

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

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR  
(Not present)

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. AGENDA FOR THE  
16 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE  
17 HELD APRIL 14, 2010.

18 MS. EVANS: We have clerk's notes  
19 and then we will reconvene with Mr. Austin  
20 Burke from the Chamber of Commerce in order  
21 that Councilman Loscombe and Joyce may pose  
22 their questions.

23 MS. KRAKE: We received a phone call  
24 today from Brenda LaRoche, she is the deputy  
25 regional director of the US Department of

1           Housing and Urban Development. She called  
2           to say that she would be pleased to come to  
3           council and to a public caucus, but they  
4           needed because of medical leave and prior  
5           commitments approximately a four-week time  
6           span and we told her that would be fine and  
7           there is going to be some correspondence  
8           between our office and HUD and then we'll  
9           set a date for a public caucus.

10           MS. EVANS: Very good.

11           MS. KRAKE: We received from  
12           Mrs. Novembrino in the Controller's Office a  
13           response to the question about how much  
14           overtime has been spent on the fire  
15           department so far. That has been  
16           \$149,162.45. The total allotted for the  
17           year is 400,000.

18           MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19           MS. KRAKE: Our next response is  
20           from Liz Renda, the open records officer at  
21           Scranton Parking Authority. They answered  
22           our Right-to-Know request with a package  
23           that we received in the mail today and soon  
24           our solicitor will be reviewing that so  
25           before we put it out to the public possibly

1 we will wait for Mr. Hughes to take a look  
2 at that.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MS. KRAKE: They did ask us for \$93.  
5 We had sent them a letter for council's  
6 direction saying that we would be more than  
7 willing to make the copies in our office,  
8 but apparently they ignored that went right  
9 ahead and made the copies and sent us a bill  
10 for that.

11 We also received a phone call from  
12 Gerald Cross, the executive director of the  
13 Pennsylvania Economy League. Due to an  
14 illness in his family and an illness that he  
15 himself is experiencing, he was not able to  
16 send a letter and reply to our request for  
17 them to meet in public, here in a public  
18 caucus meeting, but he will be sending a  
19 letter shortly and he is going to discuss  
20 that with his colleagues and let us know.

21 MS. EVANS: Very good.

22 MS. KRAKE: Also today we had Frank  
23 Swietnicki, the head of our IT Department  
24 stop by the office to tell us that he would  
25 be available for a public caucus on April 13

1 and 16.

2 MS. EVANS: Very good.

3 MS. KRAKE: And our last one is  
4 Mr. Burke, who is seated here tonight.  
5 That's all we have.

6 MS. EVANS: Very good. And, Mrs.  
7 Krake, if you would speak with Attorney  
8 Hughes upon his return to council regarding  
9 that invoice from the Scranton Parking  
10 Authority and then we will handle it  
11 according to his advice.

12 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Burke.

14 MR. BURKE: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you so much for  
16 remaining with us, and at this time we will  
17 turn the floor over to Councilman Loscombe.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mrs.  
19 Evans. Mr. Burke, I appreciate your  
20 patience. I don't have 15 questions, just a  
21 couple. Let's see here, where are they at,  
22 I'm all over here. Does the Chamber of  
23 Commerce have a sufficient amount of tracks  
24 of land within the City of Scranton that  
25 they are, you know, showing perspective

1 clients to or at least industrial/commercial  
2 type like the Mt. Pleasant site?

3 MR. BURKE: Well, I think that Mt.  
4 Pleasant will hold us for the short-term in  
5 offering an attractive office site. I think  
6 we can support, you know, a thousand  
7 employees over there. For a larger site  
8 right now the only land that's near  
9 development is out by Marywood right next to  
10 81 there. It's the site the culm bank used  
11 to be on, a good portion of that is being  
12 taken by the National Guard and Reserve to  
13 put that facility in there, but while there  
14 is some land available there, Mr. Loscombe,  
15 part of the problem is let's say we put a  
16 manufacturer in there, we might have to  
17 bring them down and across Parker Street and  
18 then back up to the site or you may have to  
19 bring them to Greenridge and, you know,  
20 that's not a -- that's not a good situation.

21 Scranton is challenged  
22 topographically. There is only so much  
23 level land and that's mostly downtown  
24 Scranton, besides that you are going up the  
25 sides of hills either West Mountain or East

1 Mountain. It's also very intensively  
2 developed. I mean, it's an older community,  
3 what from the 1850's, so you are talking  
4 150, 160 years old, and people used to live  
5 near the book bindery or near the Lace Works  
6 or near the mines so all of those houses are  
7 crowded in there, so while you do have some  
8 pieces of property, the easiest ones have  
9 already been developed, the Keyser Avenue  
10 Industrial Park where Quadrant is right now.  
11 Stauffer Industrial Park was former railroad  
12 yards.

13 So the answer is that based on what  
14 the need is both yes and no. Right now we  
15 have a company that's looking for 50 flat  
16 acres for a distribution center and I really  
17 don't think that we have a site in the city  
18 of Scranton that could meet that particular  
19 need.

20 Now, what that also says to us  
21 though is we don't want to go out and try to  
22 recruit distribution centers to the City of  
23 Scranton. You'd have higher value added  
24 jobs in offices and there you can support  
25 them downtown, in the Mt. Pleasant office



1 park or someone mentioned earlier the  
2 facility -- the old Capital Records  
3 facility. I was just told that that may be  
4 available. Well, between the empty land  
5 that's around there for parking and a  
6 conversion of that building, you can put a  
7 lot of jobs -- a lot of good jobs in a  
8 facility like that and the Lace Works, is  
9 Mr. Morgan-- where is he at? Oh, there he  
10 is. He is not paying attention now, but he  
11 had mentioned both of them, reuse of a  
12 number of these things makes good sense.  
13 That does take an investment though, it's  
14 generally more expensive to develop urban  
15 land, just the Mt. Pleasant property is a  
16 Brownfield site that we have recovered, up  
17 in Jessup let's say cost us \$70,000 an acre  
18 to level off the land, put in the roads,  
19 water and sewer, over in Mt. Pleasant it  
20 cost us \$250,000 an acre. You had severe  
21 mine problems, you had a difficult site to  
22 work with and so on, so it's a challenge,  
23 Mr. Loscombe, it's a challenge.

24 But I think one of the things that  
25 can help us, especially if we work together

1 on it, is first identify the good family  
2 sustaining jobs that we want with a view of  
3 not only the labor force and the other  
4 infrastructure we had, but also how land  
5 intensive their use is so that an office  
6 building that can go up six stories or eight  
7 stories we had more options in the city for  
8 that sort of thing, and the same is true  
9 with certain manufacturing. You get more  
10 jobs per acre, put it that way, for several  
11 types of manufacturing than you do for  
12 distribution. Does that address your  
13 question?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: That addresses it.  
15 Thank you. I think you touched on a little  
16 bit, but when you are selling the city to  
17 these companies do the services in the city  
18 benefit us versus some surrounding areas  
19 based on, you know, full-time fire, police,  
20 and --

21 MR. BURKE: Yes. Diversified is  
22 here in part because the people that -- or  
23 their records with Diversified needed a  
24 certain community rating of fire service and  
25 the fact that we have a paid fire with, you

1 know, certain response times and everything  
2 else, worked well for us, worked in our  
3 favor. Yes. The fact that Scranton is the  
4 let's say the sixth safest metropolitan area  
5 is something that we advertise because, one,  
6 it's easier for business; but, two, it's  
7 better for the employees to live and work in  
8 safe communities, so those are positives  
9 that we have.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, and my  
11 final question is basically like three  
12 parts. What is your opinion of the KOZ's  
13 and KOEZ's? Have they been utilized  
14 properly and have they lived up to their  
15 expectations at this point?

16 MR. BURKE: I believe that the  
17 KOZ-KOEZ programs are the most successful  
18 economic development tool that Pennsylvania  
19 has put together. You know, one example is  
20 the Scranton Enterprise Center, business  
21 incubator. We have been able to locate  
22 companies in there because of the KOZ tax  
23 benefits. The big benefit, the city taxes  
24 on an office building for real estate are  
25 say three, four dollars a square foot, let's

1 say \$3 a square foot, so they would save  
2 that with the KOZ status, but the fact of  
3 the matter is when you are dealing with SRA  
4 International or TMG, they're Pennsylvania  
5 corporations, they are subject to a 9  
6 percent corporate net income tax, so while  
7 they may save let's say \$20,000 on their  
8 real estate tax savings, they save millions  
9 of dollars on the Pennsylvania tax savings  
10 and that's what the real attraction of the  
11 KOZ's are, and so the property that we have  
12 in Jessup which is a KOZ property it's only  
13 been developed a few years, we have a  
14 million square foot of buildings that are  
15 constructed there and operating and there is  
16 let's say \$1,200 employees working there and  
17 from the Scranton Plan that Mrs. Evans  
18 mentioned, let's say we get 80 companies a  
19 year that are inquiring about new  
20 facilities, the first question they are  
21 asking now is it KOZ, is it KOZ? One  
22 company is from Germany, another is from  
23 Italy and they know KOZ. I guess tax  
24 savings is an international language, but  
25 they only want to look at KOZ sites.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just a comment, I  
2 have to agree with you, I believe KOZ's are  
3 definitely a benefit, but I think in  
4 hindsight there were some teeth they forget  
5 to put in this plan as far as the jobs that  
6 were promised. There is a lot of KOZ's that  
7 gobbled up some of that area that haven't  
8 even functioned to this point and it's  
9 almost over. But, I mean, I agree with the  
10 concept, but if something like that comes  
11 down the road again it would have to be  
12 looked at a little deeper to benefit the  
13 maximum amount.

14 MR. BURKE: I agree with you. It is  
15 not a perfect program, and quite honestly,  
16 it's been abused in certain places in the  
17 past, but I think what that means is that  
18 maybe we have to sit down together and say,  
19 "What are your concerns, what are your  
20 concerns, what are businesses concerns?"  
21 What are they looking for and see if we  
22 can't craft a solution.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mr. Burke.  
24 That's all I have.

25 MR. BURKE: My pleasure.

1 MS. EVANS: Councilman Joyce.

2 MR. BURKE: Mr. Joyce.

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Actually the other  
4 council members actually asked you probably  
5 about half of my questions, but my first  
6 question is regarding POWER, professionals  
7 organized and working to enrich the Region.  
8 What efforts are currently underway by POWER  
9 to attract other professionals to come back  
10 to the City of Scranton?

11 MR. BURKE: Their efforts are  
12 primarily through the Rediscover Scranton  
13 effort. What we have done is we have kind  
14 of merged the programs into one connected  
15 website, and so much here you have POWER  
16 providing the content, if you would, for our  
17 Rediscover Scranton communications. We  
18 feature POWER members, what they are doing  
19 and their jobs and their testimonials that  
20 this is a great place to live and work and  
21 send that out, but then all of those POWER  
22 activities that we have whether they are,  
23 you know, meeting at the University or  
24 downtown or wherever, we send those out to  
25 the 4,000 plus people in that other database

1 and we ask those people to get involved with  
2 POWER even if it's just the electronically.

3 MR. JOYCE: Okay. On the Rediscover  
4 Scranton website I saw that there is a  
5 number to call if one would like to  
6 volunteer and help out with Rediscover  
7 Scranton, and for those who may be watching  
8 that would like to help could you please  
9 provide, you know, what volunteers would  
10 likely do.

11 MR. BURKE: Well, the different  
12 activities, we had a POWER meeting over at  
13 the Radisson and we had some different  
14 speakers and they helped organize the  
15 meeting and help promote it, help do  
16 elements like that. For other activities,  
17 let's say they were going to be involved in  
18 Nay Aug Park, if you recall the Hanlon's  
19 Grove project where we are trying to  
20 reconstruct that and have something there,  
21 you know, maybe they get together for a  
22 painting party or, you know, again, just a  
23 nuts and bolts of the logistics of that.  
24 And then finally, we have great things  
25 happening there. Let's take that School of

1           Architecture again and it was POWER people  
2           that held -- that first identified that and  
3           then made the arrangements and then, you  
4           know, had an educational session up at  
5           Marywood University, so there is a number of  
6           roles in there as well. So I think the  
7           possibilities are going to be governed by  
8           the enthusiasm and the interest of the  
9           people that want to get involved. Everyone  
10          brings their own qualities, their own  
11          talents to it.

12                   MR. JOYCE: And I understand that,  
13           you know, the main goals of POWER and  
14           Rediscover Scranton are to attract people to  
15           come back to the area and particularly,  
16           focusing on young professionals. How many  
17           young professionals have POWER and  
18           Rediscover Scranton attracted back to this  
19           area?

20                   MR. BURKE: I don't have an answer  
21           to that. You know, anecdotically we  
22           identify them and we feature them as often  
23           as possible, but I'm not even sure, you  
24           know, I think one important thing for us as  
25           a community to recognize is that no one



1 individual succeeds in anything by  
2 themselves. It takes a partnership, it  
3 takes everybody pulling together, whether  
4 it's building Montage or getting someone to  
5 relocate back here, but the reality is if we  
6 want someone to move here there has to be  
7 some employment opportunities for them or  
8 some investment opportunities for them that  
9 takes a lot in the way of contacts and work  
10 and we have members of the Chamber, our  
11 members, that are telling me, gee, would you  
12 send some financing information to this  
13 buddy of mine, he has this business in  
14 Baltimore but he could do it here and he is  
15 tired of living in Baltimore, so we send  
16 those things out. Maybe a year later that  
17 guy moves up, well you can't say that was a  
18 POWER success or a Rediscover Scranton  
19 success, it was a community success.

20 MR. JOYCE: Right, so it's tough to  
21 quantify.

22 MR. BURKE: Yes.

23 MR. JOYCE: Actually, I just wanted  
24 to talk about small business for a little  
25 while. I understand that MetroAction is the

1 small business and community development arm  
2 of the Chamber and provides micro loans to  
3 help support small businesses that do not  
4 have access to some of the traditional lines  
5 of credit, and I was wondering what is the  
6 criteria for a business to receive one of  
7 these loans?

8 MR. BURKE: Well, first let me say  
9 that we have made 250 micro loans totaling  
10 3.1 dollars over the last let's say five  
11 years. Twenty percent of those were to  
12 businesses here in the City of Scranton,  
13 companies like Dyonisis, Outrageous, and  
14 Anthology, Stalter's Cafe, Learn and Grow  
15 Child Care. The qualifications of -- some  
16 have to do with credit qualifications. You  
17 know, it used to be that if someone had a  
18 credit score of let's say 580 a bank  
19 wouldn't touch them and we would make a loan  
20 like that, but we wouldn't go down to  
21 someone who had a 300 credit score who was  
22 in bankruptcy 17 times and never paid their  
23 bills. We are not giving money away, we are  
24 trying to lend it, but an interesting thing  
25 has happened since the credit crunch that we

1           have. First, the credit scores of the  
2           people coming in applying for it are now  
3           more like 680, meaning they would have been  
4           eligible for bank loans two years ago, but  
5           now they are not. And then the second thing  
6           that's happened is it's a one-year period, I  
7           think it ended in February, last year we had  
8           440 preapplication inquiries, this year we  
9           had 1,150 over the same time period,  
10          essentially more than double which shows  
11          what the demand is.

12                        So the qualifications for is, one,  
13           you have to have a business plan and if you  
14           come in, most of these companies don't have  
15           business plans, so we help them develop it  
16           and most of that help is given through the  
17           University of Scranton Small Business  
18           Development Center or we have the SCORE  
19           Chapter, the Service Corp of Retired  
20           Executives, they will help with the business  
21           plans. Once the business plans are done and  
22           we have the credit reports and the other  
23           financial statements, then a loan review  
24           committee will meet. Sometimes it generates  
25           more questions and then a decision is made

1           whether to make that loan or not make that  
2           loan. Does this address that?

3                   MR. JOYCE: Yes, it definitely does.  
4           I also understand that SIDCO, Scranton  
5           Industrial Development Company provides  
6           loans to businesses up to \$75,000 that are  
7           repayable in five year terms. What are the  
8           requirements for someone to engine in this  
9           type of loan.

10                   MR. BURKE: Essentially the  
11           requirements are very, very similar. We  
12           would need to see the business reason for  
13           the loan and SIDCO -- there is two  
14           circumstances that SIDCO has traditionally  
15           been involved in, one is when you have a  
16           small business and they are doing fine, they  
17           are going along like that then they had a  
18           chance at a contract, but they need another  
19           \$100,000 in working capital to buy the  
20           inventory to put it together, to do it, and  
21           so that's a good loan to make for all of the  
22           right reasons and it allows these companies  
23           to expand in the city.

24                   The second problem is if these guys  
25           are going along like this and suffering a

1 reversal, you know, a bunch of their  
2 inventory goes bad or is obsolete and they  
3 have to rebuild to stay in business, those  
4 are typical SIDCO types of loans. But  
5 again, the requirements are the same  
6 generally speaking. Credit worthiness,  
7 business plan and their business.

8 One thing about SIDCO, which I find  
9 interesting, I find a lot of stuff about  
10 this community interesting, but the Scranton  
11 Industrial Development Company was formed in  
12 1913 and it was formed in 1913 because  
13 Lackawanna County Iron and Steel moved out  
14 of the Lackawanna valley to get better  
15 access to coal and lyme stone and steel up  
16 in Buffalo, New York. That little town  
17 called Lackawanna, New York, is where the  
18 Bethlehem steel mill relocated, so the  
19 community leaders at that time said, "Gee,  
20 nothing lasts forever, we have to diversify  
21 our economy, we have to invest in other  
22 industries," and so they were really looking  
23 to the future. That could be the first -- I  
24 don't know, I should find a way of figuring  
25 out where the first industrial development

1           company was, but SIDCO was certainly one of  
2           the earliest.

3                   MR. JOYCE: Okay. I was going to  
4           ask you about the SCORE chapter a little  
5           bit, but I'm assuming that the function of  
6           that is for people that have a wealth of  
7           experience in business to offer a service to  
8           newcomers and help guide them along;  
9           correct?

10                   MR. BURKE: That is correct, and  
11           what's happening now it's under a -- some  
12           new -- they have some new enthusiastic  
13           volunteers there and they have opened up  
14           where you don't have to be a retired  
15           executive right now. If people are out  
16           there working and they have experience in  
17           marketing or experience in accounting or  
18           whatever and they want to help their  
19           community they can volunteer as SCORE  
20           volunteers, so that's going to enrich the  
21           ranks and put a little more vim and vigor  
22           into the thing.

23                   MR. JOYCE: Okay. In order for an  
24           individual who may be looking at starting a  
25           new business, as far as their qualifications

1           for a loan, micro loan through MetroAction  
2           or anything through SIDCO, is it required  
3           that they are a member of the Chamber of  
4           Commerce first before they are considered?

5                   MR. BURKE: No. No. We make loans  
6           to any number of businesses and these micro  
7           loans, many of these businesses are too  
8           small that they can -- I don't want to say,  
9           you know, the Chamber of Commerce we have  
10          2,000 members, 1/3 of them are from the City  
11          of Scranton, about 700, another 1/3 are from  
12          elsewhere in Lackawanna County, and then 1/3  
13          from outside Lackawanna County in the  
14          surrounding counties primarily, and of those  
15          2,000 members I would estimate that 70, 75  
16          percent of them have ten or less employees.  
17          So we have those 2,000 members, there is  
18          probably 6,000 companies in Lackawanna  
19          County, so we have a, you know, 20 percent,  
20          30 percent, whatever the numbers are, 30  
21          percent market penetration.

22                   MR. JOYCE: My next question is  
23          about the Commonwealth Medical College. The  
24          construction of the medical college I'm  
25          assuming that the Chamber is using it as a

1 marketing tool to attract newer and, like  
2 you said, businesses in the bioscience field  
3 into the area. With this in mind do you  
4 possibly foresee a major pharmaceutical  
5 manufacturer possibly considering the  
6 Scranton area in the future because of the  
7 college?

8 MR. BURKE: That's a very  
9 interesting question. You know, Sanofi  
10 Pasteur already here, now they are major  
11 that's 2,000, 2,500 people. Again, looking  
12 at the labor demands, if you were going to  
13 bring in a company that needed 100 post grad  
14 PhD's in biochemistry, they know they are  
15 going to have recruit them nationally, but  
16 that's a good number. I guess my answer  
17 would be I don't see us relocating a  
18 Sanofi-sized organization into the community  
19 in one fell swoop. What I do see is  
20 recruiting a number of smaller companies  
21 that could -- that have the potential to  
22 grow into Sanofi. You know, Sanofi at one  
23 time had 50 or 100 employees. That's what I  
24 see as being more likely for our future.  
25 Again, it's going to be incrementalism where



1 we attract a number of smaller but good  
2 companies and put them in fertile ground so  
3 that they can grow here in this area.

4 MR. JOYCE: That concludes the  
5 questions I have.

6 MS. EVANS: Just as a follow-up to  
7 one of Mr. Joyce's questions concerning  
8 these small business loans, are these low  
9 interest loans?

10 MR. BURKE: No, they aren't, and the  
11 reason is that let's say a bank has loan  
12 loss ratio of 1 1/2 percent or something  
13 like that, I think our experience is in the  
14 9 to 11 percent range, that is, these loans  
15 that you make they go bad. People just go  
16 bankrupt and you don't get paid.

17 MS. EVANS: They are high risk.

18 MR. BURKE: Hum?

19 MS. EVANS: They are high risk?

20 MR. BURKE: Oh, yes, they are high  
21 risk loans, so you need try to generate some  
22 dollars to cover the lost capital that's  
23 there. Having said that, they are a cost to  
24 the Chamber, and by that I mean our  
25 administrative fees are low, we only charge

1           like \$200 for processing a \$20,000 loan  
2           which means that for me to pay for the  
3           staff, and there is three direct staff  
4           involved in it, and then my financial staff,  
5           of course, them we have to subsidize that,  
6           you know, 80 to \$100,000 a year.

7                         Now when we say that they aren't low  
8           cost loans, I believe that they are probably  
9           running in the 8 or 9 percent range right  
10          now, but the only alternative available to  
11          some of these companies is to put it on  
12          their credit cards, and they are paying 18  
13          to 21 percent, so relatively speaking, but I  
14          don't want anybody to think they are going  
15          to come in and we are going to give them a 2  
16          percent loan just because we can't do that.

17                        MS. EVANS: Yes. And just one last  
18          question that you might be able to help us  
19          with, we have so many new developments in  
20          the downtown that are great improvement  
21          esthetically quite pleasing, but, for  
22          example, the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue  
23          has no tenants at this time other than the  
24          let us say four prior tenants within that  
25          block, the Steamtown Mall seems to be

1           experiencing all-time high vacancy rate,  
2           Daron Northeast in Greenridge has  
3           constructed office space quite a number of  
4           years ago and it still remains vacant. We  
5           have, for example, the Southern Union which  
6           I'm sure is not at full building capacity,  
7           what do you feel can be done to turn the  
8           corner and fill these vacancies, fill the  
9           empty office space in some buildings, in  
10          fact as I mentioned that are completely  
11          vacant?

12                   MR. BURKE: Well, I think there is  
13                   three things to be said. First, the  
14                   national economy has to cooperate and that  
15                   is picking up because we are swimming  
16                   upstream in a very difficult economy. I  
17                   think that, let's say the Mall at Steamtown  
18                   is experiencing the same percentages that I  
19                   hear around the country from people that  
20                   invest in that, and so we naturally need to  
21                   get retail sales up and everything else, but  
22                   with the anticipation that the economy is  
23                   picking up and there will be more retail  
24                   sales and more needs for offices and so on,  
25                   I think that we have to try to get ahead of

1 the curve and be the first community that  
2 grabs some of those jobs that are available.

3 Right now we spend let's say  
4 \$250,000 a year advertising Scranton and  
5 Lackawanna County, marketing it at trade  
6 shows, and perhaps most importantly,  
7 maintaining a website where we have a  
8 database of all of the properties that are  
9 available, all of the industrial and office  
10 properties. So the Southern Union building  
11 would be in that website. Go to the Chamber  
12 website under available properties, find it  
13 and you will get it there. And so people  
14 that are looking for 20,000 square feet will  
15 see all of the 20,000 foot offices that are  
16 available.

17 Having said that, I think that we  
18 should find a way of working together and we  
19 to work with OECD here in the city of  
20 aggressively marketing the Scranton  
21 properties, of aggressively marketing the  
22 downtown properties. That's for offices and  
23 industrial use. The other area, and this  
24 would involve Scranton Tomorrow as well as  
25 us, I think we have to get a group together,

1 I'm talking about yourselves, the city and  
2 so on and put together a strategy of what  
3 types of retail units that we think would be  
4 successful here in the City of Scranton and  
5 then go and market directly to those retail  
6 units. It's something that we discussed.  
7 I think it was about two years ago, as a  
8 matter of fact we put an application in the  
9 state for some dollars to do just that and  
10 then real estate fell apart totally. I  
11 think it's time to revisit that.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. BURKE: Let me just end by  
14 saying, first, I really appreciate the  
15 opportunity one to meet some of you that I  
16 hadn't had a chance to know, but to have  
17 this very frank discussion because we are  
18 joined at the hip, we are in this together.  
19 I'm very optimistic about the future of the  
20 City of Scranton and I would welcome working  
21 with you on any of these subjects, the  
22 retail development, the other office  
23 development, and so on. Let me invite -- if  
24 you to come down to the Chamber at some time  
25 to see our operation and we'll put on a

1           little dog and pony show for you while you  
2           are there. Meet a number of our leadership  
3           or Scranton business leaders and you can  
4           hear their concerns and you can convey -- I  
5           will convey what transpired here, but  
6           sometimes face-to-face in smaller meetings  
7           it's good to sit down and so everybody knows  
8           where everybody else wants to go and how we  
9           can get there. I think it would be  
10          wonderful and I think it would be a great  
11          testament to this invitation and this  
12          discussion we had here this evening, so  
13          thank you very much.

14                   MS. EVANS: And we thank you for  
15           your attendance, Mr. Burke, and for all of  
16           your efforts to promote communication and  
17           cooperation among the business community and  
18           government officials and the people of  
19           Scranton. Of course, we understand that the  
20           greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce is  
21           primarily the voice of the business  
22           community and I believe that city council is  
23           primarily the voice of the residents and  
24           taxpayers of Scranton and that's why we do  
25           so deeply appreciate your attendance tonight

1           because you have informed our residents of  
2           the many programs that are available, of the  
3           plans and developments that we can look  
4           forward to, and by all means I'm sure that I  
5           speak for all of council, we would be very,  
6           very willing to work toward job growth. I  
7           know it is the number one priority of our  
8           residents and, of course, that includes  
9           topics that were mentioned already the brain  
10          drain, keeping our young people here in our  
11          community rather than, you know, this mass  
12          exodus out-of-state, and anything that we  
13          can do to facilitate that, to do something  
14          concrete and tangible that will grow jobs,  
15          we need to see the evidence of the jobs as  
16          soon as possible. I'm sure we are all most  
17          willing to work with you and any of the  
18          membership of the Chamber of Commerce.

19          Thank you very much for your participation.

20                 MR. BURKE: My pleasure. Thank you.

21                 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

22                 MS. EVANS: Do any council members  
23          have any announcements at this time?

24                 MR. MCGOFF: Please. I was asked to  
25          announce the Seventh Annual Black Sheep

1 Children's Benefit which will be held at the  
2 Taylor Hose Company on April 10 starting at  
3 6:00 p.m. The Taylor Hose Company is on  
4 Union Street. The children's benefit is --  
5 there is a \$10 admission price, that  
6 entitles the guests to a buffet and  
7 entertainment. Also, you become eligible  
8 for a number of drawings. They are also  
9 accepting any donations that anyone may have  
10 to benefit this cause. All proceeds from  
11 the fundraiser go directly toward the  
12 children's fund of the Black Sheep. This  
13 fund gives aid to families with children  
14 under the age of 18 who have been diagnosed  
15 with a serious illness.

16 If you never attended it's a great  
17 event. They have numerous prizes and things  
18 in which you can engage and it's just a  
19 really good evening, and that's April 10  
20 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Taylor Hose  
21 Company on Union Street in Taylor. That's  
22 all.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. The West Scranton  
25 Invader Dugout Club will be hosting a night



1 at the races at the Keyser Valley Community  
2 Center on the corner of Jackson Street and  
3 Keyser Avenue in West Scranton. It will be  
4 Friday, April 30, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is  
5 \$10 and it includes food, soda, beer and  
6 coffee. Tickets can be purchased at the  
7 door and you must be 21 or over to attend.  
8 There will be 12 horse races where one may  
9 wager any monetary amount on or all races,  
10 and I will announce this again when it gets  
11 closer to April 30 as well. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just wanted to  
14 mention that on Thursday, this Thursday,  
15 April 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there is a  
16 senior fair at the West Side Senior Center,  
17 1004 Jackson Street that's sponsored by  
18 State Representative Kevin Murphy. It says,  
19 "Be sure to stop by for important  
20 information from a variety of local, state  
21 and federal organizations. There will be  
22 door prizes and refreshments donated from  
23 several local vendors."

24 And that's all I have.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Joyce?

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes. And since  
2 Mr. Burke was just here I will mention that  
3 Leadership Lackawanna will be hosting a  
4 night at the races this Saturday, April 10,  
5 from 7 to 11 at Lackawanna College. In  
6 addition to horse races other games will  
7 include, 50/50 raffles, basket raffles, door  
8 prizes and instant bingo. The price of  
9 admission is \$10.

10 Also, the United Way will be hosting  
11 an additional tax preparation assistance day  
12 on Wednesday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
13 at Brennan Hall on the University of  
14 Scranton campus. This service will be  
15 provided free of charge to low and moderate  
16 income households as well as senior  
17 citizens. There is no registration required  
18 for this. If you would like more  
19 information you can contact Jamie Burtons at  
20 343-1267, extension 222.

21 Also, the Providence United  
22 Presbyterian Church located on 1145  
23 Providence Road will host a takeout only  
24 ziti dinner on April 24, from 2 to 6 p.m.  
25 The cost of the dinner will be \$8.50 for

1 adults and \$4.50 for children. If you are  
2 interested please call 346-0804.

3 Also, the West Scranton Legion  
4 Baseball Program will host it's annual golf  
5 tournament fundraiser on April 25 at Summit  
6 Hills golf course. Following the tournament  
7 there will be a banquet at the Villa Maria  
8 II restaurant. The cost to play in the  
9 tournament is \$85 per person or \$340 per  
10 team. Teams that pay in full by April 17  
11 will receive a case of their favorite  
12 beverage to bring on the course with them,  
13 and for more information please contact  
14 George Roscos at 34-2929 or you can e-mail  
15 Mr. Roscos at Roscos29@aol.com.

16 Also, the South Scranton After 50  
17 Club will be meeting this Thursday at 1:30  
18 p.m. at the St. Paul of the Cross Parish  
19 Center, which is formerly known as Sacred  
20 Heart, located over on Prospect Avenue for  
21 all of those who are interested in  
22 attending.

23 Also, the St. Lucy's Alter Society  
24 meeting will be held on April 14 at 7 p.m.  
25 in the church hall and a social will follow

1           this meeting.

2                   The Scranton School for the Deaf and  
3           hard of hearing children will be holding  
4           American sign language classes on Monday,  
5           evenings from April 12 until May 31 from 7  
6           to 9 p.m. The cost for these courses is \$50  
7           which is due at registration, and those who  
8           are interested can contact Maryann Stepko at  
9           963-4006.

10                   And finally, Johnson College will be  
11           holding a carnival for a cause on April 24  
12           from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Moffat  
13           building on Johnson College's campus. The  
14           cost for admission is \$2 for adults and \$1  
15           for children under ten. The cost of  
16           admission includes a free basket raffle  
17           entry and some of the features of the  
18           carnival include a bake sale, children's  
19           games, a pie in the face toss and a hot dog  
20           eating contest. And those are the  
21           announcements that I have for tonight.  
22           Thanks.

23                   MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce, just a quick  
24           question, the golf tournament, if you are  
25           not a golfer can you go to the meal and pay

1 something or do you know?

2 MR. JOYCE: I have not been informed  
3 of that, however, if you would like to just  
4 attend the banquet only, I know that in the  
5 past some other tournaments that I have  
6 heard of have offered a reduced rate for  
7 those who wish to just attend the banquet.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I received the  
10 same letter, I think it's \$35, I'm not sure  
11 though.

12 MR. JOYCE: Is it 35?

13 MR. ROGAN: I think it's 35.

14 MS. EVANS: The Pinebrook  
15 Neighborhood Association will meet this  
16 Monday, April 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at 829  
17 Capouse Avenue. Again, the Pinebrook  
18 Neighborhood Association will meet this  
19 Monday at 7:00 at 829 Capouse Avenue.

20 The city's annual street cleaning  
21 program begins this week, actually began  
22 today in West Scranton, and runs through  
23 early September. The schedule for the next  
24 two weeks is as follows: April 5 through 9,  
25 Dickens Street to Gibson Street and April 12

1 through 16 Lemon Street to Parker Street.  
2 Mrs. Krake, if we could please ask ECTV to  
3 include the street cleaning list as part of  
4 it's public service announcements and  
5 perhaps they could update it monthly so that  
6 city residents can receive a reminder, and  
7 that's it.

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-B.

9 MS. EVANS: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
10 PARTICIPATION. Our first speaker this  
11 evening is Mr. Andy Sbaraglia.

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
13 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
14 listened attentively to Mr. Burke's  
15 presentation, but there is lot of things  
16 that we are missing. First of all, I doubt  
17 if they subordinate their loans. He tells  
18 us that they subordinate them, they don't  
19 subordinate them because they figure they  
20 make them worse than they are, but the city  
21 seems to like to do that. I don't quite  
22 understand it, take good loans and turn them  
23 into bad loans with the subordinations.

24 But let's go with the office space.  
25 Now, we all now the Galdier's had there

1 block placed where he is now, they were  
2 taxpayers. I think they moved or something,  
3 but that's besides the point. The point is  
4 there was something there, so it was there  
5 intention to do the office park. They  
6 bought out Galdier's and did what they did  
7 there, but did you ever look at North  
8 Scranton for offices? Can North Scranton be  
9 converted to offices? Could our old Bishop  
10 Hannon, could that be converted to offices?  
11 All of these places could be converted to  
12 offices.

13 And you are looking for space, there  
14 is lot of space over there in South Side  
15 where they are ripping out the culm banks  
16 when you come down, I guess that's Locust --  
17 I think it's Locust Street off to the right  
18 there. There is vast tracks of land.  
19 Across from the Glider Diner there is also a  
20 huge tract of land and you got to remember  
21 we learned -- we lend money to Lackawanna  
22 College to do something with the Lace plant,  
23 okay? That's still there. And look at the  
24 KOZ's, whether you think this, that or  
25 another thing, KOZ's do not work the way it

1 is written. Anybody believes that has a  
2 pipe dream. You know, North Scranton is a  
3 KOZ. The high school -- the junior high  
4 there, that's a KOZ. That's sitting empty.  
5 That track of land across from the Glider  
6 Diner, across the river there, that's a KOZ  
7 and it's empty. You look at every KOZ.  
8 Well, you were there when they gave the  
9 presentation on it. They weren't doing  
10 nothing on that land that they got KOZ  
11 status. All the KOZ does is force the  
12 residents of the state to pay more money.  
13 There is no question. The state is  
14 bankrupt. Why are they bankrupt? Because  
15 they got these KOZ's.

16 Look at Center Point that we heard  
17 mentioned many times in Pittston. People  
18 that were in Wilkes-Barre all of a sudden  
19 moved up to Center Point and now they are in  
20 Center Point. Of course they built the  
21 building, but they are up there in Center  
22 Point. Now, they moved from Wilkes-Barre to  
23 Pittston and were granted millions and  
24 millions of dollars in tax breaks that you  
25 and I have to pay.



1                   I mean, if we are going to be going  
2                   down this road you are going to have a  
3                   revolution in this state because you ain't  
4                   going to be able to do anything with the  
5                   burden that's being leveled against you.  
6                   It's your government that is becoming your  
7                   enemy. Everything is too political and  
8                   that's what's wrong with the hole system.  
9                   I'm not going to say anything about  
10                  corruption, I mean, it's there it's there,  
11                  it's always been with politics from Kennedy  
12                  on down, it's there, but they are even worse  
13                  today. They are writing laws that are  
14                  oppressive, and that's a bad think about it.

15                  When you start owe oppressing the  
16                  people and oppressing them whatever you do  
17                  to them eventually they are going to revolt.  
18                  I don't know how long it may take. I hope  
19                  I'm not around when it happens, but it's  
20                  heading that direction. You cannot do  
21                  what's being done in the country as it is.  
22                  All you have to do is look at history, what  
23                  happens when oppressive people and history  
24                  tells you what happens, they revolt.

25                  Now, I hope when they do revolt it's

1           just throwing the system away. As you will  
2           notice in the original constitution they let  
3           you take a gun and go down to Washington to  
4           overthrow them and then, of course, they  
5           didn't like that as time went by so they put  
6           another little deal in the constitution  
7           saying you can't do it that way, okay?

8                         But that's how it originally went.  
9           Your original founders realized that that  
10          could happen and that's why they wrote it  
11          like they did, so you couldn't be oppressed  
12          because you could defend yourself, but like  
13          I said, things are not going like they  
14          should be.

15                        Now KOZ should have been written  
16          that they had to come from an area outside  
17          of the county, maybe 200 miles away,  
18          something like that, but at least -- out of  
19          the state would even have been better  
20          because anybody that moves within the state  
21          causes the burden around us. Thank you.

22                        MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

23                        MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
24          I really appreciated Mr. Burke coming here  
25          tonight. I think that we all learned

1 something tonight, at least hopefully I hope  
2 we did anyhow. I think there is going to be  
3 pros and cons to everything and I think  
4 everybody should know that I am totally  
5 against KOZ's, but I don't think they are  
6 the only instrument for development that we  
7 possess, and I think we have a lot of  
8 options sitting in front of us, and I think  
9 council should have learned an awful lot  
10 from Mr. Burke tonight, but I think the most  
11 important thing we have gained here tonight  
12 is the line of communication between  
13 Mr. Burke and this council.

14 And I think other thing that we have  
15 gained is that council has some insight into  
16 what Mr. Burke needs to be successful, and I  
17 think that the council can help us all  
18 become successful by trying to help  
19 Mr. Burke and many other parties that we  
20 don't see because you are the political  
21 leaders of this community with the mayor and  
22 you can touch a lot of people and try to  
23 make a lot of changes and try to bring  
24 development, and I think there a lot of  
25 places we can develop, the Scranton Lacey

1 building, the former Capital Records  
2 building, there is an awful lot of property  
3 here that I think we can develop and I think  
4 that if we create a partnership with  
5 business we can be successful. We do  
6 understand that we do have a lot of hurdles  
7 in front of us, but they are not  
8 insurmountable, and I think this is one  
9 thing that the council should pursue. I'm  
10 not afraid to come here and speak about  
11 things that I don't agree with council on,  
12 but I'm not also by the same token not  
13 afraid to come to this council and say that  
14 I think you have done a very good job  
15 tonight, and I think that we can really make  
16 something happen here if people will put  
17 their own personalities aside and remember  
18 that we can do -- we can take Scranton  
19 better.

20 Mr. Rogan asked about brain drain  
21 and I think that we have a lot of  
22 universities here and I think that something  
23 on this council should go these colleges and  
24 ask them to let our students who graduate  
25 from high school attend their colleges for

1 free depending on the space they have. If  
2 we keep trying to bring people here from New  
3 York and New Jersey and ask them to settle  
4 here it may not happen, but I know that when  
5 we empower young citizens who graduate from  
6 high school here they have a strong desire  
7 to stay here and their parents have a strong  
8 desire that they stay here and be successful  
9 because most parents want to be with their  
10 grandchildren. They want this community to  
11 be successful and you have opened a door  
12 tonight. The only question is are you  
13 willing to step through it, and that's all I  
14 have.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.  
16 Joe Talimini.

17 MR. TALIMINI: I'm impressed with  
18 the last hour and 15 minutes or so, but I've  
19 had less than a certain -- I don't think  
20 anybody got to the point. It's amazing to  
21 me that you at least have a right now to the  
22 Chamber of Commerce meeting, you might call  
23 it a meet the mayor session. Probably the  
24 only time you are going to get to meeting  
25 him.

1                   You know, it's paradoxical that all  
2                   of this rhetoric goes around about bringing  
3                   industry in here, getting jobs, etcetera,  
4                   this city probably has more separate  
5                   individual organizations working against  
6                   each other than any I have ever seen in my  
7                   life. I mean, I really do. There is  
8                   Scranton Tomorrow, Scranton Yesterday,  
9                   Scranton on Google, Scranton on Pluto. Come  
10                  on, let's get together. It's ridiculous.  
11                  You are fighting each other constantly -- or  
12                  I should say they are fighting each other  
13                  constantly.

14                  You have an administration and you  
15                  have a Chamber of Commerce and I can only  
16                  liken that to FEMA. People from Katrina are  
17                  still waiting for two years for action and  
18                  you know the people in Haiti are still  
19                  starving while everybody is collecting all  
20                  of this money and nobody is distributing a  
21                  damn dime. However, it goes on and on and  
22                  on, and that's Scranton. Talk about job  
23                  creation. My God, there are jobs all over  
24                  this city, but unless you are one of the  
25                  inbreeders you can't get one of them. I

1 mean, you know, if you are not related, you  
2 don't have a mother or a brother or a  
3 husband or a wife who is in the system how  
4 in the hell do you get into it?

5 There are jobs all over this city.  
6 You have to bid on them. How did you bid on  
7 them unless you are on the inside? I was  
8 told recently by a Housing Authority that  
9 they needed managers. Well, why don't they  
10 put an ad in the Times-Tribune, they could  
11 use the advertising revenue, but no, you  
12 have to bid on it from the inside. Now, you  
13 take a guy who is a maintenance man for the  
14 last 18 years what qualification does he  
15 have to be an apartment manager? It makes  
16 no sense and until you get rid of this  
17 inbreeding mentality in this city nothing is  
18 going to change. It's absolutely not going  
19 to change. It's a sad state of affairs.

20 I heard Mr. Burke talk about the  
21 south. I don't think Mr. Burke knows the  
22 first damn thing about the south. I  
23 remember being in Birmingham, Alabama,  
24 during George Wallace's administration,  
25 that's right. Remember those days? Where





1           when you have a city like that.

2                       It would behoove you people to look  
3           around at Erie and see what they are doing.  
4           Go right down to Hazelton and see the  
5           changes they have made down there, but of  
6           course our mayor couldn't do that. The  
7           changes he is looking for are the same  
8           changes that Don Hennigan looks for at  
9           Bethlehem when he sold out the University  
10          down there. Fortunately, for him the state  
11          decided that they'd let a casino come in,  
12          otherwise, Bethlehem would be just as broke  
13          as we are, if not worse.

14                     Now, we are talking about the  
15          University. This octopus we call it. Right  
16          now the average cost per student is \$32,824  
17          a year. They have a full-time enrollment of  
18          5,816 students. Now, you don't have a be  
19          genius to do the math, that comes out to an  
20          approximate take of \$183,814,000 a year,  
21          three times our budget. How much money do  
22          they give back to this city?

23                     Who authorized them to do  
24          construction work on Mulberry Street? By  
25          what authority did they do that? I don't

1 remember them ever coming up here. They  
2 already started work from Jefferson on up.  
3 They have got the street blocked up there,  
4 no parking. They are going to widen the  
5 sidewalks. Who is paying for this? They  
6 got a million dollar grant, wonderful. Who  
7 is going to benefit from it? A bunch of  
8 drunken college students walking up the  
9 sidewalk? Amazing to me.

10 You want to talk about all of the  
11 businesses in this town, let's talk about  
12 them. There are new bars opening up  
13 everyday, there are new fast food  
14 restaurants opening up everyday, try to get  
15 a cup of coffee downtown after 9:00 at  
16 night. That's why everybody goes to Dickson  
17 City or they go someplace else because you  
18 can't get anything in this town and it never  
19 will change. It's just that damn simple,  
20 and as long as you have this mentality it's  
21 going to stay the same way. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Talimini.

23 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Talimini, just to  
24 inform you, I actually have been looking at  
25 some of the other cities in Pennsylvania

1 and, you know, taking a look around to see  
2 what they're doing especially to address  
3 some of the financial burdens that they  
4 have, and just to point out for you the  
5 casino in Bethlehem I believe it's Mohegan  
6 Sun or is it Sands?

7 MR. TALIMINI: I think it's Sands.

8 MR. JOYCE: Sands. That is a large  
9 revenue generator for that community. In  
10 fact, according to their budget I believe  
11 that the city receives \$4.5 in proceeds from  
12 that casino every year.

13 MR. TALIMINI: Did you take a good  
14 look at the fact that they had sold off most  
15 of the property in Bethlehem to the Lehigh  
16 University?

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I have.

18 MR. TALIMINI: And they were  
19 relatively broke until the casino came in?

20 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

21 MR. TALIMINI: Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Bill Jackowitz. Oh, I'm  
23 sorry, Mr. Jackowitz, I skipped over  
24 Mr. Gonzales, Pedro Gonzales.

25 MR. GONZALES: Good evening, all.

1 My name is Pedro Gonzales, Scranton  
2 resident, taxpayer.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MR. GONZALES: I am here to thank  
6 everybody that participated in this past  
7 Saturday's events, Mothers United Against  
8 Hunger. They wrote a letter article about  
9 it on April 3. April 3, 2010, "A new group  
10 in the City of Scranton decided to have a  
11 coming out party by giving away free food.  
12 The cross culture coalition put on an event  
13 called "Mothers United Against Hunger" which  
14 fed up to about 300 people on this day. The  
15 CCC made history by being the first group  
16 made up of many, many different diverse  
17 cultures. This group united together to  
18 help it's community. Vice president of the  
19 cross cultural coalition, Edward Bonita, the  
20 pastor of Maranatha Ministries, where the  
21 event was held, said he is looking forward  
22 to present this event again to the community  
23 that makes up Scranton and he is looking  
24 forward to the day where everyone knows that  
25 the CCC is here to help in feeding everybody

1 in the City of Scranton."

2 The CCC would like to thank the US  
3 Census Bureau, the Pennsylvania State Police  
4 Department, State Rep Ken Smith, Lackawanna  
5 College, Karen Leggi, Governor Rendell  
6 Census Commissioner Sherman Wooden and  
7 everybody that helped, aided and assisted to  
8 make this special event happen.

9 I also want to give a special thank  
10 you to Mr. LaPolla, he was here last week,  
11 he donated water, and there was so many  
12 people that helped out and assisted. God  
13 bless you all, thank you all so much. We  
14 want to thank the Times Leader for running  
15 this fantastic, fantastic story. I know  
16 sometimes if it wasn't for the Abington  
17 Journal and the Times Leader, I don't know  
18 what minority community events would  
19 actually be posted and announced in this  
20 city, it's ashame.

21 We would like to also thank the  
22 council for all of the great work you guys  
23 have been doing so far. The CCC would  
24 definitely love to come and visit you guys.  
25 Due to our work restraints and things to

1           that affect last week I was here with one or  
2           two individuals, this week they were texting  
3           me, we put you on the list already, be there  
4           at so and so time because we have so many  
5           things that we are addressing.

6                        Last week I think Councilman Rogan  
7           on the flyer we gave you was the name and  
8           number and a little note please contact us,  
9           we did not hear from you, sir. I'm sure you  
10          were busy.

11                      MR. ROGAN: What note was that?

12                      MR. GONZALES: Last week, last  
13          Tuesday, the flyer you were given had  
14          contact information and a note please, if  
15          you could please give us a call.

16                      MR. ROGAN: I apologize. I'll get  
17          back to you. I thought every council member  
18          got that.

19                      MR. GONZALES: No.

20                      MR. ROGAN: I apologize.

21                      MS. EVANS: Well, actually Mr. Rogan  
22          give it to me because he thought -- I had  
23          arrived late to council last week and I had  
24          not received the information and so once I  
25          was seated he shared that information with

1 me, so I'll take the responsibility, I'm  
2 sorry, Mr. Gonzales.

3 MR. GONZALES: It's okay. I was  
4 getting ready to say apology accepted, it's  
5 okay. You know, regardless of the fact we  
6 are always here to move forward, you know  
7 that.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. GONZALES: We don't dwell in the  
10 past or with the negative situations, we  
11 want to continue to build and we believe  
12 that this council -- with this council we  
13 could do that, and I would like to say that  
14 honestly, and I'm sure there is many, many  
15 people here that can agree with that  
16 statement.

17 So with that said, I'm sure one of  
18 our representatives will be down during the  
19 week and hopefully we can setup a time and a  
20 date maybe you guys can visit us or we could  
21 visit you guys and talk about some of the  
22 minority issues that are going on across the  
23 entire city. As you know, the minority  
24 community has been growing. Day by day we.  
25 Are, and not to exclude any other culture or

1           any other nationality, but we do have some  
2           issues and you all are aware of that, so we  
3           hope to explore that in the near future if  
4           possible.

5                     MS. EVANS: Yes, we will.

6                     MR. GONZALES: Thank you all. Once  
7           again, thank you all so much. My name is P  
8           Pedro Gonzales, and thank you for letting  
9           express myself. God bless you.

10                    MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Gonzales.  
11           Bill Jackowitz.

12                    MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
13           South Scranton resident and member of the  
14           Taxpayers' Association. First of all, I'd  
15           like to thank council and I'd also like to  
16           thank Mr. Austin Burke for showing up. I  
17           have been trying to get him here for five  
18           years. The past councils for some reason  
19           were unable to get him, but I'm glad you  
20           people got him here. I had a nice talk with  
21           him out in the hallway. He knows I'm his  
22           biggest advocate for the last five years. I  
23           have an appointment set up with him. We are  
24           going to sit down and talk about some things  
25           and I hope what he said today about working



1 together with council is good. I asked him  
2 about if we can get the mayor involved in  
3 it, and I'm not going to give you his  
4 response.

5 The very first time I spoke  
6 publically at a city council meeting, none  
7 of the current council members were elected  
8 or appointed to council. My opening  
9 statement was that the successful cities  
10 that I have lived in were cities where local  
11 government and the citizens work together to  
12 make the community a good place to live,  
13 work and play. Remember the word community.  
14 Communications and unity. I feel that  
15 Scranton has neither of these attributes.  
16 There is absolutely no communication between  
17 the elected officials with each other with  
18 the exception of the chosen few, and until  
19 the election and appointment of the majority  
20 four, there was no or very little  
21 communication with council and the taxpayers  
22 citizens of Scranton. It was always the  
23 mayor's way or the highway. That has lead  
24 to many of the city's current problems.  
25 Rubber stampers on either side will not

1 work. Working together as elected officials  
2 fr all of the citizens and I feel is the  
3 best way to go about making Scranton a  
4 better city.

5 Northeastern, Pennsylvania, is  
6 well-known throughout the state and the  
7 country for being one of the most corrupt  
8 political areas in the United States. This  
9 unwelcome standing is being proven almost on  
10 a daily basis. We have corrupt judges,  
11 lawyers and county workers in Luzerne  
12 County, our neighboring county, corrupt  
13 school board members, jobs being bought.  
14 Now we have alleged corrupt county  
15 commissioners in Lackawanna County, alleged  
16 corruption in the Scranton Housing  
17 Authority, contracts cannot be found in  
18 Lackawanna County, by the way, Scranton is  
19 the county seat for Lackawanna County.

20 We have a mayor who has basically  
21 destroyed the City of Scranton, who is  
22 unwilling to negotiate or talk with other  
23 elected officials unless they agree with his  
24 philosophy. Forget about the mayor speaking  
25 with a private citizen unless he or she is a

1           Doherty real person. Also, the mayor is  
2           very rarely in the City of Scranton.

3                     By the way, the city is still  
4           distressed, taxes have been raised, wage  
5           taxes have not been decreased and business  
6           continues to move out of the city.  
7           Unemployment has remained the same, high.  
8           500 block of Lackawanna Avenue has  
9           guaranteed four businesses with  
10          long-standing, but according to  
11          Senator/Mayor Doherty, the city has made  
12          progress.

13                    Oh, I forgot. We have a dog park,  
14          tree house, bridge to nowhere and Lackawanna  
15          College now leases the zoo for a \$1 a year.  
16          Almost forget about East Scranton kids and  
17          all the kids must pay \$3 a day to swim and  
18          use the slide at Nay Aug Park.

19                    The school board raises taxes every  
20          year and gave raises to all Scranton school  
21          board employees. How do you justify that?  
22          Raising taxes and giving out raises to all  
23          school employees, plus building new schools  
24          against the wishes of the majority of the  
25          citizens. Remember the new high school?

1                   Now the mayor of Scranton wants to  
2                   leave the City of Scranton which in my  
3                   opinion is completely -- is a completely  
4                   divided city. We have unbalanced budget, we  
5                   have long-term debt in the hundreds of  
6                   millions of dollars, no contracts with the  
7                   police and fire, roads that have craters in  
8                   them, empty buildings throughout the City of  
9                   Scranton, blighted properties, high  
10                  unemployment, 11 firefighters have retired,  
11                  three police officers have retired. We do  
12                  not have the ten beat officers that the  
13                  federal government is paying for.

14                  Oh, I almost forgot, the city has  
15                  been distressed for 18 years, eight of those  
16                  years under Mayor Doherty's rule, but yet  
17                  the mayor of Scranton Doherty once to leaves  
18                  the city and became state senator. First it  
19                  was governor, then lieutenant governor.  
20                  Mr. Doherty, what about the city that you  
21                  say you love so much? Are you going to  
22                  resolve the above-mentioned problems that  
23                  you created before you leave for Harrisburg  
24                  or are you just going to run away from your  
25                  responsibilities?

1                   Good luck in suing the Pennsylvania  
2                   State Senate every time they disagree with  
3                   you, which will be many times. Remember,  
4                   the Pennsylvania State Senate is controlled  
5                   by Republicans. If you cannot work with  
6                   Democrats how in the world will you work  
7                   with Republicans?

8                   If by any chance Doherty gets  
9                   elected to the Senate I wish all of the  
10                  citizens in his district the best of luck  
11                  and whoever the unlucky person is who has to  
12                  take over the reigns of the City of Scranton  
13                  good luck. My personal choices are: Stu  
14                  Renda, Gene Hickey, Mark Dougher, Jeff  
15                  Brazil, Lisa Moran, Theresa Paterson, Paul  
16                  Kelly, Carl Greco, Mark Seitzinger, Judy  
17                  Gatelli, Sherry Fanucci, Bob McGoff, Chief  
18                  Elliott, Chief Davis, Doug Miller, Joanne  
19                  Williams, and Anthony Maranucci. Good luck  
20                  to whoever the next mayor of Scranton will  
21                  be. Can I finish?

22                  MR. ROGAN: Sure.

23                  MR. JACKOWITZ: He or she will need  
24                  a miracle to happen to straighten out the  
25                  mess that Doherty and the above-mentioned

1 individuals have created with the exception  
2 of a few. They do not and never will hold  
3 public office or appointments. My opinion,  
4 the Doherty days are numbered one way or the  
5 other.

6 Good job, Scranton fire department.  
7 You were the first firefighters on the scene  
8 in Dunmore where you are Dunmore residents  
9 write letters to the editor criticizing  
10 Scranton and the Scranton union. Members  
11 such as the firefighters and police  
12 officers, but they support Mayor Doherty.  
13 If he had his way the Scranton Fire  
14 Department would not -- would have had a  
15 long response time to the Dunmore fire, so  
16 keep writing the letters Dunmore and Clarks  
17 Summit and Abington and so forth. Scranton  
18 professionals will prove you wrong every  
19 time. Engine 15 would have been closed if  
20 Mayor Doherty would have had his way. They  
21 were the first engine on the scene in  
22 Dunmore.

23 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Les  
24 Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

1 Council, Les Spindler, city resident,  
2 homeowner and taxpayer. First I will speak  
3 on some potholes my wife brought to my  
4 attention today when she goes to work  
5 everyday. It's off Keyser Avenue. It's  
6 called Anmick Court. You make a right going  
7 towards McDade Park. She said it's right as  
8 soon us get off Keyser Avenue, she said you  
9 can get barely get --

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Les, can I just stop  
11 you there? That's one that I had requested  
12 Anmick Court and Glinko Street getting off  
13 Keyser Avenue.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, because that's  
15 where she goes.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: And there is a whole  
17 section of Anmick Court that's not  
18 blacktopped. I'm going to ask Mrs. Krake if  
19 she can forward another letter because our  
20 response was they were going to check into  
21 it, but I was back there today, in fact, I  
22 took more pictures today.

23 MR. SPINDLER: She said there are  
24 holes that are so big.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you. Let's  
2 see, I brought this up before about the  
3 parking in the 200 block of Franklin and  
4 since the new fees in hardly anybody parks  
5 there. You can see one car in there maybe  
6 on a regular workday. Last Friday was Good  
7 Friday, it was free parking, there was a car  
8 in every meter on that block, so it just  
9 goes to prove my point. People won't park  
10 there if they have to pay those outrageous  
11 fees, but they will park there when they  
12 don't have to pay. These fees are chasing  
13 everybody out of the city for parking and we  
14 have to be losing money not making money,  
15 and I said it all along I think that was a  
16 mistake raising those fees.

17 Mrs. Evans isn't here, I wanted to  
18 repeat something to her that I said last  
19 week, but I'll wait and see. I brought this  
20 up before about the cell phone ban while  
21 driving, and I have two prime examples why  
22 this has to done before somebody is killed.  
23 Last week my wife was leaving a wake and she  
24 had the green light, she was going through  
25 the green light and thank God she saw a car,



1 a lady on a cell phone went right through a  
2 red light. She's talking on her cell phone,  
3 she didn't even see my wife. If my wife  
4 didn't see her they would have collided and  
5 God knows what would have happened.

6 Yesterday I got off the Main Avenue  
7 exit off the McDade Expressway, I'm sitting  
8 at the red light on Main Avenue, there was a  
9 girl driving right in front of me with her  
10 cell phone in front of her like this texting  
11 somebody. Not even paying attention to  
12 where she was going. This cell phone ban  
13 has to be done before somebody is killed,  
14 and not like Carbondale. Carbondale has it  
15 as a secondary offense where you can't be  
16 pulled over if they see you on a cell phone.  
17 It's got to be made a primary offense where  
18 if you are on your phone you could be pulled  
19 over. Having a secondary offense is no good  
20 at all, so that's my opinion. Like I said,  
21 these are two prime examples why something  
22 has to be done.

23 Something else I wanted to talk  
24 about last week and I didn't think about it.  
25 Mayor Doherty is supposed to running our

1 city, but yet he is galavanting all over  
2 trying to get votes to be state senator.  
3 Last Tuesday he was in Susquehanna County,  
4 I'm just wondering is he taking his own  
5 personal vehicles on these trips or is he  
6 using a city vehicle? If he using a city  
7 vehicle that's wrong. If he using a vehicle  
8 paid for by taxpayers and the gas, so I  
9 wonder if we can look into that and see  
10 whose vehicle is he using.

11 And also I think since he is doing  
12 all of this running around I think he should  
13 just resign as mayor and then he could have  
14 all of the time in the world to go looking  
15 for all of this votes for senator, but he  
16 doesn't want to run the city so he just  
17 resign.

18 And also last Tuesday he was up at  
19 Susquehanna County, Mr. Renda was at the  
20 court hearing as was Mrs. Moran, who was  
21 running city hall?

22 I guess that's all I have tonight.  
23 Oh, okay, there is Mrs. Evans now. This is  
24 something I brought up last week, Mrs.  
25 Evans, there was a story on Channel 16 two

1           Fridays ago with Dave Bowman interviewing  
2           Chief Elliott about the federal government  
3           accusing the police department of misusing  
4           stimulus funds, and the police department  
5           couldn't give a reason to what the funds  
6           were being used for and the report went onto  
7           say that it's a slap -- I'm sorry, said they  
8           were thumbing their noses at the taxpayers  
9           of the city, and that was on Channel 16.

10           MS. EVANS: Maybe I could get a copy  
11           of that.

12           MR. SPINDLER: I brought this up  
13           last week and I said maybe council could  
14           bring the chief in here and if he doesn't  
15           come in here maybe he should be subpoenaed  
16           to answer these questions. Thank very much.

17           MR. ROGAN: Thank you. The next  
18           name on the list is Doug Miller. I don't  
19           see him in the audience though. No? Marie  
20           Schumacher.

21           MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.  
22           Marie Schumacher, resident and member of the  
23           Taxpayers' Association. I noticed we don't  
24           have a solicitor tonight, but perhaps I hope  
25           he is okay.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes. Yes, he is. He is  
2 out of town.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, good, but maybe  
4 somebody up there will know if a group  
5 accepts government money do they have to  
6 comply with government rules such as the  
7 Sunshine Law?

8 MS. EVANS: I would suppose so, but  
9 I'm not -- I'm not an attorney. We can  
10 certainly ask Solicitor Hughes for his  
11 views.

12 MR. SCHUMACHER: I would like very  
13 much to know the answer to that question.

14 MS. EVANS: Would you be able to ask  
15 him again next week or would you prefer that  
16 we ask him in the mean time?

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'll try, but why  
18 don't you do back up.

19 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Schumacher, in  
20 regard to the Sunshine law and accepting  
21 government money, are there other laws and  
22 regulations that you would also like to know  
23 about besides the Sunshine Law, whether it's  
24 okay to accept money or abide by it or is it  
25 just all government rules in general or all

1 laws?

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, actually,  
3 right now it's just the Sunshine Law that I  
4 am interested in.

5 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I reserve the  
7 right to change that in the future. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. JOYCE: No problem.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: I do have a few  
11 questions with again, I'm still amazed by  
12 what I learned at the hearings on that the  
13 IT Department is only a help desk. Is there  
14 any list available of what kind of training  
15 is provided, for instance, do all of the  
16 LIPS employees, are they all trained in  
17 Excel so they can at least since the IT  
18 Department doesn't do this can they at least  
19 generate the labels so that letters can go  
20 out when people have licensing due and  
21 things of that nature? It would be nice to  
22 know what training these -- has been  
23 provided across the board.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: And also I have

1 many questions on that community plus  
2 program. When PEL comes to a caucus here  
3 will they be presenting the new Recovery  
4 Plan?

5 MS. EVANS: Well, first, I don't  
6 know that PEL will agree to attend a public  
7 caucus. We are awaiting their response. We  
8 are hoping that they will be in agreement.  
9 I think probably before they present the  
10 Recovery Plan itself I think very likely  
11 they will provide background information,  
12 historical trends for statistics that they  
13 will be citing, etcetera. In other words,  
14 background information before we actually  
15 take the dive.

16 MS. SCHUMACHER: Has not the expired  
17 plan been expired for longer than it was in  
18 effect?

19 MS. EVANS: It would seem so. In my  
20 opinion, yes, December 31, 2005.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Long overdue, yes.  
22 Also, I would like to recommend a change to  
23 an ordinance. I did a Right-to-Know to find  
24 out how much had been received from the two  
25 dumpsters that were front of the Connell

1 building because it's a -- the ordinance  
2 reads it's a \$5 a day charge, and then I  
3 talked with Mark Seitzinger who said that  
4 the Connell, LP or LLP I guess it is, has  
5 agreed to pay if they knew what it was, but  
6 it turns out in talking to Mr. Seitzinger  
7 that they have been paying for the meters,  
8 the equivalent of what the meters would have  
9 collected for all of that time, and that  
10 does -- it seems unfair to me. It should  
11 be-- I think it should be either or in  
12 downtown if you are renting the spaces of  
13 meters I think that should suffice and the  
14 \$5 fee should be for other places, so I  
15 would recommend that change be made.

16 Also, I have good news and bad news.  
17 Mr. McGoff asked about the light at Meadow  
18 and River. The good news is that is, of  
19 course, part of the Scranton signalization  
20 project and it will be bid out in May,  
21 unfortunately, it's May of 2011. So by the  
22 time that project gets done unless they  
23 start at River Street it could be a long,  
24 long time, and I do notice there have been  
25 increasing, I haven't witnessed any of them,

1 but I have heard on WILK on whatever they  
2 call that incident report that there have  
3 been increasing numbers of accidents there,  
4 so maybe another letter. I did talk to the  
5 person in charge up at PennDOT and I don't  
6 think it would probably do a whole lot of  
7 good, but that's the -- it has to be done by  
8 that date, so that's the outside because  
9 they only got a one-year extension from the  
10 federal government when those funds expire,  
11 but maybe you can resend another letter and  
12 ask if they could do something. You had  
13 sent one in the first week of January.

14 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, you can  
15 correct me if I'm wrong, but it seemed more  
16 of the city's problem than PennDOT. It  
17 seemed PennDOT was fairly well-prepared, but  
18 the city for some reason was not where it  
19 should be on the project?

20 MS. KRAKE: At this point we  
21 actually did a follow-up letter in the  
22 office this week just knowing full well that  
23 everyone is saying as part of the project,  
24 as Mrs. Schumacher just brought up, there  
25 were issues with the city and so forth, but



1 to remind them of the safety concern that  
2 should be foremost in everyone's mind, so we  
3 have done another letter.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I mean, there  
5 is a lot involved and I do know that because  
6 it took so long to get all of the background  
7 data done by the company that subcontracted  
8 it in Allentown, several federal laws  
9 changed including the handicapped  
10 accessibility, so there are a lot of curbing  
11 that has to change when they do this  
12 project, too, it's not just the lights.

13 MS. EVANS: Yes.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Then much to-do has  
15 been made about adherence to the Home Rule  
16 Charter lately and I would like to know when  
17 we will receive the 2009 audit. Will it  
18 will be, in fact, available by the 31st of  
19 May?

20 MS. EVANS: I'm going to venture a  
21 guess here and say I would be  
22 extraordinarily surprised if it would arrive  
23 by May 31. I am with you that it what is  
24 stated in the charter, but as we all well  
25 know over these many years the

1 administration doesn't always comply with  
2 the Home Rule Charter, and we are hoping for  
3 an improvement over last year and the  
4 previous year when we were presented with  
5 the audit in November, so I would think if  
6 we got it by the return of council from it's  
7 recess we would be doing quite well  
8 relatively speaking.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Very good,  
10 and I'll hold the rest of the items until  
11 next week.

12 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Schumacher,  
13 actually back when I was first sworn in to  
14 council, I believe it was maybe the second  
15 or third meeting I was here, I did send a  
16 request to Mr. Renda asking him if they were  
17 on-track to have this audit done in time.  
18 Nancy, would you be able to just send a  
19 request to Mr. Renda and ask him if they are  
20 still on track to have the audit completed  
21 by May?

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Schumacher, I  
24 just wanted to touch base on the  
25 signalization project. I also spoke to a

1 gentleman at PennDOT, I'm trying to get a  
2 meeting together, May of 2011 is the drop  
3 dead date and did he tell you that the city  
4 would have to pay a certain amount of fees  
5 for designing if they don't proceed with  
6 this?

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm aware of that.  
10 That's a general rule.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: It's quite a hefty  
12 price, so I hope it goes forward, but I will  
13 mention this in my conversation with him to  
14 try and move it along a little bit. Thank  
15 you.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Ron Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie  
18 Ellman. I'm no great fan of Mr. Burke, but  
19 I give him credit for showing up anyway, but  
20 I still feel if they paid the chamber on  
21 their achievements the whole bunch would be  
22 broke and starving to death.

23 I saw Mr. Rogan keep drinking that  
24 water, I was wondering how long he would  
25 last, you know. I had something to talk

1 about, but Sunday when I read this article  
2 by Pat McKenna, to me it's just a low key  
3 attack on council trying to influence them  
4 at first to the people like they always do.  
5 I guess everybody has read the editorial.  
6 His defense of the University, you know, is  
7 just they are our enemy, you know? They are  
8 not a help. I'd like to see them put down  
9 on a piece of paper, I will go back 50  
10 years, how many graduates that were there  
11 four years from out-of-town stayed in this  
12 city. I don't think you would have one  
13 person in 50 years, but this article it's  
14 just advocating that's what's going to  
15 happen. You know, people keep saying that's  
16 what's going to happen. It's not. You  
17 know, we are not going to get any high  
18 paying jobs from some big company. All of  
19 this is gravy, but I guess that's what  
20 the Chamber of Commerce is supposed to do.

21 What's reality is when I talk to  
22 some of these people that live at the  
23 Midtown and their apprehension of losing  
24 their homes, you know, it's coming. They  
25 are not dumb, though know it's coming.

1 People homes mean so much to them whether  
2 it's one of those little apartments over  
3 there or elsewhere, and I feel their pain.  
4 I sincerely -- I just hate to hear them talk  
5 about this. You know, they even joke, I  
6 heard somebody was joking with me last  
7 weekend at Redners, they don't need the land  
8 where the playground was anymore because  
9 they are being thrown out of their houses.  
10 You know, I don't know, but our beloved  
11 mayor he wants to talk all of the glory for  
12 bringing the medical school here and he had  
13 nothing whatsoever. If you talk to people  
14 that were involved he had nothing to do with  
15 it than I do, but he ought to talk all of  
16 the blame for the adversities that are going  
17 to happen, like people losing their homes,  
18 all of the tax base.

19 You know, I think it was last April  
20 or March Mr. Swift went over that article  
21 that was in the paper from the state, the  
22 report about the one that said we are 1/4  
23 nonprofits in the city, I know you all --  
24 remember last year when that came out? Mr.  
25 Phillips reported it. The University of

1 Scranton in that report handed over 150  
2 pieces of property worth over \$20 million  
3 which is a loss to the city and the county  
4 and the school board of almost \$3 million a  
5 year. You know, and then this article that  
6 I'm so mad about he is bragging about  
7 putting trees along Mulberry and all, it's  
8 not even the school's money. It's a grant  
9 from the state. It's taxpayers' money all  
10 over again, they don't do nothing from the  
11 city except take. All they do is take.

12 Every time you people go down  
13 Mulberry there is that -- what they want to  
14 do to us. There is that gateway to the  
15 University that's cost about \$100 a week.  
16 There was almost \$5,000 a year taxes on that  
17 the big bidding that they tore down, the  
18 lawyer's office. You know, I don't know  
19 about this University. I get somebody awful  
20 mad at me when I talk against them, but this  
21 is just how I feel. It's just -- I feel for  
22 the people of this city like these out there  
23 and those over there and I don't care about  
24 the University that got \$20 million worth of  
25 the property and they are a leach. They are

1           just sucking the lifeblood out of this city.  
2           Now we got two more going to do the same  
3           thing, the first thing Lackawanna College  
4           did was take that three-story apartment  
5           building on Wyoming, turned it into a  
6           dormitory. I don't know how much taxes that  
7           paid, but it had to be plenty. Now we get  
8           nothing.

9                         Like I said, I want to see -- I  
10           might live 50 years from now, I want to see  
11           how many graduates are in this city. They  
12           won't be a one, but that's what he -- that's  
13           what they are -- they are telling us is  
14           going to happen. It's just nonsense. It's  
15           nonsense from Austin Burke and it's nonsense  
16           from Pat McKenna and it's time these people  
17           get realistic and go through the mall.  
18           There is empty stores. Walk through town,  
19           there is empty stores. There is parking  
20           places downtown where they never used to be.

21                         MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,  
22           Mr. Ellman.

23                         MR. ELLMAN: There is just  
24           mismanagement of this town from the top to  
25           the bottom and you people have just got to

1 stop these nonprofits somehow. Thank you  
2 for your time.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Joe Dwyer.

4 MR. DWYER: Good evening, Council.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. DWYER: Members of the  
7 community, I for one am happy that I live in  
8 Scranton. I'm proud of it. I think it is a  
9 wonderful place to live and I think it's a  
10 city with a heart and a future. What I am  
11 dismayed about is the ongoing mindset of  
12 this community and putting it down time and  
13 time again.

14 We do have a problem here with  
15 corruption and thank God the train is in  
16 town and the investigators are investigating  
17 the corruption that has been taking place.  
18 This isn't anything new, it's been going on  
19 since the time of the coal barons. So with  
20 that, we do have a bright future to look  
21 forward to.

22 I was upset with Mr. Austin Burke  
23 talking about trying to bring in high  
24 priced-- or high, you know, wage jobs when  
25 he himself from Wachovia, as a business



1 owner in this community years ago I was part  
2 of it. I was aware of high income jobs  
3 coming to this town that Austin Burke  
4 himself had told the people not to pay  
5 because it would be a hardship on the  
6 merchants who were already here, so with  
7 that in order for this community to succeed  
8 it needs to be a joint partnership. It  
9 needs to be the people and the industry as  
10 well as government. It can no longer be  
11 just certain sections or certain  
12 organizations directing our course. It has  
13 to be partnership.

14 And another thing that with the job  
15 creation I was involved with their  
16 reconstruction efforts on the golf course --  
17 on the gulf course, sorry, and I was glad to  
18 hear that somebody asked how jobs were  
19 created down in the south because it is a  
20 repressed area. In fact, blackouts are  
21 common without a storm but they are  
22 earnestly working to correct that and one of  
23 the things they came up with is partnerships  
24 and so business, the educational community,  
25 and the community itself and government came

1           together under one umbrella and said what we  
2           can do to grow our area? And they came up  
3           with job specific -- or job task specific  
4           educational programs such as going on with  
5           Johnson College is one of the institutions  
6           with weatherization programs, with creating  
7           green jobs.

8                     They are being -- they have created  
9           institutions where a major employer would  
10          come into town and they said, well, we need  
11          this type of business, these many people to  
12          be able to program this type of a machine,  
13          we need people to be able to do this task  
14          and other tasks. So what the educational  
15          community did was they put their arm up and  
16          said, "We are going to create program  
17          designed specific for that task while we  
18          educate that individual in order to meet the  
19          specifications for the company," and that's  
20          how they grew jobs, and it's a great  
21          program. They are having tremendous success  
22          with that.

23                    But that isn't why I'm here. I'm  
24          here for help. There are several things I  
25          would like. One is I would like a list of

1 the city vacant lots that are available to  
2 be used that we can use to open up community  
3 gardens. We tried this last year and we  
4 were roadblocked by the Doherty  
5 administration with Mark Dougher. Mayor  
6 Doherty on his part had promised us the list  
7 and Mark Dougher was charged with giving us  
8 the list, but he never gave us the list, so  
9 we -- well, I will not even go there, but if  
10 you would please help us in securing that  
11 list.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. DWYER: Second, if you would  
14 help us in securing some documents. I  
15 presented this to the commissioners at a  
16 commissioner's meeting, my research on a  
17 project that OECD was involved in along with  
18 the neighbor funded housing services of  
19 Lackawanna County. They had acquired a  
20 property they knew that was condemned, they  
21 rehabbed it at an exorbitant price way over  
22 the market value, almost three times the  
23 market value, and it ended up in one of the  
24 counselor's from NHS of Lackawanna County's  
25 hands.

1                   A friend of mine had drove down the  
2 street this past Saturday as I was working  
3 with some people and he stopped me and he  
4 said, "Joe, I want to buy a house."

5                   I said, "Yeah."

6                   He goes, "Well, I was told there was  
7 \$8,000 available for first time homeowners  
8 and when I went for it they told me all the  
9 funds were used up."

10                  This agency is charged with helping  
11 people get into new homes -- or for first  
12 time home buyers to get into new homes and  
13 so I would ask you if you would help me in  
14 securing the information where all of that  
15 money that was appropriated to help the  
16 first time buyers went.

17                  In addition, I had sent a  
18 Right-to-Know why letter to Mrs. Hall  
19 requesting a list of the housing application  
20 requests for low to moderate income  
21 homeownership programs, salaries of all  
22 employees, all records of funding source,  
23 all properties acquired or assisted in  
24 acquiring, income eligibility requirements  
25 for applicants admitted to their housing

1 program, the eligibility requirements of  
2 employees involved in this program, and a  
3 list of applicants according to the date of  
4 submission of their application.

5 My suspicion is that not only did  
6 this one counselor get a house, I think many  
7 other people in their organization may have.

8 MS. EVANS: Did you submit a  
9 Right-to-Know request?

10 MR. DWYER: Yes. And they have  
11 refused to respond. I have been ill and  
12 because of my illness I haven't been able to  
13 follow through. I have called the Office of  
14 Open Records and they tried to assist me,  
15 but because I wasn't able to continue with  
16 my part.

17 MS. EVANS: Well, if you can leave  
18 that with Ms. Carrera she will make a copy  
19 of it and we can try to request that.

20 MR. DWYER: Okay, I would appreciate  
21 that.

22 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

23 MR. ROGAN: Could you leave your  
24 contact information as well? I would like  
25 to give you a call to talk about this as

1 well.

2 MR. DWYER: Sure, thank you. Will  
3 do, And that is it.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dwyer,  
5 and I'm sure Mr. Rogan will be in touch, he  
6 is the Chair of Economic and Community  
7 Development now, and I'm sure he would be  
8 anxious to work with you.

9 MR. DWYER: Thank you very much. I  
10 appreciate it. It's wonderful knowing that  
11 there is an administration that wants to  
12 work with the community.

13 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Giovanni  
15 Piccolino.

16 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, city  
17 council, Giovanni Piccolino, resident and  
18 taxpayer and business owner. Since you guys  
19 appointed me to the board a lot of people  
20 have just been coming to the shop asking me  
21 questions, so after they ask me a question I  
22 just ask them a simple question: Is  
23 Scranton parking friendly? And just roughly  
24 on about 25 people I'd just like to give you  
25 a couple of quotes. The one gentleman said,

1 "It was a closer drive from Throop to here,"  
2 which was my pizza shop, "than it was to  
3 find a parking spot around town."

4 Another one was, "I'd rather park in  
5 the malls than in the parking garages."

6 And the most popular one was, "Could  
7 have been here earlier, but I had to circle  
8 around the block."

9 Those are just a couple now, a few  
10 other items I thought were very interesting  
11 and one of my conversations with a  
12 gentleman, this was one of his concerns, he  
13 is from Dunmore. When he used to go to the  
14 movies prior to the Community Bakery fire  
15 when they went to the movies you could go  
16 there and have your parking ticket validated  
17 so you didn't have to pay for parking, but  
18 now you have to pay for parking and they  
19 tell me because they don't have a contract.  
20 So I guess before the fire when you went to  
21 the movies you could bring your ticket and  
22 have it validated and didn't have to pay for  
23 parking. After the fire now you have to pay  
24 for parking.

25 MR. ROGAN: I heard that as well

1 from a few residents.

2 MR. PICCOLINO: That might be  
3 something -- what's that?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I said that's the  
5 theatre.

6 MR. PICCOLINO: Yeah. No, that was  
7 question of his.

8 MR. MCGOFF: The validations are  
9 paid by the people that are validating and  
10 so it's not the Parking Authority, that  
11 would be something that the theatre owners  
12 would have to contract with the Parking  
13 Authority.

14 MR. GIOVANNI: Right. He was  
15 wondering why prior to fire he had to pay  
16 and then after -- or he didn't before and  
17 then after he did.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I think it's a new  
19 ownership of the theatre, isn't it?

20 MS. EVANS: Or at least new  
21 management.

22 MR. MCGOFF: And so that contract  
23 would be, again, would have to be with the  
24 management of the theatre and not the  
25 Parking Authority.



1 MR. PICCOLINO: Okay, I'm sure he is  
2 watching so you might have just answered it  
3 for him. Also, the Coney Island on Cedar  
4 Avenue had something for me to ask you guys.  
5 It's according to him he used to have  
6 parking 30 minutes around, you know, for  
7 him, but over the course of the winter there  
8 was construction. A lot of his parking  
9 30-minute signs have been misplaced or are  
10 now gone and all of his patrons are  
11 receiving tickets now that they didn't  
12 receive tickets prior for and he is actually  
13 paying for their parking tickets, and he  
14 said it was actually made an ordinance that  
15 he had these spots. It was made into law,  
16 so he was just wondering if they possibly be  
17 reconstructed and put back up for him.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. We'll look into  
19 that. I'm sure if we have an ordinance we  
20 will be able to find it in our office and  
21 then it can be enforced and new signs can be  
22 made.

23 MR. PICCOLINO: Okay. These are  
24 requests, it's probably for you guys,  
25 someone would like a "Children at Play" sign

1 around the 1,000 block of Blair Street. He  
2 said there is a lot of children around there  
3 and people are speeding up and down the  
4 block. I'm not quite sure where Blair  
5 Street is. And then a sign repair on the  
6 corner of Diamond Avenue and Foster Street.  
7 A stop sign was severely damaged, and that's  
8 about it.

9 I just had one last thing since he  
10 is in the audience here, I'm not really sure  
11 of his name, Roger Depaugh, whatever his  
12 name is, he wrote in the paper for me being  
13 put on the Parking Authority that our family  
14 didn't want to be included in the  
15 redevelopment project and then he saw me on  
16 the steps of city council and he apologized  
17 and said he would write a retraction. For  
18 the thousandth time with that newspaper that  
19 I wouldn't let me dogs poop on, we wanted to  
20 be part of the project. We are going to  
21 Court April 22, April 23, for eminent domain  
22 that our mayor doesn't see that that's a  
23 waste of taxpayers' money, and that's it.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 MS. EVANS: Ms. Carrera, if we could

1 pass those citizens' requests onto the  
2 appropriate parties, although, I'm wondering  
3 what type of difficulty we are going to  
4 encounter since we don't have a traffic  
5 maintenance department any longer and they  
6 are the department that typically  
7 constructed the signs and erected all  
8 traffic signs within the city, so hopefully  
9 there is something that can be done.

10 Mr. Dobrzyn.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Thank you. Good  
12 evening, Council. Dave Dobrzyn, resident of  
13 Scranton and member of the Taxpayers'.  
14 Someone in the audience asked me to remind  
15 council, we have a lot of things on our  
16 plate, but of the situation on Dickson  
17 Avenue, is it? Daron Industries? Is that  
18 Dickson Avenue?

19 MS. EVANS: Oh, Dickson Avenue.

20 MR. DOBRZYN: That according to them  
21 they are a neighbor and they feel things are  
22 worse than ever down there, so maybe we  
23 could some day after we get all of the  
24 things off of our plate start to work on  
25 some of these things.

1                   Also, 5-B and C, if Mr. Loscombe  
2                   possibly -- would you be in charge of that?  
3                   Like, just what it's all about and so forth.  
4                   I don't see the person here anymore, but  
5                   maybe they will come back, but it also got  
6                   my interest.

7                   And I'd like to remind you a few  
8                   weeks ago I had mentioned about Meadow and  
9                   Stafford Avenue getting a lot of heavy truck  
10                  traffic and construction vehicles, so if  
11                  possible we could keep on top of the state  
12                  and make them repair the damage that the  
13                  trucks are doing to those roads. Basically  
14                  by the time that project is done those  
15                  streets are trashed. They are really  
16                  trashed.

17                  And on our prior hearing, it's  
18                  been -- we have a lot of problems in the  
19                  country with the industrial space bubble, so  
20                  be careful what you ask for. We seen that  
21                  commercial space bubble rather because it's  
22                  certainly not anything like traditional  
23                  industry and, I mean, hopefully things will  
24                  work out. And I do a lot of shopping  
25                  downtown and try to patronize places and I

1 was at an interesting place last weekend,  
2 the City Dump. It's a restaurant in the  
3 old, what was that, Comerford or --

4 MS. EVANS: Ritz Theatre.

5 MR. DOBRZYN: Well, it's a very nice  
6 place. The admission is free, they have  
7 entertainment on Friday and Saturday night,  
8 and while I'm a little prejudice my brother  
9 is playing there this Friday, so if anybody  
10 wants to attend you can warm a drink and sit  
11 and listen to a nice band and the food is  
12 isn't half bad. Well, it looked tasty, but  
13 I had already eaten quite a bit.

14 Okay, now last week I brought up the  
15 Mulberry Street project and I saved the  
16 paper, and this is an artist's depiction,  
17 but before somebody spends \$90,000 on  
18 architectural plans and drawings and then  
19 finds out that this is incompatible with the  
20 usage of Mulberry Street I would like to  
21 bring this up and you can look at it and if  
22 possible if you want the article keep it,  
23 but slip me a copy or something on the way  
24 out.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

1 MR. DOBRZYN: Because I would like  
2 to keep it for my little reference for  
3 awhile, anyway. Okay. Here you go. Now, I  
4 don't want to pick on the University or  
5 argue about it, but that lane is very, very  
6 small as depicted in the artist's  
7 conception. So, I mean, maybe they just  
8 want to put it on either side or something,  
9 but if we are going to take a major artery  
10 to a lane then we better think about worry  
11 are going from there because what is it 2012  
12 the Harrison Avenue Bridge is going offline  
13 and it's going to be torn down and you're  
14 probably looking at a project and then who  
15 knows whether the state will run out of  
16 money in the mean time or wait for two or  
17 three years for it to be put back up or  
18 something will happen where they don't have  
19 the money to fix it and it will  
20 actually become unusable, so it's a concern  
21 of mine.

22 And, I mean, it's like I said, I  
23 don't want to beat up on you University, but  
24 therein again they do have to learn to live  
25 within it and we are trying to run a city

1 here, too. Thank you, and have a good  
2 night.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

5 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

6 I'm just here tonight to talk about the  
7 hearing that council had about the mayor,  
8 this lawsuit, and the article that was in  
9 the Scranton Times yesterday. I just  
10 thought it was very biased. I think perhaps  
11 maybe these are all only my opinions that  
12 the Times was giving it's last pitch to try  
13 to sway Judge Mazzone in ruling in the  
14 mayor's favor.

15 I was at the hearing every day. It  
16 took over a course of two weeks and I think  
17 there was four days of full hearings of  
18 people on the stand from 9:00 in the morning  
19 to 4:30, sometime 5:00 at night. I observed  
20 all of this. Attorney Hughes started by  
21 saying this country is in recession and  
22 everybody in the United States is cutting  
23 back and sure it hurts people, and that's to  
24 be realized and understood, we all know  
25 this. And he said we are only here for one

1 reason and one reason only does city council  
2 have a right to amend an ordinance, in this  
3 case, the budget, that's why we are here.  
4 So that was the groundwork, that was an  
5 opening statement.

6 Well, the city with Attorney Kelly  
7 and Attorney Paterson they paraded every  
8 person in the City of Scranton that works in  
9 the offices and the administration part of  
10 the city to come and speak about how  
11 council's cuts were going to hurt the city.  
12 It was like seven rooms of gloom. Jeff  
13 Brazil was saying that it's a disaster  
14 waiting to happen. I mean, you would think  
15 that the world was going to come to an end.

16 And then you saw Judge Mazzoni  
17 throwing his arms back saying, you know,  
18 "We've heard this. We are going to be here  
19 until next Easter," but attorney -- excuse  
20 me, Judge Mazzoni didn't stop it. He  
21 encouraged it. After these people spoke he  
22 would then ask them questions, just repeat  
23 what they said again just to reiterate, sort  
24 of made me wonder.

25 The city here is made up of two



1 governing branches, the legislative and the  
2 executive. The mayor with the executive and  
3 you are, of course, legislative, and that's  
4 when you were doing, you were legislating  
5 and you have every right to do so.

6 I couldn't get over how when the  
7 mayor was up there on the witness stand and  
8 they spoke about how when he was on council  
9 he as a council person, finance chair,  
10 amended the budget of Mayor Connors and it  
11 was a unanimous decision to do this, but  
12 then when it came to the vote it was 3-2 and  
13 the judge asked him, "Mayor, how come it was  
14 3-2?"

15 He offered the answer and said, "Oh,  
16 politics. We're politicians," and everybody  
17 laughed.

18 But when Mrs. Evans got on the stand  
19 the judge was very, very condescending to  
20 her and spoke to her like she was a child in  
21 school. It was just so -- I just couldn't  
22 get over how this judge allowed all of these  
23 departments to come here for hours on end,  
24 hours, one person after another and Attorney  
25 Hughes would get up and say, "This is not

1           why we are here," and the judge would agree,  
2           but yet he let them do it some more.

3                        So I'm thinking to myself, something  
4           is going on here. He wants to build a  
5           pretty good case and if the council loses  
6           this case I'm afraid it's going to set a  
7           precedent for the mayor to use another case  
8           that's coming up. The bottom line is what  
9           would have taken only an hour to rule, does  
10          council have a right to amend this budget,  
11          Judge Mazzoni allowed this to go on for two  
12          weeks. It was outrageous in my estimation,  
13          but the law doesn't always guarantee  
14          justice.

15                       A couple of other things I want  
16          to -- oh, okay, Stu Renda. He was making  
17          \$35,000 a year one day, the next day he is  
18          earning 80. How would you like to get a pay  
19          raise of \$45,000? It's unheard of. I got a  
20          50 cent an hour raise a year. \$45,000  
21          raise. The mayor seems more interested in  
22          saving jobs for maybe 15 people or 12  
23          people, his campaign contributors, versus  
24          70,000 people in the city, the taxpayers.  
25          He doesn't even want to be here. He wants

1 to be out campaigning.

2 Well, that's about all. The only  
3 thing I'm trying to say it I hope the judge  
4 rules the right way. I used to think that  
5 when you went to a judge you would get fair  
6 government until I have seen many Court  
7 cases. I happened to go to a couple of  
8 Court hearings with people with that Kenny  
9 McDowell suit, I went like three times, and  
10 each time where the Supreme Court ruled that  
11 he could run, but he can't serve, but when  
12 Joe Pilchesky went in front of the judge  
13 three times the judge always found -- the  
14 judges, many times there were more than one,  
15 they always found an excuse as to why Kenny  
16 McDowell couldn't be taken out of office and  
17 they're ridiculous, so if the Supreme Court  
18 says you can't serve and the judges in  
19 Lackawanna County make excuses, something --  
20 you have to think about this. You have to  
21 think long and hard about the judicial  
22 system in Lackawanna County.

23 Same thing with Judy Gatelli, and  
24 I'll only be one second. I went to the  
25 hearing with Judy Gatelli about the lawsuits

1 and she was in Court and the judge came from  
2 out of town and he said to Joe Pilchesky,  
3 "What about other case you had on appeal?"

4 And Joe said, "What has that got to  
5 do with anything?"

6 He said, "I don't know."

7 The judge got and walked out he  
8 never even -- never even addressed that Judy  
9 Gatelli issue and to this day he has not  
10 even responded. Go figure. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Ms. Franus.  
12 Is there anyone else that who would like to  
13 address council?

14 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening.  
15 Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment Rights.  
16 Just a few things tonight. The Connell  
17 building, 23 million renovations, looks like  
18 they have stopped again. For a number of  
19 months last year including this year there  
20 was inactivity. Very recently it was  
21 publicized that there was a \$684,000  
22 judgment put on the owners and I'm just  
23 wondering how long this current lapse of  
24 inactivity is going to be.

25 Twenty-three million is a lot of

1 money to be wasted if the project is halted.  
2 I keep thinking back to the \$267,000 that  
3 were wasted that was paid to renovate the  
4 Casey Parking Garage only to have it torn  
5 down because the building was unsafe. If  
6 you wonder why I'm concerned, there is  
7 taxpayer money being spent there. The  
8 private money is the concern of the private  
9 investors, that's their problem. The  
10 taxpayer money is our problem. I hate to  
11 see that wasted, and this just reminds me  
12 about the 300 million plus that we owe in  
13 long-term debt that we taxpayers will have  
14 to pay back. Actually, the 300 million will  
15 be paid back by our children and  
16 grandchildren.

17 Recently the mayor commented about  
18 the pay decrease the police chief is going  
19 to get under the revised budget and how it  
20 will make the police chief the lowest paid  
21 police chief in the area. I wish the mayor  
22 would have finished the sentence and the  
23 slimies would have printed it. The rest of  
24 this sentence should have been, "The  
25 Scranton Police Department was once the

1 highest paid department in the area and  
2 since I became mayor I have successfully and  
3 laboriously helped them to become the lowest  
4 paid department in the area."

5 I'm going to say that eventually the  
6 numerous Court cases, the numerous  
7 arbitrations, and the numerous labor board  
8 cases are going to come to an end and when  
9 they do and the unions win the monetary  
10 awards to the unions are going to be  
11 enormous. The SIT clerk case alone is 1.5  
12 million. The back pays are getting larger  
13 and larger as the days go by and everybody  
14 knows the saying robbing from Peter to pay  
15 Paul, well, Peter is going to be at the door  
16 looking for his money, but the unions will  
17 get blamed again even though it was the  
18 mayor to appealed all of the Court cases and  
19 hired \$600 an hour attorneys to fight them.  
20 The whole fiasco could have been eliminated  
21 by both sides sitting down and negotiating  
22 in good faith.

23 The mayor threw monkey wrenches in  
24 all the talks. The unions are not go to be  
25 blamed for the talks breaking down, like I

1           said, I know, I was on the negotiating team.

2                     Thank you, council for taking  
3           \$95,000 from the law department professional  
4           services account. That still leaves  
5           \$584,950 in the professional services  
6           account in the remaining department budgets  
7           and this includes the \$90,000 still in the  
8           law department account. We, the people,  
9           thank you, Council, for standing firm and  
10          amending the budget and overriding the  
11          mayor's veto. You are saving the taxpayers  
12          almost \$700,000. I know you will vote for  
13          agenda items that effect the city positively  
14          and will vote against agenda items that  
15          effect the city negatively like the  
16          exorbitant BS, borrowing and spending.  
17          Thanks again. We, the people, thank you.

18                     And just to add to Mr. Piccolino's  
19          statement about driving around the block  
20          looking for a parking spot, Scranton Police  
21          Department juvenile unit is now -- the  
22          office is now located in the Adams high  
23          rise, 420 Adams Avenue. I have driven  
24          around the block as many as seven times  
25          looking for a parking spot. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Ancherani. Chris Sledenzski. I like  
3 your shirt.

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Oh, thank you.  
5 Janet, I want to get this to you. I want to  
6 give this to you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: The roads back  
9 there are bad and they are out doing  
10 potholes this week.

11 MS. EVANS: Yes, they are out doing  
12 potholes this week.

13 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Jack, those  
14 firemen downstairs are doing a good job,  
15 ain't they, Jack? My buddies are down  
16 there, aren't they?

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah.

18 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Tough work. They  
19 do a good work. Keep them down there. Keep  
20 them, will you?

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris. Is  
22 there anyone else that wishes to address  
23 council? Mr. McGoff, any motions?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Please. A number of  
25 things. First of all, I would like to



1 clarify a statement that was apparently made  
2 at the recent Court hearings and was quoted  
3 in the newspaper. It was said that  
4 Mrs. Evans had personal contact with me  
5 concerning the budget and that I had no  
6 suggestions to offer. I would just like to  
7 clarify how that took place. In speaking  
8 with Mrs. Evans after our meeting one  
9 evening about another issue of information,  
10 Mrs. Evans finished the conversation by  
11 saying, "Just so you know, within the next  
12 couple of weeks we will be looking at the  
13 budget."

14 That was the extent of the contact  
15 and the conversation and that no further  
16 contact was made with me concerning those  
17 amendments. And the reason I say this or I  
18 want to clarify this is that at one point in  
19 time I did say that I had no contact  
20 concerning the amendments and a number of  
21 people, including some family members, asked  
22 me which was correct, the newspaper comment  
23 or the newspaper article or what I said. So  
24 I just wanted to clarify how that did take  
25 place.

1                   The second thing that I would like  
2                   to talk about is the need for council to  
3                   meet in caucus. I know the reasons for last  
4                   week's was --for canceling last week's was  
5                   understandable, but I think that council  
6                   needs to meet on a much more regular basis.  
7                   We haven't had a single caucus with council  
8                   since the beginning of the year and I think  
9                   we need to do that so that we can discuss  
10                  the programs that are going to allow us to  
11                  make progress in the city. I think that  
12                  more communication among council members  
13                  would be -- is much needed to do that,  
14                  especially dealing right now with the rental  
15                  registration ordinance that we have talked  
16                  about during council, but yet we have been  
17                  unable to meet, you know, concerning it.  
18                  And I know Mrs. Evans and I talked after  
19                  last meeting that she has some things that  
20                  she has looked at, I know Mr. Rogan has  
21                  looked at it, I have had some contact with  
22                  Mr. Seitzinger and I think that's something  
23                  that we really need to work on immediately,  
24                  and I have said that before.

25                   I think that -- I think that a

1 deadline of at the very latest June 1 for  
2 the implementation of that program is  
3 needed. I just think that we need to get to  
4 that. It's a source of revenue, it's a  
5 source of helping to clean up some of the  
6 problems that we have with absentee  
7 landlords and I just think that we need to  
8 more move forward expeditiously with that.

9 The next thing, we send a lot of  
10 letters. Some of them are necessary, I  
11 think some of them would be better dealt  
12 with through phone calls and e-mails. I  
13 know we like to keep a record of things that  
14 are sent. I think that, however, one letter  
15 for the -- one paper for the, you know,  
16 files would be sufficient and some of the  
17 other things could be accomplished through  
18 e-mails and through phone calls.

19 In actuality, I think that some of  
20 the -- especially the citizens' requests  
21 that are asked for could probably be taken  
22 care of quicker through an e-mail or through  
23 a phone call, much quicker turnover time,  
24 and I know I spoke to Mrs. Krake the other  
25 day and she said that not everybody is

1 really up to speed with the e-mails, and I  
2 think you did say that, I don't mean to  
3 quote you, but I think it's something that  
4 we should be looking not only to save on  
5 paper a little bit, but maybe to get some of  
6 the things accomplished in a quicker manner.

7 One of the things that has been  
8 brought up here constantly has been the  
9 nonprofits, and especially the schools. One  
10 of the things that rather than looking for  
11 more money from that in terms of payments in  
12 lieu of taxes, one of the things that we  
13 might -- that the city may want to look at  
14 is a reassessment of the nonprofits. Not  
15 all of the property and not all of the  
16 things that go on within these nonprofits  
17 are tax exempt, and I'm not sure that the  
18 city is taking full advantage of these  
19 nontax exempt situations. I know that the  
20 parking garages are -- that they pay a  
21 certain amount on parking garages, at least  
22 the hospitals do, but there are some other  
23 things, food services. I know, for example,  
24 one of the best places to eat is the  
25 DeNaple's Center. Their buffet is

1           tremendous and I know that they service a  
2           number of nonstudents. Are they paying an  
3           appropriate, you know, tax on that for  
4           profit part of their business? That's  
5           something that can be looked at.

6                     Entertainment venues, basketball  
7           games there are held, high school basketball  
8           games that are held at University of  
9           Scranton or Marywood or wherever else, you  
10          know, these are for profit events, are they  
11          being taxed?

12                    Entertainment venues, the theatres,  
13          the Mellow Theatre holds any number of  
14          events that are outside of the purview of  
15          the school that they are not school events  
16          they are, you know, public events, are taxes  
17          being paid on those when they are used as  
18          profit making?

19                    And also commercial sites, book  
20          stores, you know, any types of commercial  
21          sites within the school grounds, you know,  
22          little coffee shops, you know, that type of  
23          thing. Are there taxes being paid on those?

24                    These are all legitimate things  
25          that could be taxed and I'm not sure that

1           they are. And, as I said, this is a way  
2           of -- this is a legal and permissible way of  
3           taking -- not taking money, but assessing  
4           the nonprofits for the businesses and the  
5           things that they do for profit, and so we  
6           may want to take a look at, you know,  
7           examining some of those issues and see if we  
8           can do something to reassess these places.

9                     And as far as the Mulberry Street  
10           situation, I will call the University of  
11           Scranton tomorrow. I know at one time I was  
12           in the past year when we did actually -- we  
13           did vote, it did come before council for a I  
14           don't know if I'll call it permission, but  
15           the whole program did come before council  
16           for the street scape at one point in time,  
17           I'm going to say at least a year ago, it may  
18           have been longer, but it was before council  
19           and there was, you know, permission to do  
20           that, to begin the project, and at that time  
21           I was shown and explained how the project  
22           was going to develop and what they were  
23           doing in the streets. My memory is a little  
24           vague on exactly what it was that was told  
25           to me at that time, however, I will call the

1 appropriate people at the University of  
2 Scranton and see if I can reassess that  
3 information for council, and that's it.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. I believe it  
6 was maybe a month or so ago I asked council  
7 to send a letter regarding going paperless  
8 in the city and we do we go through a lot of  
9 paper. Each week we get, you know, inches  
10 this thick of paperwork and it's costing the  
11 city money to print it, we are using trees,  
12 and I don't believe we ever got a response  
13 from the administration, but maybe, you  
14 know, we could setup a caucus to discuss  
15 that in a public caucus and I definitely  
16 think it's something that we can do to save  
17 money in the city and it would make  
18 communications faster.

19 I would like to comment about the  
20 Scranton Times' article regarding the budget  
21 amendments. They have been running articles  
22 and cartoons weekly, daily sometimes, saying  
23 that this is giveaway to the city unions.  
24 When we proposed this in looking at it, it  
25 had nothing to do with the city unions. It

1 was about saving the taxpayers money. We  
2 saved almost \$700,000 by making these  
3 amendments, and it's the people's money,  
4 it's not the union's money, and each and  
5 every decision we make is for the city as a  
6 whole, not one group, and I just wanted to  
7 clear that up because it was very  
8 frustrating that the Times is setting this  
9 up as it's a fight between the unions and  
10 the administration when what it actually is  
11 we are just trying to save the taxpayers  
12 money.

13 I have a bunch of citizens' requests  
14 for the week, a few of them are pretty  
15 elaborate. There was a property at 1431  
16 North Washington Avenue that was taken down  
17 by the city, it was next to a Kwik Joe Mart  
18 and it was taken down and the property next  
19 door, I believe it was 1429 North  
20 Washington, they had some damage to their  
21 property and the workers who did the work  
22 said that it would be repaired and they  
23 haven't heard back from them. I have  
24 pictures and other documentation from the  
25 resident.



1                   And I also have one on 1319  
2                   Lafayette Street where a DPW truck was going  
3                   down Carlton Place and they scraped the side  
4                   of one of the homes.

5                   So, Mrs. Krake, could we send a  
6                   letter to Mr. Brazil asking to setup a  
7                   meeting so we could discuss these two  
8                   situations as well as the street sweeping  
9                   that I mentioned a few weeks ago on council.

10                  And also at the corner of Harrison  
11                  and East Gibson Street I have received a lot  
12                  of phone calls from residents up there,  
13                  there is lot of accidents, and I would like  
14                  to request that PennDOT look into putting a  
15                  four-way stop sign or a light into that  
16                  location, and it may take awhile, but  
17                  hopefully we can get it done.

18                  MR. MCGOFF: We will be driving  
19                  those hovercrafts.

20                  MR. ROGAN: And finally, last week I  
21                  mentioned about Megan's Law and the sex  
22                  offender registry and I have received  
23                  multiple e-mails and phone calls, and I  
24                  apologize, I haven't gotten back to everyone  
25                  yet regarding this issue, but the response

1 has been overwhelmingly in favor of amending  
2 the law so that it can be enforced. And,  
3 you know, I received a lot of responses  
4 that, you know, people are concerned about  
5 the children's safety in their neighborhoods  
6 and it's something that's very important.  
7 So over the next few weeks I'm going to  
8 continue to look into what other communities  
9 are doing and hopefully when our solicitor  
10 gets back talk with him so we can make  
11 something with teeth in it that would really  
12 help keep the kids in our neighborhoods safe  
13 and be legal at the same time, and that is  
14 all I have.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Just one  
16 thing, Mr. Rogan, I think you might want to  
17 pull the ordinance from I'm going to say it  
18 was either 2006 or 2007 that council  
19 actually --

20 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, that's the one  
21 that Allegheny County they had a similar  
22 ordinance and it was stuck down. The ACLU  
23 challenged it, so when a few of the police  
24 officers mentioned that they don't want to  
25 enforce it because they are fearful that

1           they will be sued because it was struck down  
2           in other county, so hopefully we can work  
3           with Attorney Hughes and figure out  
4           something that would be legal.

5                     MS. EVANS: Using that as a base.

6                     MR. ROGAN: Using that as a base,  
7           yes.

8                     MS. EVANS: Thank you. And  
9           Councilman Loscombe, do you have any  
10          motions?

11                    MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.  
12          Evans. First, I would like to echo  
13          Mr. Rogan's view of the newspaper and the  
14          administration's constant bashing of unions.  
15          I'm a union man, I worked nonunion prior, I  
16          have worked administrative positions, this  
17          is not about unions. This is about the  
18          working man in this city and if we can save  
19          some money on a budget to help in the  
20          long-run, because I'm telling you, it's  
21          going to come to roost, and that's all we  
22          are doing here. To make any of us look like  
23          union puppets or whatever that's totally  
24          wrong. I think enough people in this city  
25          know what we are here for and what we are

1           doing and why we are doing what we are  
2           doing. We are doing it for you. We are not  
3           up here looking for something better for us,  
4           we are you. We are not looking to go any  
5           higher anywhere. That's where I stand and I  
6           know my colleagues we may be here Tuesday  
7           nights but I know every day of the week  
8           myself and my colleagues are on the phone,  
9           on the e-mails, out traveling through this  
10          city answering citizens' concerns. That's  
11          why we have a lot of paperwork because we  
12          are answering the citizens' concerns and we  
13          are doing some work on that. Now, that my  
14          Irish is up.

15                   MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, if I could  
16                   just add one thing to what you said, I think  
17                   it's also important to note that probably it  
18                   hasn't been clearly publically stated was  
19                   the fact that both the fire department and  
20                   the police department are down quite a  
21                   number of positions under this  
22                   administration yet this council in it's  
23                   budget amendments did not restore those  
24                   positions. And when I spoke with union  
25                   members basically I saw it as I'm speaking

1 with employees, but when speaking to union  
2 members they were also well aware that these  
3 positions were gone and that this council  
4 had not reinstated or replaced these  
5 positions, so I think that further provides  
6 evidence or credence to what Mr. Loscombe is  
7 saying this evening.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay. And just to  
9 address David Dobrzyn, you had asked me  
10 about 5-B and C, what they are doing is  
11 repealing an ordinance and then introducing  
12 an ordinance. That's in order to get rid of  
13 the 2003 building codes and bring in the  
14 2009 building codes for the update. That's  
15 what the process is for that because the  
16 state has updated the building codes that  
17 were under the UCC, if that explains what  
18 you were asking, okay?

19 Next item, Mr. Spindler, I believe  
20 he must have left, but he was asking, he  
21 mentioned the cell phone ordinance. Well,  
22 as you can see I have been doing some  
23 research since Wilkes-Barre introduced their  
24 ordinance, they were kind enough to forward  
25 their rough draft to me. I contacted their

1 city clerk and they forwarded it right to,  
2 me but I have gone through cell phone  
3 ordinances throughout the country and we are  
4 looking into doing this, but there are some  
5 appeals on some of the ordinances, as the  
6 ordinance that Mr. Rogan mentioned before,  
7 so before we enact an ordinance or introduce  
8 an ordinance we want to make sure everything  
9 is all -- the I's are dotted and the T's are  
10 crossed, it's enforceable, and I think it's  
11 a good idea because you see it more and more  
12 every day. So I just wanted to let  
13 Mr. Spindler know that we have been working  
14 on it.

15 And the last thing I have to say,  
16 and I think a few others have commented on  
17 it, it was the article in the newspaper, the  
18 editorial. I know you didn't write it,  
19 Roger, particularly these couple of  
20 sentences: "Last week the U of S announced  
21 plans to commence with the previously  
22 disclosed project to substantially improve  
23 Mulberry Street as it passes through the  
24 campus. Since it's inception, the project  
25 has been met enthusiastically by the Doherty

1 administration, but with indifference by  
2 council and the school board."

3 I don't think we showed any  
4 indifference. We embrace any improvement,  
5 especially if it's not coming out of our  
6 pockets. I think our only hesitation was  
7 the narrowing of a main corridor. I don't  
8 think that's being unreasonable and that's  
9 where I stand. I do not see narrowing  
10 Mulberry Street one inch. Move the  
11 sidewalks inward. I mean, we are happy with  
12 the U of S. They are a good neighbor, but,  
13 you know, don't take all of our streets.  
14 That's all I have to say on that.

15 "Rather than longing simply to  
16 extract money from the U of S and some tax  
17 exempt institutions, progressive local  
18 governments will be trying to figure how to  
19 best use those institutions as catalysts for  
20 long-term economic development and job  
21 creation."

22 Well, I think the University is  
23 there longer than I have been on this earth  
24 and think in that 55 years we should have  
25 figured it out. I just told you how old I

1 was. I guess I could order from the back  
2 menus now.

3 And the last thing, the last  
4 paragraph that got me a little bit,  
5 "Council's attention to the new school has  
6 been on the irrelevant political question of  
7 how much credit Mayor Chris Doherty should  
8 get for it."

9 I don't recall any of us even  
10 mentioning that when this came up, so to the  
11 editorialist and to those that read it,  
12 those unfortunate ones that purchase it,  
13 come to us and we'll tell you the truth.  
14 That's all I have to say.

15 MR. ROGAN: I would like to also add  
16 that three of us weren't on council when it  
17 was announced that the medical school was  
18 coming here. It was previous to us being  
19 elected.

20 MS. EVANS: Um-hum. And I do recall  
21 incidentally having been very, very  
22 supportive of that, so much so that there  
23 was tremendous surprise on the part of the  
24 newspaper that two such as they like to  
25 portray us, unfortunately, arch enemies were



1           seeing eye-to-eye on a project. So, you  
2           know, I know that an editorial though isn't  
3           based on fact and I think that's what we all  
4           must remember. They don't have to write  
5           about fact, it's purely opinion. Mr. Joyce?

6                       MR. JOYCE: Yes. I have a few  
7           comments. Tonight Austin Burke, who had  
8           Scranton heads Scranton Chamber of Commerce,  
9           appeared in caucus and answered various  
10          questions that we all had. One of the  
11          primary issues in the City of Scranton  
12          continues to be the lack of high paying  
13          jobs. This is a matter that the Chamber of  
14          Commerce must continue to vigorously look  
15          into and vigorously look to improve.

16                      You know, this is going to be one of  
17          the main issues that determines whether or  
18          not Scranton thrives in the future or  
19          whether it fails, whether it attracts new  
20          residents -- or whether it attracts new  
21          residents or not along with the fact that  
22          the lack of high paying jobs in this area is  
23          one of the main reasons why many go away to  
24          college and never come back except to visit  
25          their families on holidays.

1                   I understand that there have been  
2                   efforts by the chamber and Mr. Burke to  
3                   attract more high paying jobs in the area  
4                   and these efforts must continue. These  
5                   efforts must keep going on and elected  
6                   officials and the chamber must work together  
7                   in order to bring high paying jobs back to  
8                   the area.

9                   You know, I know that Mr. Loscombe  
10                  just mentioned something about the medical  
11                  college and in no way am I against the  
12                  medical college. I think the medical  
13                  college could be used as a great tool to  
14                  bring industry into this area. As Mr. Burke  
15                  said, the bioscience industry, greater  
16                  technology, possibly a pharmaceutical  
17                  company, all terrific industries which offer  
18                  high paying family sustaining jobs could be  
19                  brought into this area by using the medical  
20                  college as a marketing tool, and this is  
21                  something that, you know, I'm in no way --  
22                  in no way am I not supporting this. I think  
23                  one would be foolish not to support the  
24                  medical college.

25                  Well, also, you know, I think one of

1 the things that Mr. Burke did do tonight is  
2 he answered some questions that a lot of  
3 people may have had at home. Through my  
4 brief stint on council thus far I have been  
5 contacted by various residents who have  
6 contacted me asking, you know, where do I go  
7 if I need to obtain a loan to start a small  
8 business? Who did I turn to? And, you  
9 know, tonight Mr. Burke just mentioned two  
10 programs, two great programs that people  
11 could seek out if they are looking to start  
12 a business in their community, a small  
13 business and provide jobs to the area and,  
14 you know, funding is available to these  
15 people through programs such as MetroAction  
16 and also SIDCO and these are opportunities  
17 that are available for people that may not  
18 be able to obtain credit those banks and  
19 this is just a great help. And, you know,  
20 utilizing some of the services that the  
21 chamber provides and really helps someone  
22 get on their way at starting a business in  
23 the area and the more people that engage in  
24 this process and the more businesses that  
25 are started and the more businesses that we

1 attract in this area the better off we will  
2 be.

3 In conclusion, for those that are at  
4 home tonight and listening and would like to  
5 look into some of the programs that the  
6 Scranton Chamber does have to offer, and if  
7 some of the responses provided by Mr. Burke  
8 weren't sufficient to your liking, I will  
9 invite you to review some of the material on  
10 their website at [www.Scrantonchamber.com](http://www.Scrantonchamber.com). I  
11 actually have been reviewing their site over  
12 the past week when I found some very useful  
13 information that would be very beneficial to  
14 the community, and that is all I really have  
15 tonight. I have no further comments.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.  
17 Good evening. First, I have one additional  
18 announcement which I received during the  
19 course of tonight's meeting. There will be  
20 a Support Life music benefit for CareNet  
21 Pregnancy Center of Scranton. All ages are  
22 invited to attend. It is an alcohol-free  
23 smoke-free event. It will take place on  
24 Saturday, April 24, from 6:00 p.m. to 11  
25 p.m. at the Parish Hall at the Church of the

1 Good Shepard, 1780 North Washington Avenue,  
2 Scranton, which is actually the corner of  
3 North Washington and Electric Street. The  
4 donation is \$10 and a number of musical acts  
5 will be featured: Three Imaginary Boys from  
6 9:30 to 11:00; Aname, which is a Christian  
7 rock band at 8:15 p.m., the John Guido  
8 Phillips band at 7:30 p.m., George Wesley at  
9 7:00, Father Jim Paisley at 6:30, and Father  
10 Ed Buckheights, CP, from St. Ann's Monastery  
11 at 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. A very  
12 worthy cause and quite an evening of musical  
13 enjoyment.

14 We are all well aware of the brush  
15 fires on East Mountain that began on  
16 Saturday, April 3, and continue through this  
17 morning. City council wishes to recognize  
18 area firefighters, the Department of  
19 Conservation and Natural Resources and all  
20 public safety responders for their tireless  
21 efforts to control and extinguish wild  
22 fires. Because of their dedicated work,  
23 homes and businesses remain safe. We are  
24 deeply grateful.

25 I am also most appreciative of the

1 many supportive calls and e-mails I have  
2 received through the last few weeks.

3 First, regarding the Court hearing  
4 instituted by the mayor against Scranton  
5 City Council, there are, as I believe was  
6 mentioned earlier by a speaker, there are  
7 two separate governing bodies in our city,  
8 the executive and the legislative branch.  
9 Neither can totally function independently  
10 of the other and both have rights and  
11 authority provided by the Home Rule Charter  
12 and Administrative Code.

13 The issue is not a power struggle  
14 over who runs the city because, in fact,  
15 both branches are necessary to govern the  
16 city. Bottom line, one cannot do this  
17 without the other nor is the alleged harm  
18 caused by the loss of 14 jobs and 14 pay  
19 decreases according to the scheming and  
20 histrionic mayor. The people know that  
21 public service services were not cut by  
22 council's amendments and that city  
23 departments will not come to a screeching  
24 halt by cutting less than 1 percent of the  
25 budget. The only issue at stake is the

1 right of city council to amend and repeal  
2 any city ordinance except those proposed by  
3 referendum and initiative as stated in the  
4 Home Rule Charter.

5 This right has no time limit and it  
6 does not exclude an operating budget. It  
7 only specifically excludes by it's language  
8 referendum and initiative, yet this right  
9 has been challenged by the mayor, although,  
10 a prior council in 2000 of which Mr. Doherty  
11 served as the finance chair amended a budget  
12 following it's legal and lawful adoption.

13 This is the true issue, nothing  
14 more, nothing less. This new city council  
15 is a proactive, pro taxpayer one that stands  
16 up for core principals and values within  
17 it's scope of authority, principals of  
18 fiscal restraint and financial  
19 responsibility which the taxpayers demanded  
20 in the November election and that the week  
21 financial status of a distressed city  
22 requires.

23 Second, regarding the meeting with  
24 the FBI, the discussion did not concern me  
25 or the current council. No further comments

1 will be made.

2 Next, the business administrator  
3 requested proposals for electricity supply  
4 and related services and these proposals  
5 will be opened in city council chambers on  
6 Friday, April 16, at 10:30 a.m. If the city  
7 realizes savings from this process, as  
8 numerous businesses and organizations have  
9 enjoyed by switching electricity suppliers,  
10 council will report the results to you.

11 Just another few comments. With  
12 regard to some of the suggestions or  
13 comments made by Councilman McGoff tonight,  
14 I'm sure all of you are aware, as are all  
15 members of council, that since our -- since  
16 our swearing in I believe on January 4,  
17 2010, this council has conducted numerous  
18 public caucuses. They have substituted for  
19 what was in the past always a caucus meeting  
20 in a back room among council members and  
21 this council felt it was much more important  
22 to bring in department heads, to bring in  
23 bidding situations that were questionable,  
24 to bring in Austin Burke, to bring in those  
25 individuals who had originally contacted



1 city council about the application for the  
2 Google pilot program, and those are just a  
3 few of the many caucuses that have been  
4 held.

5 I do think that council has the  
6 opportunity every day to call and speak with  
7 one another, to e-mail one another. In  
8 addition to that, I think it might be a very  
9 good idea to possibly schedule at least one  
10 work session per month that would precede a  
11 council meeting during which time council  
12 can discuss the legislation it hopes to  
13 draft or any other suggestions or problems  
14 that arise throughout the month.

15 In addition, my concern,  
16 particularly after having attended the Court  
17 hearing, is that it's been made abundantly  
18 clear by the members of the administration  
19 that we have no right to speak with them  
20 unless given the permission of the mayor and  
21 they cite the Home Rule Charter as evidence  
22 of that, and that we cannot act as a single  
23 individual in any situation, we must act as  
24 a body, yet I don't know how the Sunshine  
25 Law is going to play into all of that



1 of what occurs and I think that had been  
2 noted at a previous council meeting that  
3 with regard to council amendments for the  
4 2011 budget council is monitoring  
5 departments and the necessity for the  
6 budgets within each of those departments and  
7 this is just another piece of that in terms  
8 of keeping track of what responses go out,  
9 what responses come in, who appears to be  
10 doing their job and who is failing to do the  
11 job.

12 And again, you know, it's -- we are  
13 told even in the event of citizen's requests  
14 we are expected to run everything through  
15 the mayor. I think that's unfortunate, I  
16 think that's unnecessary, the mayor is far  
17 too busy to be able to look at the I would  
18 venture to say maybe 100 requests that come  
19 out of city council each month, and  
20 hopefully a some point in time the  
21 administration and city council can work  
22 more cooperatively for the benefit of the  
23 citizens of Scranton.

24 Finally, I have some citizens'  
25 requests. Rather than going through them

1 all because actually I had four originally  
2 and since this morning I'm probably up to  
3 about ten or 11, and so I'm just going to  
4 pass those along to the appropriate  
5 departments and I want you to know that if  
6 you e-mailed me, yes, I have those requests  
7 and they will be passed along tomorrow. And  
8 for all of you who called into council's  
9 office in the last week or who e-mailed  
10 council's office I am in possession of those  
11 requests as well and they will be going out  
12 this week to the appropriate parties, and  
13 that's it.

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
15 AN ORDINANCE - REPEALING FILE OF COUNCIL NO.  
16 41, 2004, AN ORDINANCE, ENTITLED "ADOPTION  
17 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSTRUCTION CODE ACT 45  
18 OF 1999 FOUND AT 35 P.S. §§  
19 7210.701-7210.1103; GOVERNING THE DESIGN,  
20 CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, REPAIR AND  
21 OCCUPANCY OF ALL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES,  
22 BASED UPON AND INCORPORATING THE TERMS OF  
23 THE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE; PROVIDING FOR  
24 THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, PLAN REVIEW,  
25 COLLECTION OF FEES, MAKING OF INSPECTIONS,

1 PROVIDING PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES FOR THE  
2 VIOLATION; THEREOF; AND GOVERNING TRAINING  
3 AND CERTIFICATION OF INSPECTORS”.

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

7 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second. On the  
9 question? All those in favor signify by  
10 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 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION-  
18 AN ORDINANCE - ADOPTION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
19 CONSTRUCTION CODE ACT 45 OF 1999 FOUND AT 35  
20 P.S. §§ 7210.701-7210.1103; GOVERNING THE  
21 DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, REPAIR AND  
22 OCCUPANCY OF ALL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES,  
23 BASED UPON AND INCORPORATING THE TERMS OF  
24 THE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE; PROVIDING FOR  
25 THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, PLAN REVIEW,

1                   COLLECTION OF FEES, MAKING OF INSPECTIONS,  
2                   PROVIDING PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES FOR THE  
3                   VIOLATION THEREOF; AND GOVERNING TRAINING  
4                   AND CERTIFICATION OF INSPECTORS.

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

8                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9                   MR. JOYCE: Second. On the  
10                  question? All those in favor signify by  
11                  saying aye.

12                 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13                 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14                 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15                 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18                 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
19                 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.  
20                 A RESOLUTION -AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
21                 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
22                 AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE  
23                 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
24                 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("DEP") FLOOD  
25                 PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM TO ACCEPT GRANT

1 FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,800.00 TO  
2 PURCHASE A TRUCK, BRUSH MOWER, RIDE-ON MOWER  
3 AND SKID MOUNTED SPRAYER.

4 MS. EVANS: What is the pleasure of  
5 the Chair on Public Works?

6 MR. MCGOFF: As Chair for the  
7 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final  
8 passage of Item 7-A.

9 MR. ROGAN: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll  
11 call, please.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. A RESOLUTION -  
24 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO.187, 2009 ENTITLED  
25 "AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

1 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND APPLY FOR A  
2 GRANT FOR HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT  
3 ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
4 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND  
5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DCED) IN THE AMOUNT OF  
6 \$450,000.00. IF THE GRANT APPLICATION IS  
7 SUCCESSFUL, THE CITY WILL COORDINATE  
8 THE USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH THE UNITED  
9 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
10 CORPORATION (UNCDC) FOR A PROJECT  
11 TO BE CALLED THE "CEDAR AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD  
12 HOUSING REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE" ("CEDAR-  
13 NHRI")" BY INCLUDING ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE  
14 REQUIRED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
15 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
16 DEVELOPMENT.

17 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the  
18 Committee on Community Development, I  
19 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

20 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.



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

MR. ROGAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare  
Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted. I'll  
entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

---

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER