also have that information
12 given to maybe the two Scranton public
13 libraries inside of the City of Scranton so
14 that people wouldn't have to come to council
15 to gain access to that information so what
16 we could create is a better formed
17 electorate and it may help us, and that's
18 all I have tonight. And I'd also like to
19 just say one more thing and thank all of the
20 people who come forward to ask to be
21 appointed to that seat and I appreciate all
22 of the people who did come out. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Joseph
24 Charles Englebert. Les Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

1 Council. Les Spindler, city resident. I'd
2 like to welcome Councilman Joyce and
3 Councilman Rogan to their new positions and
4 wish them the best of luck.

5 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

6 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

7 MR. SPINDLER: And also congratulate
8 Mrs. Krake and Attorney Hughes on their new
9 positions, good luck to you.

10 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Mrs. Evans, I want to
12 talk about the library authority. Something
13 that caught my eye in the Doherty newsletter
14 of December 16, it says, "Council has
15 appointment power and could disband the
16 authority said Attorney Joseph O'Brien who
17 helped draft the ordinance. Would your
18 attorney know if is this is true or could he
19 look into that if that's possible?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. SPINDLER: And if that's not
22 possible I remember Mr. McGoff saying
23 something -- he read something at the new
24 ordinance at the last meeting before
25 Christmas break saying that council can make

1 editions to the ordinance, so if that's the
2 case I would ask council to make an addition
3 that before the library authority does
4 anything that it has to go before city
5 council first and that way maybe we can
6 control them if it can't be disbanded.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. And
9 something else in this article, something
10 the mayor said. "Mr. Doherty said he
11 continues to scower state and federal
12 sources for funding, but he acknowledged
13 construction would require local funding and
14 borrowing money."

15 I would hope if anybody came before
16 this council to borrow money for a library
17 that they would please turn them down.
18 That's all I want to say about that.

19 Moving on, Mrs. Evans, I don't know
20 whether you are going to open the budget or
21 not, but if you do I would ask that you look
22 into these outrageous parking meter fees. I
23 work downtown and I see it's affecting
24 people already. People won't come down to
25 park. People who work in town who used to

1 fee the meters all day aren't doing that
2 anymore. I think the city is going to lose
3 money instead of making money with these
4 outrageous fees.

5 The developer of the Village of
6 Tripp Park filed bankruptcy. I think
7 everybody that lives there should file a
8 class action lawsuit against this person and
9 see if they can get all of the problems
10 fixed up there. I mean, I don't live too
11 far from there, but I think these people
12 should look into doing something like that
13 because this developer I think he is just a
14 gypsy and these people deserve better.

15 So during the interviews over the
16 weekend, one of the interviewees had a good
17 idea about nonprofits. His idea was if a
18 nonprofit buys a property that they should
19 have to pay taxes on that property. I don't
20 know if council would have to make an
21 ordinance doing that or whatever.

22 MS. EVANS: We can look into it.

23 MR. SPINDLER: I'd like that to be
24 looked into, also.

25 MS. EVANS: We can look into it.

1 MR. SPINDLER: And something else, I
2 know there is law that I think sidewalks
3 have to be shoveled within 24 hours, Ms.
4 Evans, the business where Scranton Ford used
5 to be that's closed now, their sidewalks
6 haven't been shoveled for probably at least
7 ten days.

8 MS. EVANS: Okay.

9 MR. SPINDLER: And from there -- and
10 they have a big property. It goes down
11 Linden Street from Mifflin to Franklin,
12 that's not shoveled, and also along the
13 front of their building. And yesterday I
14 walked on the new Lackawanna Avenue Bridge,
15 I don't know whose responsibility that is,
16 their sidewalks are all ice.

17 MS. EVANS: Lackawanna Avenue
18 bridge?

19 MR. SPINDLER: Yes, the new bridge,
20 their sidewalks are all ice. And while I
21 still have more time, I too want to speak
22 about the sewer authority. I mean, it
23 doesn't effect me much, the \$90 is about
24 what I pay, but it's not fair to people
25 don't pay that much. It's ridiculous to

1 have a flat rate. It should be like
2 whatsoever water you are use and that's how
3 you should pay. It's not fair to the
4 elderly and people on fixed incomes. There
5 is people I work with they are single people
6 that live in a house, they don't use much
7 water at all, so hopefully something can be
8 done about that. Thank you for your time
9 and good luck to all of the newcomers.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

12 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, if everyone
13 agrees on council if we can send a letter,
14 please, regarding the Scranton -- the old
15 Scranton Ford dealership and the condition
16 of the sidewalks throughout the winter
17 months as well as a memo concerning the
18 Lackawanna Avenue bridge if we can get the
19 DPW on that and if LIPS can please get the
20 owner of the property on Linden and Mifflin
21 to take care of their sidewalks according to
22 city ordinance. Thank you. Bill Jackowitz.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
24 Scranton City Council. Bill Jackowitz,
25 South Scranton resident and member of the

1 Taxpayers' Association. The fund drive to
2 purchase a marker for the young mother whose
3 baby only lived one hour was very
4 successful. The marker, cemetery fees and
5 installation totaled \$625. Pevesanto
6 Monuments worked with us. There was \$250
7 left over that, that was given to the young
8 lady to purchase Christmas presents for her
9 three-year-old daughter. Again, I would
10 like to thank each and every one of you who
11 contributed to the free swim and cemetery
12 marker fund drives. Thank you from the
13 bottom of my heart and the young lady's
14 family thanks you, also.

15 I see where Lackawanna County and
16 Scranton School Board took out loans for
17 higher interest rates than needed thus
18 costing the taxpayers more money in interest
19 payments. I have said this before, you milk
20 cows, not taxpayers. The school board
21 raises taxes again 1.6 million dollars.
22 Sewer rates going up an average of \$90 a
23 quarter, I hope at that will be rescinded
24 like it was stated earlier. But yet
25 Mayor/Governor Doherty states Scranton is a

1 role model for the rest of the state. By.

2 The way, Pennsylvania
3 representatives tax northeastern
4 Pennsylvania residents higher than 49 other
5 states. That just goes to show what happens
6 when we elect inexperienced government
7 officials. First the tax office and now the
8 county and school board. Is Ken McDowell
9 not the Lackawanna County Controller and was
10 he not the Single Tax Office honcho?
11 Amazing.

12 Now, Mayor/Governor Doherty wants to
13 outsource Scranton tax collections. Where
14 has Mayor/Governor Doherty been for the last
15 eight years? The DA still insists that a
16 crime has not been committed at the Single
17 Tax Office. How would he know? He never
18 conducted an investigation, but yet
19 Mayor/Governor Doherty has the answer.
20 Amazing.

21 Lackawanna College is selling seats
22 at the Mellow Center. I see where Chris
23 Doherty bought one as you can see from the
24 photo that I gave to each council person.
25 My understanding is that he bought this seat

1 as a private citizen. They have a list of
2 all of the other persons who have purchased
3 their own seats at the Mellow Center in
4 Lackawanna County. I was unable to obtain
5 how much a seat costs. I guess he must
6 really be important if you can buy your own
7 seat at the Mellow Center. No wonder why
8 Mayor/Governor Doherty decided to be sworn
9 in at the Mellow Center. Possibly the 60
10 people who attended were seated in their own
11 bought seats.

12 I see where Representative Smith was
13 there, you know, the rep who does not pay
14 his taxes? And I also heard that
15 ex-councilwoman Gatelli attended instead of
16 attending her last council meeting, but
17 according to Mayor/Governor Doherty,
18 Scranton is a model for the rest of the
19 state to follow.

20 If you go to the Albright Library,
21 you will see Lackawanna college students
22 dominate the computers and the library.
23 Maybe the college can use some of the money
24 they made selling seats to build their own
25 library. Just a thought.

1 I have been coming to council
2 meetings for seven years. I have seen four
3 council presidents. The last two presidents
4 really showed no leadership skills
5 whatsoever. Judy Gatelli all she did was
6 call speakers name, had the cameras removed
7 and directed a police officer to be present
8 at the meetings. She was very argumentative
9 with the citizen speakers. Mr. McGoff ruled
10 numerous speakers out of order when I feel
11 they were not. If you are not willing to
12 accept criticism, then you should not be an
13 elected official. Just remember, city
14 council and all elected officials work for
15 the people. We are your boss whether you
16 like it or not.

17 Also, Mr. McGoff voted with the
18 mayor on every vote except one when he voted
19 to have the cameras returned to council
20 chambers. Again I say, no one, including
21 Mayor/Governor Doherty is correct every
22 time.

23 We have a new council. I would like
24 to welcome Mr. Rogan and Mr. Joyce. Also, I
25 would like to say welcome back to Mrs. Evans

1 and Mr. McGoff. I hope that the city
2 council meetings will return back to being a
3 professionally conducted government meeting
4 not the circus that has been taking place
5 the past four years. Also, I would like to
6 recognize Judge Munley who just walked in.

7 I attended both sessions of the
8 council interviews and watched it also on
9 television. The questions were fair. I saw
10 no favoritism toward any candidate for the
11 open seat. I also was surprised at how many
12 candidates obviously watched the council
13 meetings on television and were so
14 well-versed on what some speakers have been
15 speaking about for years. The fact that the
16 wage tax came up, well-paying jobs, minimum
17 family incomes, 25 percent tax increase and
18 the mistreatment speakers shows me that
19 Scrantonians are paying attention. That is
20 why we have two new council members.

21 Someone must find a way to abolish
22 the authorities starting with the library
23 authority. We do not need a 16 million
24 dollar library in South Scranton. We need
25 paved streets, curbs, sidewalks, and police

1 presence 24/7. Just remember, your
2 warfighters who risk their lives every day
3 so our judges, lawyers and politicians and
4 appointees can rape the taxpayers over the
5 coals, including the warfighters. And do
6 not forget their families who must worry
7 every day about their loved ones who are in
8 Afghanistan and Iraq defending us. And
9 also, the GreenBay Packers got robbed. That
10 was a face mask at the end of the game.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. David
12 Dobrzyn.

13 MR. DOBRZYN: Excuse me, out in the
14 hall when Judge Munley appeared he seemed to
15 be sort of busy, could we possible instate
16 the new council member and resume this
17 later?

18 MS. EVANS: I can't hear you,
19 Mr. Dobrzyn.

20 MR. DOBRZYN: Oh, something is
21 wrong. Could we possibly instate the new
22 council member at this time due to the fact
23 that Judge Munley has a schedule to meet?

24 MS. EVANS: I do not know that even
25 the new council member is with us at this

1 point.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay. It was just a
3 thought. Okay. One of the things that I
4 have noticed from studying the different
5 council candidates is our state constitution
6 precludes you from demanding anything from a
7 tax exempt, so basically what I have spoken
8 on this many times and I think that we
9 should start to lobby, lobby, lobby and try
10 to and get the state to reimburse us for
11 these tax exempts. We now have five
12 colleges in this town. We are a real
13 college town and it's wonderful what they
14 do, but therein again, we can't afford the e
15 bills, so that was the main concern of mine
16 and personally I think we should go to the
17 state sooner than to go to with no authority
18 in hand and ask -- ask nonprofits for money
19 because they can just simply say, no. And I
20 don't see where you people should be
21 degraded in that sense and have people
22 making comments that, well, I want to spend
23 it on my students or whatever.

24 So especially when somebody wants to
25 expand to 20 acres then it's time to get

1 right then and there on the states act and
2 start to get some compensation and if you
3 have to use that as an arm twisting measure
4 that would be great because it's not right.
5 It's not right to ask people, and it doesn't
6 matter whether you are on a fixed income or
7 not. I mean, I worked in a troubled
8 industry for years and several years I
9 didn't get a raise I was hoping somebody
10 fixed my income. So thank you and welcome
11 and have a good night.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Sam Patilla.

13 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, Mr.
14 Joyce, Mr. Rogan, Council President Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. PATILLA: Sam Patilla, Scranton
17 resident, taxpayer. Real quickly, we
18 discussed at the last Taxpayers' Association
19 meeting whether or not we can get the city
20 solicitor to look into getting the
21 authorities to meet here. I understand the
22 Sewer Authority might be a little different
23 them being part of the Dunmore Borough, but
24 on the days that they are not scheduled to
25 meet in Dunmore we should really require all

1 of these authorities to meet in city council
2 in these chambers here so the taxpayers and
3 the people can have access to their elected
4 and appointed officials.

5 Of the people, for the people, by
6 the people, all right, that's the foundation
7 and the base this country was built on and
8 the reason I stated that is because I heard
9 in the last few weeks a willingness to work
10 with the current mayor. That's not your
11 responsibility. Your responsibility is to
12 act as a representative of the taxpayers and
13 the residents of this city.

14 The last election showed you and it
15 told the world basically that we are not
16 happy with the guidance we received in the
17 last four to eight years. We don't want to
18 go that route anymore, okay? Desperate
19 times calls for desperate measures, all
20 right, and to go against what by good friend
21 Dave just stated about, you know, not going
22 to the nonprofits, all right, maybe it's
23 time for reclassification, okay?

24 The city -- the Scranton resident is
25 taxed by three bodies east, school board,

1 the city, the county, all right? We can't
2 handle their increases. Then when you throw
3 on the Sewer Authority, the Parking
4 Authority, DPW, and anything else these
5 people created in the last eight years and
6 the extra burden, not in addition to what's
7 going on on the national level, the gas, the
8 fuel, it's too much, all right? We can't
9 afford this, and sooner or later it's going
10 to get through, all right? What we need
11 right now, what we truly need right now, all
12 right, is for one the settlement of that
13 police and fire union contract. That needs
14 to be settled, that should be priority
15 number one. Number two, is reign in these
16 authorities, all right? If there is any
17 example of why Scranton did not need that
18 Library Authority this proposal by the Sewer
19 Authority is dead head on center, all right?
20 We cannot afford for these people to on any
21 whim decide whether they want to increase
22 rates, they want to increase fees, all
23 right? For me personally speaking going on
24 four years as a Scranton resident I haven't
25 seen anything the Sewer Authority has done

1 for my money, but every year that we have
2 been here we face an increase from the Sewer
3 Authority and I have yet to see anything
4 where I as an individual, a taxpayer,
5 benefit from these increases.

6 The same thing with the parking
7 garages, all right? I stated and somebody
8 stated earlier about the parking meters. I
9 stated it a few weeks ago, maybe a month or
10 so ago that you going to drive the people
11 who are utilizing those meters away, and
12 this is exactly what's happening, all right?
13 This isn't new to us, all right? This is
14 old news, all right, and it began with
15 outsourcing. This country is on the
16 decline. You outsource our jobs to the
17 middle east and to Asia and people lost
18 their jobs, they lost their homes, they lost
19 their automobiles, they lost their families,
20 all right? And for this mayor to even imply
21 that he wants to outsource anything to
22 anyone whistles and bells should be going
23 off full blast, all right? This is what
24 happened on the national level.

25 Scranton has been broke as far as

1 I'm of the knowledge for the last 15 years,
2 all right? It's the big welfare recipient
3 in the Commonwealth. You can't keep going
4 to the state and federal government with
5 your hand out because sooner or later they
6 are going to shut you off, all right?

7 On the national level, like I said,
8 we are ruled and governed by the executive
9 branch, the judicial branch and the
10 Congress. On a local level it gets a little
11 bit smaller. We have the mayor, we have
12 city council and to some extent we have our
13 judges and our police department, all right?
14 Unless we have one of those three entities
15 with a foothold anchored down for what -- to
16 do to what's right for the taxpayer, all
17 right, we don't stand a chance of survival.
18 All right.

19 Now, I have heard about all of the
20 welfare and all of this and all of the
21 people on it, I'm sick and tired of taking
22 care of people making seven figures a year,
23 all right? I don't ask anybody for
24 anything. I try do -- except for God I try
25 to do it on my own. God willing he let's me

1 do that. Now, if they don't want to pay
2 their water fees when they've got four or
3 five or seven kids and that, let them move.
4 There is no reason why a senior citizen or a
5 household of two should be paying the same
6 amount of money as somebody using twice the
7 amount of water or twice the amount of
8 electricity. It's not fair, all right?

9 The second fault of the United
10 States as a country was the corporate
11 America buying out our country, and I'm
12 tired of this. It's time for our elected
13 officials to take care of the small people,
14 take care of us.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MR. PATILLA: Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Terry
18 Suchek.

19 MS. SUCHECK: Terry Suchek. I live
20 at 729 Saginaw Street which is directly
21 across from the Hilltop Housing, the
22 apartments, and I have come here today to
23 ask for help with the garbage that is all
24 over my property as well as my neighbors.
25 The problem being that they put the trash

1 out in plastic bags or even loose and it's
2 blowing all over both my property and the
3 neighbors and nothing has been done about
4 it. I have been complaining for almost a
5 year now.

6 I have called Hilltop Housing direct
7 and their solution was to just have somebody
8 come and pick up the trash, but that's not
9 the solution because they can't -- the
10 workers there can't pick up -- there is so
11 many trash al the way up and down the street
12 and around that complex that they cannot do
13 it, so I'm asking council to please do
14 something about it. It's a health hazard
15 also because we found needles in it already.

16 My husband is disabled, we are
17 trying to pick up the trash and there is all
18 kinds of garbage. I'd like to submit some
19 pictures --

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. SUCHEK: -- for you to look at.

22 MR. EVANS: You can give them to
23 Neil Coolican. Thank you.

24 MS. SUCHEK: Next door to us, also,
25 there is an adjacent piece of property, it's

1 a double lot, and both me and three of my
2 neighbors have complained about it
3 repeatedly because it hasn't been mowed and
4 the first three or four pictures in there
5 show that property and --

6 MS. EVANS: Is the address on the
7 picture?

8 MS. SUCHAK: No, I don't have
9 that -- I don't what number that is, but
10 there was a complaint made to the police
11 department I believe it was in August of '09
12 and I did talk to someone in public safety
13 about it, too, and they said they were
14 sending a letter but every time I called
15 back I get the run around about it. Nothing
16 has been done.

17 And another thing we need, too, is
18 in front of my house as you see in some of
19 those pictures, there is a bus stop, we need
20 a waste barrel there because when people
21 wait for the bus they throw bottles and
22 other debris on the ground because there is
23 no waste barrel.

24 And the solution to the Hilltop, the
25 garbage coming over, since those people do

1 not have garbage cans you will see very few
2 garbage cans if you look at the pictures
3 when they put out their trash, my solution
4 is that they get dumpsters, place them in
5 the back and between the apartments where
6 the basketball courts which are all broken
7 down anyway. Connell Park is only two
8 blocks from that housing, they can use the
9 basketball courts there.

10 And another problem I've also have
11 been having is in March of '09 I applied for
12 a handicap parking space in front of my home
13 because my husband is handicapped and we
14 still do not have -- it still has not been
15 put in. I called in July and was told that
16 we were approved but then the person I spoke
17 to told me it could take at least another
18 six months because they only have one person
19 putting in the signs. I mean, this is
20 almost a year now that I'm waiting and I
21 have a disabled husband and I'm waiting for
22 parking -- a handicap sign to be put in
23 front of my house because we do not have a
24 driveway.

25 MS. EVANS: Is the application under

1 your name?

2 MS. SUCHAK: No, it's under my
3 husband's Edward Suchak.

4 MS. EVANS: Okay, we'll check into
5 that tomorrow.

6 MR. MCGOFF: May I have ask a
7 question?

8 MS. SUCHAK: Sure.

9 MR. MCGOFF: And I'm not sure, is
10 the garbage collection done by the city or
11 is it a separate -- done by the housing
12 authority?

13 MS. SUCHAK: I really don't know at
14 this point. The housing authority. My
15 husband says it's the housing authority.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

17 MS. SUCHAK: We have called them
18 numerous times. And I have also sent a
19 letter return receipt requested to the mayor
20 this going back at least ten months ago, you
21 know, to do something about the garbage with
22 pictures. I had sent pictures, I had spoken
23 to his secretary, nothing. I was only
24 assured that something would be done and
25 nothing has been done.

1 MS. EVANS: All right. We'll do our
2 best. We will look into it this week.

3 MS. SUCHAK: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. What we are
5 going to do is complete the list of
6 speakers, there are only two remaining, and
7 then at that time I believe we will conduct
8 the swearing in ceremony. Thereafter, if
9 there are any other individuals present
10 tonight who wish to address council you may
11 do so at that time. Ron Ellman.

12 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council.

13 MS. EVANS: Hello.

14 MR. ELLMAN: I wish to congratulate
15 the new council and my condolences for
16 having to work with the worst pathetic
17 administration this city has endured since
18 it's beginning. In Sunday's paper they
19 always have that little section that shows
20 past and present, you know where I mean?

21 MS. EVANS: Yes.

22 MR. ELLMAN: I noticed Sunday they
23 showed the big house on Mulberry that used
24 to be the office for Ufburg and Rosenberg, I
25 believe. They tore it down and put up a

1 little fence for a gateway to the
2 University. You know that that must cost
3 the people of this city about \$100 a week in
4 lost taxes. You know, that's -- the
5 University certainly is not a friend of the
6 city, I'll tell you. It's just a never
7 ending story of what they have taken off.
8 Mr. Phillips said the school board is losing
9 about over 2 million dollars a year so the
10 past 15 years between the city and the
11 school board let's say they've lost 25
12 million. Now, the next 15 years let's say
13 there is another 25 million. Somebody write
14 that down, I'm going to show you some
15 figures in a second. That's -- we're at 50
16 million.

17 Now, in last week's paper, the
18 medical school announced their plans to
19 displace a thousand people, I guess, in the
20 two projects and take that over. They said
21 they needed 20 acres of land, but to lessen
22 the effect the paper says part of this will
23 be the project, but what they don't say
24 somewhere we are going to have tear down 20
25 acres of houses and build a new project.

1 That's got to be worth 50 million dollars
2 over the years the way things are going up,
3 so where are we, at 100 million.

4 Let's just say that Lackawanna
5 College they are building plan has got to be
6 conservatively they have already pulled a
7 million dollars worth of houses off the
8 market in a few years, let's just say 25
9 million for them over the next 15 years. We
10 are at 100 and a quarter. Now, we owe 500
11 million that we are always talking about.
12 You know, I won't go into that.

13 The Sewer bill is going to be 200
14 million over the next 15 years. The
15 teachers, Mr. Salvo said that the teachers
16 would probably be like 25 million dollars or
17 so for the pension plans that are coming
18 real fast. They are just around the corner.
19 There is 600 foreclosures and we have lost
20 all of that tax money in the city and the
21 county, it's gone. You know, like that one
22 building on Mulberry owed 400,000. Now, why
23 did somebody ever allow it to go 400,000?
24 That's twice as much as Pettinato owed on
25 that white elephant downtown, the electric

1 building.

2 And then we got 400 KOZ's that will
3 still be here for years. They are better
4 known of friends of the mayor if you don't
5 know what KOZ is. Then Mr. Swift said that
6 the state said in April a fourth of the city
7 is tax exempt. I mean, where are you going
8 to go? This will be a ghost town in 15
9 years. I won't be here, most of you people
10 will be there. This is terrible. Who is
11 going to buy a house with a 25, 30 year loan
12 and that adds up to about a billion dollars,
13 not millions, a billion dollars.

14 Now, you people have got to do
15 something about these three parasites, they
16 are multi-million dollars businesses, the
17 colleges. You know, this isn't a college
18 town. A college town, you know, they
19 support businesses like little soda places
20 and everything. We are supporting this, you
21 know, I have talked to somebody about this
22 out of town they said what if Chicago had a
23 fourth of the people not paying taxes. Most
24 of them are probably phony.

25 Last month the soup kitchen took

1 \$130,000 business, I will go just a second,
2 they took \$130,000 house off, the University
3 took \$121,000 for -- Lackawanna College and
4 something called Neopath medically took a
5 \$30,000 house. It's got to stop. You got
6 to stop it somehow with Mr. Kanjorski or
7 somehow with Mr. Kanjorski or somebody, you
8 know, I don't know how you do it legally.
9 It's just can't go on.

10 MS. EVANS: I agree.

11 MR. ELLMAN: This will be a ghost
12 town in 15 years, you know, there won't be
13 nothing here except give your house to the
14 colleges.

15 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,
16 Mr. Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: I'll tell you what real
18 quick, I just look forward to the FBI coming
19 in here and cleaning this place up.

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

21 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Newcomb.

23 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. NEWCOMB: I'd like to

1 congratulate everybody on their win and
2 Happy New Year, even our new team over here.
3 I'm here just tonight on a different
4 subject, but it's something that's happening
5 in the city this weekend. A lot of you
6 know, fortunately, I have been able for, oh,
7 well into 30 years being in the local music
8 scene and I got to tour all over the country
9 and I was in a national band with Shawn
10 Klesh, as you know, who is the best Elvis
11 impersonator in the world. I was fortunate
12 enough to play drums in that band for five
13 years and play all up through the Poconos.

14 Well, why I bring this up is because
15 musicians in this area have a good heart in
16 their heart, and there is a benefit going on
17 this Sunday and, unfortunately, I can't play
18 the drums anymore because I suffered a
19 pretty severe back injury in 2006 so that
20 did my drumming career in, but these people
21 that put this together asked me, I could
22 still use the phone even though I can't use
23 the drum sticks right now, but I know I have
24 a lot of friends in the music business so I
25 want to say is there is a gentleman, his

1 name is Shamus Kilkinney. He is member of
2 the black diamonds, the bagpipers as you
3 know, and this Sunday from three to ten
4 there is a benefit for this gentleman.
5 Unfortunately, he is suffering from a brain
6 tumor, and has some small children and the
7 family really needs some money for some
8 help.

9 It's \$10 at the door. It's at the
10 Banshee this Sunday afternoon from three to
11 ten or whenever the last band finishes, and
12 I'll tell you what we've got some great
13 entertainment. EZ Street, the Irish
14 Balladeers are playing, Take Five, the
15 Casual's, which is members of all big local
16 bands that got together because maybe their
17 other band members couldn't work that Sunday
18 so they are going to play and call
19 themselves the Casuals. We got the Cameron
20 Avenue band, Classic Rock Express and
21 another band that's very popular right now
22 especially with the younger crowd Maybe Some
23 Day and the sound and the sound tech is
24 donated by Indigo 6.

25 So I just come up here to the podium

1 and ask all of my music friends out there
2 from the bands that I was in and have the
3 privileged to work with, I was in Picture
4 Perfect, Jeffery James, so I ask all of you
5 guys if you are out there listening, anybody
6 that knows the sound of my voice I know
7 musicians are a great bunch of people and
8 they've really come out over the course of
9 the years to help everybody out.

10 So again, I ask everybody to come
11 out this Sunday from three to ten at the
12 Banshee in Scranton and I just gave you a
13 list of the bands that are playing, and it
14 is for a good cause. You don't need to get
15 a ticket in advance, there will be a \$10
16 donation at the door. There will be a lot
17 of good -- if you are to pay for these bands
18 individually it would cost a lot more than
19 \$10. Each band is approximately playing for
20 one hour and from what I understand the
21 Banshee is supplying, you know, all of the
22 alcohol sales, whatever, for the day is
23 going to go to the family, so they are
24 really helping out, too. So, like I said,
25 anybody in here or any -- especially all my

1 musical friends out there that are hearing
2 the sound of my voice, come out. We really
3 wanted to put this together a little later
4 on so we'd have more time, but
5 unfortunately, time isn't, you know, at our
6 favor right now.

7 So, again, I would like to wish
8 everybody a happy new year and hopefully we
9 will see everybody at the Banshee this
10 Sunday, which is 17th from three to ten.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Newcomb,
12 a very worthy cause.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Will ECTV run that?

14 MS. EVANS: Certainly if you want to
15 direct Mrs. Krake to get in touch with them
16 first thing in the morning.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Please.

18 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe has
19 arrived. He is our new council member. Do
20 we have a Bible? I now ask Judge Thomas
21 Munley to step forward to administer the
22 oath of office to Mr. John Loscombe.

23 MR. MUNLEY: Thank you very much.
24 Council President. I do want to state that
25 I know Jack and he is -- he is a great --

1 Jack is a great man and I know his family,
2 he comes from a wonderful family and, Jack,
3 you should be very proud. Raise your right
4 hand, please.

5 (MR. JOHN LOSCOMBE WAS ADMINISTERED
6 THE OATH OF OFFICE BY THE HONORABLE THOMAS
7 J. MUNLEY AND WAS SWORN IN AS A CITY COUNCIL
8 MEMBER.)

9 MS. EVANS: I believe we have
10 something for Mr. Loscombe to sign and then
11 I would ask that you join council.

12 MS. EVANS: Judge Munley, will you
13 being stay with us?

14 MR. MUNLEY: I'll be stay for a
15 couple of minutes, Ms. President, thank you
16 very much and I just want to see Jack take
17 his seat and I'll being leaving shortly.

18 (Mr. Loscombe takes the dais and his
19 seat at City Council.)

20 MS. EVANS: Well, everyone I would
21 like to thank the Honorable Judge Thomas
22 Munley for attending tonight's meeting and
23 swearing in the fifth council member of
24 Scranton City Council. He graciously and
25 enthusiastically agreed to administer the

1 council oath of office when I contacted him
2 last week asking for his assistance to
3 remain on stand by for tonight's public
4 ceremony. We are privileged and honored to
5 have such a highly respected man in our
6 chambers not once, but twice in one week.
7 First for our new tax collector, Bill
8 Courtright, last Monday; and tonight, of
9 course, for our newest council member. And
10 on behalf of council I welcome Mr. John
11 Loscombe to these chambers as our fifth
12 member. Thank you, Judge Munley.

13 MS. HUMPHRIES: My name is Phyllis
14 Bernadette Fatima Yasmine, Phyllis if Jesus
15 and Mary. My maiden name is Matisko. I am
16 two different religions. I wanted to be on
17 the city council. I was blocked by the
18 newspaper and chased all over in lies and
19 deceit. In this process, why I wanted Judge
20 Munley here is because of what has occurred
21 in the City of Scranton. There have been a
22 conspiracy to make she look like a paranoid
23 schizophrenic. Yes, I was in a hospital at
24 16, I was abused. I went in other places, I
25 was abused. I was used, it was open season

1 and a lot of people are in high public
2 places at this point.

3 They tried to get felonies on me, me
4 trying to help. The fire department in the
5 City of Scranton are so wonderful.
6 Mrs. Evans, you know I wanted to run, I know
7 I don't get the paper sometimes. I live on
8 a limited income. I'm an environmentalist,
9 I'm in the Legions of Mary, the Knights of
10 Immaculatta. I have been abused by numerous
11 people to make me look like I was crazy, but
12 in the process it was an evaluation, an
13 evaluation of a church, an evaluation of the
14 City of Scranton.

15 I went to Court over a few weeks ago
16 because I tried to help a woman years before
17 because she was abused by her housing and
18 swindled out of her home at Mulberry Towers.
19 My job is it's more of a volunteer job to
20 get the people out of Mulberry Towers when
21 there is a fire. The blind -- the woman
22 became blind, there was somebody that tried
23 to help. One person ran over her, the same
24 person lived in my -- next door to me and
25 she was here one day. What they did is they

1 tried make it look like I dragged her and
2 pulled her and all of stuff.

3 I was in front of Farrell, and she
4 is a wonderful person and I think she is an
5 excellent judge, I think she should stay
6 here until eternity because when she seen a
7 lot of my documents and the classification
8 of documents, medical records given to
9 numerous people to show that I had been
10 abused, I had been attacked. I'm a
11 survivor. Nobody did nothing. Nothing.

12 I brought it in front of everybody
13 in here. Everybody. One of them a district
14 attorney here. Nobody, nobody helped me. I
15 was told to take my religious documents and
16 documents of the president of the United
17 States off my floor on the fifth floor by
18 Judy, by Brenda and by Lori. Lori is from
19 the Jessup area. They said if I didn't that
20 they would arrest me or have me evicted by
21 intimidating me thinking I'm going to be
22 unbalanced. Monday comes around, I see and
23 somebody coming back and Court for it, Lori
24 Clifford for me from Eynon she is laughing
25 at me to try to give her a black eye and I

1 am not a violent person. No. You don't win
2 a war by violence and violence. You don't
3 do that. You do it by love, peace and
4 understanding.

5 They ripped all my documents and my
6 religious documents, let alone the
7 presidents of the United States, documents
8 for children that were going to be sent to
9 Russia and the Ukrainian. I'm a missionary.
10 They have stole everything.

11 My house right now is all packed up
12 with tons and tons of things because I was
13 swindled out of a house in Moscow, a
14 lawyer falsified documents. Judge Munley
15 was a lawyer at the time, he handled my
16 divorce and Judge Munley because he was
17 going into criminal justice not in the
18 family, he handed it over to Attorney Todd
19 Munley. Today Munley tells me that I lost
20 my house not to go to the hearing. So three
21 months later I get these papers, I was
22 intimidated by saying if I don't sign the
23 papers I will go to jail because it was a
24 Court-ordered paper.

25 Well, a couple of months later I get

1 it and this is how it was. It says I left
2 my house in '72 or '76. I left my house in
3 '82, two years after the divorce. It said
4 my husband had the children, my children
5 were living with me, and there was so many
6 falsification. Then to find out later on
7 that it was only a deed signed over, my
8 children were heirs to that, my house is at
9 237 Market Street.

10 I want my home back, I want my
11 dignity back and I want everybody in the
12 city council to listen. Listen not only to
13 with your ears, with your heart. Judge
14 Munley is a wonderful person, he is a
15 prolifer, and I ask everybody to support
16 life inside and outside of the womb. I ask
17 you to support our fire department and the
18 new police department that's helping me.
19 Corporal Richard Adonizio, it's not
20 (unintelligible) they are going to help me.

21 MS. EVANS: Very good. Very good.

22 MS. HUMPHRIES: And I hope to God
23 every one of yous hear this.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes, we do.

25 MS. HUMPHRIES: Life begins at

1 misconception.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis.

3 MS. HUMPHRIES: And get in to the
4 president of the United States and please
5 help me with this.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis. We
7 can pick it up next week.

8 MS. HUMPHRIES: And tomorrow at
9 10:15 --

10 MS. EVANS: Phyllis.

11 MS. HUMPHRIES: -- I'll be at Court
12 and I wish everybody scared to hear what I
13 have to say. These people got to go to
14 jail.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis.

16 MS. HUMPHRIES: That's going to be
17 cleared out, and that's the reason why they
18 are putting me out.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
20 would like to speak?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,
22 city resident and member of the Taxpayers'
23 Association. I'll try to be brief. First,
24 welcome to all of the new members and
25 returning Mr. McGoff. I hope you can do

1 good things for these taxpayers.

2 First thing I'd like to make sure
3 everybody understands that it's not 31
4 percent of the properties in Scranton, it's
5 30.1 percent of the assessed value is held
6 by tax exempt owners.

7 And also with respect to the Sewer
8 Authority meetings, I did call this
9 afternoon to verify where the meeting would
10 be and because for the last several months
11 from going back to the summer they were
12 holding the meetings at the Sewer Authority
13 headquarters on Adams Avenue at noon rather
14 than in the evening and I was informed they
15 should know tomorrow, they were polling the
16 membership on whether or not it would go
17 back to the Dunmore Borough building at
18 which point it would be at 6:00, so stay
19 tuned and the do have it on their website as
20 well for those who have computers.

21 And then I would like to ask whether
22 or not any of you know whether or not we
23 received -- how much we received from the
24 Single Tax Office in December and whether or
25 not we finished the year in the red or the

1 black?

2 MS. EVANS: That report will be made
3 during motions.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'll be describing
6 that a little bit more under Fifth Order.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: And finally, since
8 we are bringing up things that we have been
9 bringing up for a long time without any
10 action, I know every since I have returned
11 to Scranton -- well, not totally that fast,
12 but certainly going back for four or five
13 years, I have been calling the Department of
14 Transportation regarding the traffic signal
15 timing program that I think you will recall
16 the grant actually was about to expire and I
17 continued to call, first of all, because it
18 is that project to which the traffic signal
19 at River Street and Meadow Avenue which is
20 sorely needed is incorporated, and the rest
21 I think is timing about 58 of the signals
22 within the city which we also desperately
23 need. If you have ever gone through town at
24 night, you know, and stop at every corner
25 and burn gas it's a little ridiculous and

1 not a sign of a very progressive city.

2 What I have been told is that it's
3 probably going to stagnate unless they hear
4 from the city that it is a priority for
5 them, so I would like to request the city
6 council to send a letter to PennDOT, the
7 local office up in Dunmore, and tell them it
8 is a priority for the city. And with that,
9 I will -- oh, just a couple of comments on
10 the Community Medical Center because I was
11 really -- I was really upset when I saw that
12 they are taking the money for people who are
13 supposed to heal bodies, there are other
14 components to a person and the fact that
15 this piece of this table games legislation
16 is going not to help the taxpayers but going
17 to other institutions, largely a big chunk
18 of it to Community Medical Center, the other
19 component is what happens that table gaming
20 legislation allows the casinos to onsite
21 give credit to people.

22 I think -- I just can't even believe
23 that our legislators did that. If you are
24 at a casino and you in the hole the last
25 thing you need it more -- is getting deeper

1 in the hole and what happens to people.
2 Community Medical Center as a healing body
3 should not be participating in things that
4 drag people down.

5 And also I have read that it a
6 supposed private institution, but I have yet
7 to see, there has been a lot of federal,
8 state money diverted to the Community
9 Medical College and I'd like to know what
10 the private investment is. I think it's
11 very little and we keep pumping more and
12 more tax dollars in and our city needs help
13 desperately and not private institutions.
14 Thank you for your time and I'll be back
15 again.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MS. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Schumacher, just
18 a quick question, you were referring to
19 Community Medical Center, did you mean the
20 medical college?

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I'm sorry.
22 Yes, I did.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else
24 that wishes to address council?

25 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,

1 Council. Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment
2 Rights. We, the people, okay? We, the
3 people, here in Scranton, the little people,
4 we have spoken. Just as an example, look at
5 the change and the makeup of this current
6 council. I'm sure that the people coming
7 here and speaking will get the blame for the
8 changes brought about in the council makeup.

9 I have been attending council
10 meetings for the last nine years including
11 this year. Council speakers have been
12 called names for years by professional
13 persons, council members and high-elected
14 city officials, certain individuals,
15 editorialists, and the local tabloid, the
16 slimes. These little people have followed
17 in the footsteps of many other little
18 people, speakers who include such names as
19 Joe Clifford, Jack is Back Fossett, Dick
20 Laske, and countless others.

21 Council speakers come to the podium
22 with concerns about their city. They love
23 their city, they're concerned about the
24 wasteful BS, borrowing and spending, that
25 has taken place over the last eight years.

1 They are concerned about the 25 percent tax
2 increase that was imposed on them and the
3 outlook for two more 25 percent tax
4 increases that the mayor and PEL would have
5 imposed on them for 2008 and 2009. They're
6 concerned about loans that the city gave out
7 only to have \$722,000 in bad loans face the
8 city. The taxpayers are concerned about
9 good money being wasted, repairing the Casey
10 parking garage to the tune of \$250,000 plus
11 just to have it torn down. There is so much
12 more but not enough time to mention them
13 all.

14 I have been talking about the
15 Connell building and the inactivity there,
16 the building being exposed to the elements
17 because of the broken/EPB or open windows.
18 That's a 23 million project and they
19 supposedly ran out of money. How much more
20 money will be needed by the developers to
21 complete the project and how much more of
22 that will be taxpayers money? As a side
23 note on that, I did see three persons
24 standing behind the fence in front of the
25 building today. I hope they are there to

1 restart the work and not their planning the
2 demolition of the building since it has been
3 exposed to the elements.

4 Now, I hope this council is up to
5 the task of stopping wasteful borrowing and
6 spending. Look how much has been spent on
7 outside attorneys. Over one million for
8 Goldberg alone and there are three other
9 outside labor attorneys being paid by
10 taxpayer money, that's Jaron, O'Reilly and
11 Reihner, \$600 an hour for one of them or
12 possibly more. Where in the budgets does
13 that money come from?

14 Look at the 25 million in raises and
15 new hires. Look at the amount of persons
16 getting jobs at the Sewer Authority while
17 our rates are going up. Are our rate
18 increases going to pay the salaries of those
19 new Sewer Authority workers? We, the
20 people, want to know the answers to these
21 and other questions. Now, maybe with this
22 new council we will get answers. I sure
23 hope so. You council members have a
24 tremendous job ahead of you and I have faith
25 that you will undertake the job with courage

1 and conviction. Good luck on that. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any other
4 speakers? Mr. McGoff?

5 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. A few
6 things. First, I would like to say that
7 Mrs. Gatelli was not at the Doherty
8 inauguration, just to defend her somewhat.
9 She was at work when that was taking place
10 and she was not at the inauguration nor was
11 she at council meeting.

12 A lot has been said tonight about
13 the tax exempt properties in the city and
14 the lack of monies received from nonprofit
15 organizations. This is not a problem that
16 is solely in the City of Scranton. This
17 problem is one that plagues a number of
18 cities, especially county seats throughout
19 the State of Pennsylvania, where there are
20 large numbers of federal buildings, state
21 buildings, county buildings that are
22 nonprofit. These are buildings that are
23 used by, you know, people from all over the
24 county in which they are located.

25 And there was, and I can't remember

1 the House Bill number, remember, that was
2 going to offer some relief, but has never
3 been --

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. MCGOFF: -- I don't remember the
6 number, but it was -- it was something in
7 the state legislature/TAOUR that would offer
8 some relief to county seats or cities that
9 had I believe it was over 25 percent of
10 properties that were tax exempt, that bill
11 has gone nowhere. It's pretty much not
12 supported primarily because people outside
13 of the county seats or outside of the those
14 cities are not going to support it in
15 anyway. Representatives that represent
16 those areas that are both city and county --
17 or city and outlying suburban areas have a
18 difficult time getting votes if they are
19 going to go in and ask their constituents to
20 pay taxes, you know, in a city in which they
21 don't live in.

22 A proposal was suggested to me that
23 we assess all of the nonprofit properties in
24 the City of Scranton in Lackawanna County
25 and prorate the taxes among all county

1 residents. This would have to be done
2 through a county resolution, but I can't see
3 the county commissioners doing that. I
4 can't see the people of let's say Dunmore
5 offering to pay for, you know, taxes for
6 buildings that are in the City of Scranton,
7 so there are some solutions there are there,
8 but they are not likely to be enacted in any
9 way and so it continues to be a problem.

10 Somebody mentioned public service
11 fees or, you know, charging the students for
12 public safety. This was suggested, I don't
13 know if it was last year or the year before
14 we had talked about it in caucus at least of
15 a public safety fee of a certain amount per
16 semester per student at the schools, and I
17 was told at the time that this had been
18 tried in other places and was deemed by the
19 courts to be a tax and, therefore, could not
20 be done. I don't know, I'm assuming that
21 that is true, but probably something that
22 could be looked into. So there is another
23 possible solution that doesn't have a likely
24 positive outcome.

25 So this whole idea of tax exempt

1 properties and trying to, you know, go to
2 them and force money out of them in some
3 way, while it's a nice idea it's not been
4 very successful. And I will say, and I
5 don't mean to be an apologist for the
6 University of Scranton, but they have
7 probably to know more than most throughout
8 the state in helping the local communities.
9 They do pay something and, in fact, they
10 actually do pay some taxes. They do pay
11 taxes on properties that they take that are
12 not developed and made part of the school,
13 so they do pay a limited property tax.

14 There is also anything that's a for
15 profit entity within the school, I know in
16 the DeNaple's Center they have a number of
17 restaurants and all, those things do pay
18 taxes if they are for profit, so they do pay
19 taxes, they are not exempt.

20 And also, the University has donated
21 to the city in a number of ways, maybe not
22 in money, but certainly you have to
23 appreciate some of the work that they have
24 done around the campus in terms of the
25 street scape and the lighting and other

1 things that I think have helped benefit the
2 city, but with all of that said I think
3 there is still, you know, room for council
4 and the city to pursue these nonprofits and
5 I don't know that there is anything we can
6 do to force money out, but -- out of these
7 non or tax exempt groups, but certainly we
8 should do what we can to see that there is
9 something -- some fair share paid by the
10 entities that are being protected by the
11 city.

12 And the other thing I would like to,
13 and I mentioned it to Mrs. Evans prior, not
14 today, but I would like to ask that the
15 finance chair begin to work with the
16 administration to prepare an RFP for what
17 we -- I think it was designated rental
18 registration coordinator or director, I'm
19 not sure what the title was that we finally
20 put to it, but I think that's a program that
21 we should look into immediately and begin
22 to-- if we can get that in place early
23 enough it would not only be a great source
24 of revenue, but I think it would also be a
25 beginning toward dealing with the absentee

1 landlord problem that see in this city.

2 I have had probably had more phone
3 calls during my course of time here about
4 absentee landlords than any other issue, and
5 I think through the rental registration
6 ordinance that we have, I think we can begin
7 to deal with that problem, but we do need
8 somebody in place and we do need to take a
9 look at that ordinance again and put some
10 teeth in it so that we can enforce it and we
11 can make landlords more responsible to the
12 city and to the residents of the city.

13 And last, I would like to welcome
14 our new council member, and hopefully we can
15 as a group work together through the coming
16 years to continue the progress of the city
17 of Scranton, and thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Rogan,
19 motions or comments?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would like to
21 thank all of the applicants who applied for
22 the vacant city council position. It was a
23 pleasure to interview all of you, and I
24 would like to congratulate Mr. Loscombe on
25 his appointment to Scranton City Council and

1 I'm confident he will make a great addition
2 to this council. The reason why I chose to
3 vote for Mr. Loscombe was because he was a
4 wealth of blue collar and white collar
5 experience and the designee was for a public
6 safety committee chair and Mr. Loscombe was
7 a former firefighter in the City of Scranton
8 and he also owns a fire retardation business
9 to prevent fires in rural areas, and it's
10 great having you on here and we look forward
11 to look working with you.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: I received a letter this
14 week from Keystone Business Products, they
15 are a printing company who placed a bid for
16 copying machines. The letter reads as
17 follows: "Dear Mr. Swietnicki, we were
18 notified that our bid for copy machines was
19 rejected. After reviewing the bid results,
20 it has come to my attention that Keystone
21 was \$56,721.90 less than Jay's. The number
22 is almost 20 percent lower. I am confused
23 as to why after several attempts to contact
24 you to review our solution, have been denied
25 any opportunity to save the city money. We

1 have an office in Scranton at 602 North
2 Washington Avenue, pay taxes in Scranton, in
3 the past year have created three jobs in the
4 city."

5 The letter goes onto reference the
6 Commonwealth Medical College and the
7 University of Scranton as references. I am
8 extremely concerned as to why the
9 administration chose to spend an extra
10 \$56,000 for the same service. Scranton
11 needs to be fiscally conservative and must
12 watch every penny in this time to save the
13 taxpayers much needed money.

14 Mrs. Krake, can you please send a
15 letter to Mr. Renda and Mr. Swietnicki
16 asking for clarification on why the lowest
17 bidder wasn't chosen for our printing?

18 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

19 MR. ROGAN: And finally, I received
20 a letter from a resident who lives on
21 Greenridge Street, they said that the
22 sidewalks need to be cleaned between 924 and
23 926 Greenridge Street and they would like to
24 know about a "No Parking" sign in the area.
25 So, Mrs. Krake, if you could please ask the

1 DPW to check that out. And that is all I
2 have at this time. Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any motions or
5 comments?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have a few
7 comments. First of all, I would like to say
8 I'm both honored and humbled to have been
9 chosen for this position. I would like to
10 thank Mrs. Evans, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rogan and
11 Mr. Joyce for giving me the opportunity to
12 serve with them on this council and for
13 their confidence in me.

14 I do want to say that it had to be a
15 tough decision. There were many good
16 candidates that spoke at this podium before
17 you and it had to be a tough choice and
18 appreciate the opportunity, and I want to
19 thank the other candidates for taking the
20 opportunity to come here and to wish them
21 good luck.

22 Also, I would like to thank my
23 family members. My mother, the matriarch of
24 our family here for her courage, her
25 kindness, her caring in raising me and

1 teaching me the right way. Also, my father
2 who is no longer here with us. He taught me
3 his work ethic. He kept me going and I
4 carry that with me because this evening on
5 the way over here my mother presented me
6 with his 30-year railroad pin to wear in
7 remember ance of him. My loving wife of
8 over 30 years who stood by every decision I
9 have ever made and I thank her for that. My
10 beautiful children and grandchildren.
11 Without them, they are my inspiration, they
12 keep me going, and that's my inspiration for
13 applying tore this council job because some
14 of my family had to move out of town to seek
15 opportunities and I want to see more
16 progress in this city, so thank you.

17 And also I have a large family, my
18 brothers, my sisters, brother-in-law,
19 sister-in-laws, and my in-laws, outlaws,
20 whatever, but thank you very much.

21 But I just want to say also as your
22 new council person I pledge to always treat
23 you with courtesy and respect. I will work
24 for open transparent government. I will
25 also make cuts when necessary. I will work

1 to develop new alternative sources of
2 revenue, something we definitely need here
3 and I will actively pursue the PILOTS. I
4 mean, there is action throughout different
5 areas of the state right now looking for
6 different ideas, and like Mr. McGoff said,
7 we have to go for whatever we can. We need
8 it. We are spending more than we are
9 bringing in and we have to stabilize this
10 city for our future, so our children and
11 grandchildren aren't saddled with our debt,
12 and I would also work to enhance public
13 safety.

14 I will work with council and the
15 mayor to bring Scranton to a better
16 position, a more respectable position. We
17 have to work together, we have to cooperate,
18 not divide. I'm a pro taxpayer, been a pro
19 taxpayer all my life, but I do want to say
20 that I want to earn this appointment and
21 your trust through my conduct, my efforts
22 and my votes on this panel and I will
23 conduct myself with dignity. This I
24 promise. Thank you.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry, to
3 interrupt, and I am sorry, I didn't mean to
4 leave as you began to speak, but I got a
5 call from the member of the Sewer Authority,
6 he told me that they did not meet today. He
7 told me that the last meeting they had was
8 in November where they voted for one to
9 raise the rates and that they met again in
10 December where they set the rates and in
11 both of those votes there was one lone
12 dissenting vote on the authority that was
13 Mr. Noone, who I had called and he said that
14 he was not at a meeting in which those rates
15 were rescinded.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Joyce,
17 any motions or comments?

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Good evening. I'd
19 like to notify everyone tonight that Rossi &
20 Rossi, which is the accounting firm that
21 conducts our yearly audits, has sent a
22 letter to Stu Renda outlining a list of the
23 matters which must be completed by the
24 business administration or business
25 administrator's office by March 15, 2010.

1 In addition to this, Rossi & Rossi's
2 letter also outline key dates in which the
3 business administrator's office must submit
4 final paperwork regarding various financial
5 matters in order to issue the December 31,
6 2009, audited financial statements by May
7 31, 2010, which is our deadline.

8 In light of that, Nancy, could you
9 please send a letter to Stu Renda asking him
10 to inform council whether or not we are on
11 schedule to meet the dates outlined in Rossi
12 & Rossi's correspondence as I understand in
13 prior years we have been late with this many
14 times.

15 Also, on December 31, 2009, council
16 received final comparisons for the 2009 tax
17 collection as Mr. Schumacher brought up in
18 her comments. However, according to John
19 McGovern, the numbers are not yet final.
20 Yet to be included in the numbers that were
21 reported are three remaining real estate
22 collection days, an entire month including
23 quarterly payments for the LST, local
24 services tax, and the EIT, which is the
25 earned income tax or more commonly known as

1 the wage tax. Along with this, there are a
2 few days where collections of business
3 privilege tax have not yet been counted.

4 According to John McGovern, however,
5 the recession apparently has not negatively
6 impacted the numbers. The business
7 privilege tax and the wage tax have exceeded
8 the final 2007 numbers are tracking to match
9 or surpass the 2008 numbers.

10 To provide a snapshot of where we
11 are giving the considerations that were just
12 mentioned, the final numbers for 2008 as far
13 as collection of real estate taxes concerned
14 is \$13,709,706.89. So far, we have
15 collected \$13,164,054.00, which is a
16 decrease of \$545,714.89 from 2008 given the
17 conditions outlined in the e-mail.

18 Also, for the earned income tax the
19 final 2008 numbers were \$22,386,143.07. So
20 far in 2009, \$19,771,353.70 has been
21 collected which results in a decrease giving
22 the considerations, obviously, of
23 \$2,614,789.37.

24 The LST final 2008 numbers are
25 \$1,340,021.39. In 2009, \$1,646,640.01 has

1 been collected for an increase of
2 \$306,682.62.

3 The business privilege and
4 mercantile tax, the final 2008 numbers were
5 \$1,850,954.81. In 2009, \$1,870,422.49 has
6 been collected resulting in an increase so
7 far of \$19,467.68.

8 On other business matters, to ensure
9 that Scranton receives state liquid fuels
10 payments on time there are various reports
11 that must be filed. Two of these reports
12 must be filed are the 2009 municipal annual
13 audit and financial report, form DCED
14 CLG-30, which is due March 1, and the 2009
15 survey of financial condition DCED CLGS-69
16 which is due on March 15. Notifications
17 were sent out by Kay Garvey regarding these
18 forms in early November.

19 Nancy, if you can please send a memo
20 to Stu Renda asking him to confirm that we
21 are on track to meet the March 15 deadline
22 for the submission of form DCED CLGS-69 and
23 also please send a memo to Roseanne
24 Novembrino asking her to confirm that we are
25 on track to file DCED CLGS-30 by March 1.

1 In addition, to the previous memos,
2 please send out a memo to Mark Seitzinger
3 asking him to confirm that our flood plain
4 management activities annual report form
5 DCED GCLGS-57 and our flood plan management
6 activities reimbursement application form
7 DCED GCLGS-58 are on schedule to be filed by
8 the appropriate deadlines.

9 Also, please send a memo to Jeff
10 Brazil and Mary Lou Murray asking them to
11 confirm that all 2009 PennnDOT Municipal
12 Service Forms will be filed by their
13 appropriate deadline.

14 In closing tonight, I would like to
15 congratulate and welcome Mr. Loscombe to
16 city council. I firmly believe that
17 Mr. Loscombe will serve the city well over
18 the course of his term. There were many
19 good candidates that applied for this
20 position and narrowing it down to just one
21 is never easy. Though it was not easy to
22 narrow it down to just one candidate, I
23 chose Mr. Loscombe along with my other
24 council colleagues because I firmly believe
25 that he will an asset to the City of

1 Scranton.

2 From his interview and resume, it
3 can easily be seen at that Mr. Loscombe has
4 both the blue collar and white collar
5 experience needed to understand the wide
6 range of issues. Mr. Loscombe also has
7 public safety knowledge through his time at
8 Scranton's fire department as well as in his
9 own business ventures to excel as council
10 chairperson for public safety which I
11 foresee becoming an increasingly more
12 important role as our public safety
13 department has recently been eliminated.

14 In closing, I would just like to
15 welcome Mr. Loscombe as well, and once again
16 offer him my congratulations, and that's all
17 I have here tonight.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
19 evening. I'm very pleased and honored to
20 open the 2010 session of Scranton City
21 Council. First, I wish to thank everyone
22 for the many card, letters, e-mails, and
23 calls I have received since last week's
24 reorganization meeting. I truly appreciate
25 your good wishes, support and prayers.

1 Next, the selection of a council
2 member was not an easy, hasty or
3 premeditated decision. The field of
4 candidates represented a broad range of age
5 from college students through senior
6 citizens, of white and blue collar
7 professional backgrounds, of seasoned
8 politician and the apolitical, and of
9 life-long city residents as well as those
10 who arrived later and chose to become
11 residents. Yet all candidates resonated a
12 common theme of love for our city and it's
13 people, a desire for fiscal responsibility
14 and a passion to serve in public office.
15 All agreed to the need to open the city
16 budget and explore further cuts, to seek new
17 revenue streams, to increase taxes only as a
18 last resort, to help the good people of
19 Scranton and to work with the mayor to
20 continue the progress. I recognize all
21 candidates for their courage, their ideas
22 and their commitment to our city and I hope
23 that he will continue to serve our
24 community.

25 Now, my fellow council members have

1 also stated their thoughts on the new
2 appointee and I concur. I can only add that
3 Mr. Loscombe is a humble, resilient,
4 hard-working family man, and I further
5 believe that he will work productively with
6 council members and the mayor for the
7 taxpayers of the City of Scranton. Equally
8 important, I believe Mr. Loscombe shares
9 council's dedication to financial
10 accountability and responsibility, as well
11 as he mentioned himself, transparency in the
12 city government. He was one of the very few
13 candidates who during the interview offered
14 several ideas for new revenue streams. And
15 finally, his references attested to good
16 character, work ethic, ability to work with
17 others, honesty and integrity, and you
18 didn't know I checked those references, did
19 you, Mr. Loscombe?

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

21 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, we have
22 placed our confidence and trust in you that
23 you will work for the people. It's a
24 weighty and urgent responsibility that you
25 have assumed tonight and we look forward to

1 working with you as we face the many
2 challenges that lie ahead.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks. I accept the
4 challenge.

5 MS. EVANS: That's what I like to
6 hear. Now, Mrs. Krake, this is a bit off
7 topic, but I did notice throughout the
8 evening a police officer in council
9 chambers. Please send a memo to Chief
10 Elliott tomorrow stating that council will
11 no longer require a police officer at it's
12 meeting. Council prefers to place officers
13 on patrol on the streets of Scranton.

14 It has been a very busy first week
15 and in the midst of the council selection
16 process I received countless e-mails, calls
17 and letters from city residents who are
18 outraged by the \$90 flat fee increase
19 announced by the Scranton Sewer Authority.
20 Council's office has already received
21 numerous calls and complaints from
22 ratepayers who are asking for help,
23 explanations and advice.

24 Unfortunately, council ask not have
25 the ability to approve or deny sewer rate

1 increases. In fact, legislation containing
2 rate increases has not come before council
3 during my six years of service, thus,
4 council has no control or authority over the
5 Sewer Authority. The mayor, however,
6 appoints the members of the Sewer Authority
7 and legislation is then presented to council
8 for it's approval. Absent a supermajority
9 in the last six years, the mayor's
10 appointments could never have been altered.

11 I want the residents of Scranton to
12 know that I hear you and I do understand
13 your fears and concerns. You tell me this
14 new rate is unfair for senior citizens and
15 others on fixed income, households of two
16 people and families who try to conserve
17 their water usage. You question the costs
18 and procedure for multi-unit dwellings,
19 vacant multi-unit dwellings as well and you
20 decry the absence of any increase for
21 business and industry.

22 These, indeed, are valid complaints
23 and questions. At the same time, we are all
24 aware of the federal mandates and guidelines
25 that have been imposed on the Scranton Sewer

1 Authority and of the antiquated conditions
2 with which the authority has been faced.
3 Therefore, with the agreement of my
4 colleagues, I would like to invite Mr. Gene
5 Barrett, executive director of the Scranton
6 Sewer Authority, to a public caucus of city
7 council in order to discuss the rate hike.
8 Is this agreeable to council?

9 MR. JOYCE: An absolute "yes."

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake,
14 please send a letter to Mr. Barrett asking
15 him to attend a public caucus next Tuesday,
16 January 19, at 5:30 p.m. If he is unable to
17 attend on that date, please provide a
18 convenient date which can be scheduled as
19 soon as possible and the time frame will
20 remain the same.

21 Next, council received a copy of the
22 letter from Keystone Business Products
23 regarding the bid for copy machines as was
24 already noted by Mr. Rogan. Apparently, the
25 bid that was chosen is nearly 20 percent

1 hire than that of Keystone Business Products
2 and as a result with the consent of council,
3 once again, I would like to invite
4 Mr. Timothy Kelly and Mr. Frank Sweitnicki
5 to a public caucus of city council on
6 Tuesday, January 26, at 6:00 p.m.

7 And, Mrs. Krake, if for some reason
8 the caucus with Mr. Barrett is not scheduled
9 for next Tuesday, the 19th, then please move
10 Mr. Kelly and Mr. Sweitnicki to that date at
11 6:00 p.m. because as Mr. Rogan noted
12 earlier, the time has come to reign in the
13 wasteful spending.

14 Next, I have been in contact with
15 tax collector Courtright regarding the final
16 report of the my Nihill and Ridley firm
17 which reveals that the City of Scranton has
18 been shorted 1.6 million. Mr. Courtright, a
19 city representative of the mayor and I will
20 meet later this week to discuss the
21 financial damage to the city and the
22 possibility of an investigation. To date,
23 the city received approximately 1.2 million
24 in interest in the Spring of 2009; 1.8
25 million in 888 monies from the years 2004

1 through 2008 in the Fall of 2009; and
2 \$750,000, half of the amount due for the
3 pre-2004 888 and 233 monies due to the city
4 on December 30, 2009.

5 The remaining balance of \$750,000 is
6 being retained until a controller with a
7 strong accounting background is hired.
8 According to the Attorney McGovern, former
9 tax office solicitor, the auditor that would
10 be Nihill & Ridley, wants the new employee
11 to be completely familiar with the system
12 before the balance is distributed. The
13 remaining 1.6 million in pre-2004 888 and
14 233 monies due to the city remains
15 unaccounted for or missing. I hope that all
16 local governing bodies will have a strong
17 and vested interest in restoring the
18 public's faith by accounting for 1.6 million
19 dollars in taxpayer money.

20 Next, prior to the Christmas break,
21 I had asked the business administrator if
22 the city had researched deregulation of the
23 electricity rates for 2010 in an effort to
24 save money. Mr. Renda responded that the
25 city had decided to bid out energy

1 consumption within the first quarter of
2 2010. He states that the process will
3 provide a competitive and transparent result
4 while yielding an optimal price for the
5 city. Mrs. Krake, I would like to you to
6 contact Mr. Renda to learn when he intends
7 to advertise for bids. Also, I ask you to
8 attend the opening of those bids and report
9 the figures to me immediately thereafter,
10 please.

11 It's important that the city accept
12 the lowest responsible bids in all cases and
13 that may not have been the case in all
14 transactions as I stated earlier in my
15 motions.

16 And finally I have citizens'
17 requests for the week. Residents of the
18 area report that the Albright Avenue flood
19 project appears to being at a standstill
20 since work was halted four weeks ago.
21 Please send a letter to the Army Corp of
22 Engineers requesting an update and revised
23 timeline for this project.

24 Next, the abandoned house and
25 property at the corner of Wheeler Avenue and

1 Olive Street continues to be a problem. In
2 warm weather, the grass and weeds are never
3 cut by the owner and in cold weather snow
4 and ice removal never occurs. Please
5 contact the owner to maintain this property
6 and provide a written update to council on
7 or about January 22, 2010. This letter is
8 to be addressed to Mr. Seitzinger.

9 On behalf of residents, council
10 would like a written update on the status
11 and progress of the Crisp Avenue bridge on
12 or before January 29, 2010. Please include
13 what items have been accomplished to date.

14 And in response to Mrs. Schumacher's
15 request, if we can also send a letter to the
16 local office of PennDOT requesting a date,
17 firm date, an update as well on the traffic
18 signal timing program for the City of
19 Scranton. You might add that city council
20 is very anxious that this project begin as
21 soon as possible. It is long overdue, and
22 that's it.

23 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. FOR
24 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE
25 OF COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED 'AN

1 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)IMPOSING A TAX FOR
2 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF
3 REAL PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF
4 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE
5 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH
6 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES
7 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING
8 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE
9 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND FIVE TENTHS
10 PERCENT (2.5%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010.

11 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
12 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
13 introduced into it's proper committee.

14 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
17 those in favor of introduction signify by
18 saying aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
24 have it and so moved.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I will be

1 voting to move it into it's introduction,
2 however, I will review them over the week
3 and if I have any comments I will --

4 MS. EVANS: Certainly. A very
5 sagacious decision.

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
8 7, 1976, ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE (AS
9 AMENDED) IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX
10 OF 2 MILLS FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY
11 THEREAFTER UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN
12 OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESSES THEREIN;
13 PROVIDING FOR ITS LEVY AND COLLECTION AND
14 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF MERCANTILE LICENSES;
15 CONFERRING AND IMPOSING POWERS AND DUTIES
16 UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF THE CITY OF
17 SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
18 IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX AT ONE
19 (1) MILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010.

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

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? All

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 AN ORDNANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
11 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
12 PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE BY
13 IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS
14 UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR
15 CONDUCTING BUSINESS INT E CITY OF SCRANTON
16 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;
17 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE
18 TAX AS CONDITION to the CONDUCTING OF SUCH
19 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND
20 COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH
21 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;
22 CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX
23 COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
24 IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE
25 RATE OF ONE (1) MILL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010.

1 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
3 introduced into it's proper committee.

4 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

5 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COU8NCIL
16 NO. 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
17 AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR
18 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSE IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO
19 PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET
20 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,
21 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE
22 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
23 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
24 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS
25 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,

1 REQUIRING THE FILING OR RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
2 SUBJECT TO THE TA TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS
3 TO COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR
4 THE ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND
5 ENFORCEMENT OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING
6 PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS", BY IMPOSING
7 THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS PERCENT
8 (2.4%) ON EARNED INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2010
9 FOR RESIDENTS.

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

13 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

14 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
24 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
25 NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS

1 AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND SPECIAL TAXES
2 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977" BY SETTING THE
3 MILAGE OF LAND AT .1.03115, BUILDING.
4 022.32 MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2010.

5 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
6 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be
7 introduced into it's proper committee.

8 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
19 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
20 NO. 17, 1994 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
21 AMENDED) AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY OF
22 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO ENACT 'A WASTE
23 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION FEE' FOR THE PURPOSE
24 OR RAISING REVENUE TO COVER THE WAST
25 DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION COSTS INCURRED BY

1 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FOR THE DISPOSAL OF
2 REFUSE," BY IMPOSING THE WASTE DISPOSAL AND
3 COLLECTION FEE OF \$178.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR
4 2010.

5 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
6 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be
7 introduced into it's proper committee.

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
19 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL
20 NO. 145 OF 2007 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
21 RENAMING THE EMERGENCY AND MUNICIPAL
22 SERVICES TAX ("EMST") TO LOCAL SERVICE TAX
23 ("LST") AND BY IMPOSING AND WITHHOLDING OF
24 \$52.00 FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010.

25 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll

1 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be
2 introduced into it's proper committee.

3 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

4 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
14 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
15 49, 2008, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL
16 CITY OPERATING BUDGET 2009" BY TRANSFERRING
17 \$1,410.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.011.00011.4470
18 (TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION) TO ACCOUNT NO.
19 01.011.00011.4010 (UNIFORM
20 ALLOWANCE-MILEAGE) TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO
21 REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES in the PUBLIC SAFETY
22 DEPARTMENT FOR MILEAGE.)

23 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
24 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be
25 introduced into it's proper committee.

1 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -
12 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE GIFT OF A
13 POLICE VEHICLE, VIN NUMBER 1FMEU74E86UB38911
14 FROM POLICE OFFICER MARY K. STEPPACHER FOR
15 USE in the CITY'S FLEET PURSUANT TO A LEAST
16 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND OFFICER MARY
17 K. STEPPACHER.

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

21 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

25 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
9 AND ENTER INTO A LEASE/POLICY AGREEMENT WITH
10 OFFICE MARY K. STEPPACHER, GOVERNING THE USE
11 OF SCRANTON POLICE OFFICER STEPPACHERS'
12 "PRIVATE CRUISER" AS DEFINED HEREIN."

13 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
14 entertain a motion that Item 5-K be
15 introduced into it's proper committee.

16 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

17 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25 have it and so moved.

1 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
2 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO
3 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

4 MS. EVANS: I'll entertain a motion
5 to adjourn.

6 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

7 MR. JOYCE: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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