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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, MAY 3, 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
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here. Before we proceed
14 with tonight's meeting, council has a
15 Proclamation for a wonderful Eagle Scout
16 that we would like to present to him and his
17 parents this evening, so if you would come
18 forward, please.

19 (Scott Grassi comes forward to
20 receive the Proclamation.)

21 WHEREAS, the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
22 SCRANTON is desirous of honoring "SCOTT
23 GRASSI", son of Brian and Eileen Grassi and
24 brother of Daniel and Christopher; and

25 WHEREAS, "SCOTT" IS sophomore at

1 Scranton High School and a member of the
2 National Honor Society; and

3 WHEREAS, "SCOTT" has been playing
4 baseball since he was a very young boy from
5 T-ball to the 15-16 Year Old East Scranton
6 Teener League; and

7 WHEREAS, "SCOTT" is a proud member
8 of Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Boy
9 Scout Troop 16, of the Northeastern
10 Pennsylvania Council, Dan Beard District
11 located in Scranton, Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, "SCOTT" began his scouting
13 career as a Tiger Cub, worked his way up
14 through the ranks of Cub Scouts, and earned
15 the Arrow of Light Award; and

16 WHEREAS, "SCOTT" attended the Great
17 Expectations and great Medicines courses and
18 upon completion volunteered to help teach
19 and is currently on the staff of Great
20 Medicines and will be on staff at the Boy
21 Scouts Goose Pond Summer Camp for 2011, and

22 WHEREAS, "SCOTT" for his Eagle Scout
23 Project cleaned out, repaired and
24 refurbished the original boys' locker room
25 area at the Elm Park United Methodist Church,

1 which was then converted to the maintenance
2 department at the church. Scott also built
3 shelves to help with the organization of
4 this department; and

5 WHEREAS, "SCOTT" passed his Eagle
6 Scout Board of Review on March 16, 2011,
7 attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, the
8 highest award a scout can receive.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
10 on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, Scranton City
11 Council wishes to congratulate "SCOTT
12 GRASSI", his Family, Scout Leaders and
13 Teachers for their outstanding achievements
14 and extend our best wishes for success in
15 all their future endeavors.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this
17 Proclamation be made a permanent part of the
18 Minutes of this Council, as lasting tribute
19 to "SCOTT GRASSI".

20 You are certainly a credit to your
21 family, to the Scranton School District and
22 to the City of Scranton. I know that we
23 have had this particular family here not too
24 long ago because another son also achieved
25 the rank of Eagle Scout. What wonderful

1 parents they have and scout leaders.

2 (Council returns to the dais.)

3 MS. EVANS: Dispense with the
4 reading of the minutes.

5 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.
6 MINUTES OF THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD'S
7 REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 23, 2011.

8 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
9 If not, received and filed.

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
11 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION
12 MEETING HELD MARCH 23, 2011.

13 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
14 If not, received and filed.

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE
16 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND
17 MEETING HELD MARCH 23, 2011.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE
21 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD MAY
22 11, 2011.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE

1 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION FUND

2 MEETING HELD APRIL 27, 2011.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

4 If not, received and filed.

5 Do any council members have
6 announcements at this time?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have one. On
8 Saturday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. there will an
9 astronomy day at the Thomas G. Cupillary
10 Observatory sponsored by the Lackawanna
11 Astronomical Society. Sunspots, solar
12 prominences, lunar graters and Saturn's
13 rings can be seen through the telescopes.
14 It's a free program with free admission.
15 The observatory is located at the
16 intersection of Route 107 and Hack Road. To
17 get to the observatory from Interstate 81,
18 take Exit 202 and head towards Fleetville.
19 At 1.8 miles from Interstate 81 turn left
20 onto Hack Road and you will see the
21 observatory. That's all I have.

22 MR. ROGAN: It's not an
23 announcement, I'd like to take this time to
24 thank our troops, President Obama, President
25 Bush for their brave work over the last ten

1 years to finally bring justice to Osama Bin
2 Laden.

3 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
4 The Mountain View Care Center Auxiliary will
5 conduct a purse and jewelry sale, a money
6 raffle, and a bake sale on Friday, May 6,
7 that's this Friday, from 2 p.m. to 6:00
8 p.m., and Saturday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 4
9 p.m. at the facility located at 2309
10 Stafford Avenue, Scranton.

11 I'd like to wish all the wonderful
12 women in our community a very happy Mother's
13 Day, and to my own very dear mother, thank
14 you for the never ending love you have given
15 me, the priceless lessons of the importance
16 of faith, family, education and integrity,
17 the daily help with my children so that I
18 could pursue my education and better provide
19 for them, and for being my life-long best
20 friend. I love you more, mom. Happy
21 Mother's Day. And that's it.

22 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
23 PARTICIPATION.

24 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
25 evening is Les Spindler.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
2 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
3 homeowner and taxpayer.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MR. SPINDLER: I, too, want to
6 commend our brave Navy Seals who killed a
7 person who was responsible for almost 3,000
8 deaths of Americans citizens. They did a
9 great job and I think President Obama
10 continuing to go after these men, and I
11 commend all of the men and women who are
12 fighting for our freedoms and giving us the
13 freedom of speech to come here tonight. God
14 bless America.

15 Now, onto business. Mr. McGoff, two
16 weeks ago you said you didn't vote for
17 closing city fire stations or brownouts, but
18 did you ever go to the mayor and tell him
19 that you thought this was a bad idea and it
20 was a public safety hazard to the citizens
21 of this city?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Do you want a response
23 to that or is that just rhetorical?

24 MR. SPINDLER: No, I want a
25 response.

1 MR. MCGOFF: Well, sometimes you
2 don't, I wasn't sure. I have spoken to him,
3 yes.

4 MR. SPINDLER: Pardon me?

5 MR. MCGOFF: I have spoken to him,
6 yes.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Well, what did he
8 say?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I think his actions is
10 his response.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I think it just
12 goes to show you don't tell him what to do
13 he tells you what to do.

14 Second thing, Mr. McGoff, when you
15 were a teacher were you in the union?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I was.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. If you were
18 let go and replaced by a non-union teacher,
19 what do you think the union would do?

20 MR. MCGOFF: If I was replaced by a
21 non-union teacher?

22 MR. SPINDLER: Yes.

23 MR. MCGOFF: I have no idea.

24 Actually, I was replaced when I was union
25 teacher, so --

1 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I think they
2 are --

3 MR. MCGOFF: And the union didn't do
4 much about it, so.

5 MR. SPINDLER: Well, I think they
6 would probably picket or strike.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

8 MR. SPINDLER: They would probably
9 picket or strike.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I was on strike with
11 the Scranton Federation of teachers.

12 MR. SPINDLER: That's not what I'm
13 talking about.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Well, I'm just -- you
15 were asking questions and I--

16 MR. SPINDLER: I'm talking about if
17 a non-union person took your job, they would
18 picket or strike. Police officers can't
19 picket or strike, so their only way of doing
20 things is filing a grievance and for you to
21 do what you did last week just shows that
22 you are totally non-union and I hope all of
23 the union people in the city remember that
24 two weeks from today.

25 Moving on, a picture in the paper

1 last week about Officer Brennan McDermott
2 saving a family's life in South Side, seeing
3 that their house was on fire and knocking on
4 their door when they were all sleeping and
5 making sure they got out alive, and it's
6 great that they had his picture in the
7 paper, but what bothers me is where Chief
8 Duffy's picture in the paper, too. Chief
9 Duffy had nothing to do with this, why
10 didn't he give this kid his one minute of
11 glory, let him be in the picture by himself.
12 Chief Duffy is nothing but a glory hound.
13 His picture is in the paper all of the time
14 on the news, that's -- I guess I should go
15 on TV and be a comedian, Mr. McGoff, since
16 you think it's so funny.

17 MR. MCGOFF: I do.

18 MR. SPINDLER: It's very
19 disrespectful. Again, he is nothing but a
20 glory hound. This kid did something great,
21 he should be honored and Chief Duffy had no
22 reason to have his picture in the paper.

23 Lastly, I brought this up before
24 about my corner being flooded and it was
25 fixed last year and I guess it eroded away

1 and now with all of the rain we had it's
2 totally washed away so now we are going to
3 get severe thunderstorms tonight maybe and
4 it's -- my property just continues to get
5 flooded, so I know council did put a request
6 in and maybe we can send another request or
7 something.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes. Absolutely. We
9 will follow-up.

10 MR. SPINDLER: And last week with
11 all the rain all almost of the stuff got
12 washed away, so it's just all water,
13 everything. Thank you for your time.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Spindler? I did
16 speak to Mr. Skeleton regarding your corner
17 and he is going to look at a couple of
18 issues with me next week and we are going to
19 go visit that again. He had a concern about
20 the elevation difference for, you know, the
21 curb and the handicapped and that looking at
22 it.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Well, there is --
24 they left -- they made a ramp last year
25 which is still there.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah. So he took --

2 MR. SPINDLER: But the curbing they
3 put in that all washed away.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah, we are going to
5 address that.

6 MR. SPINDLER: It's still
7 handicapped accessible.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay.

9 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Andy Sbaraglia.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I
13 read a little article in the paper about the
14 Comp Fund I guess it was saying that it was
15 fully funded on January 30, but that fund
16 couldn't have been funded on December 31, it
17 should have been underfunded. Why put an
18 article in there like that? In other words,
19 make you look bad, Janet. When you said the
20 fund was underfunded it was underfunded, and
21 saying it was fully funded on January 30
22 is-- that's foolish.

23 Okay, I was talking to the DPW
24 people, okay, and I promised I would say a
25 word for them. When you talk about a safety

1 net, the safety net considered is consists
2 of the firemen, policemen and the sanitary
3 workers. They are all part of the safety
4 net. If they didn't put pick up the refuge
5 we would be overrun with rats and God knows
6 what else, so I promised, being nobody
7 mentioned them, I would mention them when I
8 came before you. And, like I said, I would
9 rather a policemen's job, a firemen's job,
10 but I don't think I would want to work on
11 the sanitation's job. Them poor people are
12 out there and it's freezing, when it's 100
13 degrees in the sun. Believe me, I have a
14 lot of -- I feel for them under them
15 conditions.

16 I see it's back on the agenda, I
17 guess you should be voting tonight about the
18 acquiring the land, the road, up there at
19 Mount Pleasant. I told you before, for two
20 bucks I'd gladly give it to you, because to
21 take over that road at this condition is a
22 liability to the city. There is too much
23 that has to go over it. That's why we have
24 to get rid of it. I don't blame them. I
25 wouldn't want to retain that road no matter

1 what. They got to be plowed, they got to be
2 cindered, they got to be repaired from all
3 of these heavy trucks that's going to be
4 going over this road, plus you know it's
5 built on a down -- I don't think you would
6 know. I do because I used to play there,
7 okay? The mine used to be up there, Mt.
8 Pleasant Mine was on top where it is now
9 right up there, where Mount Pleasant is now
10 the water used to run down for the sewer
11 system, and I guess it was filled. That's
12 what was there.

13 How steady is that? Well, I guess
14 it goes more steadier than anywhere else in
15 the city, but I believe we should take care
16 of the roads that we already own rather than
17 taking on more liability. I can understand
18 the point of the Chamber. Actually, if you
19 vote for it you would probably get invited
20 to hear the mayor's speech being you are not
21 invited there, but anyway --

22 MR. ROGAN: I doubt that,
23 Mr. Sbaraglia, we haven't been invited to
24 anything.

25 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, you vote for

1 this you probably will be because that saves
2 them thousands and thousands of dollars to
3 maintain that road, and -- well, like I say,
4 I promised I would talk about the
5 sanitation. Everything else is pretty well
6 cut and dry. The only thing is the road and
7 the poor sanitation workers. Thank you.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
9 Mr. Sbaraglia.

10 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Attorney Hughes, could
12 you just comment briefly again on the
13 acceptance of the road and the storm drain
14 at the Mount Pleasant Industrial Park, the
15 agreement that was reached with the Chamber
16 of Commerce?

17 MR. HUGHES: Yes, Madam president.
18 In accordance with the Pennsylvania
19 Municipalities Planning Code, the road when
20 it was built to specifications would be
21 accepted by the city, the road was accepted
22 by the city engineer, it was built according
23 to specifications as required by the city.
24 There is a cul de sac put at the end of the
25 road which means that the city will be able

1 to receive liquid fuels tax for it, and as a
2 result of what's in the MCP, it's also in
3 the city's subdivision land development
4 ordinance known as SALDO that the city upon
5 acceptance of the road can require the
6 developer to place a performance bond or
7 maintenance bond up to 15 percent off -- I'm
8 sorry, 15 -- I'm going from memory now, 15
9 percent of the cost of the road for a period
10 of 18 months after it's accepted.

11 I had the figures last week and I
12 read them off. The road cost I believe it
13 was close to \$150,000, 15 percent was
14 \$22,500, the road cost a little bit more, it
15 might have been \$164,000, it came to like
16 \$24,000. The Chamber is coming up with a
17 bond of \$25,000 as a maintenance bond to the
18 city for a period of 18 months. The road is
19 built according to the city's specifications
20 and in accordance with the plan that was
21 approved for the Mount Pleasant development
22 up there the city is obligated under the MCP
23 to accept the road.

24 As to the storm sewers, the storm
25 sewers it's the same type of requirement,

1 commission from the city for the acceptance
2 of the roads and the sewer systems upon
3 completion.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.
5 Lee E. Morgan.

6 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

7 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

8 MR. MORGAN: The first thing I have
9 to say is I would like to thank council for
10 allowing candidates last week to come in and
11 sign to come to the tax group here in
12 council chambers and participate. With
13 ECTV's help and the council's help I think
14 it was a very good thing that council did,
15 and once again, the Scranton/Lackawanna
16 County Taxpayers' and Citizens' Association
17 is going to allow more candidates to come in
18 on this Thursday starting at 6:00 on the
19 county level and various other offices that,
20 you know, whether it's school board or
21 magisterial races, there is an awful lot of
22 candidates, county commissioner candidates,
23 etcetera, coming in.

24 So I would just like it say that
25 it's been a really very positive experience

1 in my opinion, and I think it's informed a
2 lot of people on a lot of the ways that the
3 candidates see the office they are running
4 for and what changes they want to make and,
5 you know, I just -- with that said I would
6 just like to say that I find ECTV to be a
7 very valuable instrument to the city, and
8 today reading the newspaper we see they are
9 in trouble still and, you know, I don't know
10 where their funding is going to come from
11 because evidently they have no money, but
12 maybe council and the mayor could sit down
13 and try to find some funding stream because
14 I think if we were to lose that channel it
15 would be, you know, very detrimental to the
16 community, so I just hope that council and
17 the mayor would maybe sit down and try and
18 come up with an agreement until something
19 happens with the contract with the franchise
20 fee.

21 And the other thing I would like to
22 say tonight is, you know, last week I wanted
23 to come to the podium and say a couple of
24 things, but my son had an appointment so I
25 had to leave before then, but I just hope

1 that the city doesn't really consider some
2 of the things that's said in the newspaper
3 whether it's privatization of DPW or, ou
4 know, some kind of leasing of the Scranton
5 Sewer Authority again like we had with
6 American Anglican, I think the city has got
7 a real hard road to travel and I don't -- I
8 really have to be honest, you know, that you
9 are sitting in a really tough situation here
10 and there probably aren't a lot of good
11 answers out there, but I just hope we don't
12 go back to the past because I don't see what
13 the agreement with the Scranton Sewer
14 Authority did for the city in the long-run,
15 and that's not a political thing for me
16 that's just, you know, when you take a look
17 at what's occurred and where we are, you
18 know, the same thing with leasing the
19 Parking Authority buildings, I think if
20 anything we should wait until they are at
21 their maximum value maybe and sell them off
22 as long as we can pay all the notes off.

23 The city needs jobs and the council
24 would hopefully with the Chamber of Commerce
25 and hopefully with the mayor sit down and

1 come up with a plan like the Scranton Plan
2 or another plan and begin the process of
3 creating economic development in the city.
4 Council didn't like the SAPA plan, I liked
5 that plan, but council didn't, but we need a
6 plan and I just hope council would sit down
7 with all of the parties involved and, you
8 know, when you take a look at some of the
9 statements even Wal-Mart has made lately
10 that people have no money at the end of the
11 month. In the beginning of the month people
12 are spending, and by the end of the month
13 they have no money. The mall is in trouble.
14 You know, how can the mall be successful if
15 the people in the city have no money and I
16 just think that's the key to everything.

17 Even Martin Luther King realized
18 that the most important thing of all was
19 employment and that that was the thing that
20 empowered people, and that's why he went to
21 Memphis, you know, and I just hope that, you
22 know, council really take a good hard look
23 at that in this election year, and even if
24 it wasn't an election year, because really
25 honestly and truthfully that is the city's

1 problem the lack of, I don't know, family
2 sustaining employment, any employment at
3 this time, it's not just a unique problem
4 with the City of Scranton. So, you know, I
5 really appreciate your time. Thank you.

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

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
9 South Scranton resident and member of the
10 Taxpayers' Association. I have reached my
11 limit on this budget issue and financial
12 issues in Scranton. Someone is responsible
13 for this disaster and the buck must stop
14 somewhere. The elected officials of
15 Scranton and all appointed cabinet members
16 and section heads must come together and
17 resolve this mess asap, as soon as possible.

18 The Taxpayers, citizens and voters
19 have listened to the ongoing path battles
20 for far too long. I do not want to hear
21 that it is this person's fault or that
22 person's fault. What I want to hear are
23 logical and real solutions to the problems.
24 As a citizen of Scranton, I am no longer
25 asking for the executive branch and the

1 legislature branch to answer or the city
2 government to get together, I am demanding
3 that they get together and work together.

4 I neither an accountant nor an
5 elected official of Scranton, but I am a
6 resident of Scranton who pays his taxes on
7 time and demands protection, service,
8 courtesy and truthfulness all city
9 employees, appointees and elected officials
10 which include Mayor Doherty and city
11 council.

12 The mayor has hidden behind the
13 Times-Tribune and has appointed business
14 administrators and cabinet members plus
15 council members who were rubber stampers for
16 his every wish. He addresses the Chamber of
17 Commerce every year with the annual state of
18 the city address by invitation only.

19 Mr. Mayor, I demand that you address
20 the residents of this city about the
21 truthful financial situation of this city.
22 I want to know without a doubt how much debt
23 we, the taxpayers, must pay because of the
24 decades of mismanagement by our local
25 elected officials.

1 Scranton elected city controller
2 must become more involved in the management
3 off the city, checkbook and do what the job
4 requires. Manning excuses can no longer be
5 tolerated any longer. Mrs. Novembrino must
6 address the taxpayers and voters of Scranton
7 in person, not through the newspaper.

8 Mayor Doherty, Mr. McGowan and
9 Mrs. Novembrino should schedule a public
10 televised meeting and address the city's
11 financial problems and make recommendations
12 on how they plan on resolving the massive
13 problems and their plans on how they plan on
14 resolving the massive problems and their
15 plans on how they plan on raising and having
16 the distressed city status removed. This
17 must be accomplished immediately with
18 openness and transparency. No more hiding
19 in the city clerk's office away from the
20 public view.

21 A memo to Chris Kelly,
22 Times-Tribune, I agree with you the mayor
23 has played too cute with the city finances
24 and must now make the hard decisions
25 required of a leader. The only problem

1 being Mayor Doherty has shown no leadership
2 ability in nine years and neither has his
3 cabinet members and rubber stampers on city
4 council, especially Mr. McGoff who is the
5 only remaining member of the city council
6 presently from the Doherty three.

7 I also agree that the money to be
8 rewarded the union is not there. Why you
9 must ask, because it has been wasted by
10 Mayor Doherty and the rubber stampers
11 throughout the years. I have asked the
12 mayor on several occasions either personally
13 or from the podium where the money has gone.
14 As of today, May 2, 2011, I still have not
15 received an answer. I asked city council
16 for answers last week, still waiting. Maybe
17 this week someone will answer this very
18 important question, where has the money
19 gone?

20 We had a 25 percent tax increase,
21 that alone should have made a difference.
22 Tax revenue should have increased and
23 budgets should have been balanced. They
24 were not balanced, but we did have the 25
25 percent tax increase. Someone should

1 explain that, especially the person who
2 voted for it.

3 Mr. McGoff, if you are serious about
4 cooperation between the mayor and council,
5 bring your friend, Mayor Doherty, to the
6 council meeting and have the mayor discuss
7 his proposals for turning the city's
8 financial situation around. Also, invite
9 Judge Mazzone attend. I would like to hear
10 his rationale on his decision to side with
11 Mayor Doherty and go against the residents
12 of Scranton.

13 Also recommend to the mayor that the
14 administration should hold a public meeting
15 in the Scranton High School auditorium open
16 to all residents and have ECTV televise a
17 town hall meeting live and shown on a daily
18 basis during prime time slots. This way
19 more residents will get the message, that
20 is, if you are really serious. I am, I just
21 made the proposal.

22 I was glad to see that city council
23 rewrote the letter requesting that the
24 police union drop the grievance against
25 police Chief Duffy. I was present 19 April

1 2011 when Sergeant Martin addressed city
2 council on this issue, never once did I hear
3 Sergeant Martin attack or discredit Chief
4 Duffy. Chief Duffy, in my opinion is doing
5 a good job as chief. He may be a little too
6 eager, but I am seeing results. The word on
7 the street is stay the hell out of Scranton
8 if you want to sell or distribute drugs or
9 urinate in public. Also, be extra-vigilant,
10 the chief of police could just stumble or
11 run up on you while you are committing a
12 crime. Uniform is optional.

13 Mr. Loscombe. In my opinion you
14 were within your rights to answer the
15 Times-Tribune's questions last week.
16 Mr. McGoff has given three campaign speeches
17 in a row. Two years ago when Mrs. Gatelli
18 and Ms. Fanucci gave campaign speeches every
19 week to council president, Mr. McGoff, never
20 intervened or stopped the two councilwomen
21 from making their campaign speeches. What's
22 good for one is good for all.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
25 Mr. Jackowitz. Doug Miller.

1 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,
2 Doug Miller, Scranton.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. MILLER: I'd like to begin this
5 evening, if I may, by responding to the
6 editorial that we saw in Sundays Times. If
7 you can recall in the past, candidates were
8 precluded from addressing council at it's
9 weekly meetings. However, that issue was
10 challenged in Court by a city resident and
11 successfully overturned. Therefore,
12 candidates were then permitted to address
13 council. The Times editorial headline, "The
14 dog ate it's homework" states that
15 Councilman Loscombe launched into a
16 political speech answering the questions
17 posed by Times staff writer Josh Mrozinski.
18 It further states that Council President
19 Evans should afford equal time to other
20 candidates at future council meetings and
21 that there should also be an open
22 microphone.

23 With that said, I've rarely seen any
24 candidate come before council, yet now a
25 select few want to whine because they missed

1 out on an opportunity to come forward in the
2 past as private citizens. The microphone is
3 and always will be open here. Councilman
4 Loscombe did not ignore the questions posed
5 to him, he answered them, though perhaps not
6 to the Times' liking. He was the public
7 forum that is open to all including
8 Mr. McGoff and Mr. Wechler who can come up
9 here and discuss issues such as why
10 Mr. McGoff raised taxes 26 percent and why
11 Mr. Wechler stood by as plant manager while
12 his company hired illegal aliens over
13 Scranton residents.

14 Our government is a form of
15 government based on free speech and luckily
16 for us we get five minutes of it even though
17 in the past, for the most part, those five
18 minutes were like whispering into the wind
19 because our statements fell on deaf ears and
20 the pounding of the gavel drowned our words.

21 Mr. McGoff recently issued a
22 statement on his Facebook page regarding the
23 conduct at council. It states here, "By
24 friends of Bob McGoff, Wednesday, April 27,
25 2011, 2:32 p.m. The campaign is heating up.

1 Opponents are using council meetings to
2 conduct their campaign and resorting to name
3 calling to enhance themselves. Neither of
4 the aforementioned tactics will be part of
5 my campaign. My four years on council have
6 been marked by respect for the office and
7 respect for the people that hold office.
8 Council meetings are about government, not
9 politics and about respectful discourse, not
10 attempts at public humiliation. What do you
11 want from your city council? It's your
12 decision on May 17."

13 We, as citizens, all come to take
14 part in our government and, yes, Mr. McGoff,
15 it is about respect, but unfortunately, when
16 you were council president and even councils
17 before you, residents were gaveled down,
18 laughed at and made a mockery of. We also
19 had armed guards here in the back, and I was
20 never quite sure who was exactly being
21 protected, the residents or council members.
22 It must have been council because I can only
23 recall residents being dragged out of here.

24 When you hold yourself as a public
25 official, there is no such thing as privacy.

1 It's called being held accountable and
2 citizens have a right to demand
3 accountability from their elected officials.
4 Mr. McGoff, these meetings are not used for
5 public humiliation they are used to address
6 public concerns, and if you do feel
7 humiliated then that means you didn't do the
8 job you were elected to do. You and
9 Mr. Wechler want to run this city, yet not
10 once in my ten years of participation at
11 council meetings can I even recall
12 Mr. Wechler coming to this podium on behalf
13 of the residents of this city nor did I ever
14 see you, Mr. McGoff, come forward until you
15 were politically appointed.

16 I take personal offense to the
17 statements you made to Councilman Loscombe
18 last week. You and Mr. Wechler had the
19 opportunity to address council as private
20 citizens. In fact, Mr. McGoff, if you would
21 like you can address council right here at
22 this very same podium. You can even run
23 back to your council seat if you'd like and
24 answer your questions, and even for the sake
25 of saving time and keeping within the

1 five-minute time frame, you can even bounce
2 back and forth on the administration's
3 rubber stamp if you like.

4 I believe actions speak louder than
5 words. Take a look at where this city was
6 just a short time ago and take a look at
7 where we are today. We've finally got a
8 council majority trying to make changes to
9 improve our city. Maybe it wouldn't hurt
10 you, Mr. McGoff, to join this team because
11 this administration is finished.

12 Finally, you concluded your crying
13 call by asking residents what they wanted
14 from their city council. Well, I believe
15 the response to that is a quite simple,
16 residents want council members that are
17 accountable, respectful and most of all
18 understanding that people matter and must
19 always come ahead of politics. I believe
20 it's quite obvious, Mr. McGoff, that this
21 ultimately excludes you. The rubber
22 stamping days of old are over.

23 When you were council president,
24 Mr. McGoff, you allowed Mrs. Gatelli and
25 Mrs. Fanucci to give political stumps each

1 week during the last primary campaign, and
2 you just sat back and said nothing, and now
3 that the shoe is on the other foot you want
4 to make a political issue out of it and you
5 and Mr. Wechler need to remember they must
6 always lead by example. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank, Mr. Miller.

8 Charlie Newcomb.

9 MR. NEWCOMB: Good evening, Council.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MR. NEWCOMB: Before I get into what
12 I would like to say here about city
13 business, I would also like to chime on what
14 Mr. Rogan said earlier. I'll tell you what,
15 today is a great day to be an American and I
16 have to give President Obama credit for
17 doing two things: Number one is keeping the
18 Bush agenda over on the war side and not
19 closing Guantanamo Bay down there, and from
20 what I understand that's where this came out
21 of last July or last August, so I'm glad
22 that he did that and I'm glad that he sent
23 the team out that he did to do the job he
24 did, I'm very proud of that even though, you
25 know, my politics are totally opposite of

1 his and I couldn't vote for his social
2 issues, but I do thank the administration
3 and it's a great day to be an American, we
4 finally got this -- it's nice to know the
5 last think he looked at was one of our great
6 soldiers that after what he did on September
7 11 he got everything he deserved.

8 What I'd like to talk about right
9 now is, has anybody up on council or
10 anybody, have you drove through the cemetery
11 on Washburn Street lately?

12 MS. EVANS: I have driven by.

13 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I have as well.

14 MR. NEWCOMB: Have you drove through
15 all the way around the back?

16 MR. JOYCE: No.

17 MR. NEWCOMB: Well, I'll tell you
18 what, if you come into Washburn Street
19 Cemetery and all of the way around the back
20 where it comes around the turn it's a
21 dumping zone there. There are signs "No
22 Dumping" and there is concrete slabs there
23 probably the size of your podium, like,
24 split up in four different spots, all kinds
25 of, like, building materials that looks like

1 away, and as matter of fact, I have to look
2 at that every time I go over there because
3 we're right across from there. They
4 demanded-- we had to pay \$950 to open the
5 grave before he did anything. Grass wasn't
6 cut, it's horrendous over there. This guy
7 has got posters all over having some kind of
8 roast or something, I think something has to
9 be investigated into the cemetery.

10 Every year you get complaints about
11 it, citizens have to -- it's a great thing
12 that the citizens do, but it's not their job
13 to go over and cut somebody's private
14 property and the grass. You tell the guy to
15 go up Wal-Mart or some place and buy a #30
16 lawnmower. And here's the problem, that
17 front gate is the only place you can come in
18 or that front road where they are dumping.
19 You go to the Dunmore Cemetery, there is a
20 sign that says, "Cemetery closes at dusk,"
21 and you have a gate. Let them go buy a \$30
22 fence or a gate and put it across there.
23 It's ashame what that looks like and anybody
24 who lives over there on Washburn Street or
25 anybody that goes through that cemetery

1 compared to the rest of them in this area
2 that's a disgrace, so if anybody takes a
3 ride over there and looks, this guy should
4 be cited, you got to get trucks in there to
5 get this stuff out of there.

6 If I lived in the neighborhood and
7 my house was bringing everybody else's
8 property values down and I looked like
9 Sanford and Son and had bikes on my porch,
10 as far as I'm concerned people who create
11 blight in the neighborhood they're like
12 terrorists, they bring everybody else's
13 property values down.

14 So I tell you what, this guy should
15 be cited, somebody take a ride over there,
16 there is concrete slabs -- how could you not
17 see a truck, you couldn't bring that stuff
18 in a car because if you know what I'm
19 talking about they slabs are -- they weigh a
20 lot, they had to bring them in there with a
21 dump truck and dumped. I personally, my own
22 opinion, I think this was allowed to happen.
23 I think somebody knew what was going on and
24 they turned the other cheek, but that stuff
25 has got to get out of there, the cemetery is

1 a mess, this guy doesn't want to spend any
2 money, if he doesn't want to spend any money
3 he should be cited, sell the cemetery and
4 don't buy anything in Scranton because as
5 far as I'm concerned it's a disgrace living
6 over there, we have family members over
7 there, the grass isn't cut. Hillary
8 Clinton's father is buried over there and
9 it's terrible.

10 So I think he needs to get roasted
11 in a different direction, either cut the
12 grass, move all of the garbage out of there
13 or sell the cemetery to somebody that will
14 appreciate it. Thanks.

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

16 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Newcomb, actually
17 tomorrow I'll take a stop over there in the
18 day -- well, in the evening. I live very
19 close to the cemetery and I know one of the
20 main problems I believe with that cemetery
21 is I see no gate or at least if they do have
22 one it's left wide open at night because I
23 always see cars from around the neighborhood
24 parked right in the beginning where they
25 have an opening and I know that the

1 Cathedral Cemetery, which is kept in
2 immaculate condition, in my opinion, has
3 their gates closed right at -- right after
4 dusk.

5 MR. NEWCOMB: Just like Dunmore.
6 Okay. Thanks.

7 MR. JOYCE: We will look into it.

8 MR. ROGAN: I would also like to
9 add, I spoke to a few residents about this
10 issue in the past and I do walk over and
11 it's a disgrace, the condition that cemetery
12 is in, and I spoke to Josh Mrozinski from
13 the Times and he mentioned that he would be
14 --would consider doing an article on it so
15 hopefully if we can get some media attention
16 maybe with Channel 16 as well get out there
17 and put some pressure on this guy and clean
18 that cemetery up because, you know, when you
19 said they called they said that illegal
20 dumping at night. They're just using that
21 as a scapegoat. They don't care. They are
22 just looking to make money, they don't want
23 to maintain it. If it was a one-time thing
24 and they cleaned up we could say, well,
25 maybe it was illegal dumping, but this is

1 year after year after year, so we'll be
2 working -- we'll be doing our best to try to
3 help the situation.

4 MR. NEWCOMB: Okay, thanks.

5 MS. EVANS: Charlie Newcomb, Jr.

6 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Good evening,
7 Council.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Just to touch on
10 the cemetery for two seconds, every single
11 year on Memorial Day, Channel 16 goes over
12 there and does a report on the disgrace of
13 the cemetery, the grass is cut for one week
14 and then three weeks later it's still in the
15 same condition, so my opinion again it's
16 selective enforcement. I could be wrong.

17 What I came for tonight is I would
18 like to thank the city council, well, four
19 of you, including Mrs. Krake, the Sewer
20 Authority, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Tell, for
21 taking the first step in saving a
22 neighborhood from flooding for nearly 30 at
23 that 50 years. The Sewer Authority put a
24 drain on Cameron Avenue in front of my
25 neighbor's house, this drain does not solve

1 the problem, but it helps it significantly.

2 I actually had someone say to me,

3 "Oh, you got your drain put in."

4 Well, this isn't my drain, this is a
5 drain that saves a neighborhood from
6 flooding for nearly 50 years. The last big
7 storm our neighborhood still flooded, but it
8 would have been much worse if this drain
9 wasn't put in. The solution to fix the
10 problem is on Lafayette and Keyser Avenue
11 the open pipe where the water pours water
12 into the neighborhood, that is the issue, so
13 while the state is ripping up Keyser Avenue
14 now is the time to work together to fix it.
15 I don't care who fixes it, it needs to be
16 fixed.

17 I occasionally hear the elite
18 followers of this administration say that
19 this majority of the council doesn't do
20 anything. Well, the flooding issue in
21 Keyser Valley has been an ongoing issue for
22 30 to 50 years. I forgot it this evening,
23 but I have a copy of a letter that was
24 written to Mr. McDade in 1981 regarding the
25 same issue. I came to this podium and I

1 begged for help for six years. I was
2 ignored by you, Mr. McGoff, and all of the
3 past other council members that sat before
4 you, with the exception of Mrs. Evans.

5 Mr. Loscombe, you weren't on council
6 two weeks and you came to my home as well as
7 the three other members and worked
8 tirelessly on this problem since then.

9 Mr. McGoff, you had the in for a few
10 years and didn't do much about it. I have
11 written numerous e-mails over the last six
12 years, made nearly 50 to 60 phone calls and
13 never got one response. The majority of
14 this council, in my opinion, not only help
15 people but you truly get results. Like I
16 said, this is a problem that's been 30 to 50
17 years and nobody was able to correct it
18 before you, of course, without the help of
19 the Sewer Authority and Mr. Tell's office.

20 Mr. Loscombe, you and the majority
21 of this council not only do you get things
22 done but you reduced my taxes personally by
23 10 percent and you reduced my friends who
24 own businesses their taxes by 25 percent.
25 This is, in my opinion, is getting a lot of

1 things done.

2 Mr. McGoff, when you are done
3 smirking if you can answer a couple of
4 questions, while you were president of the
5 council you allowed people, I witnessed it,
6 to come to this podium and they were abused,
7 they were humiliated, they were mocked, and
8 even went as far as to get arrested. You,
9 and correct me if I'm wrong, please, raised
10 taxes 25.6 percent and over a two-year
11 period borrowed over \$16 million in bonds,
12 and if I'm wrong feel free to jump in and
13 correct me, you had the opportunity to
14 decrease taxes and you voted against it.
15 You had the opportunity to keep firemen in
16 the firehouses and police officers on the
17 street and you voted against it.

18 So I asked the elite followers,
19 whose fault is it that the city is in the
20 condition that it was in? Is it the
21 majority of the council or is it the
22 following people that sat before you and the
23 people that worked downstairs? I think the
24 answer says it for itself.

25 I really do have to say though,

1 Mr. McGoff, and all of the people that came
2 before you, you really do have to be
3 commended on the dedication of the agenda
4 that you have put forward for one man and
5 the mentality, and I would also like to know
6 where all of the money went that has been
7 borrowed over the last few years. They have
8 taken money from the Work Comp Fund, I just
9 don't understand. I know, having a family
10 of four you work on a budget, and if I do my
11 budget at the end of the month and there is
12 not enough money coming in to pay the bills,
13 well, then you cut and you do whatever you
14 have to do to fix it. It doesn't seem to
15 work that way in certain floors of this
16 building.

17 It is vital for the future of this
18 city to continue down the path that the
19 supermajority is putting us in. If not,
20 it's really pointless for you people to sit
21 here and for me to even stay in this city.

22 It's truly amazing to me that
23 council people that sat here prior to you
24 actually got paid to abuse people that came
25 to this podium. Do you have a problem,

1 Mr. McGoff? You were president when it
2 happened? You can answer the question, I
3 mean --

4 MR. MCGOFF: Do I have a problem?

5 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Yeah, because you
6 are smirking at me and everybody else that
7 comes up here, I just didn't know if I was
8 interrupting here or you had something to
9 say.

10 MR. MCGOFF: I was trying to wonder
11 who it was that I abused, I'm not sure.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: I said the people
13 on council that were there abused people at
14 this podium while you were president and you
15 allowed it to happen. You don't recall
16 Mrs. Gatelli and Mrs. Fanucci abusing people
17 that came to this podium? You don't recall
18 any of that stuff? You don't recall --

19 MR. MCGOFF: Interpretation.

20 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Pardon me?

21 MR. MCGOFF: Your interpretation.

22 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Well, my
23 interpretation, here is a better way of
24 putting it, any single person that can hear
25 my voice can go pull up a tape from the

1 library and they can get their own
2 interpretation of what happened in these
3 chambers.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Fine.

5 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: Because it was
6 truly a disgrace when the people that sat
7 before these four people were here it was an
8 actual disgrace. People said that this city
9 council was the most horrendous thing that
10 ever happened, hence the reason why you're
11 the only person sitting here today. I truly
12 hope the sailboat has enough room for you in
13 two weeks. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
15 anyone else who cares to address city
16 council?

17 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini,
18 resident of Scranton. First of all, I'd
19 like to make a nonpolitical statement, I
20 have to take the blame for this.
21 Mr. Piccolino asked me last week to mention
22 that, again, this year, he would be giving
23 out two \$250 scholarships and it was my
24 fault because I ignored him, but anyone who
25 wants to apply for those scholarships, any

1 kid in there if you going to college or
2 trade school or what, they can apply either
3 through a resume or a letter, just send it
4 to Buona Pizza the 504 North Lackawanna and
5 get them in by the first of June because
6 that's when the scholarship program will
7 take place again, and again, this is not
8 political, he has been doing this for quite
9 sometime now.

10 Now, on political issues,
11 Mr. McGoff, I don't usually agree with you,
12 but I do agree with you on Chief Duffy. I
13 mean, the man is doing his job, that's what
14 he's paid to do whether he's in uniform or
15 not, and I'm sorry, but if the unions can't
16 handle that then maybe they should look for
17 a different union to get into, but a cop is
18 a cop is a cop, and whether he is a
19 patrolman or a chief or a supervisor of
20 police that's his job to do and if he does
21 it that's wonderful. If he doesn't do it,
22 he should be chastised. Don't condemn the
23 man because he is doing his job. My God,
24 there are enough citizens in this city,
25 there are another taxpayers in this city who

1 are offended by the people who work in the
2 city that don't do a damn thing, so when
3 somebody is doing something applaud him.

4 As far as political posturing, I
5 laugh, I think it's hilarious because all
6 I've seen since I've been coming to this
7 Council is political posturing, whether it's
8 up there or down here, we have perennial
9 candidates who come up here and who are
10 posturing and they're running for office
11 constantly, week after week after week after
12 week. Come on. Get a life. This is so
13 sophomoric. It's pitiful, it really is sad.

14 And as far as anything else goes,
15 quite frankly, I'm up to here with the
16 fundraisers. I've had it, and I hope
17 anybody who is going to have one, please,
18 don't invite me. Thanks a lot.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, city
21 council. My name is Dave Gervasi and I'm a
22 firefighter and homeowner, resident of the
23 city, and I'm going to try not to
24 politically posture.

25 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. GERVASI: On may 1 there was an
3 article in the paper called "Scranton Fire
4 Suppression Rating Improves." I'm not going
5 to -- I'm not going to berate the Scranton
6 Times because I was called for a comment and
7 I immediately went to our chief to ask for a
8 copy of this because I didn't see it, it was
9 early in the morning I haven't seen it yet,
10 I really couldn't make a comment and the
11 chief told me he gave his only copy to the
12 newspaper, so we went to the deputy chief
13 and he found a copy that was in city hall, I
14 believe in the mayor's office, so I did
15 obtain a copy by the end of the day, but
16 apparently that was, you know, too late to
17 make a comment on it.

18 But I just want to make a few
19 comments on this that, you know, as everyone
20 knows, especially up in the Hill Section and
21 downtown the firefighters have been going
22 out and letting people know there is company
23 closures and response times are going to
24 suffer, and if you read this article it
25 sounds like everything is great and

1 everything is getting better, but let me
2 just put a little truth and clarity into
3 that article.

4 Chief Davis stated that this rating
5 for the size of our department is great
6 rating and we did improve and we are going
7 to keep try improving everything. I'm just
8 here to tell you, and I challenge anyone to
9 say I'm wrong, that the City of Scranton or
10 the chief hasn't done one thing in nine
11 years to improve the fire department. Every
12 single thing that was a positive development
13 was fought for by the union, the big bad
14 terrible union, and we won many concessions
15 and we won many things in Court that had to
16 do with the safety of the public and safety
17 of us.

18 As a matter of fact, the only
19 arbitration that we actually loss in the
20 last nine years was fighting for people's
21 safety for the amount of apparatus that
22 shows up at a fire scene, and we actually
23 lost that one and the city was really proud
24 that less apparatus and less manpower goes
25 to the scene of the fire if you have a fire.

1 But anyway, what the ISO rating is,
2 is the Insurance Services Office and the
3 Insurance Services Office develops criteria,
4 dozens of criteria, different aspects of
5 water supply, manpower, apparatus,
6 communications, equipment, and they come up
7 with a rating, a composite rating, and then
8 at the end they give you a final rating zero
9 to ten, and what the composite rating did
10 actually go up, it was actually touched on
11 in the article, but the real reason wasn't
12 because the City of Scranton is doing such a
13 wonderful job managing the fire department,
14 the real reason is probably 70 percent of
15 the reason why that number went up is
16 because of the communications center, they
17 built a Taj Mah Hall as far as communication
18 centers are concerned and their software and
19 their hardware greatly increased the
20 capabilities of the communications and that
21 had most to do with this recent uptick in
22 that number.

23 The other few criteria were our last
24 deputy chief and our current deputy chief
25 worked tirelessly to implement a firehouse

1 software program, which most progressive
2 fire departments have and they utilize every
3 single day to run their department and keep
4 track of training, of all calls, things like
5 that, and those two gentlemen alone with the
6 pushing of the big bad union for probably
7 the last ten years we finally got the city
8 to purchase that in cooperate with
9 Lackawanna County. That was another aspect
10 of that.

11 The other part was training. We
12 train on a daily basis, whether it's total
13 department training or if it's
14 departmental-- I'm sorry, company level
15 training, and before we had the software
16 program that was a big criteria with ISO to
17 know how trained our people are, and now
18 that we have the software program, we did
19 used to train before, we just never wrote it
20 down. Now we literally put it into our
21 computer software system so we can supply
22 that information of how much company-level
23 training we do, and that's thanks to our
24 deputy chief and our former deputy chief who
25 worked with that in place.

1 probably wouldn't have improved.

2 So I just wanted to people to know
3 that it's -- the City of Scranton has never
4 in the last nine years had one creative
5 thought. Everything that has improved our
6 routine, the way we operate, grants so that
7 we didn't have to saddle the taxpayers when
8 we got to spend \$700,000 on airpacks, those
9 were our people, our people working in
10 conjunction with our safety committee, our
11 people have the union going to the city, our
12 union going to our arbitration forcing the
13 city to do the progressive things that need
14 to be done.

15 Not one positive thing that I could
16 think of ever came out of the chief's office
17 or the City of Scranton that improved
18 anything in the fire department, and the
19 grants and the monies that was saved through
20 health care that was because of the Health
21 Care Cost Containment Committee, which the
22 city does sit on, and grants that were
23 received were by our people because finally
24 the city allowed us to write grants along
25 with a very, very smart person that happens

1 to be sitting to my right with her
2 assistance, and that's why we saved lots of
3 money on buying and purchasing of equipment
4 through grants and not saddling our
5 taxpayers.

6 So I just wanted to clarify that,
7 and I usually don't get off the subject of
8 fire, but I have been kind of baffled for
9 the last three weeks watching these meetings
10 talking about the financial condition of the
11 city and why the city is so bad.

12 Mr. Joyce, if you can answer this
13 question for me?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MR. GERVASI: Has there been three
16 or four different scenarios of where the
17 money went in the last say two months, it
18 seems?

19 MR. JOYCE: There are a few.

20 MR. GERVASI: So money was supposed
21 to be here, but two weeks later it wasn't
22 from there it came from somewhere else.

23 MR. JOYCE: That's correct.

24 MR. GERVASI: Another question, I
25 know a little bit about this stuff, the

1 Workers' Compensation Trust Fund, was that
2 over funded by \$6 million for the last two
3 years that we know of, that we know of?

4 MR. JOYCE: Was it over funded?

5 MR. GERVASI: Was there \$6 million
6 of unnecessary money that didn't have to be
7 there or an actuarial from the state that
8 says how much has to be in there, sitting in
9 there, in the account?

10 MR. JOYCE: Over the course of the
11 past few years. Are you asking --

12 MR. GERVASI: Last year and the year
13 before say, since we found about it.

14 MR. JOYCE: As per the agreement as
15 amended, that is correct. That's an
16 accurate statement.

17 MR. GERVASI: Okay, so is it --
18 would I be correct in saying that, and I'm
19 telling you, you guys didn't know about this
20 until you found it, we kind of knew about it
21 for a long time, but nobody would listen to
22 us, so it is fair to say that there was \$6
23 million last year more than the 75 percent
24 needed to be in there and \$6 million the
25 year before and it's possible it could have

1 been \$6 million, a little piggybank for
2 maybe the last nine years?

3 MR. JOYCE: It is quite possible. I
4 know that the agreement was different at one
5 point, however, once that agreement changed
6 that there had to be 75 percent, it had to
7 be funded at 75 percent funded in regard to
8 the outstanding liabilities there would
9 approximately, I'd say, between five or six
10 million dollars in there that could be used.

11 MR. GERVASI: Thank you. Is it
12 possible, is it true, that the TAN Series A
13 doesn't have to be paid until July 31? Paid
14 back? TAN Series A, not B, A?

15 MR. JOYCE: That's correct. TAN-A
16 is paid back in I believe it's July, June or
17 July, and TAN-B is to be paid back at the
18 end of the year.

19 MR. GERVASI: Is it true they paid
20 it back a few months early this year?

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes, that is accurate as
22 far as --

23 MR. GERVASI: Isn't it appropriate
24 to use that money to run the operation of
25 the city until your taxes come in or isn't

1 it -- or maybe is that possibly, possibly,
2 just maybe coincidentally, is that possibly
3 a way to make the city look broke before the
4 May 17 election and try to make council look
5 bad that your budget didn't work out right?
6 Is it possible?

7 MR. JOYCE: That's one possible way
8 that it could be interpreted.

9 MR. GERVASI: Was this council aware
10 while you were talking about the budget
11 probably last October, last November, that
12 the city had \$6 million stuffed away
13 somewhere and you didn't know about it?

14 MR. JOYCE: During the time that the
15 budget was actually amended --

16 MR. GERVASI: Right.

17 MR. JOYCE: -- are you referring to?

18 MR. GERVASI: No, no, while you were
19 -- yeah, while you were talking about the
20 budget, amending the budget. Was council
21 aware that the city had \$6 million stuffed
22 in a piggyback somewhere?

23 MR. JOYCE: No, that wasn't released
24 to us.

25 MR. GERVASI: So they deceived you?

1 MR. JOYCE: In some ways you could
2 say.

3 MR. GERVASI: Very good. Now, let's
4 just say two years ago, let's say two years
5 ago that there was \$6 million there, which
6 we now know there was, and they raised taxes
7 by 26.6 percent, is that the accurate
8 number?

9 MR. JOYCE: I believe it's --

10 MR. GERVASI: With \$6 million they
11 could have used to run the operation of the
12 city, they raised your taxes by 26 percent,
13 knowing there was \$6 million sitting
14 somewhere that didn't have to be there that
15 they could have used for the operation of
16 the city; is that is correct?

17 MR. JOYCE: That would be accurate.

18 MR. GERVASI: Thank you very much.

19 MS. BECK: Good evening, Council.

20 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

21 MS. BECK: Cathy Beck, city resident
22 and taxpayer. I came here this evening to
23 comment on the article written by Chris
24 Kelly that appeared in last Sunday's edition
25 of the Scranton Times. In the article

1 Mr. Kelly wrote, "The city is fast running
2 out of cash, which should shock no one who
3 has been paying attention for God knows how
4 long. Mayor Chris Doherty and his alleged
5 administration have used this year's money
6 to pay last year's bills and now have no
7 paying way to cover a projected deficit of
8 \$8.4 million by year's end. If you don't
9 think that's irresponsible, you fit right in
10 at the halfway house."

11 Mr. Kelly goes onto say, "I am
12 saying, for the record, that the mayor has
13 played too cute with the city's finances and
14 must now make the hard decisions required of
15 a leader. Council has called his shifting
16 of the new funds to spackle over debts a
17 shell game, and that's exactly what it is."

18 The writer was goes onto say, "Some
19 guilt on council supermajority, led by
20 President Janet Evans, must answer for
21 irresponsibly large tax cuts."

22 Allow me to start here with my
23 comments. Number one, I believe that the
24 budget produced by council to a great degree
25 was based on where the city was going to end

1 up financially at year's end. This was
2 based on figures provided by the mayor and
3 his administration that proved to be grossly
4 exaggerated and optimistic.

5 Number two, for years many council
6 members, as well as speakers at this podium,
7 have questioned the mayor's budget and
8 inaction of PEL in pursuing a way out of our
9 distressed status. Countless questions
10 pertaining to the city's financial reports
11 have gone unanswered by the administration.

12 Up until now, the Times-Tribune has
13 blindly followed the mayor, never
14 investigated or pursued answers to very
15 serious questions and allegations. Could
16 this latest approach to the city's dire
17 financial status have been brought on by the
18 supermajority's relentless pursuit of the
19 truth? Whatever the cause, I firmly believe
20 that it is imperative that a supermajority
21 council be preserved in this upcoming
22 election of council members in order to
23 maintain a system of the checks and balances
24 and put an end to, to quote the Scranton
25 Times, this shell game involved in the

1 city's finances. Thank you for your time.

2 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, and if you
3 could allow me to comment for one second on
4 something you had to say, I will confirm for
5 you that during the time that the budget was
6 amended the financial reports that were
7 submitted to the State of Pennsylvania by
8 the former business administrator, Stu
9 Renda, did show that for the Year of 2010 we
10 would bring in in revenue as much as we
11 would spend, however, it wasn't until I
12 believe the middle or late part of the
13 February when the final controller's report
14 was issued as well as on March 1 when we
15 received the cash flow analysis submitted by
16 Ryan McGowan that we were shocked by the
17 fact that in the Year 2010 alone the city
18 came up \$4,7 million short.

19 MS. BECK: Thank you. Appreciate
20 it.

21 MR. JOYCE: But a few months prior
22 everything was supposedly fine.

23 MS. BECK: Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

25 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

1 I have noticed many people that have come up
2 here tonight have the same feelings that I
3 have, I have experienced many of these
4 myself coming to council for many years with
5 Mr. McGoff. Like right now, he never seems
6 to look at the speakers when they speak
7 because he is texting, writing, getting text
8 messages back as to what he's saying, but
9 other people have said it, well, I'll say it
10 again. When Judy Gatelli was running for
11 office and when Sherry Fanucci was running
12 they used to tell the people from that
13 podium, from your seats right there, that
14 the candidates -- the public should check
15 into the -- some of the candidates running
16 had criminal records and that the public
17 should check into them before they vote for
18 them and that this council, if they get a
19 new majority this place will never be run in
20 a good manner. I can't even comprehend it.

21 But my question to you, Mr. McGoff,
22 is you were president, but nobody else has
23 asked you this, but I'm asking you, how
24 could you say that this majority is speaking
25 politically when you allow this? How come

1 you allowed them to do what they did every
2 week when you were running for office? You,
3 as president, allowed it. How come you
4 allowed it? How could you say one thing to
5 this council and do exactly the opposite?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I objected to a
7 particular thing that happened, not to a
8 general --

9 MS. FRANUS: You said that this is
10 political, this majority is political.

11 MR. MCGOFF: No, I did not.

12 MS. FRANUS: Well, you said Jack
13 Loscombe was making political speeches.

14 MR. MCGOFF: I referred to a
15 particular thing that took place, yes.

16 MS. FRANUS: Well, sort of doesn't
17 go with what you allowed for all of those
18 years.

19 MR. MCGOFF: I think there is a
20 discernable difference.

21 MS. FRANUS: Well, I beg to differ.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

23 MS. FRANUS: Because what those two
24 women did is unthinkable, and then started
25 off last week with a politically charged

1 motion saying -- it had no sense whatsoever,
2 made no purpose whatsoever except if you
3 weren't with the mayor you were terrible,
4 but if you were with him you were wonderful.
5 You tried to get this Council to squeeze in
6 a motion, that was lie, saying that the
7 union president said something and attacked
8 him and he didn't, and when you tried to
9 squeeze that in, if that wasn't political,
10 what was?

11 And then you also started off with
12 the letter from Mrs. Novembrino. Now, can
13 you honestly sit there and say you think she
14 did everything right? She hasn't had an
15 audit in 20 years. And everything that the
16 mayor did had to come in front of her desk
17 and you knew this and you could sit there
18 and read that letter from her and knowing
19 all of it was lies? So if that wasn't
20 political, what was? What was?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I read the response
22 that Mrs. Novembrino wrote to council.

23 MS. FRANUS: How come you did? Were
24 you asked to by Mrs. Novembrino?

25 MR. MCGOFF: It was given to me. I

1 don't know if any of other members of
2 council received it or not.

3 MS. FRANUS: Were you asked to read
4 this yourself?

5 MR. MCGOFF: No.

6 MS. FRANUS: Well, why did -- you
7 just took it up upon yourself? I just find
8 it --

9 MR. MCGOFF: It was a response to
10 councils, so, yes, I thought it should be
11 read.

12 MS. FRANUS: Well, again, that was
13 another political thing.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

15 MS. FRANUS: And then in your
16 campaign things in the paper you are saying
17 that you think the mayor and yourself and
18 council should work together, that's what
19 you said in the paper as you far as -- you
20 say it here all of the time. So, you know,
21 you say one thing and do another. If
22 anybody is political in this campaign you
23 are, and I hope the people remember that
24 everything Judy Gatelli and Sherry Fanucci
25 voted for you did, too. So I hope this time

1 the people up there voting put you in the
2 same position they are in, gone. And I have
3 a right to say that, it's freedom of speech
4 because let me tell you, if you don't follow
5 in their footsteps something is it wrong in
6 this city because you were responsible for
7 the tax increase, you were responsible for
8 every loan that the mayor wanted, your
9 shoulders must be very sore from carrying
10 that water for the mayor. I mean, you must
11 be really sore. It must be nice, I don't
12 know. I don't know how you can't -- you
13 should have a mind of your own, but you
14 don't. You are there for a reason, you
15 serve the purpose, I wonder what you are
16 getting out of this? You do their bidding
17 for them.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Excuse me?

19 MS. FRANUS: Well, anyway, we'll see
20 in the election booth and if you do get
21 elected again, well, you won't serve any
22 purpose because your vote doesn't matter.

23 MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, city
24 council.

25 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

1 MR. UNGVARSKY: I'm Tom Ungvarsky,
2 and I'd like to thank Mr. Hughes for his
3 explanation on 6-A and 6-B, however, there
4 are several things I don't quite understand.
5 About a year or two ago didn't we give Mount
6 Pleasant \$2 million for infrastructure? I
7 think for if they only put in one road they
8 must have many, many more to go there and
9 are we going to have to take over the
10 plowing and the patching and whatever else
11 has to go on with those roads?

12 Also, this is a private development,
13 I thought that you were not be able to take
14 over a private development until it was
15 fully developed, is that one building the
16 only one that is going to be put in there?

17 MR. MCGOFF: Right now it's the only
18 one that they have leased, the only section.
19 I think there are five separate sections.

20 MR. UNGVARSKY: Um-hum, and what
21 happens if they develop more and more roads
22 go in, are we going to assume the
23 responsibility for those roads under this
24 present plan?

25 And as far as the storm water system

1 goes, back in the day when I was working we
2 used to call it a drainage field. We put in
3 orangeburg and a gravel pit with several
4 lateral lines and let the water seep into
5 the ground. Apparently this new piping is
6 just a new system, maybe a little bit of an
7 improvement, but it's the same process, and
8 if they are just giving us \$5,000 for
9 perpetual care on this I think they are
10 ripping us off once again.

11 I think council should look into
12 this a little deeper. There is many, many
13 questions that have to be answered, and I
14 thank city council.

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

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
19 Just a couple of follow up on things I have
20 requested before. Number one, on the
21 minutes, I hope I will learn how and when
22 the city council minutes are approved. I
23 read them frequently and I do notice errors
24 and since they are the permanent record I do
25 have -- would like to know that.

1 Also, in the past I have asked
2 Mr. Loscombe, and I thought he agreed to
3 follow in the footsteps of Mr. Courtright
4 and provide the number of cars that are out
5 on patrol on weekends, but maybe I
6 misunderstood, but I would like to now ask,
7 especially since the mayor has indicated as
8 people retire or move to other positions on
9 the police and firefighters, that you will
10 start at least every other week to provide
11 us with the current number of active
12 firefighters and police officers and the
13 rolling documentation on the rolling
14 closures. I think citizens deserve to know
15 how we stand and I think that would be
16 helpful.

17 Also, I'm very happy for the people
18 on Cameron Street, those residents have been
19 through a lot. Flooding is certainly no
20 fun, but I also would like to repeat my
21 question and what has been done or will be
22 done for the Medallis family. That's still
23 an open issue.

24 And I would like to know when we
25 expect PEL to come up with a draft Recovery

1 plan.

2 And then finally, I would just like
3 to say anyone who would like to celebrate
4 Cinco De Mayo with some good authenticate
5 Mexican food you won't be disappointed if
6 you go to the new restaurant, relatively new
7 restaurant across from Miller Beam in South
8 Scranton.

9 MR. MCGOFF: You getting a
10 commission on this?

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I get a free taco.

12 MR. MCGOFF: It is a very nice
13 restaurant.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: A free burrito.

15 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else who
16 would like to address council?

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
18 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

20 MR. DOBRYZN: Okay, on this shuffle
21 game, please just keep with it and keep your
22 chin up and stand your ground. It's ashame
23 that so much misinformation is flying around
24 and some people seem to think it's a
25 laughing matter, but they are from Clarks

1 Summit anyway. It doesn't sound as funny if
2 you live in Scranton.

3 Okay, on 6-A and B we've got a few
4 bucks there, hopefully it will be sufficient
5 I don't know how things will work from
6 there. Keep your eyes open.

7 And I'd like to talk about little
8 bit about privatized trash. I have a couple
9 of points here. In 2000 I lived up the
10 country and I was paying \$2.25 per bag in
11 2000. Now, some people said, well, you
12 lived up the country. Well, that's not
13 actually the case I lived in a small country
14 town, so if you look at how much trash is
15 going out of your house and multiply it by
16 times 52 and it was \$2.25 a bag fr
17 recycling, also, and there were quite a few
18 scandals about the bags all just going in
19 the same place and there was actually in
20 reality no recycling.

21 In 1990 my wife was chided by the
22 small town mayor and police when a tenant
23 upstairs lied about 40 plus garbage bags out
24 in front of the house until she produced the
25 payment book, and anyone can toss trash

1 anywhere as long as they don't get caught.
2 If someone does dump on your property who
3 pays for the removal, that's a question, and
4 I don't know if you seen it a couple of
5 months ago, I'm trying to get the article so
6 I could make copies for you people, in Old
7 Forge there was -- which it has changed
8 because they joined with Empire Landfill and
9 I think they get free trash removal, but
10 they had quite a bit of problems with people
11 switching bags and stickers or whatever and
12 stealing stickers back and forth and so that
13 was a bit of a mess and I'm just wondering
14 is the \$178 sufficient for removal, if it's
15 not and there is tax funds going into it or
16 are there tax -- I heard in the past 100
17 some of that money was being put into the
18 general fund, also, so --

19 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Dobrzyn, if I could
20 interrupt, I know when PEL was here --

21 MR. DOBRZYN: They wanted to raise
22 it.

23 MR. ROGAN: They wanted us to raise
24 the fee because the money coming in from the
25 fees isn't enough to fund the refuse

1 collections.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Right. If it was kept
3 in a separate account, which that's part of
4 the shuffle game, too, that you people are
5 trying to ferret out, and I understand that
6 fully, and you have my gratitude for it, you
7 know. Now, if we did liquidate the DPW
8 would we get the same deal later after, you
9 know, we burned our bridges and liquidated
10 trucks and so forth.

11 And a few weeks ago I did have a
12 suggestion, if people would recycle only two
13 times a month, say like you did have a group
14 during the winter, could we possibly
15 eliminate overtime? That was my suggestion
16 and I'm wondering about that because I clean
17 all of my recycling and the papers and stuff
18 are clean and so if I put it off --
19 sometimes I'm just too lazy, I put it out
20 every four weeks anyway because I have 42
21 steps that are down there and it might be
22 icy and I just figure as soon as break my
23 neck I'll let it go until I have a clear
24 road or whatever, so that's a question, and
25 it's a suggestion and think it's very valid,

1 if they staggered it like where you actually
2 only have it every fourth week where you put
3 it out, say like cans and bottles and --or
4 they did a half a route instead of a whole
5 route you could possibly eliminate overtime
6 and, I mean, I work a lot of overtime in my
7 life and there are some times when it seemed
8 like all I was doing was paying the tax man
9 extra anyway, and so I really wouldn't want
10 it, I'd want the leisure time instead, but I
11 didn't get it that way. But anyway, thanks
12 a lot and have a good night.

13 And one other thing I'd like to
14 compliment President Obama and the forces,
15 they are really impressive nowadays on what
16 they can do and pull off. I mean, it's just
17 surprising. I wouldn't any of those guys
18 after me, I would find a place to hide, too.
19 Have a good night.

20 MR. JOYCE: Hey, Chrissy.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Frankie.

22 Jack, that playhouse was nice, wasn't it,
23 for the kids? You were here, remember I
24 seen you? That was a great job. You know
25 something Jack, these cops one cop, he did a

1 good job. You know those two guys
2 downstairs, good job, boys, keep it up
3 downstairs.

4 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
5 cares to address council?

6 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie
7 Ellman, member of the Taxpayers'
8 Association. I caught a cold in all of this
9 terrible weather as you see. I'd like to
10 say something about Mr. Newcomb what he
11 brought, if council would just go to the
12 four or five other people in this city that
13 have dumpsters like Waste Management and
14 DeNaples and John Longo, I'm sure they would
15 with some kind of incentive leave them in
16 problem areas. You wouldn't have this crap
17 all over the street like we got. It works
18 because they did it in Mississippi where a
19 friend of mine lives.

20 I got a couple of things here from
21 some of the people that hired you. I heard
22 -- somebody told me this yesterday, they
23 think this is the best council with all five
24 members the city ever had, but still got a
25 long way to go, so I'm not saying all of

1 this derogatory stuff. A young man asked me
2 today where he could get a Duffy sign that
3 they showed in the paper and I didn't know,
4 I thought maybe you could -- somebody up
5 there would.

6 You see those picture last week of
7 Austin Burke standing there like Superman in
8 the paper? The man of steel. He is
9 supposed to represent the people of this
10 city and he doesn't. He represents only big
11 business and that's all he cares about.
12 Taking Mount Pleasant, assuming all of the
13 responsibilities you don't have to is just
14 asinine. Cleaning the streets, having the
15 insurance on it, worrying about the sewer
16 basins and all like that they did up there
17 up on Keyser Avenue it's just -- it's just
18 needless. There is not a thing to gain by
19 taking over Mount Pleasant. Let them keep
20 his white elephant, let his business people
21 keep it with their -- I told you to go
22 upstairs and check on the building permits,
23 they are nothing like they should be, and
24 now he wants more.

25 Why I think of that, I saw where

1 they wanted to do away with the parking
2 meters around CMC and I know they paid. Why
3 can't you get some \$500,000 out of them from
4 that parking garage? It's been going on for
5 year after year after year, they just
6 don't -- they don't do nothing. There is so
7 much money out there that there ought to be
8 some way to collect it, you know? You
9 remember Michael's, the guy who was going to
10 sell \$50,000 glass frames, he got \$85,000
11 and when he ran away from here he owed
12 \$86,000. Write this down, \$86,000. Then we
13 had that Spanish tapas bar on Washington, I
14 never was in there, they borrowed over I
15 think around \$130,000, made four payments
16 and they were gone. And then we got Mr.
17 Doherty's there, that Molly Brannigans he
18 bragged about. You know what that was, 530
19 or 530,000 plus the \$60,000 them fools at
20 Parking Authority gave them they didn't have
21 to. You know, how much that adds up to for
22 five people, with Al Boscov's million which
23 is lost, he is not going to give us any
24 money, that's \$1,836,000 in five people.
25 That sure would have helped your budget.

1 Last week, I don't know if you saw
2 it, that Old Things place that has all of
3 the junk stuff the paper called it a cult
4 corporation. They got a bunch of misfits
5 working for free for a leader, and I think
6 he is in Pittsburgh or I don't know, they
7 are a multi-million dollars concern, they
8 took \$400,000 worth of the property last
9 week, it was in the paper, one swoop. How
10 are you going to make a budget with this
11 going on with million dollars a year being
12 taken off by a bunch of phoney -- and it
13 just doesn't seem to stop. That Good Old
14 Things, I have been in there talking to them
15 about a sign and they are a bunch, I'll tell
16 you. They are something to see when you
17 talk to that group.

18 One time, talking about the CMC, I
19 met Madman Munster in St. Louis years ago
20 and he told me he was selling TV sets, he
21 said he offered people two big TV lamps or
22 green stamps and he said everybody wanted
23 the lamps and then the stamps. They want
24 the garage and then the parking all around
25 there. You have got to put your foot down.

1 You people have got to show some authority
2 for the people of this city. You can't rent
3 property around here and when you talk to
4 someone about renting a fee of property they
5 say the taxes have gone up and the insurance
6 has gone up because of fires and this and
7 that. The city is getting awful hard for
8 people to live in. You can rent nicer
9 places, newer places all around here.

10 You know my friends, I don't know
11 how to say this diplomatically, but
12 sometimes we could make the wrong decision
13 and sometimes what's wrong looks good or
14 maybe it tastes good, but it could have
15 disastrous effects on us. That's how some
16 of the things that council does, it's having
17 disastrous effects. Some of your decisions
18 that are made in this room are just having
19 disastrous effects.

20 I had one man tell me the other day
21 somebody on council should watch that
22 parking wars in Philadelphia I think, they
23 got the same thing we got. They didn't --
24 you don't have to spend hundreds off
25 thousands of dollars trying to make

1 \$100,000, you can use what you. Got there
2 is good laws on the books they are not
3 enforced. You watch that program for
4 one-half hour and you will see how to make
5 money with the Parking Authority like it was
6 right now. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
8 cares to address council?

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

10 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff you have any
11 motions or comments?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you. First of
13 all, just to response to Mr. Gervasi that on
14 the report that was in the paper, my initial
15 reaction was that the report of reduced
16 response time was a credit to the
17 experience, the training, the preparation
18 that the Scranton Fire Department has done
19 in trying to reduce response time and I
20 believe that the article, you know, placed a
21 very favorable light on Scranton Fire
22 Department and they should be commended for
23 working hard and, you know, seeing that that
24 is done.

25 Second thing, I wasn't -- I wasn't

1 going to address this issue at all this
2 evening, but it seems to be speakers have
3 made it the focal point of the evening, when
4 I objected last week to what Mr. Loscombe
5 was saying I objected because I believed
6 that the question -- my belief was that the
7 questions that he was answering were
8 questions addressed by the newspaper to
9 candidates, two specific candidates for a
10 specific election. I didn't believe that
11 every other candidate had that opportunity,
12 the opportunity to answer those and,
13 therefore, I believe it was inappropriate.

14 Is this dais an opportunity --
15 everything that we say here has political
16 overtones, it's just the nature of the
17 beast. I just believe that that was a
18 different situation and I objected to it.
19 Mrs. Evans saw differently, and as is her
20 prerogative, allowed Mr. Loscombe to
21 continue. I did object again later because
22 I thought it became personal and I didn't
23 think that was appropriate, however, I
24 believe that the issue was done, it was
25 answered, and I'm not going to say

1 forgotten, but, you know, we had a resolved
2 it that night.

3 Obviously this evening I'd like it
4 thank some of the speakers for reaffirming
5 my belief that they see this podium as
6 nothing more than an opportunity to advance
7 a political agenda, a political campaign,
8 and I would reaffirm my believe that I don't
9 think this is the proper venue for
10 conducting a political campaign. On May 11,
11 there will be a League of Women Voters
12 debate and I think that this is the proper
13 venue for conducting a campaign and proper
14 venue for my response, and that's all I
15 have. Thank you.

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

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I'll be very brief.
19 I apologize to those who have e-mailed me
20 that I've not gotten back to, I have a
21 problem with the city e-mail account, but I
22 think it's straightened out now. I just
23 have a few comments. I'm sure many people
24 saw in the paper this situation in west
25 Scranton with the big drug bust on St.

1 Francis Cabrini and I was contacted the
2 following day by a resident that lives
3 across the street in the house and he was
4 wondering why it wasn't condemned. And so
5 we came down, we went down to Licensing and
6 Inspection and, you know, we told them about
7 it and within five minutes of leaving city
8 hall I received a call that it was being
9 taken care of, so I want to thank them for
10 all their hard work down there and they were
11 really on top of things with this one and
12 they deserve to be commended for a job well
13 done.

14 Secondly, while reviewing the rental
15 registration laws, for a property to be
16 condemned under a nuisance law there needs
17 to be three reports, three police reports,
18 and the problem with having an actual full
19 report is if the neighbor across from me is
20 dealing drugs and there is activity going on
21 that I want to call, I may be afraid to go
22 out and put my name on the report because of
23 fear of retaliation. So while speaking down
24 in Licensing and Inspections and with my
25 colleagues agreement, we would work on

1 possibly amending it from three reports to
2 three or four calls to the house, calls that
3 will be followed up by the police if they're
4 found. Obviously, we don't want people just
5 calling to try and -- again in retaliation,
6 but there is a sense of fear in the
7 community to call the police and use their
8 name.

9 I know Chief Duffy has mentioned at
10 the West Scranton Crime Watch meetings that
11 there is an anonymous tip line setup, which
12 I think is great, if you see drug activity
13 or any other illegal activity in the
14 community they can call in, it gets
15 actually -- I think he said it gets routed
16 to Canada and then routed back so it can't
17 be traced. So that's good for, you know,
18 having an anonymous reporting system, but
19 it's something that -- I have a copy of the
20 ordinance and, you know, it's something that
21 I think we can all work together on to try
22 and make it a little easier for our
23 inspectors to do their job.

24 Finally, well, not finally, before I
25 get to the citizens' requests, I for one

1 can't wait until the election is over. I'm
2 not running this year, you know, hopefully
3 it gets over quick and we can get down to
4 business, but speaking of the election, and
5 I'm normally not one that would like to miss
6 meetings, but since we have two members that
7 are running this year I would assume we are
8 not meeting on election day; correct?

9 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

10 MR. ROGAN: So just if the public
11 has anything they would like to get to us if
12 they would like to come to the next meeting
13 just so they know and, as I said, normally I
14 don't like to cancel meetings, but obviously
15 this is a different situation.

16 And finally, I have one citizen's
17 requests that was in the mailbox, I believe
18 we all got it. A council resident requests
19 that potholes be fixed in the following
20 areas: 100 block of Meadow Avenue in front
21 of CVS, 200 block of Meadow Avenue, and they
22 have the 1,000 block of North Main under the
23 bridge. I believe that was fixed two days
24 ago. I know it was closed off there during
25 the summer up there and it also says, "This

1 resident stated he has called DPW over and
2 over again and has gotten no results," which
3 isn't surprising at all, so if we could
4 please forward this to the DPW, and that is
5 all. Thank you.

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

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you.
10 First of all, I would like to wish a happy
11 Mother's Day to my mother, Mary, who is at
12 home watching every evening and I have to
13 report to her after the meetings, she is
14 still a mother. My mother-in-law, Joan
15 Kozloski, and my lovely wife of 32 years,
16 Susan, and my two daughters who have
17 produced one-plus grandchild from my
18 daughter Tara, and she has one due in
19 November, and my daughter, Katie, who has
20 two daughters, two lovely granddaughters, so
21 I would like to wish them a very happy
22 Mother's Day this year.

23 I would also like to congratulate
24 Officer Brennan McDermott for the fine work
25 he did to evacuate those people from the

1 building that was on fire.

2 At this time, I would like to make a
3 motion in accordance with 108 of the City of
4 Scranton Zoning Ordinance, File of Council
5 No. 74-1993, as amended, that the request of
6 the Minooka Neighborhood Association to
7 change the zoning classification from CN to
8 R-1-A for the area bounded by 200 block of
9 Davis Street to the southwest, 3000 block of
10 McCarthy Street to the northwest, projection
11 of the 200 block of McDonough Street to the
12 northeast, and the projection of the 3000
13 block of Brett Court to the southeast in an
14 area that extends northwest along the 100
15 block of Davis Street from McCarthy Street
16 to Joan Street 150 feet on each side of
17 Davis Street and extending approximately 125
18 feet northwest beyond Joan Street, be
19 scheduled for a public hearing before
20 Scranton City Council at 6:00 p.m. on June
21 7, 2011, and that the city clerks send a
22 copy of the request of zoning amendment for
23 the Minooka Neighborhood Association to the
24 Scranton City Planning Commission and
25 Lackawanna County Regional Planning

1 Commission for their recommendations prior
2 to the hearing on June 7, 2011.

3 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
4 floor to rezone an area of Minooka at the
5 request of the Minooka Neighborhood
6 Association from a classification of CN to
7 R-1-A. Do we have a second?

8 MR. MCGOFF: The motion is to hold a
9 public hearing, correct, on that?

10 MS. EVANS: Yes. Well, hold the
11 public hearing and send letters to planning
12 commission, the city's planning
13 commission --

14 MR. MCGOFF: I understand.

15 MS. EVANS: -- and Lackawanna County.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I'll second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question?

18 MR. MCGOFF: Just for reference, I'm
19 somewhat confused, is this the area that is
20 caddy-corner from the CVS across the street
21 from the bank? Is that --

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, this is actually
23 down -- do you remember where the radio
24 tower was on Davis Street? It's down about
25 five blocks from CVS, it's that parcel right

1 where the radio station was? I don't know
2 how else to explain it. It's in front of
3 the nursing home.

4 MR. MCGOFF: I'm not familiar with
5 all of the streets that were mentioned so --
6 but that's fine. I'll go find it.

7 MR. JOYCE: That's the last block
8 off of Davis Street, correct, from what I
9 understand?

10 MR. ROGAN: Just for clarification,
11 sorry, Mr. Joyce, just for clarification, we
12 are just voting to hold the caucus; correct?

13 MS. EVANS: Well, to hold a hearing.

14 MR. ROGAN: To hold a hearing, I
15 apologize.

16 MS. EVANS: There is actually a
17 procedure that has to be followed when I
18 think you're looking to rezone an area and
19 the reason that the public hearing is
20 scheduled for June 7 is to provide at least
21 30 days to both the planning commissions to
22 review the amendment that's presented by the
23 Neighborhood Association and then to make a
24 recommendation on it to city council.

25 Maybe at this time I would defer to

1 Solicitor Hughes and perhaps he could give
2 us a little timeline or a little explanation
3 here of the proper procedure that must be
4 followed and what law we are following.

5 MR. HUGHES: Yes, Madam Chairman.
6 The City of Scranton zoning ordinance of
7 1994, as amended -- I'm sorry, 1993, it's
8 File of Council No. 74 of 1993, Section 108
9 sets forth as to how the ordinance can be
10 amended. Section 108 (a), Council may
11 amend, challenge or repeal any or all
12 portions of this ordinance on: One, on it's
13 own motion; or two, upon agreeing to give a
14 written request from any person, entity or
15 the planning commission.

16 So council could do it on it's own
17 motion, which it's not doing, under 108 (a)
18 (1), we are proceeding under 108 (a) (2) of
19 the city zoning code that there has been a
20 request by the Minooka --

21 MS. EVANS: Neighborhood
22 Association.

23 MR. HUGHES: Yeah, I'm sorry, by the
24 neighborhood association to amend this
25 parcel of land from a CN to an R-1-A zoning

1 classification. All of the areas around all
2 of those streets that were mentioned and the
3 areas all around it on the three sides are
4 all R-1-A zoned, so that what we are doing,
5 and then it says under Section B Council has
6 to hold a public hearing, and then under C
7 the planning commission, the city planning
8 commission, and the Lackawanna County
9 Regional Planning Commission have 30 days to
10 review the proposal, so what we have here in
11 following the ordinance is the request has
12 come in from the Minooka Neighborhood
13 Association requesting that this parcel be
14 rezoned.

15 I would submit, here's a map of it,
16 and you can pass down, it's that large
17 parcel there, that that be rezoned so that
18 the Planning Commission and the Lackawanna
19 County Regional Planning Commission will
20 give their recommendation, we'll have a
21 public hearing on June 7 regarding that, and
22 I would anticipate by that time I will
23 review the ordinance that was submitted,
24 Mr. King, the city planner, will probably
25 have comment on it, probably that Friday

1 before we could put the ordinance on or we
2 could wait until after the public hearing to
3 put on the ordinance to rezone that
4 property.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Attorney Hughes, could
6 I just -- maybe I missed it, what is CN and
7 what is R-1-A?

8 MR. HUGHES: CN is -- that's
9 neighborhood commercial and so that zoning
10 is a commercial zone right in the middle of
11 an R-1-A zone. R-1-A, I believe you can put
12 up a duplex, medium low density residential,
13 I believe that's limited to two-family, two
14 family homes, duplexes. It's been a long
15 time since I looked at that section of the
16 zoning ordinance, but you are going from
17 neighborhood commercial --

18 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine. Actually,
19 CN was the one I was --

20 MR. HUGHES: That would be for
21 neighborhood commercial. Convenient store,
22 gas station, things like that. As I said,
23 it's right smack dab in the middle of that
24 R-1-A zone.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there

1 anyone else on the question?

2 MR. ROGAN: I would just add, I
3 never have a problem with voting for a city
4 caucus. When I initially read it, it looked
5 like, as you said, that we were voting to
6 change, this is the first I saw it now so --

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. ROGAN: -- I have no problem with
9 the caucus.

10 MS. EVANS: We're just, as I said,
11 following the procedure that is outlined in
12 the law and the code and at the
13 recommendation of our solicitor as to how
14 best to proceed in order to obtain positive
15 results and I think to make sure that we
16 are, as he is so often likes to say, wearing
17 our belts and suspenders.

18 MR. HUGHES: I just have suspenders
19 on tonight, no belt.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have met personally
21 with the neighborhood association in Minooka
22 and they did put the ordinance together and
23 we had a long discussion there and I did
24 address their concerns and told them I would
25 pass it along to our solicitor and with the

1 okay from our president, Mrs. Evans, and
2 basically that's how we got the ball rolling
3 on this, and there be more information
4 through the public hearing. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
6 introduction signify by saying aye.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to continue, I
14 just have a couple of more items. Ladies
15 and gentlemen, I would like to take the time
16 this evening to address the non-issues that
17 the Scranton Times has parlayed into a daily
18 barrage of editorials, opinions, cartoons in
19 an effort to discredit all of the good that
20 this city council has done for the taxpayers
21 and businesses in this city over the past 16
22 months. I have been accused of using this
23 forum as a campaign tool, relatively
24 speaking, all of the business that is
25 discussed in these chambers is political in

1 one way or another. Just because I filed my
2 nomination papers for full-time in this seat
3 does not give anyone the right to suppress
4 my opinions or views as to what has been
5 going right or wrong within this city. I
6 have expressed my opinion, which is my
7 constitutional right since the date of my
8 appointment in January of 2010, and I will
9 continue to do so until my service is
10 completed to you, the taxpayers.

11 My comments last week were born out
12 of frustration, a frustration that I have
13 witnessed from many speakers at this podium,
14 a frustration that I have witnessed on a
15 daily basis from people that I meet in the
16 streets or come across in our businesses. A
17 frustration that has built up in me because
18 of an absolute disregard by our newspaper,
19 the Scranton Times, by continually
20 overlooking the real issues that have
21 brought this city to it's knees financially.

22 This administration and the
23 newspaper, as it's accomplice, continue to
24 believe that they can hide the real facts
25 from you, the taxpayers, but I do know that

1 you are much smarter than that. This is the
2 only true forum for you, the public, to
3 bring your questions and receive your
4 answers without being edited.

5 As I drive our streets on a daily
6 basis while dodging the large potholes, I
7 ask you where has the money gone? As I
8 drive through downtown and observe all of
9 the taxpayer funded developments and empty
10 businesses I ask, where has the money gone?
11 As I drive by our parking garages and
12 realize all of the free parking spaces that
13 have been dolled out, I ask, where has the
14 money gone? As I see nonprofits gobbling up
15 taxable properties thereby shrinking our
16 taxpayer without an effort by the
17 administration to seek payments in lieu of
18 taxes I ask, where has the money gone?

19 As I realize that the police and
20 fire unions have not received a raise in
21 nine years yet the city's deficit has
22 ballooned tremendously during that time, I
23 ask, where has our money gone?

24 As this council majority turns over
25 more rocks and discovers more money

1 inappropriately moved or transferred to the
2 tune of over \$11 million and counting, I ask
3 where has our money gone? As this council
4 majority was not in place when you, the
5 taxpayers, were slapped with a 26 percent
6 property tax increase I ask where has our
7 money gone?

8 This council majority has passed our
9 amended budget for 2011 reducing the fat,
10 protecting your public safety and decreasing
11 your property taxes and decreasing the
12 business nuisance taxes, and also closing
13 the administration's personal checkbook, yet
14 this administration continues to hire in
15 positions that were eliminated and spend
16 monies from the RE-RE account I still ask,
17 where has our money gone?

18 I can go on and on forever. As you
19 can see, there are a million stories in the
20 naked city, and that is what we will be if
21 we don't stop the bleeding completely.
22 These are the stories that you should be
23 reading about in the Scranton Times not the
24 daily distractions that they post. I can
25 take all of the cartoons, opinions and

1 editorials that they can throw my way, what
2 I can't take and what enrages me is the fact
3 that they have enabled this administration
4 to squander millions off your tax dollars on
5 a handful of cronies, legal appeals, and
6 gross wasteful spending, just to name a few,
7 all the while trying to discredit this city
8 council majority on a daily basis by
9 pointing the finger at us, a city council
10 majority that is working for you, the
11 taxpayers, not this administration and not
12 the Scranton Times.

13 I would bet that if a true
14 journalist for the Scranton Times addressed
15 just one of my previous mentioned issues,
16 they would be a candidate for a Pulitzer
17 Prize. Yes, Folks, your frustration is my
18 frustration and I will not keep my mouth
19 shut until all of the co-conspirators are
20 held accountable.

21 And lastly, last week we had a
22 little discussion and Mr. McGoff was
23 offended, as he stated before, and I think
24 what offended him he said I called him a
25 name. Well, I have a public record here,

1 ladies and gentlemen, this is from January
2 6, 2010, page 19, lines 11 through 23.

3 "MR. MCGOFF: I, too, would like to
4 thank the outgoing members of the council.
5 I owe a great debt to Mrs. Gatelli and
6 Mrs. Fanucci for all the assistance that
7 they have given me over the three years that
8 I have been here. I really truly thank my
9 fellow rubber stampers for their assistance
10 and I will miss their being here and I think
11 the city is going to miss the service that
12 they had given and I hope that they will
13 continue to be part of the City of Scranton
14 and part of the development of the City of
15 Scranton."

16 So, Mr. McGoff, I did not call you
17 anything that you did not call yourself and
18 Elvis has left the building. That's it.

19 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Joyce, do you have
20 any motions or comments?

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I do. At this
22 point in time I feel like the Scranton
23 Times, I feel like the whole newspaper is
24 starting to turn into one big Op-Ed column,
25 let me explain why. Last week the Scranton

1 Times wrote an article claiming that
2 council's claim that the city violated any
3 law or agreement in withdrawing \$7.6 million
4 from the Workers' Compensation Trust Fund
5 was unsupported. As stated in the Workers'
6 Compensation Trust Fund agreement, it is
7 explicitly stated that the city is not to
8 borrow money that would leave the fund less
9 than 75 percent funded. As reported by
10 council and stated in the Scranton Times,
11 the administration withdrew \$7.6 million
12 from the fund to cover outstanding bill
13 payments from 2010, being the previous year.

14 A large portion of this payment was
15 for -- a large portion of this was for our
16 payment for TAN-B in which we owed in excess
17 of \$9.5 million, among other paid bills,
18 which put us at a grand total of over \$11
19 million owed.

20 Back to the issue of whether or not
21 the fund was less than 75 percent funded at
22 any time, as the Scranton Times stated, the
23 total amount of outstanding liabilities at
24 the end of the January 2011 was \$20.5
25 million. When subtracting \$7.6 from 20.5,

1 the resulting amount is \$12.9 million, so
2 you do the math at home. So this is the
3 money that was left in the fund in early
4 January. When you divide 12.9 by 20.5, the
5 result is that the city left the fund 63
6 percent funded when they removed this money.

7 Being an inquisitive finance chair,
8 after the Scranton Times stated that our
9 claim was unsupported, I instructed our city
10 clerk, Mrs. Krake, to contact George Knehr,
11 and I apologize if I mispronounce his name,
12 who is the chief of the Self-insurance
13 Division for the Bureau of Workers'
14 Compensation in the Pennsylvania Department
15 of Labor and industry. I asked our city
16 clerk to ask him or to ask him -- or to ask
17 him one question which was, would the city
18 at any time be able to go below the 75
19 percent reserve level in the Workers'
20 Compensation Trust Fund? Upon presenting
21 that question to Mr. Knehr his response was
22 pretty cut and dry, as he stated: My
23 opinion is that the answer to your question
24 is, no, meaning that the city is not to go
25 below the 75 percent threshold at any time

1 which, of course, they did since they left
2 only 63 percent funded when withdrawing the
3 \$7.6 million from it in early January to
4 cover 2010 bills.

5 From correspondence from our auditor
6 Rossi & Rossi, this money was withdrawn from
7 the account on January 3, 2011. The money
8 was put back into the account, let me get a
9 date here, I believe it was January 11th of
10 2011. So for that time frame the account
11 was below the 75 percent.

12 Furthermore, Mr. Knehr stated that
13 Section 2-A of the amended trust states that
14 the reserve account shall, which essentially
15 means must, equal the outstanding claim's
16 liability allowing for a deficit of no more
17 than 25 percent between the employees
18 outstanding liability and the asset value of
19 the reserve accounts.

20 So there you have it. It was
21 Scranton City Council or -- so there you
22 have it. Scranton City Council's claim that
23 the city violated the agreement of the
24 Workers' Compensation Trust Fund is
25 supported. Though the Scranton Times

1 suggested that it is not, I have the
2 documents and correspondence from Mr. Knehr,
3 right in front of me for anyone that still
4 believes the newspaper, and if you would
5 like a copy of that you can e-mail me at
6 Frank.Joyce@live.com or you can e-mail me
7 through the city e-mail account.

8 The Scranton Times reported that at
9 the end of January the fund contained enough
10 money that would put us above the 75 percent
11 reserve level and, yes, this is true. The
12 reason for this is that revenue from 2011
13 was transferred back into this fund once
14 TAN-A and TAN-B proceeds were received in
15 2011. Once these payments were received,
16 the \$7.6 million was transferred back into
17 the Workers' Compensation Trust Fund, which
18 is the money that was intended to be used to
19 pay 2011 bills not covered for the
20 administration's under projection of revenue
21 in 2010.

22 Regarding the administration's under
23 projection of the revenue in 2010, coupled
24 with the administration's misprojections of
25 health insurance costs in 2011 as well as

1 the under projection of budgets prior to
2 2010, the city is faced with a deficit. In
3 this Sunday's newspaper, it was suggested
4 that a portion of the problem was due to
5 council cutting taxes. What the newspaper
6 must have forgot is that when the 2011
7 operating budget was amended and first sent
8 to council, the administration reported to
9 both the State of Pennsylvania and to the
10 city council that the city would not fall
11 short in 2010, and that we would bring in
12 enough revenue to cover our expenditures for
13 that year as proven by the \$4.7 million
14 deficit in 2010 alone, which was first
15 reported to council in late February, early
16 March of 2011, the administration's 2010
17 budget was not balanced and fell very, very
18 short. This budget fell so short that money
19 was used from the 2011 budget to cover bills
20 from the 2010 budget.

21 At no point in time when council
22 amended the 2011 operating budget or even in
23 Mayor Doherty's veto letter of our amended
24 budget for that matter, was it indicated
25 that council, or that we would fall short by

1 \$4.7 million in 2010 and need to use money
2 received in 2011 to cover bills of the past.
3 If Mayor Doherty decides to lay off city
4 workers, which he has been threatening to
5 do, and subsequently jeopardizing your
6 public safety, it is the administration's
7 fault not the fault of the Scranton City
8 Council.

9 In addition, council has already
10 offered suggestions on how to handle the
11 shortfall of money that may occur later on
12 in the year. However, to this date council
13 has yet to hear any of the suggestions from
14 the administration. This brings me to my
15 next point, this past week I received a
16 letter from Mr. McGowan regarding PEL
17 meetings. Typically in my place I ask our
18 city clerk to attend PEL meetings and take
19 notes for me since the meetings occur on
20 Monday morning. In Mr. McGowan's
21 correspondence to me, he invited me to join
22 these meetings, however, he stated that he
23 could only have them moved to some time
24 before 4:00 p.m. on Mondays or in the same
25 time frame on another day.

1 Here is the point of why I'm saying
2 to you, the administration knows very well
3 that I work from eight to five on Monday
4 through Fridays and conveniently offered to
5 moved PEL meetings to a time that is
6 essentially impossible for me to attend. To
7 anyone listening to me right now sit back
8 for a minute, think of what your boss would
9 say to you if you asked them to leave work
10 early every Monday to attend a meeting for
11 another job. I bet that 99 percent of those
12 that are listening right now are thinking
13 that their boss would tell them to go pound
14 sand if they asked them to leave work early
15 to attend a weekly meeting for another
16 position.

17 With this being said, they offered
18 Mayor Doherty and the administration to come
19 to the council meeting on Tuesday at 6:30
20 p.m. to discuss suggestions on how to
21 address the fiscal shortfall that they
22 created is still on the table, I'll never
23 take it off and it's always going to be
24 there. To this point council has offered
25 suggestions on how to handle fiscal

1 shortfall, however, the administration has
2 not and we are still waiting to hear from
3 them.

4 So the administration, our BA and
5 Mayor Doherty are more than welcome to come
6 here at 6:30 or we could schedule a time
7 prior to that and we would discuss any
8 fiscal matters that need to be discussed
9 regarding the projected shortfall of cash
10 that may occur later on in the year.

11 Next, I wanted to address DPW
12 overtime a little bit. Regarding DPW
13 overtime, I want to reiterate that the mayor
14 hired back four foremen that were not
15 included in council's budget amendments.
16 This could have been used on an excess
17 overtime that the DPW would have needed to
18 cover our rough winter season. Recently
19 council sent a request in regard to what the
20 cost of hiring back the four foremen really
21 is. Well, when I saw the information that
22 Mrs. Novembrino from our Controller's Office
23 sent to us, I was quite astonished.

24 As per Mrs. Novembrino's
25 correspondence to council, which was sent to

1 us in a very timely manner to add, I have
2 found that on average the four foremen hired
3 back despite not being funded in the budget
4 are costing the city more money than last
5 year. In Mrs. Novembrino's report, she
6 provided figures as to what the four foremen
7 earned last year and what they have earned
8 so far this year. Since Mayor Doherty hired
9 the foremen back as casual workers, they are
10 now offered overtime, which last year they
11 did not receive since they were salaried
12 employees.

13 So through the first seven pay
14 periods though Mayor Doherty technically
15 states that he lowered their salaries as
16 casual workers, they are actually making
17 more money doing the same exact job that
18 they did in 2010 because they now have the
19 ability to rack up overtime costs. So this
20 really doesn't sound like the administration
21 wants to save too much money now, does it?

22 Before council approvals the
23 transfer of any funding to comp the cost of
24 overtime there are few things that we need
25 to know and, Mrs. Krake, can you please send

1 this in the form of a Right-to-Know request
2 so it is ensured that we receive the
3 information that we are looking for. Number
4 one, the balance of the account for snow
5 removal and plowing contractors or
6 subcontractors. I remember from our budget
7 amendments this was a fund that we reduced--
8 or a line item that we reduced by a mere
9 \$100.

10 And number two, a complete list of
11 all DPW workers, their number of overtime
12 hours per day, along with the dates when
13 they worked overtime and the specific work
14 that they performed each day from January 1,
15 2011, up to and including April 29, 2011.

16 From viewing Mrs. Novembrino's
17 response to council regarding the overtime
18 of the four foremen that were hired back by
19 Mayor Doherty, despite being eliminated in
20 council's budget amendments, it was apparent
21 that some of the foremen had been eating up
22 overtime like kids eat candy. With this in
23 mind, I think before approving any transfer
24 of funds from a contingency fund or any
25 other fund for that matter, we must do our

1 due diligence and examine why overtime was
2 used rather than just simply taking their
3 word for it.

4 And with that I have a few citizens'
5 requests. Several South Scranton residents
6 have reported that the property located at
7 823 Rear Moosic Street is in very poor
8 condition and is becoming a safe haven for
9 rodents, skunks and possums. Upon visiting
10 the neighborhood, I noticed that the
11 property has not been condemned. So,
12 Mrs. Krake, can you please contact
13 Mr. Seitzinger and notify him of the
14 situation and ask him to address it
15 appropriately.

16 Several South Scranton residents
17 have informed me that the cars are speeding
18 on the 200 block and the 300 block of
19 Pittston Avenue. Mrs. Krake, can you please
20 contact Chief Duffy and pass this note onto
21 him and ask him to address this as he sees
22 appropriate.

23 Also, residents on Dexter Avenue in
24 West Side informed me there are many
25 potholes and cracks along the entire road.

1 This resident has informed me of this
2 several times throughout the course of the
3 past year and I know Mr. Newcomb always
4 mentions Cameron Avenue, this is yet another
5 street in the Keyser Valley section, and if
6 you drive through the Keyser Valley section
7 the roads are in deplorable shape for the
8 most part. So, Mrs. Krake, can you please
9 notify Mr. Brazil of this and ask him to
10 address this situation appropriately.

11 And finally before I close, I want
12 to give a congratulations to Officer
13 McDermott for his courageous work in
14 notifying the sleeping residents of a
15 burning home that their house was evidently
16 on fire and, you know, sitting back here
17 thinking, I remember very, very sharply from
18 looking over the list of police officers
19 that would have been laid off if it wasn't
20 for council's budget amendments, that was
21 one of the officers, and it makes me very
22 proud to sit up here and know that we
23 amended a budget that saved an officer that
24 ended up saving the lives of possibly an
25 entire family.

1 And last, but not least, I want to
2 wish all of the mothers out there a very
3 happy and blessed Mother's Day, and
4 especially my mother. In case you don't
5 know much about me, my father passed away a
6 week before my senior year in high school
7 and I want to thank my mother personally for
8 the guidance and strength that she has
9 provided me throughout the years. You will
10 always be the focus of my heart and I love
11 you more than you can imagine, and I
12 encourage every single person that's
13 listening tonight on Mother's Day to give
14 their mothers a great big thank you for all
15 that they do in their lives, and that's it.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I don't know that when
17 we brought up Davis Street before, I know
18 people have asked this in the past about the
19 police officer that's stationed there in the
20 afternoon, I don't know if we had addressed
21 that.

22 Mr. JOYCE: I believe we did. I
23 think the letter was sent over.

24 MR. ROGAN: I don't think we got a
25 response.

1 MR. MCGOFF: But I was just talking
2 to a businessman on Davis Street and he said
3 that policeman is being paid by one of the
4 businesses to expedite traffic in that area
5 and from the gentleman I talked to he said
6 it's really a Godsend because of the volume
7 of traffic there and people making turns
8 into the various properties, so it is being
9 funded by one of the businesses on Davis
10 Street in that area, and that's all. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. ROGAN: If I could just
13 piggyback something Mr. Joyce said about the
14 DPW overtime, I'm sure everyone remembers
15 the comment that our former police chief
16 made about police officers, and I'm not
17 going to repeat the comment, we all know
18 what it was, but I think that the people in
19 this city that were truly exploiting
20 overtime are the workers in the DPW, not the
21 workers in our public safety units and, you
22 know, I have been extremely critical of the
23 DPW and residents have and I think
24 rightfully so. I think, you know -- and I
25 will be looking forward to seeing those

1 numbers about the overtime, that's for sure.
2 And, you know, moving forward, I definitely
3 think we need an efficiency report from the
4 DPW.

5 And what I find very peculiar is
6 every morning when you go out on garbage day
7 you go out and see the DPW trucks and refuse
8 workers are supposed to work until 2 p.m.,
9 correct me if I'm wrong, 2 or 3 p.m., and I
10 don't know if anyone, because I know I have
11 never seen a DPW truck on the road past
12 noon, so what are they getting paid for
13 those other hours? And definitely not from
14 1 to 2:00, and I challenge somebody to take
15 a picture and send it in if you do, and
16 that's all.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
18 evening. Before I begin maybe there is
19 something I could just add about the DPW
20 overtime, I'm anticipating that the response
21 we will receive to Councilman Joyce's
22 Right-to-Know request will indicate that it
23 cannot be answered in a five-day period,
24 they are going to I'm sure request 30 days
25 or more in which to respond. If I heard my

1 colleague correctly, he is asking for the
2 justification for the hours worked, and
3 again, I'm anticipating that that will be
4 met with great displeasure, but I have to
5 say just quickly, when I worked if we were
6 to perform extra jobs outside of our normal
7 working hours, outside of the normal school
8 days, first of all, the number of hours were
9 set by contract and by the administration in
10 terms of, you know, this particular activity
11 will receive "X" amount of hours per year.
12 Should you exceed those hours you will not
13 be paid.

14 Now, that sounds like negative
15 proposal, doesn't it? Meaning, well, you
16 get as much done as you can, if you can't
17 get the rest done you don't do it because
18 you don't get paid, but you know what,
19 ladies and gentlemen, in most cases quite
20 the opposite was true, and although a
21 certain number of hours were assigned, I saw
22 many, many people, myself included, who went
23 well beyond the assigned number of hours.
24 We weren't paid for it, but it was a matter
25 of pride and a matter of the dedication and

1 a matter of work ethic.

2 Now, we had to justify every hour
3 that we worked, meaning, it was insufficient
4 to submit on a timesheet to central
5 administration, well, I've worked 15 hours
6 or I worked 75 hours, you have to justify
7 each and every one of those hours spent, and
8 I remember, you know, often times when it
9 would be a situation for myself where it
10 would be 15 hours, in fact, one year it went
11 well over 100 hours that I put in. I was
12 paid for 15 hours, but I took great pride in
13 what I was doing and the kids that I was
14 working with and I didn't need to be paid
15 for everything to do the job well.

16 Now, I think the point of what I'm
17 saying is simply this, in other businesses,
18 in school districts, when you work overtime
19 you have got to justify what you are doing
20 during that period of time. You can't
21 simply turn in a number of hours and then
22 have it stamped and you are just
23 automatically paid. So I am very anxious to
24 see the justification for all of the hours.
25 I think it's -- I think it's called for,

1 it's the right thing to do before council
2 would decide on what should be allocated for
3 overtime in the DPW.

4 I'd also like to announce that the
5 assistant law director of Mansfield, Ohio,
6 requested copies of Scranton City Council's
7 bath salt legislation. Apparently, other
8 states are following our lead and hard work.
9 I thank Attorney Boyd Hughes and Councilman
10 Jack Loscombe for drafting this legislation
11 and making our city safer and putting
12 Scranton on the map in the fight against
13 bath salts.

14 Next, I'd like to comment regarding
15 the city's finances and deficit, several
16 important facts must be noted. City council
17 has exposed the proof that the
18 administration has played a shell game with
19 taxpayers' money. However, it is equally
20 important for taxpayers to know that this
21 harmful shell game was a private
22 well-guarded secret kept not only from this
23 council, but also the previous council. The
24 movement of funds requires the knowledge and
25 consent of the city council, in other words,

1 it requires ordinances. This never
2 occurred. Not in 2011, not in 2010, and not
3 in 2009.

4 When the administration conceals its
5 debts, the raiding of Workers' Comp Fund
6 Trust and the use of TANS to pay prior
7 year's bills, no city council passed or
8 present has the true and accurate financial
9 facts. Rather, the administration presented
10 budgets and documentation showing quite the
11 opposite and any city council can only base
12 it's budget amendments and decisions on the
13 budgets and documentation presented to it by
14 the administration.

15 Further, it is a fact that for five
16 months the administration has purposely
17 failed to enforce a rental registration
18 program and institute a StreetSmart parking
19 program, the very same program which was
20 embrace by Wilkes-Barre, State College, and
21 other Pennsylvania municipalities.

22 Last week, we learned from a
23 Wilkes-Barre official that their parking
24 program was not put out to bid and RFP's
25 were not issued. Wilkes-Barre simply took

1 wise advantage of the free trial period
2 offered by StreetSmart and if the program
3 makes money for Wilkes-Barre then it will be
4 installed citywide.

5 Further, no competitive companies
6 threatened to sue Wilkes-Barre. Only in
7 Scranton would such an opportunity be
8 postponed and neglected. Since the
9 administration was always aware of its
10 deficit and is starkly aware of the
11 immediate need for funds, why does it refuse
12 to aggressively pursue this new revenue
13 generator?

14 Ladies and gentlemen, it's much like
15 a man who losses his job, raids the family
16 saving's account, is losing his house and
17 hides it all from his wife. Now,
18 opportunity knocks, the man has a great job
19 offer, but he won't accept the job, save his
20 house and pay his bills, instead, he decides
21 to blame his wife, insist that she clean up
22 the mess he made, and let his children live
23 in the streets. I think we can all agree
24 that man should step up and accept the job,
25 come clean with his wife, and save his home

1 or else leave the family that he destroyed.

2 At the same time, the latest
3 election issue raised is the tax decrease
4 given by this city council to the senior
5 citizens, blue collar workers, the
6 unemployed, and the businesses of Scranton.
7 In a recession, these are the people who are
8 hardest hit and these people need and
9 deserve a break, particularly since their
10 taxes were raised by 26 percent while
11 millions of dollars sat in a bank account
12 overseen by a former tax collector.

13 Property taxes were raised by
14 Mr. McGoff's council majority, but
15 simultaneously the deficit grew. This
16 situation demands an explanation from the
17 administration. Instead, the newest spin is
18 to convince taxpayers that a tax decrease is
19 a bad thing, especially in a recession.

20 Curiously, however, little to no
21 mention is made that this council also cut
22 business taxes to help our existing
23 businesses during this recession and to
24 encourage new business to locate in
25 Scranton. Perhaps it's because the business

1 tax decrease given by this council majority
2 doesn't effect the Scranton Times since it
3 pays no business taxes. There's a chunk of
4 revenue the city has never seen.
5 Nevertheless, the newspaper doesn't think
6 the little guy deserves a tax cut.

7 Now, the council amendments were
8 financially accurate and the 2011 budget was
9 therefore balanced and in compliance with
10 all of the information supplied by the
11 administration, including the mayor's
12 proposed budget. Now, that the truth has
13 been exposed regarding the financial
14 machinations of the Doherty administration,
15 the same administration, its supporters and
16 apologists offer only one solution, cut
17 police, fire, DPW, and clerical workers.

18 On the other hand, my colleague,
19 Mr. McGoff, has offered a tax increase as a
20 possible solution. Both the administration
21 and Councilman McGoff need to generate
22 better solutions for the people of Scranton.
23 Step up to the budget plate, institute the
24 StreetSmart program immediately, for the
25 first time in three years and force the

1 rental registration program, and do the
2 homework on the sale or lease of all city
3 parking garages. Failure to take such
4 action only proves to the people that they
5 have no interest in bringing revenue into
6 this city to solve this problem.

7 When these measures are
8 accomplished, the majority of city council
9 will discuss additional options, if
10 necessary.

11 Next, ECTV -- or rather regarding
12 ECTV's IRS tax lien, ECTV received well over
13 \$100,000 from OECD and the UDAG RE-RE
14 account as well as funding from the county
15 commissioners and private sponsorships.
16 ECTV chose not to pay it's federal taxes.
17 None of this pertains to city council.

18 Also, Comcast does not recognize the
19 mayor's franchise agreement, which cut out
20 one peg channel, and as I'm sure most of you
21 are aware two peg channels remain in
22 operation as council requested.

23 Finally, I have citizens' requests
24 for the week. Residents report that the
25 pool heater at Weston Field has been broken

1 for several weeks and late last week that
2 the pool was closed. We have since learned
3 that the pool is not closed and the
4 department is addressing the heater
5 problems. Please update council when the
6 problem is resolved or by May 10, 2011,
7 whichever comes first.

8 South Side residents request that
9 the traffic lanes on Meadow avenue at the
10 intersection of Meadow and Moosic Street are
11 repainted. They state that numerous
12 motorists cannot recognize there are turning
13 lanes at this intersection.

14 A resident wishes to know if the
15 LIPS Department is collecting permit fees of
16 \$5 per day for each roll off container and
17 portable box within city limits as required
18 by the Administrative Code. These
19 containers and boxes are placed on a street
20 or highway within Scranton for the purposes
21 of collecting waste to be transported to a
22 disposal site.

23 Clean block of Olive Street located
24 across from Scranton High School, school
25 students should not have to walk through

1 such deplorable conditions and be forced
2 into the street.

3 I'd like to send a Right-to-Know
4 request to the Department of LIPS, when will
5 the condemned property at 812-814 Quincy
6 Avenue be demolished as promised by
7 Mr. Oleski to residents of the 800 block of
8 Quincy Avenue in 2010. These homeowners are
9 now at wit's end. They have contacted
10 Mr. Seitzinger, Mr. Oleski, the mayor's
11 office, city council, they're dealing with a
12 condemned property now for quite a long
13 time, and when I see the variation in
14 situations between some locations that are
15 condemned and it's sometimes questionable
16 and they are taken down very, very quickly
17 at the city's cost, and then I see something
18 like this I really have to wonder.

19 And I think what the Newcombs were
20 stating earlier is also very accurate. I'm
21 well aware because of the Newcomb family of
22 the deplorable inexcusable condition of the
23 Washburn Street Cemetery for years and for
24 years I have asked the LIPS Department to go
25 there and cite the owner, and here we are a

1 year again later still no citations and the
2 situation grows more and more unacceptable
3 and that's a disgrace not only to those who
4 are buried in that sacred land, but to their
5 families who visit them faithfully.

6 And I think as my colleague stated,
7 you can visit just about any other cemetery
8 in the City of Scranton and in Dunmore and
9 they are pristine. There is no excuse for
10 what's going -- no acceptable excuse, there
11 can only be something else going on here
12 behind the scenes that protects this
13 particular owner just like it appears to me
14 now that the same type of situation could
15 very well be going on at 812-814 Quincy
16 Avenue, and I know the law has been involved
17 before, I know this has gone to a
18 magisterial level, I know a magistrate has
19 ordered the owner of that property to make
20 repairs and upgrades and that never happens,
21 and this goes on year after year after year
22 and for some reason the city just backs off.

23 And the people of the 800 block of
24 Quincy Avenue are disgusted with every
25 element of city government, and I understand

1 why. I'm disgusted right along with them,
2 but I'm asking them to understand that city
3 council cannot order LIPS' inspectors to go
4 out and do anything. They have a boss and
5 their boss has a boss and that's where it's
6 got to come from, and when it doesn't it's
7 not due to a failure of any one up here,
8 you've got to go to the source.

9 And finally, I just wanted to read
10 one request I got by e-mail: "Mrs. Evans, I
11 am a taxpayer of Scranton and I have a
12 problem with the DPW at the corner of Meadow
13 Avenue and Birch Street in the South Side
14 area and on the bottom of a hill. Every
15 time it rains, there is big buildup of dirt,
16 which the city knows. I call the DPW to ask
17 them if they could send up the street
18 sweeper to pick up the dirt, and all I do is
19 call and call and get nothing done. Why is
20 it we, as taxpayers, have to beg to get
21 something done?

22 When I go to work in the morning, I
23 always see the sweeper on the same streets
24 and then they sit to kill the day. Why is
25 this? We all in this area try and keep our

1 homes nice and when we need help we can't
2 get any. This is a shame. I understand
3 there are other areas that need cleaning,
4 but not always the same places. Is there
5 something you can do to help with this
6 problem and maybe there could be something
7 done to stop this from happening. Is there
8 someone that can take a look at this problem
9 so maybe we won't have to keep calling?

10 You know, Mrs. Evans, I have been
11 cleaning all of the dirt up for my than 20
12 years. Now that I'm a lot older, I can't do
13 it anymore and have no place to put it. So
14 please, will you see what you can do? "

15 And so I am asking the DPW to go
16 down with the street sweeper and clean that
17 area and to add that to their list after
18 rain falls. I think 20 years of people
19 having to perform services that they're
20 paying their taxes for, you know, enough is
21 enough, and that's it.

22 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. NO BUSINESS AT THIS
23 TIME.

24 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY TITLE-
25 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 31, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE-

1 PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF MOUNT
2 PLEASANT DRIVE IN THE MOUNT PLEASANT
3 SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
4 PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
5 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
6 ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND
7 RECORD IN THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY RECORDER OF
8 DEEDS OFFICIAL RECORDS A DEED FOR THE ABOVE.

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

11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
21 have it and so moved.

22 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 32, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE
24 - AS AMENDED - PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE
25 OF A STORMWATER SYSTEM IN THE MOUNT PLEASANT

1 SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
2 PENNSYLVANIA. ALSO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR
3 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO
4 ACCEPT FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) AND
5 RECORD IN THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY RECORDER OF
6 DEEDS OFFICIAL RECORDS A DEED FOR THE ABOVE
7 MENTIONED STORMWATER SYSTEM.

8 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
9 title of Item 6-B, as amended, what is your
10 pleasure?

11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
21 have it and so moved.

22 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 33, 2011 - AN ORDINANCE
24 - AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY
25 ACQUISITION OF A PORTION OF CITY OWNED

1 PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF
2 KEYSER AVENUE AND JACKSON STREET (1,110
3 SQUARE FEET) IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON MORE
4 COMMONLY KNOWN AS A PART OF PIN NUMBER
5 14412-030-016 TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
6 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
7 ("PENNDOT") IN ORDER TO WIDEN THE
8 INTERSECTION FOR BETTER TRAFFIC FLOW AT THIS
9 INTERSECTION.

10 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
11 title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure?

12 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
13 pass reading by title.

14 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

17 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

18 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

20 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
25 FOR ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 27, 2011 -

1 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR
2 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
3 AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED
4 U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACCOUNT
5 NO. 13A.0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND
6 DISBURSEMENT OF ALL BROWNFIELDS
7 COMMUNITY-WIDE HAZARDOUS ASSESSMENT GRANT
8 FUNDS ("EPA FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE U.S.
9 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ("EPA").

10 MS. EVANS: What is the
11 recommendation of the Chair for the
12 Committee on Finance?

13 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
14 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
15 passage of Item 7-A.

16 MR. ROGAN: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
18 call, please?

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

2 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR
7 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 28, 2011 -
8 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR
9 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
10 AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED
11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PROGRAM
12 ACCOUNT NO. 14A.0101 FOR THE RECEIPT AND
13 DISBURSEMENT OF ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
14 INITIATIVE PROGRAM FUNDS ("EDI FUNDS")
15 RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
16 AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD").

17 MS. EVANS: What is the
18 recommendation of the Chair for the
19 Committee on Finance.

20 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
21 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
22 passage of Item 7-B.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
25 call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
11 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

12 MS. KRAKE: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR
14 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 29, 2011 -
15 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR
16 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
17 AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED
18 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM -
19 RECOVERY PROGRAM ACCOUNT NO. 15A.0101 FOR
20 THE RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF ALL
21 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - RECOVERY
22 PROGRAM FUNDS ("CDBG-R FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM
23 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
24 DEVELOPMENT ("HUD").

25 MS. EVANS: What is the

1 recommendation of the Chair for the
2 Committee on Finance?

3 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
5 passage of Item 7-C.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

7 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
8 call, please?

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
19 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

20 MS. KRAKE: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
21 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR
22 ADOPTION-FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 30, 2011 -
23 CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ACCOUNT FOR
24 THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
25 AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ("OECD") TITLED

1 HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID-REHOUSING
2 PROGRAM ACCOUNT NO. 16A.0101 FOR THE RECEIPT
3 AND DISBURSEMENT OF ALL HOMELESS PREVENTION
4 AND RAPID-REHOUSING PROGRAM FUNDS ("HPRP
5 FUNDS") RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
6 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD").

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

10 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
12 passage of Item 7-D.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
15 call, please?

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-D legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. KRAKE: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
4 FOR ADOPTION-RESOLUTION NO. 20, 2011 -
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
6 CITY OFFICIALS TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION
7 OF TEN (10) BIKE RACKS IN THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON.

9 MS. EVANS: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chair for the
11 Committee on Community Development?

12 MR. ROGAN: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Community Development, I
14 recommend final passage of Item 7-E.

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question.
18 As I stated last week, these bike racks were
19 purchased -- the authorization for the
20 purchasing was made in 2009, I was not on
21 council at the time. If I had been, I
22 probably would have voted against spending
23 taxpayers money on bike racks, but now that
24 they are already purchased we are not going
25 to just warehouse them so it's best it get

1 them on the streets where people can use
2 them, so I will vote "yes."

3 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, did we
4 receive any answers regarding the location
5 of these bike racks, meaning, are there bike
6 racks located at every one of the city
7 parks?

8 MS. KRAKE: Regretfully, we didn't
9 get a chance to ask Mr. Seitzinger that
10 question until today, and he was out of the
11 office all day, I checked with his staff and
12 we did leave a message in his voicemail and
13 a message on his door, also, but I don't
14 believe he returned to the building this
15 afternoon. So I really was not able to get
16 that information from him.

17 MS. EVANS: I'm going to ask if my
18 council colleagues might consider tabling
19 Item 7-E until we can determine the
20 locations for the bike racks? I know that
21 we have a list, but as I said last week,
22 that list is markedly different from the
23 list from 2009 which included the parks, and
24 so I would like to make sure that all of
25 those locations are covered rather than

1 placing, I don't know how many here, but
2 let's say 12 bike racks all within the
3 downtown within in many cases one block of
4 one another.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: The courthouse
6 already has bike racks.

7 MS. EVANS: Yes, the courthouse
8 does.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make
10 that motion to table.

11 MS. EVANS: We have a motion to
12 table, do we have a second?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

16 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
21 have it and so moved. And Item 7-E will
22 return to the agenda once we receive the
23 responses that we have requested from
24 Mr. Seitzinger.

25 MR. ROGAN: Hopefully that will be

1 next week since the weather finally is nice
2 outside.

3 MS. EVANS: Let's us hope that he
4 will respond.

5 MS. KRAKE: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
6 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
7 RESOLUTION NO. 21, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
8 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
9 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
10 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
11 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
12 OF S.R. 6307 (KEYSER AVENUE) AND S.R. 3033
13 (OAK STREET) TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS AT THIS
14 INTERSECTION WILL BE MODIFIED AS PART OF THE
15 WEAVE/OAK STREET RAMP REMOVAL PROJECT.

16 MS. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
17 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
18 passage of Item 7-F.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

4 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
7 Item 7-F legally and lawfully adopted.

8 MS. KRAKE: 7-G. FOR CONSIDERATION
9 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
10 RESOLUTION NO. 22, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
11 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
12 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
13 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
14 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
15 OF S.R. 6307 (KEYSER AVENUE) AND KEYSER
16 VILLAGE DRIVEWAY/PRIVATE DRIVE TRAFFIC
17 SIGNAL TIMINGS AT THIS INTERSECTION WILL BE
18 MODIFIED AS PART OF THE SCRANTON WEAVE/OAK
19 STREET RAMP REMOVAL PROJECT.

20 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
21 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
22 passage of Item 7-G.

23 MR. ROGAN: Second.

24 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
25 call, please?

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

4 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
11 Item 7-G legally and lawfully adopted.

12 MS. KRAKE: 7-H. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
14 RESOLUTION NO. 23, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
15 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
16 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
17 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
18 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
19 OF S.R. 0307/6307 (KEYSER AVENUE) AND S.R.
20 8031 (SCRANTON EXPRESSWAY NORTH BOUND OFF
21 RAMP) TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS AT THIS
22 INTERSECTION WILL BE MODIFIED AS PART OF THE
23 SCRANTON WEAVE/OAK STREET RAMP REMOVAL
24 PROJECT.

25 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the

1 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
2 passage of Item 7-H.

3 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

13 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
16 Item 7-H legally and lawfully adopted.

17 MS. KRAKE: 7-I. FOR CONSIDERATION
18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
19 RESOLUTION NO. 24, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
20 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
21 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
22 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
23 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
24 OF S.R. 0307 (KEYSER AVENUE) AND S.R. 8031
25 (SCRANTON EXPRESSWAY SOUTH BOUND OFF RAMP)

1 TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS AT THIS INTERSECTION
2 WILL BE MODIFIED AS PART OF THE SCRANTON
3 WEAVE/OAK STREET RAMP REMOVAL PROJECT.

4 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
5 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
6 passage of Item 7-I.

7 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: 7-J. FOR CONSIDERATION
22 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
23 RESOLUTION NO. 24, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
24 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
25 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF

1 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
2 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
3 OF S.R. 0307 (KEYSER AVENUE) AND S.R. 8031
4 (SCRANTON EXPRESSWAY SOUTH BOUND OFF RAMP)
5 TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS AT THIS INTERSECTION
6 WILL BE MODIFIED AS PART OF THE SCRANTON
7 WEAVE/OAK STREET RAMP REMOVAL PROJECT.

8 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
9 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
10 passage of Item 7-J.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
24 Item 7-J legally and lawfully adopted.

25 MS. KRAKE: 7-K. FOR CONSIDERATION

1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-
2 RESOLUTION NO. 26, 2011 - AUTHORIZING THE
3 CITY OF SCRANTON TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE
4 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
5 TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND
6 OPERATE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT THE INTERSECTION
7 OF S.R. 3011 (KEYSER AVENUE) AND FERDINAND
8 STREET TRAFFIC SIGNAL TIMINGS AT THIS
9 INTERSECTION WILL BE MODIFIED AS PART OF THE
10 SCRANTON WEAVE/OAK STREET RAMP REMOVAL
11 PROJECT.

12 MS. EVANS: As Chair for the
13 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-K.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
17 call, please?

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

21 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

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MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
Item 7-K legally and lawfully adopted. If
there is no further business at this time,
I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This 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