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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, March 2, 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

NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here.

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

14 MINUTES OF THE FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION
15 MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2010.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
19 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON
20 JANUARY 27, 2010.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
24 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
25 HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2010.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. CONTROLLER'S
4 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JANUARY 31,
5 2010.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: Clerk's notes.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. KRAKE: We have responses first.
11 The first is from Chief Elliott in regards
12 to illegal parking. This is in response to
13 our request to enforce illegal parking at
14 the Keyser Oak Shopping Center. This issue
15 has been brought up in the past and we have
16 been told that the shopping center is
17 private property. In order for the police
18 to enforce the illegal parking, we must
19 receive a request from the property owners.
20 The chief says we would be happy to enforce
21 the illegal parking once the request has
22 been received.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MS. KRAKE: We have several
25 responses from Mark Seitzinger, the Director

1 of License, Inspections and Permits. The
2 first is in regard to Wheeler Avenue and
3 Olive Street. He thanks us for our letter
4 regarding this address and he tells us the
5 city inspectors will be made aware of this
6 situation and corrective action will be
7 taken. Sidewalks must be cleared by snow or
8 debris no more than 24 hours after the snow
9 fall occurred.

10 As for the grass and weeds, Section
11 303.4 of the Property Maintenance Code
12 states that the grass or weeds must not
13 exceed ten inches in growth. As the weather
14 breaks and this becomes an issue in the
15 spring and summer, corrective action will
16 being taken.

17 MS. EVANS: Very good.

18 MS. KRAKE: Also, from Director
19 Seitzinger, this is in regard to Boulevard
20 Avenue. "Regarding the condition of the
21 roads specifically on Boulevard from Parker
22 to the Throop border, we will investigate
23 this further and contact the construction
24 company as they have to make sure that the
25 roads are not in deplorable condition from

1 the construction site. As we have done in
2 the past with other construction companies,
3 we will require them to have the roads
4 cleaned on a daily basis so that dirt and
5 soot are not covering the roadway."

6 And then he references requests
7 about the speed limit and tells us that the
8 police department will need to handle that
9 part. We did not receive a response from
10 them yet.

11 MS. EVANS: Okay, thank you.

12 MS. KRAKE: Also, from Director
13 Seitzinger on 914-916 Eynon, he tells us
14 city inspectors will be out photographing
15 the property so that we can move forward in
16 the process for demolition. At the time of
17 condemnation, the property owner is
18 different from what it is now so we will
19 notify the owner of the property through
20 certified mail and regular mail as to the
21 condition of the property. I know that's
22 the first step and I'm sure they will go
23 from there.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

25 MS. KRAKE: Our next response is on

1 736-738 Orchard Street. He tells the city
2 inspectors will be out photographing this
3 property as well so they can move forward in
4 the process. This letter is pretty
5 identical saying that at the time of
6 condemnation the property owner was
7 different from what it is now so will notify
8 the property owner through certified mail
9 and regular mail.

10 I do have one question, Mrs. Evans,
11 that occurred to me as I was reading this,
12 that the properties are being sold even
13 though they are condemned. That's a little
14 unusual.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. Perhaps we could
16 ask Mr. Seitzinger for an explanation of
17 that particular circumstance and what the
18 procedure is.

19 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MS. KRAKE: This is on 459 Phelps
22 Street from Director Seitzinger: "City
23 inspectors will out photographing the
24 property so they can move forward in the
25 demolition process. As you know, the

1 process dose take some time but, we will
2 move forward with this property to remove
3 the hazardous situation from the
4 neighborhood."

5 We have an additional response from
6 the law department, Solicitor Patterson, in
7 regards to the Murray Insurance parking lot.
8 This is a follow-up to her February 10
9 correspondence: "After sending my letter to
10 you, I was informed that the Murray
11 Insurance commercial parking lot was
12 utilized as a staging area during the
13 construction of the new Scranton Parking
14 Authority Garage on North Washington Avenue.
15 Mr. Robert Scopelitti, executive director of
16 the Scranton Parking Authority, confirmed
17 the Murray Insurance parking lot was used as
18 a staging area for this construction during
19 2009 through February 2, 2010."

20 She further states that the parking
21 lot was not used for the intended purpose
22 during this period and should not have been
23 billed the parking space fee. Therefore, it
24 appears that the city is not owed any
25 parking fees from Murray Insurance through

1 February of 2010. Now, when she responded
2 to us originally she was not aware of this
3 and she consulted billing of licensing an
4 inspections and apologizes for any
5 inconvenience it may have caused.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MS. KRAKE: Also, from Solicitor
8 Patterson, she is working on our request as
9 to all lawsuits that have happened during
10 this administration. It is a voluminous
11 amount of work. She is going to meet with
12 our office next week, which is when the
13 deadline is, but she wanted to keep us
14 apprised of the situation and hopes that we
15 can work together so that as we correlate
16 all of this information it will make sense
17 in the very end, you know, where -- who,
18 what, where, when and why.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. Very good. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. KRAKE: We have also response
22 from Solicitor Patterson about the insurance
23 coverage for 800 Providence Road. Now, the
24 city has coverage for a piece of vacant land
25 at 800 Providence Road. This vacant land is

1 where the old DPW building was located. The
2 policy provides limits each occurrence 1
3 million dollars aggregate limit 2 million
4 and deductible each claim 50,000. That's
5 the city's part and if council would know
6 they received all of this backup in your
7 mail, so they can review it. If the
8 citizens would like to see it we do have it
9 available in the office.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes, and I'd also like
11 Attorney Hughes to receive copies of that as
12 well, please.

13 MS. KRAKE: Yes. The second part of
14 her response is concerning Robert Burke,
15 president of BRT Ice, L.P. "Enclosed is a
16 certificate of insurance from Wells-Fargo
17 detailing the limits of liability on the
18 parcel leased from the City of Scranton and
19 naming the City of Scranton as an additional
20 insured."

21 I'd also like to read Mr. Burke's
22 letter to the solicitor. "They are closing
23 herewith a certificate of insurance from our
24 insurance company detailing the limits of
25 liability we have on the parcel leased from

1 the City of Scranton and indicating the city
2 as an additional named insured. The
3 aggregate of all other policies which
4 includes 5 million umbrella coverage far
5 exceeds the required coverage of the lease."

6 That is from Mr. Burke and those are
7 two responses on the insurance at Providence
8 Road.

9 MS. EVANS: Excellent.

10 MS. KRAKE: And we do have a few
11 that we do not have a response from. We
12 asked for a response on Horatio Avenue, a
13 written response. Director Seitzinger did
14 bring us up-to-date verbally, he doesn't
15 have a written response now, he will by the
16 next meeting. He knows we are going to
17 mention it tonight and they are currently
18 working on that.

19 MS. EVANS: That's fine.

20 MS. KRAKE: We still have no
21 response from Attorney Kelly concerning the
22 police promotions. We had asked for that by
23 February 26. Also, no response from
24 Attorney Kelly concerning the Nay Aug Park
25 Wildlife Center. That was requested by

1 February 26, also.

2 MS. EVANS: And is that to include
3 council's Right-to-Know?

4 MS. KRAKE: No, that wasn't.
5 Actually, I believe to be on the safe side
6 for the 30 days since February is 28 days
7 long that I think we perhaps say the 30-day
8 would be tomorrow and I did give that
9 information to Attorney Boyd Hughes as
10 directed.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes, I would suggest
12 then for the other two requests that were
13 made to Attorney Kelly, council should
14 proceed by means of a Right-to-Know request
15 in order to obtain the information.

16 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. I have one
17 more and this is concerning the public
18 caucus that we requested Director Seitzinger
19 to attend. We still have no response on
20 that.

21 MS. EVANS: Perhaps we could contact
22 Mr. Seitzinger by Thursday and if he
23 believes that the mayor will not allow him
24 to participate in a caucus then perhaps we
25 can schedule one of the individuals who is

1 waiting to speak to council by means of
2 caucus in that time slot.

3 MS. KRAKE: Okay. And still no
4 response from Chief Elliott concerning the
5 parking at Buona Pizza and the enforcement
6 of the 15-minute parking only. That's all I
7 have.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, I think we
9 are going to --

10 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if
11 could just in response to what Mrs. Krake
12 said from Knowel's Insurance, last week we
13 commented on the lease and said that the
14 tenant was responsible for paying all of the
15 insurances and naming the city as an
16 additional insured on their policies. In
17 reviewing this, it seems the city also has a
18 policy. Why, I really don't know on that at
19 least for the liability end because as was
20 stated by Mr. Burke, their policy naming the
21 city as an additional insured exceeds the
22 limits and is a 5 million dollar umbrella.
23 I'll give Solicitor Patterson a call
24 tomorrow and find out why the city is also
25 carrying insurance on that when the tenant

1 has not only met their obligations, but has
2 exceeded it and if there really is a need
3 for the city to have this policy.

4 MS. EVANS: Excellent. Thank you.
5 Do any council members have announcements at
6 this time?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes, just one. I
8 received a letter last week from Comcast
9 regarding a few channel changes. Three HD
10 channels will be added to the digital
11 starter lineup. Spike high definition will
12 be Channel 827. Lifetime high definition
13 will be Channel 835, and in this NICK high
14 definition will be channel 879. Also, Fox
15 news will remain on expanded basic service,
16 but will move from Channel 64 to Channel 60.
17 PCN will remain on expanded basic service,
18 but will move from Channel 60 to Channel 186
19 and it will require a digital box to be
20 viewed. Digital converter is included with
21 expanded basic service at no additional
22 charge.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
24 anyone else?

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Unfortunately, I left

1 mine on my desk, so I'll have to bring them
2 up next week. Sorry.

3 MS. EVANS: I just have two brief
4 announcements. The Scranton/Lackawanna
5 County Taxpayers' Association will meet this
6 Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m. in council
7 chambers.

8 In addition to making tax payments
9 at the Scranton Single Tax Office, taxpayers
10 can also make payments at Fidelity Bank
11 which may alleviate the lines at the tax
12 office, and that's all.

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

15 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
16 Andy Sbaraglia.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
18 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
19 well, we brought up the old DPW site again.
20 You took care of one aspect of it, but the
21 other aspect is a lot more important, the
22 length of the lease. I come to believe like
23 I always thought that the other council when
24 they tacked on that \$600,000 payment also
25 deleted 98 years off that piece, but

1 apparently they didn't. I have come to
2 believe that he probably does have a lease
3 for 198 years for \$1 a year. Now, somewhere
4 along the line we should get this into Court
5 and see if we can cut the length of that
6 lease down. I don't care if you had a 20
7 year lease at a \$1 a year that's more
8 something, but 198 years. Does that make
9 sense? It doesn't pay taxes on this.

10 Now, he is talking about all kinds
11 of improvements. Now, of course, I don't
12 know if we can tax the improvements, but we
13 can tax the land and if you look at your
14 taxes where is the biggest hit, on the land
15 not on the improvements, so somewhere along
16 the line we got to bring this lease more in
17 line with reality, not a giveaway like it
18 was. I fought that from the very beginning,
19 I thought it stunk then and they tell me how
20 great this was, I didn't see any greatness
21 in it because I saw all of these things and
22 the original lease was even worse yet, the
23 \$600,000 wasn't in it when I did complain,
24 so they can throw that in to make it smell a
25 little better, but it stunk then and it

1 stinks now.

2 Okay, let's take a look at this snow
3 problem. He cited the poor taxpayers, but
4 have you seen how much snow was on the
5 bridges? Have you tried to walk through the
6 properties that were owned by the SRA, their
7 sidewalks? They are not clear. They are
8 easy to attack the citizens, but the
9 liability of the city is being overlooked.
10 They are supposed to keep them sidewalks
11 clean on properties they own. They don't,
12 so it falls and that's it. You attack the
13 citizens, but you don't attack yourself.
14 That's where the city is in the wrong there.
15 I think if you are going to fine somebody
16 you should fine yourselves first.

17 Now, the first thing that -- glimmer
18 of hope I see was the change of the bidding
19 process. As you know, we have been fighting
20 this for a lot of years. I don't know what
21 Roseanne -- I never approved of Roseanne
22 saying she agreed with the old team when
23 they upped it to \$20,000 saying it was --
24 this was good, that was it, but she agreed
25 with it and didn't find any fault with it,

1 but as a taxpayer I found fault all the way
2 up. This is ridiculous -- to double the
3 bid so I'm glad you are bringing it back in
4 line with the school and a lot of other
5 institutions within government and I think
6 that's the best thing you can do.

7 Like I said before, you got to start
8 with the past to move onto the future.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Giovanni
11 Piccolino.

12 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, city
13 council Giovanni Piccolino, taxpayer, one of
14 the owners of Buona Pizza. I'm coming in
15 reference to this parking situation in front
16 of our place. I called the Parking
17 Authority four times today. There was a
18 blue Honda Pilot, I'm not going to give the
19 license plate, I just wrote it down for the
20 heck of it, but they are were parked, I go
21 there around like 9 a.m. and I start making
22 pizzas, they were there from 9 a.m. until
23 12:30 without a ticket and the guy came and
24 just got in his car and left.

25 Now, we don't open until 10:30, so I

1 can't care, I don't know say nothing.
2 Around 10:30 I made my first call, they are
3 the rudest people I have ever spoken to in
4 my life. They make it seem like I'm the bad
5 guy. When I call, they are like, "All
6 right, we'll send someone right over."

7 They never send someone over. Now,
8 I think I spoke to Mr. Rogan maybe like a
9 month ago they gave out two tickets and that
10 was it. Ever since then you could park
11 there all day, all night and you are not
12 going to get a ticket. And even behind our
13 place there are certain times, we are going
14 on 45 years there. We can't even get into
15 our own garage with construction vehicles
16 and stuff there. This is like a joke. It's
17 going on almost four years, you know, and
18 every single time I call the Parking
19 Authority they're just, "We'll be right
20 there."

21 They are not. I don't know, do they
22 have that much money where they don't want
23 to give tickets out because they could make
24 a fortune in front of the pizza place, they
25 really could. There is construction

1 vehicles, I'll just call the side of them,
2 their numbers and like, "Listen, if you
3 don't move just to save us a spot you are
4 going to get a ticket."

5 And they will move because I call
6 the number, but if I call the Parking
7 Authority it's like nothing, you know, and
8 what Mr. Sbaraglia was saying the SRA that
9 vacant park lot next door to us,
10 Alexander's, there was one gentleman who
11 fell and came in and was complaining to us.
12 I said, "That's not even ours."

13 That's never been plowed in any snow
14 storm, the sidewalk that comes up alongside
15 of it, nothing. It's like, I don't know. I
16 don't know if you guys can do something. I
17 was under the assumption that you guys did
18 send a letter and they gave two tickets out
19 and since then that's it. When I call it's
20 like I'm like -- I try to be as nice as
21 possible and, you know, and then when they
22 do I'm like, "Thank you for doing your job,"
23 and they don't like that. It's amazing.
24 That's my only thing. Thank you very much.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake,

1 I'd like to send another letter that's going
2 to be as a follow-up though, however, I'll
3 give the Parking Authority a call tomorrow
4 myself, but I would like the letter sent to
5 emphasize the fact that this is an ongoing
6 problem and the citation issuers need to
7 make sure they are in that area daily.

8 Thank you. Sam Patilla.

9 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, Madam
10 President, City Council. Sam Patilla,
11 Scranton resident, taxpayer, member of the
12 Scranton Taxpayers and Citizens'
13 Association. Madam President, last night
14 Mr. Jackowitz and I attended the Park and
15 Recreation Authority meeting and in light of
16 Item 5-D, all right, my comments are going
17 to be in regards to the term limits of the
18 authorities and the various board within the
19 city.

20 I think that eventually, I know your
21 plate is heavy, city council has a lot to
22 do, but eventually we have to introduce an
23 amendment that will expand and/or broaden
24 the input of the city council into not only
25 the selection process of those who are --

1 who sit on these various authorities and
2 boards, but in regards to limit the term,
3 term of service.

4 Okay, one of the problems that we
5 have, and I'm going to use what Andy just
6 spoke about as an example, these dollar a
7 year leases for 200 years, all right, I have
8 been here for a number of years and every
9 time I see an appointment to one of these
10 authorities it's the same individual.

11 Now, I don't know if the process is
12 open via the media, which in this city is
13 very limited, namely, the newspaper, but I
14 think that it should be included on the
15 city's website. Every time there is an
16 opening for one of these authorities, one of
17 these boards, that information should be
18 posted on one of those websites because I'm
19 quite sure that they will reach more people,
20 more of the taxpaying base, more of the
21 residents via the website than they will
22 with that newspaper. I have been here four
23 years now, I haven't read that paper in
24 three years, you know, so if the citizens
25 are going to be made aware of what's going

1 on in the city then they should be on the
2 website.

3 And like I said, every time I look
4 at one of these things all I see are the
5 same old people and part of the problem that
6 we have now is that we continue to recycle
7 the same old tired way of thinking, and this
8 isn't an attack on an individual, it's the
9 way our mindset, the way of our thinking.
10 This is the 2010. It's not 1960, it's not
11 1930. Things that worked back then majority
12 wise don't work today, so the old ideas that
13 we have festering on these authorities and
14 these boards have to be removed.

15 I suggested to the Park and Rec
16 Authority after all of the yelling and
17 screaming, that rather than rent that place
18 out, lease that place out for \$1 a year,
19 okay, go ahead and attract somebody that's
20 going to pay you four or five thousand
21 dollars. Now, I know that just like I said
22 three years ago that an honest business or
23 an individual isn't going to come in this
24 city with that administration the way it is
25 because they are fearful for their

1 employees, they are fearful for the
2 taxpayers, so they aren't going to do that,
3 but once we shake things up and rearrange
4 things then we can get people in here. You
5 know, we can't tell them -- I can't tell
6 them how to spend the money or where to
7 spend their money, but I can make
8 suggestions. For the most part they do
9 listen, because for the most part it's for
10 the children and the senior citizens and
11 they have no problem helping them. These
12 are wealthy people, they have no problem
13 investing their money, but they are not
14 going to invest in Doherty. They are not
15 going to invest in his policy. They are not
16 going to invest in the people he has on
17 these various boards and authorities.

18 The thing is, like I said, we have
19 to find a new approach. We have to go a
20 different route. The city has been
21 distressed 20 years. It's time to shake it
22 up and do things a different way. That's
23 all. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Patilla.
25 Dave Dobrzyn.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council
2 Dave Dobrzyn.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton.
5 On the tax office, there is one little thing
6 about the lines there, if you pay your taxes
7 through per se an escrow and you are there
8 just to get verification because you do have
9 to keep track of the banks, it makes it kind
10 of hard, and I noticed they did have two
11 additional pay stands with nobody in
12 attendance at them. So, I mean, maybe it
13 would require some flexibility out of the
14 unions, but it might help them to inquire on
15 that, you know, to get -- if they see a big
16 crowd there maybe we can get two additional
17 people up there just to get rid of the
18 crowd.

19 I'd also like to comment on the
20 bridges and that lot at 502 Lackawanna
21 Avenue. I was over the Harrison Avenue
22 bridge the other day and I had to walk out
23 in the street, And finally, well, the PPL is
24 asking for another raise, so as we gain
25 momentum maybe we can, you know, right them

1 another nasty letter or something.

2 And lastly, a few weeks ago I
3 mentioned that I finally got rid of the
4 usurpers at NCC off of my credit rating,
5 Well, I also forgot to mention that I called
6 about something with a credit card company
7 the very next day or a day or two later,
8 they lowered my credit by -- rating by a few
9 points, you know, as far as reducing my
10 interest rate is what I'm trying to sa. So,
11 you know, it's not like they don't cost us
12 money and keep costing. The gift that keeps
13 on taking NCC. Have a good night.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.
15 Is there anyone else who would like to
16 address council?

17 MR. UNGVARSKI: Good evening, city
18 council, I'm Tom Ungvarski.

19 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

20 MR. UNGVARSKI: I'm a member of the
21 Scranton Taxpayers' Association. I'd like
22 to commend city council. It's a pleasure to
23 get up here at this podium and not be
24 laughed at or interrupted. Congratulations.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

2 MR. UNGVARSKI: I had intended to
3 attend the Sewer Authority meeting tonight,
4 but I couldn't make that one because I had a
5 couple of questions that I would have liked
6 to have asked them. Perhaps city council
7 can answer them. Did anybody from the city
8 council get the number of employees they
9 hired since they took over from America
10 Anglican?

11 MS. EVANS: No, we haven't received
12 that information yet, but Mr. Barrett has
13 remained in contact with our office and he
14 has stated that we will be supplied with all
15 of that information prior to next week's
16 meeting.

17 MR. UNGVARSKI: That's from the time
18 they took over?

19 MS. EVANS: Well, according to my
20 request I went back many years, yes.

21 MR. UNGVARSKI: Yes. Okay. We know
22 that they have to comply with the ordinances
23 for the Chesapeake Bay, and I was just kind
24 of wondering if perhaps the reason that the
25 City of Scranton brought back from America

1 Anglican was to bail out American Anglican
2 from having to make all of the improvements
3 down there to comply with all of the laws
4 for the Chesapeake Bay. Could you find that
5 out for me, please?

6 MS. EVANS: In other words, I think
7 I hear you saying that you believed the turn
8 over from American Anglican to the Scranton
9 Sewer Authority was due to the mandates of
10 the Chesapeake Bay project?

11 MR. UNGVARSKI: That is correct.

12 MS. EVANS: I will certainly ask
13 that question, but I can weigh in on it. I
14 don't believe that was the sole concern at
15 the time. I believe that there was
16 dissatisfaction on some people's parts, not
17 particularly the City of Scranton, but it
18 may have been Dunmore's part and perhaps the
19 Sewer Authority Board, dissatisfaction with
20 the work of American Anglican, and so it was
21 there purposeful desire to take that
22 operation back in-house. The City of
23 Scranton never played a part in that, I'm
24 sorry, Mr. Ungvarski, because only two of
25 the three bodies were needed to grant

1 approval for that turnover. It was given by
2 Dunmore and it was given by the Sewer
3 Authority, so the city actually played no
4 role in that turnover. And I do recall at
5 the time having asked Mr. Barrett and
6 councilmen from Dunmore and members of the
7 Sewer Authority Board and Dunmore solicitor
8 if this had been put out to bid.

9 MR. UNGVARSKI: Yeah. No --

10 MS. EVANS: If we were looking at
11 other worldwide conglomerates to come in and
12 manage the operation. And the answer I
13 received after a long discussion was, no,
14 that was never done. They just brought it
15 back in-house.

16 MR. UNGVARSKI: Well, it seems quite
17 convenient that American Anglican got out
18 from having to know put in all new dedicated
19 sewer lines and all, but thank you for the
20 information.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, actually they were
22 up for a contract renewal, Mr. Ungvarski, at
23 the time and they were not granted that by
24 two of the three bodies which is why the
25 contract was broken after the first

1 five-year period. And I believe it was
2 originally, I wasn't on council at the time,
3 but I believe there was perhaps a 20-year
4 contract between the City and Dunmore and
5 American Anglican, and every five years it
6 would come up for renewal or termination and
7 the American Anglican had provided both
8 Dunmore and the City, but particularly the
9 City of Scranton I believe, with millions of
10 dollars up front because the city was
11 experiencing dire financial problems at the
12 time. It was unable to meet payrolls and so
13 because the agreement was not extended for
14 another five years, let us say, or even the
15 remaining 15 years, the city then had to
16 repay those fees. If the city had complied
17 with the contract, in other words --

18 MR. UNGVARSKI: If we renewed it.

19 MS. EVANS: -- we renewed it for the
20 20 years, the City would have owed nothing,
21 but because the Sewer Authority and Dunmore
22 pulled out early that caused Dunmore and
23 Scranton to owe them money.

24 MR. UNGVARKSI: Had they renewed the
25 contract would American Anglican been

1 responsible for the improvements?

2 MS. EVANS: Would they have been
3 responsible?

4 MR. UNGVARSKI: Correct.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. UNGVARSKI: Okay, thank you.

7 And just one more thing, I believe that you
8 can still get your discount on your property
9 tax up to the end of this week, and thank
10 you.

11 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you. Is there
12 anyone else who would like to address
13 council?

14 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie
15 Stulgis. I just want to comment on the fact
16 that there has been quite a bit of criticism
17 and rhetoric about the recent amending of
18 the city budget and I noticed that it was,
19 in fact, rhetoric and a few people presented
20 facts as to why the acts taken shouldn't
21 have been taken. And I'd like to bring up
22 just a couple of things and maybe correct a
23 few of the misleading statements.

24 Unfortunately, Mr. McGoff isn't here because
25 most of it is directed to him.

1 Mr. McGoff claimed several times, in
2 fact, that the action being taken was action
3 taken by the council majority and that it
4 was politically motivated. He claimed that
5 much of the action was taken because it was
6 targeted at things that the mayor touted.
7 That's interesting because when the mayor
8 cut jobs they were union jobs and the mayor
9 was being fiscally responsible. When city
10 council cut jobs, cut jobs by the way that
11 were mostly created by this mayor, they were
12 being political.

13 Mr. McGoff supported cutting
14 whatever jobs that the mayor wanted cut and
15 balked when council wanted to eliminate made
16 up jobs that were primary patronage jobs.
17 He expressed his dismay about the
18 elimination of the person who writes
19 recycling grants. He felt such a move was
20 counterproductive. Yet, when made aware
21 some time ago that the administration
22 intended to eliminate the grant writer for
23 the police department, he wasn't the least
24 bit upset. Why the sudden concern about
25 losing a grant writer for one department and

1 not even caring about the elimination of a
2 grant writer for another department? Is
3 recycling more important to Mr. McGoff than
4 our police department? One has to wonder or
5 was he just following in the footsteps of
6 those who came before him rubber stamping
7 whatever the mayor told him to rubber stamp.

8 He also said that the Right-to-Know
9 would be hampered, but he failed to say how.
10 I tried to figure out how the elimination of
11 jobs could hamper because we certainly don't
12 need one full-time person dedicated to do
13 just Right-to-Know. What we really need is
14 somebody hired who knows what they are doing
15 and can make copies.

16 Mr. McGoff also pointed out that it
17 will cost the city a lot of money for those
18 jobs that are eliminated. He listed several
19 warnings in that area. He mentioned that we
20 would have to pay unemployment, that's why
21 he said he was dead set against it. It's
22 interesting that never entered his mind when
23 the mayor was busy eliminating jobs and he
24 voted to eliminate those jobs that we would
25 have to pay unemployment to them, too. I

1 guess it wasn't important then.

2 As a matter of fact, he even voted
3 to eliminate jobs as recently as December
4 and didn't care about unemployment costs to
5 the city then. He was upset about having to
6 pay health care for the people who were
7 leaving whose jobs would be eliminated.
8 That isn't the case. Once you leave the
9 employment of the city, the city doesn't
10 give you health care. He was concerned
11 about Cobra. Cobra isn't a permanent thing,
12 there's a time limit on it and the jobs that
13 he voted to eliminate would also be eligible
14 for Cobra. He wasn't upset about that.

15 It's interesting that all of the
16 jobs he never uttered a word about
17 eliminating were union jobs. They were the
18 only ones he seemed to care about. He also
19 warned about multiple lawsuits that council
20 would cause by eliminating jobs. Again, he
21 didn't worry about any lawsuits when he
22 voted to eliminate union jobs. It appears
23 to me that either suddenly Mr. McGoff had an
24 epiphany from December to now or Mr. McGoff
25 was the one playing politics.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini. I
3 believe this is my third year with this
4 particular complaint. Mrs. Krake, I believe
5 you had a visit from one of our handicapped
6 people last week, and I know you have heard
7 from quite a few of them, but it seems that
8 whenever we have snow they just can't seem
9 to remove snow from the front of these
10 buildings.

11 Now, I don't know if you are aware
12 of it, but I live at Washington West, we
13 have one handicapped spot which was a drop
14 off and pick up point and we have two spaces
15 there, one which covers a handicap ramp,
16 ambulances, police cars, they have no place
17 to get in there, no way to get in there. We
18 had a person who passed away suddenly, of
19 course, the snow was still there, they
20 hadn't removed the snow from the street yet.
21 The maintenance men in our building do an
22 excellent job of keeping the sidewalks and
23 the handicap ramps cleared. They have a lot
24 of territory to cover.

25 Last year we had the same situation.

1 I believe it was three or four days between
2 we had a snow plow come through to clean up
3 that area. There are also several people in
4 our building who need caregivers day and
5 night. There is no place for these
6 caregivers to park. They have got to park
7 at a metered spot. If, per chance, somebody
8 doesn't show up to relieve them in the
9 morning we have had two of them who have
10 gotten tickets because they are parked
11 there. Now, you know, I mean these people
12 are in dire need of caregivers, that's why
13 they have them. They don't do just do this
14 as a lark.

15 But the handicapped ramp situation
16 in the city is terrible, it always has been.
17 The snow removal is terrible. I know last
18 year we had one of our city council persons
19 who was questioned because she and her
20 friends had their driveways cleared out and
21 their street area cleared out. In the mean
22 time we had snow almost two feet deep out
23 there and an ambulance could not get in and
24 out of the building. It's sad.

25 Now, it's not only ours I believe

1 that it's Adam's Avenue, we've got three on
2 Adam's Avenue, down Mulberry Towers and if
3 they can't plow these streets but they can
4 do it for a council member or a council
5 woman and her friends, there is something
6 radically wrong, and I think it would
7 behoove this council to get on somebody's
8 case about this because it is a very, very
9 hazardous situation. And as I say, we have
10 a lot of elderly people in there and they
11 succumb many -- we have an ambulance visit
12 probably three times a week and if the
13 ambulance can't get in there they can't get
14 a gurney in there and can't get to somebody
15 then there is something radically wrong and
16 I think it's imperative that we look at this
17 overall problem. Thank you very much.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19 MS. DURKIN: Good evening, Council.
20 Jessica Durkin, North Webster Avenue,
21 Scranton. I just wanted to remind councils
22 and officials and residents of Scranton and
23 greater Scranton that tomorrow will be the
24 public forum that New America Foundation is
25 hosting, and I'm a representative from New

1 America Foundation. I'm with the media
2 policy initiative, so the forum is called
3 "Informing Scranton, gauging the community,
4 communities news and information needs," so
5 I just urge all of you to attend and for the
6 public to attend, too. So, thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MS. DURKIN: I forgot. Sorry.

9 MS. EVANS: That's okay, you didn't
10 use your five minutes.

11 MS. DURKIN: I'm sorry about that.
12 Most important, 7:00 p.m., University of
13 Scranton, fourth floor, McIlhenny ballroom.
14 I think that's it. 7:00 p.m., University of
15 Scranton, DeNaples Center. There you go.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie
18 Schumacher. Resident and member of the
19 Taxpayers' Association.

20 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

21 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: First I'd like to
23 ask if we know, and I guess this would be
24 Mr. Loscombe's purview, do we know yet when
25 the NIXLE system which is advertised on the

1 city website as, "A service that allows you
2 to receive trusted up to the minute
3 neighborhood information on police logs and
4 crime patterns."

5 When will that be functional? And
6 also, did we receive a grant for this NIXLE
7 program, and if so are we -- if the system
8 is still not operational, which it isn't
9 because I checked it today -- or yesterday
10 on-line, are we in compliance with the grant
11 that we received?

12 I would also like to know the
13 \$60,000 First Night contribution that was
14 authorized in December of last year and a
15 check was cut in January or February of this
16 year, was that to cover -- was that
17 authorized to cover shortfalls in the
18 January 1, 2010, budget or was it meant to
19 kick off the funding for the 2011 January 1
20 event?

21 MS. EVANS: I believe it's 2010, but
22 I will double check that.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: So they were
24 running in the hole and the city came to
25 their rescue, instead of the mayor helping

1 them to raise money he just give them our
2 tax dollars --

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: To cover their
5 losses. Nice. I also would like to know
6 that we complain about nonprofits not paying
7 their fair share and yet we fund them. I
8 mean, First Night is a nonprofit, they just
9 incorporated I believe this year, so we give
10 them \$60,000. Last year we gave \$50,000 to
11 Lackawanna Leadership for the -- I believe
12 it's Lackawanna Leadership for the Hanlon's
13 Grove Project. Now, I thought the purpose
14 of Lackawanna Leadership was to raise the
15 money and do these civic projects, I mean,
16 if we are going give them our money, we
17 could have just done it through the capital
18 budget, and I think that's sort of asinine
19 and I would hope that's a practice that's
20 curtailed shortly.

21 The wage tax issue, I brought this
22 up during the budget process last year and I
23 noted that because the wage tax is of course
24 the school gets 1 percent and the city gets
25 the 2.4 percent that you would think during

1 the budget process that if you multiply what
2 the school put in by 2.4 you could get what
3 the city's budget amount was, I mean, that's
4 only logical. And that was pretty much true
5 for 2008 and 2009 was really only \$16,000
6 off, but in 2010 it jumped to about three
7 and a half -- close to three and a half
8 million dollars where it would appear if the
9 -- if the school district is correct then we
10 have -- we are going to be underfunded by
11 over 3 million dollars and --

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: I wonder if this is
14 being tracked on a regular basis to see if
15 we are tracking them last year so we know
16 whether we are going to have another 3 1/2
17 million dollar hole and I still don't have
18 the answer on what happened to that six or
19 5.5 that we ended up with expenses over
20 revenue last year. Where does that magic
21 money appear from? Excuse me, I don't mean
22 to end that with a preposition.

23 MS. EVANS: We will be receiving
24 reports from the tax office as we did last
25 year, but you raised a very good point which

1 I believe even further justifies council's
2 concern with the revenues for 2010 and why
3 council in it's budget amendments had
4 decreased the estimates of allocations
5 because we do believe that the dollar
6 figures plugged in by the administration are
7 inflated.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, hopefully, I
9 know a young man who has put together a plan
10 for the rental income properties that's very
11 low cost and should have a high pay off and
12 I'm sure one of these weeks he will be here
13 to make that presentation.

14 Now, I'd like to go back to reading
15 something, because I was very distressed by
16 what Mr. Hughes said last week, back to
17 something I said in June 16, 2009: "The
18 current agreement with the Ice Box says that
19 the term of the lease is 99 years, \$600.000
20 rent due when several conditions are met.
21 The resolution to extend the K0Z
22 incorporates an increase in the term of the
23 lease. In the transmittal letter, it says
24 the term of the agreement of the lease goes
25 from 99 years to 198 years at \$1 a year with

1 the \$600.000 not due until the end of the
2 lease. That significant change is deceptive
3 and an outright insult to all taxpayers."

4 That's what I said last June, but,
5 and if I may complete the thought?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes, please finish.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: If the -- I would
8 assume that the resolution to extend the KOZ
9 would be null and void because it took all
10 three taxing bodies to agree, so without
11 that authorization how could another lease
12 have been -- have been negotiated that
13 extended -- that doubled it and kept the
14 payment out to -- extended the payment to
15 the end of the lease period instead of as it
16 was by the two previous ordinances that met
17 and said certain criteria had to be met on
18 the city's part and then it was due and, in
19 fact, the Redevelopment Authority had said
20 that ordinance to council and it got tabled
21 and, I mean, the way the ordinances read
22 they owe us the \$600,000 now and I don't
23 understand that lease, how that could be
24 legal at all.

25 MS. EVANS: Well, we will have our

1 solicitor take another look at it, but --

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: He is not happy.

3 MS. EVANS: No, Mrs. -- or excuse
4 me, Ms. Schumacher is correct in that, for
5 example, I believe it was just last year,
6 last summer, that Mr. Burke was among the 20
7 some individuals who was asking for a KOZ or
8 KOEZ extension to their properties in the
9 City of Scranton, and as you know, the City
10 and the school district declined all of
11 those applications with the exception of one
12 which I believe was for the Greenridge --

13 MR. HUGHES: Nursing home.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes. Yes. And that was
15 the only approved extension, so perhaps we
16 could take another look into that and see if
17 that does have any bearing.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would certainly
19 appreciate it because before that it was one
20 year and it was due when the conditions were
21 met. The conditions were met, the ordinance
22 was forwarded and I don't know what reason
23 it was not voted on. That was when I was
24 otherwise occupied.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. HUGHES: I reviewed the ground
2 lease and just going from memory, it was
3 executed in October of I believe 2002 and
4 the ground lease that was executed was for
5 99 years with renewal for another 99 years
6 and the payment of \$600,000 in the year
7 2020.

8 The memorandum of lease was not
9 recorded, which is only a page and a half
10 document which is really all that it has to
11 be, it doesn't even have to be that long,
12 setting forth the terms, significant terms
13 of the lease. At that time, as I stated
14 last week, the accounting firm of Rainey &
15 Rainey determined that the payment of
16 \$600,000 in the year of 2020 had an
17 equivalent value in 2002 of \$25, a little
18 bit less than \$25. And when the memorandum
19 -- any time you record a lease for over 30
20 years there is a realty transfer tax imposed
21 on the lease by law.

22 What Rainey did when the memorandum
23 of lease was recorded stating that it was
24 \$25, the recording fee on that was I think
25 -- recording fee on that for the realty

1 transfer tax was the state got a quarter,
2 that's 1 percent, and 25 cents is what they
3 got when I say a quarter on the recording,
4 the city got 50 some cents and I think the
5 school district got 15 cents on recording
6 the lease. That was -- any time real estate
7 is transferred there is this statute --
8 there is the state recording fee and a local
9 recording fee, so I think the city got about
10 50 cents, the Commonwealth got 25 cents and
11 the school district I think got 15 cents.

12 But that are lease, even though the
13 KOZ -- if the KOZ was turned down then that
14 property would be taxable, however, pursuant
15 to the ground lease since it is owned by the
16 City of Scranton there is no real estate
17 taxes on the land. However, any
18 improvements would be taxed.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: But last week you
20 sailed it was because he the extension to
21 198 years made it the \$600,000 brought back
22 to now was the \$24, and you compared it to
23 Manhattan --

24 MR. HUGHES: The Manhattan, when the
25 natives sold Manhattan to the Dutch.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: But you said it was
2 only a 99 year lease with the \$600.000 due
3 at the end of 20 years, but maybe I can meet
4 with --

5 MR. HUGHES: No, no, no. The
6 \$600,000 due is at the and of 198 years.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: But that's only
8 with the extension by this resolution that
9 was null and void. That's what -- I'd be
10 happy to --

11 MS. EVANS: If you want to stay
12 after maybe you can discuss this privately
13 with Attorney Hughes. Thank you. Is there
14 anyone else?

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
16 South Scranton resident and member of the
17 Taxpayers' Association. The state of the
18 city address presented at the Scranton
19 Chamber of Commerce again or better known as
20 Scranton Power. The moderator started off
21 by apologizing for interrupting happy hour
22 for the attendees. What a way to start the
23 state of the city address.

24 Why is Mr. Doherty afraid of the
25 citizens of Scranton who elected him three

1 times to govern the city? Quotes: We have
2 fought the good fight. He is talking about
3 the city firefighters and the police
4 officers with the exception of the two
5 chiefs.

6 Business Week article referenced the
7 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue project:
8 This project has been going for four years,
9 not completed, no tenants expect four
10 businesses that have been in business for
11 years before the project. Coney Island, The
12 Gallery, Leiderkranz and Buona Pizza. I'm
13 glad to see Giovanni is here tonight. Two
14 of these businesses Mr. Doherty attempted to
15 take away with eminent domain. Remember
16 that?

17 MR. PICCOLINO: Still trying to take
18 it.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: New park in South
20 Scranton. I was surprised that there was no
21 mention of the tree house, bridge to
22 nowhere, \$350,00 dog park or the 9,000 jobs
23 that Mr. Doherty single handily created.

24 Mr. Doherty finally gave credit to
25 the small group of local doctors who

1 actually were responsible for the medical
2 school all along with Senator Mellow.
3 Mr. Doherty, you changed your tune. All of
4 this time you have been saying over and over
5 you were responsible for the medical
6 college.

7 Mr. Doherty also spoke about the
8 heroes monument at Nay Aug Park where he
9 stated he would be adding the seventh
10 monument in honor of Lance Corporal Johnson.

11 Doomer critics criticize us for
12 never mentioning anything positive about the
13 City of Scranton. I just read you
14 Mr. Doherty's accomplishments for eight
15 years as mayor with a friendly council
16 supporting his every move. As you can see,
17 it was a very impressive list of
18 accomplishments. The city is distressed, he
19 is fighting with the fire department and
20 police department, his own words, he built a
21 new park in South Scranton and he continues
22 to use one Business Weekly article. Why not
23 talk about the violent crime on the rise
24 19.6 percent in the city? Just read page
25 three left-hand column of the Times-Tribune

1 on a daily basis. Drugs on every street
2 corner, lease of the Wildlife Center a
3 dollar a year for up to 150 years for a
4 total of \$150. \$24 possible lease to the
5 Ice Box for 198 years, higher taxes,
6 unreasonable fines, penalties on delinquent
7 taxpayers, unpaved roads, oh, I forgot, I
8 should be positive.

9 Not truthful. Almost forgot about
10 the Newsweek article where Mr. Daniel Gross
11 did his research about Scranton,
12 Pennsylvania. This was documented by Chris
13 Kelly's Sunday Times-Tribune. He finally
14 wrote a fair and honest commentary. By the
15 way, Chris Kelly, you gave us the name
16 Legion of Doom.

17 I guess Secretary Sam is not doing
18 his job. Secretary Sam, we need to start
19 writing about visions. When we meet at
20 Pat's Pizza on Saturday night like, oh,
21 never mind, want to be governor, lieutenant
22 governor, state senator, out of Scranton
23 Doherty. Mr. Doherty, your visions and your
24 ideas along with Mr. Burke have been a
25 failure. Look around and take a real good

1 look at the city you have been elected to
2 govern, that is if you were not too busy
3 running for anything that will get you out
4 of the city that you say you love. Just
5 move to Maryland where your family business
6 is located.

7 Everything that I have said tonight
8 is fact, not supposition, with the exception
9 of Secretary Sam and myself meeting at Pat's
10 Pizza. That was an outright lie. At least
11 I will tell you, the people, when I am lying
12 to you.

13 Last night I attended the Recreation
14 Authority meeting to ask about the lease of
15 the Wildlife Center, swimming for the
16 children six to 15, how much rent was paid
17 by the concession stand is \$10,000 a year
18 and why the authority would not hold their
19 meetings in city council chambers. I was
20 told by the Rec Authority that we have no
21 poor children in Scranton. Those were the
22 exact words I was told. We have no poor
23 children in Scranton. I was told that they
24 all have cell phones and Ipods so they
25 cannot be poor. That came straight from

1 Mr. Dougher.

2 As I was speaking I was continually
3 interrupted. They asked why council members
4 were not at the Rec Authority meeting and,
5 Mrs. Krake, they told me to tell you that
6 they only meet once a week -- can I finish?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: They told me to tell
9 you they only meet once a month and they
10 don't really have much time to be answering
11 all of your questions. That's what they
12 said. At this time, I would like to
13 relinquish my time to the next speaker who
14 is the new and improved doomer/hypocrite.
15 He or she will be speaking about the News
16 Week magazine article about Scranton,
17 Pennsylvania. They must have left. They
18 are not behind me. I wonder where they can
19 be. It might be Mayor Doherty, he doesn't
20 like speaking to the people either.

21 MS. EVANS: Any other speakers?

22 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

23 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan, do you have
24 any motions or comments?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Over the last week

1 I have received a lot of phone calls and
2 e-mails from residents complaining about
3 sidewalks not being cleaned and business
4 owners not cleaning their sidewalks and I
5 would just like to remind everything once
6 again that if they are not cleaned within 24
7 hours you can be cited and the business
8 owners must clean the sidewalks on their
9 entire property not just the area right out
10 in front.

11 I am glad that the snowstorm the
12 roads were cleaned much better than they
13 were on Valentine's Day snowstorm a few
14 years ago, but that being said there still
15 is a lot of work to be done and over the
16 weekend I received calls from people from
17 East Mountain and Minooka who were
18 complaining that their roads weren't cleaned
19 properly and I was wondering, Mrs. Krake, if
20 you could spend a letter to the DPW asking
21 them what the protocol is for what order the
22 roads get plowed in, and I would hope it
23 would be we would start with our busiest
24 roads and roads where we have firehouses and
25 EMS and then work out into the

1 neighborhoods, and as well what is the
2 current protocol for cleaning bridges and
3 sidewalks on city-owned properties?

4 I also received a report of a vacant
5 car in front of 1318 South Irving Avenue.
6 It has not moved for over a month and the
7 tags are expired. I have the license plate
8 number, which I will give to you after the
9 meeting, I don't want to say it over the
10 air, and I hope we can send a letter to the
11 police department to deal with that.

12 I have a memo here, a resident came
13 into the office today complaining about the
14 terrible road conditions on Curtis Lane in
15 North Scranton. He states that the potholes
16 are huge and unavoidable and he fears damage
17 to his car. Mrs. Krake, can we send a
18 letter to the DPW regarding that as well.

19 And finally, over the last two
20 months of being on city council I have
21 noticed that weekly we get hundreds of pages
22 of memos and many of them are from within
23 this building, and I would also like to send
24 a letter to Mr. Renda and to the IT
25 Department wondering if they ever looked

1 into going paperless. Going paperless would
2 not only help the environment by using less
3 paper, it would save the city money in the
4 long run on printing costs, and that is it
5 for tonight.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
7 Mr. Loscombe, do you have any comments or
8 motions?

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
10 Evans. Ms. Durkin, I'm glad you appeared
11 here this evening because I was going to
12 read your e-mail and I misplaced it tonight
13 so I'm glad you were able to remind everyone
14 of the meeting tomorrow.

15 Like Mr. Rogan said, we get a lot of
16 citizens' concerns pretty much on a daily
17 basis and that's what we are here for. I
18 think this council has been active in
19 answering a lot of issues and creating a lot
20 of paperwork as Mr. Rogan has stated, but
21 that's what we are here for and I know
22 myself and rest of us go out on a pretty
23 much daily basis to visually observe these
24 concerns and try and come up with answers
25 and bring them to the appropriate bodies.

1 Again, we won't have the snow
2 concerns in a couple of months hopefully,
3 but that was a pretty much of a major
4 concern that I have a request for. A lot of
5 it, basically some commercial areas pushing
6 the snow across the street on neighbor's
7 sidewalks which causes a concern for elderly
8 people walking up the street or school
9 children trying to get to the corner they
10 are forced to go out in the street.

11 Where I live I don't know how the
12 DPW operates, but long before I moved there,
13 long before I was a council person I have to
14 say our area has been well taken care of, so
15 I think it depends on the area and who is in
16 charge of that area or whatever, but we will
17 get more information on that.

18 And Mr. Sbaraglia mentioned the
19 situation with the bridges and stuff like
20 that, that's why it's hard to go out and
21 enforce these ordinances that require 24
22 hours when our own public entities aren't
23 policing themselves on this situation, but
24 it's an unfortunate spot. I hope we can get
25 this resolved.

1 And I had several concerns and most
2 of my concerns I just pass onto Mrs. Krake,
3 but with some of them are repeat concerns
4 and that's why I wanted to mention them in
5 case anyone is watching perhaps, you know,
6 it will help them out in the future. The
7 Convenient Store at River and Meadow, we
8 received a lot of complaints about people
9 exiting onto the River Street side which is
10 just an entrance and there has been many
11 near accidents in that area, I wouldn't be
12 surprised if there weren't any actual
13 accidents, but it's just something to be
14 aware of and speeding issues. You know, our
15 city streets have 25 mile an hour speed
16 limits on a lot of side streets and people
17 are just zipping through, everybody is in a
18 hurry today, but that brings me onto the
19 next issue, and this is for Mrs. Schumacher.
20 I have to apologize, we had a short week
21 this week with the snow and that, but I had
22 intended on getting together with Chief
23 Elliott and going over a list of concerns
24 along with the ones you mentioned today. I
25 will be contacting him tomorrow and

1 hopefully before the end of the week I will
2 get together with him and answer your
3 concerns, but we have a whole list of items
4 anyway.

5 We've had a lot of questions and
6 previously we had the flood people here and
7 everything, but I have gotten some more
8 calls regarding the alarms going off
9 intermittently, no rhyme or reason. I don't
10 believe there is a whole plan. I think the
11 neighbors in the flood areas have to know
12 what's going on, what to do, it should be a
13 coordinated effort with police, fire, DPW,
14 whoever is involved, so what I have done is
15 I have contacted Mr. O'Hora and I wasn't
16 able to get ahold of Mr. Brazil today, I
17 actually had a wrong number I guess, but I
18 will be contacting him tomorrow because I do
19 have an appointment Thursday morning with
20 Mr. O'Hora and I would like to get a lot of
21 this resolved and especially to put the
22 people at ease in the flood areas as to when
23 the alarm goes off how they can expect that
24 if it's a false alarm or whatever and just
25 some of the programs and information that

1 you would require, so I don't really believe
2 that's been handled, maybe like a community
3 meeting of that area at some point once we
4 get the information together.

5 Let's see here, I just wrote notes,
6 I don't make a lot of stuff tonight.
7 Nonprofits. I know there was an article in
8 the paper regarding Mrs. Evans and in my
9 interview and in my belief I do believe the
10 condition the city is in we have to rely on
11 the nonprofits to help us out here. Now, at
12 what route do we take, you know, the Times
13 put an editorial in that tried to direct us,
14 as they usually do, but I don't think we
15 have any answer yet. This is not a single
16 problem in Scranton. This -- the whole
17 state is suffering now. Many of the cities
18 that are county seats and hold a lot of
19 nonprofits are in the same position we are
20 in and I think more now than ever there is a
21 rumbling across the state and I believe
22 Mr. Rogan read an article last week
23 regarding that, and so we are going to look
24 at this methodically and do the right thing,
25 but I think they have to help us out if they

1 want to succeed here too, otherwise, if we
2 go downhill they go downhill. And I'm not
3 saying, you know, places like the Red Cross
4 or stuff like that. I mean, in my mind I'm
5 looking at the nonprofits that actually
6 have -- that are competing with profitable
7 businesses, housing, parking, restaurants,
8 just to name a few, but those are just some
9 ideas, but it's going to be a long road but
10 it's something we definitely have to look
11 at.

12 And the last item I have, and I'm
13 not an expert on bonds or anything, but I
14 received a mailing from someone, a neighbor
15 of my mother's had actually received it and
16 passed it onto me, and it's an advertisement
17 in a Florida newspaper and the advertisement
18 reads: "Tax free municipal bonds, double
19 barrel backed revenue general obligation 5.8
20 percent yield to maturity. The City of
21 Scranton, Pennsylvania, Parking Authority
22 revenue bonds guaranteed by the City of
23 Scranton.

24 The Parking Authority leases it's
25 parking facilities to the city, the

1 Authority operates the facilities, garages
2 and lots for the city. Parking authority
3 officers enforce meter and city parking
4 violations by issuing citations to offending
5 persons and vehicles. If in any year
6 revenues are insufficient, the City
7 guarantees to pay any deficiency by
8 including the entire amount of such
9 deficiency in it's annual budget."

10 I was shocked when I saw this. It
11 appears to be a new bond issue. Now, they
12 have a website here. I went on their
13 website and there is nothing listed or no
14 amount for this here. I was just wondering
15 if we can send a letter to the Parking
16 Authority and ask them what they are looking
17 for and what kind of bond and the amount?

18 And while I was on the website I
19 just happened to find a couple of other
20 bonds that they have issued to the city.
21 Right now there is two active Parking
22 Authority bonds. One issued in September
23 12th of 2007 in the amount of \$15,945,000.
24 Another Parking Authority bond, and it's
25 issued the say day, September 12, 2007, for

1 \$2,570,000. Scranton, Pennsylvania,
2 government bond issued July 1, 2003,
3 \$9,705,000. Sewer Authority, August 1,
4 2007, this company was busy in 2007, the
5 summer of 2007, \$7,305,000. It just seems
6 like we are borrowing and borrowing, you
7 know. I would just like to get some
8 additional information on this and see what
9 this requires.

10 I believe it was, let's see here,
11 just bear with me one second, Mr. Piccolino
12 had mentioned parking meters, parking
13 tickets. Well, if we are going to pay off
14 these bonds we better give out a lot of
15 tickets and a lot of parking violations.
16 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: I just want to piggyback
18 on that because I had also received that
19 information from Mr. Loscombe and I did
20 receive actually a bit more information from
21 the company involved, and I'm not going to
22 read the whole thing, but just some
23 interesting statements under strengths of
24 this municipal bond update. "There is no
25 legal limit on the amount of property and

1 personal taxes the city may levy allowing
2 for an increase in taxes should additional
3 revenues be necessary."

4 That's a frightening statement.
5 Maybe the challenges at the end would also
6 be of interest to the residents. "The City
7 of Scranton is rated BB stable by S & P to
8 reflect budgetary balances cured through
9 deficit financing. Scranton's largest
10 source of revenue in it's governmental
11 activity fund is the wage tax. In 2008 the
12 city suffer a loss of 6 million in it's
13 governmental activity fund."

14 And then in parentheses that is
15 defined, public safety, public works,
16 community development, and administration
17 and cultural and recreation.

18 "The loss was partially offset by
19 the \$3 million profit earned in the business
20 type activity," and in parentheses again,
21 defining business-type activity, the Parking
22 Authority and water and sewer operations.

23 So it seems that the city has
24 received \$3 million from the Parking
25 Authority, the Sewer Authority and perhaps

1 the water company, but I certainly wasn't
2 aware of any of this.

3 "The city's assets of \$318,000,000
4 exceed it's liabilities of \$269,000,000 for
5 a net asset or net worth of nearly
6 \$49,000,000 at year end December 31, 2008."

7 One has to wonder how that 25
8 percent tax increase played into all of
9 this, but just one more item, Mr. Loscombe,
10 since you indicated you would be meeting
11 with the chief?

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

13 MS. EVANS: I was going to have a
14 letter sent on this, but I think it would be
15 better for you to discuss it with him
16 personally. I have learned some very
17 upsetting news regarding the police
18 department and that is that up to ten cars,
19 police cars, are out of service and that
20 they have been sitting for quite awhile
21 awaiting repair evidently at the DPW. I
22 think also it might be helpful to talk with
23 Mr. Lynady to learn what the issue is and
24 why it's been taking so very long for these
25 police cars to be repaired and put back on

1 the road.

2 I'm hearing that officers are
3 doubling up in cars then because there are
4 not enough cars available and this is making
5 for I think a very dangerous situation for
6 the public and for our police officers and I
7 believe we need an answer on this as soon as
8 possible and what the police department and
9 the fleet managers solutions are going to be
10 to this tremendous problem. It isn't
11 something I think they can just continue to
12 postpone. Thank you. Oh, did you want to
13 say anything, Mr. Loscombe?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: I agree with you
15 totally.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
17 Mr. Joyce, do you have any comments or
18 concerns?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Excuse me, I thought
20 you had something else to say.

21 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: I failed to mention
23 one thing that I wanted to, when I mentioned
24 we are open to any suggestions, any problems
25 you may have and all of that, if you have

1 access to the Internet just go on the city
2 council website, most of our e-mail
3 addresses are there. We get forwarded to
4 those who are not, but please, that's how we
5 get a lot of our requests. Also, you can
6 call the city council office at 348-4113.
7 We are here for you.

8 And one last thing gentlemen, ladies
9 and gentlemen, in your mailbox you might
10 have received something today regarding the
11 zoning issue with the garage, I just want to
12 let you know I have taken care of that.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

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

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Last week
17 questions were raised in regard to
18 unemployment benefits with the amended the
19 budget and that there may not have been
20 ample amount of funding allocated to
21 specific accounts where those funds would be
22 drawn out of. In response to this I just
23 want to point out that there is \$90,000
24 allocated in the budget for unemployment.
25 If the employees affected in the amended

1 budget are out of work until December 31,
2 the amount of funding that would be needed
3 to cover their unemployment benefits would
4 be roughly about \$200,000. This is a very
5 high estimate might I add considering that
6 in order for this amount to be spent all
7 employees that would be laid off would have
8 to be out of work for the rest of the year.

9 With this in mind, currently we do
10 have over \$268,000 in our contingency fund.
11 In my research of past legislation, money
12 has been drawn out of the contingency fund
13 in various cases where there was shortfalls.
14 In a worst case scenario there would be
15 \$110,000 or so drawn out of the contingency
16 fund if none of the employees that would be
17 laid off in the amended budget were able to
18 find other employment.

19 It should be noted that drawing
20 funding from the contingency to cover
21 unemployment costs has been a practice that
22 was used in past budgets, and might I add,
23 to far greater of an extent that would be
24 used in the amended budget if the worst case
25 scenario occurred.

1 In fact, in Mayor Doherty's first
2 term over \$900,000 was drawn from the
3 contingency fund for unemployment purposes
4 amongst other matters.

5 In regard to the bidding threshold,
6 which is Item 5-C in the agenda, though I
7 realize that there would be an increase in
8 advertising costs along with some extra
9 labor hours associated with lowering the
10 bidding threshold, I do believe that the
11 positive aspects of lowering the threshold
12 will outweigh the costs of increased
13 advertising.

14 There are many benefits of public
15 bidding. One of those benefits is
16 transparency, as transparent competitive
17 bidding can withstand public scrutiny and,
18 therefore, limit accusations of foul play.
19 Therefore, by lowering the bidding threshold
20 there would be an increase in transparency
21 because more items would be required to go
22 out for bid.

23 A second benefit of competitive
24 bidding is obtaining lower prices for
25 services because competitive bidding can

1 attract several qualified bidders, the
2 process most often obtains the lowest cost a
3 private company can charge while achieving
4 it's own objectives. Therefore, by lowering
5 the bidding threshold we can obtain better
6 prices for items in the 10,000 to 20,000
7 range which can offset the prices that would
8 be required to advertise.

9 A third benefit of competitive
10 bidding is obtaining better information as
11 competitive bidders can produce more
12 accurate information on the conditions and
13 value of assets. Therefore, by lowering the
14 competitive -- the bidding threshold we can
15 obtain various points of view from outside
16 suppliers, therefore, not one specific
17 business will have authority to dictate
18 the value of goods and services.

19 A fourth benefit of competitive
20 bidding is curbing monopolies. When a
21 competitive bidding process is properly
22 executed and bids are rewarded on the basis
23 of lowest price combined with high quality
24 an outside company cannot exploit it's
25 monopoly to impose high prices. Therefore,

1 by lowering the bidding threshold, it can
2 allow more opportunity for smaller
3 businesses to compete in providing the city
4 with services and materials.

5 Overall, I see lowering the bidding
6 threshold as an opportunity to obtain more
7 cost effective suppliers. In addition, by
8 lowering the bidding threshold, the city can
9 have a better ability to make cost quality
10 comparisons with the suppliers that we
11 already deal with. Lowering the bidding
12 threshold will also give businesses a chance
13 to compete and the allow some smaller
14 businesses who may have not have done
15 business with the city in prior times
16 actually get a foot in the door while
17 providing the services to the city at a
18 lower price.

19 Though lowering the bidding
20 threshold can create some more work for us,
21 we must realize that when a single business
22 or select group of businesses that we
23 customary use are always getting the order
24 it can create an environment of unfair and
25 imprudent allotment of public procurement.

1 This can negatively impact the local economy
2 and lead to overspending on the city's
3 behalf.

4 Businesses are in business to
5 generate a profit, that's no surprise, and
6 the government must make purchases from
7 these businesses to carry out the services
8 that the residents need in order to provide
9 for their well-being. It should be the
10 objective of government to ensure that it's
11 procurement process maintains transparency,
12 reflects the interest of the people and
13 represents the best economic return.

14 I believe that lowering the bidding
15 threshold will help accomplish just that and
16 that's why I personally will be voting "yes"
17 to this in Sixth Order.

18 In addition to this, I have a few
19 citizens' requests that I would like to
20 address tonight. To begin, I received
21 numerous calls from Minooka residents
22 regarding the condition of Kane Street.
23 Upon taking the time to view this street, I
24 noticed that the street is in poor
25 condition, I'd say at very best. Much of

1 the road is torn up. In particular, much
2 the road appears to be damaged on Kane
3 Street right before the stop sign on Kane
4 and Stafford where the roads intersect a
5 well as by areas where Kane and Monterey
6 intersect. Mrs. Krake, with this in mind,
7 can you please send a letter to Mr. Brazil
8 asking him to repair these portions of the
9 road that are of major concern and also ask
10 him to provide a date of the completion when
11 this can be expected.

12 Along with this, I received a call
13 from a resident living on 115 Peqwest Drive
14 regarding the road condition in front of
15 their driveway. Upon visiting the
16 problematic area, I did notice that the area
17 in front of the their driveway was torn up.
18 Since the resident is an elderly person whom
19 uses a wheelchair, they explained that the
20 torn up areas often make it difficult to
21 maneuver in and out of the driveway, meaning
22 that the wheelchair often gets stuck in the
23 potholes that are in front of their house.
24 With this in mind, can you also -- well, add
25 to the letter asking them to address this

1 problematic area in front of this resident's
2 driveway and also to ask for a date of
3 completion as well.

4 I also received a request from a
5 South Scranton resident who lives on Cedar
6 Avenue between the area of Smith Restaurant
7 and Birney Avenue. The resident explained
8 that cars appear to be driving very
9 aggressively on this area of Cedar and also
10 on the initial portion of Birney Avenue
11 which the resident claims has almost caused
12 several accidents for him when his family
13 and -- or when him and his family are trying
14 to turn into their driveway. With this in
15 mind, can we please send a letter to Chief
16 Elliott making him aware of the situation
17 and ask him to handle the situation the best
18 way that he sees fit.

19 I have also been informed by a
20 resident that the 400 block of South Edwards
21 Court is in very much rough shape. The
22 resident that I spoke to informed that large
23 potholes on in the court has lead to some
24 damage to their automobile. If you could
25 please add to the letter to Mr. Brazil

1 asking him to address this.

2 And in addition to this, I received
3 one last citizen request regarding a stop
4 sign on East Park and Amherst Street. The
5 resident that I spoke to explained that the
6 stop sign is barely readable and that most
7 of the paint is worn off. If you could also
8 add this to the letter to Mr. Brazil asking
9 him to have this stop sign taken care of and
10 also to provide a date of completion, and
11 this is all I have for tonight.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.
13 Good evening. To begin, I have two business
14 items to address. I would like a
15 Right-to-Know request to the Scranton
16 Parking Authority, please, for all
17 prospectuses issued by the Scranton Parking
18 Authority for the Years 2007, 2008, and 2009
19 for the financing of any new SPA projects
20 for parking garages, for refinancing of
21 existing debt, and for the issuance of
22 municipal bonds done in conjunction with the
23 transfer of the parking garages from the
24 Scranton Redevelopment Authority to the
25 Scranton Parking Authority, whether or not

1 any of the financing from January 1, 2007,
2 to December 31, 2009, was guaranteed by the
3 City of Scranton.

4 Also, Mrs. Krake, council wishes to
5 know if the Scranton Sewer Authority applied
6 for funding from the American Recovery and
7 Reinvestment Act. If so, what is the dollar
8 amount of funding received? If not, why did
9 the Sewer Authority fail to apply or if it
10 had applied why did the SSA receive no
11 funding according to the state website? You
12 can just fax these questions to Mr. Barrett,
13 please, so that he could add them to the
14 information that we are awaiting before next
15 Tuesday.

16 Next --

17 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
18 could?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. HUGHES: On the letter to the
21 Parking Authority, I mean, after all of the
22 comments that were made tonight, I believe
23 there is probably quite a few bonds or at
24 least some bond issues before 2007 that the
25 city has guaranteed, so I think that --

1 well, your request is specifically for the
2 new garages, when you look at the existing
3 garage the Parking Authority has on
4 Washington Avenue, the addition that was put
5 on out to Mulberry, you also have the
6 garage, the old Globe Store garage that they
7 purchased, and the theatre garage, they were
8 all before 2007, I think that, I would
9 recommend that they furnish council all bond
10 issues that are guaranteed by the city.
11 These were the new bond issues and I think
12 that the ad Mr. Loscombe talked become
13 specifically mentioned the new bond -- the
14 newer bond issues, but I have no idea how
15 much debt and bonds that the Parking
16 Authority has issued, but if these bonds
17 that were referenced amount to 20 million
18 there might be another 25 million before
19 2007 that the city would be responsible for
20 on the double barrel bond, but these are
21 really -- the revenue bonds issued by the
22 Parking Authority guaranteed by the full
23 taxing -- the full taxing ability of the
24 City of Scranton in the event there is a
25 default that they don't have sufficient

1 funds from the revenue to pay the bond
2 interest or principle, the City of Scranton
3 then would have to -- if they don't have the
4 money would have to raise the taxes to make
5 that payment good because they would be
6 considered general obligation bonds so they
7 could never default.

8 MS. EVANS: Correct.

9 MR. HUGHES: And I think so that you
10 could have a better handle just not for the
11 new ones like when they built the Medallion
12 garage, that was built by the Redevelopment
13 Authority when it was completed, the
14 construction financing for that for the
15 Redevelopment Authority, the Parking
16 Authority then bought it and paid off those
17 bonds and the title was transferred from the
18 Redevelopment Authority to the Parking
19 Authority.

20 MS. EVANS: And what would and the
21 benefit have been for running that
22 originally through the Redevelopment
23 Authority and then doing this purchase slash
24 transfer to the Parking Authority.

25 MR. HUGHES: In my opinion? I

1 believe if that were looked into everything
2 is being run through the Scranton
3 Redevelopment Authority because it does not
4 have to bid. It's the only state agency
5 that does not have any bidding requirements
6 for any amount and I think if that were
7 looked into that the garages were built
8 without any bids, they were negotiated
9 contracts, because if the Parking Authority
10 did it they would have to be bid. So that
11 probably what happened, and this is I won't
12 say conjecture, I'll say it's an educated
13 opinion from me, that -- and I could never
14 figure it out until I looked into it why the
15 Parking Authority -- why the Redevelopment
16 Authority was in the parking business, but
17 it was only in the construction business and
18 that that was so that it would not have to
19 be bid. The Parking Authority could award
20 -- the Redevelopment Authority could award
21 the contracts to whomever they wanted
22 without bid. When the project was
23 completed, the Redevelopment Authority would
24 have had to have construction financing in
25 order to get the \$12 million I believe that

1 was for the garage, the Parking Authority
2 then floated the bonds in September I
3 believe of 2007 or '08, obtained \$12 1/2
4 million, paid that money to the
5 Redevelopment Authority, the Redevelopment
6 Authority then conveyed the parking garage
7 to the Scranton Parking Authority who now
8 owns it and those bonds, of course, were
9 guaranteed by council and I believe that
10 you, Madam President, voted against that.

11 The reason the City of Scranton
12 guarantees it is because revenue bonds are
13 extremely risky. In the event the revenue
14 is not there there would be a default. The
15 interest rate to be much higher than it is.
16 I believe that the ad that Mr. Loscombe had
17 was those bonds were floated at 5 and
18 quarter percent and they are now selling
19 about 92 which means \$920 on a \$1,000 bond
20 to give a note of maturity of 5.8 percent.
21 That with the city's guarantee of it's
22 taxing power to back those bonds so they
23 could never default, the interest rate would
24 be lower.

25 A classic example is the West

1 Virginia Turnpike bonds. When the
2 interstate highway was put in, an interstate
3 went right next to the West Virginia
4 turnpike. Those bonds were defaulted and
5 virtually worthless. Nobody goes on the
6 Turnpike because they can go on the
7 interstate down to West Virginia that runs
8 parallel to it for nothing, and that's
9 why -- that was a strict revenue bond, they
10 are virtually worthless.

11 MS. EVANS: I see. Thank you very
12 much. Next, I wish to allay any fears
13 caused by Mr. McGoff's scare tactics at last
14 week's meeting regarding council budget
15 amendments. There is money allocated in the
16 mayor's 2010 budget for the opening of
17 pools, for pool chemicals which, in fact,
18 were already put out for bid, and for
19 lifeguards at every city pool. City council
20 did not touch those allocations. If for any
21 reason the city pools fail to open this
22 summer, it will be due only to the
23 administration's vindictiveness.

24 As I stated, the money is in place
25 and all workers as well as the project

1 administrator, the park and recreations
2 specialist and the secretary are actively
3 employed. Until council cut three
4 management positions from parks and rec,
5 there were five management positions to
6 oversee nine employees.

7 It is very important to note one
8 significant change made by Mr. Doherty and
9 Mr. Renda to the Parks and Recreation
10 Department in the 2010 budget. Again, this
11 change was made by the administration.
12 Account number 01.100.00000.4040 entitled,
13 "Other salary miscellaneous," was cut by 31
14 percent from \$415,722 in 2009 to \$285,000 in
15 2010.

16 Page 62 of the 2010 budget includes
17 the following statement: "Other salary,
18 which primarily represents casual employees
19 hired in the summertime to run the pools
20 decreased compared to the prior year."

21 So it appears that that has been
22 very likely the mayor's intention all along.
23 Council did not make this change. Again,
24 since council did not reduce the budget
25 allocation for city swimming pools and

1 lifeguards, the mayor must take full
2 responsibility if even one of our city pools
3 does not open this coming June.

4 Ladies and gentlemen, the scare
5 tactics and suppositions used by Mr. McGoff
6 are stunningly false. If he wished to offer
7 accurate information, Mr. McGoff would have
8 cited the cuts to summer casual workers and
9 lifeguards already made by the mayor. He
10 didn't mention that at budget time and he
11 purposefully didn't mention that during his
12 comments throughout the last three weeks.
13 It does seem he may be hoping to shift the
14 blame from the mayor to this council.

15 In addition, contrary to what
16 Mr. McGoff stated, programs at Weston Field
17 and Nay Aug will not be cut. Funding for
18 these programs remains the same. Again,
19 should these programs change in any way it
20 will be the administration's fault and a
21 spiteful blow to the citizens of Scranton.

22 Regarding OECD, the mayor himself
23 has made cuts to this department in the past
24 years. As Mr. Doherty says, government is
25 not an employment agency and these salaries

1 are paid with federal tax dollars so it is
2 still waste.

3 Mr. McGoff also stated that the DPW
4 and law department functions will be
5 compromised. Some of these positions were
6 job creations made by the mayor. For
7 example, in the DPW, the mayor cut the
8 traffic maintenance foreman, but then
9 created a new position for the same
10 individual as foreman number two in the DPW
11 highways departments. Who did that work
12 before the mayor created this job?

13 In the legal department, the
14 assistance solicitor's position was created
15 in 2004 in order to give a job to the
16 attorney who had just been terminated as
17 city council solicitor. Under council
18 budget amendments, the legal department will
19 continue to employ the city solicitor, one
20 full-time assistant city solicitor, one
21 part-time city solicitor, one paralegal and
22 one confidential secretary for a staff of
23 five employees with a compliment of Attorney
24 Carl Greco and a myriad of law firms to whom
25 work is outsourced. The allegation that

1 either the DPW or legal departments are
2 compromised is spectacularly false.

3 Mr. McGoff also asked why the 7.5
4 percent formula was applied to all
5 departments. Well, there apparently was no
6 formula used for management raises since
7 2007. Furthermore, the voter approved
8 Recovery Plan which was adamantly supported
9 by the mayor outlawed such raises. Council
10 is following the Recovery Plan for the
11 mayor.

12 In addition, Mr. McGoff explanations
13 of 0 percent funding provided for positions
14 which have been filled since January 1
15 doesn't seem logical. When employees bump
16 into other positions the people who would
17 bumped were still being paid as they
18 remained in the jobs in the new year while
19 zero dollars were allocated to pay the
20 traffic maintenance bureau as those
21 employees continued to work.

22 Further, council is not exercising
23 management rights. It is simply cutting
24 positions and decreasing salaries in it's
25 amendments. As Mr. McGoff stated, the

1 mayor's 2010 budget does, in fact, raise
2 revenue in parking permit and rental
3 registration fees. However, there is still
4 a structural deficit and his budget isn't
5 balanced.

6 Consequently, Mr. McGoff comments
7 regarding council's budget amendments smack
8 of supposition and scare tactics. In short,
9 it doesn't pass the smell test. I believe
10 the taxpayers are wise enough to recognize
11 who stands up and works for them and who
12 doesn't.

13 Finally, I have a few citizens'
14 requests for the week. A city resident
15 reports that the block of Jefferson Avenue
16 in which the Mercy Hospital is located has
17 "No Parking" signs on both sides of the
18 street, nevertheless, there are cars parked
19 on both sides which narrows a very busy
20 street. The resident feels these cars
21 should be ticketed to increase safety and
22 parking ticket revenue.

23 A city resident reports that the
24 sidewalks of the former Tom and Jerry's
25 Restaurant in South Side are covered with

1 snow and ice. Please inform the owners of
2 the building to clear the sidewalks in
3 accordance with city ordinance.

4 In response to Minooka residents
5 complaints, letters have been sent to the
6 business involved in the trucking operations
7 and the post office to inform them of the
8 problems created by idling trucks and
9 requesting that as good neighbors each will
10 work for the benefit of the homeowners of
11 the area to address the problems.

12 And, Mrs. Krake, if you would please
13 locate the noise and air pollution city
14 ordinances for council and distribute them
15 to each member just in the event we may need
16 them for future reference.

17 A city resident reported yesterday
18 that the Mulberry Street sidewalk next to
19 city hall was not properly cleared of snow.
20 Only a path was cleared, thereby preventing
21 wheelchair accessibility. In addition, the
22 handicapped accessible curbs throughout the
23 downtown were not properly cleared. Please
24 address these issues ASAP and in future snow
25 events clear these areas for the safety of

1 our disabled residents. In addition, please
2 clear all city bridges.

3 A letter to the ECTV: Council has
4 received complaints that ECTV has failed to
5 implement the streaming of government
6 meetings on a website. Residents state that
7 they no longer can afford cable television
8 and resort to the Internet as a substitute.
9 Please provide a date by which ECTV will
10 provide this service promised in it's
11 proposal to the city. Council requests a
12 written response on or before March 24,
13 2010.

14 A letter to the mayor and business
15 administrator: Please notify the television
16 and radio stations of all city hall closings
17 so that citizens will not venture out to
18 perform their city business at such time.

19 A letter to Mr. Brazil: Residents
20 of East Mountain and Bellevue complained
21 over the last several days that their
22 garbage has not been collected. Please
23 provide council with a schedule of garbage
24 pickup following snow events.

25 And finally, a letter to the

1 Scranton Housing Authority and the DPW
2 asking them to clear the snow from public
3 housing areas, particularly those areas that
4 provide shelter for our senior citizens, and
5 that's it.

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
8 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT
9 FUNDS FROM THE BJA FY 09 EDWARD BYRNE
10 MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)
11 PROGRAM LOCAL SOLICITATION IN THE AMOUNT OF
12 \$50,618.00 AND DISBURSE SAID FUNDS IN
13 ACCORDANCE WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION.

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

17 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

18 MR. ROGAN: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
20 those in favor of introduction signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

24 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

25 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
3 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE
4 CODE OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
5 SECTION 6-14-CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (A) TO
6 REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE
7 BIDDING IS REQUIRED FROM \$20,000.00 TO
8 \$10,000.00, AND TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE
9 WHICH QUOTES MUST BE OBTAINED FROM \$5,000.00
10 TO \$4,000.00.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. This piece of
18 legislation just seems to make complete
19 sense to me. You know, by reducing the
20 amount from 20,000 to 10,000, which must be
21 competitively bid, we not only -- it is not
22 only pro taxpayer, but it's probusiness as
23 well. You know, the way this is currently
24 done, you know, smaller businesses don't
25 always have the chance to compete for these

1 contracts and with doing this not only do we
2 give other businesses a chance to compete
3 with the larger businesses, we also have the
4 opportunity to save a lot of money for the
5 city when we have three or four or five or
6 however many companies bidding on a
7 proposal, you know, they are going to try --
8 they're obviously going to try and go as low
9 as they can to beat out the other companies.
10 So, therefore, I will be voting "yes" to
11 save the taxpayers money and to help
12 businesses in this area.

13 (Whereupon Mr. McGoff enters council
14 chambers and takes the dais.)

15 MS. EVANS: I think I'll add to
16 that, this legislation was drafted by
17 Solicitor Hughes at the request of council.
18 In an effort to save money and prevent
19 fractured bidding, council intends to lower
20 the bidding threshold from \$20,000 to
21 \$10,000.

22 Further, additional funding has been
23 allocated in council's budget amendments for
24 the increased cost of advertising for bids.
25 Also, advertising for bids not only opens

1 the process to more businesses and places
2 all on a level playing field, but also
3 offers the city a larger pool of potential
4 bidders which directly affects competition
5 among bidders. And as all of my council
6 colleagues have indicated, the more light we
7 shed on the bidding process the more savings
8 to the city and city taxpayers. Anyone else
9 on the question? All those in favor signify
10 by saying aye.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
18 motion to schedule a public hearing on this
19 piece of legislation March 9, 2010, at 6:00,
20 and to authorize the city clerk to place the
21 necessary ad into the Scranton Times.

22 MS. EVANS: A motion has been made,
23 we need a second.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT
10 TIMLIN, 325 WARREN STREET, SCRANTON,
11 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE
12 SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR AN
13 ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR. TIMLIN'S
14 CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2010 AND
15 HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 5,
16 2015.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, I would
18 like to make a motion to table 5-D.

19 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
20 floor, is there a second?

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question?

23 MR. MCGOFF: Reason for tabling?

24 MS. EVANS: Yes. Council office has
25 contacted Mr. Timlin by phone without any

1 success, therefore, Mr. Timlin will receive
2 a letter this week requesting a resume and a
3 cover letter and when council receives this
4 information will place the legislation back
5 on the agenda and certainly we are hoping
6 that Mr. Timlin will reply in a timely
7 manner to enable the process to move
8 forward.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'd like to add, I
10 mean, I don't know Mr. Timlin personally,
11 but our new council has instituted this
12 program where anyone appointed to boards, I
13 realize he apparently is already a member
14 but he is looking for a renewed five years,
15 that goes for new appointees or renewals, we
16 are looking for information, as Mrs. Evans
17 has mentioned, and that's why I'm tabling
18 it.

19 MR. ROGAN: I agree with
20 Mr. Loscombe as well. I have never met
21 Mr. Timlin and I wouldn't feel comfortable
22 voting "yes" without all of the information.

23 MS. EVANS: All those this favor
24 signify by saying aye. All those in favor
25 signify by saying aye.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
8 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
9 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
10 - FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 8, 2010 -
11 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
12 CITY OFFICIALS TO TERMINATE THE EXISTING
13 NAUTILUS INSURANCE POLICY AND EXECUTE AND
14 ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH KNOWLES
15 ASSOCIATES L.L.C FOR INSURANCE WITH NAUTILUS
16 INSURANCE COMPANY FOR COVERAGE FOR THE
17 PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2010 THROUGH JANUARY 1,
18 2011 IN ORDER TO CONFORM WITH THE CITY'S
19 OTHER INSURANCE POLICIES AS WELL AS
20 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
21 REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION OF THE
22 WATERSLIDES AND POOL COMPLEX AT NAY AUG
23 PARK.

24 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
25 Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-A.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
4 call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
15 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. I
16 will entertain a motion to adjourn?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I'm sorry to be late,
20 did anybody mention the benefit via the
21 dinner for the Blasi family?

22 MS. EVANS: No, but please do.

23 MR. MCGOFF: There is a benefit
24 spaghetti for the Dominick and Marilyn Blasi
25 family. They were burned out of their home,

1 a house fire on February 15 of this year.
2 The takeouts spaghetti dinner benefit is at
3 Villa Marie II on March 7 from noon to five
4 p.m. and the cost is \$10. That's Villa
5 Marie II, March 7, noon to five p.m. and the
6 cost is \$10. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
8 I thank all of you for your participation as
9 well and now I will entertain a motion to
10 adjourn.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Motion to adjourn.

12 MS. EVANS: 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