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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 19, 2012

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF
(Not present.)

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
5 Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Here.

11 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. TAX
15 ASSESSOR'S REPORT, HEARING RESULTS FOR
16 DECEMBER 21, 2011.

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

19 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
20 REPORT, APPEAL HEARINGS HELD ON JANUARY 11,
21 2012.

22 MS. KRAKE: 3- C. AGENDA FOR THE
23 CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON
24 DECEMBER 21, 2011.

25 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

1 If not received and filed.

2 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE CITY
3 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON JANUARY
4 18, 2012.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE
8 ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING HELD ON
9 DECEMBER 14, 2011.

10 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
11 If not received and filed.

12 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. APPLICATIONS ALONG
13 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
14 HEARING BOARD ON DECEMBER 14, 2011.

15 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
16 If not received and filed.

17 3-G. MINUTES OF THE
18 SCRANTON/LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
19 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 17,
20 2011.

21 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
22 If not received and filed.

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. RECEIPT OF A CHECK
24 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 FROM COVENANT
25 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF

1 TAXES.

2 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
3 If not received and filed.

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-I. AN AUDIT STATUS
5 REPORT FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY DATED
6 DECEMBER 13, 2011 REGARDING THE 2010 AUDIT.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 3-J. DRAFT GENERAL FUND
10 STATEMENTS FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY DATED
11 DECEMBER 16, 2011.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 3-K. NOTIFICATION FROM
15 FEMA DATED DECEMBER 21, 2011 REGARDING
16 CHANGES IN THE COMMENT AND APPEALS PROCESS
17 FOR THE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP AND THE
18 FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY FOR THE CITY OF
19 SCRANTON.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 3-L. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
23 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
24 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS DATED NOVEMBER 28,
25 2011, DECEMBER 1, 2011, DECEMBER 2, 2011 AND

1 JANUARY 3, 2012.

2 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
3 If not received and filed. Mrs. Krake,
4 please report the dates on which city
5 council adopted the annual tax legislation.

6 MS. KRAKE: Starting in 2002,
7 February 4, 2002, signed by the mayor
8 February 6.

9 2003, passed by council January 27,
10 2003. Signed by the mayor January 29.

11 Passed by council January 9, 2004,
12 approved by the mayor February 2, 2004.

13 2005, passed by council January 20,
14 2005. Approved by the mayor January 28,
15 2005.

16 2006, passed by council January 26,
17 2006. Also approved by the mayor two days
18 after that.

19 2007, passed by council January 18.
20 Approved by the mayor January 19, 2007.

21 2008, passed by council January 29.
22 Approved by the mayor January 30.

23 2009, passed by council January 20.
24 Approved by the mayor January 22.

25 2010, passed by council January 26.

1 Approved by the mayor January 27.

2 2011, passed by council January 18.

3 Approved by the mayor January 19.

4 And this year for 2012, passed by
5 council January 12, 2012. Approved by the
6 mayor January 17, 2012.

7 MS. EVANS: And so the most recent
8 date of January 12, 2002, was actually the
9 earliest date on which tax legislation was
10 adopted by city council since 2002?

11 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

12 MS. EVANS: And then, as Mrs. Krake
13 noted, following adoption by council it
14 takes anywhere from one to eight days for
15 the mayor to sign the legislation based on
16 those prior records.

17 Mrs. Krake, was the real estate
18 transfer tax increased during any of those
19 years?

20 MS. KRAKE: Yes. In 2007 it went to
21 2.5 percent. 2006 was 2.2, 2007, 2.5.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Yet, in the
23 January 10th edition of the Scranton Times
24 Mayor Doherty said council's in the past
25 adopted the ordinance at their first regular

1 meeting during the first week of January,
2 which clearly is not true.

3 Also in the same article,
4 Mrs. McNulty said this is the first time she
5 can remember during her 12 years as Recorder
6 of Deeds the tax rate was changed, and that
7 it was not a month after the start of the
8 year. When, in fact, the real estate
9 transfer tax was changed and adopted by
10 council on January 18, 2007.

11 Therefore, with the agreement of my
12 colleagues, city council wishes to send a
13 letter to Mrs. McNulty, County Recorder of
14 Deeds, asking if Mrs. McNulty charged 2006
15 real estate transfer tax rates in January
16 2007 up to the date she received the 2007
17 tax ordinance signed by Mayor Doherty
18 sometime after January 18, 2007, the date on
19 which the ordinance was legally and lawfully
20 adopted by Scranton City Council.

21 Council also respectfully requests
22 copies of the documents from January 2007
23 which demonstrate that 2006 real estate
24 transfer taxes were charged prior to
25 receiving the signed ordinance. Mrs.

1 McNulty is a highly respected public
2 official and she may likely be correct in
3 her determination of a date on which
4 increase tax rates become effective.
5 However, it is very important to clear up
6 for the public record the false statements
7 printed in January news articles and the
8 January 15 editorial by the Scranton Times
9 which lays the blame for the loss of
10 \$250,000 in real estate transfer revenue
11 squarely on the shoulders of this council.
12 That could not be farther from the truth.

13 City council did not fail to set the
14 tax rates on time, rather, council set the
15 tax rates on the earliest date in January
16 within the last ten years. In addition,
17 city council does not draft tax legislation.
18 It cannot adopt tax rates until it receives
19 the legislation from the administration.
20 Although, the deeds were filed on January 4
21 for the \$152 million sale of the Moses
22 Taylor Hospital, the legislation was not
23 sent to city council until Monday, January
24 9, five days later. It was posted 24 hours
25 in advance of the next regularly scheduled

1 meeting and placed on the January 12 agenda.

2 Since the Scranton Times tried to
3 assign blame to city council, it should
4 correct it's false statements to better
5 inform and respect it's readers.

6 Is there anything else, Mrs. Krake?

7 MS. KRAKE: No, that's it.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. We can go
9 right into Fourth Order.

10 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
11 PARTICIPATION.

12 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
13 Bill Jackowitz.

14 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
15 South Scranton resident and member of the
16 Taxpayers' Association.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

18 MR. JACKOWITZ: There were these two
19 people, two retirees that were standing on
20 the Florida beach and one retiree says to
21 the other, "How do you like retiring in
22 Florida?"

23 And the secondary retiree says,
24 "Well, you know what, I'm thinking about
25 moving back to Scranton, Pennsylvania."

1 And the first retiree says, "Well,
2 what for?"

3 And he says, "Well, because the
4 citizens in Scranton are the last to find
5 out about anything."

6 Has the 2010 audit been turned in
7 yet?

8 MR. JOYCE: We have a draft, but
9 it's still subject to change.

10 MR. JACKOWITZ: So we still don't
11 have an official 2010 audit as of today,
12 January 19.

13 MR. JOYCE: It's not official at
14 this point. We have a draft audit.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: Do you know if the
16 administration has started has started on
17 the 2011 audit, because it's due in the end
18 of May?

19 MR. JOYCE: I have not received any
20 updates from Rossi & Rossi. I know that in
21 speaking to them, I did call Rossi & Rossi
22 and they did say that they wanted to get
23 this audit completed as soon as possible.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: The 2010; right?

25 MR. JOYCE: Yes, so they could get

1 working on the 2011 audit.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: I was just curious
3 because it's January 19, 2012. We are still
4 waiting for a 2010 audit.

5 In regards to the \$3 million that
6 mysteriously was found on January 12, do we
7 have any answers to that yet? Do we know
8 who opened the account, who made the
9 deposits, who is getting the statements on a
10 monthly basis, so on and so forth?

11 MS. EVANS: Mr. Jackowitz, I'm going
12 to address the \$3 million under my motions
13 and I'll asking be asking our solicitor to
14 report on his findings within the last week
15 at this time.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, because it
17 seems like, again, no one seems to know how
18 the money got there and why it was there.

19 If I'm wrong, I'm sure Mrs. Krake
20 will correct me, my understanding is that
21 the revenue or the monies from the parking
22 meters, the Parking Authority would turn
23 that money over to the city treasurer and
24 then the city treasurer would be the one to
25 make the deposits into the account. Am I

1 right or wrong on that? Can anybody help me
2 out with that?

3 MS. KRAKE: Well, Mrs. Evans would
4 you like me to answer?

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MS. KRAKE: To the best of my
8 knowledge the money is -- was to be
9 deposited by the Parking Authority employees
10 into the Fidelity Bank. Every so often an
11 employee from the Treasurer's Office would
12 if to the Fidelity Bank and pick up so
13 called a pink slip showing the amount
14 deposited on that day.

15 MR. JACKOWITZ: So the city
16 treasurer should know about that account
17 then; correct?

18 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: Because my point is
20 that Ryan McGowan was city treasurer prior
21 to becoming business administrator.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. JACKOWITZ: So he has actually
24 had two opportunities to know about this
25 account and --

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: And now we are
3 finding out that supposedly he didn't --
4 although, he did admit that it was his
5 mistake, but the mistake has cost the
6 taxpayers money because in my belief taxes
7 have gone up, because if we would have known
8 that that \$3 million or \$2 million or \$1
9 million was there possibly we wouldn't have
10 got the 26 percent tax increase and then the
11 4 percent this past year. That's just my
12 belief. So, okay, you are going to be able
13 to address some of these answers because I
14 know the taxpayers would like to have some
15 answers?

16 MS. EVANS: Yes.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: And I also find it
18 just mysterious that it seems like every
19 time we have a lost account it happens to be
20 at Fidelity Bank. Is there any particular
21 reason why it's always the Fidelity Bank?
22 You know, this is like the third time I
23 believe where we found money and it's been
24 at the Fidelity Bank, so I just find that
25 unusual and some other people have pointed

1 that out to me, also, the fact that the
2 money is always found in Fidelity Bank.

3 I guess there is going to be a
4 hearing on the 26th of January for the
5 unfunded borrowing? Is that true?

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Will city council be
9 attending that, anyone from city council?

10 MS. EVANS: I'm not certain at this
11 point. We'll discuss it.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Do we know how much
13 we are going to try to get? Are we going to
14 ask for 11 million, 7 million, 8 million, 6
15 million?

16 MS. EVANS: Do you want to respond,
17 Mr. Joyce?

18 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I will. The
19 maximum is 9.85 that was set in the
20 ordinance.

21 MR. JACKOWITZ: Right.

22 MR. JOYCE: I'll be addressing that
23 during motions because I'd like a breakdown
24 and I'm sure it would have to be prepared
25 for the Courts, too, a breakdown of

1 everything that we are going to need to
2 borrow money for.

3 MS. EVANS: In addition, we received
4 a letter from PEL recommending that the
5 amount of unfunded borrowing be reduced by
6 the \$3 million in parking meter revenue that
7 was recently discovered. They feel that in
8 so doing it would lower the debt service for
9 the unfunded borrowing and they said it may
10 also lower a tax increase that could be
11 levied for the unfunded borrowing.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. Yeah, because
13 what's the city controller's responsibility
14 in all of this? I mean, it seems to me like
15 the city controller should be on top of just
16 about all fund and money transfers and
17 deposits and withdrawals on just about
18 everything that's happening within the city
19 that, you know, someone should have been
20 aware of this bank account and this money, I
21 mean.

22 And did I -- was that a misprint in
23 the paper, the interest was 2000 and some
24 dollars on the \$3 million? Was that a
25 misprint?

1 MR. ROGAN: I hope so.

2 MR. HUGHES: No, it's not.

3 MR. JACKOWITZ: No, it was not a
4 misprint?

5 MR. HUGHES: I'll explain everything
6 later, Bill.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: Because that sounds
8 awful --

9 MR. HUGHES: I've done a complete
10 analysis of it, okay? I'll explain
11 everything.

12 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay, thanks, Boyd.
13 I appreciate that because -- well, anyway, I
14 hope to get some answers. I know the
15 citizens -- I know the ones that I'm talking
16 to and the ones that are calling me are have
17 interested in this. And again, Scranton
18 manages to again be right at the top of
19 being the laughing stock of the area because
20 we can't seem to find our money.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ozzie Quinn.

22 MR. QUINN: Ozzie Quinn, Taxpayers'.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

24 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

25 MR. QUINN: First of all, one of the

1 persons who is at every one of the meetings
2 here, speaker Andy Sbaraglia, is not here
3 tonight and as everyone noticed. He is
4 having an operation procedure in
5 Philadelphia, so if you want to, you know,
6 find out, I'd appreciate it.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much.

9 MR. QUINN: The other thing I want
10 to mention is the fact that I was elected
11 president of the Taxpayers' Association for
12 2012 and I want to thank the city council
13 for the use of these chambers and,
14 subsequently, we use ECTV to get it out to
15 the public. We have a format that we follow
16 at our meetings, we have a speaker to speak
17 on some of the relevant things that's going
18 on in the city or the county and the second
19 part is the business. We meet the third
20 Tuesday of each month and our next meeting
21 would be February 21st at 6:00 p.m. in these
22 chambers. Thank you very much for that.

23 I also want to mention the fact that
24 when all the dust clears regard this \$3
25 million, Pennsylvania Tax Act in regards to

1 property owners unequivocally states that
2 whoever does the independent audit finds
3 that there is malfeasance or incompetency by
4 elected officials that firm, that auditor
5 can surcharge the officials, and I think
6 after the dust clears and we find out what's
7 really going on I would ask you to consider
8 that to Mr. Rossi because this is -- this is
9 ashamed. Everybody in the city is talking
10 about it.

11 The next thing is that in February
12 there is going to be 332 people or
13 homeowners uprooted by the county for tax
14 sale properties, and it's my belief that a
15 lot of these property owners cannot pay
16 their taxes because of the fact of the
17 school tax, school taxes. In Scranton I pay
18 48 percent of my taxes are for school taxes.

19 Right now, next week when the state
20 legislature meets in Harrisburg there is
21 going to be a House Bill 1776 to do away
22 with school property taxes and to replace
23 funding of the school districts with an
24 increase in sales tax from 6 to 7 percent.
25 It will also eliminate all of the nuisance

1 taxes that go to the school, mercantile tax,
2 the IT and so on, okay? And I ask you to
3 look at it, look into that, and I think that
4 would help a lot of senior citizens, which
5 we have a lot of homeowners in the City of
6 Scranton and Lackawanna County, and it's
7 being backed by the Pennsylvania Coalition
8 of Taxpayers, 66 taxpayers groups, and I
9 really hope that we can do something about
10 that because of the fact that -- and Marie
11 will speak on it later, but the fact is that
12 the money was not coming from gambling, it's
13 coming from sales tax.

14 In 1953 when we passed the sales tax
15 it was for education, but somehow the
16 politicians moved them around and it never
17 got to education, okay? As we all know
18 right now all of the school districts are
19 saying they need money, okay, and this is
20 supposed to be able to equal whatever they
21 need to keep on going, okay? And also put
22 reserve in for sale bonds and so on, okay?

23 And especially it's important
24 because of last night's meeting they are
25 looking at different options and I know that

1 Mayor Doherty is looking and Bob Lesh is
2 looking at that Army Reserve Center up there
3 on Colfax Avenue, hopefully they will sell
4 that to the school district, the city will
5 get the deed and sell it for a dollar and
6 put a \$17 million school there some time
7 down the line, okay, even though that was
8 the one of the options it worries me and if
9 we can pass HV-1776, we won't have to worry
10 about paying for another school.

11 You know, a lot of parents like to
12 have new schools, three, four or five years,
13 but when their children leave then they are
14 left with that bill for 10, 15, 20 years,
15 you know what I mean? And this is the
16 problem, and they got to realize that, you
17 know? It's nice now, but they are going to
18 pay later. So I appreciate if you look into
19 1776.

20 I just want to also say that one
21 more thing here in regard to motions, "A",
22 No. B, okay, that's the last thing I'll move
23 quickly, they are going to transfer \$50,000
24 from project purchase of neighborhood police
25 patrol vehicles and project United States

1 Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern,
2 Pennsylvania - Condemnation Programs. The
3 city just come out last week saying they are
4 going to use \$1.1 million of blight
5 clearance. What are we doing here,
6 duplication here or what, you know? And I
7 would like you to look into that. Thank you
8 very much.

9 MR. ROGAN: I'll address that now,
10 Mr. Quinn, I spoke to Linda Aebli about that
11 --

12 MR. QUINN: Who?

13 MR. ROGAN: I spoke to Linda Aebli
14 at OECD regarding that plan, if wen the city
15 condemns a house if there is family in the
16 home the city has to put them up, so by not
17 funding the United Neighborhoods Centers to
18 do it the city is going to have to take that
19 in-house and the taxpayers of Scranton will
20 have to pay. Either way, we are paying the
21 bill, whether it's with federal dollars or
22 whether it's with city dollars.

23 MR. QUINN: Yeah, I understand. So
24 actually they will get a fee for that?

25 MR. ROGAN: Who will?

1 MR. QUINN: The United States
2 Neighborhood Centers.

3 MR. ROGAN: Well, that's what this
4 money is for.

5 MR. QUINN: They will get a fee
6 besides paying for the hotel? I understand
7 what you mean, you know. You know, we have
8 a staff here it's unbelievable in OECD, and
9 why do we have to always farm things out?
10 I've been doing a little research, and I'm
11 going to leave now, hundreds of thousands of
12 dollars were transferred for property
13 rehabilitation into other projects, okay,
14 and that's why we have so much blight. If
15 you look back it's your un believable this
16 transfer, you know? I'm sorry. Thank you
17 very much.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Doug Miller.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Congratulations.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes, congratulations on
21 your election. The group is in good hands.

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

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

25 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

1 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to
2 briefly touch on the \$3 million that we
3 discovered last week. I was made aware of
4 the issue before the meeting last week,
5 however, I didn't want to get into the
6 subject without, you know, better educating
7 myself on the matter, but obviously the
8 first thing that came to my mind was
9 obviously how baffled I was how we could go
10 this long without knowing that we had \$3
11 million accumulated over three years in a
12 bank account without any knowledge of it.
13 Just truly mind boggling, but, you know, I
14 guess I'd probably say I was lying if I was
15 surprised knowing the city's history with
16 finances.

17 But this is yet again another
18 example of the fiscal mismanagement we have
19 had to deal with in this town for the last
20 ten years, and what I find really appalling
21 about this situation is the responses that
22 we had from the mayor and business
23 administrator McGowan who made statements
24 such as, "It was a simple mistake," and "We
25 forgot about it," I mean, you got to be

1 kidding me. I mean, how do we misplace \$3
2 million?

3 Like I said, I'm really puzzled by
4 this. And, you know, I think this just goes
5 to show you you are either lying about the
6 situation or you are incompetent, and
7 knowing the city's history I would have to
8 say it's a little bit of both. You know, I
9 feel that this is another situation that the
10 mayor just wants to say, okay, he took care
11 of it, we found out about it, now let's move
12 on.

13 No, that's got to stop. We have let
14 that go on for ten years and that's why
15 today we are over \$300 million in long-term
16 debt because we had that attitude, well,
17 let's forget about it and sweep it under the
18 rug. We are wonder why we are where we
19 today.

20 But I think what we have to ask
21 ourselves tonight is what else is being
22 hidden from us? What are we doing to find
23 out tomorrow or the day after that or a
24 month from now or a year from now? When is
25 it going to stop? I mean, every day

1 something new comes out and it's never good
2 news, and it continues to place a burden on
3 this council where time and time again you
4 are left with a mess and you have to come up
5 with a solution, and I just don't think it's
6 fair to you.

7 You know, we've had challenges with
8 the budget and other issues and now this, I
9 mean, when is it going to stop? When are we
10 going to finally hold this man accountable?
11 We have talked about it for a long time, but
12 now is the time to do it. I think this has
13 to really open our eyes, and I'm once again
14 going to call for an investigation into the
15 finances of this city, the mismanagement and
16 the corruption that's taken place in this
17 city government since Chris Doherty has been
18 mayor.

19 The mayor was also quick to say how
20 he intended on spending the money, but I
21 have to agree with Mrs. Evans' statement
22 that this needs to be a joint decision
23 between the council and the mayor as to how
24 we are going to spend this money. This
25 isn't going to be a blank \$3 million check

1 for the mayor, he is going to determine how
2 he is going to spend the money, that's not
3 going to happen. The rubber stamping and
4 the blank check days are over. We put an
5 end to that a long time ago.

6 But just thinking about this
7 situation I think we could really sit back
8 and think of how we could have budgeted this
9 money had we known about it prior to the
10 start of this new year. Think of how we
11 could have restored, possibly restored all
12 29 firemen and kept them on the streets to
13 provided the essential services that the
14 residents of this city deserves, that they
15 pay for, and now because of the mayor's
16 arrogance and his lack of concern for the
17 people's safety we now have to live in fear
18 and wonder what's going to happen next.

19 But, wait, it's going to happen.
20 There will be a tragedy in this city and
21 Chris Doherty will be held accountable for
22 it. He has continued to play a game with
23 the people's lives and the only ones
24 fighting for our safety is this council, and
25 I think you were unfairly criticized in the

1 past by, you know, not reinstating all 29.
2 As I have said, I felt it was a tough spot
3 that you were in, but you did what you had
4 to do and you did what you could because you
5 were limited with resources.

6 But basically would I ask that
7 council to do tonight is to hold Chris
8 Doherty accountable and not allow this to be
9 swept under the rug, because as I've said,
10 those days are over, and I would hope that
11 we would continue to investigation this and,
12 as I said, find out what else is being
13 hidden. You have been doing quite a job on
14 exposing the corruption and I know you will
15 continue to do so. Our tax dollars have
16 continued to been mismanaged and squandered
17 and it's got to stop now, and I appreciate
18 it. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The next two
20 names are very difficult to read. I'm going
21 to say Phyllis.

22 MS. HUMPHRIES: Yepper, pepper. I
23 have four other people, but I'm going to
24 speaking for them, is that okay with you?

25 MS. EVANS: Oh, yes, you can

1 certainly speak on behalf of them.

2 MS. HUMPHRIES: When you name the
3 names then I will do the same.

4 MS. EVANS: Phyllis, can I ask, did
5 anyone who is with you this evening sign
6 this sheet --

7 MS HUMPHRIES: Yes, they did.

8 MS. EVANS: -- after you?

9 MS. HUMPHRIES: They have some
10 difficulty, they challenged.

11 MS. EVANS: Okay, so --

12 MS. HUMPHRIES: Patricia -- we are
13 just going to go by their first names, okay?

14 MS. EVANS: Yes.

15 MS. HUMPHRIES: Patricia and
16 Patricia, St. Patrick's on it's way. You
17 know, I use visual arts so I'm going to do
18 it this way as fast as possible. This is
19 the UN Mission's book, United Nations. One
20 is given to me a long time ago by my dearly
21 beloved police department when they were
22 transferred over to another place.

23 We've got, of course, you know, the
24 bible and a book on abuse. I hope I can get
25 this up here for a reason. We thought we

1 could always make another one because this
2 is Scranton, Pennsylvania. My name is
3 Phyllis Bernadette Fatima Yasmine. I go by
4 another name I will not disclose to you. I
5 do hold this place in our country in my
6 heart. I am a political victim since a very
7 young age when the constitutional rights
8 were taken away from me.

9 I have came here, I have been forced
10 out of the City of Scranton, they falsified
11 documents and to every place where I went.
12 Now, I really found out how government works
13 and the constitution of the United States
14 and with the deal with Paterno he gave his
15 message and people shut their ears, and
16 that's what's happened here in the City of
17 Scranton when everybody sees my medical
18 records on the city council and Mayor
19 Doherty. When you people do your job and
20 then it's thrown someplace else and the
21 police and the fire, I love them, they do
22 their job, but then when it's hauled into
23 the Courts it's up to the District
24 Attorney's, but before the District Attorney
25 it's up to the higher judges and the

1 commissioners.

2 I'm holding the commissioners of the
3 City of Scranton for the last 30 years of my
4 life and the high up judges in the City of
5 Scranton for what they have done to me.
6 They character assassinated me. This, if
7 you familiar, is a blue code in the
8 hospitals. On September 22 I was held
9 against my will for ten hours when I went
10 into get medical records without no food,
11 and nothing.

12 On buses they harass me, they
13 stepped on brakes, the Colts, they took me
14 out of the areas and left me walk. I fell
15 out of the bus a few weeks ago, I was left a
16 dog to the corner. When I called the
17 ambulances they kind of locked hands with
18 the corruption. They told me I was using it
19 for a taxi, and Dickson City within three
20 weeks the voting, I was blocked from voting,
21 which I was allowed to see what voting was
22 about when Judge Munley was running to find
23 out they were pulling down the voting
24 machines at 7:00.

25 People from Mulberry Towers had

1 relatives at the police department. People
2 that asked me to help them knew my weak
3 spot, I'm a victim of abuse. I have been
4 raped by people that are in high places. I
5 have been -- my home has been stolen in
6 Moscow by another evil lawyer, and I don't
7 hold you accountable for this part.

8 I am dealing with the United
9 Nations, and I take that very serious. With
10 a \$54 a month phone because my phone has
11 been ripped out wherever I went to, my
12 houses were broken into to make me look
13 crazy, and most of them is on the Democratic
14 Committee. People are being poisoned.
15 There is fungus and mold that was not
16 addressed, numerous people raped and
17 attacked me to make me look like -- an old
18 lady said, "Trollop, prostitute," whatever
19 you want to call it. They make me run for
20 buses, they drop me off in wrong places.
21 Some places when I walked out there was guys
22 waiting for me, they were pimps and
23 evidently they were pictures from far away.

24 People are being murdered all over
25 the world. Children are being piled up and

1 killed all over the world, and I don't blame
2 just the situation, the United States Roe
3 vs. Wade passed the worst thing in our
4 country, the killing of the unborn. A
5 scientist would tell you what a ovum and a
6 sperm is and where it goes from every day
7 and how is works.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

9 MS. HUMPHRIES: This poison in
10 Dickson City that got embedded underneath my
11 skin when I found something else and this is
12 the high rate of the pollution and the
13 people dying throughout this area. I went
14 to environmentalists in the City of
15 Scranton, they wouldn't let me in the
16 office. One followed me around to no avail
17 every place I went, so you have the mayor
18 and you have the commissioners and then the
19 commissioner signs the treasurer's and
20 that's how the money is disseminated.

21 I studied the constitution of the
22 United States as an 8th grade student, and
23 you know, what the taxes where in the war
24 they are only supposed to hike up the taxes
25 for two years and no more.

1 MS. EVANS: Phyllis --

2 MS. HUMPHRIES: I'm the one that
3 called our president to get our soldiers
4 home.

5 MS. EVANS: That's very good,
6 Phyllis.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: I got five minutes
8 for her, right?

9 MS. EVANS: Well, your five minutes
10 were up.

11 MS. HUMPHRIES: Okay, now we are
12 going to the next one and I'm speaking --

13 MS. EVANS: Oh, no, no, no. You
14 can't --

15 MS. HUMPHRIES: Oh, I have to speak
16 for her because this is about the --

17 MS. EVANS: Well, you can certainly
18 speak for her, but you can't speak at any
19 time more than five minutes.

20 MS. HUMPHRIES: Well, that's why she
21 is giving me the five minutes and I asked
22 you if could I try to --

23 MS. EVANS: Oh, no, no, no. That I
24 misunderstood.

25 MS. HUMPHRIES: Okay, she going to

1 stand next to me because she has a problem,
2 that's with her voice. Patricia, please
3 come up. I'm her voice, this is going to be
4 her five minutes. I'm going to ask her
5 questions first. Patricia, would you allow
6 me to be your voice at this meeting?

7 MS. PATRICIA: Yeah.

8 MS. HUMPHRIES: Patricia came here
9 from Brooklyn two years ago. She was
10 clueless about where to go and what to do
11 and what to happen. She is in a place where
12 there is a pregnant woman with two children,
13 lead poisoning documented with the children.
14 We are getting that straightened out. Oh,
15 where did she go?

16 MS. EVANS: Behind you.

17 MS. HUMPHRIES: She is a lovely
18 woman, her children live far away. She is
19 challenged because she is a victim of abuse
20 and intimidation and I would like to the
21 City of Scranton, because I trust you guys,
22 to help her to get to the proper place. I
23 went to the police department, I had a
24 question to you ask you, Mrs. Evans. Mrs.
25 Evans, is there a sheriff in the City of

1 Scranton?

2 MS. EVANS: That falls under
3 Lackawanna County.

4 MS. HUMPHRIES: Could you please see
5 this a letter is sent to the Peckville
6 police chief and tell him Lackawanna County
7 does have a sheriff, that's number one.

8 Number two, I want to see that she
9 gets in a safe place with her son and in a
10 healthy, nice place for her son, which I'm
11 sure you people will help her. I do have a
12 lot of trust in this new city council, but I
13 also ask that there is lot that the people
14 are doing what they are doing and I have
15 been on the phone tons of times, the
16 secretary is a wonderful person, she is
17 expecting a baby, but I feel right now and
18 he could ignore it.

19 I'm asking and pleading to Mayor
20 Doherty to step down as the mayor and I ask
21 that Mr. Miller, if it's allowed, to take
22 over. I think he would be an asset to the
23 City of Scranton and council, that's the
24 next thing.

25 Now, the other person, Patricia,

1 will you allow me to speak? Patricia lives
2 in in Scranton. She doesn't know how -- she
3 would love to have a new apartment, and I
4 know the situation with apartments and all.
5 Would you see to it to the best of your
6 ability to help this person? I will be -- I
7 spoke to the Saudi Ambassadors in Washington
8 and everybody knows what I do, but a lot of
9 people don't. We have a marine that they
10 sentenced him to death and because of the
11 name I carry Phyllis Bernadette Fatima
12 Yasmine and Mary, I'm going to be
13 interceding for them to release him from
14 prisons and set him free. I want you to
15 pray for me.

16 MS. EVANS: We will. Thank you,
17 Phyllis.

18 MS. HUMPHRIES: And please see, they
19 blocked the newspaper, and it's about time
20 the newspaper is opened up.

21 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you.

22 MS. HUMPHRIES: There is one more
23 thing, they did something to my car, PennDOT
24 has been charging me a lot of money, and
25 it's corruption all the way to PennDOT and

1 we are going to get with Mr. Miller.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes, we won't forget
3 about Mr. Miller. Thank you, Phyllis.

4 MS. HUMPHRIES: And support life.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And our next
6 speaker is Ron Ellman.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: God bless you. I
8 love yas.

9 MR. JOYCE: God bless you.

10 MS. HUMPHRIES: Sometimes you got to
11 suffer and you become a better person for
12 everybody.

13 MR. ELLMAN: That's enough to drive
14 you to drink. Ms. Janet, I have to
15 apologize for leaving last week while you
16 were talking but Bob Jones phoned me for a
17 quart of beer and I decided to go ahead, for
18 medicinal purposes he said.

19 MS. EVANS: I understand.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: As long as he was
21 buying.

22 MR. ELLMAN: I went to the school
23 board meeting last night and this is just a
24 runaway out-of-control school board. They
25 just finished one school, what did it cost

1 114 or 17 or something, now they have plans
2 and drawings for a new one. It took two or
3 three months to have that, so this isn't
4 just something that they thought of last
5 night, you know. I don't know. I think
6 Scranton deserves better than a bunch of
7 mediocre school board people like this, and
8 they talk about the children, the children
9 in 30, 40 years are the ones that are going
10 to be paying for this. It's impossible.
11 Well, that's enough.

12 You know, they don't think that
13 there is 500 homes coming up in that
14 foreclosure sale. A thousand more have been
15 torn down, you know. How many will be here
16 next year, businesses and homes? They are
17 not thinking of the future of this city. I
18 tell you I know someone on Jefferson Avenue
19 aren't going to be on our tax roll next year
20 if you don't do something immediately. It's
21 getting --

22 Last year Paul Mansour bought a
23 house on Jefferson Avenue for \$350,000,
24 right? You following me. Now, he turned
25 around and sold it a couple of weeks ago to

1 Mr. Naysmith that's on the board of the
2 college for \$250,000. Now, Mr. Naysmith he
3 has a company, this is getting real fishy
4 and phony and it ought to be looked into by
5 Mr. Jarbola because it's just not making
6 good sense, it stinks, and where did the
7 money come from, probably from Blue Cross.
8 I don't know, that's what somebody else told
9 me.

10 But these are the kind of things
11 that just keeping going on in the city, you
12 know, it's like politics as usual. This is
13 it just crooked politics. It's just
14 couldn't be any worse than what's going on
15 right now under everybody's nose. There
16 will be a million dollars worth of property
17 off the tax rolls forever just like the
18 University has done to us.

19 You know, I was talking to a young
20 man at Price Rite today, Arthur, and he just
21 summed it all up, he said, "It's temporary."

22 You know, I said I was telling him
23 all of this is bothering me and this and
24 that. He said, "It's temporary."

25 He said, "It's not like the sun

1 comes up today and the sun sets the next day
2 you know it's going to be there for the last
3 million years, this is just temporary."
4 Maybe he got the right attitude, I don't
5 know.

6 I just want to say something real
7 quick about Mr. Scopelliti, I don't see how
8 he stays on the payroll in this city. He
9 has lost nothing but money. He has is not
10 the least bit qualified. You know, you
11 could find somebody in one of these high
12 rises more qualified and knows more about
13 what's going on than he does, and then all
14 of a sudden we have this money, this new
15 found wealth, he got one product to keep up
16 with, money. It's not like Al Boscov must
17 have a million products to keep up with,
18 there is one product he has to keep up with,
19 that's money, and he can't do it. They
20 ought to just fire him. He is not qualified
21 for the position. He has no resume to be in
22 that position. It's nothing but friendship
23 with the mayor. This is the kind of crap
24 why the city is in such bad shape.

25 Well, I'd like to say something, I'm

1 not going to be up here, after Phyllis I
2 know I'm not very interesting. When I left
3 the Price Rite today, I'm going to go join
4 Bob in a few minutes, when I left the Price
5 Rite I saw a little kitty get hit by a car
6 right there on South Main and it was upside
7 down twitching and it just made me feel so
8 bad that someone can't even slow down a
9 little bit, so I went up to the Walgreen's
10 and I turned around and came back and the
11 cat was gone, and I'd like to thank somebody
12 for getting it out of the street. I guess
13 it wasn't hurt, but you know, it's
14 wintertime and animals don't move as fast.

15 I got a squirrel, one the squirrels
16 I feed got run over a couple of weeks ago.
17 It's just like family. It made me feel so
18 bad a poor animal has such a short time to
19 live, and the car that hit it they didn't
20 make an attempt to slow down or nothing, you
21 know, it's not right. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: And Les Spindler.

23 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
24 Council. City resident and homeowner and
25 taxpayer.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. SPINDLER: I guess this is the
3 subject of the night but I, too, want to
4 speak about the \$3 million. I don't know if
5 anybody else saw it, but the next day on the
6 news Chris Doherty said something which blew
7 my mind. They asked him about the 3 million
8 and he says, "We forgot about it."

9 We have been distressed since 1992,
10 there is \$3 million in an account, and they
11 forgot about it. That's the most
12 unbelievable thing I have ever heard. I
13 said before this is the most corrupt and
14 incompetent administration we have ever had
15 and I'm sure there is more money somewhere
16 else that they also forgot about it. How
17 convenient that after he lays off
18 firefighters and police officers then they
19 find \$3 million, just not even two weeks
20 later. It seems pretty convenient.

21 It's just unbelievable what this
22 administration is doing. They are just
23 playing with people's lives. Find \$3
24 million and they say they forgot about it.
25 The man should resign. The people should be

1 calling for his resignation. This is just
2 unbelievable, and I guess we have two more
3 years to put up with it. I hope the people
4 wise up in two years.

5 While I'm on that subject, I think
6 it was the 2010 budget, Mrs. Evans, you can
7 correct me if I'm wrong, where the mayor
8 plugged in \$5 million from the \$12 million
9 from the tax office, was it the 2010 budget?

10 MS. EVANS: I can't --

11 MR. SPINDLER: I think it '09 or
12 '10.

13 MS. EVANS: I remember that \$5
14 million was plugged in, you are correct on
15 that.

16 MR. SPINDLER: And we only received
17 about \$3 million.

18 MR. EVANS: I'm not sure which year
19 it was, it could have been 2010.

20 MR. SPINDLER: And I think we only
21 received 3 1/2 million you were saying?

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. SPINDLER: To this day I'm
24 wonder what did he plug in that 1 1/2
25 million with that we didn't get? Just

1 answers that go -- questions that go
2 unanswered, just unbelievable.

3 Attorney Hughes, last week you
4 weren't here I wanted to ask you a question,
5 but the parking meters on Mattes Avenue they
6 were removed and "No Parking" signs were
7 there, could the city do that without city
8 council passing legislation?

9 MR. HUGHES: Am I supposed to
10 respond to that, to the public or --

11 MS. EVANS: Yes.

12 MR. HUGHES: The only way that -- we
13 have had this issue before with the
14 Lackawanna County Jail when they put up "No
15 Parking" signs there without it being
16 approved by council. It's my opinion that
17 the only way that those "No Parking" signs
18 can be established is that it has to be
19 declared a "No Parking" zone by Scranton
20 City Council by an ordinance.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

22 MR. SPINDLER: So, in other words,
23 these signs are illegal; am I correct?

24 MR. HUGHES: If there is not proper
25 authorization, who put them there? I have

1 no idea. This is the first time I've had --
2 I don't know anything about it.

3 MS. EVANS: We did send a letter
4 asking who authorized the installation of
5 these signs and we have not yet received a
6 response.

7 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you, because I
8 think everybody at General Dynamics should
9 park on Mattes Avenue and if they get a
10 ticket I would fight it because I think
11 those signs are illegal. I hope the message
12 gets across to people and they all park
13 there.

14 My next question, I know last year
15 that you put the StreetSmart program into
16 the budget, and I know all about that, is
17 that system a dead issue, like, is that --
18 is that ever going to happen or is that dead
19 now?

20 MS. EVANS: As far as I'm concerned
21 it's not a dead issue. I think that it's
22 something that the city should be
23 implementing as soon as possible,
24 particularly in light of the myriad of
25 severe financial problems it's experiencing.

1 And further, I think if the Parking
2 Authority thinks it's going to be coming
3 with it's handout to the City of Scranton
4 every year that it can't balance it's
5 budget, if it thinks that's going to
6 continue then the mayor better be very sure
7 that he gets StreetSmart in here or a
8 similar competitor and start bringing in
9 sizable revenue from the on-street parking
10 program.

11 MR. ROGAN: I would also add that
12 that even if we brought in the same amount
13 of money, just enough to cover the expense
14 of StreetSmart, StreetSmart accounts for
15 every penny. Right now we are dealing in
16 straight cash with no receipts. You know,
17 we don't know how or where the money goes,
18 whether it's actually getting from the meter
19 to the bank, and this \$3 million that was in
20 the bank from the meter revenue I want to
21 know what's happening with it, the rest goes
22 out the door. Nobody knows because it's all
23 quarters. It's all money.

24 MR. SPINDLER: It's just all
25 politics, as you might remember I spoke

1 about this last year. Chris Doherty
2 sabotaged this. It was a revenue source and
3 he just --

4 MS. EVANS: Exactly. It was a
5 revenue - a new revenue generator, but as
6 Mr. Rogan alluded to, it would also provide
7 increased accountability for every penny
8 that would come through the Parking
9 Authority to the City of Scranton.

10 MR. SPINDLER: Absolutely.

11 MR. JOYCE: Yes, and if I could add,
12 I think we definitely need some sort of
13 traceability as to what's being put in the
14 meters since, obviously, there have been
15 issues now with the \$3 million and not being
16 transferred back to the general fund.

17 MR. SPINDLER: I agree with that.
18 There has got to be accountability. I'm
19 almost sure as I'm standing here there is
20 money going to people's pockets that should
21 be going to the city coffers.

22 Lastly, it was awhile back, I
23 forget, I spoke about the railroad bridge on
24 Main Avenue where it meets Euclid about the
25 rusted supports, I put it in writing, has

1 there been any response on that?

2 MS. EVANS: No, there has not.

3 MR. SPINDLER: Because, as I said,
4 there are holes in it, rusted holes in these
5 supports. To me, that seems like a real
6 danger to me. I go under that bridge every
7 day, it just doesn't seem safe. Was a
8 letter sent to the railroad, Mrs. Evans?

9 MS. EVANS: I don't know that the
10 letter was sent to the railroad. Do you
11 recall, Mrs. Krake?

12 MS. KRAKE: I believe we sent it to
13 the city engineer, also, would be the one to
14 do that, and we will do that again. We have
15 since opened up a little bit more
16 communication with the city engineer, so if
17 you could like us to resend those.

18 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

19 MR. SPINDLER: Because wouldn't that
20 be a railroad issue? Don't they -- is that
21 their bridge.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, I think if the
23 city engineer determines exactly who is
24 responsible then we can make an effort
25 toward the responsible party to take care of

1 this, so we'll depend on them to inform us.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. That's all I
3 have. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
5 Dobrzyn.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
7 Dobrzyn.

8 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton,
11 taxpayer. Last week I apologize, I had to
12 leave early, but my wife's job was
13 unpredictable, but could we announce the
14 times for ECTV to replay this session
15 because we changed our schedule and now
16 naturally it's not going to be on Wednesday
17 morning and so forth so that would be a big
18 help.

19 On this audit business, if any kind
20 of resolution or ordinance could be adopted
21 if these people don't hand over their audit
22 information within a month or two after it's
23 due, put their job up for a bid already.

24 On 5-D, I presume that's over that
25 little known arbitration situation with the

1 clerical office, council's clerical office
2 workers? How did we fair on that? Maybe
3 you can mention that later where the union
4 went because two people weren't unionized or
5 something. Is that what's that over?

6 MS. EVANS: And you think that's
7 connected to something on tonight's agenda?

8 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, 5-B.

9 MS. EVANS: No.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: No. Okay. I'll
11 listen in when you are discussing it. And
12 on the DPW again with time studies and so
13 forth, it is the management's right to
14 analyze everything that an employee does, so
15 you don't need their permission or the
16 union's, it's mainly between you people and
17 the mayor and that's why I wanted to mention
18 that to Pat. They can't impede a time
19 study, and I think if there is a time sturdy
20 we will find that a great deal that our
21 citizens of this town could do to make the
22 DPW job more efficient. A lot because from
23 what I see they need a couple of shovels
24 instead of the ability to pick up the trash
25 can or something. It's just ridiculous.

1 And I was watching the zoning
2 meeting on ECTV and a thought occurred to
3 me, we have a lot of huge old houses that at
4 times they go back to being a single
5 dwelling and so forth, and in some cases it
6 might be counterproductive. I would like to
7 see that looked into some day with
8 ordinances and stuff because, you know, we
9 have a lot of little old ladies living in
10 four-bedroom houses and we have people that
11 can't even afford people to keep a roof over
12 their head, so maybe we could look at that
13 some day.

14 Last night I wasn't at the school
15 meeting, and I heard on the news a report
16 earlier in the week Chester -- upland
17 Chester High School is bankrupt because they
18 had to take an \$89 million budget and pay
19 out \$39 million to charter schools, and what
20 I'd like to say on that is this. I think
21 parents are entitled to a good public
22 education and not a buffet-style education
23 for whatever they don't want their kids to
24 know or be exposed to or whatever, they
25 should get involved with their schools and

1 it should be kept as cheaply as possible,
2 but that is unconscionable. Teachers were
3 actually showing up teaching school at no
4 pay because they had to shell out \$39
5 million upfront to the charter schools and
6 the regular public school had to make due
7 with what was left, the scraps, so that's
8 unconscionable and that's Pennsylvania State
9 law. It's Upland Chester school district
10 down near Philly and it's a poor district
11 and they had all kind of cuts and so forth.

12 And finally on public schools, I'd
13 like to if you people could try to influence
14 them to fix the Audubon instead of going
15 into a \$17 million fiasco, and the bigger
16 the school the further these kids are going
17 to have to walk. Pat and I just talked
18 about that, they are talking about a kid
19 having to walk a mile and a half that's
20 maybe six years old, so that's crazy. It's
21 impossible. Too many risks.

22 Okay, the golden parrot, I'll just
23 take a minute, goes to the pundits. On
24 Tuesday the AP published an article on Ron
25 Paul that he is charging up all kinds of

1 plane tickets and so forth and when, in
2 fact, he is buying the most reasonable plane
3 ticket he could and he was using his points,
4 the frequent flyer miles, to upgrade for a
5 better coach which he could have used for an
6 European vacation and the government would
7 have never known, so the way they define
8 candidates is just -- and this is the
9 Associated Press. I mean, shame on you.
10 You know, shame on them. They are looking
11 for a story, why don't they bring up how he
12 is supposed to be a libertarian and he
13 signed off on a bill to ban -- that gives
14 states the ability to ban birth control.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. DOBRZYN: Have a good night.
17 Bawk, bawk.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
19 anyone else who cares to address council?

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.
21 Marie Schumacher.

22 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: First thing, with
24 respect to the unfunded borrowing will the
25 taxpayers be allowed to comment in Court,

1 assuming there is a court date next
2 Thursday.

3 MS. EVANS: It's Thursday at 10
4 a.m., I believe. Is that correct, Mrs.
5 Krake?

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Is there any
7 paperwork that's required to be filed
8 beforehand if you want to speak?

9 MS. EVANS: I don't know.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: How do you find
11 out?

12 MS. KRAKE: I believe it's at 10
13 a.m., but you can always contact the Court
14 to verify it or call our office tomorrow. I
15 don't know of any of the other particulars.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes, and if I can add,
17 what I'm going to do is request a breakdown,
18 itemized breakdown, of all of the expenses
19 that the city will request the money for and
20 I'll ask our BA to do that as soon as
21 possible and place that in our office so
22 that people could review it, if necessary.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

24 MR. HUGHES: If I could, I was
25 confused by this entire process. I received

1 something, a fax in the office from the
2 solicitor's office, which was the order that
3 was signed by Judge Minora. Ordinarily,
4 there is various ways, one of the ways to do
5 it is a Rule to Show Cause. It says, "The
6 Rule to Show Cause is returnable," and then
7 it was stricken out from the clerk's -- from
8 the Clerk of Courts and said, "To city
9 council," and there was no rule.

10 I would think that what you should
11 do if you intend to go to the hearing, the
12 only way I can interpret that is that you
13 would have to go to city council chambers,
14 submit your name, and there is nothing
15 that -- there was no rule there, so I can't
16 quite fathom what they did. To protect
17 yourself, I would say that just sign in the
18 clerk's office, because it said in the city
19 clerk's office.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, city clerk,
21 not Lackawanna --

22 MR. HUGHES: So I have no idea why
23 it was scratched out from the Clerk of
24 Courts to the city clerk. Now, ordinarily
25 what you would have to do when there is rule

1 returnable you have to file an answer.
2 There was -- this was no rule and it was
3 just a petition, so I would -- I don't know
4 how to really interpret it, so I would think
5 that what you would should do is just go to
6 Mrs. Krake, anyone who wants to go to that
7 hearing, and just put your name down.

8 Now, again, I was dumbfounded by the
9 whole -- by what I received because there
10 was no rule, there was nothing to say an
11 answer is filed. Ordinarily an answer would
12 be filed then a hearing, if necessary, on
13 the rule. So I would just so that you could
14 protect yourself just go and sign and then
15 on the day of the hearing, here's
16 everybody's name, and I think Frank you
17 should also sign or any other council person
18 that wants to do is, just sign it so that
19 here's the witnesses that are going to
20 testify.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, because --

22 MR. HUGHES: That's the only advice
23 I can give because I'm totally --

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, because is
25 something due on the 23rd. I talked to

1 Mr. Mackay, who referred me to Jeff, I can't
2 remember Jeff's last name.

3 MR. HUGHES: Jeff McLane.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: But he said some
5 things are due on the 23rd, and I think
6 there was even a statement that lead me to
7 believe that after those are -- after those
8 things are received, and I don't know if
9 those are done --

10 MR. HUGHES: I don't have the order
11 with me, I'll take a look at it tomorrow.
12 I'm call Mrs. Krake and tell her what it is,
13 at least what I think should be done.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

15 MR. HUGHES: And then you can call
16 Mrs. Krake or anybody else, but it was a
17 procedure that -- to me it's like the first
18 time I have ever seen anything like this.

19 MR. SCHUMACHER: And I would like to
20 request that the council then, I mean, I
21 like that if council is going to be speaking
22 is that the \$3 million come off with one
23 exception, because at least from what I have
24 read in the newspaper, everything the mayor
25 was going to spend that on were things that

1 were already covered by the unfunded
2 borrowing, so that would be duplication and
3 then there would be a pot of money left.

4 However, I do believe that \$600,000
5 should be allowed in addition as an upfront
6 money for the grant that's expected. I
7 mean, I know the grant is not even open yet
8 from what I have been told, so it's going to
9 be awhile, but that combined with, as I said
10 last week, if they were allowed to use
11 \$600,000, assuming they get the grant and
12 then combined with the unemployment
13 compensation they wouldn't have to pay -- we
14 could afford to get our firefighters back,
15 and that would be my hope.

16 And I would like, Mrs. Evans, if you
17 could talk more about a tax increase to be
18 levied for unfunded borrowing. That was a
19 little ominous. I assume, I mean -- - you
20 know, in motions I would like to hear more
21 about that.

22 And let's see, I've got a bunch
23 here. And then we are in severe financial
24 distress, as has been stated, as we are all
25 aware and, therefore, I wonder why we had to

1 bother filing what was almost turned out to
2 be a whole column length of legal notices
3 stating that the things were introduced last
4 week, all of this taxation issues and the
5 borrowing, when it was already passed. I
6 mean, why -- well, you know, usually I think
7 the legal notices is when something is
8 introduced so people can come if they want
9 to talk, but since they were ramrodded
10 through two additional motions last week
11 then they are already passed and they are
12 law, so why even bother putting them in the
13 paper and spending that money. Those
14 pennies add up.

15 And then could we get a date
16 certain, Mr. Joyce, next week for when the
17 audit report will be available to the
18 public?

19 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I'll check into
20 that.

21 MR. SCHUMACHER: And then on the \$3
22 million, the thing that concerns me, number
23 one, procedurally I don't think what
24 Mr. Rogan said is true. It is my
25 understanding that the containers into which

1 the boxes from the meters themselves go fit
2 into those containers in a special way and
3 have to be turned and then the money goes in
4 there and it can't be taken out. Those
5 containers are taken to Fidelity Bank and
6 Fidelity opens them and uses their coin
7 counters to count the money and then the
8 amounts are sent to the Parking Authority
9 and to the city, so, I mean --

10 MR. ROGAN: It just bothers me that
11 there is no receipts throughout the whole
12 process.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, the receipts
14 come from the amount that was deposited from
15 that.

16 MR. ROGAN: One master receipt.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: No, on a daily
18 basis. That's what I was told.

19 MR. ROGAN: From each meter?

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: No. No, no, no,
21 what was in each container, whatever was
22 emptied that day. Darn, I've got lots more,
23 but anyway. If they -- I find it
24 disingenuous that the city states that they
25 can't -- they didn't -- they overlooked this

1 money because the Parking Authority got
2 their cut, they got their 10 percent
3 according to their audit reports, which are
4 current, up through 2010, so somebody
5 obviously knew it was there or the amount of
6 it or they couldn't have cut the 10 percent
7 check, so I'll be back with the rest next
8 week, I guess, good Lord willing. Thank
9 you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Well, that 1
11 percent comes out of the general fund of the
12 city, that appears in the budget. But, in
13 addition, I'll just quickly read for you the
14 paragraph I alluded to within the letter
15 that was sent to me and to Councilman Joyce
16 from Gerald Cross, executive director of
17 PEL. "The possible reduction in the amount
18 of the unfunded borrowing can reduce the
19 total and annual debt service the city will
20 budget to pay for the unfunded borrowing.

21 The reduction in the unfunded
22 borrowing may also lessen the dedicated debt
23 service real estate tax millage that may be
24 necessary to pay for the unfunded
25 borrowing."

1 Now, having never been a participant
2 in unfunded borrowing before, I don't know
3 if the Court might order that a tax increase
4 is required in order to satisfy him that the
5 debt service payments will be made each year
6 on time considering the condition the city
7 is in, that's a possibility. I don't know
8 that that's a certainty. So I think we are
9 probably in the same position as you are
10 right now in that we have to see what is
11 going to occur, but I don't believe that
12 that was the case with the county. I know
13 the county just went through petitioning the
14 Court for unfunded borrowing and I don't
15 recall having read that, but then again, I
16 don't read everything in the newspaper, that
17 the county had been instructed to raise
18 taxes for the singular purpose of repaying
19 that unfunded debt.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

21 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet.

22 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

23 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jackie. Hi, Jack,
24 I got a question for you, only for you,
25 Jack. Up there on Rock Street, who owns

1 make the TV audience think? It makes me
2 think there are more, and that's in my
3 opinion, accounts out there in never-never
4 land and only Kool aid drinkers would think
5 no. How could a \$3 million account go
6 undetected, avoided or whatever for three
7 years and all of a sudden have a miraculous
8 discovery in time to pay bills?

9 If I was as cash strapped as the
10 city or the Parking Authority I would
11 certainly know what accounts I had and how
12 much I had. We might have been born at
13 night, but it wasn't last night. How did
14 you miss a \$3 million account unless you
15 aren't supposed to know it's there?

16 14 police officers, 37 firefighters
17 got laid off because of money. Remember
18 what the mayor said, and I quote, "It's not
19 about public safety, it's about money."

20 Those 37 firefighters and eight
21 police officers, since six were put back,
22 plus DPW clerical workers could have been
23 put back to work if that money was located,
24 found before the budget was amended. I said
25 it before and I'll say it again, what's the

1 price of safety? How much is a life worth?
2 How much is an injured person worth, 3
3 million? If that was located before the
4 budget there would not have to be any
5 layoffs. What is the price of safety?

6 And I asked last week, are we better
7 off today than we were in 2002. We are
8 paying more taxes and getting less services.
9 Everyone can answer for themselves, but my
10 answer is, no. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mrs. Krake.

12 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

13 MOTIONS.

14 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
15 have any motions or comments?

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes. First I would like
17 to apologize for missing last week's
18 meeting, I was out of town. I guess I'll
19 start off with the hot topic of the day the
20 \$3 million that was found.

21 In the newspaper, Mayor Doherty said
22 that this is a learning experience. Now, if
23 Mayor Doherty was elected last year it may
24 be an acceptable excuse. The mayor has been
25 in office for ten years. You know, most

1 people don't even work for the same company
2 for ten years these days, so I think it's
3 time for the voters to learn that we have a
4 mayor that's not doing his job.

5 As much as I would like to blame all
6 of this on the mayor, we can't. As much as
7 I would like to say this is done on purpose,
8 we don't know. Could it have been done to
9 tuck money aside to falsely create a deficit
10 so the mayor could raise taxes that we all
11 know he wants to, it's possible. The only
12 people that know whether this was done
13 intentionally or not are likely the mayor,
14 the business administrator and God. None of
15 us here can answer that question.

16 There are many steps in the
17 accounting process where this should have
18 been caught. First off is Ryan McGowan.
19 Mr. McGowan was the past city treasurer. By
20 being treasurer, he should have had a little
21 more knowledge of this procedure than
22 another -- you know, somebody who became
23 business administrator outside of the city.
24 Unfortunately, it slipped through the cracks
25 once again.

1 Now, I voted against Ryan McGowan's
2 appointment because, if you recall, when he
3 was going to be appointed he tried blaming,
4 I think it was again a million plus dollar
5 mistake, on a union worker at the tax office
6 when it was a mistake, in fact, made by
7 Mr. McGowan.

8 The second fault, Rossi & Rossi
9 accounting auditing. This is three year's
10 worth of money. How is our auditor not
11 finding this if there is \$3 million tucked
12 away in a slush fund somewhere? There is no
13 logical defense for the incompetence of
14 Mayor Doherty, Ryan McGowan and Rossi &
15 Rossi.

16 I would hope the mayor would
17 reconsider his appointment of Ryan McGowan.
18 I believe he should be fired. I believe
19 Rossi & Rossi should be fired. They were
20 the highest cost, they were the highest
21 proposal when it was given to us to put for
22 a vote for an auditing firm and the results
23 aren't there. Obviously, the audit is
24 delayed not only because of Rossi & Rossi,
25 but because the administration likes to play

1 games with it. Obviously something isn't
2 working here.

3 We need a new business administrator
4 and we need a new auditing firm, we need a
5 new mayor.

6 The mayor stated in the paper he
7 wants to use the \$3 million to pay past
8 bills and things of that nature, and I'm
9 fine with that as long as the unfunded
10 borrowing also goes down by \$3 million. I
11 know Attorney Hughes said earlier he was
12 going to address the interest issue on the
13 money, and I'll hold my comments to later on
14 that because the dollar amount to me also
15 seemed very low.

16 Somebody else mentioned the parking
17 meters by General Dynamics. I agree with
18 what was said. The employees at General
19 Dynamics should feel free to park there.
20 Council hasn't passed any legislation to
21 either remove the meters, which I do support
22 because I think putting them in there
23 initially was a mistake, it's a mistake to
24 put them in an area where you are just going
25 take a dollar off -- a dollar an hour off

1 these employees' wages, number one.

2 Number two, council never voted to
3 put the signs up there. They were once
4 again just put up. We have this played out
5 maybe two months ago at the prison where the
6 signs were put up and then the legislation
7 was sent to council. It was voted down. In
8 this case the legislation wasn't even sent
9 to council, so it seems to me that it's
10 just, you know, retaliation at the employees
11 at this plant for not parking at the meters
12 because before the meters were there that
13 street was lined with cars with the
14 employees, and it didn't cause a problem.
15 It's right along the river, there is nothing
16 going the other way. Now, I can understand
17 "No Parking" right at the top where people
18 want to make a right turn, but there is a
19 good 20, 30 spots from, you know, the top of
20 the street to the bottom where these guys
21 could park for free. And if they are
22 parking there they wouldn't be parking in
23 the neighborhoods and walking down, which
24 would free up parking for the residents in
25 the area of South Side.

1 So I would hope that whoever put the
2 signs up, whether it be the Parking
3 Authority, the mayor or whoever it may be,
4 takes them down or sends legislation to
5 council so we can vote it down and let the
6 employees park there again.

7 StreetSmart once again was mentioned
8 and I've said it and I think we have all
9 said it a million times, I fully support
10 StreetSmart not only because of the
11 increased revenue, which I believe will
12 bring in, but because of the accountability.

13 Now, maybe the system now works, I
14 don't have faith in it. I don't have faith
15 that, you know, millions of dollars a year
16 are going into these meters and there is no
17 receipt until the money gets to the bank.
18 You know, with the StreetSmart system we
19 would have an account, you know, a quarter
20 by quarter breakdown of what's going into
21 each meter, and also by getting that
22 breakdown we could determine, well, these
23 meters over here they are really not
24 bringing in much money let's move them to
25 another area of town where they'll bring in

1 a little more revenue, not an area like
2 General Dynamics, obviously.

3 But that is all I have for now. I'm
4 sure the \$3 million, missing \$3 million,
5 will be a hot topic for a long time and I
6 fear that it's not the last, you know, not
7 the last thing we are going to find.
8 Hopefully, you know the mayor's and Ryan
9 McGowan's and Rossi & Rossi's future
10 mistakes, hopefully we have money put away
11 not we owe money, so I'm glad that the money
12 is out there, but I'm very disappointed that
13 it was sitting there for three years without
14 anyone knowing. And that's all I have for
15 now. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
17 Councilman Loscombe, do you have any
18 comments or motions?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, just briefly. I
20 would have to agree with Mr. Rogan on just
21 about everything he just commented on. I'm
22 not sure again about the auditor situation
23 if he had access to this \$3 million or if it
24 was kept from him somehow. You know, I mean
25 they have a slight of hand in the first

1 floor here, but, you know, I would hope that
2 that's not the case that they didn't miss
3 it, but that's not my -- you know, my area
4 of expertise, so hopefully we will get that
5 resolved down the road.

6 MS. EVANS: I do know, if I could
7 just interject for a minute because maybe
8 you would be interested in doing so and
9 Mr. Rogan as well, that the auditors have
10 said if council had any problem
11 understanding how this was missed by their
12 firm they are willing to talk to you. And
13 actually, I think they did ask for
14 Councilman Rogan and to give them a call and
15 they were, you know, anxious to discuss it
16 with you. So I would say, you know, anyone
17 on council would like to do so please feel
18 free and perhaps that will clear it up for
19 you.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. I do have
21 some phone calls and some issues I have been
22 working on this past week, I have unable to
23 accomplish that. I just want to let these
24 people know I will be back in touch this
25 week with them and catch up, and as

1 Mr. Ellman does when he goes shopping I do
2 the same thing. I happen to be -- I was at
3 Price Rite today, I don't know how I missed
4 you, but today was shopping day, but I was
5 also at Price Chopper and Gerrity's and met
6 many fine ladies while I was out there
7 today. I let Sue go and do her thing
8 shopping and I talked, she would get jealous
9 otherwise, I'm only kidding, but that's
10 where I, just like Mr. Ellman said, a lot of
11 people come to me with their concerns, their
12 questions and that's how we find out what's
13 going on on the street and in the
14 neighborhoods and stuff like that and I
15 always welcome that.

16 But today on several occasions, it
17 was a great day, I ran into several women
18 who complimented myself and our council
19 majority and the job we are doing and asked
20 us to keep fighting for them, and I want to
21 thank them for that confidence. That's all
22 I have to say tonight. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
24 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments
25 or motions?

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I have a few.
2 First, I just would like to begin by having
3 a brief moment of silent prayer once again
4 for Andy Sbaraglia who is undergoing a
5 procedure in Philadelphia. Andy is a great
6 citizen of this city, he cares a great deal
7 about the city, and he is one of our regular
8 speakers at meetings, so if we could just
9 bow our heads for a brief moment I think it
10 would be much appreciated.

11 (Moment of silence observed.)

12 Secondly, I want to apologize for my
13 absence at last week's meeting as I was ill.
14 As one knows, last week all of the taxes
15 were passed, however, legislation for the
16 parking tax, which was included in the 2012
17 budget as well as PEL's Recovery Plan was
18 not sent down by the administration. As one
19 may know, the amount of revenue that PEL
20 projects that the city will realize from
21 this tax is \$655,000. In the 2012 operating
22 budget the amount that was budgeted for this
23 revenue item was \$500,000.

24 With this in mind, it's vital that
25 this tax is passed as it is a component of

1 the budget and the Recovery Plan. And just
2 to provide the public with some background
3 on the parking tax, a 15 percent tax would
4 be levied on parking operations, both public
5 and private, including nonprofit operations.
6 The tax is not a tax on residents, it's a
7 tax on the revenue that's received from
8 parking operations throughout the city.

9 With my colleagues agreement,
10 Mrs. Krake, please contact the law
11 department and ask them to draft legislation
12 for the parking tax.

13 Also, in addition, please send a
14 letter expressing to Mr. Courtright that it
15 is our desire that this tax is collected by
16 his office. In some prior conversations
17 that I had with PEL, PEL expressed that this
18 tax is usually collected by the individuals
19 who collect the business privilege and
20 mercantile taxes.

21 Tonight, also on the agenda the
22 contract for the clerical union is present.
23 I want to express I'll be voting "yes" to
24 introduce this contract. Along with my
25 affirmative vote, since PEL is in the

1 process of drafting a revised Recovery Plan,
2 Mrs. Krake, can you please send a copy of
3 the contract to PEL and ask PEL and DCED for
4 their evaluation? Please ask them to
5 evaluate whether or not this is a fair and
6 fiscally responsible contract. As long as
7 the contract is very fiscally responsible, I
8 will be voting in favor of it. Please ask
9 PEL and DCED to respond by next Friday so
10 council can have time to evaluation their
11 findings prior to final passage.

12 At last week's meeting in my absence
13 it was brought up that \$3 million was found
14 from parking meter revenue over the past
15 couple of years. Obviously, that's become a
16 hot button issue. In an article published
17 by the Scranton Times it was stated by city
18 administrators that this would effect the
19 amount of money sought in unfunded
20 borrowing.

21 Mrs. Krake, with this in mind, since
22 the hearing is coming up, please send Mr.
23 McGowan a letter to ask him to provide
24 council a breakdown of how much money the
25 city will be seeking to borrow in light of

1 the finding of \$3 million in parking meter
2 revenue, and if you could ask him to provide
3 this by early next week so it can be in
4 council's office if any council member or
5 residents throughout the city would like to
6 see what the proposal will be for the
7 unfunded borrowing.

8 And finally, I have a few citizens'
9 requests. I have been contacted by
10 residents in the North Scranton area and
11 also by employees of the Career Technology
12 Center regarding conditions of Greenbush and
13 Reese Street which serve as the entrance/
14 exit to the CTC. Residents report that the
15 roads are in very poor condition again and
16 contain potholes and cracks which are making
17 for rough driving conditions.

18 Mrs. Krake, can you please contact
19 Mr. Dougher and inform him about this
20 situation and ask him to handle that
21 appropriately. I know this is a recurring
22 issue that seems to come up a couple of
23 times a year and I know that the DPW does go
24 up and patch some of the cracks and potholes
25 on the street, however, maybe it's time we

1 can look into having this -- these two
2 streets paved if it's feasible.

3 Also, various residents in
4 Greenridge contacted me about the completion
5 of the Meadowbrook Creek project. In case
6 one was not does not, Meadowbrook Creek is
7 an underground waterway that stretches
8 through the back yards of several Scranton
9 residents in the upper Greenridge area.
10 This is results in sink holes forming in the
11 residents back yards, which they have
12 expressed is resulting in a decrease in
13 property value.

14 Mrs. Krake, please contact
15 Mr. Dougher and inquire what the price would
16 be to complete the remaining portion of the
17 Meadowbrook Creek project. It's my
18 understanding from hearing residents'
19 concerns that part of the project was
20 completed, however, not the whole project
21 was completed and that there is also some
22 grant funding available throughout the state
23 and possibly federal government sectors.
24 Please ask Mr. Dougher if this is something
25 that could be looked into and whether it's

1 feasible or not.

2 Residents on the 100 and 200 block
3 of North Everett Avenue in Scranton's West
4 Side have contacted me to inform that there
5 are various cracks in the road along with
6 many potholes. Mrs. Krake, if you could
7 please add that to the issues to contact
8 Director Brazil -- or Dougher, sorry, of.

9 And the residents of the Keyser
10 Valley area have informed me that Dexter
11 Avenue is in a poor condition as there are
12 many potholes and cracks that are making
13 travel conditions difficult. Last year I
14 remember former Director Brazil stating that
15 this road was going to be added to the
16 paving list for 2011, however, it doesn't
17 appear as if the road was ever paved.

18 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, can
19 you please bring this to Mr. Dougher's
20 attention and ask him if this road can be
21 paved in 2012. And that's all for tonight.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
23 evening. I wish to discuss the \$3 million
24 in parking meter revenue found recently in
25 the Fidelity Bank account. My purpose is to

1 offer facts and observations, pose questions
2 and present the people's recommendations. I
3 have received countless e-mails and calls
4 regarding this discovery. Wherever I have
5 traveled in the last week, I have been
6 stopped to discuss this discovery and I have
7 listened to the recommendations of all of
8 those who have spoken to me or contacted me.

9 Now, this occurrence reminds us of
10 the 2008 shocking discovery of \$12.2 million
11 in the Single Tax Office bank account for
12 undistributed tax revenues that had
13 accumulated over several years, much of
14 which belonged to the City of Scranton.
15 Then throughout 2009, '10 and '11, parking
16 meter revenue was deposited into a Fidelity
17 Bank account but seems never to have been
18 transferred into a PNC bank account
19 earmarked as the city's general fund.

20 While the city's computer system
21 showed entries of meter revenue in the
22 general fund, it seems the monies were not
23 withdrawn from the Fidelity Bank and
24 deposited into the general fund account at
25 PNC Bank. Because the money appears on

1 paper that is within the reports of the
2 business administrator, within the mayor's
3 proposed budgets, within the city's computer
4 system, the auditor wouldn't know funds were
5 not transferred.

6 Meanwhile, in December 2010 city
7 council conducted a public caucus with a
8 representative of StreetSmart Technology, a
9 company whose innovative on-street parking
10 program would generate significant new
11 revenue for Scranton and provide a careful
12 and accurate counting of all meter revenues.

13 Council then placed conservative
14 revenue figures into the 2011 budget for
15 implementation of the program, held a second
16 public caucus to again inform and educate
17 the administration and, thereafter, a sole
18 source declaration was provided by
19 StreetSmart to begin a free pilot program.
20 The administration however, declined the
21 sole source declaration and steadfastly
22 blocked implementing the program, generating
23 new revenue and increasing financial
24 accountability throughout 2011.

25 In light of this history, we are

1 told that these remarkable financial
2 discoveries are due to errors, learning
3 curves and administrative procedures that
4 fell through the cracks. I had a gentleman
5 tell me that a friend of his said, "What is
6 that crack, the size of the Grand Canyon?"

7 If we suspend our disbelief, we may
8 be able to accept such explanations for the
9 first time millions were discovered in 2008
10 and even for the first year the meter
11 revenue sat in the Fidelity Bank account,
12 but we are asked to believe that this
13 happened for not one, not two, but three
14 consecutive years much like the
15 undistributed tax money sat year after year
16 in an unknown bank account.

17 At this time, I would like to defer
18 to Solicitor Hughes will present factual
19 information he gathered very recently.

20 MR. HUGHES: Thank you, Madam
21 President. Members of council and the
22 public, what I did with Fidelity Bank, I
23 requested the statements of account
24 originally of this account from the periods
25 -- a three-year period which would have been

1 2009, '10 and '11. I have a complete
2 statement of the account on a monthly basis
3 for that time period, and on reviewing it
4 there was no money withdrawn during that
5 time period.

6 As to the questions regarding the
7 interest rate, the interest rate during that
8 period starting in January 1st of 2009, was
9 we could say three-quarters of 1 percent.
10 Interest was payable monthly. Actually, in
11 January 1, 2009, it was .76 percent. All
12 the way through up until it was a decreasing
13 amount, I won't go through what it decreased
14 to all the time, but in September of 2010
15 there was no interest paid. From October 1,
16 2010, to December 31, 2010, the interest was
17 at the rate of .08 percent, which would be
18 8/10ths of 1 percent on the money that was
19 in the account on a monthly basis. That
20 month the amount of interest on the \$3
21 million was \$214.

22 Of course, you all know that this is
23 a checking account. Money rates are
24 extremely low on savings accounts and CD's
25 and also on checking accounts if you have a

1 personal checking account. However, this
2 money sat there and languished actually for
3 three years and three months without being
4 taken out.

5 If you go back to this account, this
6 account was opened October 30, 2002 at
7 Fidelity Bank. The way that I read the
8 statements, and I have a copy of the
9 statements here for council, which would
10 probably be looked at in the solicitor's
11 office -- or in council's office, it appears
12 that on a daily basis money is deposited
13 into this account from the collections from
14 the parking meters. Every day the money is
15 accounted for, I do not if it's counted by
16 the Parking Authority, I do not if it's
17 delivered in bulk or if it's counted by
18 Fidelity. There is a receipt -- or not a
19 receipt, but there is a deposit for every
20 day that a deposit is made.

21 However, when you look at this
22 account and you go back to the two years
23 before that which would be in 2007 and 2008,
24 in those years there were a total of five
25 checks written and signed by the mayor. The

1 checks were issued to PNC Account No.
2 90096974558. The first check that was
3 issued in 2007 was Check No. 111, dated May
4 31, 2007, in the amount of \$490,000 made
5 payable to PNC Bank, written on the check it
6 says, "Meter revenues to 5-31-07."

7 The next check that was written on
8 that account was Check No. 112. That was
9 written on August 8, 2007, again the PNC
10 Bank, the same account number, for \$183,000,
11 and that was for meter revenue from 6-1-07
12 to 8-20-07. Again, it was signed by the
13 mayor and Douglas Hein. There is two
14 signatures required on the check.

15 The next check that was written was
16 check No. 113, and that was on November 14,
17 2007 to PNC Bank to that account number
18 \$175,000, and that was meter revenue from
19 August 29, 2007, to November 14, 2007,
20 again, signed by Mayor Doherty, Christopher
21 A. Doherty, and Douglas Hein.

22 The next check was issued on that
23 account was Check No. 114 dated April 28,
24 2008, PNC Bank, the account number stated
25 before, \$360,000, meter revenue 11-14-07 to

1 4-28-08, signed by Mayor Doherty and
2 Mr. Hein.

3 And the next check that was issued
4 was Check No. 115 dated June 12, 2008, PNC
5 Bank to the account number, \$100,000. Meter
6 revenue 4-28-08 to 6-12-08 signed by
7 Christopher A. Doherty and Douglas Hein.

8 That was the last check that was
9 issued on this account. It's a total of
10 \$1,308,000 in those five checks taken out
11 during that time period.

12 It would appear that prior to this
13 from the years when the account was opened
14 in October 30th of 2002 until Check No. 111
15 was written on May 31st of 2007, that in
16 this period there were a series of ten
17 checks written. I have requested from
18 Fidelity all of the accounts statements that
19 were issued to the City of Scranton during
20 that time period along with copies of the
21 checks. I can only presume that the
22 procedure was the same on the first ten
23 checks issued from that account.

24 During the time period of 2009, '10
25 and '11, what is ironic since they only

1 issued 15 checks, on February 24, 2009, the
2 account was debited \$78.50 for deluxe
3 checks, and again on January 4, 2011, the
4 account -- there was a deduction from the
5 account in the amount of \$90 again for the
6 printing of delux checks. Who authorized
7 the checks to be printed I don't know. Why
8 they were printing checks when obviously,
9 they must have had a lot of checks, but here
10 is an amount of -- comes to a total of
11 \$168.50 for the two printings of deluxe
12 checks during the years that there were no
13 withdrawals from the accounts. Again, that
14 was in February 24th of 2009 and on January
15 4, 2011.

16 Based on this, it's my conclusion
17 that the mayor had knowledge of this
18 account, he not only had knowledge of it,
19 knew the account, he signed five checks on
20 it during a period of the year and a half.
21 Who knows the other ten checks prior to that
22 probably contained his signatures, by the
23 next meeting hopefully we will have that
24 information, but for some reason the
25 statement of this account was sent to the

1 City of Scranton on the monthly basis, it
2 was received by the city, and where it went
3 and who received it in the city I do not
4 know, but Fidelity certainly sent the
5 statements, the mayor had knowledge of the
6 accounts, had written checks from the
7 account from 2008, and based on the budget
8 and each of the budgets for every year there
9 is a line item as to anticipated revenue
10 from the parking meters, so every year
11 that's plugged in the budget. It seems to
12 me that the first thing he would have asked
13 if there is a cash shortage is how much
14 money is in this parking meter account, and
15 that's up to him to answer.

16 But I do have copies of each of the
17 Fidelity monthly statements issued to the
18 City of Scranton commencing on January 4,
19 2007, through the December 31, 2011, and
20 copies of the checks that contained the
21 mayor's signature for those time periods,
22 which I'll give to Mrs. Evans, and I have a
23 copy of the checks for Josh. Also for Rich
24 from the Times Leader.

25 Any other information complete

1 accounting of the monthly statements from
2 Fidelity, I gave copies to Mrs. Evans and
3 they will be in the clerk's office for
4 anybody who would like to review them. If
5 you have any questions, feel free to ask
6 them.

7 MR. ROGAN: Attorney Hughes, I just
8 have one.

9 MR. HUGHES: Just one?

10 MR. ROGAN: And I think I heard you
11 right, and I'm going to make a copy of these
12 once the meeting is over, you are saying
13 that they sent statements to the city each
14 month from 2008 to 2011?

15 MR. HUGHES: It says, "City of
16 Scranton, 340 North Washington Avenue,
17 Scranton, PA."

18 The statement of the account. It's
19 a two-page statement, shows account
20 activity, each day what the deposit is and
21 what the credit is and what the balance is
22 in the account. It's on the front and the
23 back, and you will see where it says,
24 "Debit" there is no debit that is on this
25 which is for the month of January 1, 2009.

1 All of the deposits show a cumulative
2 running of the balance, there is no debits
3 for January of 2009. And then it also
4 states what the interest is and the interest
5 earned during that monthly period and the
6 interest paid year-to-date.

7 MR. ROGAN: So Mayor Doherty was
8 sitting on \$3 million while he was
9 threatening to payless paydays for our
10 employees.

11 MR. HUGHES: There was \$3 million in
12 the account of which he is a signator to
13 sign the check, which he had previously done
14 in 2007 and '8 with five checks totaling
15 \$1,308,000, so he knew -- I don't know who
16 kept the checks. I don't know if the checks
17 are kept by the mayor or by the business
18 administrator. I have no idea.

19 MS. EVANS: Or possibly the
20 treasurer. I think --

21 MR. HUGHES: Or the treasurer.

22 MS. EVANS: I think Mr. Hein may
23 have been, perhaps Mrs. Krake will remember,
24 was Mr. Hein the treasurer?

25 MS. KRAKE: Yes, he was the

1 treasurer at the time.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. HUGHES: Where the checks were
4 kept I have no idea.

5 MS. EVANS: But we have these
6 statements and we are being asked to believe
7 that nobody ever read these statements.
8 Now, the statements were made, they were
9 mailed, they were delivered, but no one read
10 these statements? And should we believe
11 that the administration forgot about this
12 account after June 2008, the last
13 withdrawal?

14 Now, if this is the case it appears
15 to be gross incompetence on the part of the
16 city administration. If not, it appears to
17 be an intentional act of gross malfeasance
18 and neither is acceptable to the people of
19 Scranton who will be paying higher taxes for
20 less public safety services this year. It's
21 also very troubling that police and fire
22 were laid off in August 2011 by Mayor
23 Doherty, who stated in his layoff letters
24 that quote, "The City of Scranton has
25 experienced dire economic circumstances due

1 to increased expenditures and decreased
2 revenues."

3 And that was months before the
4 Supreme Court decision was announced. The
5 loss of public safety personnel should have
6 been considered as a last resort and before
7 laying off these 21 employees the mayor and
8 business administrator had the obligation
9 and the moral responsibility to review all
10 city accounts to determine revenues. Those
11 21 police officers and firefighters should
12 not have been laid off since the city had
13 very close to an additional \$3 million of
14 available above and beyond it's projected
15 revenues in August 2011.

16 Together with the mayor's refusal to
17 reinstate 13 firefighters in the 2012
18 budget, these unnecessary layoffs have
19 jeopardized the health, safety and welfare
20 of city residents, particularly those in the
21 East and West Mountain areas who have
22 e-mailed me time and time again over the
23 last several weeks of their serious
24 concerns.

25 Furthermore, taxes were increased on

1 real estate, business and real estate
2 transfer in 2012, some of which may not have
3 been necessary if parking meter revenues had
4 been timely deposited into the general fund.

5 Therefore, at the request of
6 Scranton taxpayers who have contacted me and
7 other members of council, city council urges
8 Mayor Doherty to use the \$3 million to
9 reinstate all remaining police officers and
10 firefighters who were wrongly laid off in
11 August 2011 and to amend the 2012 operating
12 budget to include the \$3 million in revenue
13 and rescind or decrease tax hikes with the
14 remainder of the funds. Remember, these are
15 not 2012 funds, these are nine, ten and 11
16 funds and actually it appears half of 2008
17 now as well.

18 Council also urges the mayor to
19 implement immediately an off-street parking
20 program whether street -- or on-street, I'm
21 sorry, parking program, whether StreetSmart
22 or a comparable company in order to provide
23 increased accountability of meter revenue
24 and generate new revenue for the city in
25 2012 to aid in meeting the increased costs

1 of debt service.

2 Now, I recognize, as I stated
3 earlier, that PEL has made it's
4 recommendations and certainly that is a
5 consideration that the unfunded debt can be
6 lowered by \$3 million, but the fact still
7 remains, ladies and gentlemen, that 21
8 people loss their jobs and those losses
9 started a cycle of jeopardizing public
10 safety in the City of Scranton. Those 21
11 people lost their jobs wrongfully and taxes
12 were just increased wrongfully? You decide
13 because no one on this city council was ever
14 aware that the \$3 million that appeared in
15 the mayor's proposed budget each year in
16 line items for meter revenue had never been
17 transferred, but it appears some people
18 knew. Some people knew because I don't
19 believe you can write out checks and make
20 those transfers right through June of 2008
21 and then suddenly forget all about it, and
22 that's it.

23 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, I
24 would state this, that these accounts show
25 that as of July 29, 2011,, the balance in

1 that account was \$2,759,867.17, and that was
2 just before the police and the firemen were
3 laid off because the budgetary was -- there
4 was no money and the city was going to have
5 payless paydays and you were going to
6 have to layoff the police and the firemen in
7 order to save some money so that you could
8 at least make another payroll by the end of
9 the year and there wasn't enough money to
10 make payroll.

11 MS. EVANS: Now, I would think even
12 our Finance Chair might attest to the fact
13 that the amount of money you just stated was
14 available at the time these layoffs
15 occurred?

16 MR. HUGHES: Could have written a
17 check for \$2 million.

18 MS. EVANS: Exceeds the amount
19 needed for those 21 individuals.

20 MR. JOYCE: Correct.

21 MR. HUGHES: I think that was
22 \$600,000. I think when they are laid off to
23 the end of the year to save \$600,000.

24 MS. EVANS: Correct.

25 MR. HUGHES: And there was almost

1 five times that amount in the Fidelity
2 account from the parking meter revenue.

3 MS. EVANS: But, I think what we
4 have to add --

5 MR. HUGHES: Four and a half times
6 to be exact.

7 MR. EVANS: -- is that you had 13
8 police officers working in 2011, and the
9 mayor was counting on those 13 salaries
10 being paid through CDBG monies for
11 neighborhood police patrols, but then OECD
12 was informed by HUD that you cannot take
13 regular police officers and move them over
14 into the neighborhood police patrols and
15 expect to use HUD money it pay for that, so
16 that pulled the rubbing out financially and
17 the salaries for those 13 police officers
18 had to come from the city's operating budget
19 for the previous -- August would be eight
20 month, for the previous eight months. The
21 mayor thought he would get reimbursement
22 from HUD for that but it didn't happen
23 because he was trying to go against the
24 regulations of HUD, and it appears slide
25 something through and when that was caught

1 and they knew there was going to be no
2 reimbursement that left a hole, but
3 certainly the hole is not as big as what was
4 sitting over in this bank account.

5 MR. ROGAN: Attorney Hughes, I have
6 one more question, all this came to light
7 with, you know, checks being ordered when
8 money is not being taken out of account what
9 would be the proces of an investigation into
10 this by either the FBI or the Attorney
11 General's Office or who would be the body to
12 contact regarding this investigation
13 because --

14 MS. EVANS: Actually I asked our
15 solicitor that very question this afternoon
16 by phone and he -- I'm speaking for you now,
17 he didn't know immediately, and I can
18 understand why, who would before has faced
19 this type of situation, but I did ask him
20 if, you know, in the next week or so that he
21 might be able to look into that and see
22 whether this type of action should be
23 reported to a government agency or an Ethics
24 Commission or, you know, what is the proper
25 procedure in this event.

1 MR. ROGAN: Because I would
2 certainly say on the face of it, you know,
3 before the information that Attorney Hughes
4 found, and you did a great job on this,
5 Boyd, bringing all this to light, before
6 that information, you know, there was some
7 doubt that maybe it was a mistake, but if
8 the mayor was drawing off this account in
9 the past and then they ordered checks for an
10 account they are not drawing off of,
11 something doesn't seem right and I
12 definitely think there needs to be an
13 investigation and I think the people deserve
14 it.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: And that's exactly
16 what I was going to ask, Mr. Rogan, of our
17 solicitor is there is any investigating body
18 that can look into this for the taxpayers
19 and for city council to check if there were
20 any irregularities and --

21 MS. EVANS: In other words, I think
22 we are looking for -- we are not looking for
23 a particularly nearly an auditor --

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct.

25 MS. EVANS: We understand why the

1 auditors couldn't detect this, we are
2 looking for --

3 MR. HUGHES: I haven't seen the
4 audit, but I think the auditors would look
5 at it and say, "Here is the bank account,
6 there is this much in it."

7 I mean, that's all the auditor would
8 do.

9 MS. EVANS: Exactly.

10 MR. HUGHES: I mean, it's not --
11 it's up to the person that has the right to
12 withdraw the money from the account to
13 withdraw the money from the account and
14 that's the mayor. Why he would order checks
15 it would have to be the owner of account
16 that would order checks. You have a stub,
17 you send the stub in do you want checks if
18 you want checks to be replace the checks
19 that you have.

20 But up until that point there were
21 only 15 checks issued. I'm assuming it
22 started with Check No. 101, because all that
23 I gave you and I gave the public, you know,
24 the press was checks No. 111 to 115, so
25 there is five checks that were issued. We

1 should have, you know, Checks No. 101 to
2 110, hopefully for next week's meeting, and
3 when they were written and what the amounts
4 were.

5 But as has been stated, every year
6 there is a revenue line item for parking
7 meter revenue that's put in the budget.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes, there is.

9 MR. HUGHES: And it's been taken out
10 of the budget to go into the general fund at
11 PNC up until -- obviously, it was going on
12 from the time the account was opened in
13 October 30th of 2002, up until the last
14 Check No. 115, I think it was August 30th of
15 2007, and there was check written. I mean,
16 that would be the normal course. How much
17 do you have in the account? We need money
18 in the operating account to pay bills and to
19 make payroll. How much is in that account?

20 Somebody had the checkbook here. I
21 don't know if it was the mayor, I don't know
22 if the treasurer. I have no idea, but
23 somebody has to have that checkbook today.
24 Where is it? Somebody here has it.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Somebody has to be

1 accountable for why this account has
2 languished for these three years, but even
3 furthermore in light of past history are
4 there other accounts out there that have
5 money in them that we have no knowledge of
6 it.

7 MS. EVANS: And I think that's a
8 concern of everyone on council --

9 MR. HUGHES: And the issues -- there
10 is one further issue the city has is that
11 with the agreement with the Parking
12 Authority that we have to find out what the
13 procedures are. You know, maybe this should
14 be a letter to Mr. Scopelitti, if he will
15 answer it, he will probably say it's a
16 Right-to-Know request, you know, as he
17 always does, but what's the procedure when
18 the money is collected from the parking
19 meters? Where does it go? I mean, somebody
20 said it goes to the Fidelity Bank, do they
21 take -- you know, the little buggy out
22 there, whatever it is, unload it there and
23 then Fidelity counts it and rolls it and
24 gives them a receipt or does it go to the
25 Parking Authority and do they take wrapped

1 coins over to Fidelity to make a deposit?
2 What's the procedure?

3 Because in accordance with the
4 agreement between the city and the Parking
5 Authority, the Parking Authority gets their
6 10 percent vig on everything that's
7 collected.

8 Now, obviously, the 10 percent vig
9 that the city is paying to the Parking
10 Authority in order to -- you know, for the
11 parking meter collections that are made and
12 for the parking meters that wasn't coming
13 out of this account. So if they are getting
14 10 percent and the city is paying it from
15 another account somebody has to be aware
16 that, here, this is the money that is coming
17 in addition to these accounts from Fidelity.

18 MS. EVANS: We have been paying them
19 more than 10 percent really.

20 MR. HUGHES: Well, then somebody has
21 to give the city a bill and that has to be
22 approved somewhere based on the revenue.
23 Obviously, it's not coming from this
24 account. Why should that come from the
25 city's general funds when here's the account

1 that it should be coming from, the parking
2 meter account.

3 MS. EVANS: Exactly. It could have
4 been coming from tax collections that are
5 coming over from Mr. Courtright, liquid
6 fuels accounts, one never knows, but it did
7 come out of our general fund.

8 Well, I think, you know, again, if
9 you can perhaps look into for us if what the
10 next step is.

11 MR. ROGAN: I think we certainly all
12 agree there needs to be some form of an
13 investigation outside --

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

15 MR. ROGAN: -- city government.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes. We don't want --
17 we have had -- I think some of the
18 speakers --

19 MR. HUGHES: I think the only
20 investigation might be for gross
21 incompetence and that might be up at Clarks
22 Summit State Hospital. That's about the
23 only place it could occur.

24 MS EVANS: I know that --

25 MR. HUGHES: I don't think there is

1 any criminal activity for being grossly --
2 well, there is, but in this situation the
3 money is there and it wasn't withdrawn. I
4 mean, that's something entirely different.

5 MS. EVANS: That's not incompetence.
6 When you --

7 MR. HUGHES: It might be
8 intentional, I don't know.

9 MS. EVANS: When you know there is
10 an account, when you are ordering checks
11 from that account to be made, when you have
12 made the withdrawals properly from 2002 to
13 through 2008, at least it appears that way,
14 and then suddenly everything evaporates.

15 MR. ROGAN: It's a secret slush fund
16 put aside for whenever the mayor wanted to
17 use it. That's what it is.

18 MS. EVANS: That's not incompetence,
19 that's -- well, it appears that's
20 malfeasance.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Malfeasance.

22 MS. EVANS: And I think what
23 Mr. Rogan is looking for is are we able to
24 take this to another level and ask for an
25 investigation by --

1 MR. ROGAN: Whoever the
2 investigating body would be. You know, not
3 an internal investigation.

4 MS. EVANS: Right, and that's what I
5 was getting to earlier. There are some of
6 you in the audience who have been coming
7 here for years and you can recall, for
8 example, many years ago it was called Hollow
9 Gate, and a great deal of work was done
10 purportedly on private property on Hollow
11 Avenue by the Scranton DPW, and an
12 investigation was conducted, but the
13 investigation was conducted by the
14 individual who was to be investigated, so
15 that the DPW director who was to be
16 investigated himself and found himself
17 innocent.

18 And so that is not the type of
19 investigation council I think is seeking in
20 this situation. We have not looking for an
21 internal investigation.

22 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: An outside look.

24 MR. JOYCE: And I thought I would
25 receive a letter from PEL, but, you know, I

1 will add my two cents on this. You know, I
2 tend to wonder what DCED would think right
3 now because we went through a whole process
4 to ask them to take out \$5.5 million from
5 the Workers' Comp Trust Fund when, in fact,
6 this \$3 million was available, so I would
7 assume that they would question why wasn't
8 this money being used to pay the TAN, why
9 weren't we taking less out of the Workers'
10 Comp Trust Fund.

11 MS. EVANS: And that, of course,
12 goes back to taking a TAN out and using it
13 to pay the prior year's TAN which, I believe
14 Solicitor Hughes says, violates the Unit
15 Debt Act, but yet there is no consequences
16 for that either.

17 MR. ROGAN: I would just make one
18 final point. Things like this when they
19 come up are the reasons why I believe the
20 Home Rule Charter needs to be revised and there
21 needs to be some form of recall, whether it
22 be a 60 percent threshold or whatever it may
23 be, because when you are stuck with an
24 administration, and everyone in the city is
25 stuck with Mayor Doherty, and us especially,

1 and I know myself when we got elected, you
2 no, thought we were going to clean
3 everything up and it's fighting against a
4 brick wall and, you know, there is -- we are
5 working on a budget and there is \$3 million
6 out there you didn't know about it.

7 You know, I know speaking from all
8 of us if we knew that money was there our
9 budget would have been different.

10 MS. EVANS: Absolutely.

11 MR. ROGAN: There wouldn't have been
12 a tax increase, there would be public safety
13 positions.

14 MS. EVANS: And maybe back to the
15 prior year when we were not told that they
16 were going to take \$5 million and use it to
17 pay off the prior year, so there was an
18 immediate \$5 million hole in the 2011 budget
19 that the administration was well aware of,
20 but didn't reflect it in it's proposed
21 budget and never told city council about it.

22 MR. ROGAN: And, unfortunately, you
23 know, we are all stuck with Mayor Doherty
24 for another two years until his term
25 expires. There is no provision for recall

1 in the Home Rule Charter.

2 MS. EVANS: No, there is not. I
3 think there is maybe something on a state
4 level.

5 MR. ROGAN: There is nothing in the
6 Home Rule Charter. So maybe that's
7 something, you know, further down the line
8 we could look at.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, we charge you in
10 looking for a solution for us if one is,
11 indeed, available, Solicitor Hughes.

12 And I think we can then proceed with
13 Fifth Order.

14 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF
15 COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE
16 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
17 OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE
18 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE
19 CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
20 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE
21 FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
22 GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT
23 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY
24 SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM, BY TRANSFERRING
25 \$50,000.00 FROM PROJECT NUMBER 11-96.2

1 PURCHASE OF NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROL
2 VEHICLES TO PROJECT NUMBER 11-229.1 UNITED
3 NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF NORTHEASTERN PA -
4 CONDEMNATION PROGRAM.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?
11 Mrs. Krake, could we send a letter to Ms.
12 Aebli, please, city council would like to
13 know if the police department and OECD
14 intend to apply for CDBG funds for both
15 neighborhood police patrols and police
16 vehicles in August 2012 for 2013 funds and
17 we request a written response on or before
18 January 31, 2012.

19 MR. JOYCE: I think we should
20 probably add Chief Duffy to that as well,
21 too.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes.

23 MR. JOYCE: Since I think on the
24 application he is the one that requests the
25 funds so --

1 MS. EVANS: My concern is that we
2 are depleting these funds and that the city
3 has no intention of reinstating police
4 patrols or applying for police vehicles when
5 it is once again eligible to do so under HUD
6 regulations and, you know, we need
7 assurances on that because otherwise I think
8 it may be possible to just allow the money
9 to sit in the account.

10 MR. ROGAN: We could, and if they --
11 I would hope Chief -- I think Chief Duffy
12 would apply because it's good that we are
13 covering our basis. If he would apply we
14 could let it sit in the account and then use
15 it when we can use the funds again.

16 MS. EVANS: Right.

17 MR. ROGAN: Hopefully the way it
18 plays out we can transfer now to use it and
19 then both reapply.

20 MS. EVANS: Right. Is there anyone
21 else on the question? All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. ACCEPTING A
4 DONATION OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (\$250.00)
5 DOLLARS FROM MAGNA FLOW ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
6 AND A SEVENTY FIVE (\$75.00) DOLLAR DONATION
7 FROM ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTED TO
8 THE CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
15 those in favor of introduction signify by
16 saying 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 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
23 could, I don't mean to interrupt you, if you
24 would direct me to write a letter to
25 Mr. Scopelliti regarding the procedures on

1 the collection of the parking meter revenue
2 from the time it's picked up at the parking
3 meter until the deposits are made at
4 Fidelity Bank, the entire procedure from
5 start to finish and how they bill the city
6 for their 10 percent on their contract I'll
7 do that. I don't know if I can do it
8 tomorrow or Monday, but I'll get it done by
9 the next meeting.

10 MS. EVANS: Certainly, with the
11 agreement of my colleagues.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

14 MR. HUGHES: At least that will be a
15 start to get to the bottom of how this is
16 done.

17 MS. EVANS: I'd also direct the
18 letter to Mr. Scopelliti, yes.

19 MR. HUGHES: Thank you.

20 MS. EVANS: I had always been told
21 though that there was an employee who was a
22 meter collector at the Scranton Parking
23 Authority whose job it was, well, part of
24 whose job it was to empty the meters each
25 day and --

1 MR. HUGHES: And then what happens
2 with the money? Is it taken to Fidelity and
3 then --

4 MS. EVANS: I believe it's taken to
5 Fidelity, yes. Now, I'm not sure --

6 MR. HUGHES: Well, let's find out.

7 MS. EVANS: -- if the meter
8 collectors --

9 MR. HUGHES: We can talk all night,
10 but let's find out.

11 MS. EVANS: Okay.

12 MR. HUGHES: It will probably get --
13 this probably will have to be a request to
14 know instead of coming from me, you know.
15 I'm going to take appeal to the -- if he
16 tells me this is a Right-to-Know request and
17 it's denied I'll then take an appeal to the
18 Attorney General's Office to have it
19 enforced.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Very good.

21 MR. HUGHES: Let them know what's
22 coming.

23 MS. EVANS: And I know that some
24 members of the banking community are very
25 anxious to see the Parking Authority begin

1 to cooperate with city council and produce
2 the documents you have requested and they
3 have remarked that the Scranton Parking
4 Authority budget is also most inappropriate
5 and should, in fact, be more detailed and
6 that that budget should also be submitted to
7 a bank for it's approval prior to the board
8 of the Parking Authority voting to approve
9 it, so I think it would probably be in the
10 Parking Authority's best interest to
11 cooperate with city government and provide
12 the requested information at this time and
13 if not I think, in addition, Mrs. Krake, we
14 could also want to notify the bank that
15 cooperation once again has been withheld.

16 MR. HUGHES: I don't want to beat a
17 dead horse, I want to go home and watch
18 Persons of Interest, but anyway, the thing
19 is that the Parking Authority right now does
20 not have an audit that's been approved by
21 council, which is a condition not only of
22 Landmark -- a condition of the trust
23 agreements that were adopted with each
24 public issuing of the parking bonds, it's a
25 requirement that's in event of default

1 because they have not submitted the budget.

2 The letter that I wrote to
3 Mr. Scopelliti in October I think it was
4 28th, which is probably about 15, 16 weeks
5 ago, remains unanswered, and one of the
6 requirements in that was that they were to
7 develop a budget, and I put it in there line
8 item by line item with a comparison and
9 everything we wanted and he gave us a Mickey
10 Mouse budget. I mean, so they're in default
11 in the requirements under the bond issue in
12 the prospectus that was issued for the
13 public offers of the bond issues by not
14 having a budget. Right now there is no
15 budget.

16 MS. EVANS: Correct.

17 MR. HUGHES: That's it.

18 MS. EVANS: And, thank you,
19 Solicitor Hughes.

20 MR. HUGHES: Sorry I interrupted.

21 MS. EVANS: That's okay. I think we
22 are on 5-C.

23 MS. KRAKE: Would you like me to
24 read that again, Mrs. Evans? That was about
25 the donation?

1 MS. EVANS: Yes, okay, and now I
2 think we can -- I'll say one more time, on
3 the question or do we actually get to move
4 that, so moved by a council member or did --
5 I can't recall if our Solicitor --

6 MR. HUGHES: I thought that was
7 passed that's when --

8 MS. EVANS: Intervened before we --

9 MR. HUGHES: No, I thought it was
10 passed.

11 MS. EVANS: No, we hadn't voted on
12 that yet.

13 MS. MARCIANO: 5-C you are talking
14 about?

15 MS. EVANS: Pardon.

16 MS. MARCIANO: I have five eyes.

17 MS. EVANS: I know Mrs. Krake read
18 it. I think just for belts and suspenders
19 I'm going to back to, at this time I'll
20 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
21 introduced into it's proper committee.

22 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

23 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

1 saying aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

7 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. AUTHORIZING THE
8 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
9 CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
10 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE
11 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND
12 AEROSPACE WORKERS LOCAL NO. 2462 (CLERICAL
13 UNION).

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question. I
21 agree with Mr. Joyce, I do want to see what
22 PEL's report says regarding this contract to
23 see if it is a fair deal for the taxpayers.
24 I think it was reported in the Scranton
25 Times that health care costs were only going

1 up by a dollar for employees.

2 MS. EVANS: That would have been --
3 I looked for that.

4 MR. ROGAN: I couldn't find it in
5 there.

6 MS. EVANS: There is no increase in
7 health care copays in 2012 and '13. The
8 increase will take effect for 2014 and '15
9 and it is a \$26 annual increase, so I
10 believe there should be say 26 pay periods,
11 so maybe it was a dollar per pay.

12 MR. ROGAN: I will vote to move it to
13 Sixth Order, but I do have a big reservation
14 with the health care costs just to increase
15 it by, you know -- it's no secret that
16 health care costs are going up and, you
17 know, everyone that does have it knows it's
18 going up, so we'll see what PEL reports says
19 and take it from will.

20 MS. EVANS: In addition though, one
21 of the concerns I had in reading through the
22 contract in Article I, Section I, there are
23 a number of errors in terms of the jobs or
24 the positions that are included as being
25 union jobs under this agreement and those

1 positions are -- some of those positions are
2 within Scranton City Council's Office, and
3 that is not true. These are not union
4 positions. According to the Home Rule
5 Charter, Scranton City Council is granted
6 the ability to hire and fire it's staff and
7 so I would think before I could approve this
8 the contract itself should be amended to
9 delete those positions.

10 And in addition, it also lists a
11 confidential secretary to the Director of
12 Public Safety and, of course, that was
13 deleted what, two years ago? The position
14 doesn't exist. There is no public safety
15 director, thus, there is no confidential
16 secretary.

17 MR. ROGAN: I agree, and I also --
18 you know, I have to read it over a little
19 more thoroughly, that's why I will vote to
20 push it along this evening.

21 MS. EVANS: Right.

22 MR. ROGAN: Regarding disciplinary
23 actions, it lists, A through K, you know,
24 prohibited actions by the employee, some of
25 them being theft, falsifying documents,

1 threatening employees and things like that,
2 and it goes on for Section IV, the number of
3 steps in the clerical union discipline
4 system shall be as follows. The first
5 offense verbal warning, so I hope that
6 doesn't mean if you steal city property you
7 get a verbal warning your first time, so I
8 will look for clarification on that as well.

9 MS. EVANS: Very good. Is there
10 anyone else on the question?

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just wanted to
12 clarify that Mr. Dobrzyn questioned this
13 earlier in his comments, basically I think
14 you understand now this deals with the new
15 clerical union contract. Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
17 introduction signify by saying 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: 5-E. APPOINTMENT OF
24 MARK DOUGHER, 1105 CORNELL STREET, SCRANTON,
25 PENNSYLVANIA 18504, TO THE POSITION OF

1 DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND PUBLIC
2 WORKS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012. MR.
3 DOUGHER WILL BE REPLACING JEFFREY BRAZIL,
4 WHO RESIGNED.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Mrs. Krake, could
12 we please send a letter to Mr. Dougher
13 asking him for a resume?

14 MS. EVANS: Oh, there is a resume
15 provided already.

16 MR. ROGAN: Oh, it's already
17 provided.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: I believe it's in the
19 backup, Mr. Rogan.

20 MR. ROGAN: He is a step ahead of
21 the game and, you know, he has a lot of work
22 to do cleaning up the DPW so --

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

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

3 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

6 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

7 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7,
8 2012 - AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE SINGLE
9 TAX OFFICE TO COLLECT THE 2011 DELINQUENT
10 REAL ESTATE TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
14 pass reading by title.

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
17 those in favor signify by saying 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: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
24 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 8, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE -
25 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 56, 2011, AN

1 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "THE GENERAL CITY
2 OPERATING BUDGET 2012" BY TRANSFERRING
3 \$20,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO.
4 01.401.13090.4299 (CONTINGENCY -
5 OPERATING EXPENSES) TO ACCOUNT
6 NO.01.020.00000.4201 (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES)
7 TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO ECTV FOR OPERATING
8 EXPENSES DURING THE YEAR 2012.

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

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

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question?

15 MR. ROGAN: Yes, on the question, I
16 was -- when this initially came up I was
17 planning on voting for it. I talked to a
18 lot of constituents in the city over the
19 last week or so about this and, you know,
20 they feel that they are not getting the same
21 quality service from ECTV and not only just
22 with council meetings the quality is very
23 poor, the volume is awful, the meetings
24 aren't run as frequently as they used to be
25 and other meetings aren't as well, so I will

1 be voting "no" on this \$20,000. I believe
2 our past provider could do a better job for
3 less money as they have in the past.

4 MS. EVANS: The only thing I want to
5 add is that there is a new board of
6 directors of ECTV and some whom I think have
7 a professional background in broadcasting.
8 I'm hoping that they will be more successful
9 than the prior board members, particularly
10 in the avenue of fundraising, but I would
11 say for the \$20,000 I don't think it would
12 be unreasonable for council to ask for an
13 accounting of that money from ECTV and it's
14 board of directors. In other words, we
15 would like to know on what items the \$20,000
16 is spent.

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I would agree.

18 MS. EVANS: And that way we could
19 provide that accounting to the public. Is
20 there anyone else on the question?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just to add, I
22 understand Mr. Rogan because I have been a
23 constant critic myself, you know, because a
24 lot of constituents have complained and
25 that, but I do feel that the new board of

1 directors, which I happened to read
2 somewhere recently, again, with their
3 expertise and everything and the fact that,
4 you know, in spite of not having funding
5 over this past year ECTV has continued to
6 broadcast our meetings to the public, so I
7 have to give them that.

8 But at this point, you know, I'd
9 like to see them continue on. I'm hoping
10 things will gets better with this new board
11 of directors and I wish them luck and
12 hopefully we can move on from there.

13 MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the
14 question? All those in favor signify by
15 saying aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

19 MR. ROGAN: No.

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

22 MS. KRAKE: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 9, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE -
24 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
25 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO AN

1 EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE SCRANTON ARMY
2 AMMUNITION PLANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR EQUIPMENT
3 LOCATED IN A PUMP STATION LOCATED BENEATH
4 MATTES AVENUE.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
8 pass reading by title.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

17 MS. KRAKE: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
18 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 10, 2012 - AN ORDINANCE
19 - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 40, 2010, AS
20 AMENDED ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING
21 THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF
22 THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY
23 ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED
24 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND
25 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE

1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
2 PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (HOME)
3 PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)
4 PROGRAM", BY TRANSFERRING A TOTAL AMOUNT OF
5 \$500,000.00 FROM PROJECTS 05-15 EMERGENCY
6 FLOOD RELIEF, 07-225 SLIBCO, 05-155 HILL
7 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, 05-172 LACKAWANNA
8 COLLEGE (SCRANTON LACE), 10-199 SCRANTON
9 CULTURAL CENTER, 10-237.2 CENTER FOR
10 INDEPENDENT LIVING, 10-175 TELESPOND SENIOR
11 SERVICES, INC. TO PROJECT 11-04.
12 RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND HANDICAP CURB
13 CUTS.

14 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
15 title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

16 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question?

20 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I spoke to Linda
21 Aebli about these transfers and essentially
22 what it does it transfers money from
23 projects that aren't going to happen like
24 the Scranton Lace Lackawanna College project
25 and ineligible projects to paving for low to

1 moderate income areas, which we desperately
2 need, and handicap curb cuts, also.

3 MS. EVANS: Anyone else? All those
4 in favor signify by saying aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to
11 suspend the rules to move Item 6-A to
12 Seventh Order for final passage.

13 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
14 entertain a motion that council suspend
15 their rules and place Item 6-A into Seventh
16 Order for final consideration.

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25 have it and so moved.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: At this time I would
2 like to make at that motion to take File of
3 Council No. 3, 2011, from the table and
4 place it into Seventh Order for final
5 consideration.

6 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

11 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: Before we vote on these
15 two items are we going to allow the public a
16 chance to speak?

17 MS. EVANS: Actually, I was going to
18 do so on item -- if you look at the bottom.

19 MR. ROGAN: Okay, great.

20 MS. EVANS: Okay. Mrs. Krake?

21 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. Before I read it we
22 do have a clerical error we needed to -- we
23 actually put the amended version here. We
24 needed to have it say 1,110 ten square feet,
25 which is why it required the amendment, and

1 also for it to say "formerly tabled" at the
2 end of the description.

3 MS. EVANS: Okay.

4 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
5 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION-FILE
6 OF COUNCIL NO. 33, 2011 - AUTHORIZING AND
7 APPROVING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION OF A
8 PORTION OF THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED
9 AT THE INTERSECTION OF KEYSER AVENUE AND
10 JACKSON STREET (910 SQUARE FEET) IN THE CITY
11 OF SCRANTON MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS A PART OF
12 PIN NUMBER 14412-030-016 TO THE COMMONWEALTH
13 OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF
14 TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT") IN ORDER TO WIDEN
15 THE WIDEN THE INTERSECTION FOR BETTER
16 TRAFFIC FLOW AT THIS INTERSECTION.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to make
18 a motion to amend File of Council No. 33,
19 2011, by: Number one, in the summary title
20 deleting "1,110," and inserting 910.

21 And number two, in the now,
22 therefore, clause deleting "1,110 and
23 inserting "910."

24 MR. ROGAN: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: On the question, I
2 have a letter I'd like to read into the
3 record by the Keyser Valley Citizens'
4 Association.

5 "Scranton City Council, care of
6 Nancy Krake, city clerk, 340 North
7 Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA, 18503.

8 Dear Ms. Krake and city council,
9 please be advised Keyser Valley Citizens'
10 Association and it's Board of Trustees is in
11 agreement with PennDOT's 7-2-11 revised
12 Keyser Avenue road project, land of parcel
13 No. 79, as attached.

14 In addition, as the Keyser Valley
15 Citizens' Association is very concerned
16 about flooding that has been experienced by
17 some Keyser Valley residents, the Board of
18 Trustees wishes to put PennDOT on notice
19 that should flooding problems worsen in
20 Keyser Valley as result of the Keyser Avenue
21 Road project, the Keyser Valley Citizens'
22 Association expects PennDOT to help those
23 residents by working to correct the flooding
24 hazards in a timely fashion.

25 We want to thank the city council

1 and city clerk for tabling this matter until
2 the Keyser Valley Citizens' Association
3 could work with PennDOT to make the agreed
4 upon revisions to the project which benefit
5 the residents of Keyser Valley.

6 Sincerely, Gary DiBileo, president,
7 Keyser Valley Citizens' Association."

8 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
9 the question? All those in favor of the
10 motion to amend Item 7-A signify by saying
11 aye.

12 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

14 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
16 have it and so moved. As Chair for the
17 Committee on Rules, I recommend final
18 passage of Item 7-A, as amended.

19 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
23 Rogan.

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

2 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

3 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
6 Item 7-A, as amended, legally and lawfully
7 adopted.

8 Is there anyone else who wishes to
9 address council on Item 7-B, formerly 6-A,
10 File of Council No. 7-2012, that has been
11 moved to Seventh Order?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: What's the rush?

13 MS. EVANS: We would like the
14 ability of Mr. Courtright's office to take
15 effect as soon as possible. We feel that
16 people could be coming in looking to pay
17 delinquent taxes, so the sooner he is
18 authorized to do so the sooner he will be
19 able to actually collect the delinquencies.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who
22 would like to address council? Mrs. Krake?

23 MS. KRAKE: 7-B, FORMERLY 6-A - FOR
24 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
25 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 7, 2012 -

1 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE SINGLE TAX
2 OFFICE TO COLLECT THE 2011 DELINQUENT REAL
3 ESTATE TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

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

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

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

13 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I would just agree
14 with what you just said by speeding this up.
15 It we will give Mr. Courtright a little more
16 time to get up and running and he has been
17 doing a great job with the tax office so I'm
18 sure he will do great job on this as well.

19 MR. JOYCE: I agree.

20 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please?

21 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff. Mr.
22 Rogan.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

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MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

MR. JOYCE: Yes.

MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

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

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

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is
adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER