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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, February 9, 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

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MR. JOYCE: Before we begin our next
4 segment of the meeting I would just like to
5 announce that Mrs. Evans informed record me
6 that she is out of town tonight and she will
7 not be attending the meeting. Roll call,
8 please.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

12 MR. ROGAN: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

16 MR. JOYCE: Here. Dispense with the
17 reading of the minutes.

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

19 APPLICATION OF SUNESYS, LLC FOR APPROVAL TO
20 CROSS THE TRACKS OF PENNSYLVANIAN NORTHEAST
21 REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY WITHIN THE
22 CONFINES OF POPLAR STREET IN THE CITY OF
23 SCRANTON.

24 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
25 If not, received and filed.

1 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. RECEIPT OF A
2 TIMETABLE WHICH MUST BE ADHERED TO FROM
3 ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY IN ORDER TO ISSUE THE
4 2011 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BY MAY 31,
5 2012.

6 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
7 If not, received and filed.

8 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. NOTICE OF AN
9 ANTICIPATED SCHEDULING OF AN EXIT
10 CONFERENCE AND ISSUANCE OF THE 2010 AUDIT
11 REPORT DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13,
12 2012 BY ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY.

13 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
14 If not, received and filed.

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. RECEIVED FROM RYAN
16 MCGOWAN, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, ON FEBRUARY
17 3, 2012, A BREAKDOWN OF ALL EXPENSES PAID
18 WITH THE \$3.1 MILLION DOLLAR PARKING METER
19 REVENUE DISCOVERED AT FIDELITY BANK.

20 MR. JOYCE: Are there any comments?
21 If not, received and filed. Clerk's notes?

22 MS. KRAKE: Yes, I just have a brief
23 one, Mr. Joyce.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes, Mrs. Krake.

25 MS. KRAKE: In speaking to our city

1 engineer today, John Pocius, and in regard
2 to when the Linden Street project will be
3 completed and the road will be reopened, he
4 told us that he does not have a firm date
5 yet from PennDOT and that's because there
6 are several things that need to be completed
7 first, a fiberoptic line must be moved, the
8 railroad and the utilities must be
9 relocated. When he does hear from them he
10 will let us know.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.
12 Do any council members have announcements?

13 MR. MCGOFF: Just one very quick
14 one. This Saturday, February 11, from 4 to
15 8 there is a fundraiser "Caring for Kelcey".
16 It's to benefit Kelcey Allen, a 17-year-old
17 student at Dunmore High School who is
18 undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma,
19 and any help that you may can give will be
20 greatly appreciated. Her father is a former
21 president of the St. Patrick's Day Parade
22 Association and an active member in the
23 community, the greater Scranton community,
24 and a very worthy case. That's a Dunmore
25 High School from 4 to 8 this coming

1 Saturday.

2 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much. Do
3 any other council members have
4 announcements? Mrs. Krake?

5 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
6 PARTICIPATION.

7 MR. JOYCE: Our first speaker
8 tonight is Andy Sbaraglia.

9 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
10 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
11 the first thing I want to do is --

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Welcome back.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- is thank everybody
14 that said a prayer for me. It really
15 helped.

16 MR. JOYCE: You're welcome.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: I wish I was coming
18 back to something I wish I could say a
19 prayer for you. From what I can see here,
20 your "D", under 3-D, that had to do with the
21 3.1 million that they finally told you what
22 they spent it on. The question is we
23 borrowed 9.5 and the 3.1 is on top of that,
24 so we had to a deficit of over 12 million at
25 the end of the year and we still probably

1 didn't get all of the deficit going because
2 we still got that \$5 million we have to
3 stick on.

4 Tell me Have you asked over there
5 Roseann Novembrino to send a keep of all
6 bills that she is paying out so you can
7 review them? It's the only way you are
8 going to keep track of this. I looked over
9 your escrow account where the banks have
10 actually put a lock on our real estate
11 money, I have never seen that done, I don't
12 think it's done very often, but now we
13 have -- well, actually it's being held
14 hostage, let's put it this way. All our
15 real estate taxes money is being held
16 hostage to pay off this 11.5 million in the
17 TAN. Now the trouble is it's not a yearly
18 TAN, it's only a six-month TAN.

19 I looked at some of the figures on
20 how much money is going to come in from the
21 tax. I think we are going to come up
22 anywhere from about a half a million to a
23 million dollars short because there is
24 interest being applied and if you look at
25 the money coming in all our tax money is

1 only 14 million for the whole ten months of
2 the year and they want to take that much, 6
3 1/2 million out in six months, so it's darn
4 close, and when they tack on the interest,
5 which there is no way you are even going to
6 be able to figure the interest out because
7 they are going to start drawing the money
8 out as soon as it gets in there. That's the
9 bad part about it. It's not even staying
10 there because we are paying interest on our
11 note and when they take the money out I
12 don't know how they will going to calculate
13 interest.

14 In other words, when you have 11
15 million, suppose they in the first month
16 they take out a million or two million,
17 well, it won't be that but say three million
18 they are going to take out \$3 million or so.
19 Now that should our reduce are interest on
20 the remaining part of that TAN, so you are
21 going to have to check and make sure they
22 are doing and get some kind of a listing of
23 how they are doing it, how they are doing
24 the interest because it can't be just a flat
25 5 1/2 percent, no way if they taking the

1 money out as it comes in, so that's a few
2 things.

3 And I just, like I said before, we
4 haven't really solved anything. I checked
5 in and saw we are going to have to live off
6 actually the money from the wage tax when
7 that pours in, but it's every two weeks it
8 pours in. According to their figures you
9 are going to have 6 1/2 million to spend
10 after you get that TAN, after you pay off
11 the other five, that's going to give you 6
12 1/2 million.

13 Now, I don't know exactly what the
14 total bills are coming in, I would have to
15 sit and go over them all actually and give
16 you a true picture of what's happening in
17 the city, but from what I see we are going
18 to be really, really looking for funds in
19 about six months. We are going to be short,
20 and I don't think you are going to do much
21 about it.

22 I mean, if everything even went good
23 with real estate tax and everybody got up
24 there and all of a sudden said I got \$2,000
25 to pay the tax off and it was a lump sum,

1 that may happen, but I pay quarterly, and
2 there is lot of people like me who pay
3 quarterly. That means it's ten months that
4 you got, so if we are talking about ten
5 months realistically I don't think -- like a
6 said before, I think you are going to come
7 up short anywhere from a half to a million.

8 And I think you should keep track of
9 what money is being spent within the city so
10 in case that happens you can pay it off
11 because I don't want to see us have to
12 borrow to pay off another TAN. That is
13 ridiculous. So I can only hope. Like I
14 said before, I know you're doing the best
15 you can, and I know the mayor isn't giving
16 you true figures. If Janet was here she
17 would have told you years ago we said where
18 is the mayor drawing this money from? We
19 always seem to have money to pay for what he
20 wanted to do from what account to another
21 account. Well, now you know he had three
22 million to do what he wanted to do, too, but
23 too bad he got caught with it. Thank you.

24 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

25 MR. ELLMAN: Hello council.

1 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Last week in the paper
4 it said that our -- this is quoting the
5 paper, it said ARC had ten houses in our
6 area for 85 people. 85 people could be put
7 in one large building instead of taking ten
8 houses off our tax rolls and some of those
9 houses were \$200,000 houses like the one on
10 Court Street. I don't know how much money
11 tax wise is involved, but this is asinine.

12 Besides that, they have 32 vehicles
13 for ten houses. All of this is because of
14 the money they get partially from United
15 Way, and people have asked me why I won't
16 give anything to United Way, it's because of
17 waste and graft corruption like this. I
18 won't say no more about that. That's a
19 shame. 85 people in ten houses scattered
20 all over town and 32 cars to take care of
21 them. I'd like to know how much of every
22 dollar they are given gets to 85 people.

23 Next, I read about Miss Linda over
24 in OECD, I guess it was a couple of months
25 ago she made it clear she would rather have

1 the clerks than the police. Last week she
2 made a statement in the paper, and this was
3 -- I quoted it, "The police are not in
4 eligible low or moderate income areas."

5 She wants to get rid of police, then
6 they complains they are not doing a good
7 job. I would rather have one policeman and
8 I think we need one policeman a lot more
9 than we need her personally.

10 And now I'd like to say a word about
11 our commander, Commander Doherty. John
12 Wayne once said that something like only the
13 man who commands get the blame. I just --
14 what has Doherty done to stop spending?
15 What's he doing to give some relief to the
16 people of this city? I just don't see
17 nothing been done to help us. It's no
18 wonder you people can't make a budget with
19 what's going on. He has hired six new
20 people the past few weeks. The county
21 created eight new positions and the school
22 board hired six people. You know, that's 20
23 people, 20 new salaries, 20 new pensions and
24 20 new bunches of benefits. Nobody wants to
25 acknowledge how broke the city is. You

1 know, it's -- it's just shameful what goes
2 on around here because people don't vote.
3 Look at the school board, they made plans
4 for a new school months ago, they had
5 pictures and plans. They are going to be
6 able to shove a new school down our throat
7 pretty soon when the people are losing their
8 houses, you know, their lights are out for
9 500 families. There is foreclosures coming
10 up. My neighborhood has gone downhill with
11 empty houses and apartments. There is
12 dozens of them just in a small circle like a
13 two block area of me. My neighborhood looks
14 like crap, you know, it's ashamed. The two
15 sewers on Throop Street are stopped up for
16 years. The water comes down where the
17 sidewalks should be. I don't have no curbs
18 and my taxes are up, up, up, up. It's just
19 like everybody else's. You know, you wonder
20 why everybody complains.

21 And I just got a question for
22 somebody, I don't care who answers it, I'd
23 like to know why the new medical school had
24 to be a duplex three blocks away on
25 Washington Avenue. There is another house

1 off the tax rolls. It's not even near them.
2 Something ha got to be done to stop all of
3 the nonprofits from removing all of the
4 property around here. This place is going
5 to look like a ghost town.

6 I don't know how many of you ever
7 watch 48 Hours or Cops, but they show
8 Memphis often because they have such a bad
9 crime rate that when the police cars are
10 going through the heart of the city it looks
11 like they are in the country because they
12 knocked down everything. You know, I have
13 been there recently, a couple of years ago.
14 Houses for blocks used to be the heart of
15 the town, it's just empty lots with grass
16 now, so that's not the solution either. I
17 don't what the solution is, but that's what
18 is going to be here pretty soon. There is
19 no tax base in Memphis and they're just like
20 here, they don't -- they have chased all of
21 the taxpayers out.

22 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Ellman, if you could
23 please conclude your thoughts for tonight.

24 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I just give up.
25 I hear all of these things every week when I

1 go someplace and I see people right up here,
2 I guarantee you they didn't vote. Only
3 what, 20 percent voted?

4 MR. JOYCE: About 20 to 25, yes.

5 MR. ELLMAN: Well, there is probably
6 sitting right here that didn't vote that
7 gets, you know -- talks. That's our
8 trouble. We got to get people out to vote
9 somehow. You know, I don't know. Do like
10 they did in Chicago, pay them. Thank you.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.
12 Doug Miller.

13 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,
14 Doug Miller, Scranton.

15 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

16 MR. MILLER: I just want to start
17 off here tonight on 3-B on the agenda
18 dealing with 3 million, and the report that
19 we did finally receive from Ryan McGowan,
20 and I'm just hopeful that this is a
21 legitimate breakdown of what this money was
22 spent on and not the vague spread sheets
23 that we are used to getting around here, and
24 I'm sure you will address that later on in
25 motions.

1 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I am going to
2 address that during motions actually.

3 MR. MILLER: I appreciate that. And
4 moving onto 5-C on the agenda tonight
5 dealing with the rental registration
6 program, I'm glad to see that we have that
7 back on. Weeks back we had discussed that
8 and Councilman Loscombe and Councilman
9 McGoff had worked on that diligently and
10 obviously we are grateful for that any time
11 we have the opportunity to generate revenue
12 in the city we are certainly going to take
13 advantage of that.

14 And just a few questions I had on
15 that, and I'm sure you'll talk about this
16 later on was just the projected revenue for
17 the city, what we estimate on bringing in
18 and how quickly we can get this into play
19 after it's passed and gone through Seventh
20 Order and, as I said, I'm sure you will
21 touch on that later on.

22 Moving onto another item dealing
23 with the subpoena that council has been
24 considering here. The mayor had made some
25 comments I believe last week in the Scranton

1 Times that council's explanation of the
2 subpoena was unnecessary because he felt
3 that he and BA McGowan did, in fact, address
4 the issues and address council's concerns
5 relating to the \$3 million in parking meter
6 money that was found, but I just have to
7 state that I do strongly disagree with the
8 mayor once again on his assessment that
9 things are fine, things are rosy, in his
10 mind he believes they are.

11 I do believe that the mayor as well
12 as BA McGowan do have some explaining to do
13 on what transpired with this funding. I
14 don't think this is something that the mayor
15 who has a history of liking to sweep things
16 under the rug and move on we need to move
17 away from that. We need to get down to
18 reality, we need to get to down to the
19 bottom of it and determine what went on here
20 and why this happened to make sure that this
21 is something that happens later on down the
22 road. As I have said before, what other
23 accounts do we have floating out there with
24 funding and what are we going to find next.

25 I guarantee you later on down the

1 road we are going to find some more money
2 because these things have been hidden from
3 us for all of this time, but I do encourage
4 council to stay the course on this and hold
5 the administration accountable. I think we
6 have 10 year's worth of explaining to do by
7 the administration with the fiscal
8 mismanagement on their part, and I believe
9 the taxpayers of this city have a right to
10 hear that.

11 Another issue I would like to talk
12 about tonight is one we've had here for a
13 few weeks now, we had a speaker come up the
14 last few weeks, Mr. Tobin, dealing with the
15 accessibility to us at city hall as well as
16 this chamber and I just have to share his
17 same concern. I was glad to see that the
18 Scranton Times finally brought this to light
19 with an article and that hopefully we will
20 address this matter. I believe this is a
21 legitimate concern, this is something that I
22 believe is serious. I think it's quite
23 obvious that it certainly violates a lot of
24 the ADA requirements and I certainly hope
25 that we get to the bottom of it. We have

1 had a lot of finger pointing back and forth
2 and kind of playing the blame game as to why
3 this has been dragging on for so long and,
4 you know, for something as simple as fixing
5 a door, you know, I think it's kind of silly
6 to sit back here and point fingers. I think
7 we need to get to the bottom of it. I think
8 we should actually be embarrassed by this to
9 think we are a city that a building that we
10 conduct our business we don't even have a
11 handicap accessible door it's not something
12 to be proud of. It's actually something we
13 should be quite embarrassed about and I know
14 I'm appalled about it because I don't feel
15 anybody coming in here such as Mr. Tobin and
16 other individuals who need this
17 accessibility should be inconvenienced by
18 this.

19 So I hope we get to the bottom of it
20 and enough is enough with the excuses, and
21 finally tonight I had read in the newspaper,
22 I believe it was yesterday, maybe the day
23 before, that I believe it was the State
24 House or the State Senate had passed a bill
25 dealing with the impact fee on the gas

1 drillers, so that the host community can
2 generate the revenue and relieve some of the
3 burden on those who are actually carrying it
4 for those who aren't paying their fair share
5 and this is yet again just brought to the
6 light that the fact if you need to seriously
7 consider this for the nonprofits and the
8 KOZs in our community. And I know we've had
9 people address this before, I know council
10 has discussed it and I think now is the time
11 in the new year and obviously knowing the
12 situation we are in right now to really
13 consider this, an impact fee. You know, we
14 are all about brainstorming and coming up
15 with revenue enhancements, I really think
16 this is something that we really ought to
17 take a close look at because I think we are
18 missing out on a local of revenue that we
19 could bringing in for those who should be
20 paying their fair share to relieve the
21 burden on the taxpayers who have certainly
22 carried enough and shouldn't have that
23 burden placed on them, so hopefully we will
24 take a look at this and that's all for
25 tonight. Thank you.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
2 speaker is Mike Van Orden.

3 MR. VAN ORDEN: Good evening,
4 Council. Mike Van Orden, Occupy Scranton.

5 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

6 MR. VAN ORDEN: I hope people in the
7 audience as well as city council will be
8 patient with me while I read this. It
9 addresses the county as well some issues we
10 are dealing with the city and tax increases
11 and so on.

12 I'm going back to December 12 and
13 December 22, 2011, when Occupy Scranton was
14 evicted from the courthouse square and this
15 is a public land. Because we were removed
16 from there without a Court order, which a
17 judge denied to issue, the county
18 commissioners took it upon themselves to use
19 intimidation and police force to remove us.

20 In doing so, they have a violated
21 our First Amendment Rights under the
22 constitution of the United States. In 2008
23 the US Supreme Court ruled that tents were a
24 form of legal protest. Because Lackawanna
25 County authorities have violated not just my

1 rights but all that live in this country, I
2 have contacted the ACLU and advised our
3 attorney to proceed with a lawsuit against
4 the County of Lackawanna.

5 The county commissioner's officer
6 has chosen to deny our proposal and to
7 permit us to stay on public land, which in
8 turn would have stopped a lawsuit. This is
9 going to be a burden to the taxpayers of
10 Lackawanna County who will have to foot the
11 bill for legal advisors and attorneys.

12 So in turn, what I'm asking the
13 people of Lackawanna County is to call the
14 county commissioner's office and tell them
15 to let us back on public land a we were
16 before on a 24-hour a day, seven day a week
17 basis and.

18 One item that was mentioned in our
19 proposal was the use of the electricity for
20 the purposes of cooking, lighting, Internet,
21 etcetera, which Occupy had agreed to pay for
22 the usage of so that the expense would
23 wouldn't fall on the taxpayer or the county.
24 It would cheaper. Thousands of dollars in
25 legal fees or a \$50 electric a month that

1 Occupy is willing to pay for.

2 The other thing is 38 percent
3 increase, and this is for all the people of
4 Lackawanna County and I hope I can get this
5 message out and across to them that people
6 are tired of paying taxes. If you can't
7 afford a 38 percent tax increase you are not
8 alone. You know, join us at the
9 commissioner's office in protest of such a
10 tax. Stand out for both Occupy/AMP to tell
11 us that sit in office that we are tired of
12 the lies, deception and corruption that is
13 ruining our very own city, state and even
14 country. The same men who raise your taxes
15 are among those who have left Scranton and
16 other Lackawanna area in shambles leaving
17 the taxpayer to pick up the pieces.

18 Put direct pressure and public
19 pressure on those who wasted the \$2.5
20 million of your tax dollars on the
21 Lackawanna Heritage trail, which is only
22 used by a handful of law abiding citizens
23 and has become a haven to an extent for
24 illegal and criminal activity.

25 In addition, Occupy Scranton/AMP

1 will be pushing for a 3 percent sales tax in
2 Scranton and Lackawanna County from 6
3 percent to 3 percent in an effort to boost
4 sales and business from surrounding areas
5 and even states. In essence, people in
6 sales equal revenue which equals jobs, jobs
7 equal true freedom and self-worth and the
8 ability to stave off the dependency on
9 overburden state aid, unemployment, welfare
10 and other social programs. Make no mistake,
11 there is a strength in numbers. The voices
12 of homeowners from the across Lackawanna
13 County pounding at the commissioner's
14 doorsteps they are sure to reconsider the 38
15 percent tax increase.

16 Occupy Scranton, in partnership with
17 AMP, is here to assist all of you. Unite
18 and join with the resounding voice of AMP
19 for AMP is about the people for the people
20 first. AMP is here for the sole purpose of
21 getting our public servants to work for the
22 people of this area, county and state.
23 Enough is enough. Raise your voices and be
24 heard. Thank you. AMP, American Movement
25 for People.

1 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Our next
2 speaker is Edward Tobin.

3 MR. TOBIN: Good evening.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening, Mr. Tobin.

5 MR. TOBIN: I wasn't going to come
6 here anymore. I wasn't going to speak about
7 this automatic door anymore or anything
8 else, and maybe I owe you people an apology.
9 I didn't know there was such dunce, dumb
10 people running in city. When you make
11 statements in the paper, "Federal laws do
12 not hold high priority."

13 A bridge across the gorge holds a
14 very high priority evidently. A tree house
15 in the middle of the park must hold a very
16 high priority because we built them. How
17 many thousands and thousands of dollars do
18 we spend on that? A dog park, and don't get
19 me wrong, I am a dog lover, they have more
20 brains and are more compassionate than a lot
21 of the people that are walking the face of
22 this earth, but how many thousands and
23 thousands of dollars did we spend to build a
24 dog park?

25 Mr. Seitzinger made the statement

1 that this door they figure will cost between
2 \$1,000 and \$5,000. That's now. What about
3 five years ago? What would have it cost
4 then?

5 Then we also we still would have had
6 a problem because whoever the inspector was
7 and whoever was in charge must belong to the
8 same category of people that are working in
9 the city hall now because the door didn't
10 work right then. It was not handicapped
11 accessible.

12 I hope that we get this door fixed
13 very shortly, but I have my doubts, but if
14 we do I feel you people will make sure that
15 it is done right, that we don't have to go
16 back and spend another four or five thousand
17 to make it right. Is there anybody that has
18 any -- and that's working in this building
19 that is connected with city law? Any of the
20 mayor's powers that be? Yeah, look at me,
21 Mr. McGraw, I am talking about your buddy.
22 I don't know how the man can sleep at night
23 because his own mother I understand is a
24 lady that's disabled in a wheelchair. You
25 know, he might be in one of these before

1 long. He don't know. Only by the grace of
2 God does he have the power to walk. I
3 wonder were if he would be upset if somebody
4 said to him, "Your handicap door is not a
5 priority."

6 Mr. Seitzinger also stated three
7 weeks ago he knew nothing about the broken
8 door, knew nothing about the letter. I
9 showed him the letter, but he knew nothing
10 about it. He knew nothing about the broken
11 door, but he reported it in the paper to the
12 Times' reporter here just the other day that
13 it has been broken for about five years.
14 Come on. You wonder why people are getting
15 fed up with government. This is why. This
16 is why all of the countries are up in arms
17 and fighting the people already because they
18 is fed up with people getting big monies and
19 big salaries and doing nothing for it.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you for your time.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

23 MR. JOYCE: Is there anyone else who
24 would like to address council?

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.

1 Dave Dobrzyn.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: Resident of Scranton
4 and taxpayer in Scranton. In the paper we
5 keep hearing about Municipal Energy
6 Management, and my advice is that they prove
7 their bill in Court. I'm tired of hearing
8 about it, they have done nothing. There is
9 an article on Carbondale where the lights
10 were out for months and years and they
11 finally just told them to take a hike, and I
12 think they should prove it in Court and with
13 the different Court cases they've been
14 involved in they might have a hard time
15 proving anything to a jury, so welcome to
16 the club. If you wind up in Court, boy, you
17 lost already.

18 On 5-B I was wondering if the tax
19 office couldn't handle some of that stuff,
20 but it's just a suggestion.

21 And I'd like to talk to Mr. McGoff
22 for a second. Do I have permission there?

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes, if Mr. McGoff would
24 like to speak.

25 MR. DOBRZYN: Mr. McGoff, are you

1 connected this year with the St. Patty's Day
2 parade?

3 MR. MCGOFF: Am I connected?

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah, yeah. Like on
5 the parade committee?

6 MR. MCGOFF: I'm on the parade
7 committee. I pay dues, let's put it that
8 way.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: Just a thought came to
10 my mind, you know, it's all over of the
11 country that the Iraq war is officially over
12 and these veterans aren't getting many
13 parades. They are not getting any welcome
14 home parades, in New York the mayor is
15 against it, and it's just ridiculous. If
16 possible could we see if we could feature
17 some veterans in the St. Patty's Day parade.

18 MR. MCGOFF: I think they always
19 have been in it.

20 MR. DOBRZYN: Um-hum, but a little
21 more emphasis on it this year and, you know,
22 it's just a suggestion. By the way, my wife
23 and I met at the St. Patrick's Day parade in
24 '72, so that's actually our anniversary. So
25 it's partly our parade, too, even though I'm

1 Polish.

2 MR. JOYCE: Congratulations.

3 MR. DOBRZYN: The hell with me, I'm
4 Polish. Don't kiss me, I'm not Irish.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Everybody is Irish on
6 St. Patrick's Day.

7 MR. JOYCE: I was just
8 congratulating you on meeting your wife on
9 St. Patrick's Day.

10 MR. DOBRZYN: I might have drank a
11 few of them under the table on St. Patrick's
12 Day in prior years, too.

13 Okay, these tax increases that are
14 coming down, if you could coordinate with
15 the county and school board and offer them a
16 little advice not to count our chickens
17 before we hatch. There is in the paper
18 today Ron mentioned it and I felt that they
19 kind of gave up on the veterans -- or the
20 military center up there, it was that
21 reserves, I think because they can only get
22 a 99 year lease, they can't buy the property
23 outright, but I really think they should fix
24 Audubon School, do a good job, what you have
25 to spend is what you have to spend, but

1 going \$17 million and then having 6 year
2 olds marching 15, 20 blocks to school is not
3 in the city with all of the traffic and
4 stuff isn't a good idea.

5 And on condemnations, John mentioned
6 it a few weeks ago, I feel we need to back
7 off on some of them and start working with
8 people a little more. A couple of weeks ago
9 my wife found a tax notice blowing around on
10 our lawn and it didn't involve ours, all our
11 taxes are paid, but now it seems like I may
12 have an iffy house next door to me, and it
13 would be helpful if they try to work with
14 some of these people because who wants a
15 condemned house that's going to sit there
16 for ten years next door to you. I mean, I
17 think the condemnations have gotten --

18 Furthermore, I see one time where
19 somebody visited their mother's apartment
20 and took drugs before they went to their
21 mother's apartment and overdosed and they
22 shut the apartment down. If I was a
23 landlord I think I would have to go to Court
24 over that. That's all there is to it. It's
25 not right. If the landlord is sitting there

1 partying with whoever is dealing or whatever
2 that's another story, but good God, I mean,
3 shutting the guy's apartment down and
4 putting all of those people out.

5 And the golden parrot this week goes
6 to ideologics and ideology. You know,
7 ideology all sounds great on paper, now if
8 we can only make people out of paper it
9 would work on people. Thank a lot. Have a
10 good night. Bawk, bawk.

11 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much. Is
12 there anyone else who would like to address
13 council?

14 MR. HUGHES: If I could
15 Mr. Chairman, just very quick.

16 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

17 MR. HUGHES: I know that Mr. Dobrzyn
18 said about MEM and reading in the paper what
19 the amount that's allegedly owned and the
20 inducements down in North Hampton County,
21 it's not our position to have any litigation
22 instituted, that's the solicitor's position,
23 but I think that my recommendation to
24 council is that I believe the city solicitor
25 along with the district attorneys of North

1 Hampton County, the solicitors up in
2 Carbondale and other municipalities that
3 have been involved with MEM they should look
4 into a RICO action in Federal Court against
5 the principals of MEM on the basis that the
6 way that the RICO statute is constructed is
7 that there is pattern of the enterprise to
8 defraud, and I believe, and I'm giving a
9 legal opinion, but I think it should be
10 looked into by the solicitors of all of
11 these municipalities throughout northeast
12 and central Pennsylvania that have been
13 defrauded by MEM, and I know there is
14 substantial amount of money that the City of
15 Scranton owes, I believe it's over \$600,000.
16 I believe the city offered \$450,000 to
17 settle it, but before any settlement would
18 be approved by council I really think that
19 this should be looked into based on the
20 indictments, and I believe that someone --
21 that these solicitors should get together,
22 including the solicitor for the City of
23 Scranton and look into a RICO complaint in
24 Federal Court.

25 MR. JOYCE: Thank you very much,

1 Attorney Hughes. Mrs. Schumacher?

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening.

3 Marie Schumacher.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: City resident and
6 taxpayer. First on the agenda items, on 1-C
7 I'm disappointed that it appears the release
8 of the 2010 audit is off track by a week.
9 It was my understanding that the exit
10 interview was going to be last week or this
11 week so that it can be available the week of
12 the 13th was what was stated last week, so
13 that's disappointing again, but I guess we
14 waited for almost a year, what's another
15 week or so.

16 And 5-B, if you can, can you tell me
17 during motions or now the dollar value of
18 the contract change for the addition of
19 these collections?

20 And then awhile back I asked for the
21 operating cost per annum of the North Keyser
22 Avenue police facilities and I never did,
23 although I admit I did not put it in
24 writing, but I will do it first thing in the
25 morning to the clerk's office, but

1 Mr. Loscombe did you get that and just
2 forget to report it?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I haven't
4 received any information on that.

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Have you see
6 solicited what that --

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Pardon?

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Have you solicited
9 the information?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Well, they didn't
11 have -- the building was donated so
12 basically there is some utilities and stuff
13 like that that they would be responsible
14 for.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, that's what
16 -- I'd like to know what the annual cost
17 will be.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yeah. Basically --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Utilities aren't
20 cheap as someone who pays utilities, and
21 equipment -- and equipment, and I'd like to
22 know that.

23 And, Mr. Joyce, maybe you can tell
24 us, too, during motions in addition the
25 impact on the cash flow of the Single Tax

1 Office apparently changing the discount
2 period from the end of the February to the
3 end of March. I noticed when I did receive
4 my bill this past week that's -- I mean,
5 people such as myself wait until the last
6 minute to pay and I would think I'm not
7 alone, so I don't know if there is an impact
8 or not.

9 And then I would like to review a
10 couple of things and see if I can get any
11 sense of the council on if anything is ever
12 going to happen. A bunch of things that
13 have been brought up over time, some going
14 back to prior councils, and one is the Home
15 Rule Charter. The prior council voted
16 unanimously that a review should be held,
17 you all reiterated that, but the key element
18 is getting put on a ballot and I would like
19 to know if you are ever to going to do that,
20 are you are going to do it this year, are
21 you not going to do it ever. I really
22 wanted to know that.

23 Are you ever going to review or get
24 a committee together to review whether
25 the -- all of the nonprofits that are

1 currently not paying property taxes qualify
2 under Pennsylvania law to be also tax
3 exempt? You know, there is page after page
4 of them, they don't all own property but
5 many do, and I certainly would question
6 whether they are all doing something that
7 the state -- or that the city would have to
8 do if they -- these entities weren't in
9 existence.

10 Are you going to formally appeal to
11 the county for getting the reassessment back
12 on track? If, in fact, it's true and I have
13 no reason to doubt the state figures, that
14 property values have increased 35 percent.
15 At that, that would save us --

16 MR. ROGAN: I'll address that one
17 now, if you'd like. I think we all support
18 the county going through with a
19 reassessment. The former commissioners
20 wanted to do it and they got the ball
21 rolling on it. I believe we did send a few
22 letters to the commissioners requesting
23 that, you know, they take a look at it and
24 doing a reassessment again, I don't believe
25 we have a reply.

1 MR. JOYCE: I do believe we sent a
2 few letters, and I will confirm I have from
3 my understanding property values have gone
4 up 35 -- around 35 percent as well, so that
5 would be --

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: That would
7 certainly make an impact or would have been
8 making an impact if it had been done on the
9 schedule.

10 MR. ROGAN: It's a matter of
11 fairness, also, if people's property values
12 have changed.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I agree. I
14 mean, I know it's not going to be appealing
15 to a lot of people, I just hope that it's
16 done right not the way they did it in
17 Luzerne County which is the way the original
18 contract here was constructed the same way,
19 had the same flaws, so I do hope that they
20 make the changes that are required when they
21 do it, but I would suggest that you start
22 pushing them. They are two out of the --
23 two out of the three commissioners have
24 changed probably since you wrote the last
25 letter and I hope you are telling them why.

1 You know, and what -- they know already what
2 shape the city is in, so it would behoove
3 them to lend a hand.

4 Next week I'm going to talk a little
5 bit more about outreaching to the federal
6 and state representatives, too, for items
7 where they could help us get a little bit
8 healthier.

9 And one last thing, may I?

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes, you may.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Also, if you would
12 explain during motions the process for the
13 revised Recovery Plan review amending and
14 approval I would appreciate that. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Last one, Frankie.

18 MR. JOYCE: Chrissy.

19 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Left the best for
20 last, right, Jack?

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy.

22 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Jack, that
23 abandoned house over there, something came
24 down hit him right in the head. I'm not
25 kidding, Jack. That came off and going to

1 hurt somebody some nigh, all right? Take
2 care of it for me, Jack?

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I see your Giants
4 won.

5 MR. SLEDENZSKI: That's right. They
6 did it. Because of me, right, Doug?

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Did you wear the two
8 hats?

9 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Yep.

10 MR. JOYCE: Would anyone else like
11 to address council tonight? Mr. McGoff.

12 MR. MCGOFF: I'll save my comments.
13 The only thing I have are on the rental
14 registration and I'll save it until the
15 legislation. Thank you.

16 MR. JOYCE: Okay. You are welcome.

17 MR. ROGAN: I was planning on
18 commenting on the rental registration. I
19 guess I will hold off on that and we will
20 get a better discussion when the vote comes
21 up.

22 Just one or two comments, it was
23 brought to my attention, and I know that
24 myself and Councilman Joyce last week spoke
25 about synthetic marijuana resurfacing again

1 in Scranton.

2 Mrs. Krake, could we please send a
3 letter to Chief Duffy asking him to take a
4 look into Smokes-R-Us down by the old
5 Mr. Z's, I think it's Washington Avenue
6 actually, and I was contacted by a resident
7 who informed me that they were selling the
8 synthetic marijuana again. I actually took
9 a trip down there and, you know, when you
10 see Smokes-R-Us you think it's a tobacco
11 store. When you walk in there it's all drug
12 paraphernalia. They have cases with all
13 different devices for smoking, for doing
14 different drugs, and it's funny because when
15 Chief Duffy did a presentation at the Hyde
16 Park Neighborhood Watch he did a slide show
17 of all of the different type of drug
18 paraphernalia you wouldn't think drugs were
19 associated with.

20 And a couple of the items that I
21 noticed in there were soda cans in a case
22 for \$20. And I was wondering, well, why
23 would a soda can be \$20? It's a soda can
24 with a false bottom so they can hide their
25 drugs in it while they are driving around in

1 the car or whatever and they get pulled over
2 you'd think, oh, it's just a Sprite can.

3 They were also highlighters that
4 Chief Duffy showed on the presentation that
5 he give to the neighborhood watch that you
6 take it out and it's a pipe inside. All
7 types of drug paraphernalia and there was
8 synthetic -- legal synthetic marijuana, a
9 whole big box of all different brands,
10 different kinds, and it's being sold as
11 potpourri, and I don't know if they
12 circumvented our law or what it is, but if
13 we can just send that to Chief Duffy to make
14 him aware.

15 And I will hold my comments on the
16 rental registration until the vote.

17 MS. KRAKE: May I make a suggestion,
18 Councilman Rogan?

19 MR. ROGAN: Sure.

20 MS. KRAKE: Would you mind if we
21 also add the District Attorney's Office?

22 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely. And we'll
23 throw JB's Kingdom on there as well.

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I think they are
25 one of the most notorious sellers of this --

1 of those synthetic marijuana substances. As
2 people may know, I think they have a 24-hour
3 operation going on there. You can drive
4 past the establishment at any time and
5 essentially purchase these synthetic drugs.

6 MR. ROGAN: What I was really
7 surprised about was that JB's Kingdom was
8 the one that, you know, initially when the
9 law was written and it was the one that
10 everyone kept bringing up to us and you hear
11 the name JB's Kingdom, you know, what is it
12 then you find out, you know, it's basically
13 a legalized drug shop. When you hear
14 Smokes-R-Us you think it's a tobacco store.
15 Cigars, cigarettes, things like that, and
16 it's almost exclusively drug paraphernalia.

17 So hopefully they didn't find a way
18 to circumvent our law and if they did I
19 definitely think we should look to amend it
20 to make it, you know, a little stricter.

21 MR. JOYCE: I agree with you.

22 MR. ROGAN: That's it.

23 MR. JOYCE: Mr. Loscombe?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I really don't have
25 anything this evening, but I just want to

1 say, Mr. Rogan, and you did pay attention at
2 the crime watch meeting. It was
3 interesting.

4 MR. ROGAN: It was.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: And very educational
6 and very eye-opening and it's sad to see
7 after all we went through with the
8 legislation and all of that to see this
9 proliferation come back again under
10 different guises and, you know, we have to
11 nip it in the bud. We have to jump right on
12 it, otherwise, it will get out of control
13 again. So, you know, hopefully we will have
14 a response from the chief and the District
15 Attorney's Office, and that's all I have
16 this evening. Thank you.

17 MR. JOYCE: Okay. Good evening. To
18 address some of the comments by speakers
19 tonight, I looked over the cash flow report
20 that we received this past week from
21 Mr. McGowan, and just to elaborate, we
22 received a little bit over \$11 million in
23 tax revenue in the first six months of 2011.
24 As you know, there was a 4.8 percent tax
25 increase. Therefore, with this being said,

1 one of the speakers, who was actually our
2 first speaker, Mr. Sbaraglia, brought up
3 that essentially all of our real estate tax
4 revenue collected and distributed the first
5 six months of the year would be going to
6 Fidelity Bank, and that is a correct
7 assumption. Looking at the prior year's
8 figures it looks like just about all of the
9 proceeds from real estate taxes will be
10 going back to pay the TAN.

11 Secondly, in regard to Mr. Tobin's
12 comments about the accessibility for
13 handicapped individuals, I definitely agree
14 that this is not a matter to be taken
15 lightly and should be high priority.
16 Everybody has the right to come to these
17 chambers and to speak and to address their
18 opinion and there shouldn't be anything that
19 should hold someone back who may not have
20 the gift of being able to walk, and I would
21 like to say that there is over \$300,000
22 budgeted for building repairs this year to
23 bring our buildings up to ADA compliance, so
24 it's my sincere hope that Mr. Seitzinger
25 finds someone to fix the doors sooner than

1 later.

2 Also, we have received some
3 information from the Single Tax Office by
4 tax collector Bill Courtright regarding the
5 amount of money that's been distributed this
6 year as of 1-31-11. In regard to revenue
7 sources, the following revenue has been
8 distributed to the city as per -- sorry,
9 1-31-12. I'm still getting caught in last
10 year.

11 Real estate tax so far as of 1-31-12
12 \$3,229 has been distributed to the city.
13 Nothing had been distributed to the city in
14 the same time frame last year, therefore,
15 there is a net increase of \$3,229.

16 Delinquent real estate tax, as of
17 1-31-12, \$19,687 had been distributed. For
18 the same time period last year it was
19 \$36,054, therefore, there is a net decrease
20 of \$16,367 from this year as opposed to last
21 year.

22 Earned income tax as of 1-31-12,
23 \$2,053,898 had been distributed to the city.
24 In the same time frame last year, \$1,900,555
25 had been distributed, therefore, there is a

1 net increase of \$153,343 from this year as
2 opposed to last year.

3 The LST. As of 1-31-12, \$101,256
4 had been distributed to the city. In the
5 same time frame last year, \$134,000 roughly
6 had been distributed, therefore, there is a
7 net decrease of \$33,000 from this year as
8 opposed to last year.

9 And finally, the combination of the
10 business privilege and mercantile taxes, as
11 of 1-31-12, \$45,631 had been distributed to
12 the city, nothing had been distributed to
13 the city in the same time frame last year,
14 therefore, there is a net increase of
15 \$45,631 from this year as opposed to last
16 year.

17 And overall, the Single Tax Office
18 as of 1-31-12 had distributed \$2,223,701 to
19 the city. In the same time frame last year
20 the Single Tax Office distributed \$2,071,276
21 to the city. So far the city has received
22 \$152,425 more this year as of January 31
23 than it did in the prior year period.

24 Secondly as everyone knows there is
25 an exit conference to be scheduled for the

1 2010 audit during the week of February 13 as
2 Mrs. Krake mentioned during Third Order. As
3 directed by the Home Rule Charter, the audit
4 is to be completed every year by May 31.
5 The primary reason for the delay of this
6 year's audit has been do to the untimely
7 responses of the administration in regard to
8 requested information by our auditor Rossi &
9 Rossi.

10 So far this year, our auditor, Rossi
11 & Rossi, has sent a timeline of information
12 that is to be received by the auditor by
13 March 31 of this year. As we all know,
14 having a timely audit is very important.

15 With this in mind, Mrs. Krake, can
16 you please contact Mr. McGowan and ask him
17 if there are any items that are due to the
18 auditor that he foresees his office will not
19 be able to deliver on time. It's mandatory
20 that the 2011 audit is not as delayed as the
21 2010 audit was.

22 As one may know, last week I
23 mentioned that refinancing of current debt
24 is a part of the 2012 budget that was passed
25 down by the administration as well as the

1 budget that was amended by Scranton City
2 Council. With this in mind, in order to
3 maximize the savings that can be seen by
4 refinancing, legislation must be passed down
5 by council for approval. If we are able to
6 refinance earlier enough we will receive an
7 additional savings of \$1,4 million of the
8 original \$5 million savings that was
9 reflected in the 2012 operating budget that
10 was passed down by the administration.

11 With this in mind, it's mandatory
12 that legislation be drafted and the
13 refinancing process begin sooner than later
14 as the city cannot afford to drop the ball.
15 So with this in mind, Mrs. Krake, please
16 send a reminder to the law department asking
17 them to draft legislation for the
18 refinancing of debt.

19 And finally tonight, we have
20 received an itemized list of expenses that
21 were paid with the \$3.1 million that was
22 found from the previous parking meter
23 revenue. Mrs. Krake, I'll provide you with
24 a list and I'm sure that we may have it in
25 the office as well, and I ask that you leave

1 a copy of the list in our office for any
2 member of the public to view if desired
3 since this is public information.

4 When looking through the list there
5 are a plethora of vendors that were paid
6 from the \$3.1 million, both consisting of
7 2011 and 2012 bills. To elaborate on some
8 of the major 2011 bills made out of the \$3.1
9 million, there was \$70,251 due to Blue Cross
10 of Northeast PA. \$357,291 to First Priority
11 Life Insurance. \$32,992 to cover payroll
12 expenses. \$118,000 to Arch Insurance
13 Company, and \$30,000 to CECO Associates.

14 A grand total of \$696,663 in 2011
15 bills were paid out of the \$3.1 million.

16 To elaborate on some of the major
17 2012 bills paid out of the \$3.1 million,
18 there was approximately \$1,265,510 to cover
19 payroll expenses. \$500,000 to cover
20 Workers' Compensation claims. \$127,215 to
21 cover Express Scripts' expenses, which is
22 our prescription provider. \$99,817 to cover
23 Medicare expenses, and \$414,028 to cover
24 debt service payments.

25 A grand total of \$2,362,915 in 2012

1 were paid out of the \$3.1 million.

2 Overall the approximate total of
3 money spent on bills from the \$3.1 million
4 between 2011 and 2012, according to
5 Mr. McGowan's report, was \$3 million --
6 approximately \$3,060,000, and that's all for
7 tonight.

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE
9 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE
10 CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
11 AN ADDENDUM TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
12 CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES LLC
13 FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES TO
14 EXPAND THE COLLECTION SERVICES PERFORMED BY
15 NORTHEAST REVENUE SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE
16 COLLECTION OF CURRENT AND DELINQUENT REFUSE
17 FEES.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

1 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

4 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
5 have it and so moved.

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. ESTABLISHING A
7 REGISTRATION PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL
8 RENTAL PROPERTIES; REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OF
9 RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES TO DESIGNATE
10 AN AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS; AND
11 PRESCRIBING DUTIES OF OWNERS, AGENTS AND
12 OCCUPANTS; DIRECTING THE DESIGNATION OF
13 AGENTS; ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE COSTS
14 ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGISTRATION OF RENTAL
15 PROPERTY; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR
16 VIOLATIONS.

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

20 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

22 MR. JOYCE: On the question?

23 MR. MCGOFF: We have been working at
24 this time for a rather long time. The
25 general purpose of redoing the rental

1 registration ordinance was two-fold. One
2 was to attempt to increase revenue from the
3 program, and the second was to exercise
4 control, some more control over landlords,
5 and specifically absentee landlords.

6 I think we have made an attempt to
7 do both of those, I'm sure that it's not
8 perfect legislation, but hopefully it will
9 be a step toward accomplishing the two-fold
10 task that we have for the program.

11 MR. ROGAN: I would just comment, I
12 would be very happy to see this in front of
13 me, but reading it there are some problems
14 that I have. The first one is more of a,
15 you know, a simple one for this year.
16 Rental units must be registered annually
17 prior to March 31. The property or register
18 shall be deemed owner omission will be cause
19 foreclosures of rental property.

20 If we are just passing this at the
21 end of February, a month's time for the city
22 to get everything up and running and for the
23 landlords to submit the payments I think is
24 very short notice.

25 MR. MCGOFF: Absolutely, and the

1 intent was that -- or we thought that this
2 would be completed prior to the beginning of
3 the year.

4 MR. ROGAN: Maybe what we could do
5 is push it to a month where revenue into the
6 city have generally been slower.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Or simply put some type
8 of one-year -- I don't know what the proper
9 term would be, that it's not enforceable for
10 the first year, but that would remain in for
11 --

12 MR. ROGAN: That's would definitely
13 be --

14 MR. MCGOFF: -- the succeeding years.

15 MR. ROGAN: That's one thing that
16 bothered me.

17 MR. JOYCE: I would agree with that.

18 MR. ROGAN: The exceptions to the
19 ordinance. There are five exemptions
20 listed. I agree with four of them. One of
21 them I do have a problem with and I'll read
22 them off for the public.

23 Exemption one: Rental units owned
24 by public authorities defined in the
25 Municipalities Authority Act.

1 Two: Elderly multiple dwelling
2 units were 75 percent or more of the
3 occupants or persons are over the age of 65.

4 Multiple dwelling units that operate
5 under Internal Revenue Service Code Section
6 42 concerning entities that operate within
7 elderly component, I assume that would be a
8 nursing home.

9 Properties which the owner maintains
10 a bona fide domicile or there are no more
11 than four units. I definitely think we
12 should be charging a fee to an
13 owner/occupier who rents out the other half
14 of his house.

15 The problem I have is exemption "D",
16 hotels or dormitories. Hotel is pretty
17 broad to me. The first thing I thought was
18 the Hotel Sun in South Side. If that counts
19 as a hotel under this ordinance we are going
20 to see every slumlord change the name of
21 their apartment to a hotel.

22 Second, dormitories. I think if
23 schools or anyone is charging rent they
24 should be covered. If the University of
25 Scranton or another institution builds, you

1 know, a 200 unit dormitory that shouldn't be
2 exempt, they should also have to go through
3 the process.

4 One other concern I have is I know
5 it's been billed as a revenue enhancer, I
6 don't like the idea of this program being
7 used to generate money. That seems to be a
8 tax. I do like the program if it was to pay
9 for, you know, have the fee, \$50, whatever
10 it may be, to pay for an inspection of the
11 property and make sure everything is up to
12 code, to get some of these absentee
13 landlords out of our neighborhood.

14 Now, I was actually surprised at how
15 long this legislation was, it's over ten
16 pages. Usually what we get in front of us
17 is a page, so I do have to look through it a
18 little bit more, but I didn't see a
19 provision for an inspection. Did I miss
20 that or is it not in there?

21 MR. MCGOFF: It's supposed to be in
22 there.

23 MR. ROGAN: Again, I just glanced
24 over it, I didn't have a chance to read
25 through it completely, I want to look for

1 that.

2 MR. MCGOFF: As a matter of fact, if
3 I remember correctly, and it's been awhile
4 since Mr. Loscombe and I had talked with
5 Attorney Kelly on this, I believe that we
6 had tried to put in an inspection for any
7 new registrant so anybody who was new
8 getting a permit or whatever would be -- the
9 property would be inspected.

10 MR. ROGAN: Okay, because the way I
11 would like to see it is more of a
12 self-sustaining program where the fees
13 generated by the program would pay for the
14 inspections of the properties throughout the
15 community to make sure they are up to code
16 to make sure everything is, you know, up to
17 standard. Especially, you know, the homes
18 are so close in the city. Councilman
19 Loscombe, you would know being in the fire
20 department better than anyone, I think it
21 definitely could save properties and save
22 lives by having these inspections in rental
23 units.

24 You know, the idea of a rental
25 registration I agree with and I absolutely

1 would have hoped to move us forward.

2 (Whereupon Mrs. Humphries enters
3 council chambers and begins speaking.)

4 MS. HUMPHRIES: I want to show this.

5 MR. ROGAN: The public participation
6 part of the meeting is over.

7 MS. HUMPHRIES: Pardon?

8 MR. ROGAN: The public participation
9 program of the meeting is over.

10 MS. HUMPHRIES: Isn't the public
11 participation now?

12 MR. JOYCE: No, actually, we already
13 went through the public participation
14 portion of the meeting. However, after the
15 meeting -- we are actually voting on some
16 matters now, after that I would be happy to
17 sit down and discuss with you anything that
18 you would like.

19 MS. HUMPHRIES: Yes, because this is
20 in honor of our fire and police department
21 and the gratitude that I have in the City of
22 Scranton.

23 MR. ROGAN: I'll hold -- wait until
24 next week.

25 MR. JOYCE: Just hold your comments

1 for now. And I would like to say that I
2 agree with many of the suggestions made by
3 Mr. Rogan, and I just wanted to express that
4 I'm going to be voting tonight to pass the
5 legislation to Sixth Order, and I think that
6 we should take a good hard look at the
7 legislation and consider making amendments
8 for next week.

9 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I agree there is no
10 reason to shoot it down because there is
11 more good in this than bad. You know, it's
12 definitely a lot of positive that could
13 happen for the community out of this
14 ordinance, so hopefully we can get it
15 cleaned up.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'd just add some
17 information to Mr. Rogan, that's a good idea
18 on the hotel, but we have to be careful
19 there because there is state law and
20 basically on the dormitories at this point
21 there is state law that against charging on
22 dormitories, so we have to -- that's
23 something we have to pass under. You know,
24 a different aspect like an impact fee or
25 something like that.

1 MR. ROGAN: The hotel component is,
2 you know, that's what concerns me. As soon
3 as I read it the first thing, again, I
4 thought of was the Hotel Sun. You know,
5 that we don't want to see 50 Hotel suns
6 popping up throughout the city.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly. So, maybe
8 within a week we can get together and
9 Mr. McGoff and myself and anybody, and
10 Attorney Kelly go over that. That's all I
11 have.

12 MR. JOYCE: Okay. All those in
13 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
18 have it and so moved.

19 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO
20 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO
21 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

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

25 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

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MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

MR. JOYCE: 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
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