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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

SUE MAGNOTTA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Here.

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Loscombe.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Here.

MS. MAGNOTTA: Mrs. Evans.

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

MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. NO
BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

MS. EVANS: Do we have clerk's note
for this evening, please, Mrs. Krake.

MS. KRAKE: Yes. First, I would
like to say the Councilman McGoff will be
joining us, he is just slightly delayed.

MS. EVANS: Thank you.

MS. KRAKE: We have many responses
this week. The first is from Charles
Jefferson. He is a partner in the Scranton

1 Connell, L.P., Incorporation. He is in
2 receipt of our letter of January 21
3 regarding the dumpsters in front of the
4 Connell building. He tells us that the
5 dumpsters are currently in use and have been
6 since the beginning of January. He
7 anticipates that the demolition work will
8 continue into March. If we have any further
9 questions we can contact him.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is a
12 part of the ongoing story about the handicap
13 accessible curb cuts. Even though we
14 reported last week PennDOT's response we
15 since received a different response from a
16 different department at PennDOT. The
17 gentleman that answered is Dennis Giordono,
18 assistant district executive of maintenance.
19 He is answering two parts here actually.
20 First he says, "Regarding the status of the
21 River Street overpass project that project
22 has a completion date of July 22, 2010."

23 In regards to the handicap
24 accessible curb and sidewalk at Spruce and
25 Wyoming, he tells us that the maintenance of

1 the curb and sidewalks is the responsibility
2 of the municipality. He also says the
3 Department of Transportation may replace
4 noncompliant ADA curb and sidewalks in
5 conjunction with a roadway and construction
6 project, but once again, maintenance of such
7 remains with the municipality.

8 And also, part of our complaint that
9 the gentleman -- the handicapped gentleman
10 told our office was that the handicap
11 entrance at the city -- that the city has in
12 the alley need to be addressed. The
13 operation of the door and the signs posted
14 do not correlate with each other and this
15 has been going on for well over a year.

16 MS. EVANS: Well, Mrs. Krake, can we
17 please then send a letter to the appropriate
18 department of city government to address
19 that issue and to the DPW as well to get to
20 work done on the handicapped portions of the
21 curbs and if you would attach our responses
22 received from PennDOT --

23 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

24 MS. EVANS: -- to that letter so that
25 they know we have confirmed with the state

1 that it is not a state responsibility, it is
2 our responsibility that needs to be
3 addressed immediately.

4 MS. KRAKE: The next response is
5 from the Scranton Parking Authority. We had
6 sent them a letter about illegal parking.
7 They tell us that the 50 minute parking spot
8 at 504 Lackawanna Avenue is theirs to
9 enforce and they have issued tickets there.
10 They also tell us that the 900 block of
11 Prescott Avenue, which was parking in front
12 of the business for 30 minutes -- or, excuse
13 me, a few vehicles parked in those three
14 spots all day and they're 30-minute parking,
15 that that is not enforced by the Parking
16 Authority, but at the same time we sent this
17 letter we sent one to the police who they
18 recommend we send it to and we have not
19 heard a response from Chief Elliott
20 concerning that.

21 MS. EVANS: I think we need to send
22 a second reminder to the chief that council
23 requests a response to this and action on
24 it.

25 MS. KRAKE: Our next two responses

1 are from the Stu Renda, business
2 administrator, this letter is in response to
3 our letter of January 13 regarding
4 deregulation of public electricity rates for
5 2010 as well as a follow-up from another
6 question of December 30.

7 It says, "Currently a request for
8 proposals is being drafted with the
9 intention to seek competitive proposals by
10 the end of February, 2010. It is premature
11 to provide an advertisement date of this
12 moment. We will forward a copy of all
13 pertinent documents and dates," to us, "to
14 provide full disclosure and corporation."

15 Next, he says, "Based on Scranton's
16 PPL electric service invoice for the traffic
17 signals, the distribution charge,
18 transmission charge and generation charge is
19 based on .64 per watt, .002 per watt and .
20 073 per watt respectively."

21 I know we asked him what the cost
22 was, but I don't know that we had said
23 specifically for traffic signals.

24 MS. EVANS: That is correct,
25 although, certainly it's useful to receive

1 that information, my original concern was
2 the utility costs for city hall and the
3 other buildings owned by the city and so I
4 would like him now to provide that cost and
5 if we get from him a report as soon as he
6 has done all of the work that he is outlined
7 for the end of the month of February I just
8 want to double check that that indeed is
9 happening because as we -- as we tarry, we
10 are losing money.

11 MS. KRAKE: The next response is in
12 reference to our request about Rossi's
13 audit. He tells us that Robert Rossi &
14 Company, this is Stu Renda once again, has
15 provided a detailed outline concerning the
16 timely completion of the report aside from
17 any unforeseen events and permanent staffing
18 reductions, it appears as though this
19 timeline will be adhered to.

20 MS. EVANS: Just so that everyone
21 understands, Rossi & Sons, the accounting
22 firm hired by Scranton City Council to
23 produce an annual independent audit of the
24 City of Scranton, begins it's work for the
25 upcoming audit usually in December and that

1 was the case this year. They were up and on
2 the job late December 2009. Each year they
3 also provide the business administrator with
4 a timeline for information to be submitted
5 to them from not only the business
6 administrator, but from the various
7 departments of city government and the
8 authorities of the City of Scranton. That
9 timeline is usually May 31 in keeping with
10 the city's Home Rule Charter, however, we
11 have never received an audit by that date.

12 Now, in the six years that I have
13 served on council, we have received audits
14 typically in the month of September and in
15 the last two years we are not received these
16 audits until November and that is
17 inexcusable, then it has very little impact
18 on budget planning throughout the year, and
19 so the mere fact that the business
20 administrator might suggest or imply that
21 his ability to meet the requests of the
22 auditor might be hindered by a reduction in
23 staff is laughable because he has yet to
24 produce that audit to cooperate with the
25 auditors in a timely fashion when he has had

1 quite a contingency of workers in his
2 office.

3 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
4 from Attorney Patterson. Our original
5 letter asked an update on the status of the
6 money the city is owed by the Ice Box for
7 the property once used by the DPW on
8 Providence Road. This is their reply:
9 "Pursuant to File of Council No. 67, 2010,
10 the city entered into a ground lease with
11 BRT Ice, LP, for the property situated along
12 Providence Road and West Olive Street now
13 known as the Ice Box Complex.

14 By correspondence dated July 18,
15 2006, BRT Ice forwarded a check to the city
16 for \$198 representing an advance payment of
17 the lease amount due under the lease
18 including the applicable option period. On
19 July 6, 2006, legislation regarding a
20 redevelopment contract between the
21 Redevelopment Authority of the city and BRT
22 Ice was introduced by Scranton City Council.
23 This legislation was held by council and no
24 further action has been taken on that
25 contract.

1 According to BRT counsel, the
2 above-referenced check was sent after the
3 legislation was held by council."

4 And our office did verify that it
5 was still in our records as held and that
6 was for purchase.

7 MS. EVANS: And I do recall that was
8 held because the owner of the Ice Box has
9 not provided the \$600,000 in a timely
10 manner. He wanted to break his payments
11 into manageable portions for himself over an
12 extended period of time, meanwhile, the city
13 is in financial difficulty and has remained
14 distressed for 18 years. It's certainly
15 \$600,000 for such a sizable portion of prime
16 city property is a bargain, to say the
17 least, and so if our solicitor, Solicitor
18 Hughes, might take a look at that agreement
19 and any other correspondences and
20 transactions that had occurred since the
21 date of the original agreement and see if
22 there is some way in which the city can
23 finally now receive it's \$600.000.

24 MR. HUGHES: I'll have all of the
25 documents on this pulled by Mrs. Krake and

1 review them for the next meeting.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
4 also from Attorney Patterson. This is in
5 reference to our question about the Murray
6 Insurance commercial parking lot. Their
7 response is: "Murray Insurance currently
8 owes the parking fee for the 2009. Murray
9 Insurance's parking lot is 40 spaces at \$15
10 per space they owe the city \$600 for 2009.

11 The 2010 notices for payment lots --
12 for commercial parking lots will be mailed
13 shortly."

14 I did call the solicitor on this
15 because I thought -- I know that the law
16 department in the past handled any claims
17 for bankruptcy that came to the city and
18 that perhaps this would be part of that and
19 the monies that are owed to the city, I know
20 delinquent taxes and liens are, however, she
21 indicated she didn't believe so under the
22 new bankruptcy laws, so it looks like
23 perhaps that wouldn't apply to the
24 bankruptcy timeline.

25 MS. EVANS: So we are going to lose

1 that money and at the same time it was the
2 previous council that agreed to subordinate
3 it's position on a loan for Mr. Murray and
4 that agency, and so the city has extended to
5 him many courtesies, but now the city
6 doesn't intend to pursue money that's owed
7 to it by him.

8 MS. KRAKE: I believe if I
9 understood her correctly that as far as the
10 bankruptcy aspect of it she may not be able
11 to, but they certainly are sending him the
12 bills.

13 MS. EVANS: Well, I know that I had
14 read that anyone -- any creditor, for
15 example, that would have been owed by the
16 gentleman in this case had a deadline by
17 which to I guess file for payment and that
18 would be considered in this bankruptcy case
19 and so it's a little difficult for me to
20 understand why the city wouldn't wish to ask
21 for what it's owed. Perhaps the city
22 solicitor can provide us with evidence that
23 the city has no right to collect what was
24 owed under a bankruptcy case and, Attorney
25 Hughes, if you might also just look into

1 that for us as well, what your opinion would
2 be.

3 MR. HUGHES: It would depend on who
4 the owner is and who filed the bankruptcy
5 petition. I don't know who owns that land.
6 If it's included within the Murray
7 bankruptcy then, of course, it would depend
8 on what our claim is. There is priority
9 claims, that would be a general creditor. I
10 don't know if the \$15 tax that the city has
11 a right to lien it. If they could they
12 could lien the real estate, but I'm not
13 familiar with that, but in accordance with
14 the bankruptcy the city is a general
15 creditor, we would be the last to be paid and
16 probably would be a pro rate share depending
17 on if it was the Murray Insurance Agency the
18 filed the bankruptcy if they don't own the
19 land, Mr. Murray in some other capacity
20 might own it. I will have to look at look
21 that.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is
24 from Mark Seitzinger, the Director of
25 License and Inspections. He is respond to

1 go our request about the Grove Street. He
2 tells us inspectors have been sent out to
3 the location and he has personally seen the
4 complaint during a driveway inspection. He
5 has also called Shay Demolition regarding
6 the machinery that is located on the site.
7 He also tells me they are further
8 investigating this and they will continue to
9 apprise us of the situation.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MS. KRAKE: And the next response is
12 also interest Director Seitzinger. We asked
13 him at council about a vacant lot at 622
14 Pittston Avenue and as frequently happens
15 the address of a property may not be the
16 address in the assessment records, so he
17 brought us the -- they went out and took a
18 look, they could see if -- there is a vacant
19 lot a 624 Pittston Avenue. He is pretty
20 confident that this is the one that is
21 everyone is referring to, you know, it
22 wasn't the exact address, but he was right
23 to respond in this way. He wouldn't want to
24 accuse someone incorrectly of this, so he
25 tells us as soon as the snow melts they will

1 be cited for garbage, the current owner of
2 this property, and he will also post the
3 signs and everything else that we have
4 requested.

5 Next response is also from Director
6 Seitzinger, this is in response to the
7 property at 1023 Bunker Hill Street. He
8 also states that the property is in
9 deplorable condition and demolition notices
10 have been sent to the property owner. All
11 notices have been sent through certified and
12 regular mail and all will come back to the
13 city.

14 This is a common occurrence. It
15 happened to me when I worked in the
16 Treasurer's Office, so this is all part of
17 the process that the city must do. Included
18 in the letter sent to the owners, Sara
19 Boyinski, was a demolition letter. That,
20 too, was returned back to the City of
21 Scranton with no acceptance of service from
22 the owner. He does have the property slated
23 for demolition and he will coordinate with
24 Jeff Brazil, director of DPW, for said
25 demolition.

1 He also wanted me to say that there
2 is a legal process and timeline that the
3 city must adhere to for demolition. Now, if
4 the mayor -- we did request Mr. Seitzinger
5 to come to a public caucus, and now that has
6 to be at the pleasure of the mayor since he
7 is under him, so if the mayor allows
8 Mr. Seitzinger to come to a public caucus I
9 think he would be able to explain at that
10 process fully and any question anyone would
11 have because it is very detailed.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. KRAKE: He also has agreed to
14 meet weekly in our office to go over any of
15 the requests that citizens have, but I know,
16 Mrs. Evans, you have also had me specify
17 that we still would require a written
18 response from him.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MS. KRAKE: Our final response is
21 from Paul O'Hora, the flood control project
22 coordinator. Our original letter was in
23 reference to the storm drain needs. Because
24 of the problems with silt and log jams, the
25 city is required to maintain these gates, so

1 we asked a lot of specific questions in
2 reference to this, so this is his answer:
3 He says, "There are four to six drainage
4 structures throughout the south Scranton,
5 Albright, Plot and Greenridge. These
6 structures are required to be routinely
7 maintained which includes cleaning,
8 lubrication and annual exorcising as well as
9 inspections before, during and after the
10 high water events to ensure that they are
11 properly maintained.

12 Note that the section of the
13 Greenridge project between the Market Street
14 Bridge and Poplar Street is still under
15 construction and has not yet and turned over
16 to the city for maintenance. This section
17 contains an additional 18 drainage
18 structures. With regard to the current
19 maintenance status, all drainage structures
20 have recently been exorcised and although
21 some cleaning has either been performed or
22 is in the process of being performed they
23 are all functioning as required.

24 As you are aware, the flap gates are
25 located on the river side of the levy and

1 are subject to the random accumulation of
2 sediment and debris. However, there are no
3 instances where the drainage structures have
4 not functioned as required due to issues
5 with sediment or debris.

6 With regard to a map of the drainage
7 structures, note that all of the structures
8 are shown on the original drawings, however,
9 due to a number of sheets that were required
10 with production, we can do these drawings at
11 Weston Field."

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. KRAKE: And, Mrs. President,
14 I'll leave it up to you, I do have several
15 nonresponses, but I don't know if you feel
16 too much time has been dedicated to this
17 already. Would you like me to continue?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. KRAKE: First, we have no
20 response from Chief Elliott from a letter
21 sent January 20 requesting what the status
22 was of the citywide public surveillance
23 cameras that are located throughout the
24 city. We have no written response.

25 MS. EVANS: That can be sent to him

1 again and we are asking for a response now
2 by this Friday, and you can enjoin that with
3 the previous requests for another reminder
4 to him that I made earlier.

5 MS. KRAKE: We have not received a
6 response in writing concerning the
7 intersection of Harrison Avenue and Pine
8 Street. There is numerous accidents at this
9 section in the past few years due to parked
10 cars. The resident ask DPW if there signage
11 could be larger, and I think what they mean
12 by that would be a longer section designated
13 "No Parking" on the corner to increase
14 visibility, and also we'll do the final --

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. KRAKE: This was a letter to
17 Mr. Renda: "Is the city --" this is
18 concerning Olive Street and Gordon Avenue.
19 They may have answered some of this at the
20 caucus, but I think we also might want
21 something in writing.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

23 MS. KRAKE: Is investigating funding
24 sources for the future flood protection
25 program.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MS. KRAKE: And this was a letter
3 was sent to Mr. Rinaldi, 500 Lackawanna
4 Development Company, January 22, 2010. We
5 wanted answers to the following questions:
6 Is the 500 Lackawanna project completed? If
7 not, when will it be done? Are there any
8 tenants? If so, please list each of them
9 and do they have a target date for full
10 occupancy. Nothing in writing for this
11 either.

12 MS. EVANS: I think we'll resubmit
13 that and should we not receive a response, I
14 think we will follow-up by inviting
15 Mr. Rinaldi then to a public caucus.

16 MS. KRAKE: This was a letter sent
17 to Mr. Brazil, January 29, "Council received
18 reports from residents of East Mountain that
19 the street sweeper was hard at work in their
20 neighborhood. Council asks that in good
21 weather all streets that are cindered should
22 also be swept.

23 And it was reported to council that
24 a table and picnic bench were placed on the
25 ice at Mountain Lake. Council asked that if

1 has not already been submerged please remove
2 it before an accident occurs. We have
3 nothing in writing on this either.

4 MS. EVANS: Let's just resubmit that
5 to Mr. Brazil, please, with an answer by
6 Friday as to what streets were taken care of
7 prior to the most recent snow fall.

8 MS. KRAKE: And one last letter,
9 this was a two-page -- three-page letter, a
10 very poignant letter from a concerned
11 citizen and it was showing their frustration
12 with the Recreation Authority, and I don't
13 want to read the entire letter, they state
14 their case very strongly as many people have
15 done at the podium, and I know from past
16 experience that if you do not word your
17 letter correctly as far as Right-to-Know you
18 will not get an answer.

19 So this office has done a
20 Right-to-Know concerning the Recreation
21 Authority and we did send that on January
22 26. Now, they did not respond in five days
23 to say they would need the extension, I'm
24 assuming that's what they have intended, but
25 we haven't heard from them, so would you

1 like us to follow-up and see why they
2 haven't?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes. And if they are
4 not within their 30-day time limit then he
5 would ask Attorney Hughes to step in and
6 make sure that the Right-to-Know request
7 information is supplied to city council.

8 MR. HUGHES: In accordance with the
9 Right-to-Know Act they would have to make a
10 response within five days and request the
11 extra 30 days. Right now they are in
12 default. They are in violation of the
13 Right-to-Know law. I do not know if they
14 have a solicitor.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes, they do.

16 MS. HUGHES: Who is the solicitor?

17 MS. EVANS: I believe it's Attorney
18 Paul Kelly. And perhaps we should notify
19 them of what Attorney Hughes just stated,
20 that they are currently in violation and
21 they would expect the information to be
22 received on the legally dictated date.

23 MS. HUGHES: Well, that's passed,
24 hasn't it?

25 MS. KRAKE: Five days have passed,

1 they haven't requested the extension as of
2 the five days.

3 MR. HUGHES: Then it's too late to
4 request the extension. Tell them that they
5 must submit the documentation forthwith or
6 we are going to -- whether we can go to
7 Court to enforce that or we would have to
8 request the solicitor's office to do it, I
9 believe Mr. Kelly is an assistant solicitor.

10 MS. EVANS: He should certainly be
11 aware.

12 MR. HUGHES: He would have to go sue
13 himself.

14 MS. KRAKE: That's all we have.

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

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
19 Evans. The annual Lenten food sale at St.
20 Lucy's Church, 949 Scranton Street, West
21 Scranton, Fridays through February 19 to
22 March 26 from three to 6:30 p.m., clam
23 chowder, pizza and weekly specials such as
24 pasta fagioli, broccoli and shells, pasta
25 marinara and polenta. There will be a

1 special bake sale on March 19. For orders
2 you can call 342-5981 and walk-ins are most
3 welcome.

4 On March 13 the Area 314 Fraternal
5 Order of Eagles is having a ham and cabbage
6 dinner. The doors open at 1 p.m. and the
7 dinner will be from 3:30 to 7:30. The cost
8 will be \$8 and tickets can be bought at the
9 door. T-shirts will be on sale that day
10 various sizes and styles will be available,
11 also. At 8 p.m. DJ "G-Daddy" will be
12 playing various tunes, karaoke and maybe
13 some Irish music. Just remember, everybody
14 is Irish on parade day in Scranton where the
15 party never stops. Hope to see you there.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any other
18 announcements? A pasta fundraiser will be
19 held in Friday, February 19 from 5 to 9 p.m.
20 at the Eagle Hose Company, Eagle Lane,
21 Dickson City to benefit the Blaskovic family
22 who lost their home and possessions to fire
23 on January 5. Tickets are \$10 for adults,
24 \$5 for children and those 12 years of age
25 and under are free. Enjoy a delicious pasta

1 dinner and help a family in need.

2 Finally, council asks for the
3 cooperation of all speakers this evening.
4 During citizens' participation, we ask that
5 each of you be brief in order that council
6 members can meet in executive session
7 following Seventh Order to discuss cable
8 franchise contract negotiations. Attorney
9 Cohen has traveled from Pittsburgh to
10 participate in this discussion and update
11 council. This discussion cannot be
12 conducted publically since it may jeopardize
13 the city's position in the negotiation
14 process and all discuss must remain
15 confidential. We would appreciate your
16 understanding and assistance by shortening
17 your remarks tonight, and that's it.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I'm
19 sorry, I missed one.

20 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I received an e-mail
22 on this, the city planning commission
23 meeting, looks like the date has been
24 changed to February 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the
25 city council chambers. On the agenda under

1 new business is the review of preliminary
2 major subdivision plan by Oakwood Homes of
3 Scranton for the development of 51 lots
4 known as Oakwood Estates Phase III.

5 The second item on the agenda is the
6 review of the land development plan for
7 construction of a major convenience store by
8 BRT, Inc., at the Ice Box Complex,
9 Providence Road and Olive Street. This is
10 an open meeting. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake?

12 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
13 PARTICIPATION.

14 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
15 Mike Dudek.

16 MR. DUDEK: My name is Mike Dudek,
17 608 Depot Street, Scranton. I live down
18 there in the Plot. Last week's council
19 meeting probably was the most productive and
20 the most informative city council meeting I
21 have ever seen. It was run wonderfully.
22 Part of the meeting involved Mr. McGoff in
23 presenting the case for the city as far as
24 the budget was concerned and it took about
25 90 minutes for that portion of the meeting

1 to take place, by the time that meeting was
2 over, that portion of it was over, that 90
3 minutes, it kind of -- it kind of reminded
4 me of a participant in a world cup soccer
5 match, not as a participating player, but by
6 the time it was over he kind of reminded me
7 of what the ball might have looked like. I
8 have never seen anything quite like this
9 council being so prepared and so
10 knowledgeable as to what is going on with
11 the city budget.

12 Now, with the mayor, he's really
13 beginning to come apart of the seams. I
14 mean, here's a man who in October was
15 running for mayor while he was running for
16 governor, he had two separate campaign
17 committees. Then with his popularity vote
18 was only 3 percent in a poll that had a plus
19 or minus 4 percent error ratio, he now tries
20 to run for lieutenant governor and Mr.
21 Onatorio didn't want him, now he is running
22 for state senate and Mr. Cochran already
23 told him he might as well get out of the
24 race, just sit down, shut up and be a good
25 boy.

1 Now, he is trying to sue council.
2 He is having a very busy week and I'm
3 beginning to wonder if the wheels aren't
4 coming off of Mr. Doherty. To me he is
5 acting like somebody who is aching to become
6 a member of the rubber room Bellevue-bound
7 Looney Tune nut bin. There is something
8 wrong with the man. He is behaving
9 extremely erratic, and this is going to put
10 pressure on you four as a council because
11 now you are going to have to look at your
12 job in a completely different way. If he is
13 becoming delusional it may occur that you as
14 a council may have to take over a bit more
15 of the work.

16 The Scranton Times today in their
17 editorial calls our form of government the
18 city's strong mayor form of the government.
19 No, no, absolutely no. It is a strong
20 mayor, strong council form of government and
21 if you have to use your power to veto or
22 legislate our whatever and you constantly
23 vote together that's the proof of it. A
24 strong mayor, strong council government.
25 That's what we have here.

1 incumbent upon all of you to hang together,
2 to work together, and I hope you are not
3 going to find yourselves having a full-time
4 job doing this, but it's a remarkable time
5 in our city's history and I hope that you
6 are ready and you keep on being prepared.

7 And again, Mr. Joyce, I want to
8 again commend you for what you did last
9 week.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

11 MR. DUDEK: That was phenomenal.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
14 Sbaraglia.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
16 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
17 I'll keep my remarks short. The Ice Box, we
18 brought that up again. The first contract
19 there was no money involved, the 198 years
20 was in there. That \$198 that he sent is for
21 198 years for that parcel of land. The
22 problem is the liability. Why should we
23 take any responsibility for a liability if
24 that man has the lease? It should be his
25 responsibility for his liability on that

1 piece of property, not ours, so I wish you
2 could put, you know, the little things,
3 especially if they are going to build on it.
4 Are you going -- are we going to respond,
5 pull from next door if somebody gets hurt in
6 the parking lot? This is ridiculous. Well,
7 the whole thing was ridiculous. I don't
8 want to get into it because -- I still boil
9 when I think about it.

10 Okay, Lackawanna Avenue being that
11 was brought up again, there is no office
12 building. How could the project be complete
13 without the office building that was in the
14 original plans? You got to remember, he
15 promised an office bidding and it's not
16 there.

17 And as far as Mr. Doherty going to
18 sue, well, that makes sense. He would like
19 an injunction to prevent this from -- his --
20 how does he put it, his administrators to
21 get a decrease in salary. I understood why
22 he is asking for an injunction, I can
23 understand that, but you should have
24 realized he was going to do it anyway
25 because he sued the police, he sued the

1 firemen, why not you? Bye.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill
3 Jackowitz.

4 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
5 South Scranton resident and member of the
6 Taxpayers' Association. What I am going to
7 say this evening is fact not supposition.
8 Moses Taylor Hospital starts layoff of
9 emergency room personnel. These people save
10 lives, treat your children and you when
11 there is an emergency, but they are being
12 laid off starting today. Governor Rendell
13 states that the state government runs more
14 efficiently since the Commonwealth laid off
15 5.6 percent of their work force. Throughout
16 the United States workers are being laid
17 off, all 50 states have cut their budgets,
18 cities and townships throughout the United
19 States have made cuts in their budgets and
20 laid workers off, reduced salaries to
21 administrative workers.

22 "Mayor to sue council. Doherty will
23 go right to Court if budget cut passes."
24 Council, pass the budget cuts. Do not back
25 down. We have a lame duck mayor. If this

1 situation was not so serious it would be
2 laughable. The executive branch is suing
3 the legislative branch of a distressed city
4 that has been distressed for 18 years. In
5 other words, the mayor is going to sue the
6 taxpayers who pay the legal bills unless the
7 mayor will open up his wallet and pay the
8 legal bills. Whatever happened to
9 negotiations and talking between government
10 bodies?

11 Mr. Mayor, the last time you
12 appeared at a city council was when you
13 mysteriously showed up to cast the deciding
14 vote to appoint Mr. McGoff as a city council
15 member. Since then you have been a no-show.
16 Mr. McGoff has repaid you many times when
17 his votes that have hurt the people of
18 Scranton. I understand that you feel
19 uncomfortable in city council chambers
20 because you are not capable of defending
21 your policies and records as mayor for eight
22 years. That is why you go to the
23 Times-Tribune. They will write anything you
24 say whether it is accurate or not.

25 Roger and Pat McKenna, you must tell

1 both sides. Tomorrow's headline should be,
2 Pat McKenna and Roger, "Mayor sues
3 taxpayers." That should be tomorrow's
4 headline. But, yet, Mayor Doherty, you
5 wanted to be governor and lieutenant
6 governor, now state senator. Harrisburg
7 sent you packing back to Scranton. No
8 endorsement votes for either governor or
9 lieutenant governor. You can and try to say
10 that you withdrew, but you have no
11 credibility.

12 Remember, the sixth council member,
13 9,000 invisible jobs and wage cuts, wage tax
14 cuts. I find it very immature on the
15 mayor's part to immediately suggest suing.
16 This sounds to me like a little spoiled boy
17 who is not chosen by any team to play and
18 takes his ball and bat home crying.

19 Mr. Mayor, you are the chief
20 executive of a distressed city. Remember
21 the Recovery Plan, PEL, and 25 percent tax
22 hikes, the fines and penalties applied to
23 the delinquent taxpayers? Mr. Mayor,
24 Mr. McGoff, and the other two ex-Doherty
25 three, were you aware of the fact that

1 Lackawanna County has a department setup to
2 collect delinquent taxes? Their collection
3 rates are much less than the collection
4 agency and the money goes back to the
5 county. The only municipality in Lackawanna
6 County who does not use the county agency is
7 the City of Scranton. I wonder why.

8 Mr. Mayor, do you remember saying if
9 you pay your taxes you do not have to worry
10 about the fines? Well, I say to you,
11 Mr. Mayor, if you use the county agency you
12 do not have to pay the fines either. The
13 mayor and Doherty three hurt the people of
14 Scranton with the passage of this
15 legislation.

16 "I created 9,000 new jobs in
17 Scranton in my eight years of mayor."

18 Mr. McGoff, you were wrong last week
19 when you stated that Mr. Brazil was
20 Superman. Mayor/ex-Governor, Lieutenant
21 Governor, State Senator Doherty is Superman.
22 He created 9,000 invisible, is running for
23 three state offices and still finding time
24 to sue the city council. Now, that's
25 Superman.

1 "I am not going to allow them to
2 hurt the people." What people are you
3 speaking about, the eight Doherty real
4 people who were given jobs without
5 qualifications? Ex councilwoman Gatelli
6 once said, "Qualifications do not matter.
7 Well, Scranton and Mayor Doherty follows
8 that rule. How about the 100 city workers
9 you were forced into early retirement. Are
10 they not people? How about the firefighters
11 and police officers who have not received a
12 raise from you in eight years, are they not
13 people? The fire chief and police chief
14 received a \$13,000 a year raise two years
15 ago while their workers received nothing.
16 Take it back, Council, until the rank and
17 file get their raise for Mayor/
18 Ex-Governor/Lieutenant/State Senator
19 Doherty.

20 Scranton police officer and
21 firefighters are the lowest paid full-time
22 departments. The people who reside in the
23 district pay attention to Mayor Doherty's
24 record, but more importantly take a good
25 look at the fact that he ran straight

1 through the Court system without any
2 negotiations or talks. No wonder why
3 Harrisburg sent him packing. Mayor/State
4 Senator Doherty, you are a lame duck
5 politician at the very least and have no
6 leadership, management abilities whatsoever.
7 Take it to Court and hurt the citizens of
8 the Scranton even more.

9 Mr. Joyce, some constructive
10 criticism. Why did you not ask Mr. McGoff
11 if he was aware of the importance of the
12 work, who the workers were and did he check
13 with the department heads sooner. It would
14 have saved a lot of time. If you notice,
15 Mr. McGoff's microphone was off when he
16 weakly answered "No," but his facial
17 expression said it all. What an
18 embarrassment. He was caught in his own
19 trap.

20 Mr. Mayor, you believe Nay Aug
21 Park-- you love Nay Aug Park. Why did you
22 allow the Park and Recreation Authority and
23 Mr. Dougher to lease the Wildlife Center to
24 Lackawanna College for \$1 a year for 25
25 years with the option of five more 25 year

1 leases for a total of 150 years for \$150,
2 but yet Mr. Dougher and the Authority sees
3 nothing wrong with charging kids 6 to 15
4 years old \$3 a day to swim. They also want
5 to charge the children of the poor \$3, but I
6 understand, Mr. Mayor, that you and
7 Mr. Dougher and the Park and Recreation
8 Authority do not believe that there are any
9 poor people in Scranton.

10 . Again, this is why you were sent
11 packing by Harrisburg and the district will
12 do the same. You have embarrassed Scranton
13 once again. Why do you think the majority
14 council is elected and the Doherty two were
15 defeated. Number three is next if he
16 decides to seek re-election.

17 (Mr. McGoff entered council chambers
18 and took the dais while Bill Jackowitz was
19 speaking.)

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Just one
21 quick bit of information that I think will
22 piggyback on your original statements
23 concerning Moses Taylor Hospital, I was
24 contacted today by Mr. Michael Costello, one
25 of the officials of Moses Taylor Hospital to

1 apprise me of the situation. He told me
2 another article will appear in tomorrow's
3 paper. There will be a total of 45
4 individuals laid off at Moses Taylor
5 Hospital and quite a number of other
6 individuals who will be reassigned to other
7 job duties and responsibilities. This is
8 due in part to the current state of the
9 economy.

10 And I did tell Mr. Costello that I
11 was very sorry to hear this news, but that I
12 did understand since business and all levels
13 of the government are sharing that pain, and
14 I thought it was just important for all of
15 the public to know that positions are being
16 cut in places other than city government.
17 They are being cut, as you know, on the
18 county level, on the state level and within
19 business and industry, and very sadly it's
20 now even affecting our health institutions
21 in this city. Les Spindler.

22 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
23 Council. Les Spindler, Scranton resident
24 and homeowner and taxpayer. Mrs. Evans, can
25 I ask Attorney Hughes a question?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Attorney Hughes, last
3 week after council voted to veto the Library
4 Authority you said the Library Authority
5 must cease now, what if they don't? What's
6 the next course of action?

7 MR HUGHES: The next course of
8 action that I would recommend is that
9 council would pass a resolution to have the
10 solicitor's office take action against the
11 Library board to compel them to file a
12 dissolution of papers with the Secretary of
13 State. Council cannot file the action on
14 behalf of the city, that would have to be up
15 the solicitor's office. Right now the
16 Library Authority really has no legal basis
17 to conduct any business in my opinion.

18 MR. SPINDLER: I was just curious.

19 MR. HUGHES: Or there could be
20 taxpayers' actions against the authority
21 because the ordinance that created the
22 authority has now been overruled, you know,
23 has now been rescinded so the authority
24 board, while it's still there, has no legal
25 authority to function.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Being the mayor wants
2 the authority I have no confidence they are
3 going to cease. I was just curious. Thank
4 you.

5 I brought this up about four years
6 ago, Mrs. Evans, you might remember when my
7 dog was attacked by two pit bulls about four
8 years. Thank God she was okay, and I asked
9 for council to look into maybe a dangerous
10 dog legislation, well, Mrs. Gatelli looked
11 into it and there was supposed to be
12 meetings and I guess Beth Thursby was
13 involved, to this date nothing has been
14 done. I would respectfully ask council if
15 maybe they could look into maybe starting
16 something so I could get a dangerous dog
17 legislation started?

18 MS. EVANS: We'll take that under
19 advisement, Mr. Spindler.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. I, too,
21 want to talk about the mayor saying he was
22 going to sue city council. In essence, I
23 guess he is suing the city that he is
24 supposed to running. Notice I said supposed
25 to be running because he is too busy doing

1 other things, but for eight years this mayor
2 had his own way because he had his rubber
3 stampers on city council. Now that he has a
4 city council that's going to hold his feet
5 to the fire he is like a spoiled brat that's
6 not getting his own way so is taking his
7 ball and running home with it.

8 And I want to read something from
9 the Doherty newsletter. Mayor Doherty said,
10 "I'm not going to allow them to hurt the
11 people of our city."

12 Well, as a matter of fact, Mayor,
13 you have hurt this city in many years ways
14 and one is to this day you cost the
15 taxpayers \$1.4 four million in loss
16 arbitration appeals and now he is going to
17 cost the taxpayers more money suing city
18 council, so where does it stop with this
19 man? He just doesn't want to hurt the
20 people, but he is really doing it. He
21 doesn't know what he is doing.

22 And something else, he says talking
23 about the fire chief and police chief having
24 their salaries cut. It says, "Mr. Doherty
25 took particular exception to the cuts

1 affecting the police and fire chiefs who
2 would be making significantly less than
3 their counterparts of many surrounding
4 communities. We are one of the safest
5 cities in the state."

6 Well, that's funny. I could just
7 remember I think it was maybe two Sundays
8 ago the headline in the paper was "Violent
9 crime up 19 percent in Scranton" so if
10 that's a safe city I think I'm going to move
11 somewhere else. And, Mrs. Evans, when -- if
12 this does goes to Court and he holds his
13 promise, I would bring up about how Mayor
14 Doherty violates his own Recovery Plan
15 hiring cronies, giving the police chief and
16 the fire chief raises where the Recovery
17 Plan plainly calls for no raises after 2002,
18 so I hope this brought up if it does go to
19 Court because I have read the Recovery Plan
20 and I know what it says. That's all I have
21 to say. Have a good night.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Jean Suetta.
23 Mr. Patilla, I am so sorry. I just noticed
24 thanks to vice-president Rogan that I
25 skipped over your name and so when Ms.

1 Suetta finishes please proceed to the
2 podium.

3 MS. SUETTA: Jean Suetta. I have a
4 couple of questions to ask you. You know,
5 the University of Scranton owns half of the
6 Hill and they put all their students and
7 they rent them out to the students. Now,
8 once the University of Scranton owns the
9 building it's tax exempt. How come we are
10 not getting taxes from them? Now, Duquesne
11 University tried to pull a -- say the right
12 word, Jeannie, don't curse, to the people
13 out there, they bought a complex next door
14 and they were renting the complex to the
15 students, Duquesne, the city, sued the
16 University and they won and now they are
17 back on the tax rolls. Why can't we do
18 something like that?

19 MS. EVANS: Well it's certainly
20 something we can look into.

21 MS. SUETTA: You know, because they
22 own half the city. And, Mr. McGoff, how are
23 you?

24 MR. MCGOFF: I'm fine, Jean.
25 Yourself?

1 MS. SUETTA: Pretty good. I have a
2 little problem over on Albright Avenue, when
3 you first come up to new bridge -- up to the
4 wall on Albright Avenue, there is like a
5 hole. When you hit it you think you are
6 going down into the mines and then when you
7 go around the bend and you go down Albright
8 Avenue you are on Ho Chi Minh Trail. It's
9 bad over there, really bad, but that one
10 spot is real bad.

11 Janet, the University of Scranton
12 don't pay no taxes. Now, they have a
13 state-of-the-art library. Are us peons
14 allowed to go up there and use it?

15 MS. EVANS: I would think so, yes.

16 MS. SUETTA: At any given time or
17 are we limited to certain hours?

18 MS. EVANS: I would think the
19 library has established hours of operation
20 and I think if you spoke with the individual
21 on duty at the circulation desk explaining
22 that, of course, you are not a student
23 rather a resident of Scranton I'm sure they
24 can provide you with answers to all of your
25 questions.

1 MS. SUETTA: Oh, all right.

2 MR. ROGAN: It is open to the
3 public.

4 MS. SUETTA: It is up open to the
5 public?

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. SUETTA: And I'd like to say
8 hello to Ziggy Levandowski and Bobby
9 Szymanski. Bobby is home not feeling good,
10 but other than that I'm making it short
11 tonight. Bob, you are going to look into
12 Albright Avenue? He is looking down at
13 nothing.

14 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff?

15 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: He is
16 ignoring you.

17 MS. SUETTA: Yeah, I know he is
18 ignoring me. Oh, and I want to thank Kevin
19 Murphy's office again. They were very
20 helpful. Anybody has any questions go see
21 Kevin Murphy, and now that you've got me up
22 and here and I'm talking what the hell. I'm
23 sorry. What about our mayor? He is like a
24 cockroach. He wants to be a governor, he
25 wants to be the lieutenant governor, now he

1 wants to be a senator, he is like slippery
2 Sam, don't know what he wants, and he wants
3 to run our city?

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Suetta.

5 MS. SUETTA: All right. Have a good
6 night.

7 MS. EVANS: Mr. Patilla.

8 MR. PATILLA: Sam Patilla, South
9 Side resident, member of the
10 Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'
11 Association. Madame President, the City of
12 Scranton finally has something they didn't
13 have eight years. They have a strong
14 taxpayer base and they voted overwhelming to
15 seat the majority of Scranton City Council,
16 all right? The only people that Chris
17 Doherty was trying to save is the minority
18 because the majority of the people in this
19 city voted for this city council to lead us
20 back on the road of recovery. The only
21 thing I can recall Chris Doherty doing is
22 25, 25, 25, 56. A dollar a year for 68
23 years; a dollar a year for 25 years for
24 language that stipulates it can be extended
25 for another one 25 years, all right?

1 As I've stated in the past, I have
2 nothing against the "U", I have nothing
3 against Lackawanna College, all right, but
4 both of those institutions, for example, are
5 expanding. They have money. There is
6 nothing that could prevent this city from
7 entering into an honest lease agreement with
8 them where we are getting market value for
9 properties that they are using.

10 You know, I kind of find it kind of
11 difficult for somebody who is running for
12 all of these different offices to say that
13 he has the best interest of anybody at heart
14 other than himself. You are spending -- he
15 spends too much time on road. You might not
16 even be fully aware of the implications that
17 his decision and his past administration
18 have had on the taxpayers in this city. We
19 cannot stand it.

20 Like was stated earlier, the county
21 is cutting back, the state is cutting back,
22 the federal government is cutting back, all
23 right? I suggest that the council move Item
24 6-B to the Seventh Order tonight because we
25 as taxpayers, we're behind you. The small

1 business owners are behind you. You know, a
2 couple of weeks ago or a couple of months,
3 whenever it was, when the taxpayers were
4 receiving those fraudulent notices from NCC
5 in regards to the sewer bills, you know, he
6 didn't run to the Courts to see them and
7 protect those citizens. I had a gentleman I
8 spoke with a couple of days ago, who is
9 having a the same type of problem, but only
10 this time instead of the sewer bill it's his
11 mortgage, you know, where they are not doing
12 their work to insuring that these payments
13 are being received, the mortgage company and
14 escrow company they are saying the payments
15 have been made, here's the proof, front,
16 back, check, what else do you want, it's
17 here.

18 You know, so evidently the problem
19 lies within that company and I just strongly
20 want to get behind the council and do not,
21 do not back away, all right? These people
22 are faltering, okay, and was stated by
23 Mr. Jackowitz earlier and some of the other
24 speakers, the state doesn't want him.
25 Harrisburg doesn't want him. The majority

1 the citizens of the Scranton do not want the
2 way he has been leading us for the last
3 year, that tax, borrow spend, tax, borrow,
4 spend policy. It's not the way to go. We
5 all realize that because we are affected by
6 it.

7 You know, don't back away from him.
8 You know, stand your ground, do what you got
9 to do, we are behind you 125 percent.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

11 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
12 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. BOLUS: I was out of town, I was
15 down south, and it was interesting to read
16 in one of the Florida newspapers about the
17 Commonwealth college and a kid trying to get
18 into 30 schools and they found Commonwealth
19 College here in Scranton, Pennsylvania, so
20 it was written up in one of the papers down
21 there and I found it a little bit amusing.

22 But what it did tell me is that if
23 you have the money to get into a college
24 that college should be able to pay taxes or
25 pay it's fair share in the community it's

1 located in. Which brings up the same issues
2 that I brought up here for the last eight,
3 nine years. I know council has a task
4 before them, but one of the issues you need
5 to do is finally create a fee not just in
6 lieu of taxes or how much token money do you
7 want to give us, I think Mr. Hughes will
8 agree with me in order to impose a fee it
9 has to go across the board from the lowest
10 paying citizen to the highest paying
11 business in the city so it's fair and
12 equitable, and each one pays that
13 percentage. That's where you need to be,
14 that's where it needs to get done.

15 We don't have to keep pushing to be
16 the ground upon plate here all day long. We
17 know what we need to do. There is a
18 leachate line I brought up for years, you
19 need to work on it, but you need to get it
20 done. There is millions and millions of
21 dollars available to the people of this
22 city. Past councils and past
23 administrations because of the political
24 atmosphere here have ignored it because who
25 owns it, who controls who.

1 What I have seen in this council,
2 and I haven't been here, I have watched a
3 little, I have been traveling quite a bit,
4 but what I have seen so far has impressed me
5 and I'm willing to support this council. I
6 have seen you take the bull by the horn, but
7 the idea is hang onto the bull and that's
8 where you need to be. You know, you are
9 going to hear criticism one way the other,
10 if you believe everything you read in the
11 Scranton Times you would really wonder what
12 goes on in the city.

13 What you need to do is continue
14 where you are going. I will support this
15 council. I have an issue that I've always
16 had and that was the golf course money, \$3
17 million plus the interest that was taken
18 from that fund and squandered on the mayor's
19 pet projects in this city to balance the
20 budget. I would like to have council's
21 commitment that whether it comes from fees,
22 whether it comes from the leachate line or
23 the gas line or wherever we get this extra
24 money that comes in here that that money is
25 replaced. It didn't belong to the

1 administration, the council or anybody else.
2 It belonged to the people and future
3 generations of this city for parks and
4 recreation where only the interest was to be
5 used and to replace that money. It's a
6 duty, it's a responsibility and it's an
7 obligation that needs to be done back to the
8 kids of the future when we are not here to
9 guard them or help them and I would like to
10 see that happen with council.

11 You know, where we are heading in
12 this city, it hasn't been fun. I have an
13 issue on East Mountain which everybody is
14 aware of. I'm charged with assaulting a
15 17-year-old kid who I never laid a hand on.
16 I was called in Florida and told it was in
17 the newspaper. I have been charged on my
18 own property because this issue grew out of
19 proportion because of the laxity on the
20 city's solicitor who was told by our
21 attorneys the city owned the piece of
22 property. It's a water right-of-way that
23 goes from the dam on East Mountain, that
24 went through a subdivision. People were
25 allowed to build their homes on this

1 property that's owned by the City of
2 Scranton. It's illegal. They couldn't do
3 what they did, but it was ignored by the
4 solicitor.

5 You have budget cuts here you are
6 looking at. Let me tell you, that's one
7 budget cut I'd like to see happen is to the
8 solicitor because of her actions by not
9 enforcing what was there and the harassment
10 we have gone through the invasion of my
11 privacy on that mountain, she has cost me
12 thousands of dollars in litigation right now
13 and it's going to continue.

14 To protect my property I had to put
15 containers there because signs didn't mean
16 anything. They were torn down. The police
17 didn't do the arrest that they should have
18 did, so we've had a lot of issues there and
19 they are going to continue, but I'm the last
20 guy that's going to back down on walk away
21 from bullies that think they can infringe on
22 people's privacy and their right.

23 Photographing me in my driveway, invading my
24 privacy, yeah, I'm going to take it to the
25 task and I'm going to take it to the mat,

1 but it started because the solicitor did not
2 do her job. She ignored it. That's city
3 owned property, they should have never been
4 issued a building permit and if they were
5 there should have been rescinded until this
6 litigation was resolved. You can't take
7 city-owned property, build on it and not put
8 it up for sale by public bid or public
9 auction to get the highest value for the
10 city as we have in other vacant land in the
11 city.

12 We saw the issue that went on with
13 Holy Cross Church where the city was going
14 to spend a dollar and tear something down
15 for 380 something there.

16 The Sewer Authority, I have a
17 question for them why the individuals are
18 allowed to use Sewer Authority vehicles for
19 their own personal use, and that we are
20 paying it out of tax dollars yet they want
21 tax increases.

22 As I said, I will support this
23 council as long as you go in the right
24 direction. I think it was time that the
25 mayor was put in his place and I applaud you

1 for doing that, but don't waiver, stay the
2 course, and I believe Scranton at one point
3 will stop being distressed and be a place
4 we're proud to call home because everything
5 is paid for. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

7 MR. MILLER: Good evening. Doug
8 Miller, Scranton.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

11 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to
12 address the budget tonight, Agenda Item 6-B,
13 you know, we take a look at the million of
14 dollars spent on the administration salaries
15 and unnecessary projects across this city
16 and now we find out that the administration
17 wants to sue council. You know, who is
18 giving away assets in this city? It's gone
19 on for years and a prime example is up Nay
20 Aug Park. We are giving away the zoo, an
21 asset to this city to Lackawanna College for
22 nothing. I mean, it's a joke and, you know,
23 now the administration wants to come in and
24 sue council.

25 You know, for the first time in

1 eight years the administration is being held
2 accountable and I applaud this council for
3 taking the appropriate action. We need to
4 keep looking into ways to alleviate the tax
5 burden placed on our citizens. We must
6 create a fee on KOZ's and nonprofits, and I
7 have brought this up before. I brought it
8 up to the previous council and it went in
9 one ear and out the other like many things
10 did, but we need to create a fee that holds
11 everyone accountable just like the garbage
12 fee. Everyone needs to pay their fair share
13 around here. Enough is enough already.

14 You know, critics argue that only a
15 small percentage of money was saved,
16 however, what they failed to mention is that
17 this council has stated on numerous
18 occasions that this measure is only the
19 first of many efforts to improve Scranton's
20 financial woes.

21 I have sat back and I have observed
22 this council for the last few weeks and I
23 have become very impressed by your
24 leadership and the bold actions you have
25 taken to protect the taxpayers. You know,

1 we may have ran against each other in the
2 election and things may have gotten personal
3 at times, but we move on, and I stand here
4 tonight ready to work with this council in
5 any capacity and last week I proposed the
6 idea of a revenue task force and, Council
7 President Evans, with your consent I would
8 like to lead the efforts to make this group
9 a reality and I believe it's time that every
10 concerned resident who believes in good and
11 honest open government stand up and get
12 involved because this council can't do it on
13 it's own. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
16 I am glad to see that there are going to be
17 some discussions today on the franchise
18 agreement and I just like to say that I
19 think that that franchise agreement needs to
20 be removed from the budget and the money
21 needs to be divided between Channel 61 to
22 fund that remedial education and youth
23 programs in the city and a third to go to
24 senior citizens' centers located inside of
25 the city to help them meet their funding

1 requirements for meals and whatever outreach
2 they do for seniors.

3 Now, you know, I think my opinion on
4 6-B is probably totally different from
5 everyone in this room, but that shouldn't
6 surprise anyone to be honest. I am of the
7 opinion that it should be tabled and I have
8 a lot of reasons for that. The first one
9 being that I think we don't want to spin
10 ourselves into litigation, I think it's
11 counterproductive. I think the next budget
12 will be in ten months or less. I think -- I
13 really think what should happen here, and I
14 don't know if the five members of council
15 have actually broken the budget into five
16 sections or if the five council members have
17 decided to work together to look at the
18 budget, restructure the budget, I mean, it's
19 possible to cut the mayor's budget by 10
20 percent next time. I don't see any real
21 legitimate reason to chase \$700,000 and
22 litigate against ourselves. It just doesn't
23 make any sense to me whatsoever.

24 I think the most -- I mean, when we
25 get ourselves into litigation there is going

1 to be a continuance possibly, there is going
2 to be appeals, there is going to be all kind
3 of legal things, the judges are going to
4 decide what's relevant and what's not. It's
5 going to leave your hands and it may not be
6 settled in a year.

7 And then you have to realize one
8 thing, the cost to the taxpayers. There is
9 no doubt that this council wants to move in
10 the best interest of the taxpayers, but is
11 it possible that the best interest of the
12 taxpayers lays in waiting for the mayor to
13 submit his next budget and be prepared at
14 that time to make a cut of 10 percent to
15 that budget? A seven million dollar cut
16 instead of a \$700,000 cut? I mean, it only
17 makes common sense. Why fight amongst
18 ourselves because the truth of the matter is
19 the people that are counting on you, are the
20 people that are walking through these
21 neighborhoods. A lot of them have no job
22 and have no money. They are struggling
23 day-to-day. Do we want to take their hard
24 earned money to fight against our own
25 government?

1 I think it's counter productive. I
2 think the best possible thing is to function
3 inside of the parameters that you can
4 function within and that's to cut the next
5 budget by 10 percent, seven million dollars
6 instead of taking us into litigation.
7 Litigation serves no one and this mayor is
8 not afraid to go into litigation, he has
9 done it many times, and I just like to say
10 we need to take a very good close look at
11 the amount of litigation we have spun in
12 regards to the fire department and the
13 police department and is that where this
14 council wants to take us? It makes no sense
15 at all and whether anybody here agrees with
16 me or not I really don't care. I have been
17 coming a long time and I have seen a lot and
18 I think if you use that charter to your
19 advantage you can win.

20 I could see opening the budget to
21 restore four or five jobs in the traffic
22 department and a sign writer, okay, but even
23 if that's not possible wait until the next
24 budget and break the budget down amongst
25 yourselves and figure out what road you are

1 going to take because the important thing
2 here is this a new beginning or the same
3 rhetoric.

4 We need reality here and the reality
5 is we need smart decisions that aren't going
6 to lead us into litigation because when it
7 goes into litigation it's out of your hands,
8 it's in the judge's hands and after it
9 leaves that judge it goes to another judge.
10 How many judges do we have to see? I think
11 the police and fire union have seen plenty
12 of judges. How many millions of dollars of
13 litigation did they suffer through? How
14 much did it cost the taxpayers? You know,
15 it's time to use common sense, that's what
16 you were elected for. You know, it's one
17 thing to be informed, but you have to decide
18 where you are going to put your assets and
19 where you are going to fight. Anybody can
20 fight in a circle, it leads no where. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, I just
23 wanted to say this council is about
24 solutions and if you do have any solutions
25 to the structural deficit --

1 MR. MORGAN: I just gave you one.

2 MS. EVANS: -- we'll listen and try
3 to work with you, but when you state you
4 would cut 10 percent from the budget --

5 MR. MORGAN: I would cut 10 percent.

6 MS. EVANS: -- that would be
7 approximately 7.7 --

8 MR. MORGAN: Seven million dollars.

9 MS. EVANS: -- dollars --

10 MR. MORGAN: Absolutely.

11 MS. EVANS: -- and yet I know that I
12 think perhaps last week you were opposed to
13 cutting positions and you were looking
14 toward creating new programs. I don't see
15 how --

16 MR. MORGAN: No, I'm against -- let
17 me be quite clear here. I think that if
18 departments aren't functioning the way you
19 think personally, in my opinion, you can't
20 have the district attorney and people
21 running out talking about gang activity when
22 you are going to go down to Weston Field and
23 just roll rough shot over parks and
24 recreation. I think that really what we
25 need to do is decide where we are going to

1 put our assets and decide how we are going
2 to direct and restructure our government.
3 It's an absolute fact that we can cut ten
4 million -- we can cut more than ten million
5 dollars out of this budget, but you know
6 what it takes? You have to break that
7 budget down and know where you are going,
8 okay?

9 Now, we listen to all of this, I
10 don't know, grandstanding about the money
11 from the golf course and in the end it never
12 got into a trust it was spent by this
13 council, so you know what --

14 MS. EVANS: No, it wasn't spent by
15 this council.

16 MR. MORGAN: Well, not this council,
17 but by council itself and by this
18 administration and the truth of the matter
19 the money was interjected into the budgets
20 and it never should have happened, so you
21 know what, when we are going to talk about
22 things let's speak in reality.

23 MS. EVANS: Exactly, so what I'm
24 asking you to do though because, as I said,
25 we are about solutions, when you have

1 specific solutions we would be very anxious
2 to entertain those.

3 MR. MORGAN: I have no problem with
4 that, but you know what, my whole theory
5 here is this, this council has come forward
6 and talked about saving \$700,000 when in
7 truth you can cut the next budget by 10
8 percent and I think that's in the best
9 interest of the citizens of this city
10 because I think you need to realize that we
11 don't all make \$80,0000, Mrs. Evans. There
12 are people here living on \$600 a month and
13 if we spin ourselves into litigation how
14 does that help them?

15 We need to look at the blight in
16 this city, the amount of empty apartment
17 houses because people don't live here
18 because of the wage tax, we have a lot of
19 problems and the last thing we need is
20 council fighting with the mayor, going in
21 spending tons of money on litigation. We
22 saw what happened with the fire and police,
23 tat hasn't lead us anywhere.

24 Now, if council decides to cut the
25 mayor's next budget by 10 percent you can do

1 that by law. That's all I have. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

3 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, President
4 of the Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'
5 Association. Good evening, Madame
6 President, members of the council. Since
7 the mayor took office he has received almost
8 between 35 and 40 million dollars in
9 Community Development Block Grant funds and
10 he has compromised the neighborhoods. Our
11 neighborhoods have gone to pot. There is no
12 doubt about it. He has spent a lot -- all
13 of this money on revitalization of downtown
14 and his commercial loans while just
15 neglecting the neighborhoods.

16 Now, these commercial loans he
17 claims he's got thousands of jobs and,
18 Mr. Rogan, you should look into that. You
19 should go over to OECD and ask them to pull
20 out the records and see where these jobs are
21 because I think what he is doing a lot of
22 hyperbole and he is going around from the
23 state government for the lieutenant
24 government to governor, to the secretary, to
25 the senator and actually I think the posse

1 is after him and he's running, so I'm a
2 little worried about the fact.

3 So what I would like to do, I'm
4 concerned about the neighborhoods, about the
5 people in the neighborhoods, about the
6 people who have to get up every day and if
7 they have a job to get their lunch pail and
8 they have to get to that bus and have to go
9 to work, okay?

10 And you will see their homes being
11 run down because they can't keep their homes
12 up. You'll see their furnaces breaking
13 down, they can't keep their furnaces fixed.
14 It's just a terrible situation, and what I'd
15 like to do with -- I'm inviting you to come
16 on a tour with the Taxpayers' Association
17 officers in April, at our expense, we'll
18 tour the neighborhoods in the City of
19 Scranton so you can get a good look at these
20 neighborhoods and how the mayor has
21 compromised these neighborhoods for what he
22 says is economic development, and economic
23 development doesn't exist in the City of
24 Scranton. And I'd appreciate it if sometime
25 in April you'll set a date that you can

1 count out for two or three hours, we'll tour
2 the city, look at the neighborhoods and just
3 see what can be done in the next CDBG
4 application. Thank you very much.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Jack
6 Witnoski.

7 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Quinn, I would love
8 to take you up on that offer. We could
9 definitely talk after the meeting about
10 that.

11 MR. WITNOSKI: Good evening.

12 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

13 MR. WITNOSKI: My name is Jack
14 Witnoski, long lifetime resident here in
15 Scranton. When I was little kid there
16 wasn't too many choices like they are today
17 on TV or what to watch, but one of my
18 favorite programs I remember was called the
19 Untouchables. These were good guys. It was
20 real easy to see that from the first
21 episode, but I was still a little confused
22 by why were they called by that name until a
23 little later on I realized that this group
24 no matter how many times they were
25 approached with bribes, I mean, good bribes.

1 A lot of money, jobs, good things, and when
2 that didn't work they were threatened, and
3 they were threatened with their lives, their
4 family's lives and even though this happened
5 they couldn't be scared off and they
6 couldn't be bought. Mr. Hughes,
7 Mr. Loscombe, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Rogan and Mrs.
8 Evans, you are the good guys. Thank God and
9 thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Jerry
11 Chazan.

12 MR. CHAZAN: I apologize for being
13 here, I didn't know you had a time limit.
14 Last week was my first one. I just want to
15 finish a few thoughts.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. Please address
17 council though rather than the audience.

18 MR. CHAZAN: Sorry. A couple of
19 answers to some of the problems that we had.
20 One is let's use arbitration rather than
21 through the lawyers or through the judges.
22 If you are going for binding arbitration
23 it's finished, it's done with, you don't
24 necessarily have to have this present venue,
25 you can go out and get the American

1 Management Association and they will be more
2 than happy to give you people that you can
3 pick from and whoever is on the other side
4 can pick from them as well and it will save
5 a lot of money all of the way around.

6 Another way to save money is by
7 using volunteerism. There is lot of people
8 that are retired that would probably love to
9 work with kids. I understand part of the
10 deficits that -- part of the people that we
11 laid off were parks people and toward the
12 recreation department. If we could take
13 some of these people that are retired that
14 love kids and take three, four, five per
15 park, number one, we'd have parks open; and,
16 number two, we could cut down on lot of the
17 garbage that's around there. Anybody that
18 lives in the city that's either fireman or a
19 policeman, and that should be mandatory they
20 live in the city should --

21 MS. EVANS: It is.

22 MR. CHAZAN: Excuse, it is
23 mandatory?

24 MR. EVANS: Yes, it is.

25 MR. CHAZAN: Well, then they need to

1 work 24 hours, 24/7 because if they are all
2 over the place we wouldn't have as much of
3 the stuff that we do have going on because
4 on the block that I happen to own four
5 apartments there is a policeman, but things
6 still happen and it really shouldn't.

7 The last five days I received three
8 calls from various people about apartments.
9 Now, two of them were for a sister and a
10 brother from Puerto Rico coming into
11 Scranton. Now, that really peaked my
12 interest to be quite honest with you is why
13 someone from Scranton should be asking their
14 brothers or sisters to come in here when
15 there aren't enough jobs by itself.

16 Now, I would like the council, first
17 I thought an ad was appropriate, but then
18 it's not. All you guys got to do is pass a
19 resolution and the Times has to basically
20 publish it. The resolution would say
21 something like this: We do not have enough
22 local jobs, let alone extra jobs for others
23 not presently here. Our own people are
24 struggling to make ends meet. Please do not
25 come here unless you have jobs waiting for

1 you. We are no longer the open Scranton
2 that we were. And there is nothing illegal
3 about saying that. We are a distressed
4 city. We don't want people coming from all
5 over and asking for freebies.

6 One of the things that I'd like to
7 get off my chest, I looked at what the word
8 justice and fairness is according to
9 Webster's dictionary and in the city I found
10 that very hard to correlate with what
11 Webster's said. Webster's says justice and
12 fairness are being righteous, being fair,
13 being truthfulness, reward or punishment as
14 deserved, impartiality, even handedness as
15 it ought to be, the use of an authority to
16 uphold what is just, and then the last four
17 words really got to me, it's poetic,
18 unblemished and clean, attractive and
19 beautiful.

20 Do these words describe our laws or
21 the intent of our laws in the city? Do
22 these words describe our region as it's
23 being governed? And I understand you guys
24 can only do so much. I think it's time to
25 take back the sense of justice, truthfulness

1 and common sense. Let us protect the
2 victims, not the perpetrators. Let us make
3 Scranton a better place to life even if it
4 means cutting down to 50,000 people rather
5 than the 75 or 85, but whoever will be here
6 will have a better place to live.

7 Starting today, right now, let's
8 make politicians care more about their
9 responsibilities than enriching their own
10 pockets. Let us again become a government
11 of the taxpayer, for the taxpayer, and by
12 the taxpayers.

13 Urine tests are required for many,
14 many jobs in the public field as well as
15 some in state government. What I would like
16 to know is why the Scranton Housing
17 Authority's apartments are not subjecting
18 their tenants, quote/unquote, to drug
19 testing. Now, if these people fail the drug
20 testing then it should be publicized so that
21 apartment owners like myself are forewarned
22 who we are taking in as tenants. Drug
23 use --

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. CHAZAN: -- or selling is a

1 criminal offense and it's destroying this
2 city. It is a cancer. Lackawanna College
3 needs to be investigated. This is a
4 disgrace and it's right across from a public
5 library.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, sir.

7 MR. CHAZAN: Okay.

8 MS. EVANS: You can come back next
9 week and continue. Thank you. Sir? Jerry?
10 Could you come back please and provide your
11 name to Mrs. Magnotta.

12 MR. CHAZAN: Jerry Chazan,
13 C-H-A-Z-A-N. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
15 Dobrzyn.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council,
17 Dave Dobrzyn. Member of the taxpayers,
18 resident of the Scranton, so forth. I would
19 like to question also on this deal at Nay
20 Aug if that could at all be rescinded in the
21 future. I feel that too many of these
22 public buildings are being -- plans are
23 being -- wresting them away from the public
24 and it's not right. We spent a lot of money
25 up there and basically I could say I support

1 green space in the town, so, you know, I
2 could give the mayor a pass on that, but if
3 we are going to pass it out to private
4 concerns and let people walk off with it
5 then that's not right, so anything you
6 people can do on that deal with the zoo, if
7 anybody thinks that we don't see through the
8 fact that people connected with Lackawanna
9 Junior College started to complain about the
10 zoo and all of a sudden we have use for it
11 and so forth, I mean, it doesn't make take
12 the Pink Panther to figure that out.

13 Also, I would like to mention
14 Mr. Murphy, Representative Murphy on ECTV
15 with the hearings, if it's aired at all
16 please watch out for it and offer your
17 support on that issue because it's a very
18 important issue, like we said before, we
19 have one town that collects taxes in this
20 way and if somebody gets stuck with \$2,300
21 over a 100 remaining bill how are they going
22 to pay their taxes next year. You know,
23 we're actually shooting ourselves in the
24 foot, so lucky we don't all have rights to
25 gun ownership. I mean, you know.

1 It's senseless to have people be charged
2 this.

3 And I would like to announce finally
4 that after six years NCC had the decency to
5 get a black mark off of my record when they
6 had mailed to the wrong address for two
7 years they -- so I finally have a AAA credit
8 rating instead --

9 MS. EVANS: Very good.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: -- after six years, so
11 I'll let the rest go for tonight, I know you
12 have that meeting and catch you next week.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.
14 Is there anything else who wishes to address
15 council?

16 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini,
17 Scranton. I only have one thing to say and
18 it will be very brief, I have it on higher
19 authority and, Roger, you can quote me on
20 this, our mayor will not be running for Pope
21 this year. Thank you very much.

22 MS. STULGIS: I'm Ann Marie Stulgis
23 and I'm a resident of the city. I'd love to
24 be able to watch council meetings at home,
25 however, I don't have Comcast and like a lot

1 of other residents ECTV has failed to
2 provide the stream with computers as they
3 had originally promised, so anyone with an
4 antenna or dish doesn't get to see this and
5 that's most unfortunate, and I do understand
6 that one of the primary reasons they were
7 chosen was because they promised to have the
8 computer streaming which, of course, they
9 don't have.

10 Also, I don't know if you are aware
11 of it, and I'm sure our illustrious police
12 chief will deny it in the paper, but are you
13 aware that less than two weeks ago there was
14 13 police patrol cars out of service at the
15 same time? Thirteen cars out of service and
16 they wonder why we have crime.

17 In the interest of time I'm just
18 going to touch on a few things, but
19 primarily I think it's important for people
20 to realize that we are over \$300 million in
21 debt and our debt service including the TANS
22 is \$23 million. That's just shy of the
23 total of what it cost to run the police and
24 fire departments combined. That's for
25 paying debt service. We could have the

1 twice the size of the fire department and
2 the twice the size of the police department
3 if we don't have this ridiculous debt
4 service and it's an embarrassment and it's a
5 shame and it's certainly unfair to the
6 taxpayers what's been done it them.

7 We have been in distressed status
8 for 18 years and PEL has absolutely no
9 intention of ever taking us out. They have
10 let this mayor in eight years multiply the
11 debt over and over and over again while they
12 sat by and collected terrific salaries on
13 the back of all of the state taxpayers
14 because they are paid by state tax money, so
15 we're paying them to keep us distressed so
16 the mayor can continue to beat the devil out
17 of us with more and more taxes and more 25
18 percent tax increases and it's absolutely
19 ridiculous.

20 As for the elimination of jobs, and
21 I'll only say a little bit of what I had
22 prepared to say, those are jobs that the
23 city for the most part got along with just
24 fine and dandy since time and eternity.
25 They aren't necessary positions, they aren't

1 positions that anybody is going to suffer
2 from the loss of. They were created
3 specifically to take care of people and
4 that's the bottom line.

5 As for the mayor suing you, may I
6 say that binding arbitration doesn't work
7 because the police and firefighters did go
8 to binding arbitration which is and
9 unappealable to get a contract in 2003.
10 They still don't have that contract, so you
11 can see how quick binding arbitration is in
12 the Court system, it simply doesn't work.

13 Now, as for the salary cuts, we have
14 heard a lot of whining and reasons why the
15 salaries shouldn't be cut, and I like the
16 mayor's reasoning most especially because he
17 says if you cut these salaries you will put
18 the people -- the safety of the citizens of
19 the City of Scranton in jeopardy. I
20 question how cutting Stu Renda's salary is
21 going to put anybody in jeopardy. I
22 question how cutting the salary of the
23 police and fire chief is going to put
24 anybody in jeopardy and, in fact, the mayor
25 himself has proved that isn't a fact because

1 years ago when the city was cutting police
2 and firefighters and many of us stood up
3 here and said, "Don't do it, crime will
4 rise, you will have more problems with crime
5 and there are gangs in the city and there
6 are drug problems in the city," and the
7 mayor and the police chief came forward and
8 said, "Absolutely not. There are no gangs.
9 There are no crime. This is a safe city."

10 So we were a safe city back then and
11 then the police chief got a great big, fat
12 pay raise and what happened? Our crime went
13 up 19 percent. So perhaps if we cut the
14 chief's salary back to where it was crime
15 will go away. Thank you.

16 MS. HUMPHRIES: City council,
17 Cardinals and priests, the City of Scranton,
18 and the Mulberry Tower, God bless you's and
19 may the peace of Jesus Christ be with you
20 through the righteousness that we deserve in
21 the City of Scranton and in our apartment
22 complexes.

23 I'm on another side of the landlord
24 deal here, everybody is getting their
25 papers, I got my papers. I will not be

1 intimidated by anyone. Anyone. When there
2 was corruption, when you are being ran out
3 for your faith and your religious beliefs,
4 in the commandments there is a -- the ten
5 commandments, five is honor of a God, five
6 is honor of a man. Slander to me is when
7 you lie. You lie. It's considered slander.
8 I will not be intimidated by saying I
9 slandered, I brought bugs into the place, I
10 slandered Mulberry Tower.

11 What has happened here is people
12 aren't getting their money. People are
13 getting rich and this is how it works, okay,
14 here it goes. You get the court fed bugs
15 and you put them in the person's apartment
16 and they start piling up. You ask them to
17 come in, it takes three months, but you are
18 also allergic to the poisonous, I'm an
19 environmentalist. Then you get plastic
20 covers are coming. Yeah, buy our plastic
21 bed covers, 69 to \$125, Boscov's got them
22 for 25. Then they start providing the
23 mattresses for you, they throw out your
24 mattresses, they check to see what you got,
25 if you got if from the Salvation Army or any

1 other place before you even go inside of the
2 buildings or and then when they start
3 selling mattresses. Yeah. The landlords
4 are selling mattresses. Then when the bugs
5 come in the mattress, guess what? They put
6 elderly women out on the street and men,
7 which is dangerous with shunts in their head
8 that are disintegrated not knowing they have
9 relatives from way, way back from the police
10 and the detective department. Isn't that
11 interesting. Isn't that interesting.

12 I was told when I spoke at this
13 public forum, one of the persons, I won't
14 say her name, and she ran underneath the
15 table and hid herself. Well, guess what? I
16 will not hide myself, I will go to Court,
17 and this is where also it goes. I want this
18 to be checked.

19 I brought documents, pictures and
20 all, I am a smart cookie and a hillbilly.
21 Yes. Our government is in a financial
22 disaster. We do have to cut corners. Well,
23 where does it come to landlords that are
24 ripping off these people then pulling them
25 in the streets. I have been evicted but

1 when it came to the eviction I went and I
2 spoke in front of Mrs. Farrell. I said I
3 would go in any own accord. My life, my
4 mental, physical and psychological health is
5 in danger.

6 Here is a fork. This isn't
7 delusional. Mayor Connor -- or Mayor
8 Doherty I spoke to him, he does this listen
9 I have to say. I am doing a split between
10 the Republicans and the Democrats. Where
11 you want to cut corners, this is what they
12 have done. They have broke numerous --
13 almost every week to make me look like
14 paranoid schizophrenic. Bent these. Now,
15 I'm walking down the street, I have a
16 stopper and I come out getting a telephone
17 copying card and in the process there is
18 another one.

19 So I went to Abe's, he is wonderful
20 man, and I went to his restaurant there, and
21 in the process he had the same silverware.
22 In the knew -- in the Jewish religion if
23 something is desecrated it is not broughten
24 back into a restaurant or Kosher, so I
25 thought what I would do is we'll put --

1 where can we put these?

2 MS. EVANS: You know, just leave
3 them on the desk there.

4 MS. HUMPHRIES: I would like these
5 to be put here. Some of the -- a lot of the
6 police are wonderful, the firemen, because
7 of what I am entailing to do very soon I
8 said I would go to the United Nations.
9 People have blocked me from breaking and
10 damaging cars, destroying -- right now I
11 have a window in a Jeep it's in honor of the
12 fire department in New York City.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. HUMPHRIES: And I don't know if
15 it's going go or what, but I will tell you,
16 I will help on a bus Gus and I will speak.
17 I want to --

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis.

19 MS. HUMPHRIES: -- thank you, Mr.
20 Jack Loscombe, sounds French. I want to
21 thank you and every one of yous. We have
22 the good, the bad and the ugly, I am so
23 proud to see this here.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Phyllis.

25 MS. HUMPHRIES: And I have one more

1 thing before the thank you. Ashes is on
2 Wednesday and I am leaving this here. I
3 know this is city business, but this is city
4 business because we want to be God's
5 business.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Next.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: I wish you expose
8 this, and this and this, and please come to
9 my home to see the truth because the truth
10 will set us all free.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MS. HUMPHRIES: God bless you.

13 MS. EVANS: Next.

14 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
15 The mayor stated last week that in order for
16 the council to open the budget it had to
17 have an emergency. Well, I don't know who
18 in their right mind would think that the
19 mayor would allow this council, one that's
20 opposed to taking the mayor's marching
21 orders, that he would allow you to go into
22 his office and open his budget and examine
23 it to make the necessary cuts in his
24 political base. It's not going to happen,
25 so I don't know what it's going to take for

1 the mayor to realize that we are where we
2 are and in a financial mess, but by the time
3 he realizes it the ship is going to be at
4 the bottom of the see.

5 I'll give you a couple of examples
6 of why we are in a financial mess. There is
7 a six million dollar annual infrastructure
8 deficit. We are in 360 million long-term
9 debt, 24 percent poverty level, okay? There
10 is \$1.6 million from the tax office that the
11 mayor put in the budget but we didn't get
12 that money yet, so how does he put the money
13 in a budget and how does he plan on spending
14 that money that we don't have? I mean, I
15 don't know where that's going to come from.
16 Putting money in the budget for the tax
17 office 1.6 million that we never even got
18 yet.

19 There is low revenue come into this
20 city, lots of foreclosures, a lot of
21 unemployment, 18 years in distressed city
22 status. I just don't get it. PEL is
23 keeping on begging to raise the taxes around
24 here. The mayor already indulged them in
25 2007 and gave the city a 25 percent tax

1 increase. I don't know what could be worse.
2 The mayor would rather bite off his nose
3 despite his face than let you guys open the
4 budget. I just don't get it.

5 But I guess his grandiose visions
6 and his state senator campaigning I guess he
7 can't see the financial mess that we are in.
8 He is too busy campaigning, he should stay
9 in the city and pay attention to the bills.

10 The city, the taxpayers, they saw
11 the emergency, they declared a state of
12 emergency on November 3 when they went out
13 and voted. They voted the supermajority in
14 to take over the city and put it back in
15 good financial straights and to override the
16 mayor's vetoes and to stand up for the
17 people and do what's right for the people.
18 The people spoke. That should be loud and
19 clear, that's why you are there. You are
20 finally here after eight years of the abuse
21 we have taken. We finally have someone to
22 care for the people and I hope you stand
23 your ground.

24 Mrs. Evans, I know you have taken a
25 lot of flack about going against the

1 administration and being in favor of all of
2 the unions, well, that's not true and the
3 reason I say that is because not that you
4 are against the unions, but not that you are
5 for them either. Your hands are tied. The
6 unions are under contract. You can't make
7 cuts as far as the unions, so I hope the
8 people are aware of that, not that you
9 wouldn't if there was a place to do it, but
10 your hands are tied, so it's not like you
11 are just favoring one over the other, it's
12 not true. And even with the cuts that you
13 made, my own family was affected by the cuts
14 that you made, but that's fine. I mean,
15 certain people are just going to have to
16 take it, it's going to affect me even though
17 people won't understand that, but I know it,
18 but you are doing the right thing, so I'm
19 not going to sit here and complain about it.
20 I can't because we all have to tighten our
21 belts and we have to trust you to know what
22 you're doing.

23 That's why we elected you. We
24 finally have a chance to get back to where
25 -- it's going to take time, but not don't

1 give in. Just don't give in and we
2 appreciate all you are doing. It's about
3 time. Thank you very much.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

8 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
9 any motions or comments?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, please. Sorry for
11 being tardy, I had another engagement to
12 attend prior to the meeting. Just one very
13 brief comment, there has been things said
14 about the Nay Aug Zoo and/or what was the
15 Nay Aug Zoo, the building and it's lease to
16 Lackawanna College, I think it should also
17 be mentioned that Lackawanna College has
18 agreed to make I think it's over \$1 million
19 in improvements in the building the parking
20 lots around the building. They are also
21 responsible for the yearly maintenance and
22 operational costs of the building and when
23 it is completed it will be open to the
24 public as an educational venue, so I think
25 that there are is benefit to the lease of

1 the building to the school and benefit to
2 the city and to the general public. And
3 that's all. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
5 Mr. Rogan, do you have any comments or
6 motions at this time?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Last week, I
8 received January's report from the Office of
9 Economic and Community Development and I
10 would like to provide my colleagues and the
11 public at home with some of the highlights
12 from the report. The homebuyer's program
13 from the month of January four applications
14 were received, three were approved and two
15 were closed.

16 Lackawanna Neighbors, the HOME
17 Program, Lackawanna Neighbors, Incorporated,
18 purchased 208 Pittston Avenue on November 6,
19 2009. This home is being funded with an
20 HOME grant in order to continue the
21 rehabilitation of homes in the South
22 Scranton revitalization area. The lead
23 paint testing was performed on November 2009
24 and the bid notice was advertised also in
25 November of 2009. The pre bid conference

1 was held in December with five contractors
2 attending. The bid opening was held on
3 December 16, 2009, with four contractors
4 submitting bids. After completions of
5 renovations, this home will be sold to an
6 eligible participant in the City of Scranton
7 Homebuyer's program.

8 Homeless Prevention and Rapid
9 Rehousing Program. The Homeless Prevention
10 and Rapid Rehousing Program agreement
11 between the United States Department of
12 Housing and Urban development, HUD, and the
13 City of Scranton was executed on September
14 2, 2009, in the amount of \$1,401,868. This
15 funding is part of the American Recovery and
16 Reinvestment Act of 2009.

17 The Community Development Block
18 Grants. The Community Development Grant
19 Recovery between the US Department of
20 Housing and Urban Development and the City
21 of Scranton was executed on September 1,
22 2009, in the amount of \$916,485. The
23 funding is part of the American Recovery and
24 Reinvestment Act of 2009.

25 The legal ad for CDBG-R paving was

1 advertised in the Scranton Times on
2 September 14 and September 15, 2009. A pre
3 bid conference was held on September 21,
4 2009, at OECD and the bid openings was held
5 in city council chambers on September 29,
6 2009. The bids were reviewed by OECD
7 solicitor for accuracy and compliance. A
8 contract was executed on November 18, 2009,
9 with Locust Ridge Construction. Due to the
10 time of year it was necessary to delay
11 payment until the Spring of 2010, so we will
12 be looking forward to seeing more roads in
13 the neighborhoods paved.

14 The Castle Deli, LCC was provided
15 with \$25,000 of CDBG-R funding. The closing
16 took place on December 23, 2009.

17 And Lackawanna Neighbors are a sub
18 recipient for the NSP funding purchased
19 their first foreclosed property at 718 Cedar
20 Avenue on January 20, 2010. The
21 environmental and SHE0 clearance application
22 were sent to the Commonwealth of
23 Pennsylvania and received clearances on
24 January 27, 2010. The lead paint testing
25 was performed on January 25 and

1 rehabilitation specifics will be prepared
2 very shortly. Rehabilitation work will
3 begin once the begin notice is advertised
4 and the pre bid conference is held. The
5 house is already gutted and needs
6 everything.

7 Additionally, environmentally
8 friendly building materials and energy
9 conservation and official products will be
10 used for this rehabilitation.

11 Hyde Park senior baseball parking
12 lot has been paved and water retention has
13 been solved. Also, wall hanging units were
14 installed on the South Scranton Little
15 League to prevent pipes from freezing and an
16 eight-foot gate was installed to let the
17 mowing tractor enter the field.

18 In other business, Mrs. Krake, can
19 you please send a letter to the Licensing
20 Department asking them what the current
21 process is it for landlords to come to city
22 hall to pay the rental registration fee?
23 And that is all I have for today.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
25 And, Mr. Loscombe, do you have any motions

1 or comments?

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, Mrs. Evans.

3 Thank you. First thing, we will be
4 introducing legislation this evening
5 accepting the donation of five AED's or
6 automatic external defibrillators. For
7 those who don't know what that is, that's
8 the heart thing with the paddles to give you
9 a shock if you have a heart attack, okay?
10 These were donated to the Scranton Fire
11 Department by Sanofi-Pasteur and this
12 donation was possible through one of the
13 firefighter's connections with an employee
14 of Sanofi-Pasteur and the agreement by the
15 city to provide any necessary repairs that
16 the units might incur through their use.

17 I would hope that the city would
18 also work with the firefighters in an effort
19 to enhance the public safety of our
20 residents by coming to some sort of
21 agreement to allow COM Center to dispatch
22 the closest available unit in the event of a
23 cardiac incident. Again, I would like to
24 thank the firefighters for taking the
25 initiative on this and if it's okay with the

1 council I would like to ask Mrs. Krake if
2 she can send a letter to Sanofi-Pasteur on
3 our behalf --

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- thanking them for
6 their generous donations.

7 Next is budget cuts. Pretty much
8 I'll repeat what I said last week regarding
9 the budget cuts. Again, this is -- it's a
10 hard decision for us. It's probably one of
11 the hardest decisions when we have to
12 perform as councilmen to cut anybody's job
13 or salaries. I do know and admire many of
14 the personnel that will be affected by the
15 decisions, also. And contrary to what the
16 printed media would have you believe, we are
17 not out to hurt anyone. Our decisions are
18 not personal or politically motivated.

19 In my interview for my appointment I
20 made a commitment to open a budget if there
21 was an opportunity for additional cost
22 savings. I believe that a cost savings is
23 possible and necessary in these economic
24 times. If city council does not start
25 tightening the budget belt immediately, we

1 are only going to prolong the inevitable.
2 There is little that we can do today but
3 look at the areas that have increased in
4 cost and personnel over the last eight
5 years. It was mentioned tonight about the
6 Moses Taylor Hospital. The state government
7 and the county government in our own
8 backyard here have taken measurements that
9 have made tough decisions to bring financial
10 stability to their respective governments
11 and it's time for the city through city
12 council with or without the mayor's
13 cooperation at this point to attempt to
14 bring financial stability to Scranton and
15 this is, once again, our first step toward
16 recovery.

17 Next, I just have a couple of
18 questions for Mr. McGoff, I wasn't on
19 council prior to this here, but you had
20 asked a few questions last week and it got
21 peaking my interest in a few things here.
22 Since the time you are appointed to city
23 council you voted in favor of the 2007, '8,
24 '9 and '10 budgets. The mayor's 2007 budget
25 cut department director's salaries by 5

1 percent, but also awarded raises to nonunion
2 employees. I'm sorry, in the mayor's 2008
3 budget he not only restored those raises,
4 but he also awarded raises to the nonunion
5 employees in middle management whose
6 salaries had not been decreased. I just
7 have a few questions related to these
8 budgets.

9 In the 2007 budget the mayor had six
10 SIT clerks and deleted six cops ahead from
11 the police department. Can you justify
12 those additions and deletions, please, and
13 what are the duties and responsibilities and
14 the SIT clerks and members of the Cops Ahead
15 Program.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sure I was here for
17 that budget.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: For 2008, seven and
19 eight.

20 MS. EVANS: Uh-hum.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Was I? At this point
22 in time, I don't remember.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Do you know how many
24 SIT clerks the city current employees?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I do not.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2007 budget
2 the mayor eliminated the real estate
3 coordinator and the KOZ coordinator loan
4 assistant from OECD. How are the OECD
5 employees able to absorb the duties and
6 responsibilities of those eliminated
7 positions?

8 MR. MCGOFF: I have no idea.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2007 budget
10 the mayor deleted the BOCA review
11 enforcement officer. How are the duties and
12 responsibilities of this position absorbed
13 by the Department of Licensing, Inspection
14 and permits?

15 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2007 budget,
17 the contingency fund was increased from
18 \$395,361 to \$504,634 for a total increase of
19 \$109,272. This is the contingency fund. Do
20 you know where the additional funds came
21 from and for what purpose it was used?

22 MR. MCGOFF: That's three years ago,
23 I don't know.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget
25 the mayor increased the salary of his

1 confidential secretary from \$29,000 to
2 \$32,000 while at the same time the position
3 of clerical administrative assistant paid
4 only \$23,946. Do you know what formula was
5 used in the justification for this salary
6 increase?

7 MR. MCGOFF: I would guess that it
8 was to put it into some congruence with
9 union salaries, but I again, you are asking
10 me something that happened --

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just have a few
12 more here.

13 MR. MCGOFF: -- two years ago. I
14 think two years ago, aren't we?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget
16 the mayor increased the salaries of the
17 business administrator from \$80,750 to
18 \$85,000; the finance manager from \$40,000 to
19 \$44,000; the senior accountant from \$34,000
20 to \$37,400; and the financial analyst from
21 \$34,000 to \$35,000. What was the basis
22 used to determine their raises and the
23 justification for each and do you know what
24 the duties and responsibilities are for each
25 of those positions?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Business administrator,
2 yes. What were the other two?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: The finance manager
4 and the senior accountant?

5 MR. MCGOFF: They assist the
6 business administrator.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: The financial
8 analyst?

9 MR. MCGOFF: They assist the
10 business administrator.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget
12 the mayor increased the salaries of the
13 human resources director from \$47,500 to
14 \$50,000 and the confidential secretary from
15 \$29,000 to \$32,000. Is it the same basis
16 used for these raises or what was the
17 justification?

18 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know why that
19 amount was chosen, but they had not received
20 any raises in the past.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget
22 the salaries of the information technology
23 manager increased from \$47,500 to \$55,000.
24 The computer support specialist increased
25 from \$35,000 to \$40,000 and the network

1 systems manager increased from \$40,000 to
2 \$45,000, all of which are jobs created by
3 the mayor. What was the basis used to
4 determine these raises and what duties
5 increased the merit of these raises?

6 MR. MCGOFF: Again, you are asking
7 something that took place, you know, two
8 years ago.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget
10 the mayor eliminated the accounts receivable
11 clerk in the Treasurer's Office. This
12 position was created by PEL in the Recovery
13 Plan. Why was this position --

14 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: At the same time the
16 mayor increased the salary of the Treasurer
17 from 40 to 48,0000 dollars and the same base
18 -- what was the same basis to determine the
19 raise on that one?

20 MR. MCGOFF: I imagine that they had
21 not received a raise or that position had
22 not received a raise in a number of years.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: And why was the clerk
24 eliminated and who absorbed those duties?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not sure.

1 MR LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget the
2 mayor eliminated the positions of housing
3 rehab management supervisor of ADA, one
4 program manager, and one labor standard
5 officer construction coordinator, ADA
6 compliance. Do you know why these positions
7 were eliminated?

8 MR. MCGOFF: No, I do not.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: And at the same time
10 he added a director of community planning
11 and development, a director of housing and
12 ADA compliance and an environmental project
13 coordinator. Do you know what the duties of
14 the environment project coordinator are?

15 MR. MCGOFF: At this time, I don't.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget
17 the salaries of the city solicitor increased
18 from \$66,500 to \$70,000. One assistant city
19 solicitor increased from \$32,900 to \$36,900;
20 and the confidential secretary increased
21 from \$29,000 to \$32,000. Same question,
22 what was the justification for these raises?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Probably additional
24 duties.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget

1 the mayor increased the salary of the DPW
2 director from \$61,750 to \$65,000. At the
3 same time the mayor added a position of city
4 engineer at a salary of \$50,000. Since the
5 DPW director did not fill the two positions
6 of director and city engineer like it's
7 predecessor, Mr. George Parker, what was the
8 basis to determine this raise and why was
9 this salary never decreased in correlation
10 to the decreased duties and
11 responsibilities? And the mayor also added
12 an administrative assistant to this
13 department at a salary of \$23,946.

14 In the 2008 budget the mayor
15 increased the salaries of DPW highway
16 foreman, the refuse foreman, the traffic
17 maintenance foreman and the recycling
18 foreman from \$36,200 to \$39,000. At the
19 same time he increased the salary of the
20 fleet manager to \$37,000 to \$39,000. How
21 did the duties and responsibilities of each
22 of these positions increase to merit a pay
23 hike?

24 MR. MCGOFF: You are asking me
25 asking something that happened two years ago

1 and at this point in time I don't have an
2 answer for you. I will say that some -- the
3 raises that were given were to -- many of
4 them were to positions that had not received
5 raises in a period of time and it was deemed
6 that they were -- that that should be done.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: A lot of these were
8 newly created positions only a year or two
9 old, too, so let's see here. In the
10 Department of Parks and Recreation the mayor
11 increased the salaries of the following
12 position: Director from \$47,500 to \$50,000.
13 Parks and recreation specialist from \$35,000
14 to \$38,000. Recreation specialist from
15 \$35,000 to \$38,000 and a program manager
16 from 35 to 38,000. The last three were job
17 creations under this mayor and what was the
18 basis used to determine the increases for
19 these job creation?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Again, you are asking
21 me something that happened two years ago and
22 I don't have that knowledge at this time.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: In the 2008 budget
24 the mayor increased the line item entitled
25 "Other salary, miscellaneous in the parks

1 and recreation department" from \$372,025 to
2 \$400,300 for a total increase of \$28,274.
3 Could you explain that line item and the
4 funding increase or some reason.

5 MR. MCGOFF: You can continue to ask
6 about the 2008 budget, you are going to get
7 the same response. If you want me to go
8 back and examine the 2008 budget and inquire
9 as to why these things were done I'll do
10 that for you.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay. Well, in
12 consideration of time constraints I'll
13 refrain from questioning the 2009 and 2010
14 budgets, Mr. McGoff's knowledge of these
15 budgets may likely mirror his previous
16 responses.

17 It seems evident that no particular
18 formula appears to have been used to
19 determine raises and that all of the salary
20 increases I question tonight apply solely to
21 management positions. Throughout the last
22 eight years, it is only management that has
23 been benefited from job creations and salary
24 increases.

25 Further, many management and cabinet

1 positions over the last eight years have
2 been filled by individuals who lack
3 appropriate credentials and/or professional
4 experience in their fields. Consequently,
5 many raises and job creations cannot be
6 justified in a satisfactory manner.
7 Unfortunately, the newspaper has failed to
8 report these issues for whatever it's reason
9 with the exception of the fiasco involving
10 the creation of the assistant zoning officer
11 position and the mayor's appointment of an
12 unqualified applicant to that position.
13 This incident should have served as a red
14 flag to the newspaper and additional
15 investigation into other positions was
16 merited. However, the newspaper chose to
17 drop the ball. And that is all I have.

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

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Over the past week
22 I have received various types of feedback
23 from the public regarding the proposed
24 budget cuts. Much of the feedback that I
25 received was positive, however, there were

1 those who questioned whether or not I know
2 the strain these proposed cuts may cause on
3 some of the folks who had reductions in pay
4 or some of the folks who had their jobs
5 eliminated.

6 To answer that question that some of
7 my critics may have, I do realize the strain
8 that is caused by cuts, however, these cuts
9 are what are in the best interest of the
10 city in order to prevent Scranton from
11 incurring more debt.

12 To share my own personal story, I
13 myself received an approximate \$7,000
14 reduction in pay in 2009 in comparison to my
15 salary from 2008. The company I worked for
16 decided to make pay cuts in order to respond
17 to a debt that was incurred as the company
18 was losing money during recent economic
19 struggles.

20 In addition to the \$7,000 salary
21 reduction, I was also required to pay more
22 for my health insurance which resulted in an
23 additional cost of approximately \$1,000 per
24 year. In addition to that, the company I
25 worked for also removed the company match on

1 our 401-K plan.

2 Overall, when factoring everything
3 in I myself received a reduction in salary
4 and benefits of over \$10,000 which is a
5 figure that is I would say more on the
6 conservative side. Therefore, I do
7 understand the strain that salary reductions
8 and cuts cause.

9 Also, I am not in a union and never
10 have been. The company that I work for in
11 this company there were no reductions made
12 to union employees for the simple fact that
13 they can't since they are under union
14 contract. Though some would like to argue
15 you that budget is being created with union
16 favoritism in mind they are incorrect. In
17 regard to the budget, being in the union has
18 it's benefits, but sometimes being in
19 management does, too. Union positions are
20 under contract, as I said before, and
21 generally receive a set pay increase on the
22 timely basis expect in the case of the
23 Scranton fire and police department, of
24 course, who did not see a pay increase for a
25 seven-year period.

1 In addition, union salaries cannot
2 be touched in light of cost savings
3 initiatives. Being in management as opposed
4 being in a union has it's benefits, too.
5 One may receive greater pay increases when
6 there is financial times. A typical example
7 of this may be the 61 percent pay increase
8 that the business administrator received in
9 2000 and the additional 12 percent pay
10 increase that this position received in
11 2002.

12 Was there some strain that was
13 placed on me for my own pay cut? Yes. But
14 you know what, at the end of the day I see
15 why it was done and I am happy to be
16 gainfully employed. Companies must earn a
17 profit to please their shareholders to
18 ensure that they are not losing money by
19 lowering the value of their investment just
20 as we as a city must protect taxpayers by
21 not incurring more debt and placing
22 ourselves in a bigger hole than we are
23 already in. The larger our debt grows
24 translates into the harder it is to provide
25 any type of relief to the taxpayer. It is

1 already unfortunate enough that many people
2 avoid moving to Scranton due to lower taxes
3 in neighboring communities and that many
4 people move out of Scranton due to lack of
5 opportunity here. Taking all of this into
6 account, not incurring my debt serves as
7 pretty good emergency to me.

8 Though critics of this council
9 decision in regard to the budget describe
10 the cost savings that were taken as
11 political, I do not see how they can do so
12 when the same critics never referred to some
13 of the management pay increases that were
14 made in the past as political. Some of
15 these examples include the 26.6 percent pay
16 increase that the police chief received in
17 2008; the 26.6 percent pay increase that the
18 fire chief received in 2008; the 20 percent
19 pay increase that the city treasurer
20 received in 2008; the 25 percent pay
21 increase that the HR director received in
22 2003; the 19.2 percent pay increase that the
23 city treasurer received in 2003; the 11.5
24 percent pay increase that the city solicitor
25 received in 2002; and the 63.3 percent pay

1 increase that the DPW director received in
2 2002. Not to mention that all of these pay
3 increases were given during a time when our
4 structural deficit was growing.

5 In addition, the budget that was
6 proposed uses a uniform system to generate
7 the salaries of administrative department
8 heads. How is that political? If any one
9 was -- anyone here was interested in playing
10 politics would any one of us actually vote
11 to reduce the salary a person that we all
12 voted to appoint, our own city clerk?

13 Also, what critics fail to mention
14 is that under the system that was used some
15 of the mayor's appointments received pay
16 increases. Again, the same critics say --
17 this is political, fail to mention that in
18 2007 most administrative salaries were
19 reduced by varying amounts, however, not all
20 were reduced. For instance, in 2007 the
21 city treasurer's salary along with the fire
22 and police chief's salary were not reduced
23 when all other department heads were reduced
24 by 5 percent. I must ask, when some of the
25 department heads saw a salary reduction in

1 the same year that others did not was that
2 political? Was the administration playing
3 favorites? Why was the same system not used
4 for all department heads? The system
5 proposed in counsel's budget does.

6 Along with this some may argue that
7 the salaries of the police and fire chief
8 are lower than in neighboring cities and
9 other cities comparable in size to Scranton.
10 Though this is true, the salaries of the
11 police officers and firefighters are also
12 lower. Under the new budget plan, the
13 salaries of firefighters and police officers
14 are proportional in regard to what an
15 employee makes versus what the chief makes.

16 To further explain this, the base
17 salary of an entry level firefighter now in
18 town is roughly about 77 percent of the
19 chief's salary. Under the new proposed
20 budget, the base salary of an entry level
21 firefighter would be roughly about 76 or 77
22 percent of the base salary of the chief as
23 well.

24 It is unfortunate that the mayor
25 wishes to sue council and waste taxpayer

1 dollars if this budget is passed. It
2 appears that -- - you know, it appears as if
3 the mayor is simply trying to take the
4 proposed budget to Court for the simple fact
5 that he doesn't agree with it. He must
6 realize that our votes count and that those
7 who may vote for this budget are integral
8 part of city government as well. The
9 attempt to sue council would be a blatant
10 disregard for the taxpayer money. This is
11 especially true considering that we already
12 paid millions of dollars a year towards debt
13 services and have a structural deficit of
14 roughly \$6 million. Wasting taxpayer money
15 is something that we simply cannot afford.

16 In contrast, we should all consider
17 working together to focus our attention on
18 generating more revenue for the city such as
19 by generating more revenue from nonprofits
20 along with being behind in salaries, we are
21 also behind in PILOT contributions as the
22 City of Erie receives nearly \$1 million from
23 PILOTS as compared to our approximate amount
24 of \$120,000 on annual basis.

25 In conclusion tonight, I would just

1 like to reiterate the fact that the cuts
2 being made are in no way political in any
3 nature. Through sharing my own personal
4 story and explaining tonight how a uniform
5 system was used to readjust salaries, I do
6 not see how some critics can argue
7 preventing a city from increasing a
8 structural deficit is in no way, shape or
9 form a destructive measure. All this budget
10 is trying to do is prevent the city from
11 following deeper into a hole of debt, a hole
12 that has been growing deeper and deeper as
13 time has progressed, and that's all I have
14 for tonight.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: If I may add, I'm sorry,
17 I did receive a citizens' request right
18 before the meeting. Before the meeting I
19 was informed that there was a rather large
20 pothole right in front of the fire station
21 on Mulberry Street. Nancy, if you would be
22 able to send a letter to the DPW asking them
23 to review this and see if they could patch
24 that up. Thanks, and that's all I have for
25 tonight.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
2 evening. First, I have received numerous
3 complaints throughout the last four months
4 regarding the audio quality of the ECTV,
5 operator of Channels 19 and 21. Viewers
6 report that they experience difficult
7 hearing the Scranton City Council meetings.
8 Some portions of the meeting are audible
9 while others are not. Many viewers must
10 turn volume to it's highest point in order
11 to receive any sound. Mrs. Krake, please
12 contact Mr. Migliori of ECTV by phone and
13 letter and notify him that city council
14 requests that he correct this ongoing
15 problem as soon as possible if it is
16 occurring on ECTV's end.

17 As reported in yesterday's edition
18 of the Scranton Times, the mayor plans to
19 take city council to Court over it's
20 amendments to his 2010 budget. The mayor
21 asserts that city council cannot amend his
22 budget unless he declares an emergency to
23 council. The mayor will have people believe
24 there is no financial emergency in Scranton.
25 This is a spectacular falsehood. There has

1 been a financial emergency for decades. The
2 sirens of distressed status have been
3 wailing since 1992. The mayor heard the
4 sirens as a city councilman when he made
5 cuts and closely scrutinized the budgets of
6 Mayor Connors. However, he inserted some
7 earplugs in 2002 when he became mayor,
8 reversed course and drove the city debt up
9 to over \$316 million in part by creating
10 numerous nonessential jobs in city hall and
11 city authorities and by awarding management
12 raises in the name of political patronage.

13 Perhaps he did hear the sirens
14 briefly in 2007, but addressed it by raising
15 property taxes by 25 percent and the realty
16 transfer tax rather than making necessary
17 cuts. The council's budget amendments
18 removed many of the aforesaid positions and
19 many of those raises. As I stated last
20 week, council's amendments to the mayor's
21 budget are a first small step to addressing
22 past and current financial emergencies,
23 specifically, the \$6 million annual
24 structural deficit as well as the mayor's
25 2010 unbalanced budget.

1 Regarding the mayor's 2010 budget,
2 first, \$1.6 million from the tax office was
3 not received by the city. Although, \$5.5
4 million was plugged into the 2009 budget for
5 tax office revenue, this dollar amount was
6 not provided by the tax office to the city.
7 The \$1.6 million hole is not addressed
8 either in the 2010 budget.

9 The budget allocations for the
10 Single Tax Office are incorrect and
11 underfunded by approximately \$50,000.
12 Mr. Renda provided no funding for tax office
13 employees who must work overtime on
14 Saturdays for their collective bargaining
15 agreements. There is no funding allocated
16 for the positions eliminated by the mayor in
17 his 2010 budget, yet these same employees
18 continue to work throughout the months of
19 January and February. How has the
20 administration funded these positions while
21 including no dollar amount for them in the
22 2010 budget?

23 Regarding the ongoing \$6 million
24 structural deficit, Article 9, Section 909
25 of the Home Rule Charter states that: The

1 mayor shall make recommendations to minimize
2 the deficit and for that purpose council may
3 reduce other appropriations. It appears
4 that the mayor has violated the Home Rule
5 Charter throughout his terms as mayor by
6 failing to reduce the structural deficit of
7 Scranton.

8 Also, it appears that the mayor has
9 violated the city's Recovery Plan by failing
10 to abide by set employee salaries and
11 failing to aggressively seek payments in
12 lieu of taxes from nonprofits among other
13 things. Council is legally attempting to
14 address the structural deficits in a modest
15 way by eliminating unnecessary positions and
16 reducing appropriations in the mayor's
17 budget.

18 The Pennsylvania Economy League's
19 solution to the structural deficit and this
20 unbalanced budget, is to raise taxes. This
21 council will exhaust all avenues before it
22 considers any tax increase. While the mayor
23 insists there is no financial emergency in
24 Scranton and continues to ignore the ongoing
25 structural deficit and threaten city council

1 with legal action for addressing that
2 deficit, let us all be mindful of the facts
3 that costly Court awards to the police and
4 fire unions are pending and the mayor is not
5 prepared to address them.

6 Also, as some speakers noted earlier
7 this evening, 24 percent of Scrantonians
8 live at the poverty level. Nearly 10
9 percent of Scrantonians are currently
10 unemployed. Foreclosures are up, home sales
11 are down. Consequently, the mayor's
12 estimated tax revenues are most likely
13 inflated and council has addressed this by
14 reducing the revenues with savings realized
15 from job and salary cuts in council's
16 amendments.

17 If actual tax revenues exceed
18 council's estimates by year's end, these
19 monies will be used in the 2011 budget to
20 further decrease the structural deficit in
21 conjunction with the total savings realized
22 from job elimination and salaries cuts.

23 Mr. McGoff, the mayor, and the
24 editorial staff of the Scranton Times have
25 posited that these budget amendments have

1 been made at the behest of the police and
2 fire unions, which is another spectacular
3 falsehood. I reiterate that seven positions
4 in the fire department and one in the police
5 department have not been restored. There
6 were more cuts to the fire department than
7 to any other in the mayor's budget. I am
8 also eager to hear the mayor explain how a
9 decrease in this salaries of the fire and
10 police chiefs will lead to a decrease in
11 public safety.

12 As reported in the Scranton Times
13 prior to the announcement of the budget
14 amendments, violent crime in Scranton has
15 significantly increased by 19 percent
16 despite the prior raise awarded to the
17 police chief. I state your unequivocally
18 that these budget amendments are based upon
19 financial decisions and formulas, not
20 politics, not personalities. The budget
21 amendments do not create any positions and
22 they provide for a balanced budget. The
23 cuts will not affect vital daily services
24 for the residents of Scranton. That is why
25 council restored the positions to the Single

1 Tax Office and the traffic maintenance
2 department. The Single Tax Office serves as
3 one of the financial watchdogs of the city
4 and the traffic maintenance department
5 provides daily services to the public.

6 The mayor's feckless response to
7 sound financial action is to take city
8 council to Court which, in fact, is
9 equivalent to taking the people of Scranton
10 to Court who charged city council to do this
11 work. However, this is not surprising since
12 the mayor has a record of court cases and
13 appeals to every circumstance that he cannot
14 dictate. It is disgraceful that Mayor
15 Doherty raised taxes by 25 percent, but
16 refuses to cut government spending as has
17 occurred in state and county government.

18 I hope the taxpayers of Senator
19 Mellow's district and the throughout
20 Pennsylvania are watching and listening to
21 this professional politician who has no
22 desire to cut government spending, no
23 empathy or compassion for the taxpayers, and
24 no realistic grasp on this current economy.
25 Even if the mayor successfully wages battle

1 against council's budget amendments he will
2 lose the war over the 2011 budget which will
3 eliminate positions and cut salary raises
4 that violated his Recovery Plan. He will
5 use the taxpayers dollars to fight city
6 council for doing what the overwhelming
7 majority of voters told us to do.

8 Further, it will be interesting to
9 follow how the insurance company will cover
10 the cost of the executive branch suing the
11 legislative while it will simultaneously pay
12 to defend the legislative branch. The city
13 must defend council in any litigation
14 creating yet another quagmire for the
15 cunning skills of the mayor and his army of
16 the attorneys.

17 Although the finance chair and I met
18 with the business administrator over the
19 weekend, to date the mayor has never
20 contacted council regarding his concerns and
21 rather chose to discuss them and threaten
22 council in the newspaper. Final passage of
23 the budget amendments will occur at next
24 week's meeting providing the mayor with one
25 last opportunity to communicate with council

1 directly. Perhaps, he could come to council
2 chambers. We would welcome constructive
3 comments from the sixth council person and
4 we will have questions and constructive
5 comments for him as well.

6 Finally, I have some citizens'
7 requests for the week. Residents report
8 that potholes have opened in Boulevard
9 Avenue from Parker Street to the Throop
10 line. In addition, trucks traveling to and
11 from the development of the culm dump on
12 Boulevard Avenue are covering the road with
13 dirt and debris and vehicles speed across
14 the stretch of road between Throop and
15 Scranton on a daily basis. Send letters to
16 the DPW and the police department regarding
17 these problems.

18 Residents request that a police
19 officer when on duty in the area patrol and
20 ticket the vehicles parked in the fire lane
21 at the Keyser Avenue shopping center.
22 Children have darted into the parking lot
23 between parked cars and into the path of
24 drivers entering and exiting the shopping
25 center. This type of illegal parking

1 creates a demonstrated safety hazard.

2 A letter to the legal department:
3 Council requests copies of all lawsuits
4 filed against any and all departments of
5 Scranton City government, employees of
6 Scranton City government, and the City of
7 Scranton beginning January 1, 2002, and up
8 to and including February 2010 and/or before
9 March 9, 2010.

10 A letter to the DPW: Council
11 requests a complete inventory of any and all
12 equipment for the refuse, recycling and
13 traffic maintenance department on or before
14 March 9, 2010.

15 A letter to the business
16 administrator: Council requests a copy of
17 any and all vouchers and documentation of
18 payment for all equipment purchases made by
19 the Departments of Refuse, Recycling and
20 Traffic Maintenance beginning January 1,
21 2006, and up to and including February 28,
22 2010. These copies are to be provided to
23 council on or before March 9, 2010. And
24 that's it.

25 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF
2 FIVE (5) AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR'S
3 ("AED'S) FROM SANOFI PASTEUR PRESENTED TO
4 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: 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: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

19 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11,
20 2010 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
21 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
22 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT
23 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON AND
24 LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A
25 SECTION OF THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE

1 TRAIL SITUATE IN SOUTH SCRANTON.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Chairman, I move
5 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

6 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

9 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
16 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 12, 2010 - AN
17 ORDINANCE - (AS AMENDED) AMENDING FILE OF
18 THE COUNCIL NO. 97, 2009 AN ORDINANCE (AS
19 AMENDED) ENTITLED "APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
20 THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE
21 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
22 JANUARY, 2010 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
23 2010 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY
24 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2010". BY
25 MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE NAMED ACCOUNTS AND

1 LINE ITEMS AS SET FORTH ON THE "AMENDED
2 GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR
3 2010", WHICH IS ATTACHMENT 1 HERETO, AS
4 FOLLOWS: INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
5 DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES AS SET FORTH ON
6 PAGE ONE (1) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED
7 2010 BUDGET, DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
8 DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES AS SET FORTH ON
9 PAGE TWO (2) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED
10 2010 BUDGET, DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
11 NON DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES AS PER PAGE
12 THREE (3) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED 2010
13 BUDGET, REINSTATING CERTAIN POSITIONS,
14 CREATING CERTAIN POSITIONS AND INCREASING
15 SALARIES OF CERTAIN POSITIONS OF THE CITY
16 OF SCRANTON AS SET FORTH ON PAGE FOUR (4) OF
17 ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED 2010 BUDGET,
18 ELIMINATING CERTAIN POSITIONS AND DECREASING
19 SALARIES OF CERTAIN POSITIONS AS SET FORTH
20 ON PAGE FIVE (5) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE
21 AMENDED 2010 BUDGET, REDUCING VARIOUS
22 REVENUE ITEMS AS SET FORTH ON PAGE SIX (6)
23 OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED 2010 BUDGET
24 THAT WILL REDUCE ESTIMATED REVENUES BY
25 \$676,882 TO \$77,188,864 AND REDUCE

1 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES BY A NET \$676,882 TO
2 \$77,188,864 IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED
3 BUDGET.

4 MR. JOYCE: I move to amend 6-B as
5 per the following adjustments in Attachment
6 1 to the amended 2010 budgets: Increasing
7 appropriations for departmental
8 expenditures, Page 1 of Attachment 1, Single
9 Tax Office health insurance account in the
10 amount of \$45,217 and the clerical union
11 health insurance account in the amount of
12 \$11,304. Decreasing appropriations for
13 departmental expenditures, Page 2 of
14 Attachment 1, nonunion health insurance in
15 the amount of \$86,538 reinstating and
16 creating and increasing certain positions,
17 Page 4 of Attachment 1, eliminating standard
18 salaries, city council account in the amount
19 of \$30,520, and business administration,
20 administrative assistant II, in the amount
21 of \$26,538; increasing the various
22 departments standard salary accounts for the
23 first two months of the year, information
24 technology \$6,667; OECD, \$22,577; licensing,
25 inspections and permits, \$4,544; law

1 \$17,928; parks and recreation, \$20,999; DPW
2 highway, \$6,500; business administration,
3 \$5,833. And reducing various revenue items,
4 Page 6 of Attachment 1, in the amount of
5 \$24,604 and reducing estimated revenues by
6 \$701,487 to \$77,142,947 and expenditures by
7 a net \$701,487 to \$77,142,947.

8 MS. EVANS: A motion has been made
9 to amend 6-B, is there a second?

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: On the question?

14 MS. EVANS: On the question we can
15 go when we return to the original amendment.
16 All those in favor?

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

21 (Mr. McGoff did not give an audible
22 response for the vote.)

23 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so
24 moved. I will now return to our original
25 piece of legislation. You have heard

1 Reading by Title of Item 6-B, as amended,
2 what is your pleasure? Is there a council
3 person who is going to move it?

4 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
5 that Item 6-B, as amended, pass Reading by
6 Title.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question? .

9 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I just wanted to
10 inform Mr. McGoff of the motion -- or what I
11 just brought up. As far as the motion is
12 concerned, the amendments being made are to
13 allocate funding for all positions that were
14 eliminated into a specific salary counts to
15 fund these positions for the first two
16 months of the year.

17 In addition to this, under this
18 motion adjustments were being made
19 accordingly to the health insurance accounts
20 to account for the additional costs
21 associated with health insurance and the
22 Single Tax Office, clerical union and
23 nonunion insurance. Insurance rates were
24 added and subtracted from the various
25 insurance accounts that they affect. The

1 rate that was used for the nonunion
2 positions was roughly \$11,500 per employee.
3 This was the amount that was calculated
4 after providing the total insurance costs by
5 the original number of employees and the
6 2010 budget for each account.

7 Also, in addition to this, this
8 motion is being made to reduce the amount of
9 funding in the city council standard salary
10 account due to the removal of the additional
11 position that was originally put in in the
12 amended 2010 budget.

13 In addition to this, in addition to
14 the city clerk's office position removal,
15 this motion also adjusted the standard
16 salary of the BA's Office to remove the
17 administrative assistant that was made in
18 the original amended budget. Over the
19 weekend, Mr. Renda and I discussed this
20 position, he explained to me that the
21 function of the assistant was primary to
22 handle some of the Right-to-know requests
23 and compose some letters and answer e-mails
24 on occasion. Mr. Renda indicating that last
25 year the person who filled this position

1 took another position in the Scranton School
2 District and since it's been vacant
3 Mr. Renda also, you know, he specified that
4 he handles the Right-to-Know requests right
5 now and he also writes his own letters and
6 e-mails, and therefore, he doesn't think
7 that this position was required in his
8 department.

9 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
10 question?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Just one question
12 on the amendments, to the amendments, the
13 reinstating standard salary DPW Bureau of
14 Refuse, that was for?

15 MS. EVANS: Did you read that?

16 MR. ROGAN: We talked about that
17 position earlier and I have been doing
18 research into that position as well as
19 others throughout the last week and I'm not
20 done with all of my research yet, but I most
21 likely will be making a motion next week to
22 rein state that position.

23 MR. MCGOFF: So that wasn't read?

24 MS. EVANS: No, that not read this
25 evening because no decision has been made.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. Yes, I would
2 like to on the question once again express
3 my opposition to the budget changes that are
4 being proposed. Once again, I stated that
5 we do have a balanced budget that was passed
6 in 2009 for 2010. It had no -- it did not
7 increase debt, it did not increase taxes,
8 and actually it reduced the budget from the
9 year before and, therefore, I saw little
10 reason for opening the budget and changing
11 what was a balanced budget.

12 Also, right now there is
13 questionable legality as to whether the
14 budget can be opened by council without an
15 emergency being declared which will now put
16 if, in fact, this is passed next week it
17 will put the City of Scranton back into the
18 courts fighting one another in the courts
19 over what I think -- what again, I believe
20 is something that is totally unnecessary.

21 The justification for opening the
22 budget was because our estimates, council's
23 estimates were better than the business
24 administrator's estimates. That doesn't --
25 to me that doesn't constitute any type of

1 emergency. We are playing with numbers, we
2 are playing with estimates, and if Mr. Joyce
3 was quoted properly by the newspaper he
4 admitted that estimates are not perfect, but
5 yet we will put the city into the courts
6 because we feel that our estimates are
7 better than theirs.

8 Also, we talked about financial or
9 fiscal responsibility. The amended budget
10 does nothing to save money for the taxpayer.
11 There is no reduction in taxes. Again,
12 it's -- it does nothing other than change
13 estimates and reduce the number of jobs.

14 Also, when we talk about fiscal
15 responsibility we are looking at the
16 possibility of paying unemployment to over
17 90 weeks to the people who are dismissed. I
18 don't know that we are prepared to do that
19 or we are ready to do that. For those who
20 don't know, the city is self-insured.
21 Unemployment claims go directly to the city
22 and under the Obama legislation dealing with
23 unemployment, unemployment has been
24 increased to 90 weeks and so anybody
25 dismissed from the job is eligible for 90

1 weeks of unemployment that's going to be
2 paid by the city.

3 Also, if I'm not mistaken, and I'll
4 have to check on this, I believe anybody
5 whose salaries are reduced by a significant
6 amount are also eligible for a certain
7 amount of unemployment compensation. We are
8 also looking at the possibility if these
9 jobs are eliminated there is already talk of
10 wrongful termination suits against the city
11 again placing the city in jeopardy, and
12 again, as has been said so often in the past
13 when we deal with these types of things we
14 are going to make attorneys wealthy because
15 there will be -- there will be Court cases.

16 And the effect of some of these --
17 of losing some of these job, some of the
18 jobs that are being taken away are people
19 that contribute to the city. We have
20 already looked at and we have spoken about
21 the, you know, grants being written by the
22 recycling coordinator that have helped the
23 city. In the Parks and Recreation
24 Department, one of the persons that's being
25 removed is a person who has also provided

1 money for grants to the city. It just
2 doesn't make sense to take these jobs away
3 and put them in the hands of people who are
4 inexperienced at doing what's -- doing those
5 jobs.

6 We are also taking away positions
7 from OECD. These are positions that have
8 absolutely no effect on the budget and if
9 these -- the jobs that were lost, the
10 salaries that are lost, that money is not
11 going to go to any other place other than
12 HUD will reduce the amount of money that's
13 given to the city because these positions
14 have been eliminated.

15 I think that what we are doing here
16 is unwise, it's irresponsible, I think it's
17 usurping the authority of the mayor, I think
18 it's putting the city in jeopardy of
19 numerous lawsuits, and personally I see no
20 justification for doing this at this time.

21 As was suggested by one of the
22 speakers, there is, you know -- if these are
23 things that we need to do there is a 2011
24 budget in which they can be done. Right now
25 we have a balanced budget, it's a workable

1 budget and it should remain intact. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. EVANS: Well, that was certainly
4 remarkable justification for the hope of
5 retaining positions and salary increases.
6 It's certainly more than I have ever heard
7 described by Mr. McGoff in terms of any
8 budget that he approved. In addition, I do
9 want to remind Mr. McGoff that the budget,
10 the mayor's budget is not balanced. It
11 appears to be balanced because we are
12 plugging in phony numbers, but it is not
13 balanced. He has never covered the wages
14 and health care of the individuals who have
15 continued to work for a period of two
16 months.

17 MR. MCGOFF: What positions are
18 they?

19 MS. EVANS: What positions are they?

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. EVANS: If you look at the
22 legislation you will see. It was in last
23 week's packet all of those positions that
24 are being eliminated.

25 MR. MCGOFF: No, you are saying that

1 there were positions that have been --

2 MS. EVANS: Oh, oh, oh, I'm sorry,
3 I'm sorry. I'm talking about the traffic
4 maintenance department. The traffic
5 maintenance department, if you look at the
6 2010 budget you will notice that under 2010
7 there is a dash and next to that you will
8 see within parentheses a minus 100
9 percent --

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. EVANS: -- of funding.

12 MR. MCGOFF: And all of those
13 traffic maintenance positions are now --
14 have been paid through -- are being paid in
15 January and February?

16 MS. EVANS: Those individuals
17 continue to work daily to date.

18 MR. MCGOFF: The members of the
19 traffic maintenance?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. They are union
22 positions?

23 MS. EVANS: Yes, I believe they are.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

25 MS. EVANS: And in addition to that,

1 we have a significant shortfall from the
2 2009 budget, 5.5 million was plugged in by
3 the mayor and his business administrator and
4 that never materialized in totality. We are
5 currently awaiting the final portion, which
6 is our \$750,000, from the new tax collector
7 and that will be our final distribution of
8 funds. There is \$1.6 million out of that
9 \$5.5 million that remains missing and it's
10 not been covered in 2009. I have sat on
11 this council and that gapping hole was never
12 addressed. I searched through the 2010
13 budget and that gapping hole is not
14 addressed. I don't know if it has
15 dematerialized or disappeared, but there are
16 serious questions here about having a
17 balanced budget.

18 Finally, I think the only thing I
19 can add is that council is not taking this
20 case to Court. Council is not suing anyone.
21 The mayor will decide if it's taken to Court
22 because he is the one threatening to do just
23 that, just as he does in every other event
24 where he losses the ability to dictate the
25 results of the situation. I think it will

1 be a travesty if he chooses to, in fact,
2 take the people of this city to Court for
3 council doing it's job that it was directed
4 to do by the those people.

5 And so as much as the opposition
6 might hope to spin this issue, I can tell
7 you, you can only take semantics so far. If
8 anyone sues it will be the mayor making that
9 decision to sue council. It is not city
10 council deciding to sue anyone, but I can
11 tell you this, city council will continue to
12 fight hard for the taxpayers of this city
13 and represent you and do what you have
14 elected us to do.

15 And you know, I'm sorry, but this
16 just occurred to me, for all of the numerous
17 job creations that have occurred in city
18 government at the hands of the Mayor Doherty
19 since January of 2002, I would like to know
20 what services improved as a result of these
21 job creations that justified the millions in
22 extra costs for salaries and raises over a
23 eight-year period? What services to each
24 taxpayer have improved to justify millions
25 of dollars spent in job creations for

1 political supporters? I think that the only
2 tangible result of that action was the 25
3 percent tax increase you got a year or two
4 ago, and that's it.

5 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. NO
6 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

7 MS. EVANS: No, we, Mrs Krake -- I'm
8 sorry.

9 MS. KRAKE: I'm sorry.

10 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

16 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: My apologies.

20 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry. No, no, no,
21 no. I'm the one who is sorry.

22 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. NO
23 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

24 MR. ROGAN: I make a motion that
25 council break for executive session to

1 discuss Comcast negotiations and litigation.

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. At this time council
11 will conduct a recess in order to discuss
12 confident negotiations involving the Comcast
13 cable franchise fee.

14 (Council recesses to executive
15 session.)

16 (Mr. Rogan, Mr. Joyce and Mr. McGoff
17 return to the dais and proceed as follows:)

18 MR MCGOFF: Motion to adjourn.

19 MR. JOYCE: Second.

20 MR. ROGAN: Meeting adjourned.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER