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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

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

(Not present)

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

15 APPLICATIONS ALONG WITH DECISIONS RENDERED  
16 BY THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON FEBRUARY 9,  
17 2011.

18 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
19 If not, received and filed.

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AGENDA FOR THE CITY  
21 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD  
22 FEBRUARY 16, 2011.

23 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
24 If not, received and filed.

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. CONTRIBUTION WAS

1           MADE BY SCRANTON/LACKAWANNA COUNTY  
2           TAXPAYERS & CITIZENS ASSN. INC. IN THE  
3           AMOUNT OF \$50.00 TO BE USED FOR MANPOWER IN  
4           THE CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT.

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

7                   MS. KRAKE: 3-D. CONTRIBUTION WAS  
8           MADE BY ANNIE B. EKTERMAN IN THE AMOUNT OF  
9           \$10.00 TO BE USED FOR MANPOWER IN THE  
10          CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT.

11                   MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
12          If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,  
13          please.

14                   MS. KRAKE: We do not have clerk's  
15          notes this evening, Mrs. Evans.

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

18                   MR. JOYCE: Yes, just a few. Saint  
19          Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church  
20          located at Washburn Street in West Scranton  
21          will hosting a pasta and meatball dinner  
22          this Sunday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets  
23          are \$9.00 and reservations can be made by  
24          calling 343-8128.

25                   In addition, also on Sunday,

1 February 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,  
2 the Dante Literary Society located on 1916  
3 Prospect Avenue will be hosting a polenta  
4 and/or rigatoni luncheon. Tickets are \$8.50  
5 for adults, \$5 for children under the age of  
6 12, and that's all.

7 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?  
8 The Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'  
9 Association will meet this Thursday,  
10 February 17, in Scranton city council  
11 chambers at 6 p.m.

12 The Scranton Single Tax Office is  
13 collecting 2010 delinquent real estate taxes  
14 for the City of Scranton. The office has  
15 mailed a delinquent notice to residents who  
16 have not yet paid their 2010 property taxes.

17 2010 delinquent real estate taxes  
18 may be paid at the Single Tax Office located  
19 on the second floor in the Steamtown Mall.  
20 Prior year's delinquencies, 2009 and older,  
21 must be paid at the City Treasurer's Office  
22 in city hall 340 North Washington Avenue.

23 The Scranton Fire Department  
24 received recently new orders from Mayor  
25 Doherty who rescinded the prior order to

1 brownout Engine 4 on Mulberry Street in  
2 downtown Scranton and Engine 8 in North  
3 Scranton. Engine 9 will remain closed  
4 permanently, however, Engine 15 located on  
5 Ash Street in the Hill Section will brownout  
6 first followed by a brownout of truck two at  
7 Mulberry Street headquarters.

8 This change in orders appears to be  
9 good news for North Scranton residents and  
10 not very good news for the Hill Section and  
11 Bunker Hill residents. When vacation days  
12 begin within the fire department, Engine 15  
13 often will be browned out or closed. Engine  
14 15 is the first due engine in Bunker Hill,  
15 the entire Hill Section, the three hospitals  
16 and Dunmore for mutual aid. Also, Engine 15  
17 is the water supply and second due engine  
18 for the Pine Brook Lower Hill and downtown  
19 section of Scranton.

20 Much of the brownout or closure will  
21 occur with truck two, which is the tower  
22 truck for the downtown providing rescue  
23 capabilities to high-rise buildings. It is  
24 also the largest master stream water supply  
25 to suppress an out-of-control fire. The

1 main duties of the truck company are to  
2 ladder a building in order to provide escape  
3 capabilities for the engine personnel  
4 fighting the fire, search and rescue for the  
5 victims, and ventilation of heat and smoke  
6 so engine personnel can work within the fire  
7 scene environment.

8 When truck two is browned out, East  
9 Scranton and South Side will have to wait  
10 for truck four to arrive from Main Avenue  
11 which can delay all other work from engine  
12 and rescue operations.

13 Consequently, the new orders, like  
14 the previous ones, appear to have far  
15 reaching effects on residents throughout  
16 most of the Scranton.

17 And, finally, I want to apologize  
18 for having missed tonight's public caucus  
19 session. I know it was a very important  
20 session involving flooding in a neighborhood  
21 that has suffered from it for many, many  
22 years. I did want to congratulate my son  
23 and daughter-in-law, they had a baby girl  
24 today in a hospital in New York State, so I  
25 was running late, and again, congratulates

1 to my son on his new daughter, Anna.

2 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS;  
3 PARTICIPATION.

4 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker  
5 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
7 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I  
8 read a little on your I guess it's 5-C, it  
9 has to do with food, I believe. I don't  
10 know how the Department of Agriculture for  
11 some reason or another other I don't know  
12 how -- why they were in with all of the  
13 restaurants, but for some reason they  
14 oversee the restaurants, and this has to do  
15 with us tying in with a coordination between  
16 our food. I don't know how many we still  
17 have that go around checking the  
18 restaurants.

19 MS. EVANS: I believe there is only  
20 one.

21 MR. SBARAGLIA: I believe so, too.  
22 But anyway, she is going to be pretty busy,  
23 but she is going to have to go to school  
24 according to your literature because they  
25 are going to -- I don't know exactly what



1 the school is, but apparently it's laws and  
2 how -- she must know how to use the  
3 computer, so I don't know exactly what, but  
4 anyway, they said they are going to train  
5 her.

6 6-A, that's ready for -- with the  
7 fire department, has this anything to do  
8 with the accident we had with the fire  
9 department a long time ago the transferring  
10 one \$162,652 into this insurance funds?

11 MS. EVANS: I'm not certain of the  
12 circumstances, I just know that there has  
13 been a Court award for two firefighters in  
14 that amount of money and the city wished to  
15 pay the Court award as soon as possible.

16 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. I was just  
17 wondering what it was. I hope we did settle  
18 with the firemen's family that when the poor  
19 guy got electrocuted, I don't know if this  
20 is all -- we are still self-insured, I  
21 presume. We are self-insured for --

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- for liability. I  
25 can remember -- in my -- I don't know IN the

1 last maybe 30 years we lost three city  
2 workers. I remember up Nay Aug we lost one  
3 to an attack by a elk, one was backed over  
4 by a garbage truck, and of course the third  
5 was electrocuted. Somewhere along the line  
6 we got to do something about safety. That's  
7 a lot of people to be losing.

8 I worked in our area in the  
9 construction industry and way back -- way  
10 back when I think we only lost two  
11 construction workers in all of the time I  
12 was working, one where the stair tower  
13 collapsed and the other was a crane  
14 collapse, and there was a lot of  
15 construction workers working. The city  
16 doesn't have near what we had, and we worked  
17 in a lot of dangerous stuff except for the  
18 firemen to fight the fire. I mean, our  
19 conditions were always in danger, but to  
20 lose three people that way is something.

21 And I'll never forget them saying  
22 that poor guy with the garbage truck, he was  
23 a diabetic because I'm a diabetic myself,  
24 that he was drunk, had alcohol and that  
25 played a part in it. You should remember



1           and I'm just wondering why they had to  
2           transfer so much money into that fund, I was  
3           just wondering if that had anything to do  
4           with the poor man who was electrocuted in  
5           his job, and I thank you.

6                       MS. EVANS: Thank you. Bill  
7           Jackowitz.

8                       MR. JOYCE: If you don't mind, the  
9           purpose of the budget transfer was to  
10          provide funding for life insurance -- or to  
11          cover some live insurance adjustments per  
12          Court award for two active firefighters at  
13          the time of their death. I do not know  
14          names of both of them, I believe James  
15          Robeson may be one of them. I remember  
16          during the audit conference Mr. McGowan did  
17          bring this up and that the budget transfer  
18          would be needed at some point later in time,  
19          and I'm not sure who the two were, I believe  
20          Captain Robeson may be one, and the other  
21          firefighter I'm not 100 percent sure, I  
22          don't know if you know --

23                      MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

24                      MR. JOYCE: But that's what that is  
25          for.

1 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,  
2 South Scranton resident and member of the  
3 Taxpayers' Association. I see where council  
4 approved Mr. McGowan's appointment by a  
5 three to two vote. Like I stated two weeks  
6 ago, I realize that Mayor Doherty has the  
7 final vote and has the right to appoint his  
8 cabinet members and business administrator.  
9 All council does is vote to approve the  
10 cabinet members appointment. Mr. McGowan  
11 started off on the wrong foot. First of  
12 all, he accused Single Tax Office of not  
13 forwarding the \$1 million to the city, then  
14 after realizing that the Single Tax Office  
15 did forward the money to the city  
16 Mr. McGowan then turned around and blamed an  
17 office clerk for the mistake.

18 No, Mr. McGowan, you are the  
19 department head and cabinet member not the  
20 clerk. Maybe it's my military background,  
21 about I was always taught to man up and take  
22 the hit for the mistake not blame some low  
23 ranking subordinate.

24 Also, Mr. McGowan, instead of  
25 running to the newspaper you should have

1           made sure that you really were short \$1  
2           million. I hope Mr. McGowan does a  
3           fantastic jobs, supplies the information  
4           when requested, and has the audits and  
5           budgets completed on time.

6                        I just wanted to remind counsel that  
7           the residents of Scranton have been waiting  
8           32 years for the train from Hoboken to  
9           Scranton. It was announced this week that  
10          three new businesses were moving downtown  
11          plus the grocery store. I wish all of these  
12          new entrepreneurs the best. It still will  
13          not solve Scranton's major problem, low  
14          paying jobs and high unemployment.

15                      Something really needs to be done  
16          about the rental fee situation. This has  
17          been ongoing for at least three years.  
18          Nothing will ever be accomplished in  
19          Scranton until the mayor learns to work with  
20          others. Meetings between city council and  
21          individual council members should be routine  
22          and should not take an act of Congress.

23                      Mr. McGoff, you seem to have the  
24          inside track, so if someone can relay this  
25          to Mr. McGoff for me, you seem to have the

1           inside track, talk with the mayor and have  
2           him attend a public and televised meeting to  
3           discuss this matter and other serious  
4           matters involving the City of Scranton. We  
5           need to get the mayor involved in this and  
6           the mayor needs to get involved with this.  
7           Otherwise, nothing is ever going to be  
8           accomplished in the City of Scranton. It's  
9           just not going to happen.

10                         Again, who is the --taking  
11           Mr. McGoff's responsibilities of DPW  
12           tonight? Don't we have DPW?

13                         MS. EVANS: If there is no  
14           legislation on the agenda for that committee  
15           then no one is appointed as a temporary  
16           chair.

17                         MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, well, I have  
18           another one for Mr. McGoff if somebody can  
19           please relay this to him for me, please.

20                         MS. EVANS: Certainly.

21                         MR. JOYCE: Sure.

22                         MR. JACKOWITZ: Mr. McGoff, about  
23           three years ago you were placed in charge of  
24           a committee to initiate a snow plowing plan  
25           for the City of Scranton. This was after

1 the St. Valentine's Day snow massacre. What  
2 happened to the plan? The city streets are  
3 a mess and have been all winter long. The  
4 streets need to be plowed from curb to curb.  
5 You still cannot drive down the street  
6 without pulling over to allow oncoming  
7 vehicles to pass. So if we can find out  
8 what happened to this plan that was  
9 established by this committee it would be  
10 beneficial.

11 Again, I will support city council's  
12 endeavors to improve blight in the city and  
13 neighborhoods with your approval of these  
14 grants. On the same token, I will be  
15 expecting results. The city has been  
16 distressed one 19 years. How many more  
17 years am I expected to reside in the  
18 distressed community where citizens  
19 contribute to hiring police officers,  
20 firefighters, business owners volunteer to  
21 repair police vehicles and children six to  
22 15 are forced to pay to swim at a public  
23 swimming pool Nay Aug Park. Today's,  
24 Times-Tribune, Mayor Doherty, I quote, "We  
25 pay for ten cops a year. We pay for paying



1           our low to moderate -- we pay for paving our  
2           low to moderate income areas, the mayor  
3           said. I've got to pave the streets, I have  
4           got to put the cops on the street."

5                       Follow-up question should have been,  
6           "Then why have you not put the cops on the  
7           streets and paved the cops in the past nine  
8           years when the money was available to the  
9           city?"

10                      Why does the media let Doherty off  
11           the hook every single time? Come on, Boris,  
12           you are a better reporter than that. Then  
13           again, maybe I am overrating you. They let  
14           him off the hook every time. If back taxes  
15           are owed on properties that are requesting  
16           taxpayers' grant money they need to be paid  
17           in full along with the delinquent fees that  
18           were imposed by Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Gatelli and  
19           Mr. Fanucci. No exceptions because of  
20           political influence or friendships.

21                      Still no contributions from the  
22           Scranton Recreation Authority for "Kids Swim  
23           Free." Mail to 1416 South Webster Avenue,  
24           Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18505. Come on,  
25           make some children happy this summer,

1 recreation board.

2 Remember, politicians are judged on  
3 their voting record, at least they should  
4 be. How can the Times-Tribune continue to  
5 cover for Mayor Doherty? Is there not one  
6 staff writer or editor on the staff with the  
7 courage to challenge the lame duck mayor to  
8 answer the questions honestly and not put  
9 the Doherty spin on everything? The mayor  
10 has made it public that he is not going to  
11 hire police officers or have beat cops in  
12 the neighborhoods. It has nothing to do  
13 with President Obama's cuts. He has stated  
14 he will not fill vacancies. Boris, were you  
15 paying attention when the mayor made those  
16 statements?

17 Again, come on, Times, give us a  
18 break. Start reporting what's really going  
19 on in the city.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Jackowitz. Lee Morgan.

22 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

24 MR. MORGAN: You know, I'd just like  
25 to say a couple of things here tonight. I

1 request think today is the first day that  
2 people can circulate petitions for election,  
3 and I'm not going to say that things I'm  
4 going to say here tonight because I intend  
5 to run for council, I really don't think I'm  
6 going to circulate a petition for city  
7 council, I'm probably going to do one for  
8 magistrate in South Side. But, you know, I  
9 would just like to say a couple of things  
10 here tonight.

11 You know, I really think that the  
12 time has come to make some real radical  
13 changes. I don't necessarily agree with  
14 everything that everybody says here. I  
15 can't personally blame the mayor for  
16 everything that's happened here, just like I  
17 can't personally blame council for  
18 everything that's happened here. The people  
19 responsible for what's happening in this  
20 city are the people who live here. If you  
21 don't vote, you don't get involved, you  
22 don't try to do something to benefit the  
23 city then I don't -- I don't who the  
24 residents of this city think are going to  
25 change this city. It's pretty obvious. I

1 had hoped that for a long time coming here  
2 that something good would have happened for  
3 the neighborhoods. We have all walked the  
4 neighborhoods, some of us more than others,  
5 but there have been other council members  
6 that have walked the neighborhoods. There  
7 needs to be a major infusion of capital into  
8 the neighborhoods.

9 Probably the best idea we can come  
10 up with, even though everybody is talking  
11 about fees for permits is I think that for a  
12 couple of years we need to waive the fees.  
13 I think we need to come up with an  
14 atmosphere of cooperation between the city  
15 departments and the residents of the city.  
16 I think we need to find a revenue stream or  
17 a funding pool for the people who live in  
18 the neighborhoods who don't have the funds  
19 necessary to fix their homes. I think we  
20 have to pay a lot of attention to what the  
21 president said, Democrat, Republican, it  
22 just doesn't really matter. We have \$12.500  
23 worth of debt for every resident of this  
24 country.

25 Now, Mrs. Evans, I think you said

1 the City of Scranton debt was \$313,000  
2 recently.

3 MS. EVANS: The long-term debt?

4 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

5 MS. EVANS: Approximately \$303  
6 million.

7 MR. MORGAN: Okay, \$303 million,  
8 okay, and I think when you break that down  
9 it's like \$4,000, a little over \$4,000 for  
10 every resident and that has nothing to do  
11 with the school district or the county. We  
12 just have an ocean of debt here and we have  
13 to find some solutions to walk through it.

14 I would just hope that we could find  
15 a way to reach out to the parks and  
16 recreation at Nay Aug Park and start a youth  
17 program in the city even with the lack of  
18 funding that we have so we can start  
19 directing the children in our communities in  
20 some manner and start to really invest here.  
21 I'm really troubled because having walked  
22 through the neighborhoods and seeing their  
23 condition and I keep seeing everybody  
24 talking about pumping money into the  
25 downtown, into the downtown, and now if you

1 give this a little thought, okay, we have  
2 a massive amount of condemnations of rental  
3 units in the neighborhoods. Massive.  
4 Massive. I mean, it's -- it's mind  
5 boggling, but now what we are doing is we  
6 are transferring money to turn our downtown  
7 into a -- just humongous rental units, I  
8 mean, just huge, and we are destroying our  
9 own neighborhoods with grant money and loans  
10 and we are perpetuating it, but yet there is  
11 no money going into the neighborhoods, and  
12 people are, of course, complaining about  
13 streets and paving and no police and more  
14 and more people are just -- they are not  
15 here. You can't raise revenue without  
16 residents, and if everybody moves into the  
17 downtown when are we going to save the  
18 neighborhoods? Are we ever going to save  
19 them or is the plan just to keep tearing  
20 everything down?

21 It's obvious, you know, at 50 years  
22 old, at my age, you know, everything is not  
23 going to stay the same, but almost  
24 everything that I remember as a kid is gone.  
25 Down by Pine Brook, out at Capouse Avenue

1           where the pool is. I mean, and, you know,  
2           when I walk these streets I have to be real  
3           honest with you, it almost brings tears to  
4           my eyes because I remember how great a city  
5           this was at one time, and I think we can be  
6           great again, and I don't know who is going  
7           to run for these council seats. At this  
8           point I really don't think I'm going one of  
9           them, I already told you I'm thinking about  
10          the magistrate in South Side.

11                         But, I mean, we just got to stop  
12          giving everybody free money that's going to  
13          lead to more decay in the neighborhoods, we  
14          have to find a way to get money into the  
15          hands of people who need it. We know how  
16          low our wage base is here, we know the  
17          amount of seniors we have, we know we have a  
18          lot of problems, but I just think this city  
19          is just too wonderful of a place to live to  
20          let it all disappear. And, you know, when  
21          you are a little kid running around on your  
22          bicycle all through the Hill Section, all  
23          through Greenridge and all of the neighbors  
24          talk to each other at one time and every  
25          thing was much different, and I just think

1 we have to leave not all of that disappear  
2 and I just hope that whoever runs for  
3 council would consider that. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Morgan.  
5 Les Spindler.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,  
7 Council. Les Spindler, city homeowner,  
8 resident and taxpayer.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Last week when I  
11 talked about DPW not doing a good job  
12 cleaning the streets I neglected to say a  
13 few things. To clean right to the curb all  
14 they have to do is come through town at  
15 night when there is nobody in town and that  
16 problem could have been solved. There is  
17 still ice buildup in some parking spaces. I  
18 guess they were too busy making sure  
19 Greenridge was clean because my wife is a  
20 caregiver and she did work in Greenridge at  
21 Park Gardens that week, she said Park  
22 Gardens was beautiful, and she just happened  
23 to drive by the mayor's house and on  
24 Washington Avenue she said it looked like it  
25 didn't even snow there. So I guess they



1           have to clean up for the elite in Greenridge  
2           and let downtown go.

3                       Which brings me to another point,  
4           with all of that ice buildup on the streets,  
5           Mr. Loscombe, maybe you can answer this,  
6           with the StreetSmart program with those  
7           sensors if there is inches of ice on top of  
8           those will those sensors work?

9                       MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, they're made to  
10          work through heavy snow and everything, too,  
11          but who is going to want to park there with  
12          the ice, so anyway.

13                      MR. SPINDLER: I was wondering about  
14          that. Well, that's good. I'm glad to see  
15          that the Mercy Hospital was sold to a for  
16          profit company and if what the paper prints  
17          is true then we are going to get I guess a  
18          million dollars more of taxes paid, so to me  
19          that's great news.

20                      MS. EVANS: Yes.

21                      MR. SPINDLER: And it looks good for  
22          the city so I hope everything comes to  
23          fruition. A citizen came up to me and  
24          wanted me to ask this question, there is so  
25          many billboards throughout this city could a

1 fee be charged for the companies that put  
2 those billboards up and bring some money  
3 into the city?

4 MS. EVANS: Actually, that was an  
5 idea that had been considered by council, it  
6 may have been as long as three years ago,  
7 and at the time council was visited by one  
8 of the billboard companies, the largest  
9 locally, although, it's certainly not just a  
10 local operation, and they pointed out to us  
11 through documentation that similar measures  
12 were taken in other municipalities and they  
13 were found to be illegal and we were  
14 notified that if they enacted any such fee  
15 they would suing the City of Scranton as had  
16 been done elsewhere successfully.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you,  
18 that's something we don't need. Moving on.  
19 Oh, I brought this up a few, I don't know,  
20 weeks ago or a month ago about it looked  
21 like something was being built on Mount  
22 Pleasant, I just happened to glance again  
23 today. Something is definitely being built  
24 there. There is steel going up and I was  
25 told today I guess there was a story on

1 Channel 16, I think it was two buildings  
2 eventually are going to be built. It just  
3 goes to show you you don't have to give  
4 KOZ's to everybody to have people move into  
5 the city. That's proof right there. And I  
6 think that's great news that there will be  
7 more tax dollars coming in the city for  
8 those companies, whoever they may be.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MR. SPINDLER: A few weeks ago I  
11 brought up a citizen called me, a friend of  
12 mine, about Dewey Avenue not being plowed  
13 and he called me last night and thanked me  
14 and I want to thank council, he said after  
15 the last two snow events Dewey Avenue was  
16 plowed so he was very grateful, and I  
17 commend council and for taking care of that.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you for bringing  
19 it to everyone's attention.

20 MR. SPINDLER: Last week I brought  
21 up about lights on the expressway and I  
22 neglected to bring up the Linden Street  
23 bridge. Every single light is out on that,  
24 also. I don't know if it's the same problem  
25 that ties into --

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: The Linden Street,  
2 the West Lackawanna Avenue bridge and the  
3 expressway. I don't know if there is a  
4 power line out in that area.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Maybe that all ties  
6 in.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: We are checking on  
8 that.

9 MR. SPINDLER: As Mr. Jackowitz  
10 said, I wanted to bring it up, too, I'm glad  
11 to see three new businesses moved into  
12 downtown. It's in the same building, the  
13 400 of Spruce Street, and maybe with council  
14 lowering the business and mercantile tax  
15 this is just the beginning of good things to  
16 come, maybe a lot more businesses will start  
17 to move in. And they said there is going to  
18 be supermarket in the Connell building, I  
19 think it's good to have a supermarket  
20 downtown, but right there there is no  
21 parking and I don't know if that's a great  
22 idea to have a supermarket right there in  
23 the Connell building. I mean, people in  
24 that area might shop there, but will it be  
25 enough to keep that store going? I hope so.

1                   Oh, one last thing, about the ice, a  
2                   citizen called me today and said he fell on  
3                   the ice on Center Street going to Empire  
4                   Jewelers last week, broke his ankle, and he  
5                   said he went to his lawyer and the lawyer  
6                   said he can't sue the city. I said, "Why?"

7                   He said, "Because it's a  
8                   municipality."

9                   And I find that very hard to  
10                  believe. If that was me I would be going to  
11                  another attorney. I mean, if someone falls  
12                  on my property my insurance company is  
13                  responsible to pay them. I would I think  
14                  the city's insurance would have to pay that,  
15                  but that's just my opinion, and it's sad  
16                  that that had to happen. If the streets  
17                  were cleaned, this wouldn't have happened.

18                  MS. EVANS: Yes.

19                  MR. SPINDLER: Thank you for your  
20                  time.

21                  MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22                  MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

23                  MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.  
24                  Doug Miller, Scranton.

25                  MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to begin  
2 real briefly, if may. Last week, Mrs.  
3 Evans, I presented with you a letter that  
4 you had requested from Mr. Bolus.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. MILLER: However, he had just  
7 asked that I read the letter just to have it  
8 on the record, if I may?

9 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

10 MR. MILER: "To council president  
11 Janet Evans: Dear Mrs. Evans, please accept  
12 my offer to inspect and choose one Scranton  
13 police car that is in need of cosmetic  
14 repair of which I will donate up to \$2,000  
15 worth of work at one of my shops. The fleet  
16 of police vehicles are starting to look less  
17 than presentable to the City of Scranton and  
18 it's visitors. I do hope that this may  
19 encourage others to do the same as well,  
20 putting the pride back in our police  
21 department where it belongs. Thank you.  
22 Bob Bolus."

23 The other issue I have tonight is I  
24 would just like to take this time to applaud  
25 council for putting together a generous

1 amount of caucuses over the last few months  
2 to discuss a wide variety of issues. You  
3 know, I have been coming here a long time as  
4 have others and I just can't recall a  
5 council putting together the amount of  
6 caucuses that you have, opening it up to the  
7 public to discuss issues. From what I  
8 recall in the past, caucuses have always  
9 taken place in the back room and I just was  
10 under the impression that residents were  
11 left in the dark of what was going on, and I  
12 just think that this is a great attempt to  
13 make government more accountable and  
14 accessible to the people because I think we  
15 all know people matter, and I appreciate  
16 what you are doing in that regard.

17 The other issue I had was I'd like  
18 to ask council if you received a response  
19 from DPW regarding the request I made with  
20 the issue we had over in West Side with the  
21 crosswalks being cleared in front of the  
22 schools. Did we hear anything?

23 MS. EVANS: We sent the request, but  
24 we didn't receive a response nor did we  
25 receive a response on Mr. Bolus' letter,

1           which has always been forwarded to Chief  
2           Duffy.

3                       MR. MILLER:   Okay, thank you.   The  
4           other issue I had tonight, I know it's here,  
5           I had a lot here, regarding the rental  
6           registration fee.   Yesterday I read the  
7           article in the Times regarding this issue  
8           and there is some debate going back and  
9           forth as to you how we are going to enforce  
10          this fee, and from what I understand, you  
11          can correct me if I'm wrong, a \$15 yearly  
12          fee is placed per unit on landlords in the  
13          city and I had someone approach me who was  
14          just curious to know what this fee went to  
15          and I guess this person spoke to an  
16          individual in the LIPS office and this  
17          person stated that you just have to pay the  
18          fee and really couldn't explain in detail  
19          what this fee was for and maybe during  
20          motions or at this time council can provide  
21          a brief explanation as to what this fee is  
22          about and what it goes towards.

23                      MR. ROGAN:   Mr. Miller, that's what  
24           I think the problem with the rental  
25           registration has been run in the past is



1           that people won't who own properties or rent  
2           properties are just sending this money to  
3           the city so it's basically a tax on people  
4           who own properties. The way I would like to  
5           see it run would be the fee is paid to pay  
6           for the costs of the inspection, when the  
7           inspector goes out to the proper and make  
8           sure everything is in check, at the same  
9           time that would be paid for by their fee,  
10          and when the inspector is going out to the  
11          neighborhoods that would fight blight.  
12          That's what it's really -- it's not supposed  
13          to be something that's bringing millions of  
14          dollars for the city. It's a tool to fight  
15          blight.

16                    MS. EVANS: And I think to also  
17                    ensure that the city has a strong handle on  
18                    absentee landlords, and whatever revenue is  
19                    collected that revenue is part of the  
20                    general operating budget.

21                    MR. MILLER: Okay. I appreciate  
22                    that. Just so it clears some things up for  
23                    the viewing audience if they had any  
24                    questions on that, so I appreciate that.

25                    The other thing I have is before,

1 Mr. Evans, you had mentioned some news that  
2 was pretty appalling in regard to the  
3 firehouses and the brownouts. You know, I  
4 just think it's truly ashamed, the residents  
5 are really going to suffer here with this  
6 and I just would hope that -- I'm hopeful  
7 that we can come up with a compromise and we  
8 can reach an agreement because I just don't  
9 think that the residents can suffer anymore  
10 when it comes to response times and how is  
11 this going to effect them. We are dealing  
12 with people's lives here and I just think  
13 it's very serious and I hope we can finally  
14 compromise and reach an agreement that's in  
15 the best interest of the residents of this  
16 city.

17 And finally tonight, in regards to  
18 the appointment of Mr. McGowan, I'd just  
19 like to thank you, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Rogan,  
20 for voting against this appointment. It's  
21 nothing personal with Mr. McGowan with me, I  
22 just think he showed a lack of  
23 accountability by blaming others for  
24 mistakes that took place in the office, and  
25 also for the long delay in sending down his

1 resume and cover letter. I just think it's  
2 a lack of -- showed a lack of  
3 responsibility, and although he has taken  
4 the position already I just think that  
5 council sent the message loud and clear that  
6 this won't be tolerated in the future for  
7 anybody else that comes down looking to be  
8 appointed to anything, and that's all for  
9 tonight. Thank you.

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

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Ron Ellman.

13 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. What  
14 happened with the resolution last week about  
15 Mount Pleasant.

16 MS. EVANS: That was tabled.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Tabled?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, it was.

19 MR. ELLMAN: When is it going to  
20 come up?

21 MS. EVANS: It will not be placed on  
22 the agenda until such time as Council  
23 Loscombe --

24 MR. ELLMAN: I can't see a bit of  
25 sense in assuming something like this when

1           you don't have to.

2                   MS. EVANS: Well, exactly, but  
3           Councilman Loscombe wanted to be able to  
4           review the materials sent by SLIBCO, we  
5           hadn't received them until just a few hours  
6           prior to last week's meeting, but in  
7           addition, as I know Councilman Loscombe and  
8           myself reviewed materials that were sent  
9           throughout the last week, we both noticed  
10          that a document that in particular  
11          Councilman Loscombe was looking for, that  
12          would be, the written opinion of the city  
13          engineer on this project and the completion  
14          of it to this point was missing from what  
15          was sent to us. In it's place we have a  
16          statement from the engineer who works for  
17          the developer and that's well -- that's, you  
18          know, all well and good, but on the other  
19          hand, an individual is work for the  
20          developer. We would like to see the written  
21          opinion of the engineer who works for the  
22          City of Scranton.

23                   MR. ROGAN: I would also add that  
24          even if they do send all of this information  
25          I still wouldn't vote for it just because

1 Mr. Sbaraglia, and I thank him for  
2 mentioning it, while they are doing  
3 construction with heavy equipment driving in  
4 that road it's going to be destroyed. There  
5 is no reason for the taxpayers to take  
6 responsibility for the road now. You know,  
7 it would have been made more sense to me if  
8 they put in a gravel road initially and did  
9 all of their construction and then paved  
10 after the construction then the city will  
11 accept responsibility.

12 MS. EVANS: We are still concerned  
13 about the number of storm water drains. We  
14 have seen what the lack of storm water  
15 drains has created in one of our  
16 neighborhoods in Keyser Valley because  
17 Fawnwood was not properly planned, and so  
18 if, indeed, they have only one storm water  
19 basin then what type of water runoff is that  
20 going to cause onto the highway and what  
21 type of problems, you know, not only  
22 deterioration of those streets, but  
23 throughout winter months we'll see icing of  
24 those streets which makes it even more  
25 difficult for the city to maintain.

1 MR. ELLMAN: I have some of that  
2 written down here. Well, if the city wants  
3 to fool with sidewalks and curbs and  
4 everything let them come down to North Main  
5 Avenue and they were supposed to do that  
6 eight years ago. We don't have no basins,  
7 you ought to see the mess when it rains.

8 I was going to talk about that John  
9 Audubon school for a second. Maintenance is  
10 the key to longevity, you know, whether it's  
11 that school or any of the buildings in the  
12 city or the mayor's tree house, your car or  
13 your home, it takes maintenance. Somebody  
14 sleeping in a basement all day long isn't  
15 maintaining what they are supposed to be.

16 My old car is 72 years old and I  
17 can get it in tomorrow and drive to  
18 California and back because it was  
19 maintained before I bought it and I maintain  
20 it like my life depends on it, and I don't  
21 ever have a problem. If you just maintain  
22 things. I started -- my snowblower started,  
23 my lawnmower start. There isn't a reason in  
24 the world that school is full of mold except  
25 somebody didn't do their job and it doesn't

1 cost \$4 million to get rid of mold.

2 Four years ago I had a pipe leaking  
3 under other bathroom and there is just a  
4 crawl space, I didn't know it for I don't  
5 know how long it leaked, so we phoned a  
6 plumber and he had to take the whole floor  
7 up to fix the pipe and there was some mold  
8 everywhere. It's terrible looking. The  
9 plumber said, "I've handled this in Florida  
10 and Louisiana," he sprayed muriatic acid,  
11 which is what you put in swimming pools. He  
12 just sprayed all over the place, the mold  
13 died and I can show you with a flashlight to  
14 this day it's as clean as a pin under there.

15 You don't need to go to some project  
16 with a bunch of nonsense about a \$4 million  
17 project. That's a scare tactic, the only  
18 thing they want to do is sell this to CMC,  
19 this school to CMC for parking. That's the  
20 only sensible thing that they are trying to  
21 do with it. They don't want to repair it.  
22 And CMC already -- they already owe us a  
23 half million dollars year after year after  
24 area. I listened to that young guy here  
25 with a golden tongue, two, three, four weeks

1           ago, you know, they -- you guys should put a  
2           lien or something on that garage. Why let  
3           them just keep on -- Mercy pays. Let them  
4           pay. It's just -- it's just not right, you  
5           know, what goes on in this city without any  
6           kind of enforcement.

7                    Have any of you all looked at this  
8           sheet for the permit -- this is were --  
9           Austin Burke's \$19 permit is not even on  
10          here, it's \$21 where it starts, and if that  
11          project over there costs \$300 he beat the  
12          city out of five or six thousand dollars and  
13          right there is why. It says, "Proposed."

14                   This sheet needs to be done over  
15          again and you need to go after all of these  
16          people that have taken advantage of the city  
17          year after year after year and that's from  
18          the University, the medical school,  
19          everybody. You can't just say it's going to  
20          cost me \$3,000 and it ends up costing 60 and  
21          never pay the difference. That's exactly  
22          what goes on after year after year. I have  
23          seen this, you know.

24                   You can talk to anyone in the  
25          construction business and they will tell



1           you, this is -- I don't know who wrote that,  
2           but it's an idiot saying "proposed." That's  
3           why you don't have no money from the  
4           building permits.

5                        I'm sorry I get so mad. I just  
6           talked to people, like I say. Today my son  
7           told me he saw this huge crowd over on  
8           Moosic Street, he didn't know what was going  
9           on, he said there had to be three, four, 500  
10          people, he thought something had happened  
11          they were giving away food. That shows you  
12          what's going on in this city. You know, he  
13          saw this big huge crowd at the fire station  
14          he thought it was an accident or something,  
15          he didn't know. They are giving away food  
16          and here all these big guys are beating the  
17          city out of taxes left and right  
18          complaining.

19                       I got my tax thing today, by the  
20          way. That will ruin your day. Well, don't  
21          turn your back on these people. You got to  
22          do something, you know. I went to that  
23          school board meeting, I think they turned  
24          their back on the people of this city.  
25          Everybody got in there saying, "No more

1 schools, no more this, no more expenses. "

2 Now they are talking about another  
3 school after they built another school. We  
4 are a broke city and aid is being cut off  
5 and grants are being cut off. The people  
6 just -- you just can't keep going to the  
7 people saying we are going to raise taxes.

8 MS. EVANS: I agree. Thank you,  
9 Mr. Ellman.

10 MR. ELLMAN: I hope you hear us.

11 MS. EVANS: We hear you. Thank you.

12 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Rick Schraeder.

14 MR. SCHRAEDER: Good evening,  
15 Council. My name a Rick Schraeder, I'm the  
16 president of the Electricians IBW Local 81  
17 here in Scranton.

18 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

19 MR. SCHRAEDER: I come here this  
20 evening to talk a little bit about the  
21 economy and how it affects each and every  
22 one of us. I don't think that there is a  
23 person here that doesn't realize that the  
24 downturn in this economy has such a negative  
25 impact on all of our lives. Probably

1           everybody knows either a neighbor, has a  
2           relative or a friend that is out of work.  
3           Along with that comes a whole host of  
4           problems and it starts with them not paying  
5           taxes, it hurts the communities, it hurts  
6           the state, it hurts the city, and it hurts  
7           that family and it breaks families apart and  
8           certainly if there was anything I could do  
9           to get more work for my members I can  
10          guarantee you I would want be to out doing  
11          it, and that's when I come here tonight to  
12          talk, to ask council's consideration for any  
13          projects that would be going on in the City  
14          of Scranton.

15                   We are fortunate that we have some  
16          projects completed in the city and I think  
17          that there is a lot that could be said about  
18          what's happening and some of the  
19          transformation of downtown Scranton. The  
20          University of Scranton plays a major role in  
21          that, they have a couple of major projects  
22          going on now and if they didn't have them  
23          projects going on now we would have even  
24          more unemployment than we presently have.

25                   There is the Connell building that

1 was done, the developer, Charlie Jefferson,  
2 came in and finally after many years that  
3 project got going and it has 89 units and I  
4 hear people say about that maybe they --  
5 that that's not a good idea. I just want to  
6 let you know that the average age of the  
7 people there is 32 years old. Stop and  
8 think about it. The people that live in  
9 that 89 units over 50 percent of them are  
10 new residents for Scranton for this area. I  
11 think that that speaks volumes of now they  
12 get a job they are paying city taxes. That  
13 helps the city. I don't see how that  
14 negative at all to the City of Scranton.

15 I think we need -- sometimes all of  
16 us have the blinders on we need to take them  
17 off, I think we need to think about what's  
18 going on, I think we need to be progressive.  
19 I think we need to try to do anything we can  
20 to promote construction and additional jobs  
21 in this city to help the members of the  
22 city.

23 There is another project that's  
24 proposed, the Mulberry Lofts, which is  
25 actually across the street from here, I know

1           that there possibly can be a vote on an RACP  
2           grant. I know that there -- if there is  
3           other issues the only thing that I am  
4           implore council to do is please separate the  
5           issues. If there is more than one issue  
6           there, think about the work and the jobs and  
7           the people that you would be helping if that  
8           project was to go, and if there is other  
9           issues beyond that I would ask that you sort  
10          of divide them and take them separately on  
11          their own merits, but I certainly am coming  
12          here tonight to ask you for your  
13          consideration for doing anything you can to  
14          help, you know, promote them projects so we  
15          can put some local people to work, and thank  
16          you for the opportunity to talk to you.

17                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,  
18          Mr. Schraeder, you know that council in  
19          probably under a month approved RACP grants  
20          for two major projects, the Scranton Lace  
21          Complex, that is quite a huge project, and  
22          the Madison School project, so we are very  
23          cognizant of what you are saying and I  
24          believe that council is very supportive of  
25          the Mulberry Loft's project. However, there

1 is an issue in this project that was not  
2 present in the predecessors and that is an  
3 issue of delinquent taxes that are owed, and  
4 council I believe feels that those taxes  
5 must be paid before the project can move  
6 ahead, and it's not the intention -- well,  
7 I'll speak specifically for myself, it's not  
8 my intention to stop this project. It's a  
9 very worthy, meritorious project that I  
10 would like to see move forward. However,  
11 until such time as the taxes are paid, I  
12 would like to see the issue tabled.

13 MR. SCHRAEDER: Okay, and I  
14 understand what you are saying, and I  
15 certainly realize that if there is a tax  
16 issue that that need to be corrected, I was  
17 only asking that the workers in the area not  
18 be held hostage for a tax that was paid if  
19 it's possible to separate them issues, just  
20 to have some consideration in doing that to  
21 maybe get the project so that could be get  
22 started, that issue is going to be an issue,  
23 I agree with you, that will have to be  
24 revolved. I'm just asking for your  
25 consideration in trying to put some people

1 to work as soon as -- as timely as possible.

2 MS. EVANS: And we certainly do want  
3 to do that, but I think's an issue that has  
4 to be brought to Mr. Jefferson and as soon  
5 as Mr. Jefferson is able to pay the  
6 delinquencies, council would place this back  
7 on the agenda immediately and approve it, so  
8 I would say the ball would be in  
9 Mr. Jefferson's court at this point in time.

10 MR. SCHRAEDER: Okay, and one final  
11 thing, I just want to thank the council for  
12 being the visionaries that are, for taking  
13 your time and the devotion that you put in  
14 to what does come forward in front of this  
15 council and for your attentiveness to  
16 everything that is said here I want to thank  
17 you for that.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

19 MR. JOYCE: Thank you for very much  
20 for your time.

21 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
22 cares to address council?

23 MS. BLOOM: Lynn Bloom, North  
24 Scranton. Good evening.

25 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MS BLOOM: I apologize for my voice.  
2 First, I'm going to speak about my vested  
3 interest and then I'll just go from there.  
4 My son attends Neil Armstrong in North  
5 Scranton. I haven't been able to get a  
6 straight answer regarding a street that goes  
7 through the back of the school. It is  
8 usually not used by staff and I -- believe  
9 it or not even being from New York, I'm a  
10 relative patient woman, being an Army wife  
11 teaches you that.

12 Last week it was unbelievable. Not  
13 only were the students attending there put  
14 at risk every day of the week, but so were  
15 the parents and anyone else who foolishly  
16 tried to gain access to that parking lot.  
17 To complicate matters, not only is there a  
18 learning impairment within the City of  
19 Scranton regarding a "Do Not Enter" one-way  
20 sign, but also school district employees.  
21 They like to exit a one-way road onto  
22 Theodore Street right before pick up.

23 Last Friday -- no, I apologize, last  
24 Thursday, I could not park my vehicle,  
25 literally could not park my vehicle



1 anywhere. It's okay, I'm a big girl, I know  
2 how to walk. Unfortunately, for my son and  
3 myself I have been having asthma attacks.  
4 It was 18 degrees. My mother trained me, I  
5 breathe through my coat, walk from Clearview  
6 Street to the back doors because that is the  
7 only way per principal that children third  
8 grade and above are allowed to be released  
9 regardless of safety concerns.

10 By the time I got to the back door,  
11 I was having an asthma attack. After  
12 getting a wise crack from a staff member  
13 about, "Oh, I hope I don't get that," and  
14 stammering out that, "Oh, it's not  
15 contagious," taking my inhaler and then  
16 being able to stand upright I collected my  
17 child, sent him home with another parent  
18 because I couldn't breathe, then went back  
19 to my vehicle.

20 I could not go up Clearview Street  
21 because for whatever reason the Scranton  
22 Police Department has given this principal  
23 the authority to block off Clearview Street  
24 for the buses at dismissal every day Monday  
25 through Friday. So with me and my asthma

1           attack I had to judgment call, do I wait the  
2           20 minutes to be able to go up to Lincoln  
3           Avenue, make a right and go to my house on  
4           the upper part of Clearview Street or do I  
5           go down the ice clogged alleyway, risk  
6           driving into someone's house, like we just  
7           saw on the news, to go home, call my doctor  
8           and get a nebulizer treatment?

9                   I'm a pretty reasonable woman. None  
10           of this is reasonable. Not one thing I  
11           encountered last week was reasonable. There  
12           is no excuse why after days and days of snow  
13           a back lot that no one can answer does it  
14           belong to the school district, does it  
15           belong to the city, is unplowed.

16                   Now, let's fast forward to this  
17           week. Before the rain came, still couldn't  
18           cross, still couldn't park, kids were  
19           released to go play. You know, the kids  
20           that don't have a playground, that have to  
21           go play in an abandoned parking lot going  
22           down crumbled concrete steps in good  
23           weather. I'm not a happy mommy and I don't  
24           think my son should have to be put in that  
25           situation because no one has an answer.

1                   It's unacceptable.

2                   I moved from Long Island, New York,  
3                   for a better life. I never want Scranton to  
4                   be like what I left. I grew up in a blue  
5                   collar town. It was a great place to raise  
6                   kids. Every person I grew up with in my  
7                   neighborhood no longer lives there because  
8                   we were out taxed because the city wanted  
9                   more roads, better schools, new schools. We  
10                  had lots of rentals. Most of the boroughs  
11                  of the New York are rentals, and I can tell  
12                  you what's going to happen to Scranton. You  
13                  are going to rely on the people in your  
14                  neighborhoods for your tax base, and one day  
15                  they are all going to have enough and they  
16                  are going to leave and all of these  
17                  apartments that are already empty you are  
18                  going to have even more, and you think you  
19                  are in financial trouble now?

20                  Please be a lot smarter. You have a  
21                  lot of wisdom in this room, I'm glad you're  
22                  listening to it. My father had a sixth  
23                  grade education, smartest man I ever met.  
24                  Thank you.

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

1 MR. FIGURED: Good evening, Council.  
2 My name is Jack Figured, and I represent the  
3 bricklayers and allied craft workers in this  
4 area. I'm also a life-long resident of the  
5 City of Scranton and as President Evans  
6 stated, yes, she does support this community  
7 and the workers in this community and have  
8 never been a problem holding up projects.

9 No where else in the 33 counties in  
10 Northeastern Pennsylvania that I cover do we  
11 have the relationship with governmental  
12 bodies and universities and places of  
13 business that employ our members and your  
14 citizens. I can tell you in that 33 county  
15 area, Lackawanna County probably have the  
16 highest employment in construction trades at  
17 the present time, and I'd like to thank you  
18 the administration, I'd like to thank  
19 council, I'd like to thank the school board  
20 and I'd like to thank the county, and I am  
21 speaking tonight on behalf of the developer  
22 who has is going to renovate that project  
23 across the street at the old Chamber of  
24 Commerce building.

25 As we all know in the down economy



1 Mr. Schraeder stated, there is 80 some  
2 apartments that are fully rented by mostly  
3 young people that are coming in to our  
4 community and finding jobs.

5 I heard Mr. Morgan speak about  
6 different problems that the neighborhoods  
7 are having and stuff like this, Mr. Morgan,  
8 you are correct, our neighborhoods are  
9 falling apart, I agree with you 100 percent,  
10 and I wish there was more money to go into  
11 these neighborhoods, but those people that  
12 are going into these apartments in downtown  
13 are young professionals that are just  
14 starting their careers and they maybe not be  
15 able to get a mortgage through these  
16 institutions and they need to move someplace  
17 and right now they are moving into the  
18 downtown.

19 For as long as I have lived here I  
20 have heard everyone speak to that, we need  
21 people in the downtown, we need to support  
22 our businesses, we need people here to get  
23 back the way Scranton used to be. If you  
24 seen pictures in the 30's and 40's before  
25 all of this happened and, you know, the

1           technology took place and many of the people  
2           lost their jobs through mechanized means and  
3           stuff like that there were people in the  
4           downtown.

5                        I want to applaud you for your help  
6           in the past, and I would like you to -- I  
7           just hope that you would sit down with the  
8           developer and see what you can work out and  
9           talk about it and see what we can do with  
10          the taxes and see what we could do to get  
11          this project forward. I want to thank you  
12          all personally for your help in the past,  
13          and I know that your support has -- your  
14          support is very important to my membership  
15          and myself, also. I have been here for 54  
16          years and I have two young sons that are  
17          also living in the city now and one is  
18          getting married and hoping to raise a family  
19          here.

20                       So I want to thank each and every  
21          one of you, I want to thank the mayor, I  
22          want to thank the school board and I want to  
23          thank everyone that promotes the people of  
24          Northeastern Pennsylvania in this area.  
25          Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.  
3 My name is Charlie Newcomb. I didn't even  
4 sign the sign-in sheet tonight because I  
5 really came because my son was here, as you  
6 know, for the caucus for his flooding, but  
7 you started talking, Mrs. Evans, about  
8 public safety, so it's a topic I would like  
9 to talk about right now.

10 I'll tell you what I know 2011  
11 Tripps Park development is coming up for  
12 taxes so the I'm sure the city is going to  
13 make some good money on that. The KOZ  
14 projects are up. I hear on the scanner when  
15 there is a fire in Dunmore we go and we help  
16 them out, which is fine, but blacking out  
17 public safety I think is a terrible,  
18 terrible, terrible idea. We have to find  
19 the money to keep them here. We got taxes  
20 are due, like you said, you know, the tax  
21 bills are out.

22 I can speak for myself, I will tell  
23 you what, I'm fortunate enough we own two  
24 properties, one over in Greenridge, one in  
25 Keyser Valley, our 2011 taxes are paid



1 up-to-date, we pay a lot of money in taxes,  
2 which goes to help for public safety, and  
3 I'm fortunate enough to have my whole family  
4 in Scranton, like you said, my son owns a  
5 home over in Keyser Valley and I have  
6 beautiful grandchildren that live over there  
7 in that house, a three-year-old and a  
8 five-year-old in that house, and I'm going  
9 to tell you what, I don't ever want to come  
10 to a situation where, God forbid, if  
11 something happens to one of my properties or  
12 one of my family members and it turns out to  
13 be it's only because we didn't have the  
14 right time or delay time or we don't have  
15 the firemen to do it, I'll tell you what, if  
16 you think the city is in trouble now, I'll  
17 tell you what, I do have a good attorney  
18 that represents me for different things and  
19 I'll tell you what, there won't be enough  
20 money in this city to pay the bills if  
21 anything happens to people in this city.

22 So I'll tell you what, the mayor  
23 better look at -- the mayor better look at  
24 his public safety. I know there has been a  
25 fight with these unions and the mayor for

1 years and years and years and it's about  
2 time that -- it's got to sit down, you have  
3 to keep public safety, you have to make cuts  
4 somewhere else, but that's basically what I  
5 wanted to talk about and the one question I  
6 do have, we are talking about money and  
7 where are we going to get it for public  
8 safety, I see a commercial that's on  
9 television all the time with John Walsh from  
10 America's Most Wanted, do you know are we  
11 paying for that or is that a grant or  
12 something? I just didn't know, you know, I  
13 know it's about the public. And what's  
14 ironic about it we were watching about  
15 public safety in Scranton and there should  
16 have been a commercial following it that  
17 said, "Well, keep an eye out for your  
18 property because we are going to be cutting  
19 public safety here."

20 You know, so do you know if we pay  
21 for that or if that was a grant or what?

22 MS. EVANS: I don't know about that  
23 specific commercial, however, I do know  
24 there have been payments made through the  
25 UDAG payment account, the RE-RE account to

1 WNEP TV for contract for commercials.

2 MR. NEWCOMB: Okay. Well, like I  
3 said, I know you were supposed to come with  
4 a couple of weeks ago you were talking about  
5 you were going to check into see how much  
6 money in the Tripp's Park Development alone,  
7 you know, what the real estate tax would be,  
8 but whatever we can do or whatever we can  
9 cut or however we can do revenue, whether  
10 it's with registrations or with parking or  
11 something we have to keep the public safety  
12 because, as you know, we do have a lot of  
13 senior citizens in the city, we have a lot  
14 of retired people, and God forbid, if there  
15 is ever just a major fire somewhere and  
16 somebody can't get out we don't have to  
17 worry about being distressed because we will  
18 no longer -- there will be no city left.

19 Thanks.

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

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22 MS. KALINOWSKI: Hi. My name is  
23 Jessica Kalinowski, I'm the leasing manager  
24 for the Connell building, and I will also be  
25 leasing out 426 Mulberry if the project goes

1 ahead. I talked to all of the people that  
2 called in from outside of the area, from  
3 inside of the area, business owners, the  
4 local business owners in the downtown who  
5 thanked us for bringing all of these people  
6 in. Today, Dominic from City Cafe told me  
7 for Valentine's Day he had several older  
8 couples from our building having dinner  
9 there together.

10 If Mulberry does not go through,  
11 don't you think that these business owners  
12 in the downtown are going to be upset?  
13 Don't you feel that the business owners  
14 deserve to have the business that Mulberry  
15 will bring?

16 MS. EVANS: I do --

17 MS. KALINOWSKI: All of the  
18 mercantile taxes -- not that -- I'm sorry to  
19 interrupt you. I'm just --

20 MS. EVANS: I do agree. And  
21 council, as you know, lowered the business  
22 and mercantile taxes in order to help our  
23 city businesses, and not only those  
24 preexisting businesses, but to encourage  
25 others to come in. But I do know that these

1 businesses pay their taxes and they have  
2 been the backbone of this community and they  
3 have kept the downtown alive all of these  
4 years through very difficult times through  
5 their tax dollars.

6 So I think they would agree that  
7 they appreciate the assistance given to them  
8 by city council in the 2011 budget and going  
9 forward, and I think they would also agree  
10 that everyone should be paying their taxes  
11 just as they themselves do.

12 MS. KALINOWSKI: And I agree and I  
13 don't see that Charlie Jefferson doesn't  
14 want to pay his taxes, these are not his  
15 taxes that you are talking about. These  
16 businesses will not be able to pay taxes if  
17 they don't have the business there. If we  
18 don't have the residential here and if we  
19 don't have the office space here, where are  
20 they going to have that income from to pay  
21 for those taxes? We would not have a  
22 grocery store coming into downtown Scranton  
23 without the Connell building. Semian  
24 building, they have three new businesses in  
25 there, following are residential that came

1           into our building.

2                       I mean, this is just going to keep  
3           rolling. We are going to see more  
4           businesses popping up which are going to be  
5           paying more mercantile taxes. We are going  
6           to see more people coming into the downtown,  
7           more apartments. I know of approximately 40  
8           more apartments that are coming into the  
9           downtown because Connell was such a success,  
10          so basically we are going to stand here and  
11          stop Mulberry for a totally different issue  
12          that has nothing to do with the RACP money?

13                    MS. EVANS: Well, actually, we are  
14          not stopping the project, we are tabling the  
15          project. We are not opposed to the project  
16          but we are going to table the project I  
17          would think until such time as the taxes are  
18          paid.

19                    MS. KALINOWSKI: So you would rather  
20          see people not get the work and not get the  
21          business?

22                    MS. EVANS: Well, actually, I think  
23          the downtown businesses have been paying  
24          their taxes annually for many, many, many  
25          years before the Connell building was

1           renovated and even before the Mulberry Lofts  
2           will be established.

3                       As for our labor unions, council has  
4           always been highly supportive of project  
5           labor agreements, prevailing wages and  
6           providing these types of grants to worthy  
7           projects in the downtown. I'm sure you are  
8           aware that there were at least three grants  
9           provided previously to the Connell building  
10          and other incentives as well, and we are  
11          looking at providing another major grant to  
12          Mr. Jefferson, but in return I think it  
13          behooves Mr. Jefferson to pay the taxes for,  
14          oh, I believe it was 2006 through 2010.

15                      MS. KALINOWSKI: I would just like  
16          to say that I hope that you will be able to  
17          separate the issues and bring more  
18          residential into the downtown because it  
19          will help the downtown in the long run.  
20          Thank you.

21                      MS. EVANS: Thank you, Ms.  
22          Kalinowski.

23                      MR. JEFFERSON: Good evening,  
24          Council President, council members.

25                      MS. EVANS: Good evening.

1 MR. JEFFERSON: My name is Charles  
2 Jefferson, I own the Connell building and I  
3 am the proposed developer for the Mulberry  
4 Loft's project. I'd like to start out by  
5 reviewing what it is that I'm here for, and  
6 what I'm here for is the vote tonight for  
7 council is a vote as to whether or not to  
8 approve the authorizing resolution for the  
9 RACP. It's not a vote as to whether or not  
10 taxes were paid on the building because the  
11 fact of the matter is I didn't own the  
12 building 2006 through 2010. In fact, I  
13 didn't own the building at all in 2010. In  
14 fact, I didn't own the building until  
15 January 31st of 2011.

16 So the taxes that were not paid were  
17 not taxes that were not paid by Charlie  
18 Jefferson or any entity that Charlie  
19 Jefferson had any involvement with. They  
20 were taxes that were not paid by folks who  
21 bought the building from out of town and it  
22 was a full building and they ran it into the  
23 ground and they chased the tenants away.

24 And the interesting thing about that  
25 is that the tenants they chased away didn't



1           leave Scranton, they stayed in the downtown.  
2           They went to other buildings and they  
3           continued to be viable businesses. And for  
4           me the interesting thing about that is they  
5           want to be in Scranton. They want to be  
6           downtown. They were just in a building with  
7           an owner that didn't care, that wasn't  
8           concerned, and it wasn't interesting.

9                         That's not this owner. This owner  
10           got involved with the Connell building five  
11           years ago, persevered through four years of  
12           constant money out of his pocket and out of  
13           his partner's pocket to put together a  
14           project that I know I'm proud of and I hope  
15           everyone else is.

16                        I heard tonight a couple of things.  
17           The things I heard were about projects not  
18           paying permit fees. The Connell building  
19           paid to close to \$80,000 in permit fees. I  
20           heard about projects not paying rental fees.  
21           The Connell building is responsible for over  
22           10 percent of the rental fees collected by  
23           the city to date. 10 percent.

24                        I have heard about projects that  
25           were pulling residents out of neighborhoods.

1           That's not the fact. The Connell building  
2           brings in almost 60 percent of it's  
3           residents from outside of the county. These  
4           are new taxpaying residents to the city.

5                     The Connell building has almost 70  
6           percent of it's residents between the ages  
7           of 20 and 30. They are not college kids,  
8           they are young professionals who choose to  
9           live in the downtown area. They choose to  
10          walk out the front door of the Connell  
11          building on a Friday night, they choose to  
12          go to the restaurants, the coffee shops, the  
13          drug stores, you name it. They choose to  
14          spend their money here in Scranton in the  
15          downtown.

16                    They choose to rent parking spaces  
17          from the Connell garage, from the Scranton  
18          Parking Authority to the tune of about  
19          \$88,000 a year for monthly parking passes,  
20          not counting the people that come to visit  
21          them, not counting their friends, not  
22          counting anything else, but that's just  
23          their monthly park being passes.

24                    Again, we are here tonight to vote  
25          on the authorizing resolution for the RACP.

1           As I mentioned to council last week at the  
2           caucus meeting, development, at least for me  
3           and for my partners, is a very complex  
4           thing. At any given time there is ten or  
5           more balls in the air. You're constantly  
6           keeping your eye on moving parts,  
7           milestones, deadlines, so on.

8                       As I mentioned to you, council  
9           president, last week, you had asked me about  
10          the PHMC, which is the historic approval and  
11          what was going on with the different parts  
12          of the project and I told you that those  
13          things will be done and I gave you the  
14          dates. I received today the historic  
15          nomination. I went through it, I approved  
16          it, that will go in this week. Exactly what  
17          I told you it would do.

18                      In order for this project to move  
19          forward on the track that it's on to put 70,  
20          80, 90 or more construction workers to work  
21          this fall, I need to have the authorizing  
22          resolution approved. This project cannot  
23          afford to have it tabled. The banks won't  
24          appreciate it, the authorities won't  
25          appreciate it. All of the parties involved

1 when things like that happen it comes -- it  
2 brings into question every aspect of the  
3 project. It's not just one aspect, it  
4 brings in every aspect.

5 I would ask you in the spirit of  
6 which this project was brought forward,  
7 which is to take a vacant building, put it  
8 back to a productive building, put residents  
9 in there, make it a viable part of the  
10 street front, I would ask you to approve the  
11 authorizing resolution tonight and to  
12 separate the other issues and we can work on  
13 the other issues, but that's not what this  
14 resolution is about. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
18 cares to address council?

19 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,  
20 Council. Charlie Newcomb. A couple of  
21 things that I had written down that I forgot  
22 to mention at the caucus that I'd like to  
23 mention, Mr. Loscombe, maybe if I can't  
24 attend the next meeting if you could just  
25 bring up to two things. I was on the phone

1 for awhile today with Mr. Skeleton from the  
2 Sewer Authority and he told me that when  
3 they did that report when they were over  
4 there to doing the dye testing and doing all  
5 of the water that the majority of -- besides  
6 Lafayette Street, the majority of the lines  
7 on Cameron and Merrifield are all busted.  
8 So besides doing the project on Merrifield  
9 Avenue I forgot to mention to Mr. Brazil  
10 could that be included because you are not  
11 going to solve the problem if it's all not  
12 taken care of.

13 And also Mr. Tell told me that, and  
14 we had mentioned it before, that the state  
15 has an issue with Keyser Avenue because all  
16 of the drains above Keyser Avenue are busted  
17 or don't work, also. So I think as sad as  
18 it sounds, it's going to be more of an issue  
19 than just Lafayette Street after I looked  
20 over my notes, which I should have mentioned  
21 it before, but in order to get the state  
22 involved I think we have to get more in  
23 there.

24 And I was just listening briefly to  
25 what you said on a totally different subject

1 before, as far as the brownout goes, did you  
2 say truck two down here would be considered  
3 as a brownout?

4 MS. EVANS: Yes.

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

6 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: This building is  
7 surrounded by like high-rises. Who in their  
8 right minds from like a logical sense, I  
9 have no idea, but who came up with this  
10 plan, do you know, like, is it the fire  
11 chief or the mayor? Who is sitting down  
12 saying, "Hmm, let's take -- let's do a  
13 brownout for this company," when this whole  
14 downtown is surrounded by high rises and  
15 without a truck company, I mean, what's the  
16 purpose? I mean --

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: The order comes down  
18 from the chief, but I believe it's the  
19 mayor's orders.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Like, do they  
21 consult anybody? Like, do they call the  
22 fire department and say, "I know I don't  
23 want to take anything out of service, but  
24 what would you guys recommend?"

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's by problem

1 with it, they have no studies or no surveys  
2 or no science to how they are choosing this.  
3 They are playing chest with everyone's  
4 lives.

5 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: That's absolute  
6 -- no that I want to see it taken from any  
7 part of the city, but to take a truck  
8 company out of service in the downtown  
9 that's surrounded by high rises is one of  
10 the most ludicrous things I think I have  
11 ever heard of in my life to be perfectly  
12 blunt. I mean, that's --

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Truck four serves as  
14 an auxiliary rescue vehicle if rescue is on  
15 another accident, so we can be in a  
16 situation with no aerial ladders, too.

17 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yeah, and the  
18 people of Dunmore should be scared, too,  
19 that Engine 15 is going out of service  
20 because I think they have what, two firemen  
21 and a engine? I mean, it's really a big,  
22 big problem. I mean, it's really a lot  
23 bigger.

24 And I don't know anything about this  
25 project that you are talking about when the

1 Connell building, but from what I was just  
2 listening I don't think -- I agree with you  
3 wholeheartedly, I don't think any project  
4 should about forward if there is taxes that  
5 are past due on a project. I don't care if  
6 you are going to create four million jobs  
7 downtown next week. By you not paying your  
8 taxes, I pay more, you pay more, everybody  
9 in the city pays more and how is it fair to  
10 the little guy that's paying taxes next door  
11 for somebody who doesn't pay taxes?

12 So if that's what needs to be done,  
13 I mean, I'm all for growth in this city and  
14 I'm a person that's in my early 30's and  
15 decided to stay in this family -- in this  
16 city and raise my children and pay taxes in  
17 this city, too, and I could have chose to go  
18 anywhere else, but it's not fair to me that  
19 I have to pay taxes if you are going to  
20 allow somebody to go in and build a building  
21 for somebody that didn't have to pay taxes  
22 for, so I commend you if that's the reason  
23 why you are holding up the project.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, I think, too,  
25 maybe to add to what you are saying, half of



1           the amount or let's say the matching funds  
2           that come through an RACP grant from the  
3           Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the  
4           Budget, those are state tax dollars, so you  
5           are, in fact, and I am and everyone here  
6           tonight who resides in Scranton and  
7           throughout the Commonwealth it's our tax  
8           dollars that put up these types of projects.  
9           And so, you know, we are all investing in  
10          it. It's our tax dollars at work as well.

11                         And I do agree with Mr. Jefferson  
12          that certainly he didn't create the  
13          delinquencies having not owned that  
14          property, but certainly when you purchase a  
15          property at the closing most of us are  
16          expected to take care of all of these  
17          details, and I think any developer, not just  
18          Mr. Jefferson, because he has done a fine  
19          job, but any developer coming into this city  
20          or any other municipality should be prepared  
21          financially to, let's say, make sure all of  
22          the tax delinquencies are taken care of, to  
23          be prepared to pay taxes going forward,  
24          particularly when they are seeking state or  
25          federal grants.

1                   MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Absolutely. It's  
2                   a shame that the taxes were allowed to get  
3                   behind that bad.

4                   MS. EVANS: It is.

5                   MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Because now the  
6                   developer is going to be responsible and  
7                   that is ashame, but I don't, unfortunately,  
8                   think that anything should go through.  
9                   Before we purchased our home I was looking  
10                  at some of the city lots that you can go  
11                  purchase and you have to -- and somebody  
12                  else said it before, you have to pay the  
13                  taxes on that lot because a lot of those  
14                  city lots are people that just up and left  
15                  and you can't find them to pay taxes and the  
16                  city ended up paying for the demolition of  
17                  the property and you were responsible to pay  
18                  the taxes on that land before you were able  
19                  to purchase it and build a home on there.

20                  We didn't go that route, but if you  
21                  did you would be responsible for that.

22                  That's just the way -- it is what it is. I  
23                  mean, that's the way it is, but I commend  
24                  you if that's the reason why, so thank you.

25                  MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Newcomb.

1 Is there anyone else?

2 MR. PILCHESKY: Good evening,  
3 Council.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. PILCHESKY: Joe Pilchesky, 819  
7 Sunset Street, Scranton, PA. This  
8 presentation will be part one of two parts  
9 relating to the construction of the new pool  
10 house at Nay Aug Park. Part one will relate  
11 to construction details, and part two, next  
12 week, will relate to litigation that  
13 followed the construction of that pool  
14 house.

15 One of the things that the public is  
16 willing to accept with little and no inquiry  
17 is why some politicians spend a great deal  
18 of money on their elections. For example,  
19 Mayor Doherty spent over \$2 million on his  
20 last two campaigns to win a job that pays  
21 only \$50,000 a year. Many state level  
22 politicians don't spend anywhere near that  
23 money, and no mayor of a city this size in  
24 the state ever spent that much money to win  
25 and get re-elected.

1                   The answer, of course, as we all  
2 know, can be found in the money to be made  
3 in kickbacks, and kickbacks have to be built  
4 into inflated contracts. With inflated  
5 construction contracts a preference among  
6 public official who are on the take.

7                   The old pool house at Nay Aug was  
8 not heated. Shortly after the mayor won his  
9 first term, someone turned the water on  
10 mid-January causing all the pipes to freeze  
11 and break and basically destroying the  
12 building. Water flowed for quite sometime  
13 resulting in the building being condemned,  
14 resulting in the mayor announcing the  
15 construction of a new pool house.

16                   The old pool house was large and  
17 completely complied with all safety and  
18 health standards. By that I mean it  
19 contained a sufficient number of showers,  
20 toilets and sinks. The number of those  
21 kinds of fixtures required in any public  
22 pool house is determined by the size and  
23 depth of the public pool. The formula for  
24 it is provided under statutory law through  
25 the Department of Health.

1                   Due to the size of our pools at Nay  
2                   Aug Park, the men's bathroom was required to  
3                   have 12 toilets, 12 urinals, 12 showers, 12  
4                   sinks and one utility basin. The woman's  
5                   bathroom was required to have 24 toilets, 12  
6                   showers, 12 sinks, and one utility basin.

7                   On January 20th of 2003, the mayor  
8                   contracted with the architectural firm of  
9                   Hemler and May to build this new pool house.  
10                  I have a copy of the contract here, and  
11                  that's what this is. I got this through a  
12                  Right-to-Know letter obtained from the  
13                  business administrator, so it's an accurate  
14                  copy.

15                  It's a contract for a 2,500 square  
16                  foot pool house at a cost of \$250,000 with  
17                  another \$30,000 identified as a basic fee,  
18                  whatever that may be, or a total of  
19                  \$280,000. The problem I discovered with the  
20                  pool house is that, number one, the building  
21                  measures out to be only \$1,470 square feet,  
22                  far short of the 2,500 square feet proposed  
23                  in the contract.

24                  Secondly, the men's room has only  
25                  four toilets, four urinals, four sinks, and

1 no utility basins. The woman's bathroom has  
2 only four toilets, four sinks, one shower,  
3 and no utility basin. There are no privacy  
4 stalls for changing in either bathroom.

5 The pay out schedule, found on page  
6 seven, is as follows: Schematic design  
7 phase, 10 percent. Design development  
8 phase, 35 percent. Construction documents  
9 phase, 3 percent. Bidding and negotiation  
10 phase, 5 percent. And the construction  
11 phase is 25 percent.

12 This means that the architect  
13 received \$160,000 of the money before  
14 construction began plus the \$30,000 basic  
15 fee or \$190,000 before any field work was  
16 actually done. In the end, what we got for  
17 that money was a new pool house just over  
18 one-half of what was contracted for  
19 containing only one-third of the number of  
20 toilets, showers, and sinks required by  
21 state health standards.

22 The mayor and the city were given  
23 notice of these deficiencies by the  
24 Department of Health and myself in 2004.  
25 And Bill Fiorini, then the department

1 director of the inspections stated  
2 publically in the newspaper that more  
3 fixtures would be added to meet state codes,  
4 but that never happened largely because the  
5 building wouldn't accommodate any more  
6 fixtures.

7 After waiting one more year for the  
8 city to remedy these serious health defects,  
9 I filed suit against the city to force these  
10 remedies in the name of public health. Next  
11 week I will share with you how a judge  
12 allowed the mayor and the architect to  
13 escape all of the accountability for the  
14 gross abuse of public funds and violations  
15 of all of these health standards, and I will  
16 see you next week with that. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Pilchesky. Is there anyone else who  
19 cares to address council? Hi, Chris.

20 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet. Hi,  
21 Jackie.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Hi, Chrissy.

23 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie. Well, Pat,  
24 these girls are the champions this year.  
25 I'm proud of every one of them down there.

1           Every one of them. Do good this year, I'll  
2           tell you what. Wish them luck. Jack, wish  
3           them luck all season. I hope they win the  
4           championship. Back to West Side where it  
5           belongs. Thank you.

6                   MS. EVANS: That's right, Chris.  
7           Anyone else?

8                   MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
9           Dave Dobrzyn.

10                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11                   MR. DOBRZYN: Member of the  
12           Taxpayers', resident of Scranton. I have  
13           one concern tonight and it's been an ongoing  
14           concern, and it's not faulting you people  
15           with anything, but I would love to see the  
16           executive of this town or city cooperate  
17           with council and execute the legislation  
18           that they put forth and legitimately passed.  
19           I'm concerned about the firemen and the  
20           minimum staffing. I'm also concerned about  
21           the Library Authority that was never  
22           disbanded, and hopefully with this rental  
23           registration business they seem to be  
24           cooperating with that or trying to, so that  
25           could be a ray of sunshine on their behalf,



1 but I'd like to see a little more.

2 Okay, that 1275 Dave Baldinger, did  
3 everybody pass that around or -- if somebody  
4 doesn't return it I'll replace it for you,  
5 you know? It's on the old former Bill 1275  
6 with school taxes. I gave you a tape and  
7 these other guys a DVD, so please let  
8 somebody else watch it, if you can,  
9 including Mr. McGoff. He is okay, I mean.

10 MS. EVANS: Of course.

11 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay. The hospital  
12 comp, did you check that by any chance? I  
13 gave you a sheet on who qualifies for free  
14 care in an emergency room and did you find  
15 that interesting, by any chance? I think I  
16 give one to you, Pat?

17 MR. ROGAN: I don't remember if you  
18 did. If you did I might have lost it.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay. Well, somewhere  
20 around \$21,000, so all I ask whether you  
21 agree with the current legislation, federal  
22 legislation or not, keep that in mind that  
23 you can earn as an individual over \$21,000 a  
24 year and as long as you can prove that  
25 that's all you earn you qualify for free

1 care if you walk outside and have an  
2 appendicitis attack or get hit by a hit and  
3 run or an uninsured driver or something you  
4 can actually be taken to the CMC and qualify  
5 for uncompensated care, and if something  
6 else is sitting there with their insurance  
7 card in hand and taking a heart attack and  
8 they are sewing you back up, well, they will  
9 just have to wait, so I'll try and -- I  
10 believe we might do something with the  
11 taxpayers on that, Ozzie expressed an  
12 interest on that.

13 Okay, the golden parrot award for  
14 this week goes to JP Morgan Chase. They  
15 harassed and raised the mortgage rate on  
16 another military man, a captain in the Air  
17 Force, they pushed his rate up under an ARM  
18 mortgage and the maximum allowable if you  
19 are in the service, from what I understood,  
20 was 6 percent. So they repeatedly harassed  
21 this man's wife who was -- and forced her to  
22 overpay on the mortgage for months until he  
23 got back home and they lost, JP Morgan lost  
24 in the Court case and was fined, but the  
25 fine was very minimal. So to golden parrot,

1           bawk, bawk, goes to JP Morgan Chase. Thank  
2           you, JP Morgan Chase, we will remember you  
3           when you need some more funds after you run  
4           us into another bubble. Have a good night.

5           MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.  
6           Is there anything else who cares to address  
7           council?

8           MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

9           MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, any  
10          comments or motions?

11          MR. ROGAN: Yes, just a few  
12          comments. First, I'd like it apologize, I  
13          was out of town for the last three or four  
14          days, I have some e-mails that I still have  
15          to respond to and some phone calls, so I  
16          will get back to you over the course of the  
17          next few days.

18          Secondly, over the last few weeks I  
19          have been very critical of DPW, and rightly  
20          so, but this week I have good news to  
21          report. After Mr. Tobin, I believe his name  
22          was, came to council and told us a story  
23          about how he tried to go to the church at  
24          the Cathedral and he couldn't get across the  
25          sidewalks because they were covered in --

1           they were covered by snow in the  
2           intersection, so Wednesday morning while  
3           driving through downtown around 9:00 I was  
4           very pleased to see DPW crews out there  
5           clearing the snow on the corners of the  
6           downtown, and also on the Linden Street  
7           bridge, which was before that only partially  
8           cleared, so they did a very good job on  
9           that.

10                         And, Mrs. Krake, can we please ask  
11           the DPW if they could do the same with the  
12           Harrison Avenue bridge.

13                         Secondly, I have received an e-mail  
14           sometime last week I think it was about bids  
15           for the light -- streetlight repairs, any  
16           timetable on when that will be on the agenda  
17           again?

18                         MS. EVANS: We have received nothing  
19           on it.

20                         MR. ROGAN: Still nothing from the  
21           administration?

22                         MS. EVANS: Correct.

23                         MR. ROGAN: That's unfortunate  
24           because we have all been flooded with calls  
25           and people at the meetings about

1 streetlights being out and we really need a  
2 competent provider who is going to repair  
3 them in a timely manner.

4 Just one last comment, I guess, on  
5 the vote last week for Mr. McGowan, a few  
6 people approached me and through e-mails and  
7 phone calls and said, "Well, you know, your  
8 vote really doesn't mean anything. The  
9 mayor is going to do what he wants anyway,  
10 were don't you just go along to get along?"

11 But at the end of the day, you know,  
12 when you vote "yes" on an appointment you  
13 are accountable. You know, if Mr. McGowan,  
14 who I feel isn't capable of doing the job  
15 after seeing what he did with the missing  
16 million dollars, after seeing that I can  
17 never vote for him or for approval, and I  
18 hope that I'll be proven wrong. I hope he  
19 does a great job over there. It will  
20 benefit all of us.

21 And I will hold my comments on the  
22 Mulberry Project for Seventh Order.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.  
24 Councilman Loscombe, any comments or  
25 motions?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. I'm going to  
2 save my comments for the vote, also, at this  
3 point. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Councilman Joyce?

5 MR. JOYCE: Just a few tonight. I  
6 to want to inform everyone I know that I  
7 have been questioned by many members of the  
8 public as well as everyone sitting at up on  
9 council as to how much Carl Greco and  
10 Mr. Moran have been paid out from July of  
11 2006 to January of 2011. We put in a  
12 request through the Redevelopment Authority  
13 and Mr. Laser did get back to us.

14 As far as the whole Buona Pizza  
15 case, Mr. Greco was paid \$57,310.05, and  
16 Mr. Moran was paid \$635.25. So in case  
17 anyone was wondering how much has been spent  
18 for that effort, which ultimately the city  
19 was not successful in that effort, that's  
20 how much was spent.

21 Secondly, roughly a week and a half  
22 ago Rossi & Rossi sent a list of items that  
23 need to be sent to them by various specified  
24 dates in order to complete the 2010 annual  
25 operating or the 2010 audit by the May 31,

1           2011, deadline as required in the Home Rule  
2 Charter. I'm not going to elaborate too  
3 much on what those items are, there is a  
4 whole laundry list of things that the BA's  
5 Office has to turn into Rossi & Rossi.

6           However, as everyone knows, though  
7 it is stated in the Home Rule Charter that  
8 the audit is to be completed by May 31, that  
9 hasn't been the case for at least the last  
10 six years, if not more.

11           With this being said, in the spite  
12 of cooperation and keeping council and the  
13 public informed, please send a letter to  
14 Mr. McGowan asking him if he foresees any  
15 problems with providing Rossi & Rossi any  
16 information that is needed by them. Also,  
17 if he foresees any issues for problems or  
18 delays, can we place inquire when he  
19 foresees that he will be able to answer  
20 Rossi & Rossi's requests.

21           Also, last week I made a request to  
22 contact PennDOT regarding some subpar road  
23 conditions up on Meadow Avenue which is also  
24 a State Route K-130, which I informed  
25 Mrs. Krake last week. I'm happy to report

1           that some of the potholes on that street  
2           have been repaired, however, there are still  
3           quite a few that remain.

4                         With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, can  
5           you please contact PennDOT and ask them if  
6           they plan to finish the job and if so when  
7           if they don't plan on filling this the  
8           remainder of the potholes can you please  
9           request on behalf of city council that they  
10          consider it.

11                        Last, but not least, we've received  
12          some information from the Single Tax Office  
13          as far as the funds distributed so far in  
14          2011 are concerned. Just to give you a  
15          quick run down, funds from the real estate  
16          tax \$3,200 and odd dollars. Delinquent real  
17          estate tax roughly \$20,000. Earned income  
18          tax about \$2,050,000. The emergency service  
19          tax about \$101,000 and business privilege  
20          and mercantile \$45,631, so that's just a  
21          quick rundown of the where we are right now.

22                        And I forgot to announce this in  
23          announcements, and we received a request in  
24          our office that there will be an venison  
25          dinner on Saturday, February 26, at 4:00



1 p.m. at the Northeast Attachment of the  
2 Marine Corp League on 1340 Alder Street in  
3 Scranton, PA. Donations of \$8 per person  
4 are being accepted to assist with the dinner  
5 and other projects and that's all I have for  
6 tonight.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.  
8 Good evening. I wish to begin by thanking a  
9 great lady, Ms. Williams, for giving me a  
10 1914 manual of the City of Scranton. The  
11 manual demonstrates that while much has  
12 changed in these 97 years, some remains  
13 unchanged.

14 For example, the order of business  
15 for city council meetings remained the same  
16 and according to the manual the legislative  
17 power of cities in the second class shall be  
18 seated in one body which shall consist of  
19 not less than five members. The members of  
20 council are elected for a term of four years  
21 and are paid at the rate of \$2,000 per year.  
22 Council meets every Friday at 3:00, except  
23 during the month of August.

24 Also, the manual contains the  
25 following facts: The city was originally

1           comprised of Providence, Hyde Park, Scranton  
2           Borough, and Providence Township. In 1875 a  
3           portion of Dunmore Borough, about 230 acres,  
4           was and annexed.

5                     In 1910, the population of Scranton  
6           was 129,867. It was the third city in  
7           population in Pennsylvania and the 38th city  
8           in population in the United States.

9                     There were far fewer employees.  
10          City clerks office four. City controller's  
11          office, four. Bureau of police, 20,  
12          including the superintendent, secretary, two  
13          captains, four lieutenants, five detectives,  
14          and seven sergeants. The Bureau of fire, 26  
15          employees, including the superintendent, the  
16          assistant superintendent, four battalion  
17          chiefs, 20 captains and seven engine  
18          companies, ten hose companies, two chemical  
19          companies, and one hook and ladder company.

20                    Bureau of Health, ten employees,  
21          which included a city bacteriologist, a  
22          police and fire surgeon, and a veterinary  
23          surgeon, among others.

24                    From this manual, I learned that our  
25          city has rich history and strong standards

1 of government and more than ever I consider  
2 it a great honor and privilege not only to  
3 serve the people of Scranton on this city  
4 council, but also to further the goals and  
5 build on the achievements of our Scranton  
6 forefathers. Thank you, Mrs. Williams, for  
7 this wonderful book.

8 On behalf of Scranton City Council,  
9 I would also like to thank both the  
10 Scranton/Lackawanna County Taxpayers'  
11 Association and Mrs. Ekterman of Scranton  
12 for their generous donations to the public  
13 safety manpower initiative to be used for  
14 Manpower in the city's police and fire  
15 departments.

16 Last week OECD's director, Linda  
17 Aebli, provided a response to city council  
18 regarding the question posed by Ms.  
19 Schumacher at the recent council meeting.  
20 Ms. Schumacher inquired about previous OECD  
21 funding to Lackawanna College for the  
22 Scranton Lace complex. Mrs. Aebli's  
23 responses is as follows:

24 "The action plan of 2005 provided  
25 funding to Lackawanna College in the amount

1 of \$262,623.90. This was funded under the  
2 project known as demolition of hazardous  
3 structures. The activity was named  
4 demolition of a hazardous structure for the  
5 Scranton Lace building. To date,  
6 \$202,623.90 is still available. An amount  
7 of \$60,000 was transferred from demolition  
8 of the Scranton Lace to demolition of  
9 hazardous structures citywide. Lackawanna  
10 College no longer owns this structure and  
11 this funding is available for another  
12 eligible activity through legislation."

13 And so with my colleague's agreement  
14 tonight, I'd like to send a letter to Ms.  
15 Aebli requesting that the remaining funding  
16 is allocated to one of the following three  
17 projects, whichever is eligible: Corrective  
18 flood control for the area of Keyser Valley  
19 for North Cameron Avenue's neighborhood.  
20 Demolition of hazardous structures citywide  
21 or street paving citywide.

22 Ms. Aebli should inform the law  
23 department to draft appropriate legislation  
24 to be forwarded to city council for it's  
25 approval.

1                   In addition, Ms. Aebli provided the  
2 following information regarding art space, a  
3 component of the current Scranton Lace  
4 complex project. In 2005, \$125,000 was  
5 designated for art space by Scranton  
6 Tomorrow for architectural and engineering  
7 for their part of the Scranton Lace  
8 building. This funding is still available,  
9 however, \$236.25 was disbursed in 2006 and  
10 2007 for legal expenses. Due to the levy  
11 work that was underway for the past several  
12 years, no funding has been released to  
13 Scranton Tomorrow.

14                   Ms. Schumacher had an additional  
15 question regarding prior OECD funding to the  
16 Mulberry Place Project located in the area I  
17 believe of Mifflin Avenue, America Warhorse  
18 approaching the entrance to the highway.  
19 That request was recently forwarded to Ms.  
20 Aebli and I will report on her response as  
21 soon it is received by council.

22                   Next, Mrs. Krake, please send a  
23 letter to Ms. Aebli requesting the  
24 following:

25                   A copy of the letter sent by HUD to

1 OECD on January 31, 2011, and a copy of the  
2 Ms. Aebli's response to HUD, which must be  
3 submitted by February 25, 2011.

4 Also, please send a letter to the  
5 Department of Licensing, Inspections and  
6 Permits and Mr. Jefferson requesting a copy  
7 of the plan review for the Connell building  
8 grocery store. It was brought to my  
9 attention that these projects require two  
10 plan reviews, the first for the shell of the  
11 building, and a second plan review for what  
12 is going into the building.

13 In addition, council requests copies  
14 of the plan reviews for the Mulberry Lofts  
15 and the Lace Complex projects. Responsa is  
16 requested on or before March 1, 2011.

17 Next, Mrs. Krake, please send a  
18 letter to Chief Duffy requesting the  
19 following information:

20 Were in JAG grant funds returned or  
21 reimbursed by the city to the federal  
22 government? If so, what are the years of  
23 the grants and the dollar amounts.

24 Next, council received a response to  
25 it's Right-to-Know request. The response

1 was provided by Ryan McGowan, business  
2 administrator. However, in reviewing the  
3 response it appears that it is incomplete in  
4 several respects. Number one, his response  
5 to, "Was there a monetary or any other type  
6 contribution provided to the December 31,  
7 2001, First Night celebration by the City of  
8 Scranton? If so, please describe."

9 His response was simply, "Yes,"  
10 which is incomplete, so he needs to provide  
11 detailed information in terms of what the  
12 dollar amount was and from what accounts it  
13 was taken.

14 With regard to number two, "Will the  
15 casual workers receive healthcare benefits,  
16 and if so how will those benefits be paid  
17 for and by whom?"

18 Well, he has indicated that, yes,  
19 indeed, the four foremen who were reinstated  
20 by the mayor, although, they had been cut  
21 from the amended two 2011 budget, are  
22 receiving health benefits, but he does not  
23 indicate how the benefits will be paid and  
24 from what accounts they are being drawn.

25 And with regard to the number four,

1 "Will there still be a 24-hour dispatcher  
2 service by the DPW available at all times?"

3 His response is, "At present, yes.  
4 As all times, unknown."

5 With regard to number four, the  
6 response is highly irresponsible. I fear  
7 that what he is implying in that response is  
8 that the city is unprepared in the event of  
9 an emergency that could occur overnight if,  
10 indeed, the 24-hour dispatcher is off duty  
11 evenings, so I would like him to provide  
12 full explanation of that response.

13 Next, I received very positive news  
14 from residents of O'Hara Street in Scranton.  
15 They state that they have resided on O'Hara  
16 Street hill for 20 years and during this  
17 time they have usually waited one to two  
18 days to have their street plowed and  
19 cindered. As a result, some residents  
20 actually park their cars on the bottom of  
21 the hill and walk to their houses. Each  
22 year they call the DPW for assistance, but  
23 not this year. Residents report that the  
24 street has been great and they are very  
25 pleased with DPW's work this winter season.



1           It's good to know that the DPW has been  
2           cinderling so many areas very promptly in  
3           2011.

4                       And finally, I have citizens'  
5           requests for the week: City residents  
6           report the presence of illegal trailers and  
7           junk piled beyond the fence at Paso's  
8           junkyard on North Keyser Avenue.

9                       Greenbush Street and Reese Street,  
10          two city roads that provide the entrance and  
11          exit to the Career Technology Center have  
12          not been paved in over 30 years. School  
13          buses from 12 districts travel these roads  
14          four times daily and last week a student  
15          bounced out of his seat as the bus hit a  
16          pothole. Those attending adult night  
17          school, employees, guests, etcetera, travel  
18          these deplorable streets as well. Although,  
19          both roads have been patched in the past,  
20          both cold and hot patch have proved to be  
21          only temporary solutions. Please add these  
22          streets to the 2011 paving address and  
23          address them in 2011.

24                      I know that Councilman Joyce made  
25          this request more than once in 2010, and I

1 requested this paving numerous times in  
2 prior years and after all of these years of  
3 notifications and requests the city needs to  
4 step up to the plate.

5 South Side and East Mountain  
6 residents report that the white car with a  
7 "For Sale" sign remains parked at the top of  
8 the intersection of Meadow Avenue and River  
9 Street since Christmas 2010. It is now  
10 plowed in, but space has been cleared for  
11 potential purchasers to view the vehicle.  
12 When this occurs, cars are parked halfway in  
13 the road causing a safety hazard for other  
14 drivers on these streets. This is a second  
15 request to address this problem, and that's  
16 it.

17 MR. JOYCE: Councilwoman Evans, if I  
18 could briefly comment on something that you  
19 said?

20 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

21 MR. JOYCE: Regarding the  
22 Right-to-Know request, I had a chance to  
23 briefly review it and I do also believe that  
24 the answers are quite incomplete and one of  
25 the reasons that and -- in fact, I made this

1 request awhile back, one of the reasons I  
2 wanted to know if there was any money  
3 provided to the First Night celebration that  
4 occurred on December 31 into January 1, was  
5 due to the fact that in a meeting about a  
6 year ago Mr. Renda had stated that \$60,000  
7 had been allocated to the 2009/2010  
8 celebration out of the 2010 operating  
9 budget.

10 Therefore, since there was no money  
11 or since there was no funding whatsoever in  
12 the 2011 operating budget for this event,  
13 myself along with many of my colleagues were  
14 curious exactly where this funding was  
15 coming from. And I know that many people  
16 might say, well, it's common sense to think  
17 that it's coming out of the 2010 budget, but  
18 in this case the money in the 2010 budget  
19 was already spent on the 2009 celebration so  
20 where did the money come from this time?  
21 That's all.

22 MR. ROGAN: I would agree when I  
23 read through it, it does seem very  
24 incomplete and I hope Mr. McGowan will step  
25 up his work in the future.

1 MS. EVANS: Well, if we might  
2 further clarify that portion of the request,  
3 Mrs. Krake, I'm also aware that through the  
4 UDAG repayment account where RE-RE through  
5 OECD contributions were made to First Night  
6 throughout 2010. I believe there were two  
7 contributions made, one in May and another  
8 one in December, and so I would ask that the  
9 business administrator provide additional  
10 funds beyond those that I have already  
11 discovered.

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. CREATING AND  
13 ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR THE CITY OF  
14 SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY  
15 DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED COMMONWEALTH OF  
16 PENNSYLVANIA REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  
17 CAPITAL PROGRAM FUNDS ACCOUNT NO. 12A.0101  
18 FOR THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT  
19 FUNDS ("RACP GRANT FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE  
20 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE  
21 BUDGET.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE  
11 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
12 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO ON BEHALF OF THE  
13 CITY OF SCRANTON A USER AGREEMENT WITH THE  
14 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
15 ("PDA") FOR THE USE OF EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO  
16 COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ACT 106 OF  
17 2010.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. ACCEPTING  
7 DONATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$242.00 RECEIVED  
8 BY THE CITY OF SCRANTON FROM PRIVATE  
9 INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY MANPOWER  
10 INITIATIVE.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? All  
17 those in favor of introduction signify by  
18 saying 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-E. AUTHORIZING THE  
25 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS

1 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT  
2 WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
3 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
4 ("DEP") FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM TO  
5 ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF  
6 \$3,128.00 TO PURCHASE THREE (3) MOWERS, FOUR  
7 (4) TRIMMERS AND REPAIR CONCRETE AT FIVE (5)  
8 LOCATIONS ON THE SOUTH SCRANTON FLOOD  
9 PROTECTION PROJECT.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

15 MS. EVANS: On the question?  
16 Regarding the DEP flood protection grant in  
17 the amount of \$3,128, the matching funds per  
18 Paul O'Hora will come from the flood  
19 protection maintenance account No.  
20 01.080.00080.6007. Mrs. Krake, if we can  
21 please send correspondence to Mr. O'Hora  
22 asking him to explain how the \$40, 172.57  
23 budgeted for this account will be used in  
24 addition to the portion he intends to take  
25 as matching funds, and will there be monies

1 left to be used for these necessary matching  
2 funds when compared to his intended uses?

3 Anyone else on the questions? All  
4 those in favor of introduction signify by  
5 saying aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -  
12 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 11, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE  
13 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 97, 2009, AN  
14 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL CITY OPERATING  
15 BUDGET 2010" BY TRANSFERRING \$162,652.00  
16 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.401.13090.4299  
17 (NON-DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING EXPENSES -  
18 CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO.  
19 01.011.00078.4120 (FIRE DEPARTMENT -  
20 LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE) TO PROVIDE  
21 FUNDING TO COVER LIFE INSURANCE ADJUSTMENTS  
22 PER COURT AWARD.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A



1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION  
11 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
12 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 10, 2011 -  
13 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
14 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR AND EXECUTE A  
15 GRANT FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE  
16 CAPITAL PROGRAM ("RACP") THROUGH THE  
17 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA'S OFFICE OF THE  
18 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE MILLION FIVE  
19 HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,500,000.00); IF  
20 THE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL, ACCEPTING AND  
21 DISBURSING THE GRANT; AND COORDINATING THE  
22 USE OF THE GRANT FUNDS WITH "SCRANTON-  
23 MULBERRY, LP", FOR THE PROJECT TO BE NAMED  
24 "THE MULBERRY LOFTS".

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: At this time I would

1           like to make a motion to table Item 7-A.

2                   MR. ROGAN:    Second.

3                   MS. EVANS:    We have a motion on the  
4 floor to table Item 7-A and a second.  On  
5 the question?

6                   MR. LOSCOMBE:  Yes, on the question.  
7 There is no doubt in my mind that the  
8 Mulberry Lofts is a very respectable project  
9 and Mr. Jefferson and his group are very  
10 respectable and professional developers.

11                   As I stated in last week's meeting,  
12 I do believe in some incentives and I  
13 certainly believe that the 3 1/2 million  
14 dollar RACP grant is a big incentive for any  
15 developer.  I think that that alone would  
16 spur any developer on.  However, I am not in  
17 favor of forgiving taxes as an additional  
18 incentive.  Other taxpayers in the city to  
19 not receive this benefit.

20                   We are not trying to -- we are  
21 trying to make the city more affordable to  
22 our residents and our businesses as you have  
23 witnessed from our city council's 2011  
24 budget, but we cannot continue to give away  
25 the store as has been done in the past.  Our

1 incentives have to be gauged to provide the  
2 most benefit to all involved, including the  
3 taxpayers.

4 I believe that the responsibility of  
5 paying the taxes were assumed when this  
6 property was purchased and for these prior  
7 reasons I am making the motion to table. We  
8 will probably be portrayed in tomorrow's  
9 newspaper as obstructionists, however, we  
10 are only protecting all of the taxpayers'  
11 interest as we perform our due diligence  
12 when reviewing these project.

13 I would hope that Mr. Jefferson's  
14 group will show their sincerity as  
15 interested developers in the city by paying  
16 the taxes due and we will then be able to  
17 approve this legislation by putting it back  
18 on the table.

19 And again, anyone that knows me  
20 knows I'm probably one of the biggest pro  
21 laborer people up here, and to say we can  
22 separate these issues it's not that easy.  
23 You know, this is a new council here, we are  
24 doing our due diligence, but we are not just  
25 approving everything as was done before as

1 we see many of the lawsuits we have pending  
2 now on loans and grants and whatever, but in  
3 order -- it's a two-edged sword. If we keep  
4 giving away then we are not going to be able  
5 to help the businesses by reducing their  
6 mercantile taxes even further or our  
7 homeowners' taxes even further or wage taxes  
8 even further. So there has to be a little  
9 give and take on both sides here.

10 This is nothing personal, believe  
11 me. I think Mr. Jefferson is one of the  
12 best developers in this area. It just so  
13 happens that we have this situation at this  
14 time, but there is nothing in this agreement  
15 that would allow us to approve it and then  
16 guarantee that the taxes would be paid, so  
17 until that time that we have resolved, I  
18 will be voting to table.

19 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?  
20 I'd like to add that during last week's  
21 public caucus I had posed a number of  
22 questions to Mr. Jefferson, as did some of  
23 my colleagues, and he very kindly and  
24 promptly provided responses. For example,  
25 he did provide the RACP award letter. He

1 provided the signed RDA-300. He did provide  
2 a letter from PNC Bank regarding his  
3 acquisition financing.

4 He also did provide the amount of  
5 taxes for 2011. Unfortunately, the taxes  
6 that were provided to us, however, were for  
7 the county and the school district, and as a  
8 result, I had asked Mrs. Krake to research  
9 the taxes owed to the city. And according  
10 to the City Treasurer's office, the total  
11 due the city for years 2006 through 2010 are  
12 \$75,866.24, and that is the amount of money  
13 that we are hoping Mr. Jefferson will be  
14 able to pay.

15 He mentioned during his presentation  
16 that the bank, and certainly that's verified  
17 by the information that he provided to us in  
18 the interim period, if the bank verifies,  
19 you know, that the project is viable that he  
20 certainly is capable of obtaining in type of  
21 financing and so I would believe then he is  
22 also capable of paying the delinquencies on  
23 the building.

24 MR. ROGAN: I would agree with what  
25 my colleagues said, and I spoke to

1 Mr. Loscombe on the phone about this last  
2 night and this is really an issue I  
3 struggled with whether to vote for final  
4 passage because this project is a good  
5 project. It will be good for the downtown,  
6 but at the same time it's not fair to the  
7 people in the city who do pay their taxes  
8 every year and who aren't late, and I  
9 understand that it wasn't Mr. Jefferson who  
10 was late on the taxes, he brought bought the  
11 property with the delinquency.

12 You know, I would be happy to make  
13 the motion to put it back on the table as  
14 soon as the city's portion of the taxes are  
15 paid. If the county and the school district  
16 want to forgive the taxes, that's fine.  
17 But, you know, the city we -- the city  
18 taxpayers are strapped and \$75,000 is a  
19 significant amount of money to this city.

20 You know, I have always said I try  
21 to watch every penny whether it's a dollar,  
22 \$70,000, \$100 million, it all adds up at the  
23 end of the year and I'm not thrilled about  
24 voting to table this, I really want to see  
25 the project move forward, but I can't in

1 good conscience vote for approval with the  
2 pending taxes still owed.

3 MS. EVANS: And it is our hope that  
4 this matter will be addressed as soon as  
5 possible, and as Councilman Rogan stated, at  
6 such time it would immediately be placed on  
7 the agenda once again for approval. Is  
8 there anyone else on the question? All  
9 those in favor signify by saying aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
14 have it and so moved. Item 7-A is tabled.

15 If there is no further business I  
16 will entertain a motion to adjourn.

17 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

18 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
19 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.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER