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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

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. Before we proceed
14 with the reading of the minutes we have a
15 special proclamation that city council
16 wishes to present this evening. It goes to
17 a student of Scranton High School and
18 Scranton High School, of course, is knowing
19 as the Campus of Champions and wonderful
20 things, great accomplishments are made at
21 this city high school every day. Gentlemen?

22 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "TERRY
24 TURNER", son of Terry and Felicia Turner and
25 brother of sisters Terika, Nashira, and

1 Alicia, all Scranton High School graduates,
2 and WHEREAS "TERRY" is a sophomore at
3 Scranton High School, and a 6'5" member of
4 the basketball team, and WHEREAS, "TERRY" is
5 a Lackawanna Division 1 First-Team Coaches
6 All-Star, was named to the All-Regional Team
7 and Third Team All-State, and WHEREAS,
8 "TERRY" averaged 19.6 points with 23 - 3
9 pointers in leading Scranton High to a 22-7
10 record and the program's first District 2
11 Class AAAA title, and WHEREAS, "TERRY" is
12 the area's top scorer averaging 21.1 points
13 per games, and WHEREAS, "TERRY" averaged
14 18.3 points and 5.7 rebounds per game in the
15 PIAA playoffs, and WHEREAS, "TERRY" is a
16 two-year starter who has scored 949 points
17 and is beginning to attract interest from
18 St. Joseph's, Temple, Penn State, and
19 LaSalle Universities, and WHEREAS, "TERRY"
20 was coached by Head Coach Tony Battaglia and
21 assistant coaches Tim Wolff, Paul Hughes,
22 and Chris Lazor, and WHEREAS, "TERRY", upon
23 completing high school, would like to attend
24 college and study communications, and
25 WHEREAS, "TERRY" would also like to play

1 professional basketball, and NOW, THEREFORE,
2 BE IT RESOLVED, that on Tuesday, May 4,
3 2010, Scranton City Council wishes to
4 congratulate "TERRY TURNER", his Family,
5 Coaches and Teachers for their outstanding
6 achievements and extend our best wishes for
7 success in all their future endeavors. BE
8 IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Proclamation
9 be made a permanent part of the Minutes of
10 this Council, as lasting tribute to "TERRY
11 TURNER."

12 Would you like to say anything,
13 Mr. Turner? Coach Battaglia?

14 MR. BATTAGLIA: No, just thank you
15 very much on behalf of Terry. Appreciate
16 it.

17 MS. EVANS: Terry, you are certainly
18 a great credit not only to your family, but
19 to Scranton High School, the Scranton School
20 District and to all of the City of Scranton.
21 Thank you.

22 Dispense with the reading of the
23 minutes, please.

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

25 AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING

1 TO BE HELD MAY 12, 2010.

2 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES FOR THE

5 FIREMAN'S PENSION COMMISSION HELD ON

6 MARCH 24, 2010.

7 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

8 If not, received and filed.

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES FOR THE

10 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING

11 HELD ON APRIL 28, 2010.

12 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

13 If not, received and filed.

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. MINUTES FOR THE

15 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON

16 MARCH 24, 2010.

17 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

18 If not, received and filed.

19 MS. KRAKE: I believe I read that as

20 3-D, that should have been 3-E, so I need to

21 go back to 3-D.

22 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

23 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. MINUTES FOR

24 THE SCRANTON POLICE COMMISSION MEETING HELD

25 ON MARCH 24, 2010.

1 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
2 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,
3 please.

4 MS. KRAKE: For clerk's notes we
5 have a couple of responses. Mr. McGoff
6 brought the plaque for Mr. Lassesì into your
7 office and the Lassesì family knows we have
8 it for safe keeping.

9 Also, we received a reply from Linda
10 Aebli, executive director of OECD, this is
11 in reply to our letter off April 22
12 concerning the Aroma Cafe. She tells us
13 that this office is very well aware of
14 situation and the deputy director has spoken
15 personally with the owner, Mrs. Patricia
16 Petroziello. She said, "This office has
17 received confirmation the University has
18 purchased the property where the business is
19 located and plans for demolition and future
20 development of the site. Mrs. Petroziello
21 was provided notice by the University of
22 their intentions, however, they extended the
23 offer for the business to remain through
24 June 30. Mrs. Petroziello confirmed that
25 she is actively seeking an alternate

1 location for the cafe within the city,
2 specifically in the downtown area. Prior to
3 relocation the owner will provide to this
4 office the written request of notice
5 according to the terms of the loan and/or
6 security agreement setting forth the
7 effective date of such change which will
8 enable Aroma Cafe to relocate the business
9 in the city.

10 At that time, this office will take
11 all necessary steps to file and amend to the
12 UCC Financial statement reflecting the new
13 address of the project's site.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MS. KRAKE: We have some requests
16 that have not been answered. The first one
17 was sent to Mayor Doherty. We asked him for
18 permission to have Jeff Brazil attend the
19 public caucus and that has not been
20 answered.

21 We also have a second request to
22 Director Seitzinger concerning Meadow Avenue
23 and River Street and the overgrowth there
24 and that has not been answered.

25 Also, to Director Seitzinger our

1 concerns about Daron Northeast and that has
2 not been answered either.

3 And finally, also to Director
4 Seitzinger, the lack of maintenance on the
5 property -- or, excuse me, the Washburn
6 Street cemetery.

7 MS. EVANS: Again, we'll keep those
8 requests for Mr. Seitzinger when we see him
9 we will ask him about those publically, but
10 I think in terms of Mr. Brazil perhaps we
11 might ask Mr. McGoff, who is the chair of
12 DPW, if you could please take these requests
13 that have gone unanswered and any that may
14 arise tonight and have a discussion with
15 Mr. Brazil as to what direction he is going
16 to take on all of these problems that would
17 be a great help.

18 MR. MCGOFF: No problem.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

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

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

22 Do any council members have announcements at
23 this time? No?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. On Sunday, May 16,
25 from 1 to 5 p.m. there is a spaghetti and

1 meatball dinner benefit for Harold Baldrick
2 at the Villa Marie I located on 1259 Bryn
3 Mawr Street in Scranton's West Side. To
4 tell you a little bit about Harold, Harold
5 was involved in a head-on collision back on
6 March 27 where he suffered a severely broken
7 hip, a torn spleen and eight broken ribs.
8 Because of his injuries, both he and his
9 family are going through a lot of struggles
10 both in medical bills and also to let you
11 know he is the sole provider for his family.

12 The cost of the dinner is \$10 if you
13 would like to attend. Takeouts are also
14 available and there will be a 50/50 and a
15 basket raffle at the event. If you wish to
16 attend or donate a basket please contact Amy
17 Anderson at 352-5374. You can also request
18 tickets by e-mailing: BenefitforHarold4@
19 yahoo.com.

20 Also, the Scranton School District
21 Exceptional Athletes Committee formerly
22 known as Scranton's Special Olympics will be
23 holding it's annual fundraiser on May 17
24 from 7 to 10 at Stirna's Restaurant in North
25 Scranton. To provide some more background

1 on the Exceptional Athletes Committee, this
2 organization is solely responsible for the
3 development and execution of athletic events
4 for students with special needs who attend
5 school in the Scranton School District from
6 grades K through 12. Money raised at the
7 fundraiser is used to purchase adapted
8 equipment and help support athletic events
9 and other social events. Tickets for the
10 event are \$35 per person and can be
11 purchased the night of the event at the
12 door. Light fare and beverages will be
13 served throughout the evening and there will
14 also be raffles for baskets and gift
15 certificates. Those who wish to know more
16 information can contact Ann Jeanette at
17 348-3471; Marilyn Graziano or Gerilynn
18 Veserkoskis at 348-3481.

19 Also, St. Joseph's Malachite Church
20 located at 130 South Francis Cabrini Avenue
21 in West Scranton will be holding a Mother's
22 Day pancake and sausage breakfast from 9:30
23 to noon. Tickets for the event are \$5 and
24 you can pay that at the door if you would
25 like to attend.

1 Also, as some of you may know,
2 today, May 4, is National Teacher Day. With
3 this in mind, I would just like to take a
4 moment and thank all of the teachers that I
5 had in the area both at Francis Willard
6 Elementary, St. Patrick's and at Scranton
7 Prep and all of the teachers in the area who
8 dedicate their entire career to providing
9 such a great service with educating our
10 community, and that's all I have.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.
12 The weekly schedule for street cleaning is
13 as follows: May 3 to May 7 Hemlock Street
14 to Locust Street and May 10 to 14 East
15 Mountain Drive to Cherry Street.

16 The North Scranton Rotary Club will
17 conduct it's annual fishing derby on May 8
18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at South Abington
19 Park. There will be trophies and gift
20 certificates for children.

21 The Scranton Public Library proudly
22 presents Updike's Pennsylvania with
23 journalist Frank Fitzpatrick on Thursday,
24 May 20, in the periodicals room within the
25 reference department at 6:30 p.m.

1 Mr. Fitzpatrick has contributed stories on
2 Updike in the Philadelphia Inquirer and the
3 national public radio. He is the author of
4 three books and was a 2001 Pulitzer Prize
5 finalist. Tickets to this event are
6 available at the circulation desk of the
7 Scranton public library, 500 Vine Street,
8 Scranton.

9 The McNamera family of North
10 Scranton is conducting a fundraiser
11 Blessings for Bob Stott, Sr., on Saturday,
12 May 22, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Holy Rosary
13 Center, West Market Street in Scranton.
14 Food and music will be provided and tickets
15 are \$10. If you are unable to attend,
16 donations may be mailed to Joyce McNamera,
17 915 West Market Street, Scranton,
18 Pennsylvania, 19508. Please include your
19 name and return address and reference the
20 fundraiser. Proceeds will help to offset
21 the heavy financial burden of Bob Stott's
22 medical procedures.

23 Also, we wish to recognize the
24 nurses in our community during National
25 Nurse's week which begins tomorrow for their

1 tireless work and tremendous dedication.
2 They are very often overworked, underpaid
3 and not properly appreciated. Thank you for
4 your compassion, patience and meticulous
5 care. And a special shoutout to Mrs.
6 Loscombe and her colleagues at Community
7 Medical Center and to my good friend Jean
8 Marie.

9 Finally, I'd like to wish a very
10 Happy Mother's Day to all. Friends,
11 relatives, even spouses and partners may
12 come and go, but we only have one mother.
13 She is irreplaceable and a precious gift
14 from God. My mother is one of my blessings.
15 Happy Mother's Day, mom, and I love you
16 dearly, and that's it.

17 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
18 PARTICIPATION. Our first speaker tonight is
19 Andy Sbaraglia.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
21 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
22 know we're selling a lot of lots on the
23 agenda today and they are all being sold to
24 one person. Am I to assume that this is a
25 trap this man is buying that was subdivided

1 by somebody else from out of state to be
2 sold off?

3 MS. EVANS: I would believe so, and
4 the intent to simply to purchase and
5 maintain the property.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, if you saw the
7 photos of the property there is nothing to
8 maintain, it's a jungle. It's undeveloped
9 land.

10 MS. EVANS: Right.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: So chances are
12 that's how it's going to remain until he can
13 sell it. The question is all of the prices
14 he added on there, okay, 3,000, 6,000 and so
15 forth and so on, the question is when you
16 take the acreage of all of the lots that are
17 being sold what does it add up to be? Are
18 we selling five acres, ten acres for 30 or
19 \$40,000 in a 1-A zone. Your job is to make
20 sure that the city gets as much as we can
21 for all -- whatever we are selling. We are
22 in financial problems. The giveaways are
23 over, so I wish you would look into it, add
24 up all of the lot sizes and come out and see
25 exactly what they have.

1 MS. EVANS: Excuse me, I think these
2 may have been tax delinquent properties and
3 the back taxes I believe would have been
4 paid, but even more importantly this land,
5 all seven parcels, will be returned to the
6 tax rolls again which is I believe very
7 great financial boon.

8 MR. SBARAGLIA: Nobody is denying
9 that. We just want bucks for the buck. We
10 want as much money as we can for these
11 parcel. The give-aways are over. There is
12 no question about it. You are going to come
13 before us and ask us to increase our taxes.
14 There is no question about that. Anybody
15 that don't realize it has their head in the
16 sand, but the only way you can slow this
17 thing down is make sure we get bucks for our
18 bucks, and I realize, too, that when this
19 comes before the judge if somebody else
20 wants to buy the properties they will be in
21 that place, too, and they can bid against
22 whatever these prices are, I understand
23 that, but the people should realize exactly
24 what is being sold and how much is being
25 sold for.

1 I never forgot the golf course. We
2 got 3 1/2 million and what do we got to show
3 for it? The golf course money we used to
4 get for it, it's gone. And this is how it's
5 been being done in this city. Our assets
6 are being sold off, given away or whatever
7 you want to call it. We got to stop it and
8 the only people that could stop it is you.
9 The buck stops at your desk not the mayor's
10 anymore. It comes before you. You have the
11 power that was given you.

12 Now, nobody wants to stop
13 development, even I know that, and the
14 question is even when these lots are sold to
15 this man what are they going to be appraised
16 at, that is another thing, so how much will
17 you get in taxes? And were any grants, the
18 mayor has a habit of doing things without
19 council knowing it, all kinds of abatements
20 are being given out and you don't know about
21 it, but it's being done.

22 You didn't know when they were
23 building the hotel that he was going to give
24 120 spaces away in the garage, Casey garage,
25 but he did it. Of course, it came before

1 council, so actually council give them away
2 and now you know the status of the parking
3 authority as well as I do, they are on the
4 skinny edge, they can collapse at any time
5 and when they do collapse who bears the
6 burden? The taxpayers. So you got to look
7 at everything that way.

8 When it came before council the last
9 time that we were going to take the
10 fixtures, the beds and everything, the deal
11 with the hotel, I said let it go under and
12 when it went under the man still would have
13 bought it back and he did buy back it and we
14 would still have got our money. But now we
15 don't have our money plus we give all kind
16 of abatements to that hotel plus the free
17 parking forever. That's the part I don't
18 like, forever. And you stood before council
19 and did that and I came and spoke many, many
20 times before council on these things, but it
21 falls on deaf ears. And then you got to
22 wonder, why would it fall on deaf ears?
23 What could possibly save a hotel that makes
24 us so -- to the city. It's nice to have it,
25 it's an advantage, but we got other hotels,

1 too, and they are in trouble because of what
2 we gave other hotels. So you got to deal
3 with things in a fair hand and an open hand
4 and you got to be as open as you can or God
5 knows, like I said before, you are going to
6 be in battles, I don't know doubt it. You
7 are in a war. You are in a war to save the
8 city from collapse or into bankruptcy.
9 That's the war you got to fight and you got
10 to do it in every front you can find to
11 fight with, that's all I got to say. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Sbaraglia, this
15 is just up for introduction this evening,
16 but I know in the mean time we will doing
17 some more research on it for you.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: Thank you.

19 MR. JOYCE: And also, Mr. Sbaraglia,
20 you mentioned proceeds from the sale of the
21 golf course, and I don't know exactly where
22 all of the money has gone from that,
23 however, I do know that \$1.8 million of
24 those proceeds were used to balance the 2010
25 operating budget.

1 MR. SBARAGLIA: And the following
2 year before 1.5 million was taken out to
3 balance that budget.

4 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Ron Ellman.

6 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Last
7 week when Mrs. Evans was talking about a
8 plan to Dickson Street about a month ago I
9 stopped by Avana's one day, oh, I couldn't
10 have been there no where near an hour, when
11 I got in my car there was so much fine dust
12 on my windshield I put the wipers on. What
13 I'm saying this cannot be good for a person,
14 you know, this just can't be. That place
15 just doesn't belong in the city, but that's
16 not what I was going to talk about anyway.

17 Last year, November 14 Mr. Renda
18 when council was doing their budget November
19 14, in black and white Mr. Renda got here
20 that the administration could generate an
21 extra 600 to \$700,000 through an increase in
22 various permit fees. We not only didn't get
23 an increase, we're short half of it. We got
24 \$250,000 and this money should be found and
25 recovered for the city from the people that

1 the mayor gave leniency to. It's not right.
2 You know, two or \$300,000 that was short
3 plus what they estimate we could have gotten
4 extra.

5 That's like everybody still waiting
6 about the \$300,000 for the wage tax from the
7 6,000 jobs, I don't know, I wish they would
8 pay it already so it would help the city
9 plenty.

10 I saw Mr. Seitzinger. His office
11 doesn't -- he just never received it, you
12 know, he seems awful conscientious and out
13 and about doing his job. It's too bad the
14 mayor doesn't have as much enthusiasm and
15 dedication as Mr. Seitzinger seems to have.

16 What I really wanted to say real
17 quick, I don't know, last year sometime I
18 wanted to say something about Brenda
19 Williams real quick. A lady told me a
20 little story one of her neighbors told me a
21 little story about Miss Williams and Sunday
22 when I was walking Slugo by the car washing
23 another lady called me over for a minute and
24 she told me almost the same story about this
25 poor soul, that the neighbors were taking

1 care of her, that the family completely
2 turned their back on her, that nobody would
3 help her. I mean, it's just the same story
4 on and on and it's such ashame that this had
5 to happen, but this wasn't the neighbor's
6 obligation, it was the family's. Now all of
7 a sudden the family is coming out the
8 woodworks to sue the city and they don't
9 deserve a penny. If there is anything, you
10 know, given to somebody worthy that could
11 help. I listened to Sue Henry one day and
12 she was talking about our obligations to
13 help family, and as I remember she has
14 somebody in the nursing home or something
15 she said had to go see, didn't have to go
16 see, that she kept up with. These are
17 obligations, you know, that families are
18 supposed to do.

19 My preacher in Meadow Rock told me a
20 story, but I said something very derogatory
21 about something one day, I don't remember
22 how it went, it's just a sentence or two,
23 but he said in World War I a soldier jumped
24 over the trenches and shot up and they would
25 run back and recuperate the trenches, some

1 soldiers out there were crying for help and
2 a couple of shoulders said they volunteered
3 to go get him, and the sergeant said, "No,
4 nobody can get up, you stay here," and two
5 or three guys said, "I got to go him," and
6 he said, "No, stay here."

7 And this one guy jumps up, runs over
8 there, gets the soldier and drags him back
9 and he gets shot, so he is laying in the
10 trench with other guy dying and the sergeant
11 said, "Why in the world did you do that?"

12 And he said, "Because he was my
13 brother and he asked for my help."

14 And it's very evident that Brenda
15 Williams asked for help from her family and
16 they turned their back on her because I have
17 heard this twice from neighbors. Just a
18 second, I think that Mr. Doherty is on the
19 right step with this new administration or
20 new office to help people like this, I think
21 that's a good move and I certainly hope it's
22 successful. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill
24 Jackowitz.

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,

1 South Scranton resident, member of the
2 Taxpayers' Association. I would like to
3 take this opportunity to congratulate Mayor
4 Doherty and Attorneys Patterson and Kelly,
5 Honorable Judge Mazzoni for making a
6 decision on the Doherty vs. City Council.
7 Although I do not agree with the decision,
8 it must be abided by. It was ruled by a
9 judge. I also do not agree with the OJ
10 Simpson verdict, but then again, it's the
11 law and the judge made the decision, so much
12 we should abide by it.

13 Mayor Connors should have taken city
14 council to Court. He would have won his
15 case also back in the 90's, but Jimmy didn't
16 do that. It was my pleasure to watch the
17 Court system at work and listen to the
18 testimony and also watch city employees
19 waste their day in the courtroom for no
20 apparent reason. I guess they had no annual
21 leave to use instead they decided to waste
22 the taxpayers' money sitting around instead
23 of working for the taxpayers.

24 The city will remain distressed for
25 many more years to come. Why? Because

1 there is no leadership but more importantly
2 the chief executive of the city is more
3 concerned about his political appointees
4 than he is the taxpayers and citizens of
5 Scranton. Again, I will state how can
6 reduction in the IT Department and OECD have
7 any effect on the safety of the citizens of
8 the Scranton? While during the same period
9 of time there had been in a reduction of
10 manpower in both the fire department and the
11 police department. Again, I keep forgetting
12 that I now live in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

13 It is nice no hear that Mayor
14 Doherty does care more about the citizens of
15 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania than the
16 citizens in Scranton. I guess he has no
17 friends yet working for the state. He will
18 fight to cut unnecessary jobs in the
19 Commonwealth if elected to the Senate seat.

20 I also would like to thank the four
21 members of the city council would have the
22 courage to go to Court and also Attorney
23 Hughes with overwhelming odds against him
24 for victory. Keep up the good fight, 2011
25 is not far away, do not let one minor

1 setback change your course to bring Scranton
2 back to fiscal responsibility and by all
3 means do not accept the mayor's job if it
4 should become vacant. That is a no-win, all
5 blank situation at best for anyone who does
6 take that job if it does become vacant.

7 Attorney Patterson, Kelly and Hughes
8 are already on the city payroll, so no
9 additional costs were incurred by the
10 taxpayers except for all city workers that
11 were in the courtroom for no apparent
12 reason. Now they cost the taxpayers some
13 money for their salaries for the four days
14 they were in the courtroom.

15 Thursday night the Taxpayers'
16 Association interviewed three candidates for
17 the 112th district. Representative Smith,
18 Candidate Keeler and Candidate Hamlin,
19 Candidate Lesh did not attend. It was very
20 informative and professionally conducted.
21 It can be viewed on Channel 19 ECTV for
22 those voters who are interested on where
23 their candidates stands on issues in the
24 112th.

25 Also, Monday night I attended the

1 debate at the University of Scranton with
2 the seven candidates who are seeking the
3 state senator's job for the 22nd district.
4 Again, I invite interested voters to watch
5 the debate on ECTV Channel 19.

6 On Wednesday night the League of
7 Women's Voters will be interviewing the
8 candidates for 112th District at 7:00 p.m.
9 in Room 228 of Brennan Hall. Again, I
10 invite interested voters to attend.

11 Also, on Thursday, WVIA Channel 44
12 will be interviewing the Senate candidates
13 again for the 22nd Senatorial district. Not
14 sure on the time, but I believe that it
15 starts at either 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. All
16 personnel who are interested in their
17 community and in their state should take the
18 time to either attend one of these debates,
19 watch them on ECTV or watch it on WVIA.
20 They are very interesting and you get a lot
21 of information about your candidate. If you
22 are interested on what issues your candidate
23 stands for then I strongly recommend that
24 you watch and listen to all of the debates
25 unless you are voting strictly for friends,

1 neighbors, and who will give you a job.

2 Finally, to the Tripp Parer, nice to
3 hear from another Packer backer. New
4 improved Doomer hypocrite, it was annual
5 leave, not sick leave. Get your facts
6 straight.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
8 Mr. Jackowitz. Dave Dobrzyn.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
10 Dobrzyn, member of the taxpayers', resident
11 of Scranton. And I also would like to
12 comment on the Court case that I wasn't in
13 our favor, but, well, what can we expect. I
14 have been wailing about Clarks Summit and
15 Moscow and the rest of the county all knows
16 how our town should be run, and what did you
17 expect from a judge that's probably from
18 some other town. They just love to keep us
19 as a land bank for their nonprofits and so
20 forth and that's all they are interested in
21 us, so hopefully in the future we will be
22 able to do things for ourselves and mitigate
23 some of this stuff.

24 And on these nonprofits, I hear all
25 of these politicians and these various

1 interviews and forums talking about how they
2 generate so much economic activity. Well,
3 you know, if I was a fireman or a policeman
4 I would have to live in town. If I was
5 professor at a University or an employee or
6 something like that I could live wherever I
7 want and I don't have to stop at a business
8 in town, I don't have to patronize anybody
9 from town, I don't have to have anything to
10 do with Scranton, so when we lose property
11 tax we probably are possibly just about lose
12 everything else involved, so they don't
13 even -- they don't have to buy their food
14 for their commissary here, they don't have
15 to buy their books from Scranton, they don't
16 have to buy the bricks from the buildings
17 from Scranton, they don't have to have a
18 construction company based in Scranton to
19 build their buildings.

20 So the point is that, yeah, maybe it
21 generates economic opportunity for a lot of
22 people, but it doesn't necessarily benefit
23 Scranton as a whole, especially in view of
24 the lost property taxes, so I would like to
25 continue let's keep the heat on our state

1 legislators to get compensation for
2 nonprofits and especially in cities where
3 there is a disproportionate amount of
4 nonprofits, county seats and so forth
5 because otherwise we are just going to have
6 to suffer with poorer service than people
7 from other cities in the county or in the
8 area or in the state.

9 And, Mr. McGoff, I think we -- I
10 showed you about the traffic lights over on
11 the corner so just so it's explained and
12 hopefully, you know, we can make some kind
13 of progress on them in the future.

14 And, finally, I'm going to address
15 the golden parrot of the week award and that
16 goes to our Supreme Court for allowing
17 industry and corporations to donate money in
18 the political campaigns. Under the 14th
19 Amendment of the 1800's we devised that to
20 give former slaves the rights of
21 citizenship. Well, there was about 19 cases
22 decided by the Supreme Court on the rights
23 of citizenship of former slaves between
24 19 -- 1890 and about 1910 or so, and there
25 was something like well over 90 cases

1 decided to give corporations the rights of
2 an individual, and even worse yet, if an
3 individual commits a crime they go to jail.
4 If a corporation commits a crime, they get
5 what? A fine. Ooh. Ooh. You know? It's
6 a real, real shame, so not only does my
7 golden parrot award for this week go to our
8 current Supreme Court for their citizens
9 united allowing corporate money to pour into
10 politics, but all of the former Supreme
11 Courts for allowing this to happen and
12 giving a corporation the rights of the human
13 being, so thank you and have a good night.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. JOYCE: I don't want to say a
20 lot about what the judge decided because
21 like I say, from the podium here that was
22 decided the day that council took this vote
23 and you didn't have a chance to win that
24 case, and I tried to explain that to you,
25 but you know what, that's not important.

1 course money. Absolutely it disappeared
2 eaten into the budget. I mean, now it's
3 time to make some real smart choices, and I
4 think the most legitimate right a person has
5 is to have a good job, and that's why it was
6 so important when Mr. Austin Burke came here
7 because I think it's time for this council
8 to move in a new direction. I think it's
9 time for somebody on council to decide to be
10 the point person and meet with Mr. Burke and
11 try to forge a partnership between business
12 and government and create jobs and bring
13 them back from wherever they are. That's
14 the only real answer to the city and to the
15 state and to the country. You can only tax
16 people so long until they have nothing left
17 and that's where we were.

18 I mean, you know, like I think it's
19 very important for the city to take this
20 budget apart and cut it by \$7 million. I
21 think it's totally possible, I think that it
22 can be done. I think we have to stop
23 playing to the cameras. The cameras don't
24 mean anything, people's lives do, and I
25 think we is have an obligation to try and

1 empower people and we are just not doing
2 that. I mean, you can see by all of the
3 money that's handed out here that it's just
4 not working. We've got to try new solutions
5 to old problems and we've got to think and
6 that's what you were elected for, and the
7 mayor. Somebody has got to go down and
8 there and get a partnership with this mayor
9 and this council. We are all counting on
10 you and it's time to do it and it's time to
11 come up with -- we got to stop coming up
12 with excuses while we can't move forward. I
13 mean, I have spent my whole life here and we
14 have all talked about how we are going to
15 change the city and it just hasn't happened.
16 The city has just continually diminished in
17 size and the burden just can't continue and
18 the excuses can't continue, so I just hope
19 you would consider it. Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
21 anyone else who wishes to address counsel?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Just very briefly,
23 since it seems as though the Court decision
24 is the primary topic for the evening I'd
25 just like to say that I believe that it's

1 perhaps time to move on from that decision.
2 I agree with what a number of the speakers
3 have said. It's time to start looking at
4 the 2011 budget. If, in fact, we want to
5 make changes and if, in fact, there are
6 things that need to be done to the budget
7 now is the time to start looking at the 2011
8 budget, looking in areas where we can make
9 some cuts, looking at cuts that will not
10 effect the services to the city, but yet
11 will give some relief to the taxpayers in
12 the city. I think it's time for, again,
13 just council to move onto it's primary
14 duties instead of looking backwards, and
15 that's all I have.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
17 Councilman Rogan, any comments or motions?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Also about the
19 budget cuts, obviously disappointed that the
20 judge ruled against city council, but in the
21 media it's been portrayed as a loss, that
22 city council lost, but we didn't lose, it's
23 the citizens that lost. We fought to save
24 the money, you know, and the newspaper
25 reported that it's only -- it's less than 1

1 percent, but that's a start, and we need to
2 start saving money and I believe one of the
3 speakers mentioned before how the state is
4 in debt, the city is in debt, the counties,
5 federal government, we need to start saving
6 money because we can't keep spending and
7 spending and spending.

8 And there is a few things about the
9 budget cuts that I would like to touch on.
10 The first one is the jobs in OECD, the judge
11 said because they are federally funded that
12 there wouldn't be any savings by eliminating
13 the positions. I would first like to say
14 that federal dollars are taxpayer dollars as
15 well. There is no free money. And second
16 of all, many of these jobs were recently
17 created, they are not jobs that have been
18 there for 20 or 30 years that we were
19 cutting. One of them was just put in the
20 budget I believe last year.

21 MS. EVANS: Correct.

22 MR. ROGAN: And these cuts were not
23 public safety related. We made sure not to
24 cut police or fire because keeping the
25 people save is government's first

1 responsibility.

2 Secondly, it was mentioned that the
3 unemployment costs weren't covered in our
4 budget amendments, but it's been past
5 practice to take unemployment compensation
6 out of the contingency fund, which was the
7 plan, and now come next year's budget the
8 cuts will be much deeper because we have to
9 makeup for what we didn't cut this year and
10 we won't realize the full savings next year
11 because there will be some unemployment
12 costs. If these cuts went through the
13 unemployment costs would have been paid and
14 next year we would have realized the full
15 savings of these budget cuts. And we as a
16 council have to look, like Mr. Morgan said,
17 line item by line item and cut everywhere we
18 could because at the end of the day it's
19 your money, it's not our money, and it's our
20 job to make sure every penny is spent
21 wisely.

22 I also have some citizens' requests
23 for the week, actually, a pretty long list
24 of them. The first one: Could we send a
25 letter to Chief Elliott making him aware

1 that residents are complaining about
2 speeding on Cedar Avenue between Smith's
3 Restaurant and Davis Street.

4 Also to Chief Elliott, what is the
5 Scranton Police Department's protocol for
6 handling suspected illegal immigrants that
7 are pulled over in traffic stops as well as
8 illegal immigrants that are arrested for
9 other crimes?

10 Can we please send a letter to Mr.
11 Brazil asking the DPW to prepare potholes in
12 the 200 block of Marian Street as well as
13 considering putting the 200 through 500
14 blocks of Marian Street on the paving list?

15 Can we please get an update on the
16 flooding project for the 200 block of North
17 Cameron Ave? I received an e-mail from a
18 resident who was flooded and he said a few
19 weeks ago the city began doing work on the
20 400 block, but his home was still flooded
21 up.

22 Could we please send a letter to
23 Mr. Seitzinger and Chief Elliott making them
24 aware that there is a used tire store in the
25 400 block of Willow Street that is stacking

1 excess tires on sidewalks and it forces
2 pedestrians to walk on the street.

3 Also, as chairperson for OECD, in
4 the past I was -- the first couple of months
5 I was on council I received a monthly
6 report. I have not received one in three --
7 I believe it was three months, so could we
8 ask Linda Aebli to please send all back
9 reports and that would be a standing request
10 from here forward asking for it monthly.

11 I received a letter from a resident
12 who lives on 1212 1/2 Rundell Street, he
13 states that he called the Sewer Authority
14 about a ditch in front of his house that's
15 on the list to be paved, but nothing has
16 been done yet. Could you please send a
17 follow-up on that?

18 And also I received a letter that
19 there is a property on 1221 South Main
20 Avenue that has garbage in the yard and they
21 say it's extremely unsightly and unsanitary,
22 so could we please make Mr. Seitzinger as
23 well as Mr. Brazil aware of that situation.
24 And I have all of those written down and I
25 will give you those at the end of the

1 meeting. That's all.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
3 Mr. Loscombe, any motions or comments?

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you,
5 Mrs. Evans. I, too, would like to comment
6 on the budget case. The loss of our lawsuit
7 regarding the budget amendments I am
8 disappointed, as I'm sure most of my
9 colleagues are on city council. I believe
10 it would have been a good immediate step
11 towards some fiscal responsibility that has
12 been seriously lacking in this
13 administration. You have to first realize
14 that this budget was passed by a lame duck
15 council majority. As I said, I am
16 disappointed, but I'm not surprised by the
17 decision.

18 City council was not traveling down
19 a new road when these budget amendments were
20 undertaken. It was proven at trial that our
21 budget amendment was not the first time that
22 action has been taken to amend the city's
23 budget after it had been adopted. In fact,
24 budgets have been amended after adoption
25 which created positions, eliminated

1 positions, and made adjustments to revenue
2 and expenses. Nothing that we were doing
3 any differently, however, this is the first
4 time that the amendments to the budget after
5 adoption have been challenged. Ironically
6 by the same person who as councilman and
7 Chairman of the Finance Committee amended
8 the budgets themselves after their adoption.

9 I'm totally unconvinced that the
10 argument that the budget amendments would
11 effect the health, safety and welfare of the
12 public, especially coming from an
13 administration that has currently reduced
14 the fire department by 11 with a stated goal
15 of 38 less firefighters, has left three
16 police openings unfilled along with eight
17 neighborhood patrol positions vacant. The
18 highway safety department who is responsible
19 for street signs, traffic lights, and street
20 markings has also been eliminated this year
21 by the administration.

22 I find it hard to believe that
23 reduced administrative salaries and the
24 positions that were eliminated under
25 council's amended budget would even come

1 close to compromising your health, safety
2 and welfare. I certainly would not have
3 voted for the amendments if I even had the
4 slightest belief this would be the case.

5 I do feel strongly that cost cutting
6 measures were in order and that this is not
7 only a loss for us, but a loss for you, the
8 taxpayers. If I had to do it all over
9 again, would I? You are damn right.
10 Contrary to many misstatements, this lawsuit
11 has cost the taxpayers nothing but our time
12 and the efforts of the council solicitor and
13 the city solicitor's office. However, the
14 mayor was quoted in the newspaper regarding
15 the lawsuit that he, regarding the lawsuit
16 that he filed, remember that, we didn't file
17 it, as stating it distracted the
18 administration from doing our tasks. I
19 guess I don't know how important those tasks
20 are, but several members of the
21 administration spent a large amount of time
22 in the courthouse as observers. Perhaps he
23 meant it was a distraction from campaigning.

24 As quoted in the newspaper, my exact
25 statement was that I do not speak for the

1 rest of city council, but I do believe that
2 we will respect Judge Mazzoni's opinion and
3 not file an appeal. That may be a win for
4 the people in itself given the history of
5 appealing legal decisions not in favor of
6 this administration.

7 We may have lost this opportunity to
8 help bring our city on a path toward
9 financial responsibility, but we are still
10 in the early stages of our service to you,
11 the taxpayers. Thank you. That's all I
12 have.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
14 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments
15 or motions?

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. As you know,
17 Judge Mazzoni did not side in council's
18 favor regarding amendments to the 2010
19 operating budget that council previously
20 made. The reasoning Judge Mazzoni provided
21 was that the spirit of the law, the writers
22 of the Home Rule Charter, did not intend for
23 a budget to be reopened by the creators --
24 the creation of Section 9 of the Home Rule
25 Charter which pertains particularly to

1 budgets. Though specifically, in Section 5
2 of the Home Rule Charter it is stated in the
3 letter of the law that council has the right
4 to amend any ordinance which is what the
5 original passing of the budget was
6 considered, an ordinance.

7 I respect the opinion of Judge
8 Mazzone and like Mr. Loscombe I do not feel
9 that it is in the best interest of council
10 to appeal this decision merely due to the
11 fact that by the time it would take to reach
12 another decision most of the cuts that were
13 made would already be spent.

14 One thing I do want to reiterate
15 about the entire hearing, there were no
16 outside attorneys that were used. All of
17 the attorneys involved in the hearing were
18 city paid employees, therefore, there were
19 no additional costs to taxpayers, and I
20 repeat, there were no additional costs to
21 taxpayers for outside attorney fees.

22 One of the reasons that council felt
23 it was in the city's best interest to start
24 saving money now is to prepare for the
25 future, and like Mr. McGoff stated, looking

1 forward into 2011 as per the guidance of the
2 PEL it is predicted that the current -- that
3 under the current circumstances given the
4 current union contracts and considering that
5 no pay raises would be granted to fire,
6 police or administration employees, the city
7 would be facing a shortfall of \$5.2 million
8 in the upcoming year. This projected
9 shortfall that the city is expected to face
10 is due to the fact that projected pension
11 contributions for the city are expected to
12 increase, coupled with the fact that in the
13 2010 budget there are two one-time revenue
14 sources, one \$500,000 in delinquent tax fees
15 and \$1.8 million which are proceeds from the
16 sale of the municipal golf course.

17 Obviously, this is a concern that
18 needs to be addressed since the city will
19 need to generate roughly \$5.27 million in
20 new revenue in the next year in order to
21 balance the budget, and with this in mind in
22 order to start preparing for this,
23 Mrs. Krake, can you please send a letter to
24 Mr. Renda asking him how the city plans to
25 address the shortfall that was projected in

1 2011, and also if you could also ask him to
2 list all of the one-time revenue sources, if
3 any, that it are still available to the
4 city.

5 With this being said, I have a few
6 citizens' requests and, Mrs. Krake, if you
7 can also please send a letter to Mr. Brazil
8 and inform him of the following requests
9 that I'm about to make, and in your letter
10 please ask Mr. Brazil to provide a date by
11 which the following requests can be
12 addressed:

13 First, I have been contacted by
14 residents of Bird Street who have informed
15 me that there are various disturbances in
16 the 26000 block close in proximity to the
17 stop sign. The resident is requesting that
18 the area be patched up in order to provide
19 less wear and tear on his car and the other
20 vehicles in that general area.

21 Secondly, I have been contacted by a
22 resident of Sanderson Avenue who explained
23 that in the 1300 block of Sanderson there is
24 a large area in the middle of the road where
25 it appears that some work has been done,

1 however, this area has never been patched
2 back up and filled.

3 Third, I have been contacted by a
4 resident of Euclid Avenue in West Scranton
5 who informed me that there are many cuts in
6 the road particularly in the area of the
7 stop sign where Euclid Avenue and Bulware
8 Street connect. Also, there are many cuts
9 in the road in this section of Euclid Avenue
10 leading up to a Tripp Park development. If
11 you could also add this to the list.

12 And fourth, I have been contacted by
13 a resident of Dorothy Street over in the
14 Tripp Park Avenue who informed that close to
15 the stop sign on the 1700 block there are
16 two holes in the road and they would like
17 those disturbances to be filled as it's
18 causing a lot of travel problems for the
19 residents of that neighborhood, and that is
20 all I have.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.
22 Good evening. We are all aware that Judge
23 Mazzoni rendered his decision in favor of
24 Chris Doherty, and as a result no reductions
25 to government spending will be made in 2010.

1 I wish to make my statements directly to
2 you, the taxpayers, tonight.

3 I am disappointed in Judge Mazzone's
4 ruling, particularly since the city budget
5 has been opened and amended many times by
6 previous city councils, one of which
7 included then Councilman Chris Doherty in
8 the Year 2000 as recognized in Judge
9 Mazzone's ruling, and since prior state
10 court cases have demonstrated that
11 government has a vested interest in creating
12 greater efficiency and cutting manpower.

13 The taxpayers of Scranton who
14 overwhelming elected this new council wanted
15 to cut costs in early 2010 in the midst of
16 the climbing unemployment and the greatest
17 recession in memory. We heard you and
18 council did what it was charged to do.
19 Unfortunately, this decision, as has been
20 said many times this evening, is rendered
21 against not only city council, but more
22 importantly against the taxpayers of
23 Scranton.

24 At no time did council ever place
25 the citizens of Scranton in harm's way with

1 our amendments. In fact, these amendments
2 included more DPW workers than the mayor's
3 budget and made no additional reductions in
4 police and fire departments.

5 Further, I spent the last seven
6 years protecting the tax dollars, safety and
7 services of the people of Scranton. In
8 addition, I look forward to council's
9 amendments to the mayor's 2011 budget in six
10 months time which will cut fat and increase
11 revenues and such amendments will likely
12 include stronger measures in order to makeup
13 for the lack of cuts in 2010.

14 In the interim, council continues to
15 monitor departments and department heads in
16 performance, efficiency and finances and to
17 develop it's 2011 budget amendments.

18 It is troubling, however, that the
19 judge's decision does not appear to address
20 the still unanswered questions regarding the
21 2009 and 2010 budget. \$5.5 million was
22 included in revenue from the Single Tax
23 Office in the mayor's 2009 budget.

24 Approximately three million was realized
25 leaving a gaping 2009 budget hole which was

1 not accounted for in 2010.

2 Also, employees worked for two
3 months in 2010 whose positions were funded
4 at zero dollars and tax office employees
5 whose jobs were cut and funded again at zero
6 dollars in the 2010 budget continue to work
7 and receive salaries.

8 In addition, as Mr. Joyce mentioned
9 a moment ago, the city faces a potential
10 \$5.2 million increase in pension payments in
11 2011 and a potential multi-million dollar
12 payment to public safety unions for wage,
13 health care and SIT Court decisions which
14 can come at any time now or in the future.
15 No financial preparations have been made by
16 this administration.

17 On the other hand, council proposed
18 to establish a special account into which
19 all savings realized in the 2010 budget year
20 would be placed in order to address these
21 financial hits in it's negotiations with the
22 mayor toward a settlement of this court
23 case. In return, council restored positions
24 except for those which were vacant and were
25 newly created in the 2010 budget. That

1 proposal was rejected.

2 Thus, the city remains in dangerous
3 financial waters in 2010 and faces financial
4 crisis in 2011 with no plan, no preparation
5 having been made other than a gubernatorial
6 and senate campaign which have daily
7 distracted the administration for over a
8 year.

9 Last Friday, Councilman Loscombe,
10 Chair of the Public Safety Committee, and I
11 met with Mayor Doherty, City Solicitor
12 Patterson, and Business Administration Stu
13 Renda to discuss labor-related issues. We
14 informed the mayor that city council does
15 not wish to take an appeal of the most
16 recent health care decisions. Also, we
17 asked and encouraged both the mayor and the
18 president of the police and fire unions to
19 negotiate in good faith and fairness for the
20 benefit of Scranton taxpayers. Ultimately,
21 these nine years of litigation will end in
22 an irreversible decision creating a winner
23 and a loser and eliminating any possibility
24 of a fair financial and management rights
25 compromise.

1 What should be ever present in the
2 mind set of management and labor is the
3 impact such a Court decision will have not
4 just on DCED, distressed municipalities
5 throughout Pennsylvania, Act 47 or union
6 membership, but on each and every Scranton
7 resident and taxpayer the people stand to be
8 the winners or losers at the end of the day.

9 Thus, with the agreement of my
10 honorable colleagues, city council wishes to
11 send a letter to the Pennsylvania Department
12 of Community and Economic Development
13 stating it's opposition to the city taking
14 an appeal of the April 16, 2010, ruling of
15 arbitrator Charles D. Long, Jr., in which
16 the city is required to retain the services
17 of health care administrator to monitor the
18 city's experience with it's health care
19 manager, and the April 21, 2010, decision by
20 arbitrator Stanley L. Agis which stated that
21 the city had acted in bad faith with respect
22 to health care charges for the city's public
23 safety unions.

24 Next, council received a response
25 from the Pennsylvania Economy League to it's

1 request to hold public meetings with
2 stakeholders of the revised Recovery Plan.
3 The Pennsylvania Economy League prefers to
4 conduct private meetings with individual
5 council members to develop a revised plan
6 and following completion of the document to
7 present it to the public. As president of
8 Scranton City Council, I firmly believe that
9 the taxpayers of Scranton who must live with
10 this revised Recovery Plan's impact on their
11 finances and their quality of life have the
12 right to witness the input, insights and
13 advice of city council members, the mayor
14 and his cabinet, municipal union
15 representatives as well as Pennsylvania
16 Economy League members.

17 However, I am but one council member
18 and at this time I ask each of my honorable
19 colleagues to express his belief and
20 preference for either private, individual
21 meetings at the DCED Northeast Regional
22 Office or public group meetings conducted in
23 council chambers and televised by ECTV.
24 And, Mr. McGoff, what is your preference?

25 MR. MCGOFF: I believe you can do

1 both and I think that initially council
2 members should meet with PEL at their
3 offices to discuss the possibilities or what
4 the new Recovery Plan will look like, and
5 after those discussions have a caucus with
6 PEL to go over what has been discussed, but
7 I think it's -- I think it's in the best
8 interest of everyone to meet as many times
9 as possible in as many venues as possible.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
11 Mr. Rogan?

12 MR. ROGAN: I believe meeting in
13 public would be best. From day one when we
14 had to fill Mr. Courtright's seat we did the
15 proceedings in public and, you know, I think
16 it worked out a lot better that way so
17 people could see what was going on, what the
18 government is doing, so I would be
19 completely in favor of public.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
21 Mr. Loscombe?

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Like you,
23 Mrs. Joyce -- yeah, Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: I'm not his mother, but
25 I wouldn't mind being.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Like you, Mrs. Evans,
2 I believe that the stakeholders are the
3 taxpayers and the employees of the city
4 along with the elected officials and as such
5 I believe that any discussions on a revised
6 plan should include all stakeholders in an
7 open forum where they can see what's
8 discussed.

9 Again, I have a few reasons, one of
10 the reasons is I believe that the last plan
11 was voted on by the city residents without
12 full knowledge or understanding of the plan
13 or it's components. I do not feel that
14 appearing at a PEL Recovery Plan revision
15 meeting individually would accomplish
16 anything, and I say this from experience.
17 Right after I was appointed I did attend a
18 PEL meeting, nothing against the gentlemen
19 that are members of the PEL, however, it
20 just appears I asked them if they had any
21 ideas for revenue enhancement, something we
22 sorely need here, the only answers: Raise
23 taxes, increase fees.

24 I have personally been disappointed
25 with the success or lack of success by PEL

1 since it has run the city recovery under the
2 Distressed Cities Act. It has sanctioned a
3 former mayor for violating the Recovery Plan
4 while idly standing by and letting another
5 mayor violate the plan without any
6 sanctions. If a public forum is not
7 acceptable, I do not believe that I would
8 attend a private meeting because I don't
9 think my input would mean anything based on
10 that initial meeting, but I think the time
11 for the public to see it is in it's initial
12 stages of putting the components of the plan
13 together not after it's already revised and
14 completed. That's all I have to say. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
17 Mr. Joyce?

18 MR. JOYCE: I would be in favor of
19 public meetings as well. I am a full
20 believer in transparency and the taxpayers
21 have the right to know what we are
22 discussing because this is something that's
23 going to effect them and effect them for
24 quite awhile.

25 Also, with the current fiscal

1 situation and the fiscal situation that lies
2 ahead, we have documentation from PEL that
3 states we are going to be experiencing a
4 significant shortfall next year. I think it
5 would be very beneficial for us to all meet
6 together and work together to generate
7 ideas, to discuss the Recovery Plan and have
8 this all available for the public to see in
9 the public eye. That's all.

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

11 MR. MCGOFF: Could I just add one
12 comment, I'm sorry, after hearing -- PEL has
13 been reaching out to council since November
14 of 2009 to meet with members of council both
15 the old council and current council, and I
16 think any refusal to meet with them would be
17 detrimental. I don't think that there is
18 anything wrong with meeting with PEL at
19 their offices and then also, as I said
20 before, in public. What is wrong with doing
21 both.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake,
23 as a result of this discussion please notify
24 Mr. Gerald Cross, executive director of the
25 Pennsylvania Economy League, of each council

1 member's decision regarding future meetings
2 and discussions related to the revised
3 Recovery plan. I believe that only
4 Mr. McGoff intends to participate in private
5 meetings and the remainder of the council
6 wishes to engage in public televised
7 meetings with all stakeholders present and
8 during those meetings the plan can be
9 developed and discussed and revised.

10 Finally, I have citizens' requests
11 for the week: A second request, in 2009
12 city council requested that "No Parking"
13 signs be installed on Moosic Street since
14 the signs had been removed previously.
15 Residents of South Side report that these
16 signs to date have not been replaced and
17 installed. Please address this safety issue
18 for pedestrians and drivers as soon as
19 possible.

20 A handicapped curb cut is needed at
21 Duffy Park located at the corner of Harrison
22 and Crown Avenue. Two prior requests were
23 made by council in 2009.

24 Pave the unit block of Crown Avenue.
25 In 2009 Mr. Brazil indicated that this block

1 would be placed on the top of the 2010
2 paving list since this block has not been
3 paved in decades.

4 And prior to the opening of the next
5 school year in August 2010, please paint
6 school crosswalks as necessary citywide.

7 Council requests that the Scranton/
8 Lackawanna County Taxpayers' Association
9 112th District Candidates Forum is broadcast
10 repeatedly throughout these final two weeks
11 prior to May 18, 2010, primary election day.

12 In addition, council requests that
13 all public debates and forums among state
14 candidates be broadcast repeatedly during
15 the same time period and that a program
16 schedule of these events be regularly
17 presented by ECTV in order to inform and
18 educate the voters of the Channel 19 area.

19 And please forward the Hill
20 Neighborhood Association's letter to both
21 Blight Officer Herchik and Mr. Seitzinger
22 requesting immediate attention to this
23 problem. And that's it.

24 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. FOR
25 INTRODUCTION - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX

1 DELINQUENT PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS
2 FROUDE AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX
3 MAP NO. 16809-040-009 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI,
4 254 MAIN STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA,
5 18641, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$8,000.00.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
21 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS SIEBECKER
22 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP
23 NO.16809-040-011 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI, 254
24 MAIN STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18641,
25 FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$6,500.00.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. MCGOFF Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
16 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS SIEBECKER
17 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP
18 NO.16809-050-005 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI, 254
19 MAIN STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18641,
20 FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF \$6,500.00.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
11 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS ROLLIN
12 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
13 16809-050-007 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI, 254 MAIN
14 STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18641, FOR THE
15 CONSIDERATION OF \$5,000.00.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

23 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

1 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

2 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
3 have it and so moved.

4 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
5 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
6 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS MILLER
7 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
8 16810-010-024 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI, 254 MAIN
9 STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18641, FOR THE
10 CONSIDERATION OF \$6,000.00.

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

14 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
25 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT

1 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS KERR STREET,
2 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
3 16810-010-025 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI, 254 MAIN
4 STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18641, FOR THE
5 CONSIDERATION OF \$7,000.00.

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

9 MR. JOYCE: So moved.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

16 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
20 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
21 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS KERR STREET,
22 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
23 16810-010-026 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI, 254 MAIN
24 STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18641, FOR THE
25 CONSIDERATION OF \$7,000.00.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

8 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
15 AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT
16 PROPERTY MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS ROLLIN
17 AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TAX MAP NO.
18 16810-010-027 TO ROBERT KOLANKOSKI, 254 MAIN
19 STREET, DUPONT, PENNSYLVANIA, 18641, FOR THE
20 CONSIDERATION OF \$3,000.00.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
11 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS OF THE
12 CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
13 AN INVESTMENT GRADE ENERGY AUDIT AGREEMENT
14 WITH COMMONWEALTH CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC
15 FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ENERGY AUDITS ON
16 CITY BUILDINGS.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question?

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes. After reading this
24 over this seems to be a very good idea for
25 the city. From what I understand it's going

1 to be federal money that's paying for it.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. ROGAN: Not only could we save
4 money on energy costs in the future, it will
5 also help the environment as well by cutting
6 back on our consumption.

7 MS. EVANS: We concur. Anyone else
8 on the question? All those in favor of
9 introduction signify by saying aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
17 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

18 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
20 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2010 -
21 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
22 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND APPLY FOR A
23 GRANT THROUGH THE PA DEPARTMENT OF
24 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DCNR)
25 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00; IF THE

1 APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPTING AND
2 DISBURSING THE GRANT FUNDS FOR THE
3 RESTORATION/RENOVATION OF FELLOW'S
4 PARK IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

5 MS. EVANS: What is the
6 recommendation of the Chair for the
7 Committee on Finance?

8 MR. JOYCE: As chairperson for the
9 Committee on the Finance, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-A.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

12 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
13 call, please.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
24 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted. I
25 will entertain a motion to adjourn.

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MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER