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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, April 12, 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

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.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

11 Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Here.

13 THE COURT: Dispense with the
14 reading of the minutes.

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. CONTRIBUTION WAS
16 MADE BY SEGWAY OF SCRANTON IN THE AMOUNT
17 OF\$100.00 TO BE USED FOR MANPOWER IN THE
18 CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. THE BREAKDOWN OF
22 ELIGIBLE SALARIES FOR THE LIQUID FUELS
23 ACCOUNT FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY,
24 AND MARCH, 2011.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not, received and filed.

2 3-C. THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL
3 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT FOR FY 10 FOR
4 THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

5 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
6 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes,
7 please.

8 MS. KRAKE: We have two this
9 evening, Mrs. Evans. The first is a
10 response from Robert J. Foley, deputy
11 director of assessments, he tells us that
12 the Lackawanna County Assessment Office does
13 not have a form similar to the one Mr.
14 Ellman presented from the Wyoming County
15 Board. The Lackawanna County Assessment
16 Office requires a copy of the IRS form 501-C
17 (3) for tax exemption be forwarded for our
18 office for review and this board is
19 submitted to the Board of Assessment Appeals
20 with an Appeal Board in order for the
21 exception to be granted.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake,
23 and if we might also provide a copy of that
24 to Mr. Ellman.

25 MS. KRAKE: Our second response is

1 from Chief Davis in reference to our letter
2 concerning the exterior light at Engine 7 on
3 Luzerne Street. Please be advised I have
4 spoken to the house captain today and
5 corrective action will be taken.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: That's it.

8 MS. EVANS: Do any council members
9 have announcements at this time?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, please. I did
11 receive one, a little lengthy to read. The
12 Scranton Running Company has launched a
13 unique approach to smoking cessation through
14 an ambitious initiative called the Oxygen
15 project. Some members of council may want
16 to consider this. They have partnered with
17 the American Lung Association, Marywood
18 Universities Human Psychology lab, that Run
19 Smart Project in creating a 15-week program
20 that cautiously induces the sport of running
21 into participant's lives. It will consist
22 of approximately 25 smokers who have been
23 selected through an application process.
24 The Oxygen project is now accepting
25 applications and will officially commence

1 the weekend of the May 20. Interested
2 parties who wish to run to quit should
3 contact the Scranton Running Company, and I
4 will ask that they run this on the -- scroll
5 this on the ECTV.

6 Scranton Running Company is a
7 relatively new business located in the Ice
8 Box complex run by -- owned by Matt Burne,
9 former area runner. It's an ambitious
10 company, they have been doing a lot of good
11 things and if there is anyone interested
12 please go down to Scranton Running Company
13 and, you know, become part of this.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. ROGAN: This is more of a for
16 your information than an announcement, I
17 received this from a resident, Pennsylvania
18 Tax Freedom Day will arrive on April 14th of
19 this year, the 104th day of 2011. That
20 means the Pennsylvanians will work over
21 three months a year from January 1 to April
22 14 before they ever earn enough money to pay
23 this year's tax obligations to the federal,
24 state and local levels. The question is
25 does it bother you that you have worked over

1 100 days this year just to pay taxes to the
2 federal, state and local governments. This
3 council has reduced taxes, but the real
4 question for the people out there is what
5 were they going to do about excessive taxes
6 throughout state and federal and local
7 levels and there are a few suggestions on
8 here to get involved that include writing a
9 letter to the editor, to your local
10 newspaper about taxes, call your federal,
11 state and local officials, call talk radio
12 programs and talk about how taxes impact
13 you, and et involved with a group of other
14 patriotic Pennsylvanians who want tax
15 reform.

16 MS. EVANS: Is there anything else?

17 MR. ROGAN: That's it.

18 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, do you any
19 announcements?

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. First, I
22 would ask that audience members remain quiet
23 during the council meeting, particularly
24 when speakers are addressing council and
25 when council is presenting it's motions. I

1 have been contacted by a number of
2 individuals who attend council and they have
3 expressed -- they have expressed their
4 difficulty in hearing throughout the meeting
5 because of the loud talking that sometimes
6 occurs in the audience.

7 (Whereupon Mr. Joyce takes the dais
8 and joins the meeting.)

9 The Tour De Scranton is an annual
10 noncompetitive bike ride for riders of every
11 age and skill level designed with the
12 selection of routes and distances, catering
13 to both the novice and experienced rider.
14 Anyone can bring a bicycle and join in the
15 fun. The Tour De Scranton also benefits an
16 extremely good cause, the Erin Jessica
17 Moreken Drug and Alcohol Treatment Fund,
18 Incorporated. The bike ride will monitored
19 from start to finish by adult volunteers and
20 cyclists at regular checkpoints. It is a
21 safe and enjoyable way to have fun and raise
22 the much needed funding to assist young
23 people who are struggling with the disease
24 of addiction. Each year through this event
25 scholarship, aid and drug and alcohol

1 education programs are offered to a variety
2 of worthy individuals and groups in our
3 community.

4 Registration fees are as follows:
5 \$30 on or before April 27; \$35 April 28,
6 through May 1; \$50 for parents and their
7 children under 12, there is one charge only.
8 The registration time is 9 a.m. and the
9 starting time for all groups 10 a.m. For
10 registration on-line, route maps, questions,
11 or volunteer opportunities go to
12 www.tourdescranton.com. If you cannot
13 participate donations can be mailed to
14 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moreken, 1328 Myrtle
15 Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18510. Make
16 checks payable to "Erin's Fund." Please
17 support this very worthy cause, and that's
18 it.

19 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
20 PARTICIPATION.

21 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
22 evening is Giovanni Piccolino.

23 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, city
24 council and all fellow Scrantonians. My
25 name is Giovanni Piccolino and I live in the

1 city, I work in the city and I own a
2 business in the city. Just to start off
3 with here, I was watching Newswatch 16 I
4 think it was maybe last week or the week
5 before and they are starting to implement
6 the StreetSmart parking, so I guess they are
7 just, you know, testing it. It's kind of
8 sad that you guys months ago wanted to get
9 this actively in motion and Wilkes-Barre is
10 beating us to the punch. It should already
11 be in motion and I feel bad for the super
12 board majority up there because you guys are
13 trying to do some really good things for the
14 city and they are dragging you guys through
15 the water and the mud.

16 Also, Wilkes-Barre estimated that
17 they were going to make \$700,000 for the
18 revenue of that extra parking, I don't even
19 think you guys estimated anywhere near that
20 for the budget.

21 MR. JOYCE: That's correct, it was
22 \$300,000 in our estimate.

23 MR. PICCOLINO: There you go, so
24 that's just one thing our mayor should take
25 -- in light of Wilkes-Barre and maybe follow

1 their lead.

2 Just a couple of thank yous. Thank
3 you to the supermajority. I recently paid,
4 my mercantile tax and it's nice to see that
5 since I took over our pizza shop around
6 seven years ago that it actually went down
7 so I want to thank you guys for that, and I
8 also want to thank Mr. Loscombe here for
9 initiating and getting everything up and
10 going for the banning of bath salts in the
11 area. I think some people got credit for
12 that shouldn't have gotten credit for it and
13 you do all of the underneath work and all of
14 the dirty work and I don't think people
15 realize it so I just want to thank you,
16 Mr. Loscombe, and that's it. God bless.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Piccolino, I
18 wasn't looking for credit, as long as the
19 job was done I'm happy. Thank you very
20 much.

21 MR. PICCOLINO: Sometimes credit
22 should be given where it's due.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Andy
24 Sbaraglia.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

1 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
2 the headlines in the paper were quite
3 shocking today, but if I remember back
4 again, this budget for ten, '10 was passed
5 in '09 by I think Mr. McGoff was -- sat on
6 the presidency at that time when this was
7 passed. From what I read in the paper, we
8 were \$11 million in the hole on the '10
9 budget. Now, how we got it that way I don't
10 know how. I do know there was always the \$5
11 million which I asked many, many times how
12 were they closing that \$5 million gap.
13 Apparently they didn't.

14 Well, let's go on further, you read
15 in the paper that they used '11 TANS to pay
16 off '09 TANS -- I mean, '10 TANS. I was
17 always under the impression, and you can ask
18 your attorney, that the TANS were supposed
19 to be paid in the year they were taken out
20 in, so if you took out a TAN in '10 you had
21 to pay that back in '10. How were they able
22 to go to '11 and payoff a '10 TAN?

23 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Sbaraglia, I do not
24 know how they did it, however, what I do
25 know from looking over the financial reports

1 and cash flow analyses that were sent from
2 Mr. McGowan to our office, in January
3 reflecting spending in the month of December
4 that it's apparent there wouldn't have been
5 enough money in the general fund to pay off
6 the TAN payment due December of 2010, so
7 subsequently what happened was the
8 administration then paid it once the TANS
9 came in for 2011.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I understood
11 that.

12 MS. EVANS: I might add, though,
13 that it appears from information that we
14 received from the business administrator
15 that the administration may well have used
16 2011 TAN to pay off the 2010 TAN, and in
17 addition the late payment incurred
18 additional interest of \$2,082.2.

19 MR. JOYCE: That's correct.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: So we got the number
21 game again going from one number to the
22 other number. I don't know how they got
23 away with it, but apparently they did, but
24 the question is why was there such a big
25 hole in that budget, the '10 budget when it

1 was passed in '09. I know you went to Court
2 to try to amend it, but the Courts, I guess
3 threw up their hands and said, "You can't do
4 that or didn't want to do that," but where
5 you stand today because of what council did
6 in '09 and what the Courts did in '10
7 brought us up to this problem in '11, and
8 really, really, really something's got to be
9 done. I mean, if the law was broken with
10 the TANS then it's time for the law to take
11 it's course. If it's perfectly legal to pay
12 off TANS in following years with other TANS
13 that we're borrowing, then I guess it's
14 legal, but the question is the legality
15 should be looked into and if any law was
16 broken within the state then whoever broke
17 that law should be held accountable.

18 Scranton is where it is now not
19 because of what one council did, but because
20 of what many councils did. It was like a
21 progression, like a path to disaster and in
22 the end it's going to fall upon the citizens
23 and they can't go back, and like I said
24 before, you can't hold a politician up to
25 the fire for anything they did while in

1 office, and that's bad. That is bad. You
2 can't hold a politician for a wrong decision
3 and many wrong decisions were made in this
4 city.

5 Now, somebody told me that the swim
6 free program, I could have swore they read
7 in the paper that they weren't going to
8 raise the rates, and then somebody on it
9 said the poor kids coming off the street is
10 going to have to come up with four bucks to
11 swim up at Nay Aug.

12 Now, I know that's the Authority,
13 and you heard me many, many times speak
14 against the Authority, and I'll always speak
15 against this Authority, and I speak that the
16 mayor should have never, never, never made
17 an Authority up at Nay Aug. Nay Aug wasn't
18 made for a cash could you. It wasn't a cash
19 cow, it was made for the enjoyment of the
20 people of Scranton. Now you go up there and
21 you got to pay for this and pay for that,
22 but to have the kids pay for swimming that's
23 unconscionable and if he closes a bunch of
24 the pools this year, which he has already
25 looking for, you know he plans to run this

1 budget into the hole so deep that he says,
2 "I have to layoff these workers or we can't
3 survive", you know that's his plan.

4 Now, what you got to do is counter
5 that plan. You got to get ahold either
6 through the Courts or something that every
7 contract he makes for under \$10,000 you get
8 a copy of it, not after it's paid when it's
9 made. That's the only way you can hold this
10 man to the fire, if you let it go or after
11 it goes through Novembrino it's too late,
12 it's paid, and the only way you can do it is
13 ask them, request it, if not, go to Court
14 and demand it.

15 You got to start making demands on
16 this administration, not just sitting there
17 and saying, this, that or whatever. Okay, I
18 thank you.

19 MS. EVAN: Thank you. Mr.
20 Sbaraglia, just one comment I wanted to make
21 that relates to a comment that you made
22 during your presentation, it is accurate
23 that city council tried in 2010 to amend the
24 budget to cut the deficit, however, in Court
25 members of the Doherty administration

1 testified that the budget was balanced and
2 that there was no deficit. I know we have
3 all found that to be false, but those were
4 the statements made. Our next speaker is --

5 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
6 could just very briefly, I didn't have time
7 to look at the Local Unit Debt Act today
8 however, I did receive from Mrs. Krake the
9 ordinances establishing the TANS for 2010
10 and 2011, and just reading File of Council
11 No. 53-2010, which established the borrowing
12 of the TANS for 2011, the second whereas
13 clause says, "Whereas, the city has
14 estimated it's expected taxes, revenues and
15 expenditures for the fiscal year 2011 and on
16 a monthly basis will experience a cash flow
17 deficit during 2011 fiscal year; and
18 whereas, having received the estimates
19 referred to above the city has determined,"
20 in order to float a TAN.

21 The way that this ordinance is
22 constructed and written, and also the
23 previous year was ordinance File of Council
24 No. 115 of 2009 authorizing the borrowing of
25 a TAN, that the tax anticipation note that's

1 floated in January is to pay the expected
2 bills for the ensuing year, not to reimburse
3 for the previous year because ordinarily the
4 way that a TAN is floated is that the city
5 doesn't have the tax revenue coming in so it
6 wouldn't float the TAN for a period of
7 months, I believe this one was for six
8 months or \$5 million, there is another one
9 for 9 1/2 million, and those TAN funds will
10 be used to pay the city's expenses as set
11 forth in the budget for that year, so that
12 the expected taxes, revenues and
13 expenditures for the fiscal Year 2011,
14 it's -- the way that this ordinance was
15 constructed not only for this year, but for
16 the previous years, was always that the
17 money that was received -- the loan received
18 from the TAN would only be expended for
19 expenditures in that year's budget.

20 It's up to the controller to see
21 that when checks are written that they
22 comply with the ordinance, and in this
23 situation in my opinion using money from the
24 tax anticipation note to pay off a previous
25 year's tax anticipation note is improper

1 even in accordance with Section 9, I believe
2 it's Section 9, where it states that the tax
3 anticipation note shall be a general
4 obligation, which unless funded pursuant to
5 the act shall be included in the budget of
6 the city for the following -- well, what it
7 means is that the tax -- under Section 9 if
8 the tax anticipation note for the previous
9 year was not paid, the only way it can be
10 paid is if it's included in the budget for
11 the Year 2011, which was not done in the
12 mayor's budget and was not put in the
13 council's budget.

14 MR. JOYCE: That's correct.

15 MR. HUGHES: So the controller
16 should have in looking at his ordinance said
17 before you write a check for 2011 from that
18 tax anticipation note to pay off 2010 tax
19 anticipation note, which was to be paid by
20 the December 31st of 2010, if that was not
21 paid the only way under Section 9 of the
22 ordinance that it could be paid is if it was
23 put in the budget. Since it wasn't put in
24 the budget, those funds cannot be expended
25 to pay off the previous years TAN which

1 meant -- which means that last year's budget
2 should have been ended up with a deficit of
3 \$5 million, at least \$5 million because
4 there was no way to pay the TAN, and to pay
5 the TAN with -- to pay 2010's TAN with money
6 received from a 2011 TAN pursuant to this
7 ordinance unless it was put in the budget
8 could not be paid.

9 I hope that answers your question.
10 I didn't have time to look at the State
11 Local Unit Indebtedness Act to see what's
12 required there, but irregardless of what's
13 required in the state law, what it states in
14 the city's ordinance for this years tax
15 anticipation note is that in Article 9 that
16 none of those monies could be used to pay
17 off last year's tax anticipation notes
18 unless it was put in the budget. I hope
19 that answer the question.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. EVANS: And, Mrs. Krake, just
23 one second, I'd like you to send the
24 following letters, please: A letter to the
25 city controller requesting verification of

1 how she approved the payment of the 2010
2 TAN-B FOR \$9.5 million with 2011 revenue,
3 which is in violation of File of Council 115
4 of 2009, particularly, I believe as Attorney
5 Hughes noted, Section 9.

6 MR. HUGHES: Yes.

7 MS. EVANS: Also, if we could send a
8 letter to the business administrator, Ryan
9 McGowan, asking why the TAN payment wasn't
10 part of the mayor's 2011 proposed budget as
11 per the aforementioned ordinance which
12 authorized the issuance of the \$9.5 million
13 tax anticipation borrowing. Thank you. I'm
14 sorry.

15 MR. JOYCE: And if I might add on
16 top of that, I have thoroughly reviewed all
17 of the controller's reports since I have
18 been on council and one thing that I could
19 not see was a reflection of any TAN payments
20 in the January controller's report. In
21 fact, in the January controller's report I
22 believe off the top of my head it would
23 appear that we had about \$10 million after
24 the month of the January which, of course,
25 conflicted very greatly with Business

1 Administrator's cash flow report.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: If I could just say
4 something quickly, I promise, because I get
5 asked this a lot, TAN, a lot of people don't
6 understand the acronym TAN, and Attorney
7 Hughes I think made it pretty clear, tax
8 anticipation note. Tax anticipation note,
9 just like he stated. We are anticipating
10 that amount of tax money coming in,
11 therefore, the bank loans us that amount to
12 be paid for the same year, and apparently
13 it's not being utilized that way, but that's
14 therefore why it's called a tax anticipation
15 note. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you, gentlemen.
17 Mr. Jackowitz.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
19 South Scranton resident and member of the
20 Taxpayers' Association. The City of
21 Scranton located in Northeastern
22 Pennsylvania has the distinction of being a
23 distressed city for 19 years starting in
24 1992 under Mayor Connors and continuing
25 until present 2011 under Mayor Doherty. For

1 the entire 19 years, the PEL, the
2 Pennsylvania Economy League, has been the
3 city's Recovery Act coordinator. 2002 the
4 city was voted for and approved the city's
5 Recovery Plan which has been expired since
6 2005, although, Mayor Dougherty is not aware
7 of the fact because he still continues to
8 lose arbitration cases and Court cases. As
9 of today, 12 April 2011, to my knowledge a
10 new and current Recovery Plan has not been
11 drafted by the city administration, Mayor
12 Dougherty.

13 We currently have our third business
14 administrator since Mayor Dougherty was
15 first elected to be mayor of Scranton.
16 Since his election, the mayor has managed to
17 sell all of the assets that the city owned,
18 borrowed millions of dollars and paid back
19 millions of dollars in interest, has lost
20 the majority of the arbitration cases with
21 city employees and is now in the process of
22 losing the Court cases including the
23 appeals.

24 The mayor has given control of the
25 parks, garages, recreation, housing, sewer

1 and libraries to authorities that he created
2 an appointed representatives to serve, thus
3 taking away from our elected council members
4 the authority to oversee and manage these
5 politically appointed cronies who are under
6 the control of the mayor. Results: The
7 City of Scranton remains distressed and has
8 not had a balanced budget in years.

9 Now the Times-Tribune and staff
10 write Josh Mrozinski has finally uncovered
11 the fact that the City of Scranton has a
12 money problem. Citizens and council members
13 such as Mrs. Evans, Mr. Courtright, Mr.
14 Rogan, Mr. Joyce and Mr. Jack Loscombe have
15 been speaking about this for years. We have
16 the Times-Tribune staff writers -- where
17 have the Times-Tribune staff writers and
18 editors been? In my opinion, they have been
19 too busy listening to Mayor Doherty's sound
20 bites and misleading statements.

21 Approximately three years ago city
22 council passed the 25 percent tax increase
23 onto all property owners within the City of
24 Scranton. Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Gatelli and
25 Mrs. Fanucci. Mr. McGoff is the only

1 remaining council member at this time, the
2 other two were voted out of office. My
3 question, considering the current financial
4 situation of the City of Scranton, how did
5 this unnecessary tax increase improve the
6 financial conditions of the distressed City
7 of Scranton?

8 I see where no progress is made,
9 just allow the mayor and his administration
10 to put the residents deeper into debt.
11 Also, by transferring and the spending the
12 money from the sale of the golf course, what
13 advantage was gained for the residents of
14 Scranton. Hopefully someone will address
15 these concerns during motions tonight.

16 Just like Gomer Pyle, surprise
17 surprise. The City of Scranton's red ink
18 could hit \$8.4 million, \$3.9 million deficit
19 in 2011 front page headline. I must ask the
20 editorial staff and staff writers while you
21 pick 12 April 201 to make this old news
22 front page headlines? The PEL has attended
23 several caucuses within city council and
24 never answered or addressed the concerns of
25 the citizens or certain council members.

1 Mr. Gerald Cross has avoided and sidestepped
2 the issue at every opportunity only to be
3 allowed to do so by the Times-Tribune staff
4 writers and editors. Now, the finger
5 pointing starts. Well, guess what? The
6 damage has been done.

7 Thank you, Mayor Doherty,
8 Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Gatelli, Ms. Fanucci,
9 Mr. Murphy, Mr. Pocius, Mr. Hazzouri, and
10 all of the other Doherty real people, and a
11 special thank you to the Scranton
12 Times-Tribune and all of the voters who
13 voted for Mayor Doherty and the
14 above-mentioned cast of character.

15 Now the Doherty administration and
16 the Times-Tribune would like for the
17 residents of Scranton to believe that all of
18 this has happened in the past 15 months
19 since the supermajority was elected.
20 Council members, supermajority, you should
21 never have reduced the budget by
22 approximately \$600,000, look at what you
23 caused. By doing so you caused a \$4.5
24 million deficit from 2010, which is still
25 outstanding. It also caused a \$9.5 million

1 tax anticipation note, pinch in worker's
2 compensation funds, payroll and other bills
3 due in December. We truly have a
4 supermajority council, three supermen and
5 one superwoman.

6 We are all being told just ignore
7 the past eight years when Doherty ruled with
8 his majority of city council who voted lock
9 step with his poor management decisions
10 without ever questioning the reasoning
11 behind the bonds, borrowing, creation of
12 authorities, appointments, especially
13 cabinet level appointments, and the fact
14 that the mayor is only visible in
15 newspapers.

16 Sometimes I think we have a card --
17 sometimes I think the Times-Tribune has a
18 cardboard cutout resembling the mayor that
19 they use as his picture in the newspaper.
20 Has anybody really seen the mayor around
21 town lately? If you happen to come in
22 contact with him, give him directions to
23 city council chambers. Josh, maybe you
24 could point him in the right direction. The
25 time has come to hold the administration's

1 feet to the fire.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
3 Mr. Jackowitz. Bob Bolus.

4 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,
5 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. BOLUS: I didn't really intend
8 to be here again, I thought our problem on
9 East Mountain was going to be resolved, but
10 unfortunately, I think politics take a
11 precedence. I had given Paul Kelly my word
12 that I wouldn't do anything, you know, as
13 far as his campaign went or anything
14 negative or whatever, and I live with my
15 word, I expect somebody else to do the same.

16 Well, we went into Court -- well, we
17 tried to meet with Mr. Kelly to resolve the
18 issue regarding this so-called condemnation
19 of my home. I thought we had an agreement
20 and I came before council and I said I
21 thought everything was resolved. I guess
22 when you are looking for votes and you think
23 everybody on East Mountain is where you
24 should be rather than represent the people
25 in a fair and impartial way you cloud your

1 judgment. Well, we never come to terms with
2 Mr. Kelly and the city, so we went into
3 Court on an emergency petition hoping that
4 when we went in there we would get it
5 resolved.

6 Well, that was denied because
7 Mr. Kelly came in with a brief with a lot of
8 false allegations. We didn't anticipate
9 that. We thought he would be a man, come in
10 and say, "Look, let's have the emergency
11 hearing, and let's resolve this issue."

12 Well, that didn't happen. Now, we
13 are going full blown into Court, and I'm
14 going to read a letter that I sent to
15 Mr. Kelly, and it's, "Dear Paul, I enclose
16 herewith a time-stamp copy of a Rule to Show
17 Cause signed by Judge Harhut this morning in
18 the above-captioned case. It's truly
19 unfortunate that we must litigate a matter
20 of this nature and waste valuable taxpayer
21 money. I attempted to speak with you last
22 week after the Motion for Emergency Relief,
23 personally stopped at your office, left
24 several messages, and had Attorney Moses
25 place several calls attempting to schedule a

1 meeting to resolve this matter with no
2 response.

3 I spoke to the mayor at an event
4 indicating my intent to resolve this matter.
5 I was under the impression that he was going
6 to speak with you in an effort to guide this
7 into resolution. It seems that your
8 misguided attempt to garner votes from the
9 East Mountain property owners is blinding
10 you to both the reality of how unfair the
11 actions of the city in condemning my home
12 are, and to the injustice being done to the
13 tax paying public by this continuous
14 litigation.

15 As a public official, you should
16 cure that blindness, seek out justice and
17 serve the public at large and not select
18 public interests."

19 I know Mr. McGoff always has a smart
20 look on his face, but I recall Mr. McGoff
21 saying this belongs in court. Well,
22 Mr. McGoff, it's going there, and it's going
23 to cost taxpayers money, but I never saw you
24 stick your nose into this to try and resolve
25 it nor did I see Mr. Weschler who is the

1 catalyst behind all of this with the
2 Taxpayers' Association, and he is your
3 running mate. You are the people who want
4 to come here and run this city fair and
5 impartial. Quite frankly, I find it
6 offensive that I have to seen come before
7 you and address this issue because what I
8 see from you is a person who is not a
9 leader. I don't see Mr. Weschler as a
10 leader. What I see are two people who are
11 antagonistic to a taxpayer in this city who
12 is trying to do what's right and avoid the
13 litigation in this city.

14 I have spent in excess of \$25,000 in
15 this litigation. Haven't seen you do
16 anything. I brought here the thing that
17 said an individual that you are protecting,
18 Todd Hartman, on East Mountain, you let him
19 build on a piece of property owned by the
20 taxpayers of this city, and I like your
21 smile, it's great, but I hope when this
22 election is over that smile is wiped off
23 your face because what we need sitting here,
24 and do you see Mr. Weschler in here, I don't
25 see him, but he is good at writing letters,

1 he is good at forcing the city to do his
2 dirty work for the East mountain
3 neighborhood.

4 Well, they are going to find out
5 what litigation is about. Unfortunately,
6 the city is going to find out and we will
7 suffice because when people lie about me
8 they are going to find out I'm not the
9 person you lie about. When people say my
10 home was vacant, uninhabitable based on a TV
11 story that I showed an interview, that
12 showed only partially the home. You do not
13 condemn a home from the outside. The
14 inspector is not qualified to do what he
15 did. Check in Harrisburg.

16 If you were any kind of a person you
17 would stand up for the rights of all of the
18 people. I can assure you, I will campaign
19 as vigorously as I can against you and
20 anybody else that would force taxpayers in
21 this city to be subjected to the abuse that
22 we are taking, especially from the law
23 department.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

25 MR. BOLUS: Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Lee Morgan.

2 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, council.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. MORGAN: I have another
5 Right-to-Know letter, I seem to have been
6 using them a lot, but I have a lot of
7 questions and my question I have this week
8 is what were the city's costs for the
9 playground program in it's last operation --
10 in it's last year in operation in the city
11 when it split the costs I believe between
12 itself from the Scranton School District.
13 At one time they were playground program
14 operated, a lot of schools, and I'd just
15 like to get an idea of what that cost was.
16 Can I give this to you?

17 MS. EVANS: You can actually just
18 give that to Ms. Carrera. Thank you.

19 MR. MORGAN: Now, I hear a lot of
20 the debate or a lot of the opinions from
21 everybody and I respect everybody's opinion
22 even if I don't like what I'm hearing, but
23 the truth has to come forward that the
24 voters in this city voted this mayor into
25 office so, I mean, we may disagree with a

1 lot of things that happened here. I think I
2 agree with lots of things people said here
3 about former councils that there has been
4 problems and there have been problems, but I
5 think the greatest problem of all comes from
6 the voters, the voters who don't go to the
7 polls, the voters who go to the polls and
8 vote and don't know what the issues are,
9 don't know what the problems of the city
10 are, don't care what they are, but go in and
11 pull a lever, because I have talked to
12 people talking about their friends they
13 voted for, and I just don't think in a
14 representative republic you vote for your
15 friends. I think you vote for people who
16 can get a job done and I just think that too
17 often we wonder why we are falling short.

18 In regard to tax anticipation notes,
19 Mr. Loscombe, you know, I can't understand
20 why every resident in this city doesn't
21 understand what they are considering that
22 all of that debt is tied to their property.

23 I had an opportunity to talk to the
24 guy from the information technology about
25 putting the agenda on the site. His problem

1 -- he didn't state that the problem was
2 personnel, his problem he thought was space
3 on the site and that they couldn't waste
4 that kind of space on putting that agenda up
5 for people to understand what was going on
6 in their government. I'm pretty troubled by
7 that, considering where our country is and
8 the amount of debt we have.

9 This problem we have here in this
10 city, I have been coming to this podium
11 probably for 20 years, this problem has
12 walked side by side with the city for a long
13 time. I think people keep voting their
14 friends into office. I think it's a
15 popularity contest.

16 I mean, I personally think we should
17 file bankruptcy. The former president of
18 council, Murphy, agreed when he was
19 president of council that that was an
20 option. I just -- you know, I just can't
21 see where we are going with more fees and
22 parking and nothing -- no disrespect to
23 council, but, you know, these parking meters
24 ideas and, look it, we lost a big thing when
25 we decided to make changes to the Scranton

1 Lace building that I think was in
2 contradiction to the needs of the city. I
3 think the city needs an economic engine. I
4 think we spent too much time doing favors
5 for people when we should have been looking
6 out for our own people, the citizens in the
7 city. I mean, you see the amount of stress
8 that the Scranton School District is under
9 and, you know, I talked to people who were
10 looking for full-time kindergarten and now
11 they are talking about cutting school
12 funding. I just think we have a lot of
13 problems.

14 And I think we need to become a
15 class three city. Somebody has got to tell
16 me why Scranton is the only Class 2-A city
17 in the Commonwealth. Somebody has got to
18 explain to me how the council can't seem to
19 use it's authority under subpoenas to find
20 out exactly what's going on. I mean, I can
21 see the city asking the controller some
22 questions, but I can't understand why the
23 council can't issue subpoenas to get answers
24 from questions that the council needs to do
25 it's oversight. Because I think that not

1 just this council, but any council, when the
2 city was headed in the wrong direction I
3 think that all the councils should have
4 asked some very tough questions. People are
5 blaming authorities. If you don't want
6 authorities, vote the mayor out and vote a
7 mayor in who will abolish of the authorities
8 because all of that money is being borrowed
9 on the back of the taxpayers, too.

10 I just think we need to really take
11 a good look at government and I didn't come
12 here to shoot this council. I'm just
13 saying, look it, we have to do a better job.
14 You know, you watched the clock that was on
15 TV the other day about our national debt,
16 and then you look at our city's long-term
17 debt, and are we spending money like we are
18 trying to solve our problems? We are
19 spending too much time fighting between the
20 mayor and the council and then we are trying
21 to single people out, and really, you know,
22 I agree with council that the mayor should
23 come up here and present himself, but we
24 need solutions to our problems.

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

1 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Morgan, just to
2 address your question on the Class 2-A city,
3 we were appointed as a Class 2-1 city quite
4 sometime ago, I'm not exactly sure of the
5 year, but at the time our population was
6 much higher than it is and we do actually
7 meet the requirements to be classified as a
8 class three city right now, and the way that
9 would have to be done is it would have to be
10 submitted to the state, I believe, and the
11 population data from the past two -- or the
12 two most recent census would have to be
13 provided.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les
15 Spindler.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
17 Council, Les Spindler, city homeowner,
18 resident and taxpayer. Two weeks ago when I
19 was here I spoke about StreetSmart and I'd
20 like to speak a little more about it. As
21 some people might not know, what a sole
22 source is a company that does something that
23 no one else does exactly the same, and if
24 there is another company that does exactly
25 the same then it could be put out to bid,

1 but as I stated two weeks ago, even Chris
2 Doherty said in the Doherty newsletter that
3 the phone calls he received from other
4 companies did similar things, not exact, and
5 like Mr. McGoff said a few weeks ago, exact
6 and similar are different, so that being
7 said, street source -- I'm sorry,
8 StreetSmart is a sole source and that leads
9 me to question Mr. McGoff, since StreetSmart
10 is a sole source why were you so insistent
11 that this go out to bid?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Just because you say
13 it's sole source doesn't mean it is and --

14 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I say and
15 Attorney Hughes says it.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Are you going to allow
17 me to answer your question?

18 MR. SPINDLER: I'm saying what an
19 attorney said. Well, I disagree with you.
20 I think you did it because you are taking
21 your marching orders from the mayor and you
22 are doing exactly what he tells you to do.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Are you going to allow
24 me to answer the question?

25 MR. SPINDLER: You answered it.

1 MR. MCGOFF: I wasn't finished.

2 MR. SPINDLER: I'm giving my
3 rebuttal. You did exactly what the mayor
4 told you to do and he is dragging his feet
5 along with you dragging your feet to
6 sabotage this council and not have money
7 coming into this city which could have been
8 coming in for months already and I hope
9 everybody realizes that on May 17, that you
10 are just up there again to be the mayor's
11 puppet.

12 Last week Ms. Schumacher mentioned
13 about the cell phone ban, which I mentioned
14 in the past, also, and the last time I spoke
15 about it council said that the state is
16 looking into it, well, you know, I haven't
17 heard anything about the state and I think
18 they are also dragging their feet and I
19 think it would be a good idea for council to
20 institute this. Other cities have it and if
21 somebody is pulled over and they want to
22 take it to court, let them. Because I don't
23 see the state doing anything about this and
24 I think council should be proactive and do
25 something about this because it's a serious

1 situation.

2 I will say a little thing about this
3 \$3 million deficit, also, and this also goes
4 back to the StreetSmart program. Maybe if
5 that was instituted by now we could have
6 money coming in to offset a little bit of
7 that deficit, but as like I said and other
8 people said, this mayor and the
9 Times-Tribune just want to make this council
10 look bad and I think that's all they are
11 doing.

12 And lastly, Mr. Loscombe, I, too,
13 think you deserve credit and credit should
14 be given where it's due and you deserve it
15 and you had something to do with these bath
16 salts being taken out of the stores and when
17 I look at the newspaper picture you were cut
18 out of the picture, you definitely should
19 have been in there. You are a law maker,
20 Attorney Kelly is not a law maker, he had no
21 reason to be in that picture, it was just
22 politics because he is running for
23 magistrate and the Times-Tribune is backing
24 him, you should have been in that picture
25 and not Attorney Kelly and you deserve all

1 of the credit in the world. He had nothing
2 to do with that and I congratulate you on
3 that. Thank you.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

5 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Spindler, I'll be
6 commenting more on the newspaper article
7 during motions, but my message to you and
8 anyone else listening right now is don't
9 believe everything that you read in the news
10 paper.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Oh, I know that.

12 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, under
13 motions I am going to address the topic of
14 sole source declarations, but I also wanted
15 to add that letters were sent to State
16 Representatives Murphy and Smith regarding
17 the cell phone ban statewide on behalf of
18 Scranton City Council since last week's
19 meeting. The next speaker is Ron Ellman.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening. Ronnie
21 Ellman, member of the Taxpayers'
22 Association. This is my son, Kerry. My
23 other son is in jail thanks to two cops down
24 in Moosic named Gill and Bird. I'll get to
25 that in a few minutes, but I would also like

1 to talk about the double standard of justice
2 in this city that I have already spoken on
3 this once before, and I was listening to
4 Mr. Bolus, he seems to be engaged in it
5 right now. I'm trying to weigh my words so
6 I don't get in trouble.

7 MS. EVANS: Very good.

8 MR. ELLMAN: If you knew how
9 frustrated and how mad I am the past few
10 months, you would know why I'm trying not to
11 use any potty words or anything. Real
12 brief, last summer the boys, this one was
13 driving a friend's Corvette and they had an
14 incident at the Turkey Hill in Moosic on
15 Birney Avenue and they used some abusive
16 language on a woman that was out on a cell
17 phone and wouldn't turn in traffic, finally,
18 she turned, I'm making a long story short.
19 They went home because they had some ice
20 cream and groceries. The woman went back
21 and said there was a hit and run accident.

22 Now, the front bumper on a Corvette
23 is 11 inches high. She had a scuff mark 18
24 inches high. I asked for an accident
25 reconstruction, nobody would give it to me.

1 We went to Court so we got a public defender
2 who went over everything and she said this
3 is nothing. You know, you are just
4 absolutely -- they don't have a thing. The
5 first time we went to Court, you couldn't
6 believe it. She made the D.A.'s assistant
7 like a child. He looked like he should have
8 been arrested for impersonating a lawyer.
9 That -- was it eight or ten days later? We
10 had to go to Court the second time, the deal
11 had been made. She laid down, wouldn't do a
12 thing. Three witnesses wouldn't have them,
13 wouldn't have the reconstruction. That is
14 the double standard. If a lawyer is so poor
15 he cannot win a case on his -- on the merits
16 then he should find a job washing dishes or
17 something, and that's exactly what went on
18 here. Everybody knows it.

19 I told you, my father was an
20 attorney and he was in politics in Tennessee
21 all of his life and I used to hear about
22 deals here and deals there, you can talk to
23 anybody in the city and they say you don't
24 have to have that lawyer, you have to have a
25 lawyer that knows so and so. Right under

1 your noses -- everybody's nose down the
2 street last Friday you saw two of them get
3 30 months. He is not going to be in there
4 30 months. That's a deal right there. All
5 he got to do is go to take the alcohol abuse
6 courses, that will reduce his sentence by 12
7 months. This man played us for suckers. He
8 has been that stand for years, he knows all
9 of these tricks, then they get his time
10 served or half the time or something.

11 Look at Gilhooley they should -- and
12 Hillberg, they ran that jail raggedy and
13 nothing happened to them. David Baker gets
14 his salary for a year, nothing happens. I
15 have talked to, I don't know, the past six,
16 eight months I must have talked to about a
17 dozen, 15 people that just got the shortened
18 of the stick from Mr. Jarbola's office
19 because they had a Public Defender that just
20 didn't care or whatever. I haven't found
21 one person that says something good about
22 the Public Defender's Office, you know,
23 that's your double standard.

24 The two police men that I mentioned
25 to have my son in jail because of them it's

1 right here in the transcript. They
2 repeatedly lied, they committed perjury.
3 Not once, over and over and over again in
4 Judge Geroulo's room. Of course he doesn't
5 know it, I know he is a man of integrity
6 because I have asked people what's going on.

7 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,
8 Mr. Ellman.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Mr. Jarbola knew what I
10 was up to and he refused to see me, he knew
11 it shouldn't have gone this far.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

13 MR. ELLMAN: Just let me bring this
14 to a close. This just -- I don't want to
15 hang out my wash, you know, that sounds like
16 that's what I'm doing, but this double
17 standard, one for, like, people like Patty
18 Hearst and one for the rest of us isn't
19 right. It's got to end, and people tell me
20 when I'm complaining about it that's been
21 going on for 150 years and it will go on
22 after we are all gone, well, it's not going
23 on like that anymore in Wilkes-Barre and
24 it's got to stop here and Judge Geroulo
25 needs to investigate my allegations

1 immediately because my son is in jail, he
2 wasn't even driving.

3 The day before yesterday I get a
4 bill for \$2,600 for Court costs and all. He
5 is not even driving and I haven't appealed
6 the case, I mean, this is injustice. You
7 know, is like a hangmen's court or
8 something.

9 MS. EVANS: I can appreciate what
10 you are saying, I feel very badly, I know
11 there is a great deal of frustration on the
12 part of many people who live in this city, I
13 think council feels it's own frustration day
14 in and day out with the obstacles it faces,
15 but, unfortunately, there really isn't
16 anything that city council can do in this
17 instance, it's beyond the scope of our
18 authority, it's a county issue, and it has
19 to be handled by county officials.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Well, you people must
21 think I've lost my mind to get up here and
22 challenge Mr. Jarbola and others, but I
23 haven't put all of my cards on the table. I
24 just demand an investigation, I'll take a
25 lie detector test and prove these two cops

1 lied through their teeth on Judge Geroulo's
2 stand. He said he had a meeting with me,
3 you know, all kinds of -- they are so used
4 to getting away with murder down at Old
5 Forge, the first time I talked to him they
6 wouldn't give me an accident report. Weeks
7 and weeks went by, they wouldn't give it to
8 me. He told, "Ellman, your son, Colby, is
9 going to jail, it's prearranged."

10 I said, "Prearranged?"

11 He said, "It is prearranged. Are
12 you stupid or something?" You know, it's
13 prearranged.

14 That's the kind of court they are
15 used to. That's the kind of thing that got
16 to be stopped. It's not fair for people
17 that -- for the man on the street.

18 MS. EVANS: I understand. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Ellman, I just
22 wanted to clarify, these aren't the Scranton
23 police; right?

24 MR. ELLMAN: No, no, the two Moosic
25 police.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay, I wasn't quite
2 sure.

3 MR. ELLMAN: I never heard of any
4 problems here, you know, and like I said, I
5 got some friends that drive a cab and they
6 tell me all of the things. I've never heard
7 them complain, you know, that was --

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure, that's what I
9 wanted to make sure it was clarified.
10 Definitely.

11 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you. Thank you
12 very much. I know I got off the subject, I
13 had some -- I wanted to wind this up and
14 bring it back, but I need to buy some more
15 time is what I need. Can't you give me
16 Phyllis'? Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Ellman, while you
18 are leaving I just wanted to comment on an
19 issue that you brought up the other week
20 about a form that Wayne County uses in
21 regards to it's nonprofits, we checked in
22 with the county's office and just to report,
23 the Lackawanna County Assessor's Office
24 doesn't have a form similar to Wyoming
25 County that we forwarded to them and

1 Lackawanna County basically requires a copy
2 of IRS Form 501-C (3) for tax exemption to
3 be forwarded to their office for review and
4 once that form is submitted to the Board of
5 Assessments they then look at it, review it,
6 and decide whether the organization is a
7 nonprofit or not.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Well, hopefully maybe
9 something good will come out of it, I don't
10 know. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. JOYCE: You're welcome.

13 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
14 cares to address council?

15 MR. HUBBARD: Good evening, Council,
16 Daniel Hubbard, lower Greenridge.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

18 MR. HUBBARD: I'm also embarrassed
19 to come here tonight to speak about what I
20 have to talk about. It seems lately that a
21 few of the residents of lower Greenridge
22 after a few cocktails find that the levy
23 project is their ATV park. These are the
24 same people that had water in their houses
25 in '04 and '06, these are the same people

1 that were screaming and crying and wanting
2 flood protection for years and years and
3 years, yet when asked to please keep their
4 quads off the levies they seem they're
5 ignorant and they just don't want to do it
6 and they are going to do it no matter what,
7 so the police have been called on a few
8 occasions and when the police come down
9 basically the reply is, "As long as they are
10 not on the streets, we don't care."

11 Which is fine. You know, if you are
12 in a field, you're in your yard or doing
13 something stuff like that, that's fine, I
14 really don't care. I mean, my son has a
15 small quad, he rides in our yard, that's
16 fine, but there has to be -- if there is a
17 not an ordinance can we look into getting
18 something where they can actually cite these
19 people for being on the flood protection
20 because they are causing ruts, they are
21 wearing on the grass, which isn't even
22 really growing in yet, it just was planted
23 in October of last year and it's going to
24 cause erosion, it's going to cause problems
25 on the levy and then that's going to cause

1 more repairs for the city because the city
2 is going to have to take ownership of this
3 project now it's completed, and then there
4 is a liability issue.

5 You know, they are playing across
6 the top of the levy doing 60 miles an hour,
7 if somebody losses control of that quad and
8 goes off the river side and down to the rip
9 rap rock and they are not wearing helmets
10 there is going to be a serious injury
11 involved on city property with an ATV, so I
12 would really like it if council could look
13 into and see if there was actually an
14 ordinance about riding ATV's on city
15 property, which I'm sure there is, and if
16 there can be something done to keep them off
17 of the flood project and give the police the
18 authority or the power to at least cite
19 these people who -- I'm sure a few citations
20 will keep them off there, but as long as the
21 police show up and say, "Well, if they're
22 not on the streets we are not going to do
23 anything about it, then they are going to
24 continue to do this.

25 They have been asked by me on

1 several occasions, they just don't seem to
2 care, and to be honest with you, I went
3 through a lot of hassle, a lot of grief
4 between -- we like to talk about the Times,
5 between the Times, the administration, and
6 everything that we have done and had to
7 fight for since 2004 I just think it's just
8 absolutely appalling that the same people
9 that were crying for this protection are
10 destroying the same protection that protects
11 their homes, and I can't get through to
12 them. The police won't do anything about
13 it, so hopefully if we can get something and
14 the books that will allow the police to have
15 the authority to cite them I would
16 appreciate that.

17 And touching on a few subjects,
18 I'm-- without sounding sarcastic, I don't
19 think anybody on this dais should be
20 surprised that the Scranton Times is slanted
21 at this point. We have all been around
22 Scranton politics for enough years to know
23 that no matter how good you guys do your job
24 or no what you do that helps the residents
25 of this city, as long as the current

1 administration is in power the Scranton
2 Times will never give you your due
3 diligence. They will never commend you for
4 what you do, but the people in this city see
5 what you do and they are the ones that
6 matter. So don't spend any of your time
7 wasting it on talking about the Scranton
8 Times. They are not worth it. They are not
9 worth wasting your time and your breath
10 pointing out what they do because we are all
11 aware of what they do.

12 Everybody in this city sees what
13 they do and they are going to slant
14 everything against the people that are
15 trying to do right or the people that are
16 out there that go against the current
17 administration, and that's whether they are
18 residents or politicians, they like to slant
19 against the people that go against the
20 current administration, so don't let it
21 bother you, everybody knows what good you
22 are doing, don't let it get you down and
23 don't give them the time of day to
24 acknowledging what they are doing. Have a
25 good day.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake,
2 if we could please find the city ordinance
3 regarding ATV's and if necessary, Attorney
4 Hughes, if you could review that and see if
5 we would be able to amend it to give it a
6 bit more teeth on city property,
7 particularly flood projects, to prevent
8 children from riding, young adults from
9 riding, ATV's on city-owned flood projects.
10 Thank you. Is there anyone else who cares
11 to address council?

12 MR. HALLOCK: How you doing, Chris
13 Hallock, city resident and taxpayer.
14 Mr. McGoff, I just have a question for you,
15 what's your reasoning for wanting to be
16 re-elected and serve on the council?

17 MR. MCGOFF: This isn't a political
18 forum and I'm not going to get involved in
19 that.

20 MR. HALLOCK: Okay, this is no
21 personal attack of you, but sitting back
22 there I'm a big person with respect, these
23 are the people that you serve, that you, you
24 know, took an oath to, you know, serve and
25 when people up at this podium are speaking

1 about 98 percent, if not more of the time, I
2 have noticed you just looking down, writing,
3 and, I mean, I don't know what you are doing
4 and I see four other council members looking
5 and paying attention to what the people are
6 voicing their concerns and, I mean,
7 occasionally they look down, you know, they
8 write something down, you know, they talk
9 amongst each other shortly or briefly, but
10 it just -- it kind of just bothers me and
11 offends me as a citizen that you are looking
12 down with your head down not looking and
13 making contact and paying attention to the
14 people who are here voicing concerns you are
15 supposed to address. And again, this is
16 nothing personal, it's something that I am
17 big on respect and eye contact and just
18 paying attention because these are the
19 people that I'm assuming if you are on
20 council you wanted to represent, so I just
21 ask that if you could just try to pay better
22 attention, at least let the people know that
23 you care and give them the illusion that you
24 care.

25 And to go further, I got a question

1 about in the budget that was put in, that
2 was amended by council, all of the police
3 officers and firemen they were all restored
4 through city money; correct?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. HALLOCK: Paid for by city
7 money?

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. HALLOCK: In the newspaper it's
10 been voiced that there is 13 officers that
11 are OECD funded, okay, where did the money
12 that was supposed to, you know, so you have
13 the money that the council and the budget
14 has paying for them and now you got -- so
15 they are getting double paid so where is the
16 money that the council and the budget was
17 paying for, where did that go?

18 MR. JOYCE: Just to be brief, and I
19 don't know if this will answer your question
20 or not, the budget that was originally
21 submitted to council used I believe it was
22 660 some thousand dollars to fund 13 police
23 officer's salaries. We added an additional
24 ten salaries to that budget, therefore, it
25 would be the addition of city money. In

1 both budgets, the one passed by council as
2 amended and the one sent down through the
3 administration, there was 13 police officers
4 being funded by OECD money.

5 MR. HALLOCK: That was in the
6 budget?

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes, through the
8 neighborhood police patrol.

9 MR. HALLOCK: And you see the
10 ordinances that were made with this, was
11 that correct to say that what was the time
12 limit again if an officer left or that they
13 had to fill the position?

14 MS. EVANS: I believe that ordinance
15 is effective through December 31, 2011. It
16 was for the 2011 fiscal year.

17 MR. HALLOCK: So it didn't start
18 yet?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. JOYCE: No, it did start.

21 MR. HALLOCK: It's in effect.

22 MS. EVANS: But obviously the
23 administration doesn't enforce ordinances or
24 abide by them. We have many, many examples
25 of this, unfortunately, that, you know,

1 either the mayor chooses not to enforce an
2 ordinance that has been passed or that the
3 mayor actually will violate, this particular
4 ordinance, the Home Rule Charter, the
5 Administrative Code, etcetera.

6 MR. HALLOCK: So if an officer left
7 at the beginning of the year under the
8 ordinance there should have been another
9 officer hired; correct?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: He has blatantly
11 stated that as a vacancy occurs despite our
12 ordinance that he does not plan to fill it.

13 MR. JOYCE: Right, and I believe
14 from the language of the ordinance it is 30
15 days.

16 MR. HALLOCK: That's what I was
17 asking. So if an officer left in January
18 it's past the 30 days; correct?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's correct.

20 MR. HALLOCK: Is there any plans of
21 any action taken for the violation of the
22 city ordinance on your end because if it was
23 your city ordinance put in and someone is
24 obviously violating it, has there been any
25 Court proceedings or any, you know, Court

1 litigation towards that?

2 MS. EVANS: Yeah, council as a
3 legislative body passed an ordinance that
4 set the manpower numbers for a period of one
5 year for the police and fire departments.
6 If there is a -- well, let's say if there is
7 a violation of that then I believe it would
8 be most likely the responsibility of the
9 police or fire department to pursue
10 litigation against the administration based
11 on the ordinance passed by city council.

12 MR. HALLOCK: Thank you. And,
13 Mr. McGoff, again, it wasn't a personal
14 attack to offend you, it was just something
15 I observed.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I may be better at
17 multi-tasking than some people.

18 MR. HALLOCK: Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
20 anyone else who would like to address
21 council?

22 MS. BEHUSE: Good evening, Council.
23 My name is Deborah Behuse and I'm currently
24 a resident of West Scranton and have been
25 for the last ten years, taxpayer for the

1 past six. I honestly do not know where to
2 begin as I have been intending to make it to
3 the Council meeting for many, many months
4 now, but I have never been able to find the
5 time, more on that reason at a later date.

6 I would begin by saying that I am
7 unequivocally a usual suspect wannabee. I
8 may be mistaken, but I believe not too long
9 ago a local newspaper editorial referred to
10 the people who fairly regularly or in some
11 cases faithfully attend city council
12 meetings to voice their opinions and
13 exercise their First Amendment Rights as
14 usual suspects. You know, when I first read
15 the editorial and I realized the people
16 speaking here tonight were being referred to
17 as usual suspects, I thought to myself, that
18 can't be meant as a tongue-in-cheek joke,
19 would it? I suppose some would say, yes, it
20 was said as a barb towards this group and
21 not to make much of it.

22 Nonetheless, I think we can all
23 agree that usual suspects carries with it a
24 fair degree of negative connotation. Usual
25 suspects are normally thought of as usual

1 criminals, so I read on and realized that
2 the context of the reference didn't help
3 much. It was not a flattering article about
4 council and I reasoned, therefore, the label
5 usual suspects was not meant to be funny, it
6 was meant to be unflattering, and I wondered
7 why that was. Why would a newspaper
8 editorial refer to a group of people that
9 way.

10 From what I have observed, and I try
11 to watch every single council meeting at
12 some point, the people who have spoken here
13 tonight and those waiting to do so, do not
14 deserve any such negative connotation. From
15 what I have seen, these are people who are
16 taking time out of their daily lives to
17 speak up on issues that might not only to
18 them, but frequently also should matter to
19 the residents of this city. In most cases,
20 they have researched their issue, did their
21 homework, so to speak, have discussed their
22 issue with other citizens, take time out of
23 their lives to not only write it all down and
24 analyze it, but then further take the time
25 and effort to show up at these meetings week

1 after week.

2 Where I was raised, Clarks Summit,
3 and where I was later educated, the
4 University of Scranton and the Thomas M.
5 Cooley Law School, those actions described
6 not that of usual suspects, but of good and
7 caring citizens participating in their local
8 government and exercising their
9 constitutional rights because they care
10 about their community, their local
11 government, and, yes, perhaps even their
12 pocketbook and the financial health of their
13 city as they have every right to do.

14 Since returning to this area ten
15 years ago after spending some 17 years away
16 in other parts of Pennsylvania as well as in
17 Michigan, I have learned that in Scranton
18 and in Lackawanna County when someone in
19 authority states something is so,
20 frequently, and sadly, the opposite of what
21 is stated is the truth. That goes for
22 government officials, educational heads, and
23 even members of the media. I wish that were
24 not so, but it has proven itself to be the
25 case so many times I no longer second guess

1 myself about it's occurrence. It does in
2 fact happen and frequently.

3 So when I realize that the people of
4 behind me here in the audience were wrongly
5 being referred to as usual suspects on some
6 level I thought, okay, here in Scranton when
7 you are a good citizen by way of attending
8 government meetings, stating your opinion
9 based on research and analysis, most
10 frequently in a respectful and articulate
11 manner or offering suggestions to your city
12 council after you have spent hours
13 developing it, here in Scranton that must
14 make you a usual suspect because, after all,
15 a newspaper says it's so.

16 Well, I do not for one minute think
17 any of the people here tonight or those that
18 regularly attend this forum, deserve the
19 thinly veiled slight of being referred to as
20 usual suspects. While some who attend may
21 occasionally be longwinded, who hasn't been
22 that at time, and others my digress into
23 opinions or matters that are national in
24 scope, such imperfections do not usual
25 suspects make.

1 And if it does make them usual
2 suspects then let me state here and now that
3 I would be glad to be part of their good
4 company and share the questionable title a
5 newspaper for some strange reason seems to
6 think they deserve. Thank you very much.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to say
9 before Mr. Gervasi comes up, I appreciate
10 your comments and, you know, the rights of
11 the people to come to a meeting like this
12 are what makes this country great, and I
13 wish we had every seat in this chambers
14 filled every day. You know, I wish we had
15 100 percent voter turnout and more people
16 involved, and the people that come to
17 council meetings and contact us and that
18 vote, write letters to the editor and are
19 involved in what's going on in government,
20 they are the backbone of society. They are
21 the people that are keeping their eye on
22 their elected officials, and I think the
23 majority of us up here are doing a good job.
24 Many aren't, and it's up to the people to
25 keep a check on them and come election time

1 they make those decisions, and I would just,
2 again, I really appreciate your commence.

3 MS. EVANS: And I would echo what
4 Mr. Rogan said, and I think we should all be
5 a community educated and aware and very
6 grateful to those who are involved actively
7 in their government and their community and
8 it is very disheartening that a newspaper
9 locally discourages that and that the
10 newspaper discourages, I fear, individuals
11 from seeking office because apparently if
12 you are not part of their agenda then you
13 need to be, well, let us say, either
14 silenced or attacked or perhaps, you know,
15 at best part of the truth or part of the
16 information you give might be reported, but
17 I think it is very admirable to the people
18 that live in this city and that's why very
19 often you won't see a flurry of candidates
20 for any given office because it certainly is
21 a challenge endure and to stand up against
22 the powers that be. Thank you.

23 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
24 council. My name is Dave Gervasi and it is
25 very, very refreshing to hear the majority

1 of city council and very intelligent people
2 come to this podium and mirror what we have
3 been saying for probably ten years now.
4 It's nice to know we have a little company
5 in our sandbox for a change. It took a long
6 time, and I welcome everyone who realizes
7 what's actually going on in this city.

8 I have not spoken at this podium in
9 a long time because, frankly, a lot of
10 people told me over the months, past many
11 months, that a lot of people don't watch
12 council meetings anymore because it's not a
13 circus anymore. People are treated with
14 respect when they come to the podium,
15 government is actually working in their
16 favor instead of working for one man's
17 favor, and I'm not going to get into that
18 tonight.

19 I have been watching council
20 meetings religiously forever and I have been
21 coming to them for a very long time before
22 cameras were rolling and I just want you to
23 know that, you know, I was thrust back into
24 the position of my union where I am today as
25 president again, once again.

1 I think there is times when public
2 officials can't just really just put it out
3 there and slam it down someone's throat
4 exactly what is going on. Everyone, you
5 know, speaks very articulate on this dais,
6 except I listen to all of the rhetoric going
7 back and forth and sometimes I need to just
8 come up here because I'm so frustrated
9 watching the meetings because I'd love to
10 just sum it up with two or three sentences
11 and let everyone know exactly what's going
12 on.

13 And what's going on right now,
14 everyone is talking about the TANS, everyone
15 is talking about the Worker's Compensation
16 Trust Fund, if some people are veterans of
17 watching council meetings you might remember
18 the president of the clerical union, Nancy
19 Krake, who is our city clerk, or myself or
20 Ann Marie Stulgis or Bobby Martin or many,
21 many other people from the audience coming
22 up and saying that it's a big lie how the
23 city was broke. It's just a big lie. And
24 you heard the Scranton Times day after day,
25 week after week, month after month, and year

1 after year regurgitate what this
2 administration was feeding them and they
3 never actually investigated. Ever.

4 I went through -- I haven't talked
5 to Josh, he's kind of one of the new kids on
6 the block, but I went through four or five
7 of their reporters and gave them all a
8 chance, and they put words in my mouth and
9 quoted me of things I have never said and I
10 stopped talking to them one after another,
11 but the Scranton Times comes out here every
12 day, week, month and year and regurgitates
13 the same thing to the citizens of the city
14 of Scranton that your firefighters are bad,
15 your police officers are bad, and we have a
16 \$6 million deficit when none of it was true.

17 And now everyone -- it seems the
18 roosters are coming home to roost now
19 because this council actually reads
20 legislation. This council actually
21 researches what the truth actually is and
22 you are actually telling the people. No one
23 is telling anyone better when it comes to
24 finances than Councilman Joyce. He is
25 telling people exactly what's going on and

1 we don't really have to come here and tell
2 anyone anymore because he gets it. He
3 actually gets it.

4 And you've got Councilman Loscombe
5 out there every day banging away telling
6 everyone what we have been saying for years
7 and years. The result of PEL and the result
8 of DCED and the result of the Recovery Plan
9 and the result of Act 47 is you are going to
10 pay more money for less services. Well,
11 it's come full circle and that's where we
12 are.

13 And now when this council finally
14 gets a handle on a budget for the first time
15 in ten years, you get a handle on the
16 budget, you cut taxes, you cut taxes where
17 they belong on property and you cut taxes on
18 businesses because everyone has been saying,
19 I'm 50 years old, and for the last 40 years
20 since I was able to understand what's going
21 on, businesses are leaving Scranton or not
22 coming to Scranton because of the nuisance
23 taxes. You did something about it. And you
24 know what happened? You are getting beat up
25 for lowering taxes.

1 You know why? Because you finally
2 find out where they were hiding the money.
3 Every year I came here and said the city
4 wasn't broke, it's a lie, and the city and
5 the newspaper has been telling you that we
6 are broke and we have to raise taxes. Think
7 about this, people. Think about this. The
8 mayor, the administration, and your
9 newspaper, the Scranton Times, told you they
10 were broke and they raised your property
11 taxes 26 percent on a life.

12 They told you the firemen and police
13 are bad, we are the cause of the whole
14 problem based on a lie. They told
15 arbitrators, they told judges, they told
16 Commonwealth Court judges and they just told
17 Supreme Court judges that we are the
18 problem, they are not, and it was all based
19 on a lie.

20 I don't know what that means in the
21 end, but all I know is the roosters are
22 coming home to roost and the city is playing
23 these little shell games with the money,
24 they were hiding money in the Worker's
25 Compensation Trust Fund while they were

1 lying, blatantly lying with the full
2 knowledge and consent of the Pennsylvania
3 Economy League and DCED, and those same
4 lawyers from those two organizations went to
5 judges, state judges and Supreme Court
6 judges, and told them the city is broke
7 when, in fact, they were running surpluses
8 since 1999, and now because this council,
9 this elected council that we have that did
10 the research and actually found out where
11 the money was and what you could actually do
12 with a budget and make a fair and balanced
13 budget, now you found out you were deceived,
14 too, by the same people that were deceiving
15 all of these people that raised our taxes
16 and cut your services based on a lie.

17 Today's paper, and I don't mean to
18 go over Mrs. Evans, I haven't been here in
19 awhile, just give me one more minute,
20 please. Last week the city administration
21 called you and said, "We're in trouble."

22 They basically threw their hands in
23 the air and said, "We can't run the city
24 anymore. We don't know what to do. We are
25 going to have to close all of the

1 neighborhood firehouses by a laying off 30
2 firefighters, we are going to have to make
3 the city unsafe by laying off ten more
4 police officers, we are going to have to cut
5 your garbage collection, we are going to
6 going to have cut filling potholes and we
7 are going to have cut clerical people
8 because we are broke and we don't know what
9 to do. Please, come and help us."

10 The first question we asked was,
11 "Why are you asking us? We are just cops
12 and firemen?"

13 But they asked us and we sat down
14 with them and we were going to sit down with
15 them tomorrow except this morning you read
16 in the paper that it's the cop's fault, we
17 have to do layoffs, now we have all of our
18 young guys worrying about getting laid off
19 again, they are blaming you for cutting
20 taxes which is -- excuse me, correct me if
21 I'm wrong, \$800,000, they are talking about
22 a \$11 million deficit and they are trying to
23 blame you for cutting \$800,000 in taxes.

24 It's all based on a lie and the
25 people need to know and wake up once and for

1 all before we lose blocks, before children
2 die in fires or before you are robbed or
3 murdered or killed because there is no cops
4 in your neighborhood to do what they are
5 supposed to do. All based on a lie and a
6 shell game by the this administration.

7 I pledge right now as the
8 firefighter's union, we have 137 people left
9 out of 200, we will work with you and with
10 the administration starting tomorrow if
11 necessary, but I'm not talking to any people
12 in the administration. If the mayor is
13 there, I'll talk to him. If he wants to
14 work out something, work out a budget -- I'm
15 sorry, a budget within the fire department
16 if he wants to work out doing a deal we will
17 be there and we will do it. I'm done
18 talking to the rhetoric people. I'm done
19 talking to the Scranton Times who has been
20 lying to people that pay for their service
21 over last the ten years over this entire
22 administration and it's time for it to stop
23 and it's time for everyone to get really
24 serious right now because it's going to get
25 real bad real soon. Thank you very much for

1 your time.

2 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, citizen
3 of Scranton. I'm not going to take issue
4 with the Lynett/Haggerty liturgy because we
5 all know what's standing there. I applaud
6 the lady for coming up here and saying that,
7 you know, she is proud to be coming up here
8 and so I am. I have been doing this for a
9 long, long time, before I even got to
10 Scranton. Scranton did not invent politics,
11 Scranton did not invent city administration,
12 Scranton did not invent the executive branch
13 of government, but they sure in hell don't
14 know how to apply it.

15 As far as the citizens coming up
16 here, I can't think of anybody up here I can
17 fault because they all come up and they have
18 an interest, and I get this constantly from
19 people in Clarks Summit, from people in
20 Hazelton, from people in towns I don't even
21 know exist who watch these proceedings on
22 television and they all say the same thing,
23 this council is to be applauded for what
24 it's done in the year because your response
25 to the citizens, okay?

1 If this lady is -- and I agree with
2 what she said, I think we should be proud of
3 coming up here, and I'll say one thing, if
4 that's the case I'm a hell of a lot better
5 citizen than the president of the Chamber of
6 Commerce or the mayor of this city because I
7 come to these council meeting, I've never
8 seen either one of them come up here unless
9 -- Mr. Burke came up and was pussyfooting in
10 the back a couple of years ago because he
11 wanted a little favor, but he never appeared
12 before this council in the flesh and I have
13 never seen the mayor up here except when
14 Mr. McGoff was appointed, Mr. McGoff was
15 appointed, that was it.

16 And so, councilmen, I'm proud to
17 come up here and speak my mind. I wish more
18 people in this town would do it because you
19 people have done one hell of a job and two
20 previous council people who told us we would
21 get what we deserved, thank you. We did get
22 what we deserved, and they also said they
23 would still be around and I haven't seen
24 either one of them since then. Thank you
25 very much.

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

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton.
5 On these reports on these deficits, I had a
6 little brainstorm and ask for air times for
7 ECTV on reruns possibly so it could be
8 recorded and what you are stating are on it.

9 And I'd also like to -- you people
10 won't need to suggest it, but maybe some of
11 these departments could finally get their
12 audits in early so we could sort out our
13 budget before we really have to.

14 And I have been hearing a lot of
15 Class II to Class III, the taxpayers did a
16 little forum on that in February, I still
17 have a DVD on it, and one thing I did
18 understand is that you can only charge 1
19 percent wage tax on a Class III, so we may
20 have problem there if we just overnight went
21 to Class III you would have to raise
22 property taxes and maybe who knows what 100
23 percent or whatever, so that would mean that
24 grandma might pay --

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: That would be if you

1 under the distressed act like Reading that
2 would not apply.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: That would not apply
4 while we are distressed?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: While we are under
6 distress.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Okay, when I first
8 moved back to Scranton we had the mayor's
9 music festival at Nay Aug and I was talking
10 to Ray and he mentioned that it used to
11 bring in \$10,000, it used to pay for a lot
12 of activities up at Nay Aug and so forth and
13 when this mayor came in for some reason or
14 another he said no more rides, well, food
15 concessions didn't make any money and then
16 our two fine county commissioners that are
17 up for indictment gave us a ten and we
18 started charging \$15. Well, I was at a few
19 of those music festivals and there might
20 have been a dozen people there, you know, so
21 that didn't amount to no \$10,000 brought in.

22 I'd like to see something, some kind
23 of study maybe late in the summer where we
24 could get something back together again and
25 maybe that could finance some activities up

1 at Nay Aug and lower the swimming pool rates
2 and so forth, \$4 is ridiculous, that's
3 crazy.

4 And, well, the library, last week I
5 reported on leaks at the library, they are
6 not in the roof they are in the basement and
7 the people that I talked to said they are
8 trying to fix it in-house, so time will
9 tell, but basically don't take a backseat if
10 you want to voice to our commissioners to
11 make sure they took care good of the
12 Scranton public library system. You can't
13 run around and build for everybody else and
14 abandon us with two first class -- two or
15 three first class buildings.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Letters were sent out
17 to the commissioners, also, from city
18 council regarding those issues.

19 MR. DOBRZYN: Great. Great. It
20 turned out it was basement, the water was
21 coming in through the basement at the
22 children's library. I thought it was the
23 roof, maybe somebody even suggested that to
24 me that didn't know as much about it as the
25 other person I talked to.

1 And finally for the golden parrot
2 award, the Marcellus gas people, I don't
3 know if you read in the Scranton Times there
4 is a little good in all of us, yesterday in
5 the paper, the Chinese are contracting that
6 gas and taking liquified and taking out of
7 the country and sent to China at our
8 expense, isn't that nice of them.

9 And Donald Trump, four times
10 married, he is morally bankrupt, four times
11 bankrupt, so he is just generally bankrupt
12 and, John, I'm going to do my imitation,
13 "John, you lost all your money you invested,
14 but you are fired."

15 Have a good night.

16 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
17 anyone else who would like to address
18 council?

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Jack.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Hey, Chrissy.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie. What' up
22 Pat.

23 MR. ROGAN: Hey, Chrissy.

24 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Well, I don't know
25 Jack, these guys down here are doing a good

1 job for us, aren't they? All of them are.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, they are.

3 MR. SLEDENZSKI: You know something,
4 Jack, there's a fire in the city who'd fight
5 the fire. No one would. Nobody would fight
6 them but us. Thank you.

7 MR. ROGAN: Thanks, Chris.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks, Chrissy.

9 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
10 Council. Nelson Ancherani, resident and
11 taxpayer, recording secretary of the FOP,
12 one of the usual suspects and approximately
13 30 other names that they call us. I didn't
14 know what to talk about -- oh, First
15 Amendment Rights. I didn't know what to
16 talk about today but the slimes came through
17 as usual and saved the day, I'll mention
18 that later.

19 According to Councilman Joyce, \$11.3
20 million was spent this year on 2010 bills.
21 Five million came from borrowing from the
22 Workmen's Comp Fund. Was council notified
23 that was done or did you find it out
24 yourselves? \$6.3 million was paid in the
25 beginning of this year for 2010 unpaid

1 bills. Was council notified that was done
2 or did you find it out yourselves? Did
3 these amounts totaling 11.3 million come
4 from the TANS, the tax anticipation notes?
5 If that was the case, that leaves 3.2
6 million left in the TANS to pay 2011 bills
7 until money comes in from taxes in other
8 revenue.

9 If the 11.3 million was for the 2010
10 bills, we would have an 11.3 million deficit
11 for 2010? Why didn't we know about that and
12 end of 2010 and why are we finding out about
13 that now? Four months into 201 and we are
14 finding that out.

15 Now, to the slime's article,
16 "Deficits weigh heavy on Scranton's cash
17 flow," by Josh Mrozinski, staff writer, and
18 I'll quote, "Scranton's Recovery Act
19 coordinator is projecting the city's cash
20 could run out as early as this spring while
21 the deficit could balloon to \$8.4 million by
22 year's end."

23 Where was PEL when the city had what
24 appears to be an \$11.3 million deficit for
25 2011?

1 "In a letter provided to the
2 administration and council, the Pennsylvania
3 Economy League said it does not dispute the
4 City Business Administrator's projected \$3.9
5 million 2011 deficit adding the potential
6 exists for a higher 2011 operating budget
7 deficit. PEL, which has overseen the city
8 finances since the city became distressed
9 under State Act 47 in 1992, also said that
10 the 2011 projected deficit would be on top
11 of a \$4.5 million deficit from 2010 that
12 remains outstanding."

13 PEL, Pennsylvania Economy League,
14 how about that shameful agency? 19 years
15 and we are still distressed. How could they
16 be kept on as coordinator with a failing 19
17 years record? They are so concerned now
18 that we may have a \$3.9 million deficit in
19 2011. Where were they in 2010 when we have
20 a \$4.5 million dollars deficit that remains
21 outstanding? Why are we just finding out
22 that now? Why wasn't PEL jumping up and
23 down at the end of 2010, oh, I forgot 2010
24 wasn't your budget, it was their budget, not
25 yours.

1 Your 2010 amended budget was shot
2 down in Court after the city sued you over
3 your budget. The reason it was shot down
4 was, and I believe, that the safety of the
5 residents of the city was at risk with your
6 budget. If there were any layoffs in your
7 amended budget for 2010, they are no where
8 near what layoffs are being proposed now. I
9 wonder what the Courts would say now if you
10 were before them with your budget with
11 minimal layoffs as the opposed to the
12 massive layoffs rumored recently. Massive
13 layoffs.

14 Again, the losers will be the
15 taxpayers when the garbage isn't picked up
16 as one of the things. "Meanwhile Scranton's
17 administration and council continue to blame
18 each other for the pressing financial
19 problems."

20 Council, don't stand up for the
21 blame. You did not cause the 11.3 million
22 deficit from last year. Remember your
23 budget for last year was shot down and the
24 city's budget prevailed.

25 "Business administrator, Ryan

1 McGowan, said he is concerned the budget
2 overestimates revenue items and creates a
3 loss of revenue from tax decreases.

4 Mr. McGowan said council's amendments failed
5 to address the 2010 deficit. He said the
6 mayor's budget proposal eliminated the
7 deficit through spending reductions, while
8 about 1.2 million in 2010 bills and 9.8
9 million in 2010 tax anticipation notes were
10 covered with 2011 TANS. Council president
11 Janet Evans said council will respond to the
12 Doherty deficit in PEL's letter in detail at
13 tonight's meeting and refused to answer
14 questions."

15 I have to ask, what spending
16 reductions? Just as an example, \$300
17 million in long-term debt:

18 "City council's budget amendments
19 amounted to approximately 2 percent of the
20 2011 operating budget, Mrs. Evans said."

21 700,000 is council's reduction, 11.3
22 million deficit is the city's 2010 deficit.
23 Payrolls and bills for 2010. I had a little
24 bit more, but I'll just say where is the
25 money. Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Ancherani, if I
2 could just speak for a second here while you
3 are still here, I know that you read a
4 sentence that Mr. McGowan quoted in the
5 Scranton Times and one thing I did want to
6 say about taking into account the 2010
7 deficit, when the budget was sent down by
8 the administration in November, the most
9 recent reports that council had received at
10 that time from former business
11 administration, Stu Renda, showed that there
12 was no deficit and that nothing was wrong.
13 The only report that showed that there was a
14 deficit for the year came out at the end of
15 the year, in fact, it was in the
16 controller's report that was submitted for
17 the year end of 2010.

18 Up to that point council was --
19 well, the administration obviously tried to
20 persuade council that there were no problems
21 in 2010.

22 MR. ANCHERANI: Okay, and that would
23 be a question, why didn't we know about the
24 deficit during the year if nobody ever told
25 us. I guess that's why we don't know but if

1 there was a deficit it was kept pretty good
2 under wraps.

3 MR. JOYCE: Yeah, I guess nobody
4 knew and once it was found out that there
5 was a deficit in 2010, I'm surprised that
6 that didn't make the front page of the
7 newspaper in big bold headlines.

8 MR. ANCHERANI: Who found out?

9 MS. EVANS: Well, the only other
10 thing I wanted to add though was to some of
11 what you read was that I had told the
12 reporter that at the time I spoke with him I
13 had not received or read PEL's letter, so
14 that I couldn't comment on it, I couldn't
15 answer questions, but I did indicate I had
16 two statements, one would be that council
17 would respond in detail tonight, and that I
18 was aware, you know, council had not amended
19 the budget more than 2 percent and somehow,
20 unfortunately, it gets twisted around in the
21 newspaper into I refuse to answer questions,
22 so I just wanted to explain that.

23 MR. ANCHERANI: One further thing,
24 if Mr. Trump was here, Donald Trump was
25 here, PEL would be fired. Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: I think I agree with
2 that. Is there anyone else who cares to
3 address council?

4 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

5 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have
6 any comments or motions?

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. Thank you, a
8 number of things actually. First, a couple
9 of weeks ago I said that I wasn't going to
10 get in a war of words with Mr. Bolus, but I
11 can't sit here and allow him to attack me
12 without at least some response. It seems
13 Mr. Bolus wants to use the podium here in
14 city council to argue his Court cases, and I
15 just want -- for the record, I am not a
16 party in any of these issues that he has or
17 in any of these Court cases, so I don't know
18 what it is that, you know, he expects or
19 wants me to do.

20 I guess he would have you believe
21 that I'm part of some type of persecution of
22 a poor taxpayer on East Mountain. The truth
23 is that it's his taxpaying neighbors that
24 have asked and are asking the Courts to have
25 Mr. Bolus abide by the law and be a good

1 neighbor. In fact, one case that's already
2 been settled the Courts have ruled against
3 Mr. Bolus and said, "Be a good neighbor and
4 move those trailers."

5 He kind of neglects that when he,
6 you know, comes here to attack. And for the
7 record, also, I do not live near Mr. Bolus.
8 I am not one of his neighbors and I am not
9 part of the East Mountain Neighborhood
10 Association.

11 And lastly on this issue, this isn't
12 a political issue and Mr. Bolus has, you
13 know, a legal issue that he is pursuing or
14 legal issues I should say that he is
15 pursuing, as a councilman I have no
16 jurisdiction over any of that. I am not
17 involved in anything that has taken place
18 with Mr. Bolus on East Mountain and I kind
19 of resent the fact that he implies that. I
20 have nothing, you know, more to say on that
21 other than the fact that, you know, I have
22 never, you know, taken the side of anyone in
23 that issue either here or outside of council
24 and I think it's unreasonable that
25 Mr. Bolus, you know, wants to attack in the

1 way that he does.

2 The second thing that just to
3 respond to another speaker, see, I do pay
4 attention, it may not seem that way. The
5 debate over -- concerning StreetSmart
6 program, I have not been opposed to the
7 StreetSmart program since it was introduced.
8 The debate over -- I felt that the debate
9 over the sole source issue was prolonging
10 the implementation of the program and a
11 number of weeks ago I suggested that rather
12 than continue the debate let's put it out it
13 an RFP, let's get it, you know, settled, and
14 members of -- other members of council
15 agreed, you know, let's discontinue the
16 debate, put it into the bidding process so
17 that we could implement the program. If I
18 were part of the some conspiracy to, you
19 know, delay implementation I would have
20 continued the debate here over sole source
21 and kept it going forever when, in fact, you
22 know, my attempt was to hasten the process
23 if possible, so that it could be
24 implemented. So, again, you know, just a
25 little bit for the record and the truth of

1 the matter.

2 A couple of other issues outside of
3 what was said tonight, I would like to
4 announce that the city has received a
5 \$50,000 grant from DCED for the Perry Street
6 playground. This is a grant that was put
7 together through the Parks and Rec's -- not
8 department anymore, but a section of DPW and
9 the grant they will -- the grant will be
10 received in the summer and work will begin
11 on the Perry Street playground.

12 Also, the neighbors, this is going
13 to be a neighborhood project, the neighbors
14 of that area have agreed to help construct
15 and, you know, get the playground, you know,
16 put together. So again, you know, while
17 people may not see, you know, think the
18 playgrounds are somewhat frivolous just from
19 what the Connors playground has done for
20 that area of South Side and has, you know,
21 really cleaned up that neighborhood and made
22 it, you know, a nice area, I think something
23 like the Perry Street program can enhance a
24 neighborhood and I know that the neighbors
25 in that area are very grateful for that

1 program or for the grant and the building of
2 this playground.

3 Also, next thing, I was speaking
4 with -- and it was mentioned last week that
5 we have not received the reports from OECD
6 for February and March?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. MCGOFF: February and March. I
9 was speaking with Ms. Aebli and she said
10 that the office has been extremely busy in
11 preparing for the two-week HUD visit and
12 audit of the program and that they were
13 unable to submit those, but they will be
14 submitted at a later date when the audit is
15 completed.

16 And lastly, on the topic of the
17 night, the budget deficit. You know, for a
18 number of months now we have been kind of
19 arguing back and forth about, well, not
20 arguing, but, you know, discussing and
21 criticizing and the council wants to blame
22 the mayor and the mayor wants to -- or
23 through the business administrator and, you
24 know, wants to blame the council and we go
25 back and forth on, you know, whose fault

1 this is, and the more we argue, you know,
2 the less is getting done. I don't think it
3 really matters at this point in time where
4 the blame lies. We can assess all the blame
5 we want, you know, blame me, I don't care,
6 but we seem to be acting independently of
7 one another, the council and the mayor, and
8 yet there is no resolution and there doesn't
9 seem to be a resolution in sight. If we can
10 continue to do this, I don't believe that
11 there will ever be resolution that is
12 liveable, that is acceptable.

13 We need -- we, as a council, and the
14 administration need to work together on
15 this. This isn't about being right. It
16 doesn't matter, you know, to come in here
17 and say, "See, we were right," when, you
18 know, 50 people lose jobs. That doesn't do
19 anyone any good. I think it's time that we
20 work together with the administration, that
21 we try to do something to come to some type
22 of resolution to this problem. We cannot do
23 it independently.

24 I was happy to hear Mr. Gervasi say
25 that, you know, they are willing to sit down

1 with the mayor and --

2 (Whereupon some audience members
3 make comments.)

4 MR. MCGOFF: May I continue? Thank
5 you. I'm sorry, I kind of lost my train of
6 thought. I just believe that we need to sit
7 down and talk this through. I think there
8 is some resolution that can -- that we can
9 come to without people losing their jobs.
10 From the beginning, from the inception of
11 the -- you know, when the mayor's budget was
12 introduced and then when the council budget
13 was introduced, I said I don't believe that
14 this is the time for people to be put out of
15 work, and I still believe that, but we need
16 to find some resolution because rumors of
17 mass layoffs can't become reality. We can't
18 allow that to happen, and unless council
19 gest together with the administration that's
20 a distinct possibility.

21 And so I guess what I'm asking is,
22 you know, what is it that council is willing
23 to do in order to resolve this problem? Are
24 we willing to sit down with the mayor and
25 with the administration and come to a

1 resolution that we can all -- that we can
2 all accept and that is in the best interest
3 of everyone in the city. And that's all I
4 have. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. If I just
6 could respond, and then I'll allow
7 Mr. Joyce, I agree with Mr. McGoff this
8 certainly is not about who is right. It's
9 about being truthful and the administration
10 has never been truthful about the finances
11 of this city. Financial maneuverings and
12 machinations have occurred since at least
13 2009 without the knowledge and consent of
14 city council. It is very difficult now
15 after they have caused a financial train
16 wreck to sit down with people who do not
17 tell the truth. Not only are certain
18 weighty issue, very weighty issues, kept
19 secretive, those issues impact the
20 development of budgets going forward so that
21 budgets have become a joke now.

22 Now, I think, Mr. McGoff, you might
23 do well to look at the Home Rule Charter,
24 the Administrative Code, I do understand
25 your concerns, but in the event of a deficit

1 that develops during the fiscal year the
2 mayor must make recommendations to city
3 council as to how he intends to address it
4 and city council may make appropriations
5 thereafter. The mayor cannot make
6 appropriations as he has done each year of
7 the last three years and city council,
8 according to law, does not make the
9 recommendations, the mayor does.

10 We await the mayor's
11 recommendations. Council will review them
12 and then council will decide on the
13 appropriations and I should probably add
14 that council certainly is opposed to layoffs
15 because it was this council that reinstated
16 those positions to protect the health,
17 safety and welfare of the citizens of
18 Scranton and, Mr. McGoff, when it came to
19 the final vote when the mayor vetoed that
20 budget, you voted against this council.

21 MR. MCGOFF: I --

22 MS. EVANS: Now, I know what your
23 response will be, I'm sure, that you were
24 voting against ordinances that you felt were
25 inappropriate, but those ordinances were

1 part of that budget override. When you said
2 no to that, you said, "No, I don't want
3 workers reinstated."

4 So we are looking at a terrible, as
5 I said, train wreck, a tsunami that was
6 unknown to anyone with the exception of the
7 Pennsylvania Economy League, DCED, and the
8 administration of the City of Scranton, and
9 all have kept that secret for far too long,
10 but as someone said earlier, the chickens
11 have come home to roost and this council has
12 worked diligently, tirelessly to uncover
13 these secrets and it's out there now and now
14 again the chickens have come home to roost
15 and we await the mayor's recommendation as
16 to how he intends to solve his financial
17 mess.

18 But I can tell him that council will
19 not be entertaining massive layoffs, and as
20 suggested by some other members of council,
21 I do not believe that council will be
22 considering tax hikes as an answer to this
23 either as someone mentioned earlier tonight
24 we have already endured a 26 percent tax
25 hike. What did it get you? Do you have any

1 more than you did years ago? And is the
2 city in a better financial position?
3 Certainly not. It's worse off today than it
4 was in 1992, and it's far worse off today
5 than it was in 2002. It's been going
6 downhill rapidly and now it's all out there,
7 ladies and gentlemen.

8 Although, perhaps that it is not an
9 accurate statement. I'm sure there is more.
10 I'm sure there is plenty more with this came
11 from, and I can only assure you that this
12 council will continue to work and to dig and
13 to put the whole puzzle together for the
14 people of this city, but what is very sad in
15 the meantime is that a few people have had
16 the ability to hurt you and to hurt our
17 city.

18 And this city council isn't just
19 going to stand by and allow it and this city
20 council is not going to be party to the
21 lies, the deception, the coverups, the shell
22 game with millions and millions of dollars
23 from one year to the next. No, I won't
24 engage in those games, Mr. McGoff. I will
25 abide by the law and I will do what needs to

1 be done.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me, I am not
3 asking you to engage in anything other than
4 working with the administration to resolve
5 the problem.

6 MS. EVANS: And the
7 administration --

8 MR. MCGOFF: And I think that that's
9 something that council has a responsibility
10 to do and I think it's the best way in which
11 we can come to an acceptable resolution,
12 acting independently has not gotten us
13 anywhere.

14 MS. EVANS: Well, I don't think it's
15 been an issue for council that we wish to
16 work independently, we have gone to the
17 mayor several times, we have gone to his
18 administrator several times, we have made
19 every effort to work together. We have been
20 shunned. Now, I, for one, didn't fall off
21 the turnip truck yesterday. I will not work
22 with people who are deceptive about the
23 finances of this city. I cannot trust the
24 statements that were made.

25 I received yesterday statements from

1 Mr. McGowan accounting for \$11.2 million
2 that was spent in January and those
3 statements in writing are in direct
4 contradictions to a previous statement he
5 made that \$5 million was taken from a TAN to
6 pay a Worker's Comp Fund. Well, that
7 suddenly no where appears within the \$11.2
8 million of 2011 money they spent to pay off
9 whatever was going on in 2010.

10 Now, I don't know where we take it
11 from there, Mr. McGoff. Should I sit in
12 front of them and say, "Oh, should I add
13 that five million to your 11.2 million now?
14 Are we now up to 16.2 million?"

15 MR. JOYCE: I just to clarify, from
16 reviewing the Right-to-Know requests that we
17 sent earlier regarding the \$2.9 million that
18 was taken out of the 2010 budget to pay off
19 the Worker's Comp Fund -- or sorry, for the
20 money borrowed in 2009 the account number
21 was 165000. On the financial reports that
22 Mr. McGowan had submitted to us thus far,
23 the cash flow reports, there is no \$5
24 million expenditure taken from that account,
25 from that account to reimburse the Worker's

1 Comp Trust Fund, therefore, I don't know if
2 it really is, it may be, I know that it was
3 quoted in the newspaper that it was and he
4 told our city clerk that it was taken from
5 account number 200,000, however, account
6 200,000, the breakdown of that showed that
7 the majority of the money was used to pay
8 back TAN-B from last year's -- as well as
9 you know \$1.5 million of other bills, so
10 it's a mystery that has yet to be solved.

11 The only question I have for
12 Mr. McGoff, is I can appreciate and I'm glad
13 that the city received a grant for the Perry
14 Street playground, I know that in the
15 budget, the 2011 operating budget, as
16 amended, funding for this was taken out. I
17 believe the amount of funding was \$120,000.
18 Now, when we applied for this grant and is
19 now getting this grant, is the city
20 required, as to your knowledge, to produce
21 matching funds as they are in many other
22 grant situations.

23 MR. MCGOFF: To be honest, I did not
24 see the actual grant, it will be coming
25 before us in some point in time, I'm not

1 sure on the matching fund.

2 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

3 MR. MCGOFF: It -- from conversation
4 it did not seem as though it was, but again,
5 that was just an assumption on my part.

6 MR. JOYCE: Okay. I just wanted to
7 raise that point because if there is a
8 requirement for matching funds, you know, I
9 think we have to sit down and take a look at
10 priorities because if the administration is
11 crying that they are going to run out of
12 money, I don't think they should be spending
13 \$50,000 out of the city coffers to help
14 build a playground when they could be
15 keeping one more cop on the street to keep
16 our citizens safe.

17 MS. EVANS: With our apologies,
18 Councilman Rogan, do you have any comments
19 or motions?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. I was
21 going to start on the budget, but I guess
22 I'll elaborate on the playground as well.
23 First of all, I would just like to say I'm
24 frustrated in the way I found out about
25 this, I received a call from Josh from the

1 Scranton Times and that's how I found out
2 that the city received a grant, not from the
3 administration, not from a colleague, it
4 came from the newspaper. Now, I would hope
5 that in the future, you know, when something
6 does come up the administration would let
7 council know.

8 And Mr. McGoff talked about a
9 cooperation trying to work with the
10 administration, and I have only been on
11 council about a year, less than a year and a
12 half, and I have spoken to Mayor Doherty
13 outside of social events once. I don't know
14 how many times my colleagues have, but I
15 can't imagine it being fairly many, and we
16 have invited the mayor here numerous times.
17 I would like to sit down with the mayor
18 about any issue, but he can't be reached.

19 Many times department heads, we have
20 the same problems, letters are sent to out
21 requesting them to come to council for a
22 caucus, it's delayed, delayed, delayed.
23 Letters are sent out on issues for this city
24 and it keeps getting delayed.

25 But getting back to issue of the

1 park, I share the same concerns at that
2 Mr. Joyce has that if this is funded by
3 grant money from the state in the
4 neighborhood, of course a park is something
5 great for a neighborhood, it really is going
6 to help, but if we have to provide matching
7 funds we just can't do it. We don't have
8 the money and we need to focus on the
9 police, fire, repairing the roads, the
10 necessities, and then once the budget is
11 straightened out down the line then we can
12 go look at that parks, and I think that's
13 where this administration went wrong. Mayor
14 Doherty's big thing was to run the city like
15 a business, but he didn't. You know, the
16 initial things Mayor Doherty invested in
17 were Nay Aug Park, millions of dollars
18 spent, millions of dollars in the downtown
19 while the neighborhoods were left to
20 deteriorate.

21 Blight has been on the rise, crime
22 has been on the rise, and while crime has
23 been on the rise the mayor wants to cut
24 police and fire protection. Just getting
25 back to the budget with -- I know Mr. Joyce

1 will elaborate on this --

2 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I will.

3 MR. ROGAN: -- but this didn't just
4 start this year. From what I understand, we
5 were -- the city, not us, because most of us
6 weren't even up here then, the city was
7 short money so they borrowed from workmen's
8 comp, they borrowed from TANS. The next
9 year they had to repay back what they
10 borrowed and then they were a little short
11 so you just keep cheating and cheating and
12 cheating and cheating and eventually it
13 comes to ahead, and the house of cards
14 collapsed. It's a house of cards built on
15 top of a tank of gasoline. Eventually
16 something has got to give and when our
17 budget was put together we did cut taxes
18 because we believe the people need a break,
19 the 20 -- the tax cut that was passed by the
20 previous council was unnecessary and there
21 was nothing -- no benefits were received for
22 that. We cut taxes, we cut wasteful
23 spending, I would have liked to have gone
24 further than some, but, hey, I don't think
25 there is ever a case I want more cuts and

1 wasteful spending.

2 At the same time, I don't support
3 cuts in the police and fire protection
4 because that's the job of government to keep
5 you safe. It's not to build a new park in
6 your neighborhood, it's to keep you safe.

7 I believe the article \$8.4 million
8 by the year's end, I believe that was the
9 number that was used. I don't have the
10 article in front of me, I read the paper on
11 my phone I don't purchase it \$8.4 million by
12 the year's end when the amount of cuts that
13 we made in our budget were no where near
14 \$8.4 million which would be well in excess
15 of 10 percent of the budget. Our cuts
16 didn't go that far. We didn't reduce taxes
17 by \$8.4 million, which we could have,
18 probably get a check from us then, but it's
19 just a game that the administration has been
20 playing.

21 As I have stated before, it's clear
22 as day Mayor Doherty does not want to be
23 mayor of Scranton. He was hoping to get out
24 of town, become mayor, become lieutenant
25 governor, state senator before that house of

1 cards over the gasoline collapsed. It
2 doesn't seem to be happening. It's not one
3 year, because these problem didn't form in
4 one year, they were formed over years and
5 years and years of decades. The long-term
6 debt in this city and the long-term debt of
7 the country is coming to a point where we
8 can't sustain it. On the federal level I
9 believe it's 40 cents of every tax dollar
10 goes to pay off debt. I don't even though
11 what that number is in the city, I would
12 like to take a look, but every time we
13 borrow and borrow and waste and waste it
14 just keeps getting worse, and the mayor's
15 solution in his last budget that we amended
16 was to cut police and fire protection.
17 That's the last place we can make cuts.

18 We need to look for solutions. We
19 need to do an efficiency report down at the
20 DPW. The DPW they haven't been any cuts
21 made to their union, it's only been to the
22 police and fire and the clerical. We can
23 look into privatizing the DPW. The DPW is
24 something that can be done privately.
25 Police and fire protection is not something

1 that can be done privately.

2 We need to look to cut more spending
3 from the mayor's cabinet. The mayor is the
4 CEO of this city and he has people under him
5 who are making more money than he does.
6 Their salaries need to be cut, also. And if
7 this was done ten years ago all of these
8 savings would add up over years and years
9 and years and we wouldn't be in this big of
10 a hole we are in right now, but that's all I
11 have to say on the budget, I'm sure
12 Mr. Joyce will explain it in detail.

13 Last week I did have a meeting with
14 Mr. Skeleton from the Sewer Authority and
15 Mr. Tell from Representative Murphy's office
16 about the flooding situation up in the
17 Keyser Avenue region and it was very
18 productive and I would like to thank
19 Mr. Skeleton and Mr. Tell. We seem to
20 finally start to make some progress, and we
21 go around talking to some of the
22 neighborhoods or some of the neighbors in
23 the neighborhood and the problems is a lot
24 worse than we initially realized, but I look
25 forward to working with them and hopefully

1 coming to a solution for that problem.

2 Finally, I have a few citizens'
3 requests, personal requests and citizens'
4 requests. Mrs. Krake, could we send a
5 letter to the Parking Authority asking for a
6 list of the people to have these free tags
7 where they get to park at the meters for
8 free? It came from a resident, and also in
9 that letter, I park in the downtown four or
10 five days a week, I feed the meter, and
11 three times in the last week I went to put
12 money in the meter and it said right on the
13 meter "Fail" and when you go look to see
14 where you put the quarter in it's all jammed
15 up, and I think the reason for this is
16 because the rates were doubled I believe a
17 year and a half, two years ago, to a dollar
18 for an hour from 50 cents an hour, so
19 obviously people are putting in twice as
20 many quarters for the same amount of time
21 and they are jamming up.

22 I know that's one thing if we had
23 StreetSmart implemented as soon as that
24 jammed up the person who was in the area
25 would get it on their pager that it was

1 jammed, and I didn't get a chance to look it
2 was jammed and I had a couple of other
3 places to run, I would have liked to sit
4 there and seen how long it took to fix it,
5 but just think of that throughout -- that's
6 just a few meters that I park out downtown
7 throughout the whole city, throughout the
8 downtown, the hill section by the hospitals,
9 that's a lot of money through the course of
10 a year.

11 And also, when -- not that we want
12 to be giving people tickets all the time,
13 but if the meter fails you can't give
14 somebody a citation for that, so if you can
15 please ask what the procedure is for
16 emptying the meters and how long -- they how
17 found out that a meter is full. I'm
18 assuming it's they just walk by and you have
19 to wait for that part of the route. That
20 seems very inefficient, and hopefully, you
21 know, we have been saying this since
22 January, StreetSmart will be implemented.

23 Next, I have a citizens' request,
24 the 200 block of 14th Avenue, and I have a
25 picture attached to this as well, is

1 littered with probably half a dozen potholes
2 and one or two sink holes that need to be
3 repaired. The resident mentioned he called
4 this into the DPW's pothole repair line that
5 scrolls across on the screen multiple times
6 and it hasn't been fixed, and this is a very
7 busy road since it's the only way you can
8 get from Washburn to Luzerne going towards
9 the high school, and I think that's it.
10 I'll hold my comments for the legislation
11 until later.

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

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
16 Evans. I'm still getting over this cold so
17 I apologize. As Mr. Rogan stated, I was
18 unavailable for that meeting on the Keyser
19 Valley flooding issue, but I have been down
20 there staying on top of it and I'm proud to
21 say that the Sewer Authority has installed a
22 new storm sewer on North Cameron Avenue to
23 eliminate a lot of problem in that area.
24 There are still some pockets there that we
25 are working on and we will continue to work

1 on together. I do commend Representative
2 Murphy's office and Tom Tell.

3 And on the same note, several weeks
4 ago Mr. Tell and myself had met with state
5 representatives from PennDot, Mr. Murphy,
6 Representative Murphy and representatives
7 from the Wal-Mart corporation regarding the
8 St. Ann's area with the lighting system, the
9 turning lines, the lanes were a little too
10 tight. There were bus stops on the corners,
11 it just proved to be an unsafe situation, so
12 I'm happy to say that the two bus stops at
13 that location have been relocated freeing up
14 the corners. The company -- the contracting
15 company for Wal-Mart will be redoing the
16 lines on the road to where it was prior so
17 there were will be additional parking, and
18 that's still a work in progress the parking
19 addition in front of the laundromat, and
20 they are going to move the line on Landis
21 Street so there is parking in front of
22 Carimano's, also, so those things are
23 progressing.

24 I do have to agree with Mr. McGoff
25 when he stated several weeks ago we agreed

1 for an RFP with StreetSmart. I believe the
2 reason we agreed was our frustration over
3 the length of the time it has been taking --
4 taking the administration, Solicitor Kelly,
5 the city solicitor, the city controller's
6 office and her solicitor, John Brazil, to
7 determine sole source. Our own attorney has
8 determined it, Easton has determined it,
9 Wilkes-Barre has determined it, Reading has
10 determined it, along with numerous other
11 towns, yet, our attorneys know more here in
12 this city.

13 At the same time you see streaming
14 headlines on the money we are losing. They
15 are the enablers. We could have this money
16 coming in right now. Don't cry about losing
17 money when you have the ability to get the
18 money in. I'm getting frustrated again. I
19 believe -- I mean, I see many people come to
20 this podium and I could feel their
21 frustration because I talked to a lot of
22 people on a daily basis out there and, you
23 know, this administration has failed you.
24 It has failed you and it's been enabled by
25 PEL and the local newspaper in that, and I

1 just hope some day justice prevails and
2 those that are responsible are going to pay
3 for it, but in the mean time we can't let
4 this city go to pot.

5 And speaking of pot, if they build a
6 park with no police and firemen, you know
7 what's going to happen up there. Nothing
8 against parks, but with no protection I
9 don't know what's going to happen.

10 But I believe that are solicitors
11 right now should man up, get StreetSmart
12 implemented, get some money coming into this
13 city so they can show that they are truly
14 concerned. It's working everywhere else and
15 if they are worried about a lawsuit from two
16 competing companies that don't have the same
17 technology, yet they are not worried about
18 lawsuits on arbitration awards, they are not
19 worried about lawsuits on bath salts, let's
20 get this done. We have to get some income
21 in this city.

22 Insurance, we have been requesting
23 insurance broker RFP's from the
24 administration and the city solicitor, we
25 still haven't had a response, have we?

1 MS. EVANS: No.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Come June 1st or July
3 1st this city is going to be without
4 insurance. We only approved it for six
5 months and at the time, at the beginning of
6 the year, we requested they put an RFP out
7 because there was a lot of errors in the
8 current coverage and I think another broker
9 or even this broker can do much better. I
10 don't care who the broker is, but we have to
11 smart looking at saving for the people in
12 this town not taking care of friends. Those
13 days are over. We have no money left in the
14 kitty to do that, you can see it, but that's
15 it on that.

16 I won't discuss the budget because I
17 know our finance chairman knows a lot more
18 about it than I do and our president here,
19 so I'll let them discuss the budget end of
20 it, but I do have an issue that I have to
21 bring up.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, as we have
23 witnessed on the news yesterday, the
24 scenario that we had all been worried about
25 has occurred. A large truck barreled

1 through the concrete barriers at Linde Creek
2 on Crisp Avenue and it ended up in the
3 river. It's very fortunate that there were
4 no fatalities, although the two occupants of
5 the vehicle were seriously injured. The
6 construction of the new bridge has been
7 bantered about by this administration since
8 the original structure was washed away in
9 2006. Here are some documents and news
10 articles highlighting the construction
11 promises or fables to the neighbors of this
12 project.

13 This is excerpts from our council
14 minutes on September 9, 2008. "We are
15 corresponding regarding the schedule for
16 replace of the Crisp Avenue bridge. In
17 November of 2007 and the city bid and
18 subsequently awarded a contract to design
19 and permit the replacement of the Crisp
20 Avenue culvert damaged by the 2006 flooding.
21 The result, the construction project was to
22 be completed by August 23, 2008."

23 That's one promise, there is a whole
24 litany here on that, but I won't go into
25 detail. June 10th of last year, 2010, there

1 has been many issues in-between, this is in
2 the newspaper, "This week, city officials
3 called the neighbor and several other
4 property owners next to the bridge telling
5 them that ground would be broken on a new
6 bridge this August, August of 2010. "

7 September -- move to September 2010,
8 September 3, Josh Mrozinski, Scranton Times.
9 "This week Scranton officials executed at
10 \$220,830.15 contract with Pike's Creek site
11 contractors to install the bridge. In
12 addition to the construction costs, the city
13 also has the \$58,000 engineering bill
14 bringing the project load to about \$278,
15 000. The Department of Public Works
16 director, Jeff Brazil, said he thinks the
17 installation of a new bridge will probably
18 begin in about six weeks."

19 That was last year. The reality
20 here is that all of these prior promises
21 whether actually fables. I personally spoke
22 to a project manager from Pike's Creek site
23 contractors yesterday afternoon after I
24 spent the morning at the accident site with
25 the police and firefighters and tow truck

1 operators, and the information that he
2 provided me is this: A contract has just
3 been signed within the last 30 days. There
4 is an issue with the elevation data on the
5 drawings by the engineering firm. The city
6 has just appointed a new engineer for city
7 projects and that new company is Cecco
8 Associates. Brian Swanson, the contracting
9 city engineering that was most familiar with
10 this and other ongoing projects, has not had
11 his contract renewed.

12 The project manager tells me that
13 they cannot complete the shop drawings until
14 they meet with the new engineer and iron out
15 these issues. They cannot begin
16 construction of the prefab portion of the
17 project until the shop drawings are
18 complete. They will not start working on
19 the site until the prefab components are
20 complete.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, the truth is
22 we are no closer to getting this project off
23 the ground today than we were last fall. I
24 would like to know what city official have
25 erroneously provided the neighbors, the

1 media, this city council and Representative
2 Murphy's Office with all of these inaccurate
3 details knowing full well we are still
4 several months away from seeing any activity
5 at the Crisp Avenue bridge site. We have
6 all been made fools of over the past few
7 years.

8 I am calling for an immediate ban of
9 all truck traffic on Newton road until this
10 project is completed in an effort to prevent
11 the possibility of a tragedy in the future,
12 and this is just another example of what you
13 want to read and believe. Come here for the
14 truth. We are working for you. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
16 Mr. Joyce, do you any comments or motions?

17 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, before you
18 begin I have a few comments on the bridge,
19 Mr. Loscombe, I don't know if you remember
20 probably about three weeks ago, maybe four,
21 I received a letter from OECD saying four to
22 six weeks and that they were just waiting
23 for Pike's Creek, and now we have this other
24 information and it seems like every time we
25 get something for our neighbor, West Side,

1 it always get held up.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: You will not see
3 anything there probably late August, end of
4 September with what has to be done at this
5 point.

6 MR. ROGAN: And I don't know how
7 many times myself, and I know all of us have
8 talked about it in the last year and a half
9 have brought up that bridge and every time
10 we get something back from OECD or the
11 engineer and now Brian Swanson was on top of
12 things, and I spoke to him on the phone
13 numerous times, he always got right back to
14 me, and now he is not even part of the
15 project.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: And it makes us look
17 like the fools because --

18 MR. ROGAN: We are reporting the
19 information.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- reporting what was
21 told to us. Now I have it right from the
22 construction department.

23 MR. ROGAN: So Brain Swanson is not
24 even involved now?

25 MS. EVANS: Correct.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Not at all. Nope.
2 They have to start from scratch with the new
3 engineer.

4 MR. ROGAN: And he was working on
5 that all along and we have a new engineer
6 who had no knowledge of the project.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's correct.

8 MS. EVANS: Mr. Joyce?

9 MR. JOYCE: Okay. If no one has any
10 other comments. First off tonight I would
11 like to start by congratulating Mr. Howells
12 from Go Lackawanna. I happen to pick up a
13 copy of the weekender magazine and saw that
14 you won the reader's choice award for the
15 best investigative reporting.

16 No offense, however, I cannot say
17 the same thing for the reporter for the
18 Scranton Times. That's why tonight the
19 issue of business that I was solely address
20 is the deficit that Mr. McGowan projected as
21 reported in the newspaper this morning, as
22 you can see there were some quite big bold
23 headlines. Though I explained every part of
24 the projected deficit to the Scranton Times,
25 Mr. Mrozinski, on a Friday evening for about

1 25 minutes over the phone, they took a mere
2 two sentences that I actually stated, thus,
3 not telling the truth which is the whole
4 story.

5 First I'll address Mr. McGowan's
6 projections. In the first report that was
7 filed with the State of Pennsylvania as is
8 required on a monthly basis, Mr. McGowan
9 reported that we would have a surplus of
10 roughly \$300,000 in revenue coupled with an
11 increase in expenditures of \$5 million for
12 an overall deficit of \$4.7 million.
13 Ironically, this was never reported in the
14 newspaper, and one of the primary reasons
15 why it wasn't reported in the newspaper was
16 due to the fact that Mr. McGowan's report,
17 and in his report the \$5 million increase in
18 expenditures was due to an under projection
19 of health insurance costs.

20 As described when presenting
21 council's budget amendments, health
22 insurance costs were increased in accordance
23 with the dollar amounts provided to the
24 Scranton Times by former business
25 administrator Stu Renda for 2011. Thus,

1 health insurance costs that the
2 administration provided in the 2011
3 operating budget were erroneous if the
4 deficit will result because of that.
5 Basically they provided bad numbers.

6 In addition to this, the city took
7 on extra health insurance costs that were
8 not even budgeted for by adding back
9 employees that were eliminated in council's
10 2011 operating budget, the four DPW foremen
11 who I believe may be the first four casual
12 workers to receive health insurance through
13 the city.

14 Let's jump a month ahead. In the
15 second report that Mr. McGowan prepared for
16 the State of Pennsylvania he projected there
17 would be a \$1.2 million hole in revenue
18 coupled with the \$2.7 million hole in
19 expenditures. In regards to the \$1.2
20 million revenue hole that was projected,
21 \$300,000 of the revenue shortfall consisted
22 of figures that the administration provided
23 consisting of license and permit fees as
24 well as penalty and interest revenue.

25 Therefore, \$900,000 consisted of

1 council adjusted revenue such as collections
2 from real estate, wage, business privilege,
3 mercantile and the LST tax as well as of
4 StreetSmart revenue and rental registration.
5 Related to the rental registration and
6 StreetSmart especially, I might add the
7 administration has been adamant on stalling
8 on it. In fact, I have seen some turtles
9 stuck in molasses move a lot quicker.

10 In response to this, I just wanted
11 to point out that though Mr. McGowan's
12 report projects at \$900,000 hole in council
13 adjusted revenue, which are primarily tax
14 revenue items, we received a report from
15 Mr. Courtright in the Single Tax Office
16 indicating that revenue has been collected
17 and distributed to the city at the end of
18 March. So this is what they failed to print
19 in the newspaper.

20 As of the end of the March, we have
21 collected and distributed over \$900,000 in
22 revenue from real estate tax, wage tax,
23 business privilege and mercantile taxes as
24 well as the LST which is the bulk of what
25 council adjusted when creating amendments in

1 excess of what we have at the same point
2 last year, and that's after instituting the
3 tax decrease.

4 In addition to this, the amount of
5 revenue collected from taxes was projected
6 to be lowered this year, so, wow, how
7 surprising. We are going to have revenue
8 shortfalls in all of these taxes, however,
9 the city has received more money from the
10 tax office even though the taxes were lower,
11 so as per the latest data from the tax
12 office one would expect that the city would
13 fine on the revenue side of the coin, so it
14 is questionable how we would becoming up
15 short on those figures after the March
16 report from the Single Tax Office.

17 In Mr. McGowan's \$3.9 million
18 deficit projection, \$2.7 million of the
19 projection was on the expenditure side.
20 \$2.5 million of this was due to an
21 underestimation of health insurance costs
22 which were generated by the administration's
23 faulty projections, coupled with the
24 \$200,000 deficit in other salary accounts
25 though the mayor hired four foremen back in

1 the DPW from other salary accounts. How
2 ironic, and stated that their salaries would
3 be fine and covered in addition to providing
4 and continuing to provide them health
5 insurance knowing that there is a \$2.5
6 million under projection in the health
7 insurance account.

8 So I don't think that makes a lot of
9 sense or really doesn't sound like someone
10 is looking out for the best interest of the
11 city and it's taxpayer here. So there you
12 have it. If a shortfall occurs in 2011, it
13 will be primarily due to the
14 administration's under projection of health
15 insurance costs, coupled with the fact that
16 the administration chose to hire back
17 workers that were eliminated from council's
18 budget amendments creating a hole in other
19 salary accounts, and also adding to the
20 costs of health insurance since the health
21 insurance of the poor workers hired back by
22 Mayor Doherty is being paid for by the city.

23 If revenues are short, it is likely
24 that a shortfall in revenue items will not
25 be due to council's projected real estate

1 tax, wage tax, business privilege,
2 mercantile and local service tax figures.
3 It's indicated by the tax office information
4 Mr. Courtright has distributed more money
5 through those taxes to the city than at the
6 same point last year though projections for
7 this year are going to account for the tax
8 decreases are actually lower.

9 The discussion of the 2011 budget,
10 as amended by council, does nothing but
11 deflect the major problems that the city is
12 facing, which is it's overall cash flow.
13 From information gathered at yesterday's PEL
14 meeting by our city clerk, Mrs. Krake, I
15 work during the times when the PEL meeting
16 are so she goes in my place and provides
17 minutes back to me, in information regarding
18 the 11.3 million in extra expenditures paid
19 out in 2011 in excess of 2011 expenses it
20 was stated by Mr. McGowan that the vast
21 majority of these expenditures were due to
22 the paying back of TAN-B in 2011. With this
23 being said, the city used funding from its
24 short term tax anticipation notes received
25 in 2011 to pay back the payment owed for the

1 2010 tax anticipation notes, TAN-B.

2 Basically, what the city did was
3 take out a loan in 2011 to pay off the 2010
4 loan that it didn't have the money to pay
5 for. One may ask, why did they do this? I
6 just said that the answer is simple, the
7 city didn't have the money to pay back TAN-B
8 in 2010, though it is clearly marked as an
9 expense in the 2010 budget.

10 From looking over the last cash flow
11 report of 2010, it is evident that at the
12 start of 12-2010 there was -- the city had
13 \$4.1 million in the general fund. In 2000
14 and -- in the month of the December of 2010
15 the city realized \$5.5 million in revenue
16 and incurred \$6.2 million in expenditures.
17 With this being said there would be an
18 excess -- or, I'm sorry, there would be \$3.4
19 million left in the general fund when
20 subtracting the excess of expenditures over
21 revenue for the month. Not included in the
22 December of 2010 expenditures, was the
23 repayments of TAN-B which is nearly \$10
24 million, \$9.5 to be exact, plus interest.
25 Because the city ran out of money in 2010,

1 we could not make the payment of TAN-B in
2 December, the city waited until January to
3 pay back the 2010 TAN-b with the TANS-A and
4 b for 2011, which are meant to be used on
5 2011 expenditures until tax revenue arrives.

6 This is the real reason why we are
7 running short on cash not because of the
8 2011 operating budget as amended by council.
9 We ran a hole last year, we just waited
10 until this year to pay it. We would have
11 ran out of money last year if we didn't take
12 the money from 2011 and go back and pay back
13 what we owed.

14 The discussion of the 2011 budget
15 seems to be the administration's way of
16 deflecting blame on council for mistakes
17 made in past budgets, and PEL stated that
18 there was a deficit at the end of 2010,
19 though when council tried to aid this by
20 reducing expenditures the administration
21 fought us in Court and they said everything
22 was fine. There would be no deficit. There
23 was nothing to worry about and that laying
24 off people or reducing any salaries would
25 cause irreparable harm to the city. Well, I

1 wonder if Mayor Doherty would eat his words
2 when rumors are spread around city hall of
3 massive layoffs, imagine the irreparable
4 harm he plans to cause there if he actually
5 puts that plan into fruition.

6 Okay, continuing on. Furthermore,
7 up until December's report former business
8 administrator, Mr. Renda, submitted reports,
9 as I said, that indicated that there
10 wouldn't be a shortfall, but in all
11 actuality there was. Whether or not council
12 made amendments to the 2011 operating budget
13 or not, we would be faced with the cash flow
14 problem that we are facing right now and
15 that's the bottom line and that's the truth.

16 Personally I'm not trying to point
17 the finger at the administration, however,
18 the facts speak for themselves, they are
19 easy to decipher. There is no secrets here
20 coming out of my mouth, only the truth is.
21 The secrets are hidden and, of course, the
22 Scranton Times refuses to report them.
23 These are the same facts that I explained to
24 the Scranton Times that didn't appear in
25 today's story. Money was paid out in 2011

1 for 2010 bills, nearly \$11.3 million in
2 January for TAN-B was paid back to cover --
3 or was paid in January to cover back the
4 TAN-b payment of 2010, as well as money that
5 needed to be paid back for the Worker's Comp
6 Trust Fund in 2010 that was borrowed,
7 however, we don't even have a clear picture
8 if that was ever paid back even though I
9 guess Mr. McGowan states it was, but
10 according to the documentation provided to
11 Mrs. Krake, it's not evident in those
12 accounts.

13 Well, since it has been shown in
14 Court that council cannot open the budget
15 and that laying off employees causes
16 irreparable harm to the city as per Judge
17 Mazzone's decision also year, a decision
18 does have to be made how to rectify our cash
19 flow situation not only for this year but
20 also for in the future. As per Section 909
21 of the Home Rule Charter, it's explicitly
22 stated that if a deficit shall develop or
23 should develop the mayor shall make
24 recommendations to the deficit for that
25 purpose. Council may reduce other

1 appropriations. Obviously, the decision
2 last year when the city ran out of money in
3 2010 was to pay back TAN-B with 2011 funds.
4 I am more than willing to listen to
5 suggestions and work with the administration
6 on their suggestions or basically hear them
7 out and see what they have to say, how are
8 they going to rectify this cash flow problem
9 that was created from prior year budgets.

10 The problem isn't being caused by
11 the 2011 budget, the problem is built up all
12 along, in 2010, in years previous, and
13 that's what the newspaper doesn't tell you,
14 so while they may have good articles on some
15 matters, this article is a bunch of garbage
16 and if you are sitting at home I suggest you
17 do what I do, (ripping paper). Take it and
18 rip it up and throw it in the recycle bin.

19 And last but not least, a couple
20 citizens' requests. A Scranton resident
21 reports that the section of the Warner
22 Street leading into Aztek in Minooka is in
23 subpar position, has various cracks in the
24 road coupled with potholes are making
25 driving positions difficult for all workers

1 at the facility. Mrs. Krake, could you
2 please forward this over to Mr. Brazil and
3 ask him to repair as soon as weather
4 permits.

5 And a Greenridge resident informed
6 me that the old Holly apartments building
7 located on the 400 East Market Street has
8 been blighted for quite sometime, and
9 furthermore, that city officials were out to
10 view the property and I believe they also
11 mentioned that it's condemned. Mrs. Krake,
12 can you please contact Mr. Seitzinger and
13 ask him if and when this property is
14 scheduled to be demolished, and that's it.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
16 evening. Following the passing of emergency
17 legislation last week, a store owner visited
18 our council office and requested a copy of
19 the city council's ordinances prohibiting
20 possession, sale, production and
21 distribution of these dangerous chemical
22 substances to adults and minors. He
23 commented that he would get around this and
24 continued to sell such substances only this
25 time in different forms under different

1 names.

2 However, our city clerk immediately
3 informed him that he would be in violation
4 of city laws since the ordinances also
5 prohibit the possession sale, production and
6 distribution of all derivatives.

7 Further, the Scranton police chief
8 stated in the Scranton Times that the city's
9 ordinances coupled with the countywide
10 injunction give his department teeth, bath
11 salts and synthetic marijuana, will be
12 considered contraband if seen by the police,
13 including during traffic stops.

14 Also, because local law enforcement
15 cannot enforce federal laws, 'You have to
16 have local jurisdiction," according to DEA
17 spokesmen Michael Cannon.

18 The man who drafted our city
19 ordinances and covered all of the basis to
20 halt this growing epidemic in our city and
21 empowered the city police department is
22 council solicitor Boyd Hughes. Of the many
23 articles I have read on this topic, Attorney
24 Hughes' name and work, like Mr. Loscombe's
25 name and work, fail to be mentioned. In

1 under a week this man produced laws that
2 were still on everyone else's to-do list.
3 He deserves our acknowledgement and our
4 gratitude.

5 Meanwhile, council continues to
6 await the movement of our city solicitor
7 toward RFP's for StreetSmart and for city's
8 insurance coverage.

9 Next, I observed several police cars
10 sitting at the DPW awaiting repairs. After
11 a second drive-by occurred, it was noted
12 that the same cars appeared to be parked
13 tore two weeks. After brief investigation,
14 I learned that the Scranton police seem to
15 have responded to over 14,200 calls since
16 the beginning of 2011. In light of this
17 tremendous number of calls, I am concerned
18 that police cars remain out of service for
19 far too long and that officers may have to
20 double up in cars which may impact the
21 number of calls addressed and the response
22 times. Our police officers cannot wait
23 weeks for vehicles repairs.

24 I am also aware that renege 2011
25 CDBG funds were allocated to the Scranton

1 Police Department for the purchase of
2 several vehicles. In addition, CDBG
3 applications were for 2012 allocations will
4 be available within the next few months and
5 I urge the police department to request
6 funding for the additional purchase of the
7 police cars, and as the public safety chair,
8 Mr. Loscombe, I ask that you would meet with
9 Chief Duffy, please, to discuss the problems
10 with the police car repairs, purchase in the
11 near fewer of police vehicles using 2011
12 CDBG funds, and the importance and urgency
13 of applying for additional CDBG funds in
14 2012.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Consider it done.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Next, city
17 council received a correspondence from PEL
18 late last week regarding city finances.
19 Beyond the long-term Doherty debt of over
20 \$300 million, another financial tsunami has
21 been building, another one since 2009 and
22 it's unacceptable that city councils, the
23 representatives of the people, were never
24 made aware of this. Only the Doherty
25 administration and the Pennsylvania Economy

1 League were involved in this very private
2 annual mess. I shutter to think that this
3 may have been done to force layoffs of
4 police, fire, clerical and DPW and to keep
5 PEL in business in our city.

6 I'd like to take you on a trip back
7 in time to the Connors' administration when
8 Councilmen Doherty sat in a seat right here
9 as finance chair. At year's end,
10 outstanding bills remained, no different
11 than the current predicament, in January of
12 the following year taxes for the previous
13 year continued to be received and the prior
14 year's bills were first paid through these
15 taxes. Any remaining bills were paid only
16 then through the use of tax anticipation
17 notes or TANS. Councilman Doherty and his
18 colleagues made very vocal weekly issues of
19 the Connors' administration inability to pay
20 prior year bills and held Mayor Connors'
21 feet to the fire to follow this payment
22 practice.

23 I wonder what Councilman Doherty
24 would do to a mayor, to Mayor Doherty, who
25 failed to pay TAN-B on time, and then

1 borrowed a new TAN the following year to pay
2 off the TAN borrowing from last year. Fast
3 forward to 2011. Apparently, this same
4 financial practice does not apply to the
5 Doherty administration and council must
6 remain in the dark so that they cannot take
7 issue with the Mayor Doherty's
8 mismanagement.

9 In January of 2011, the Doherty
10 administration with the blessings of PEL,
11 used over \$11.3 million in 2011 TANS to pay
12 off bills from 2010, including TAN-B series
13 2010 in addition TO \$5 million, which
14 Mr. McGowan states was repaid to the
15 Worker's Comp Trust Fund in 2011. As a
16 result, the city developed and over \$16
17 million budget hole in January right off the
18 top.

19 In addition, Mr. McGowan reports
20 increased health care costs above and beyond
21 the figures reported by the administration
22 in 2010 and used to draft the current
23 budget. As I said earlier, the chickens
24 have come home to roost and the ongoing
25 financial mismanagement hits the fan in

1 2011. The Doherty administration would do
2 well to remember that only council may
3 appropriate funding to address budget
4 deficits and the mayor must make
5 recommendations to council according to the
6 Charter and the Administrative Code.

7 Now, this never happened in 2009 and
8 2010 and none of these financial
9 maneuverings appear in the annual operating
10 budgets. Also, nothing appears in 2011 to
11 reflect the Doherty deficit with the
12 exception of cash reports and viewed
13 together this annual secrecy is a large part
14 of the cause of this mess.

15 To date, the Doherty administration
16 remains in violation of Article 6, Section
17 601 and 602 of the Administrative Code and
18 the Home Rule Charter which was granted
19 under state law, although, both the
20 administration, PEL and, in fact, I'll throw
21 in DCED, seem to ignore that fact.

22 Equally troubling and significant,
23 how can the Doherty administration and any
24 city council draft an accurate budget with
25 multi-million dollar secrets looming from a

1 previous year? How can a city controller
2 sign and pay contracts when she can only
3 base these expenditures on a budget that
4 never includes the Doherty deficit? Is
5 there even money in place for contracts,
6 particularly new contracts, when the
7 administration cries it will issue layoffs?

8 There has been absolutely no
9 accountability and no transparency in these
10 financial matters and as a result, the city
11 budgets to seem to be a joke.

12 This city council amended the 2011
13 operating budget by approximately 2 percent.
14 None of it's changes can even begin to
15 approach the current deficit figure created
16 by the Doherty administration with the
17 blessings of the Pennsylvania Economy
18 League. According to PEL, the city will run
19 short on cash during the third financial
20 quarter. This is not news since the city
21 has run short each of the previous two years
22 and used the Worker's Comp Trust Fund to
23 bail itself out secretly. Apparently, the
24 Worker's Comp Trust Fund surplus has been
25 treated as another checkbook of the mayor.

1 Fast and easy money to use without any
2 accountability or checks and balances.

3 Ironically, the mayor sued city
4 council last year for trying to cut the 2010
5 deficit, and as I noted much earlier in the
6 meeting, members of the Doherty
7 administration stated in the Lackawanna
8 County Court that the budget was balanced
9 and there was no deficit. As you know, that
10 was not the truth. It has since been
11 documented that a \$5 million deficit
12 existed.

13 In this current financial year,
14 however, the mayor must present his
15 recommendations to fill his budget deficit
16 to Scranton City Council as charged by the
17 charter and code and then council may make
18 the appropriations to address it. He cannot
19 address the budget deficit and amend the
20 budget in any manner without ordinances.

21 In the immediate future, both PEL
22 and city council agree that the mayor should
23 enforce revenue generators should as the
24 StreetSmart parking program and the rental
25 registration program, both of which he has

1 neglected. For example, very recently, an
2 apartment owner phoned the LIPS Office to
3 arrange to make a rental registration
4 payment and she was told by someone in the
5 office that they have no one to collect the
6 fees. It makes one question if the mayor's
7 cuts to city inspectors had stood, would the
8 entire LIPS Department have closed?

9 Also, I reviewed sole source
10 designations from 2009, 2010 and 2011 from
11 which contracts were awarded. Letters from
12 firms and department heads were accepted
13 without question and without any contact
14 with competing firms and RFP's were never
15 issued. In one case, the mere statements of
16 a supervisor and department head were
17 accepted as the determination for a sole
18 source provider. For some reason, however,
19 the Doherty administration didn't apply the
20 same practice to StreetSmart technology. It
21 appears to make it's own rules as it goes
22 along and in so doing has caused tremendous
23 harm to our city finances and it's good
24 people.

25 In order to attempt to keep on top

1 of the financial train wreck caused by this
2 administration, please send the following
3 letters, Mrs. Krake: To the city
4 controller, the total dollar amount paid to
5 four DPW casual workers from January 1,
6 2011, through April 15, 2011. Include
7 overtime. Council also requests the same
8 information for these same individual
9 employees from January 1, 2010, through
10 April 15, 2010, when they held supervisory
11 positions. Additionally, provide monthly
12 pay reports for each of the four DPW casual
13 workers including overtime and health
14 benefits beginning May 1, 2011.

15 The total dollar amounts of the
16 bi-weekly payments made to the mayor's
17 confidential secretary from January 1, 2011,
18 through April 15, 2011.

19 And to the business administrator,
20 provide justification by means of the
21 Administrative Code and the Home Rule
22 Charter for your use of the Worker's Comp
23 Trust Fund to pay TANS borrowed in a prior
24 fiscal year and to make payroll and other
25 pay invoices without ordinances and the

1 consent of the Scranton City Council. The
2 Worker's Comp Trust Fund account does not
3 appear in the operating budget within the
4 BA's Department.

5 And finally, I have several requests
6 for the week from citizens. The corner of
7 Meadow Avenue and River Street, the
8 intersection appears to have developed into
9 a used car lot business now. Although, the
10 white car was removed, an older model,
11 perhaps a late 1980's red Buick Regatta
12 without a license plate is now parked in the
13 same location complete with a "For Sale"
14 sign and the cell number of the owner. Can
15 this property be utilized as a used car
16 business?

17 Next, a third request regarding
18 837-839 Prescott Avenue. Residents of the
19 800 block of Prescott Avenue have been more
20 than patient. While awaiting response from
21 the Department of Licensing, Inspections and
22 Permits concerning this condemned property.
23 Although, in 2010 residents state that
24 Mr. Oleski promised to demolish this
25 property in the Spring of 2011, the Doherty

1 administration has since turned a deaf ear
2 to this neighborhood. Provide city council
3 with a written update on or before April 21,
4 2011.

5 Finish filling potholes on Boulevard
6 Avenue. The work was begun several weeks
7 ago and remains unfinished.

8 A homeowner reports that a red car,
9 and I do have the license plate number, Mrs.
10 Krake, that I'm not going to report it
11 publically, at 805 Market Street parks
12 beyond the "No parking here to corner" sign
13 when. Making a right turn from the stop
14 sign at Keyser Avenue onto Market Street
15 this vehicle blocks the view of oncoming
16 traffic. Please address as soon as
17 possible.

18 Hamm Court, potholes measured in
19 width four feet three inches to five feet
20 eight inches, and a homeowner's window pane
21 was broken by a rock that flew from a
22 pothole hit by a passing war. Now, I did
23 learn today that the empty lot in that area
24 will be cleaned up and that Linde
25 Construction will properly repair potholes

1 on Hamm Court within the next few weeks. I
2 certainly hope that that is accurate and I
3 ask the residents of Hamm Court to please
4 keep me abreast of that situation.

5 City residents report that the
6 traffic light at Lackawanna Avenue and
7 Seventh Avenue is causing lengthy traffic
8 tie ups. Vehicles wait through four lights
9 to get through this intersection. Residents
10 request an arrow light before the light
11 turns green, and that's it.

12 MR. ROGAN: Mrs. Evans, that last
13 request was actually one I forgot to mention
14 because I noticed that myself, and I think
15 the reason for that problem is because the
16 smaller Linden Street bridge is out.

17 MS. EVANS: Right. Well, it's been
18 bad --

19 MR. ROGAN: If they could readjust
20 the lights.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes. It was bad to
22 begin with because you have all of the
23 traffic from the Scranton High School early
24 in the morning and midafternoon, but it's
25 certainly been exacerbated by what you are

1 saying on Linden.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. This morning I was
3 coming down Linden and it took I think three
4 or four lights before I got through and the
5 traffic was all the way backed up to where
6 Kost Tire is, that's almost a whole block.
7 I don't if they could recalibrate the
8 lights, but then we would have the problem
9 from Scranton High School, so I have --

10 MS. EVANS: I know.

11 MR. ROGAN: It's a tough situation,
12 hopefully the bridge will be repaired
13 quickly.

14 MS. EVANS: Well, they are saying
15 that could take quite awhile as well.

16 MR. ROGAN: Hopefully not as long as
17 the Crisp Avenue bridge.

18 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

19 MR. JOYCE: Sorry, I don't mean to
20 interrupt, but, Mrs. Krake, in the midst of
21 talking about all of these budget and cash
22 flow matters, I did forget one request for
23 you. A resident asked me about the status
24 of the Larry Johnson memorial and in case
25 you don't know who Larry Johnson is, he is a

1 fine soldier that was killed in battle, and
2 I know that there was money left in the
3 budget for that memorial this year, so if
4 you could please contact Mr. Brazil. I
5 believe that's through -- well, it's through
6 the DPW and through the Bureau of Parks and
7 Rec and find out what the status of that is
8 because a few residents have contacted me
9 about that. That's all.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: No problem.

12 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT
13 THIS TIME. SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY
14 TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 26, 2011 - AN
15 ORDINANCE - REMOVAL OF PARKING METERS
16 LOCATED IN THE 200 AND 300 BLOCKS OF ARTHUR
17 AVENUE, BETWEEN MULBERRY AND LINDEN STREETS
18 AND IN THE 1700 AND 1800 BLOCKS OF MULBERRY
19 STREET AND IN THE 1700 AND 1800 BLOCKS OF
20 LINDEN STREET, AND THE 300 BLOCK OF COLFAX
21 AVENUE, AS MORE
22 PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE CORRESPONDENCE
23 AND ON THE DIAGRAM FROM COMMUNITY MEDICAL
24 CENTER ATTACHED HERETO AND THEREAFTER, TO
25 INSTITUTE DAILY PERMIT PARKING FOR COMMUNITY

1 MEDICAL CENTER EMPLOYEES.

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

4 MR. MCGOFF: I move that Item 6-A
5 pass reading by title.

6 MR. JOYCE: Second.

7

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: At this time I would
9 like to make a motion to amend Item 6-A for
10 the following amendments: Number one, amend
11 the fourth whereas clause by deleting, "Once
12 the meters are removed."

13 Number two would be amending the
14 sixth whereas clause by deleting, "Scranton
15 Parking Authority" and inserting the "City
16 of Scranton."

17 Number three, amending the seventh
18 whereas clause by deleting "Parking
19 Authority" and inserting "City of Scranton."

20 Number four, amending the second
21 line in the now therefore clause by deleting
22 "Removal of" and inserting on the fourth
23 line after Colfax Avenue, "Shall be bagged."

24 Number five, amending the last
25 paragraph of the now therefore clause after

1 CMC removal program by deleting, "Scranton
2 Parking Authority" on the first line and
3 "Parking Authority" on the third line and
4 inserting "City of Scranton" on both lines,
5 and also by adding on the last section after
6 October 15, on the last line, in quotations,
7 "Which shall be deposited into city account
8 number to be determined."

9 And that's the amendments.

10 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to
11 amend Item 6-A on the floor. Do we have a
12 second?

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question?

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question I
16 would just like to explain a little bit.
17 Next week we are looking to introduce
18 legislation providing for a separate account
19 for these meter funds. At this point we are
20 looking to set them aside for public safety
21 expenses in the event of layoffs and other
22 possible situations.

23 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add
24 that at last week's council meeting I
25 listened carefully to the comments and

1 suggestions offered by Mr. Sbaraglia
2 regarding the legislation, and as a result I
3 asked Solicitor Hughes to entertain amending
4 the legislation to include the following:

5 A termination date of December 31,
6 2011, or until such time as the employee
7 garage is repaired, whichever comes first.
8 Parking meters will not be removed from the
9 streets surrounding the hospitals since
10 metered marking will be enforced at the
11 termination of this agreement. The \$2000
12 per metered space permit parking fee will be
13 paid to the City of Scranton since the labor
14 of Scranton Parking Authority employees is
15 not required during the term of this
16 agreement.

17 Further, the money will be earmarked
18 at next week's meeting, placed into a
19 special account, and earmarked for the
20 specific purpose of public safety layoffs.

21 Now, I believe these changes will
22 better protect the city and the visitors of
23 the CMC, and if I might add, the parking
24 agreement, cooperation agreement, between
25 the City of Scranton and the Scranton

1 Parking Authority will also be amended in
2 the near future.

3 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Loscombe, is the
4 last one, does that place a limit on the
5 time?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry?

7 MR. ROGAN: Did the last section in
8 the amendment limit the amount of the time
9 where they would be bagged? I thought I
10 heard you say something like that.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Basically it just
12 gives the fact that it will be deposited in
13 the account in order to be determined at
14 this point.

15 MR. ROGAN: No, I think I support
16 the motion, this the first I have heard of
17 it so it's taking a little time to process,
18 I support the agree the city should get the
19 money, not the Parking Authority because
20 they don't have to patrol the spots.

21 MS. EVANS: And we would like to
22 keep the meters intact since at the end of
23 the agreement they can just once again
24 revert to metered parking spaces, so it
25 seems counterproductive to remove meters and

1 meter heads right now and then put them back
2 at the end of the year.

3 MR. JOYCE: Essentially it's a short
4 term fix.

5 MR. ROGAN: Do you have a copy of
6 the motion so I could read it?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Certainly. There is
8 some of the changes on there, too. Here's
9 the motion.

10 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
11 could I believe it's Section II of the
12 ordinance where it says, "This ordinance
13 shall be become effective immediately upon
14 approval."

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. HUGHES: You could add after
17 that to amend that, "And shall remain in
18 force until the CMC employee parking garage
19 opens or December 31, 2011, whichever comes
20 first."

21 MS. EVANS: Yes.

22 MR. HUGHES: I forgot to put that
23 in.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MR. HUGHES: But, I mean, that would

1 be another amendment and I believe that
2 would be in Section II because it would
3 become effectively upon approval and remain
4 in effect until.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, definitely.

6 MR. ROGAN: On the surface this
7 seems to make sense, I will still vote
8 against the final passage of the whole
9 package and I will explain those reasons on
10 the final vote, but I agree that the city
11 should get the money if the Parking
12 Authority has nothing to do with it.

13 MR. MCGOFF: May I make a request?
14 I believe that a year ago or whenever this
15 council took their seats we asked that any
16 amendments be presented, you know, in
17 writing prior, you know, to being introduced
18 on the floor. As Mr. Rogan stated, it's the
19 first time anybody is hearing this and it's
20 difficult to process, you know, while we are
21 sitting here. I just ask that in the
22 future, you know, things like just if they
23 are put in writing and given to council
24 before we are here on the floor it would be
25 much easier to deal with. That's all.

1 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
2 All those in favor of the motion to amend
3 Item 6-A signify by saying aye.

4 MR. MCGOFF: 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. Now, all those in
10 favor of item 6-A --

11 MR. ROGAN: On the question;
12 correct?

13 MS. EVANS: Pardon?

14 MR. ROGAN: Can't we speak on the
15 question for the entire legislation -- the
16 entire basis?

17 MS. EVANS: Yes, then I believe we
18 would be on the question because the sixth
19 order motion was made and seconded.

20 MR. ROGAN: On the question, as I
21 said last week, I voted against this last
22 week and I am voting against this again this
23 week, and basically since CMC's one of the
24 parking lots needs maintenance they need 150
25 spots for their employees to park, and this

1 legislation, if it passes, would remove 72
2 double spots and four single -- or five
3 single spots, approximately 150 spaces,
4 metered spaces, from around the hospital.

5 The metered spaces were generally
6 used by visitors to the hospital for
7 short-term stays or staying an hour or two
8 hours and feed the matter, and no need to
9 park in the garage. Now, what they want to
10 do is they want to charge \$4 per visitor to
11 park in CMC's garage because the metered
12 spots would all be used by the employees.

13 Now, obviously, it would cost more
14 money for somebody for a short-term visit to
15 visit somebody in the hospital. What seems
16 to me to be the better solution for CMC, and
17 I obviously don't work for CMC, would just
18 be to let their employees park in the other
19 garage and leave the meters for visitors.
20 If they have a separate garage why charge
21 the residents to park in this garage and use
22 the metered spots when they could just have
23 their employees park in the other garage and
24 the people could still park at the metered
25 spots like they always have for a number of

1 years?

2 MS. EVANS: I think one of their
3 concerns involves outpatients, the
4 outpatients which average maybe I believe
5 according to the responses they forwarded to
6 us maybe 120 daily, an outpatients receive
7 free parking within the visitor's parking
8 lot, so that if you were transforming that
9 into an employee parking then, you know, you
10 are potentially creating a problem for the
11 outpatient who are visiting the hospital on
12 short-term stays.

13 MR. ROGAN: And it does say the
14 outpatient's parking is free for outpatients
15 and they are also using parking at Nay Aug;
16 am I correct?

17 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

18 MR. ROGAN: So that they want the
19 whole section?

20 MS. EVANS: No, I don't think it's a
21 matter of that, but I think we have to
22 remember as well that the meters have been
23 bagged since I believe May 2010. This isn't
24 something that is going to happen, the only
25 difference is going to be the permit parking

1 and the increase in revenue that the city is
2 going to realize from this agreement for
3 2011 versus I think what was occurring in
4 the previous year, but no one has been able
5 to park at those meters for close to a year
6 now regardless.

7 MR. ROGAN: Well, I was already
8 always under the impression if a meter was
9 bagged you could still park there, but you
10 just didn't have to feed the meter because I
11 know downtown I have parked at bagged meters
12 numerous times.

13 MS. EVANS: No, they had --

14 MR. ROGAN: They said -- I know they
15 would put up permit parking, and CMC will
16 give the employees a permit, and it would be
17 just for the CMC employees.

18 MS. EVANS: Um-hum, for this year.

19 MR. ROGAN: For this year, and
20 visitors would be forced to either park
21 numerous blocks away or park --

22 MS. EVANS: Well, basically that's
23 what's already occurring.

24 MR. ROGAN: And we're just giving it
25 our okay.

1 MS. EVANS: And it has been since
2 May. Well, we are giving it our okay
3 because we are putting limits on it and
4 saying it must conclude by this time, that,
5 you know, we will receive \$2,000 per metered
6 space, which will give us I think quite an
7 increase over what's been paid in 2010, and
8 in addition to that we are saying those
9 parking meters are going to stay, so let's
10 not get too accustomed to this situation.

11 MR. ROGAN: I agree with the
12 amendment and I voted for it, which is what
13 you are talking about, but I'm just talking
14 about the whole piece of legislation and I
15 know Mr. Joyce mentioned last week that
16 \$2,000 is right around the right numbers if
17 they were full for the entire day.

18 MR. JOYCE: For eight hours.

19 MR. ROGAN: If they were full for
20 eight hours, obviously, they were not full
21 for eight hours, but now we won't be
22 receiving money on tickets from those spots,
23 so I would say call it a wash. Bringing in
24 -- we would be getting extra money because
25 they are not fully eight hours a day, you

1 would get a little bit extra money on that,
2 but you would see zero in the tickets.

3 MS. EVANS: Well, actually it's not
4 a wash though because you are not going to
5 be paying anything to the Parking Authority
6 now. The city -- the money will come
7 directly to the city because it requires no
8 longer the involvement of the Parking
9 Authority. There are no meters to empty.
10 There are no meters to maintain. They are
11 just -- they have been bagged for quite
12 awhile, so that the services of the Parking
13 Authority are no longer required, hence,
14 their 10 percent is no longer required.

15 MR. ROGAN: Well, the 10 percent on,
16 you know, obviously I want to save every
17 penny we could, but at the same time I don't
18 want to quadruple the rate for somebody to
19 visit somebody in a hospital for a 20-minute
20 stay, which is basically what this would be
21 doing if they were forced to park in the
22 garage.

23 MS. EVANS: Well, the I think the
24 bottom line though, I see what you are
25 saying and I do agree \$4 is a tremendous

1 amount of money to ask for let's say one
2 hour's parking, it's different if you there
3 all day or you are there for overnight, but
4 regardless of the situation, you know, you
5 can say "no" to the legislation but the
6 practice is going to continue. The \$4 will
7 not be changed in the parking garage what
8 they are charging and, you know, we are
9 going to have the same situation that's been
10 prevalent since May 2010, and so we can very
11 well be losing money on it.

12 MR. ROGAN: I just, you know, when
13 he came in I thought that we all agreed that
14 was one of the sticking points was that they
15 didn't charge an hourly rate, they charged a
16 flat fee. And I said then and I said it now
17 if they didn't change that I wasn't going to
18 vote for it. It's not fair for them, first
19 of all, to have their employees parking at
20 Nay Aug Park, ask the city to give them
21 permission for 150 spots on the street,
22 which they are giving us the money that they
23 should have paid for, as well as increasing
24 the charge the person will be paying more
25 that goes for a visit. It just doesn't make

1 sense to me.

2 MS. EVANS: Well, again, I agree
3 with you, but we did get a slight concession
4 of sorts or a concession of sorts in that
5 prior to the public caucus with I think it
6 was Mr. Markowski of CMC \$4 was charged
7 regardless of how many times per day you
8 entered and exited that parking garage and
9 so there has been a change in that \$4, yes,
10 is still charged, but now it can be \$4 for a
11 24-hour period and if you are coming and
12 going throughout the day you will receive a
13 pass so that it's no longer necessary to
14 keep paying \$4 again and again and again
15 throughout the day.

16 MR. ROGAN: And for somebody who say
17 they are going to stop by five, six times a
18 day, obviously that helps them, but somebody
19 who goes once for a half hour or once for an
20 hour. Let's just vote.

21 MR. MCGOFF: I actually agree with
22 you on some of the points, so it's a
23 difficult situation. I think what the
24 problem on it is the extent or the large
25 number of meters. You know, if that number

1 had been reduced and somehow, you know, we
2 can reverse where the parking was it may
3 have made more sense, but, you know, it
4 would be half.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes, and I don't believe
6 we requested that, unfortunately, of Mr.
7 Markowski during the public hearing -- or
8 the public caucus, excuse me. All those in
9 favor of Item 6-A, as amended, signify by
10 saying aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

12 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

14 MR. ROGAN: No.

15 MR. MCGOFF: No.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
19 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
20 DEVELOPMENT FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 19,
21 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
22 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO GRANT A
23 SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO PIZZA BY
24 PAPPAS TO OPERATE AN OUTDOOR RESTAURANT AT
25 303 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,

1 PENNSYLVANIA.

2 MS. EVANS: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chair for the
4 Committee on Community Development?

5 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Community Development, I
7 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

22 If there is no further business,
23 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

24 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

25 MS. EVANS: Meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER