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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, January 3, 2013

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

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF
(Not present)

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE
(Not present)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR
(Not present)

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. Mr.
8 Joyce.

9 MR. JOYCE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Here.

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

13 RECEIPT OF A \$1,000.00 CHECK FROM COVENANT
14 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHICH REPRESENTS PAYMENT
15 IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR 2012.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. AUDIT STATUS REPORT
19 RECEIVED FROM ROBERT ROSSI & COMPANY DATED
20 NOVEMBER 29, 2012.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. APPLICATIONS ALONG
24 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING
25 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER

1 12, 2012.

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

4 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. LACKAWANNA COUNTY
5 PLANNING COMMISSION SUBDIVISION AND LAND
6 DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS RECEIVED ON OCTOBER
7 31ST AND NOVEMBER 15TH, 2012.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. MINUTES OF THE
11 SCRANTON POLICE PENSION COMMISSION MEETING
12 HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2012.

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

15 MS. KRAKE: 3-F. MINUTES OF THE
16 SCRANTON FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION
17 MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2012.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-G. MINUTES OF THE
21 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON
22 NOVEMBER 14, 2012.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-H. TAX ASSESSOR'S

1 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE OF NOVEMBER 14,
2 2012.

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

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-I. TAX ASSESSOR'S
6 REPORT FOR RESULTS OF APPEAL HEARINGS HELD
7 ON DECEMBER 5, 2012.

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

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-J. TAX ASSESSOR'S
11 REPORT FOR APPEAL HEARINGS TO BE HELD ON
12 JANUARY 9, 2013.

13 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
14 If not, received and filed. Do we have an
15 clerk's notes this evening, Mrs. Krake?

16 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
18 council members have announcements at this
19 time? Councilman McGoff is unable to attend
20 tonight's meeting because he is hospitalized
21 with pneumonia. Councilman Loscombe is also
22 ill this evening with a stomach virus. Our
23 thoughts and prayers are particularly with
24 Bob McGoff for his speedy recovery. Council
25 Solicitor Hughes is also absent due to a

1 health-related problem.

2 Scranton City Council is most
3 pleased to open its 2013 session. We begin
4 this new year I'd like to remind audience
5 members to turn off cell phones when
6 entering council chambers and to remain
7 quiet throughout city council meetings.

8 Speakers are allotted five minutes
9 in which to address council. At the sound
10 of the bell please be seated in order that
11 all may have an equal opportunity to be
12 heard.

13 Finally, all questions and requests
14 must be submitted in writing to council's
15 office. Thereafter, council members and our
16 staff will to our very best to obtain
17 answers our provide solutions. That's it.

18 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER.

19 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this
20 evening is Joe Burke.

21 MR. BURKE: Good evening, Council.

22 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

23 MS. BURKE: I appeared before
24 council on October 4, 2012, and I spoke
25 about the dangerous conditions that the

1 truck traffic going to and from what was
2 formerly known as DeNaples' junk yard
3 presented to the residents of Lake Scranton
4 Road as well as to all of the walkers and
5 joggers who use the road. I supplied
6 pictures, I supplied maps, I supplied
7 photographs of the trucks, I supplied police
8 reports of the incidents when the truck
9 drivers threatened me for taking the photos.
10 I supplied e-mails.

11 When I was done, poor Mr. McGoff,
12 gave a very impassioned description of the
13 conditions, and I quote from the minutes of
14 that night. "May I add tot Mr. Burke's
15 statements, a lot of people probably are not
16 aware of the situation on Lake Scranton
17 Road. Probably many people not even aware
18 -- may be aware of where it is, but from
19 personal experience, I do know that the
20 residents of the area have been disturbed by
21 the frequency of the traffic on the road and
22 hopefully we can do something about it.

23 The second thing, Lake Scranton
24 Road, all of the properties along there have
25 no sidewalks and yet it does get a lot of

1 pedestrian traffic for people walking out to
2 the bus stop or out to the lake. Personally
3 --" Mr. McGoff said -- "We run that road on
4 a frequent basis and it's dangerous with the
5 amount of truck traffic that is on there to
6 pedestrians as well.

7 In addition, the last thing the road
8 itself is very narrow and pretty much has
9 been destroyed over the years by the traffic
10 that is on it. You are right," referring to
11 me, "It's hazardous just driving a car along
12 it at a time with the potholes and shoulders
13 being destroyed so hopefully we can take
14 care of these problems and, you know,
15 rectify the situation for you."

16 Well, council acted swiftly,
17 introduced an ordinance for a vote on
18 November 1. At that time Mr. McGoff
19 apparently lost his zeal to put an end to
20 these dangerous and hazardous conditions and
21 he posed this question, "As I was looking at
22 the exemptions, would this prohibit
23 development taking place in the section of
24 East Mountain and actually up to Roaring
25 Brook Township --" and his quote, "and the

1 primary access for any of that
2 construction-type traffic is across Lake
3 Scranton Road. Now, as I said before,"
4 Mr. McGoff said, "I realize it was an
5 excessive amount and I'm wondering if this
6 legislation would prevent reasonable traffic
7 from utilizing that access?"

8 Well on October 4 Mr. McGoff
9 indicated he was aware the citizens of
10 Scranton were at risk because of the
11 terrible condition of Lake Scranton Road and
12 the excessive traffic, the huge triaxial and
13 dump trucks going to DeNaples' junk yard
14 created. On that day he described the
15 traffic conditions on Lake Scranton Road as
16 dangerous and hazardous, not merely
17 excessive.

18 Mr. McGoff's claims that Lake
19 Scranton Road is the primary access for
20 trucks going anywhere is absurd. On October
21 4 he stated that he doubted if any residents
22 of Scranton even knew where Lake Scranton
23 Road was located. Lake Scranton Road may be
24 the preferred route of the trucks going to
25 the former junk yard, but that does not mean

1 that the residents of Lake Scranton Road
2 have to tolerate dangerous and hazardous
3 conditions so that trucks can get in and out
4 of the junk yard as quickly and possible.

5 And I have to make one thing clear,
6 Attorney Belardi sent a legal consideration
7 to Attorney Kelly and based on a commerce
8 clause in the constitution saying that if
9 Lake Scranton Road was closed that DeNaples'
10 Auto Parts and the Recycling Center would
11 not be able to operate.

12 MS. EVANS: Mr. Burke, I don't mean
13 to interrupt, but if you could continue to
14 speak into the microphone because I want to
15 be certain that the people listening at home
16 are able to hear you.

17 MR. BURKE: Okay. Well the facts of
18 the matter is, and here is a map. May I
19 approach?

20 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

21 MR. BURKE: It's the same map I
22 showed council or a picture to council six
23 months ago. Mr. DeNaples is making a
24 landfill. These are the loads of dump
25 trucks that go by. It's not going down to

1 the junk yard to, it's not going to the
2 recycling center. All of the photos that I
3 have taken are dump trucks full of fill or
4 dirt. So Mr. Belardi's claim that we are
5 interfering with DeNaples' Auto Parts and
6 the recycling center doesn't hold water
7 because the trucks that we are concerned
8 about are dump trucks that are creating a
9 landfill because the dump truck are where
10 DeNaples junk yard used to be. It's really
11 that simple. There is no car carriers
12 coming across Lake Scranton Road, they are
13 dump trucks. I have pictures galore of
14 nothing but dump trucks.

15 MS. EVANS: Please finish.

16 MR. BURKE: Okay. The two block
17 lane of Lake Scranton Road, that's all there
18 is, 20 homes, where I have resided since
19 2007, never was or will be the primary
20 access for construction traffic headed
21 toward Roaring Brook Township. Six miles up
22 the road is Blue Shutters Road. It's a
23 state owned, state maintained road. It goes
24 all the way from Moosic Street to Moscow.
25 You can pick up 84, 380, 81, and you can

1 also intersect with Elmhurst Boulevard which
2 will take you exactly where Mr. DeNaples
3 wants his trucks to go. They don't have to
4 go across Lake Scranton Road.

5 There never was any excessive truck
6 traffic on Lake Scranton Road until 2009
7 when the access road was created. Part of
8 Attorney Belardi's claim is that
9 Mr. DeNaples operated for 50 years. Well,
10 he probably did, but he never operated
11 through Lake Scranton Road until 2010. He
12 claims that if Lake Scranton Road is
13 restricted from truck traffic that the junk
14 yard would be landlocked.

15 I was at the Bunker Street bridge
16 yesterday and saw a red triaxial dump truck,
17 I had to stop my car so it could come across
18 the bridge. The bridge has a 13 ton
19 capacity. It still operates, there is no
20 restrictions on that bridge, everyone uses
21 it, there is no reason why they can't use
22 it.

23 On November 8 the council legally
24 and lawfully adopted an ordinance
25 restricting the truck traffic on Lake

1 Scranton Road, but Mr. McGoff sought an
2 amendment and it went back to Attorney
3 Kelly's office for review. I tried to call
4 Attorney Kelly every day for 12 consecutive
5 days and he never returned my phone call. I
6 explained to his receptionist, Sally, and
7 Cara that I had all of this information that
8 he might want to review before he made his
9 decision. He never called me, he never
10 reviewed it.

11 On Saturday, November 22, ironically
12 right after D's U-Pull it came to my house
13 with a turkey from Mr. DeNaples. He felt
14 bad because his truck driver had threatened
15 me in September. Now, I realize that every
16 man has his price, but a turkey is a little
17 low.

18 Later that day I got this from
19 Attorney Kelly saying, "Regarding the
20 closure of truck traffic at Lake Scranton
21 Road the city receives a letter from
22 Attorney Jeffery Belardi objecting to the
23 ordinance saying: (1) No truck study was
24 completed; and (2), the closure will result
25 in illegal restraint of trade."

1 Once again, it's dirt. It is a
2 landfill in DeNaples junk yard. They are
3 not car carriers, they are not recyclable
4 trucks. They are dump trucks, I have dozen
5 of pictures and I showed you the site. If
6 no one is interested in the City of
7 Scranton, talking about the administration,
8 to stop this or to at least investigate it
9 without the summary review that Attorney
10 Kelly said he did then I don't know what to
11 do.

12 MS. EVANS: Mr. Burke, I'm actually
13 going to address this under motions this
14 evening. I believe there are several
15 options available and certainly as a council
16 it is our duty and responsibility to
17 safeguard the safety, welfare and quality of
18 life on a daily basis of Scranton residents.

19 MR. BURKE: Well, I appreciate that,
20 but I think the most salient point is nobody
21 wants to admit that there is a landfill
22 being created in the area that was formerly
23 known as DeNaples junk yard and why no one
24 wants to admit that is awfully suspicious.
25 I'm saying council, I'm saying Attorney

1 Belardi didn't meaning these dump trucks,
2 all he mentioned were recyclable trucks and
3 trucks going to DeNaples Auto Parts.

4 So that's about it, that's all of
5 information that I have that is new. It's
6 disappointing, but I fail to see how
7 Solicitor Kelly could say that the city is
8 not interested in pursuing this because they
9 would be a liability. The city has nothing
10 left to lose. If the city really wanted to
11 protect the citizens liability wouldn't be a
12 issue, it would be the priority, and I never
13 heard of anyone saying that commerce -- the
14 commerce clause supersedes public safety,
15 but that's all. I have gone over my time.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Fay Franus.

18 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.
19 I'm glad Mr. Burke spoke because I'd like to
20 address the same issue. Mrs. Evans and Mrs.
21 Krake, as you well know in 1995, 17 years
22 ago, I had an ordinance passed at city
23 council to stop truck traffic in Bellevue.
24 To this day 17 years later not one truck has
25 been stopped. I live on Railroad Avenue and

1 there must be at least 15 trucks a day go
2 down my street. The whole area I live in, I
3 mean, it's not East Mountain, but it's a
4 much more drastic situation because I live
5 in a cave area, and every time a truck goes
6 by my house shakes, my garage came in. The
7 mine had to come and fill it with concrete.
8 The house behind me completely demolished,
9 gone, it just caved right in, now it's just
10 an empty lot. The house down the street
11 from me the whole kitchen caved in. I could
12 go on and on.

13 So when I go down the baseball field
14 every day with my boy I see policemen in the
15 parking lot sometimes and I saw them and I
16 say, "Oh, you here to stop the trucks?"

17 He said, "What trucks?"

18 There is like 15 signs from every
19 section coming down Luzerne Street, coming
20 down South Washington, coming down Elm
21 Street, Seventh Street, every angle to get
22 to Bellevue saying, "No Trucks Over 10 Ton."
23 They just whiz right by. The policeman
24 didn't even have a clue what I was talking
25 about.

1 Now, I spoke with Chief Murphy when
2 he was chief, along with Captain Graziano,
3 and we had a long discussion about this and
4 they said they would look into this and do
5 something. Well, to this day nothing has
6 been done. And there's like a \$300 fine for
7 trucks. You know the money that you could
8 have made, the city could have made if they
9 enforced this? Not just warnings, they
10 should ticket these mean.

11 I mean, Ed Chomko and myself we have
12 tons of pictures, we brought them to council
13 many times. I have addressed this many
14 types with council and then one policeman
15 said to me, "Well, we have to have the truck
16 weighing devices."

17 Well, maybe so, but then you know
18 what, in Clarks Summit, a little Borough
19 like Clarks Summit, I just read in the paper
20 two weeks ago, where Patty Lawler and Gerry
21 Kerry got this grant or something for
22 weighing machines for the police to stop
23 their trucks. State Street is terrible with
24 trucks so I'm glad they are doing something
25 because that's a nightmare up there trying

1 to get across that street.

2 But as bad as that it is we live in
3 a cave-in area and truck after truck after
4 truck goes by, so this is a law that's
5 already in effect and nothing is being done,
6 nothing has been done. I don't know where
7 to go again. I'm going to ask to speak with
8 Chief Graziano again.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, actually this was
10 brought to his attention and he did respond
11 to city council, unfortunately, I don't have
12 that letter with me this evening, but he is
13 suggesting changes to the ordinance that
14 would make it enforceable for the Scranton
15 Police Department and with his assistance
16 that's what we intend to do.

17 MS. FRANUS: Mrs. Evans, you mean
18 without the machines? Without having the
19 machines? Are you saying -- how are they
20 going to enforce it if they don't have the
21 weight thing?

22 MS. EVANS: Actually --

23 MS. FRANUS: That's the excuse they
24 are giving me.

25 MS. EVANS: And the police chief is

1 well aware of that and so we'll follow-up on
2 it, but I believe he was suggesting that
3 perhaps that that would be the section that
4 would be amended.

5 MS. FRANUS: They are going to put
6 an amendment in there saying it's
7 enforceable? That's not already in there?
8 I mean, it's not enforceable?

9 MS. EVANS: No, no, no. It a city
10 ordinance is enforceable, but there has been
11 the issue involving the weights and the
12 police chief feels that by amending the
13 original ordinance whenever it was passed
14 in--

15 MS. FRANUS: In 1995.

16 MS. EVANS: -- in 1995 can rectify
17 the situation and provide language whereby
18 the police department is going to be able to
19 enforce the ordinance.

20 MS. FRANUS: Well, thank you very
21 much because we are living in fear seriously
22 because our houses shake and Eddie Chomko is
23 besides himself and he has a nice business
24 up there on Railroad Avenue, but every
25 person in Bellevue deserves protection.

1 Another issue, I'd like to thank
2 Dave Gervasi very much for coming in front
3 of the council and letting the citizens of
4 Scranton aware of the fact that the
5 Scranton's Fire Department is coming to give
6 people's homes and putting in fire
7 detectors. They are lifesaving measures and
8 I was one of the people that called the
9 night, they came to me house and they were
10 the nicest, kindest men. There was nothing
11 they wouldn't answer. They took all of the
12 time in the world to explain everything and
13 they tested everything once they put it in.
14 They went over everything with me and asked
15 if I had anymore questions and specified if
16 I had any questions at all to call any time
17 they would be more than glad to answer
18 anything.

19 It was -- I'd like to give them a
20 recommendation because they were the best.
21 Lieutenant Jim Walsh, with Engine 7; AJ
22 Samuels was the driver; Private Tim Koch, I
23 believe it was, he was there, also; and
24 Private Art Frankle, he was on board. They
25 were wonderful and talk about lifesaving for

1 the people. I mean, this is an opportunity
2 I hope everybody takes advantage of and
3 thanks to Dave Gervasi now we all know about
4 it and these wonderful guys.

5 And they were explaining to me that
6 these specific four men they are like in the
7 West Side area I guess and I guess in South
8 Side a different group of men would come.
9 You can't go wrong. It's the best thing
10 that ever happened and I want to thank them
11 very, very much and the Scranton Fire
12 Department. We're certainly getting
13 something out of our tax dollars with the
14 Scranton Police and the Scranton firemen.
15 Thank you very much.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

17 MR. ELLMAN: Council, I knew you
18 started at 6:00, but my 92-year-old aunt
19 phoned me and I just couldn't leave
20 immediately. She phoned one time and I was
21 watching wrestling and I hung up on her and
22 I never lived that down.

23 I'd like to thank Mr. Bolus on
24 behalf of several people that I delivered
25 dinners to. The city is blessed to me to

1 have a benefactor like that that cares so
2 much about the people. It was a very
3 successful event. You know, what has Chris
4 Doherty done in ten years something positive
5 like that? He hasn't done a thing for the
6 city in 10 years. You need a roll of toilet
7 paper to write all of the adversity. He
8 hasn't done one thing positive like this for
9 the people of the city. It's ashamed.

10 And I ready Charlie Newcomb's letter
11 in the paper and he seemed upset about
12 anybody -- against the wage tax. Charlie
13 Newcomb doesn't go anywhere and talk to
14 people like I do. There would have been an
15 organized boycott of this city just before
16 Christmas and forget 22,000 or 10,000 or
17 5,000 if just a few hundred people boycotted
18 the downtown and the stores in this city it
19 would have hurt. That's why I was against.

20 And I think Mr. Sheridan made his
21 point very well last month about the
22 parking. It's going to be a bit expensive
23 if it happened with insurance and so on.
24 The money that you would be taking in there
25 you would be losing tax wise at the other

1 end because it would be less of it, so I
2 don't see where -- to me that's all just
3 counterproductive.

4 You know, we have had 20 years of
5 PEL, all they come up with 20 years borrow
6 and raise taxes. I think Tuesday the paper
7 said foreclosures were up 91 percent; is
8 that right? Something like that, in
9 Tuesdays paper and here we are raising taxes
10 again, you know. PEL, we just don't need
11 PEL. Last month the hospital bought a house
12 on the 700 block of Monroe \$36,000. You
13 know how you to save \$36,000 real fast? Get
14 rid of Gina McAndrew. She got a \$36,000
15 salary. What does she do for the city?
16 Just tell me one thing why we need her as a
17 coordinator to PEL to tell us to raise
18 taxes?

19 I heard mother more intelligent
20 conversation at that meeting -- at that
21 Christmas dinner then I heard coming from
22 PEL year after year after year what's in the
23 paper. I don't know. You people have to
24 learn that Scranton is an individual city,
25 it's not like the other cities. It's like a

1 fingerprint. We are all alone and you can't
2 just open a book and say this is what you
3 need to do. They need some intelligent
4 people to tell Scranton what to do and PEL
5 doesn't seem to have a single one. 20 years
6 there is nothing intelligent comes out of
7 PEL.

8 Christmas Eve I was at a party and
9 someone came up and said I offended them
10 saying the University of Scranton was one of
11 the worst things that ever happened to the
12 city. Well, I say that ten-fold times,
13 twenty-fold times. Our school system would
14 be better off, we would have streets and
15 everything else if it weren't for the
16 University.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

18 MR. ELLMAN: You'd be able to make a
19 budget if it weren't for the two colleges.
20 Let me ask you one thing in going, what were
21 you people do when you lose Steamtown to the
22 colleges, and it's coming, just as sure as
23 the noses on the end of your pretty little
24 face you are going to lose Steamtown and all
25 of those businesses in the near future,

1 believe me.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. ELLMAN: You have got to put an
4 end to them taking over the city like they
5 have.

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

7 MR. ELLMAN: Well, thank you for
8 allowing me up here.

9 MS. EVANS: Certainly. Andy
10 Sbaraglia.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: I went over your
15 budget and really there is more holes in
16 that budget than there is in swiss cheese.
17 Everywhere in there your numbers don't add
18 up. This budget is more of a dream than
19 actually a reality. I don't know if we are
20 actually going to be under the 12, the 22
21 the 29 percent tax increase, and I don't
22 even know what the tax increase is going to
23 be on the millage or the land --I mean,
24 improvements. But that's beside the point.
25 The point is a lot of stuff in that budget

1 isn't there and probably never will be
2 there.

3 Your commuter tax went down the
4 drain, okay, but you knew that but for the
5 reasons and what came out of that, I mean,
6 whoever prepared all them facts and figures
7 and went before the judges didn't really do
8 a good job. Whether you did or -- I don't
9 blame you, Mr. Joyce, you not somebody that
10 would sit there you, the business
11 administrator should have done a better job.
12 That's his job to do it. You were only an
13 auxiliary and everything you did was based
14 on him. So this didn't go through.

15 The nonprofits are laughing at us.
16 They will continue to laugh at us. There is
17 another hole in the budget. The
18 advertisement, I know it's out to bid, you
19 are going to re bid it, let's hope something
20 happens, but I don't know. Your amusement
21 tax, Sno Mountain is up there in
22 receivership right now on the auction block.
23 Whether they get much money from the skiing
24 or not I don't know because they are
25 bankrupt, and people are going for tax

1 reductions all the time and nobody from this
2 city goes down there and -- goes down there
3 and monitors who is getting reduction on
4 their taxes.

5 Your budget is not going to work
6 out. Next year I can see you coming for an
7 unfunded debt before the judges again
8 because even your landfill you can't really
9 put the landfill out and say, "We aren't
10 going to pay for a couple of years, we are
11 good ole' boys you can trust us," that's not
12 going to work. You got to pay your bills no
13 matter what they are. Either go bankrupt or
14 pay their bills. You cannot borrow us into
15 oblivion at 9.8 percent, paper claimed one
16 of them was 50 percent. In other words, for
17 every dollar we pay back 50 cents. That's
18 only because they were short loans, longer
19 loans probably would have been double.

20 You got to come to reality what's
21 happening. I don't care if you never run
22 for another office. At least one point you
23 won't be putting our grandchildren into
24 bondage and our children because they got to
25 pay this debt and at this interest rate

1 it's -- there is no way. I looked at the
2 school budgets, I think they wanted 109,
3 city 105, and plus accounting, you are close
4 to a quarter of a billion dollars you want
5 to draw out of the pockets of the Scranton.
6 How deep do you think our pockets are? You
7 got to come up with a reality, some way you
8 got to get the nonprofits some way, even if
9 you go to Harrisburg and ask them to pass a
10 law that they must pay for fire and police
11 protection even though if you give away
12 land. That you can do. They shouldn't be
13 for all taxes, that's ridiculous, but fire
14 protection and police protection they should
15 be made to pay and you got to do something
16 like that because these figures are so
17 obnoxious. Anybody that could ad one and
18 one and get two is frightening of what's
19 going to happen.

20 People come up to me now and ask
21 about the 22 percent. I said, "I don't
22 really know, it's probably--" if they
23 really wanted to pay off the debt put the
24 city where it should be probably should be
25 about 29 this year. God knows what next

1 year is because other than that we are going
2 to run into unfunded debt again. You are
3 going to react and they are going to laugh
4 at us. They already did laugh at us, but
5 this time they are going to really laugh at
6 us saying, "You people up there can't add
7 one and one and get two."

8 I'm sorry, but I don't want to pay
9 higher taxes, but unless you come up with
10 some way to get the nonprofits to kick in
11 for police and fire -- police protection we
12 are on the way to no where. The city will
13 constantly decline, and I don't blame people
14 for not wanting to be here. I mean, I saw
15 some people sometimes go up, Wilkes-Barre
16 going up 33 percent or something like that,
17 Hazelton 85, but they don't pay our wage
18 tax. That's what you have to remember.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

20 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. MORGAN: Lee Morgan. I'd just
23 like to let the council know that I made
24 another Right-to-Know request under Section
25 312 and 313 of the Home Rule Charter. I had

1 ironed out with the staff in the office of
2 council last time the information I
3 requested, but for some reason council
4 refused to comply and give me that
5 information, so I did another Right-To-Know
6 and I just hope that this time council will
7 comply with my request for a Right-to-Know.

8 At a prior meeting I came in and
9 brought the law books for the Right-to-Know
10 and that request could be made verbally. I
11 also made that request verbally at that
12 time. I think the sad part that I think all
13 of the residents should know is that this is
14 an election year and we need to know what
15 investigations council has done, what
16 frequent audits or special audits council
17 has done, there is reason we got laughed out
18 of court, and what I take out of that is
19 that the Court knows that there is just so
20 much incompetence in city government that
21 there was no way to move forward. When you
22 sat there and you listened to the testimony
23 and, you know, Council President Evans, you
24 talked about a responsibility for safety,
25 welfare and the quality of life off

1 Scrantonians. I think people need to -- I
2 don't think most people need to walk around
3 and recognize that the vast majority of
4 rental properties are empty here, and I just
5 think that one of the great things that
6 could happen is here is I think the FBI
7 should come here and investigate what has
8 happened with all of the community
9 development money and why we are tearing all
10 these properties down in the neighborhood
11 and why we're decimating our own tax base.
12 I mean, it's just ridiculous.

13 And then, well, to vote against SAPA
14 and the creation of jobs and any
15 comprehensive plan at all that will help to
16 lift the residents out of the poverty that
17 we are experiencing I find troubling,
18 extremely troubling. This was a
19 supermajority that came in and said it was
20 going to be transparent and make changes and
21 do things differently.

22 But, you know, when you have got
23 Judge Nealon wondering why the whole city
24 tax base goes to pay wages and then you
25 realize that what's come out in Court is

1 that we haven't closed any of our shortfall
2 in the budget. Not one drop of the
3 borrowing we have done that money has gone
4 other places. You know, they talked in the
5 Court about the settlement with the fire and
6 police and how the interest on that was only
7 6 percent, but the city was probably going
8 to borrow money to pay it off at over 10
9 percent. It doesn't make any sense. It
10 doesn't make any sense.

11 You know, they talk about the mall
12 possibly and what would happen to that
13 property. Well, I'm going to tell you that
14 there is a high probability that that mall
15 is going to close because our population
16 base keeps declining. You go back and
17 couple of years and remember the shops that
18 were there, you take a look at what's there
19 now. You realize that we can't make our
20 pension obligations, we are borrowing money
21 for everything. We are so behind on that
22 it's ridiculous, okay? I mean, all of our
23 tax revenue going to pay wages and we keep
24 talking about the nonprofits.

25 Well, look it, council had an

1 obligation under the Home Rule Charter and
2 then we kept blaming the mayor when councils
3 for 30 years could have overrode every
4 mayor's budget and created a budget that was
5 based in fact and reality and started to
6 turn this city around and it didn't happen
7 and all we can't getting is the blame game
8 of who did what and elect me and I'll make a
9 different and now we have come to the point
10 where the PEL has acknowledged they are not
11 here to salvage the city, they are here to
12 make sure the bondholders get paid.

13 So we are borrowing money at
14 astronomical amounts of interest and
15 continuing to sink the city further in debt
16 without any idea how we are going to salvage
17 what's left off this city and we are going
18 to keep tearing structures down throughout
19 all of the neighborhood and using community
20 development money to do that and keep -- and
21 now we are to the point where, you know, we
22 are going to pay the landfill and then we
23 are going to talk about Scranton being a
24 progressive city, and you've got seniors who
25 cannot pay anymore and it doesn't even only

1 have to do with seniors, it has to do with
2 young families, all families. Go through
3 the neighborhoods and see all of the rental
4 properties that are empty.

5 People who have the ability to move
6 are leaving. We are losing all of player
7 wage tax, we are just creating a problem
8 where we are causing more deterioration in
9 the neighborhood as we listen to half
10 truths, propaganda and outright lies by the
11 people we elect to represent us, all right,
12 and they should be concerned about our
13 safety, our welfare and our quality of life.

14 Is this the quality of life we want
15 for Scrantonians locked to our debt for 30
16 years? Ask yourself that question.

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

19 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council,
20 Doug Miller, Scranton.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. MILLER: I'd like to begin by
23 wishing everyone a happy new year, and
24 obviously with that in mind, we hope to have
25 a productive new year in terms of our

1 financial situation. Certainly the past
2 year we obviously are facing tremendous
3 financial challenges. Throughout the summer
4 we faced the difficult task to come
5 together, elected officials and council and
6 the administration to revised a recovery
7 plan and to craft an operating budget for
8 2013. Certainly a difficult task and a
9 daunting task.

10 You know, listening to some comments
11 tonight regarding the future of the city and
12 things that have gone on in the past, you
13 know, certainly I'm just as frustrated as
14 anyone in terms of the situation we are in
15 and knowing full well that we have had to
16 deal with fiscal mismanagement by this
17 administration for the last 10, 11, 12
18 years. But I know being realistic, as we
19 all like to be realistic, that we cannot go
20 back and point the finger and say this
21 person did that and this person did that, we
22 know what happened. We know we have rubber
23 stamp councils that ran the administration's
24 agenda through, but going back and
25 addressing that and being repetitive with

1 that isn't going to change the situation we
2 are in.

3 As I said, I'm just as disgusted as
4 anyone else about it, but going back and
5 harping on it isn't going to get us out of
6 debt. We need to continue moving forward,
7 working together to move this city forward,
8 and that's the only way in which we are
9 going to solve our financial problems is by
10 continuing to move forward and working
11 together.

12 You know, a lot of people didn't
13 think that council and the administration
14 could come together, but because this
15 council has a commitment to moving forward
16 and bettering the taxpayers of the city you
17 knew that we had to put personalities aside
18 and politics aside for the betterment of the
19 city and you realize that we had to work
20 together and you were able to see things
21 happen in these chambers that in the past we
22 never saw, and that is having a business
23 administrator come forward and a mayor come
24 forward to council and the public and
25 address the issues facing the city. We

1 never saw that in the past, but because this
2 council is committed to openness and
3 transparency something that, you know, you
4 are ridiculously criticized of doing the
5 complete opposite, you should be commended
6 for it. Because we haven't seen the
7 transparency and the accountability and the
8 openness in this chamber in decades and it's
9 occurring right now.

10 You know, some of the events that
11 transpired the last few weeks, certainly the
12 decision by the judges to deny the commuter
13 tax was a difficult decision for the city.
14 We know that that revenue that was put in
15 the recovery plan was an integral part of
16 the city's financial situation. It was an
17 integral part of our budget that we were
18 hoping to realize that revenue over the next
19 three years and, obviously, with the judges'
20 decision at this time we now face the task
21 of having to come up with another solution
22 to realize that potential \$4 million in
23 revenue that we have an obligation to
24 realize.

25 We were also made aware that no

1 entity at this point in time has put a bid
2 if for the market based revenue opportunity,
3 that's \$300,000 in that area, a little more,
4 that we now have an obligation to put that
5 out for bid a second time and hopefully
6 someone will come forward and if not we then
7 have to obviously look into dealing with
8 some sort of marketing group so we can
9 realize that revenue.

10 But the people at home viewing
11 tonight and all of the taxpayers across the
12 city need to realize one thing, this was not
13 an easy task and, you know, the last year
14 throughout this whole process as I sat back
15 and listened to speaker after speaker and I
16 talked to people on the street I don't think
17 people realize how difficult of task it is
18 to sit in your place. Certainly through my
19 experience of coming here I know it's not
20 easy, and I wish it was as easy as a lot of
21 people think it is. I truly don't believe a
22 lot of people could last five minutes in
23 your shoes if they realize what you went
24 through each and every day. This isn't
25 about coming down here at 6:30 every

1 Thursday night and playing in front of a TV
2 camera, this is a 24/7 operation where you
3 are consistently on phones dealing with
4 e-mails, dealing with issues, it's not easy.

5 So when we come forward and we make
6 statements I think we need to realize that
7 this is a difficult job and this council
8 came into a situation caused by the previous
9 council where you had to come in and clean
10 up the mess. It was a nightmare and it is
11 still a nightmare. We know we have a long
12 way to go and this past summer, as we all
13 know, we faced payless paydays and the city
14 was on the verge of bankruptcy and we didn't
15 want to see that take place. Difficult
16 decisions had to be made, and I know at
17 times we were ready to throw in the towel,
18 but I know this council has a philosophy of
19 not giving up and that's the attitude that
20 we need here.

21 We need to continue to come forward,
22 we need to continue to offer positive
23 solutions, the negativity we need to leave
24 at the door. This needs to be a new vision,
25 new direction, so we can see a day where we

1 wish everybody here a happy new year,
2 hopefully this year is going to be a lot
3 better than last year was. It's been a
4 rough year in a lot of respects. We were
5 successful in our dinner this year and I
6 need to thank the people that showed up, the
7 volunteers that came there and the media
8 that got our message out. It's for all of
9 the cooperation of all of these people that
10 made this a successful dinner again.

11 And I'd like to kind of paraphrase
12 that into tonight. What makes something
13 successful is everyone working together and
14 if we all work together we can come to a
15 solution, we could come to a reasonable
16 outcome if everybody is interested in doing
17 that. It's not about politics any more, we
18 have seen that with the fiscal cliff and all
19 of the other nonsense. We all knew they
20 were going to sign the paper. You know,
21 it's a joke. They didn't even read it and
22 they signed it and that's why we where we
23 are today not only in government but in our
24 own city.

25 I sat through the hearings and kind

1 of was dismayed that this city didn't even
2 know what it's debt was and was asking for a
3 commuter tax to pay the debt because they
4 had no money, yet when it all came out they
5 were getting more money than they were
6 entitled to. They don't know the purpose of
7 debit and credit, basic accounting, one and
8 one is two. That's why we are where we are.

9 What we need to do now in this year,
10 let it be a year of revival. Gotta put fees
11 on nonprofits, you can't look around the
12 corner anymore and play politics with the
13 powerful, you got to stand your ground and
14 make it happen. You got to cut the debt by
15 instituting out of the box creativity.
16 You've got to become creative. You can't be
17 stagnant. We can't just sit back and let
18 nothing happen and say, "Oh, well, it will
19 take care of itself."

20 You know, we have to find out where
21 our real debt is. Nobody knows. That was
22 just proven. You got to put the pride back
23 in our police, fire, DPW, back into the
24 people in the City of Scranton that are made
25 to look like fools throughout the country

1 paying minimum wage. It's not what we are
2 about, not what we used to be about, but
3 this is just way out of control.

4 To turn around and sit and point
5 fingers, let me say this, and I don't want
6 you to take it the wrong way but when you
7 run for an elected office you run for a
8 purpose, the purpose should be the represent
9 the people no matter good, bad or
10 indifferent and we learned from the past.
11 The past isn't gone from our learning
12 process. We learned from history.
13 Unfortunately, the City of Scranton has not
14 learned from history.

15 When we have the debt that we are
16 facing where is the money come from to pay
17 just the interest on the loans, not counting
18 what we are going to have to figure out how
19 to pay the principal? As I have always
20 said, you cannot borrow to get out of debt.
21 If you keep taxing, tax them, but one day
22 the people are going to revolt, they are not
23 going to pay the tax any more then where is
24 the city going?

25 The fiscal mismanagement of this

1 city over the last eight, 12 years has been
2 ridiculous. No business could survive the
3 way the city has been run. Professional
4 fees, give them what they want rather than
5 put them out for bid. Where you need to
6 take this is to reign that in. Yeah, it's
7 an administration's issue. The
8 administration has control over the millions
9 of dollars to the good ole' boy club and
10 what do we get for it? Absolutely nothing.

11 The question I do have is I
12 understand, and I don't how true it is, that
13 the police department received a couple of
14 checks for something whether it was
15 settlement of some sort in the last few
16 weeks, is there any truth to that? I mean,
17 I didn't read anything in the papers or the
18 press or anything like that, but if anything
19 of that nature had happened if they received
20 money for something?

21 MS. EVANS: I have no knowledge of
22 that.

23 MR. BOLUS: Would council check into
24 it and see if the police department has, in
25 fact, received any type of compensation

1 whether it was for litigation or anything
2 that was out there?

3 MS. EVANS: Yes. If you put your
4 request in writing to our office we'll look
5 into it.

6 MR. BOLUS: Oh, absolutely. I
7 definitely want to do that. One question,
8 the mayor had made a statement that he
9 intends to sell another city asset. Is
10 council going to let him give away more of
11 our assets this year than he did over the
12 last few years like the Ice Box, like when
13 he tried to give away part of Nay Aug to
14 Lackawanna College, give away because we are
15 not getting paid for it. Gave away the
16 South Side Center. Is council going to sit
17 back or does council have any knowledge of
18 what asset the mayor intends to try and
19 liquidate to balance his playgrounds or
20 whatever, his little ballpark or his own
21 little empire here at the expense of all of
22 us. Would you like that in writing, Mrs.
23 Evans?

24 MS. EVANS: You can put that in
25 writing, yes.

1 MR. BOLUS: Okay, thank you.

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

5 MS. JOYCE: Good evening.

6 MR. SPINDLER: I, too, would like to
7 wish everybody a happy, healthy new year.
8 As Mr. Bolus said, I hope it's better than
9 last year was for everybody. I think it's
10 too bad that the commuter tax was shot down,
11 but as Bob said, I heard the mayor said we
12 either have to borrow or sell an asset.

13 First of all, borrowing is why we
14 were in this situation we are in now. We
15 can't borrow any more money. I don't know
16 what the answer is, and I'm not an advocate
17 of bankruptcy, but maybe that's the answer.
18 I don't know any other way out. We cannot
19 borrow any more money. I don't know how we
20 are going to pay it back.

21 As far as an asset, what do we have
22 left to sell, Nay Aug Park? What else is he
23 going to sell? Maybe we'll sell city hall
24 with the stipulation that Mayor Doherty goes
25 with it and we'll have him out of our hair.

1 I don't know what the situation -- what the
2 solution is, but maybe it is bankruptcy.
3 One thing when Mayor Connors tried to
4 implement the commuter tax he was denied by
5 the local judges but he appealed it and he
6 won in a higher court. Is the city
7 considering possibly doing that?

8 MS. EVANS: I'm sure it's under
9 consideration, but I haven't received a
10 definite answer.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Now, then the
12 2011 audit, Councilman Joyce, was that
13 finished yet, do you know?

14 MR. JOYCE: We received back from
15 Rossi & Rossi a draft and it's now up to the
16 city to prepare a management discussion
17 analysis section, that's customary that they
18 do that every year, and then they sent that
19 back to Rossi & Rossi and then Rossi & Rossi
20 gets that they issue a final audit and there
21 is an exit conference held so right now the
22 city has to prepare that section.

23 MR. SPINDLER: But this was due in
24 May; am I correct?

25 MR. JOYCE: Correct.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Why did this take so
2 long? To me, this is just total
3 incompetence and I think the city should
4 look for a different firm to do this audit.
5 This is every year anymore. Here we are in
6 January of 2013 and this was due seven
7 months ago and it's still not -- this is
8 just incompetent.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. Spindler, it really
10 isn't a matter of incompetent on the part of
11 the auditors. I think if we take a trip
12 through time prior to the Doherty
13 administration you will find that audits
14 were generally produced in a timely manner
15 and it wasn't until 2002 and beyond that a
16 pattern of never ending lateness was
17 developed and I think in large part, this
18 actually is something I was going to address
19 under motions, in large part it was due to
20 the fact that the Department of Business
21 Administration had been downsized so
22 severely from 2002 forward so that there
23 aren't the people working there who once did
24 who knew their responsibilities and were
25 able to produce an audit in a timely

1 fashion.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Okay. Thank you.
3 Someone brought to my attention when Engine
4 15 on Ash Street was closed that was a
5 fairly new fire truck I was told and they
6 say that's in Throop now and someone told me
7 they saw it at a Throop fire on the news and
8 Engine 7, which is on Luzerne Street, is
9 driving a much older vehicle. Can council
10 look into that and see if that is true?

11 MS. EVANS: Yes, if you would put in
12 this writing to our office and we'll
13 follow-up on that.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Okay.

15 MS. EVANS: I would think the reason
16 the engine would have been in Throop would
17 probably have been the Scranton Fire
18 Department was assisting the Throop Fire
19 Department at the time.

20 MR. SPINDLER: That's possibly. I
21 was told it was given to Throop.

22 MS. EVANS: I wouldn't tend to --

23 MR. SPINDLER: I find that hard to
24 believe, but I was told by a good source.

25 MS. EVANS: I wouldn't tend to

1 believe that.

2 MR. ROGAN: I actually heard the
3 same thing that Mr. Spindler did, and I know
4 a letter was sent months ago that once again
5 we didn't receive a reply from the
6 administration asking if any fire trucks or
7 engines were being loaned out to other
8 municipalities, and I use the terms loaned
9 out, because as Mrs. Evans said, if there is
10 a fire in the neighboring community
11 obviously we want to help them out, but if
12 they are having our equipment on a long-term
13 basis for free that's certainly not
14 something that we want.

15 MR. SPINDLER: I can see renting it
16 to them maybe, not just giving it to them.

17 Lastly, a few weeks ago Senator John
18 Blake, I forget if it was in the paper or on
19 the news said that any city that's under Act
20 47 that didn't come out of distressed status
21 was only Boroughs and he said he thinks this
22 city should revisit Act 47 because it just
23 doesn't seem to be helping us, and I know he
24 is trying to do something else to help the
25 city along, I forget exactly what his idea

1 was, but the statement was that there wasn't
2 a city that was under Act 47 that came out
3 of distressed status, so I think we are just
4 wasting our time with that, we are wasting
5 our time with PEL, I think the city should
6 see if they can get rid of PEL even if we
7 have to get sanctioned. They have done
8 nothing in 20 years. Everybody knows that
9 we are worse off than we were 20 years ago
10 and we never, this city has never been this
11 bad. Never.

12 I mean, people criticize Mayor
13 Connors, I think he did a great job. We
14 didn't have these troubles under Mayor
15 Connors. It all started in 2002 when Chris
16 Doherty took office. Again, with the
17 borrowing and spending. And again, I
18 implore council not to borrow any more
19 money. We just cannot do it.

20 One last question, are the meetings
21 now starting at 6:00?

22 MS. EVANS: Pardon me?

23 MR. SPINDLER: Are the meetings
24 starting at 6:00 now?

25 MS. EVANS: Yes, they are.

1 MR. SPINDLER: Because I was unaware
2 of that. I got here 20 after and to my
3 surprise --

4 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, it was
5 advertised in the newspaper.

6 MR. SPINDLER: Okay, I normally
7 don't look at advertisements. For years it
8 was 6:30. Okay. Thank you for your time.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. TOBIN: Good evening, Council.
11 Happy New Year.

12 MS. EVANS: Happy New Year.

13 MR. TOBIN: My name is Edwin Tobin.
14 You all know me from our great experience
15 with the door down here. Well, it looks
16 like I'm going to have to do the same thing
17 with your crosswalks.

18 Before I go any further I want to
19 ask you one question, Mrs. Evans, who paid
20 for the DPW men to spend last Sunday down on
21 Lackawanna Avenue cleaning the snow away so
22 we could have a New Year's Eve party?

23 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm sure that will
24 cost us through our budget which means the
25 taxpayers of Scranton.

1 MR. TOBIN: Now, we can spend tax
2 money to have a party but we can't take tax
3 money to clean crosswalks? Right out here
4 in front of city hall I want you all to go
5 take a look when you go home. This side
6 beautiful, no problem. The other side, snow
7 up like (demonstrating) this on Mulberry and
8 North Washington. A little bitty path.
9 Can't fit a wheelchair through there, but
10 yet come on downtown. Shop downtown. How
11 the hell do we do it? Excuse my French.

12 This was turned in right after the
13 first snow storm, took it down to the
14 mayor's office, the lady that -- not the
15 regular girl that's his secretary she was on
16 vacation or something, it was another lady.
17 She says, "I agree with you. I will call
18 them right now and tell them."

19 She called DPW. She can't remember
20 who she got. "Oh, we were down and got them
21 all cleaned already."

22 I come back. Hum. Hum. I guess
23 I'm seeing things. It wasn't cleaned. I
24 went down a couple of days later, got the
25 young lady that is the secretary, "We'll get

1 at it."

2 I went in today at 10:00 and
3 complained about it. She called, she said
4 she called, and they said, "Well, we made a
5 little path, but we'll get somebody right
6 down to take care of it."

7 It's still the same way. You know
8 what, if this was the -- if this was the
9 federal government and the president was
10 pulling something like this he would be
11 brought up on charges for not doing his
12 duty. Federal law says they are to be
13 accessible at all times. You wonder why I'm
14 getting so mad and agitated, I like to be
15 able to go around and move. I don't want to
16 sit in my apartment all winter long.

17 Your garage, you know, your garage
18 on Linden Street there, it's just now that
19 you can get through that little what is it
20 Forest Street that comes out there? Ice and
21 snow like that. (Indicating.) The parking
22 lot up here next to the garage, ice and snow
23 like that. (Indicating.)

24 I come up Mulberry Street this
25 afternoon, I had one hell of a job getting

1 up because we got a bench here where people
2 sit to go for the bus and then we have a
3 path like this on the sidewalk, yet we have
4 an ordinance that the sidewalks are to be
5 cleaned after so many hours; right? Am I
6 right?

7 MS. EVANS: Yes.

8 MR. TOBIN: You don't need to raise
9 taxes, all you need to do is get a man to
10 enforce the laws you got now on the books.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Tobin.

12 MR. TOBIN: You would come out of
13 debt easy.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. TOBIN: Get policemen on the
16 street. I had a young girl miss me by that
17 much in the intersection down on Spruce and
18 Wyoming. She pulled in by the bank there,
19 what used to be a bank, to let a passenger
20 off. And I said to her, I says, "Do you
21 know what the crosswalk laws are?"

22 And she squinted up at me and she
23 said, "What's a crosswalk?"

24 She is driving an automobile and she
25 don't know what a crosswalk is. I just

1 coming down now right to turn here on
2 Washington Avenue, the car was right behind
3 me. If we got our policemen out and we got
4 our laws enforced by our mayor you wouldn't
5 need to raise taxes and we wouldn't be
6 hearing about the University so much or the
7 hospitals. I agree they should pay
8 something.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

10 MR. TOBIN: Commuter tax, I'm glad
11 you didn't get it. I was in favor of it,
12 but what good is it doing to put these new
13 taxes on if we are not going to enforce the
14 law --

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. TOBIN: -- to make money. Who
17 is responsible to enforce the laws? This is
18 the only place that I know of that a mayor
19 can say to the President of the United
20 States and to the United States government,
21 "I don't care what you say about
22 intersections, I'm not going to take care of
23 them."

24 MS. EVANS: Well, I realize what you
25 are saying, Mr. Tobin, thank you very much,

1 but we must move onto other speakers.

2 MR. TOBIN: I mean, I did it once, I
3 don't like doing it, but if I have to I have
4 the number and telephone number and
5 everything alls I have to do is call them
6 and maybe we can get something done around
7 here without every year 12 percent increase,
8 22 percent increase. What are we going to
9 wind up like Hazelton?

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

11 MR. TOBIN: I wish I could speak to
12 the safety director. I wish he would call
13 me because I think it's time we talk about
14 safety. There is no safety here in these
15 intersections. We had one lady get killed.

16 MS. EVANS: Mr. Tobin, you can call
17 Chief Graziano about this tomorrow, but we
18 have to move on. I'm sorry, but we have to
19 move on.

20 MR. TOBIN: Yeah, we have to move
21 on.

22 MS. EVANS: Yes. Other speakers
23 have been waiting quite awhile for their
24 opportunity.

25 MR. TOBIN: I wish somebody would do

1 something about this --

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. TOBIN: -- very fast.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Dave
5 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: Taxpayer and so forth.
8 I'd like to mention, first of all, I
9 mentioned last meeting about an expanded
10 recycling program and I'm still trying to --
11 it seems like every time I call the
12 Recycling Center I get no answer on the
13 phone, so I'll try the DPW, but I'd like to
14 know how many trucks a day they take on
15 average down or even a year, and I had an
16 estimate from the union represent that only
17 half of our recyclables is being recycled
18 and the rest is being tossed in the trash
19 and I would agree with that on a general
20 principal, and in realizing that anything
21 that goes down here is free. There is no
22 tipping fee so we heard two or three times
23 tonight about the landfill not being paid in
24 it's entirety this year or whatever and that
25 could be a considerable chunk of money. I

1 suspect it is and I'll try a little harder
2 maybe DPW can come up with an answer for me
3 along with the price of the full trucks of--
4 the tipping fee on the full trucks of trash.

5 Now, as far as I'm concerned we hear
6 a lot of criticism here and what I feel
7 about politics is if you are trying to
8 attain your campaign promises then it's time
9 for some people to lighten up and stop
10 making a federal case out of it. I don't --
11 I think bankruptcy is an idiotic idea
12 because it's going to totally take
13 Democratic process out of our city and we
14 will wind up with a receiver and they will
15 run things whatever damn way they feel like.

16 If you go on PEL's records for the
17 last 12 years it might not be too good, it
18 might not be very good at all because
19 whenever there was an issue with spending or
20 questionable or somebody not doing, adhering
21 the legislation they had nothing to say.
22 Nothing to say at all and it's a real shame.

23 And, furthermore, I'd like to see
24 I'll be listening to what you have to say on
25 PILOTS and commuter tax and hopefully some

1 day we can get some kind of committee going
2 or whatever and to our own research. It's
3 time that we just say no more tax exempts.
4 That's it. No more. I regard the current
5 ones as water under the bridge, they are
6 recalcitrant about paying anything on a
7 PILOT and it's a real shame because if you
8 take the amount of property tax that they
9 would pay if there were a regular profit
10 generating institution it will fill the hole
11 every year for the last how many years and
12 that includes the school district and
13 everywhere else, so how much can we afford
14 to carry the rest of the county on our
15 backs. It's just not --

16 Now, I'll have to put this in
17 writing, but I see a lot of condemnations in
18 the paper, one of my favorite restaurants
19 got condemned for some reason. I see
20 apartment houses or rental houses being
21 condemned and it's concerning, the one
22 seemed to have a fairly nice family in it
23 and it was about two weeks before Christmas
24 in South Side, so maybe we could tell me,
25 tip me off during motions as to where to go

1 to get information as to why these were
2 condemned.

3 And on this snow business, it was my
4 understanding years ago that the
5 institutions and businesses that are
6 adjacent to these like sidewalks they are
7 responsible to clear these and not the DPW.

8 I used to come downtown after a
9 serious surgery, I was advised to walk for
10 exercise. And I would come downtown, ride
11 the bus down but because it was flat and the
12 sidewalks were supposed to be shoveled
13 that's why I did it.

14 And, okay, I'll make it in 30
15 seconds or less, once again, the golden
16 parrot goes to the trade packers. Well, you
17 know, people have taken steps backwards in
18 wages or wages have been flat and going
19 backwards. Social security is one issue,
20 and I agree with it, but it's not keeping up
21 with inflation, but average private sector
22 workers in the working class have dropped as
23 much as 30 percent and some of the
24 professional classes have gained salary and
25 those the only reasons that wages are flat

1 and not in reverse. So thank you once
2 again, and don't forget out there in TV land
3 call your Congressman and tell them to take
4 that trade pack and stuff it and when he
5 sends you that polite letter back stating
6 that he is creating one job in ten for every
7 one he sends overseas tell him I thought I
8 told you to take that job and/or trade pack
9 and stuff it. Thank you and have a good
10 night and don't forget, bawk, bawk, bawk.

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

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
15 Council. First off, I would like to
16 empathize with the man in the wheelchair.
17 As many of you know I stood behind a
18 wheelchair for five years and I know what
19 it's like and when you are prohibited from
20 going where you want because the snow is too
21 deep.

22 And also, East Mountain Road the
23 truck traffic it's the same thing there. We
24 get -- that road I'm sure was not built --
25 not only was it not built for 53-foot

1 tractor trailers that traverse it, but it
2 also has signage saying, "Trucks For
3 Delivery Only" and I know they are not
4 making deliveries, so it's an issue I guess
5 all over the city.

6 But I'm mystified as to why there is
7 not a revised millage ordinance on the
8 agenda tonight. I believe last year before
9 the hearing you approved an ordinance at 12
10 percent for the real estate taxes and then
11 at the last meeting you were increasing it
12 and I don't understand why that's not on
13 because won't the bills be going on? Pat,
14 you said the county would not go along with
15 extending the period this year, so I would
16 think the bills should be going out within
17 the next couple of weeks.

18 MR. JOYCE: We didn't receive
19 anything from the law department as far as a
20 revised bill that's why we are still
21 waiting, that's why not it's not on the
22 agenda tonight.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, and when does
24 that have to be to the Single Tax Office? I
25 assume they are the ones that do the

1 printing?

2 MR. JOYCE: Yeah. In fact, I was
3 surprised that there wasn't an ordinance and
4 that it wasn't something that was on the
5 agenda myself and I'm assuming that it will
6 be something that the law department will
7 send down by next week.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Because I was
9 downright shocked tonight because it said on
10 the agenda tonight and the agenda there was
11 a problem in the IT Department getting it
12 posted so I didn't know until I saw it
13 tonight and I was amazed.

14 Now, December 15 there was a
15 newspaper article, I believe December was a
16 Friday, that reported the city had been
17 advised that the estimated revenue to be
18 collected from a nonresident on Wednesday,
19 as in the day before your last council
20 meeting for 2012. This taxpayer would like
21 to know before you explain why we were not
22 informed of this change prior to your vote,
23 your final vote on the budget during
24 fifth -- during Seventh Order?

25 MR. JOYCE: Could you please repeat

1 that one more time, I'm sorry?

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. There was a
3 change in the revenue, estimated revenue to
4 be collected. You knew that there was not
5 going to be - you were advised there was not
6 going to be a nonresident commuter tax on
7 Wednesday. On Thursday you approved the
8 budget. Why was that not shared with us
9 that night?

10 MR. JOYCE: As far as a nonresident
11 commuter tax not being approved?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah. I mean, that
13 has a big bearing on the budget and if you
14 knew that wasn't happening that you were
15 advised on Wednesday.

16 MR. JOYCE: I received word of the
17 nonresident income tax not being approved
18 after the budget was already approved.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: On Thursday night
20 or on Friday?

21 MR. JOYCE: I'd have to go back
22 exactly and check my calendar.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, okay. To the
24 monthly cash flow I've been asking is the
25 2013 monthly cash flow projection available.

1 MR. JOYCE: Not yet.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Do you have
3 an ECD?

4 MR. JOYCE: Pardon?

5 MS. SCHUMACHER: Do you have an
6 estimated completion date when that will be
7 available.

8 MR. JOYCE: I don't have an
9 estimated date but I could contact the
10 business administrator and ask him when the
11 cash flow report will be available.

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Appreciate that.
13 Now, back to some other old business from
14 last year. 408 Cedar Avenue the status of
15 the loan repayment that 408 Cedar had?

16 MR. ROGAN: Still haven't received
17 anything on that.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: I might suggest you
19 might want to follow up.

20 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: And again, at the
22 September 6 meeting last year Mrs. Evans
23 said, so there was a discussion on 408 Cedar
24 and a letter to be sent to OECD, but Mrs.
25 Evans said, "So as not to confuse the issue,

1 please attach a second letter to Ms. Aebli
2 requesting identification of any and all
3 accounts and/or programs included in the
4 IDIS 2102 through 2011 and IDIS 2177 through
5 2012 action plans including 2012 IDIS
6 unobligated funds which did not use the
7 allocated CDBG funding and the results for
8 each."

9 That's never been received?

10 MR. ROGAN: No.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I don't understand
12 that. I really, really don't understand how
13 this can go on for this many months and
14 still be in the dark.

15 Have ground rules for what is
16 acceptable advertising on city property been
17 defined yet?

18 MS. EVANS: Not that I'm aware of.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: The controller's
20 report for the month of November shows three
21 budget transfers from account in 4310,
22 01080008520108000854401 in the amounts of
23 five, two and six thousand dollars. This
24 was all within one month. Now, since the
25 total was over the \$10,000 requiring council

1 approval why didn't council vote on this? I
2 think breaking up transfers, budget
3 transfers, that would otherwise require
4 council approval into small increments is a
5 very dangerous precedent to be set. And I
6 would hope that --

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- that would be
9 duly noted. Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hi, Janet.

12 MS. EVANS: Hi, Chrissy.

13 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Did you get my
14 card? My Christmas card I mailed to you?
15 Did you get it?

16 MS. EVANS: I got it and I loved it.

17 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Did you get it from
18 me, Pat?

19 MR. ROGAN: Um-hum.

20 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Did you get it
21 already?

22 MR. ROGAN: Yep.

23 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Did you like my
24 Christmas card, Janet? I'm handsome, huh?

25 MS. EVANS: Did you get my card?

1 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Thank you, Janet.
2 I appreciate it. Thanks.

3 MS. EVANS: You are welcome.

4 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Really. Happy New
5 Year. Welcome back, city council. Welcome
6 back, everybody. Welcome back.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris.

8 MS. CHILIPKO: Good evening. I feel
9 like I'm playing to an empty house here.

10 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

11 MS. CHILIPKO: I heard some good
12 suggestions tonight. Mary Chilipko,
13 resident, City of Scranton, and I think I'm
14 on point with some of my comments as some of
15 my fellow speakers. I just want to remind
16 everybody first that for 2013 the Pinebrook
17 Neighborhood Association will meet every
18 second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

19 My question is how much revenue is
20 being lost in-house? I came partly because
21 I read an article in the paper today about
22 the South Side residents meeting last night
23 and questioning licensing and inspections
24 and permits being pulled and not pulled and
25 favors and who gets pulled and who has to

1 and who doesn't, very quickly.

2 One name came up to me recently and
3 it was funny because it was the same name
4 that I saw in the paper today. I think
5 there is favoritism, as I said again. I
6 think there is lot of legal procedures going
7 on within licensing and inspections. I have
8 a copy for you, I have been given a copy of
9 the condemned property list for the City of
10 Scranton I think you will be shocked with
11 what you see, and some of the reasons and
12 some of the code violations and that so very
13 few have been released.

14 Here is tax money. That's why I say
15 in-house. We are so -- we are like fantasy
16 about some of the things that we can
17 accomplish -- may I approach and give you
18 this?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes, please. Can we --

20 MS. CHILIPKO: You can have it.

21 MS. EVANS: Oh, thank you.

22 MS. CHILIPKO: There has to be -- is
23 there a way to find out, and I never would
24 think I would agree with Judy Gatelli, but
25 she did say that or mention an inspection or

1 a permit hotline or try to find out, you
2 know, more info as to what is the situation
3 in that department. As far as she had
4 already mentioned that Mark Seitzinger was
5 supposed to be unable to attend their
6 meeting. She can forget that. I was told
7 that I was the reason that he doesn't help
8 Pinebrook. I just expect him to do his job,
9 but I'm also the reason he doesn't attend
10 meetings because I'm too hard on him.
11 Boo-hoo. So she shouldn't expect to see him
12 at any of their meetings either.

13 At one point I received an e-mail
14 regarding a nuisance property on New Street
15 saying he was dotting his i's and crossing
16 his t's because he didn't want his action to
17 get thrown out on a technicality. The next
18 time I saw him it was in the District
19 Attorney's hands now. I believe that was
20 all fantasy.

21 I agree that condemnation and
22 demolition is a problem in the city. The
23 replacement costs, as I look around even my
24 neighborhood, are like astounding of some of
25 these structures. For the vacant lots it's

1 of money --

2 MS. EVANS: Yes, there would --

3 MS. CHILIPKO: Do you know how much
4 money we would make in the last few weeks to
5 start off the new year? But they don't
6 care. Nobody cares because they know
7 nothing will happen. Nobody is out there,
8 nobody cares. It is a really problem.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, it goes --

10 MS. CHILIPKO: It's the same
11 locations every year. Down by the high
12 school we should be ashamed of ourselves. I
13 only have a small snow blower, I can't turn
14 it, it's turned to ice. What, do the
15 inspectors get snow days?

16 MS. EVANS: Do they get snow days?

17 MS. CHILIPKO: Do they get snow
18 days? I haven't seen it on the television.
19 Do they get snow days like somebody calls
20 them and says, "You don't have to come in
21 today?"

22 MS. EVANS: I don't believe so, but
23 I feel that --

24 MS. CHILIPKO: And I'm joking, but
25 it's serious.

1 MS. EVANS: No, I understand what
2 you are saying, but I think the buck needs
3 to stop at the top of the hierarchy.
4 Leadership is responsible when city
5 departments heads or employees are not doing
6 their jobs then it is the responsibility of
7 the executor or the executive of the city, I
8 should say, who has the power to hire and
9 fire to oversee all of this and demand
10 accountability and demand that work is
11 performed appropriately.

12 MS. CHILIPKO: Well, we have been
13 down that road before.

14 MS. EVANS: I know.

15 MS. CHILIPKO: Maybe there is one
16 more year -- I hope whoever the next mayor
17 is can hire some qualified people. This is
18 a big problem, the loss revenue.

19 MS. EVANS: And if I could jump in
20 and add something, and hold her time,
21 please. My additional concern is with
22 revenue sources coming into this city that,
23 you know, we don't have this concerted
24 effort, this ambition to do the job. In
25 other words, there is an agreement to put

1 numbers into a budget, to put ideas into a
2 revised recovery plan, but then they have to
3 come to fruition, and what's happening is
4 people aren't living up to their
5 responsibilities. People who are supposed
6 to do the work, who are supposed to oversee
7 the revenue, whether it's rental
8 registration, whether it's enforcement of
9 these ordinances, it just all seems to slide
10 by, but it's not going to be able to
11 continue for much longer because the fact of
12 the matter is if city workers don't want --
13 and had goes from, you know, every
14 department and department heads. Some
15 people do a great job and they are
16 irreplaceable, but there are a lot of people
17 who don't do much of a job and whether
18 that's a lack of a work ethic or an
19 inability to do the job because they are
20 basically not qualified to hold that job,
21 well, that now becomes irrelevant because
22 the money needs to be produced that has been
23 placed into these documents and if people
24 aren't doing it then there is going to have
25 to be consequences for this.

1 And by consequences I mean that the
2 city is going to wind up losing certain
3 chunks of itself, and I think, you know, we
4 all agree bankruptcy is a very bad thing. I
5 have read article after article now about
6 cities in the United States and the shape
7 they are in from bankruptcy, how everyone --
8 each individual has had to become their own
9 police officer and they take turns standing
10 on corners and guarding their properties and
11 guarding stores because as a result of
12 bankruptcy their police force is decimated.

13 Well, you know, I also think you
14 could only, as people said, you can only
15 borrow so much. So where are you going to
16 go? And it can't be the taxpayers all the
17 time because they don't have it and anyone
18 with a brain in his or her head knows the
19 vast majority of Scranton residents can't
20 afford monumental tax increases.

21 Now, the city has been dying. No
22 one has wanted to help the city, whether
23 it's the state, whether it's commuters,
24 whether it's nonprofits, whether it's tax
25 exempts, they have all turned away and said,

1 "We are just going to stand by and watch the
2 city die."

3 So what's going to have to happen,
4 you know, the only answer here is going to
5 be if city workers don't want to do their
6 jobs, don't want to bring the revenue in
7 that's been plugged into all of these
8 documents in order to keep this city
9 operating and to keep them in their jobs
10 there is going to be -- there is going to be
11 drastic consequences. I'm sorry, I didn't
12 mean that --

13 MS. CHILIPKO: I want follow up on
14 that with two subjects, the major problem
15 with not doing their jobs or knowing or
16 whatever they are is with licensing and
17 inspections. DPW I really wasn't, you know,
18 saying about the workers and the DPW
19 Department, that with the snow issue is more
20 like private individuals and businesses that
21 just get away with not clearing sidewalks.

22 MS. EVANS: And DPW it's not their
23 job to police them.

24 MS. CHILIPKO: Right.

25 MS. EVANS: It's the job of LIPS.

1 MS. CHILIPKO: What's that?

2 MS. EVANS: Licensing, inspections
3 and permits.

4 MS. CHILIPKO: Oh, okay. I forgot.

5 MR. ROGAN: I would just add that, I
6 was going to say this during motions, but I
7 have had so many complaints, and I'll
8 elaborate on it during motions as well, but
9 I'm going to ask that we send a letter to
10 not only to the DPW, but some of the
11 concerns are on city property. Lackawanna
12 Avenue Bridge, for example, the sidewalks,
13 other streets which I will get into that
14 later, and private property. I have been
15 contacted by half a dozen people who
16 complained about private properties that
17 haven't cleaned their sidewalks or they
18 plowed their lot and plowed the lot onto the
19 sidewalk, things of that nature, so I think
20 what needs to happen is council, the mayor,
21 the head of LIPS and the head of the DPW all
22 need to sit down and figure out how this
23 problem is going to be addressed because we
24 are not going to be lucky as we were last
25 year to only have an inch of snow, and we

1 already see just first week of January we
2 already have two snow storms and every time
3 it snows my phone probably rings just as
4 much as dispatch and the DPW, but I answer
5 my phone and I'm talking to these people and
6 they are upset. It's people that are
7 driving, people that are walking, people in
8 wheelchairs, it's everyone in the city, but
9 I'll address it more under motions.

10 MS. CHILIPKO: If you could please
11 add the area around the high school, like
12 the Olive Street area. I don't know who is
13 responsible for that, but that's
14 embarrassing.

15 One last thing, I did have two
16 homeless gentlemen approach me as a
17 neighborhood leader, it's only a
18 description, that's what they, you know,
19 introduced themselves as and they want to
20 let me know that they were having trouble
21 walking to and from the soup kitchen because
22 the sidewalks were not cleared. And then
23 they also told me that, you know, they're
24 tired and afraid because they're getting
25 yelled out by the drivers and everybody is

1 blowing their horns at them what can I do
2 about it, how could I help them? And I said
3 the only thing that I can tell them is
4 spring will be here soon. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?
6 Mrs. Krake?

7 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
8 MOTIONS.

9 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do you
10 have any motions or comments tonight?

11 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I guess
12 I'll pick up where I was talking about the
13 snow removal, and I'm not going to be beat
14 up on any department or any individual, but
15 the snow removal and particularly with the
16 first smaller storm was terrible throughout
17 the city, and not only from the city's
18 aspect, but also from the private
19 individuals and business owners.

20 As most people know, and I just hope
21 this message gets out there, that if you own
22 a property or a business and you don't clear
23 your sidewalks within 24 hours from the snow
24 you can receive a citation. Now, I do agree
25 with comments that were made that the city

1 needs to do a better job of enforcement on
2 that ordinance. Now, hopefully nobody gets
3 a ticket because everyone is clearing their
4 sidewalks, that's the best scenario, but if
5 not I would bet that if you just had an
6 additional inspector go around and focus on
7 those type of issues that would pay their
8 salary and then some.

9 I have had -- these are just a
10 couple of the stories that I have had and,
11 Mrs. Krake, I am going to give you all of
12 these to send out. A resident who lives in
13 South Scranton they have coal heat. Their
14 coal truck couldn't deliver their heat
15 because Hamm Court wasn't plowed. The truck
16 couldn't get up the hill. You know, South
17 Side, West Side, the Hill section, Scranton
18 is very hilly. This wasn't the day of the
19 snow storm or the day after, this was today.

20 And I understand there has to be,
21 and I think everyone agrees there has to be
22 an order of priority of how roads are
23 cleared, but this many days following a
24 storm, we're five days now following the
25 storm, every road in this city should be

1 cleared and nobody in the city should have
2 to go without heat or the fear that they are
3 going to run out of fuel because the truck
4 couldn't get there.

5 Another example also in South Side,
6 Brook Street and Remington Drive there is a
7 DayCare right there, and I have driven down
8 there, it's a pretty large DayCare. I would
9 gander to say there is probably 100 children
10 there. Obviously the children aren't
11 driving but they have parents that pick them
12 up. There is buses that bring them to and
13 from school. That intersection is an "L".
14 You go down Brook and you turn onto
15 Remington. It's actually right behind the
16 Dunkin Donuts in the South Side Shopping
17 Center, right behind there. When you go
18 back there that road looks like an ice
19 skating ring. That was one of the worst
20 onces in the city.

21 Down in other parts of West Scranton
22 roads were deplorable and the day after a
23 snow storm you can kind of forgive it, you
24 say, "All right, there is a lot of roads to
25 be plowed in the city."

1 And another thing that I wanted to
2 mention, it's also illegal to throw your
3 snow from your sidewalks or your parking
4 spot in the middle of the street because
5 that also happens and then it thaws and then
6 that creates ice, but there is problem, it
7 needs to be addressed, and most of the
8 complaints I have had were from South
9 Scranton, West Scranton, a few from
10 Pinebrook and they are the areas of the city
11 where the most population is.

12 Now, I haven't heard any complaints
13 from Greenridge people, maybe the mayor
14 takes care of his backyard first or maybe it
15 just happened to be they didn't get as much
16 snow on that part the city, but we need to
17 have a plan of snow removal for the city.
18 Areas where hospitals, schools and DayCares
19 are located should be plowed first. Believe
20 me, I vote for my street to be the first one
21 plowed, but I think by CMC, Mercy and all of
22 the local schools and DayCares should be
23 plowed before my street or a side road, but
24 then a day or two after the storm you expect
25 to see all of the roads in the city cleared.

1 So I would hope that we could get
2 something together, and I'm going to send
3 this, and I have if we can request a caucus
4 with -- especially with the DPW director and
5 Mr. Dougher and Mr. Seitzinger to setup a
6 caucus just to discuss a plan for the city
7 on snow removal. It's not all in the city's
8 hands and city property and it's not all in
9 private hands. The snow has to be removed
10 everywhere. Businesses have to adhere to
11 the law in the city.

12 Just as I drive down Lackawanna
13 Avenue to work every day and today the
14 sidewalks on that bridge, which I believe
15 are still the city's responsibility to
16 clear, were covered. And when you let it
17 go, and as you know if you have ever not
18 shoveled for a day or two and you let it sit
19 there it becomes ice and then it becomes
20 nearly impossible to clear. So at this
21 point in time it would take somebody --
22 probably somebody a day of hard manual labor
23 to clear those sidewalks, but if it was done
24 right after the snow storm somebody could
25 have did it with a snow blower or a shovel

1 within a few hours.

2 So that is definitely something that
3 needs to be discussed by everyone, and
4 again, I'm not picking on one department
5 over another or businesses, but we need to
6 all get together and take care of that.

7 MS. EVANS: If I could, I agree with
8 what you are saying, and I noticed that over
9 the vacation there was an emergency
10 declaration from the mayor, although it
11 might -- I can't recall, it might have been
12 signed by Ryan McGowan, Deputy Mayor --

13 MR. JOYCE: I think it was.

14 MS. EVANS: -- that authorized hiring
15 all of these contractors for snow removal,
16 many of whom are the very same towers that
17 were here several weeks ago about the
18 storage yard, and it seems that between the
19 DPW employees and these independent plowers
20 and snow removers that it all should have
21 been taken care of.

22 And probably, you know, the last
23 aside I would add to it, I live in
24 Greenridge and I can tell you that my area,
25 my street, wasn't done. We had that first

1 snow fall I believe on December 26, nothing
2 was done for days, that just remained, and
3 then after the second snow fall it might
4 have been very late Saturday evening or the
5 early hours of the Sunday that was the first
6 time a tow truck came through.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, the second -- I
8 have complaints on both, and I'm sure we all
9 have, the second storm seems the response
10 was a little bit better, still not up to
11 par, but it's definitely -- I don't think
12 there is anyone in the city that would say
13 that the service is up to the standard it
14 should be. And what is even more
15 frustrating was the article in the Scranton
16 Times where, you know, I'm not sure what,
17 the city spent a lot of money on overtime
18 clearing for the First Night necessities,
19 they can't clear sidewalks for a resident
20 who is in a wheelchair, so hopefully this
21 will be addressed.

22 Next, onto a few issues, a few
23 articles that were in the paper over the
24 break that I wanted to bring up, and these
25 are all specifically concerning Mr. McGowan.

1 And whether you support or opposed the
2 commuter tax the court testimony really
3 showed how dysfunctional the City's Business
4 Administrations Office is, and I have two
5 articles here. The first one "Scranton
6 Single Tax Office Disputes Testimony in
7 Commuter Tax Hearing."

8 And the second one, "Judges Reject
9 the Scranton Commuter Tax."

10 I'm sure most of us have read both
11 of these, but I just want to quote a couple
12 of parts that really struck me.

13 "Contradicting testimony in Scranton's
14 commuter tax hearing that the city had not
15 receive certain wage taxes from the Single
16 Tax Office, officials from that office said
17 Thursday it had remitted \$600,000 to the
18 city in 2010.

19 Wednesday's ruling by a panel of
20 judges rejecting the commuter tax cited
21 testimony from city Business Administrator
22 Ryan McGowan that the city annually keeps
23 more than \$500,000 in earned income taxes on
24 nonresident commuters whose hometowns don't
25 have an EIT, but the city "inexplicably" did

1 not receive any of this tax in 2010.

2 Mr. McGowan also testified during
3 the commuter tax hearing last week that he
4 could not explain this discrepancy because
5 he was not the business administrator in
6 2010."

7 Going on in the article, I'm not
8 going to read it, it's multiple pages, it
9 was yet another mistake by the Business
10 Administrator Office. The money was
11 received by the city, and I believe it was
12 actually almost \$600,000, \$601,000 and it
13 was placed into the wrong account.

14 Now, this is going back nearly two
15 and a half, three years, where this money
16 was misplaced. And granted, Mr. McGowan may
17 not have been the business administrator in
18 2010, but he was in 2011 and he was in 2012
19 and when you are preparing to be in court
20 and have to tell the truth and know the
21 facts to present a case he once again let
22 everyone down.

23 Next, "Judges Reject Scranton
24 Commuter Tax." In this article it says,
25 "The city's commuter tax revenue estimate

1 also changed during the Court proceedings
2 that took place on December 11, 12 and
3 Friday. The petition initially estimated
4 that a 1 percent commuter tax would generate
5 \$4 million per year in the latter two years
6 but only 2.5 in the first year because of
7 the lag in obtaining full collections.

8 However, when asked by judges to
9 back up that estimate with actual numbers on
10 how much EIT is produced by the city, the
11 city's witnesses on Friday testified to a
12 revised estimate that a commuter tax would
13 raise around \$4 million this year and \$6.7
14 in 2014 and 15. Again, with the differences
15 because of a start up lage between year one,
16 two and three."

17 So, once again, we have a business
18 administrator whose job it is to do these
19 projections off by millions of dollars, and
20 I think it was embarrassing for the whole
21 city when you have somebody testifying on
22 behalf of the city, whether you agree or
23 disagree with why we were there, that he is
24 that far off on these numbers.

25 Also, when the testimony first

1 began, and I couldn't find it, I know it was
2 in one of the Scranton Times' articles, Mr.
3 McGowan was off by tens of thousands on how
4 many commuters that actually are in the
5 city. Going back to Mr. McGowan when he
6 first took over as business administrator,
7 there was an issue of \$3 million of parking
8 meter money that was missing for over three
9 years, and once again, it was just
10 attributed to a mistake.

11 Obviously there have been numerous
12 mistakes made by the Business
13 Administrator's Office, and as Mrs. Evans
14 stated, only the mayor can hire or fire, but
15 I would like to make a motion, and I'll pass
16 out a copy to my colleagues, requesting for
17 the resignation or termination of City
18 Business Administrator Ryan McGowan, and
19 that is a motion.

20 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
21 floor, is there a second? The motion dies
22 for lack of a second.

23 MR. JOYCE: I'll second that just so
24 we could vote.

25 MR. ROGAN: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question?

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Just to elaborate
3 a little bit further, Ryan McGowan as a
4 person is a nice guy, I don't have problem
5 with him, but if you look at this pattern of
6 mistake after mistake after mistake, when
7 you are going into a court of law and you
8 are on basically the biggest stage possible,
9 you cannot lie, you have to tell the truth
10 or you could go to jail for it, and he makes
11 all of these mistakes.

12 Now, I don't believe that he was
13 cooking the numbers to make it look like the
14 city was actually going to bring in less
15 money to possibly fill gaps in other areas
16 of the budget that might not be obtained.
17 If that is possible he lied under oath, and
18 I'm not accusing him of that, but he should
19 have known what the actual numbers are. It
20 shouldn't take going to court in an open
21 court for these numbers to come out. He is
22 a full-time business administrator. He has
23 mid over \$100,000 of taxpayers money in the
24 past two years and not one item has been
25 correct so that is why I believe he should

1 be either resign on Mayor Doherty should
2 terminate him.

3 MR. JOYCE: Just to speak a little
4 bit about where the numbers for the commuter
5 tax projections came from, I actually do
6 have a study from the Institute on Public
7 Policy Development that did suggest that
8 there would be \$2.5 million in revenue in
9 year one and \$4 million in year two and
10 three and that was confirmed by PEL. Now,
11 somehow that all changed when the numbers
12 from Burkheimer came in that showed that we
13 had more commuters working in the City of
14 Scranton than was originally projected in
15 the study, so I can understand why there
16 would be a discrepancy in that.

17 However, the 888 money I do remember
18 seeing that from Tax Collector Courtright
19 that we did receive that money back in 2010.

20 But as far as the decision to hire
21 and fire the business administrator, I don't
22 believe that's within council's scope, so
23 I'm going to abstain from voting on this
24 motion.

25 MR. ROGAN: I would agree it is not

1 in the scope of the council, it's a motion,
2 it's not binding, just the reason I'm making
3 it is to put our opinions as a council on
4 record. Again, the mayor is going to do
5 what he wants, that's what he has done the
6 last 11 years, he hasn't listened to anyone
7 other than himself, but it's just been, you
8 know, one thing after another with these
9 numbers not adding up from the business
10 administrator's office.

11 MS. EVANS: From what I'm hearing
12 from both of my colleagues you are making
13 valid points. However, unfortunately,
14 tonight we are missing two of our colleagues
15 and so I would ask that this would be tabled
16 until such time as the entire council was
17 present so that if, indeed, this passes it's
18 coming as a message from an entire council
19 hopefully rather than a quorum.

20 MR. ROGAN: I would be agreeable to
21 that and also it would give -- and the
22 motion does state either Mr. McGowan to
23 resign or for the mayor to terminate him, it
24 would also give Mr. McGowan a week to
25 reflect on his performance in his capacity

1 as business administrator and maybe step
2 aside and let somebody else take the job,
3 somebody else that's going to come in and
4 actually do the job properly and hopefully
5 these numbers in the future will be provided
6 to council and to the public, proper
7 numbers, and I have no problem if somebody
8 wants to make a motion to table the motion.

9 MR. JOYCE: I make a motion to
10 table.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
17 have it and so moved. Councilman Rogan's
18 motion is tabled until such time as we have
19 a full attendance by city council.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. And just one
21 other comment on the agenda items, they are
22 all appointments to boards and commissions,
23 and as always, if the appointee sends in a
24 resume they usually gets council's stamp of
25 approval. Not to be picking on the Business

1 Administrator's Office today, I see that
2 Mr. Renda, a former business administrator,
3 is going to be reappointed to the Sewer
4 Authority and I believe that the previous
5 business administrator is part of the reason
6 why we are in this mess we are now so that
7 appointment I will oppose whether or not he
8 sends in a resume.

9 And that is all I have for tonight.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
12 Councilman Joyce, do you have any motions or
13 comments tonight?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I'm a little bit
15 under the weather so I'll be brief tonight,
16 but first I'd like to wish everybody a very
17 happy and prosperous new year. In regards
18 to tonight's agenda items, as Councilman
19 Rogan said we have various appointments and
20 reappointments to boards of commissions.
21 I'd like to express that I'll be voting
22 "yes" to introduce all of the appointments,
23 however, I will require that a resume or
24 letter of interest be sent to council's
25 office by next week's meeting before voting

1 "yes" for final approval.

2 To report, over the holiday Scranton
3 City Council received correspondence from
4 Rossi & Rossi, our independent auditors
5 regarding the 2011 audit. At this point
6 Rossi & Rossi has sent us a draft of the
7 audit report from which the city is to
8 prepare the city's management discussion and
9 analysis section of the final report.

10 At this point, the city needs to
11 prepare the management discussion and
12 analysis section. Once this is done, Rossi
13 & Rossi will complete the final audit report
14 and an exit conference will be held.

15 Mr. Krake, with this in mind can you
16 please contact Ryan McGowan, our business
17 administrator, and inquire when will the
18 city complete the management discussion and
19 analysis section?

20 Scranton City Council has also been
21 notified of a contract executed to perform
22 the Scranton Single Tax Office audit for the
23 year ending December 31, of 2011. This
24 contract has been awarded to Bonita and
25 Rainey, certified public accountants. Their

1 firm is located on 3 West Olive Street in
2 Scranton, PA.

3 Just to inform everyone, the cost of
4 the audit of the Scranton Single Tax Office
5 will be \$35,000. The cost to perform the
6 audit will be shared by the Scranton School
7 District and the City of Scranton with each
8 entity contributing \$17,000 each.

9 Over the holiday the City of
10 Scranton received a PILOT or payment in lieu
11 of taxes from Covington Presbyterian Church
12 in the amount of \$1,000. At this time, I'd
13 like to take the opportunity to thank the
14 church for their contribution and being a
15 good neighbor.

16 And tonight's I have some citizens'
17 requests as well. I have been informed by
18 several residents of Rock Street that since
19 the building across from the Imperial Bakery
20 has been torn down mice have been infesting
21 the homes in the 1200 block of Rock Street.
22 This is becoming quite a problem as these
23 residents have never had rodent problems in
24 the past and since the building across from
25 the bakery has been torn down mice have

1 become quite the problem.

2 Mrs. Krake, with this in mind,
3 please contact our animal control officer
4 about this problem and inquire if anything
5 can be done to help the residents on this
6 block of Rock Street.

7 A concerned West Scranton resident
8 reports that there has been a car parked
9 across from 312 16th Street for over a month
10 and is becoming quite an eyesore to
11 residents. The concerned resident reports
12 that the car is a gray Volkswagon that has
13 rusted out and would like to see something
14 done about the nuisance car.

15 Mrs. Krake, please forward this
16 request to acting Chief Graziano and inquire
17 about a control person to check out the
18 problem.

19 And finally, several residents
20 living on Birney Avenue have reported that
21 motorists are speeding up the street and it
22 is resulted in sideswiped car and damaged
23 driver's side mirrors for residents that
24 park on the street. These residents living
25 on Birney Avenue would like to see some

1 increased speeding enforcement on the street
2 as speeding motorists are becoming
3 problematic.

4 So with this in mind, Mrs. Krake,
5 please forward this request to Chief
6 Graziano and inquire as to whether a patrol
7 person can be sent out to the area and watch
8 for speeding, and that's all for tonight.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
10 evening. I wish to begin by recognizing
11 Covenant Presbyterian Church for it's 2012
12 payment in lieu of taxes. Scranton City
13 Council and Scranton taxpayers are most
14 grateful for the generous donation of \$1,000
15 to help our city.

16 It has come to my attention that
17 vehicles are parking for free on Mulberry
18 Street and Colfax Avenue, the streets that
19 surround the Audubon School across from
20 Geisinger CMC. Parking meters are in place
21 in the streets surrounding other city
22 hospitals and although there is metered
23 parking for some areas around CMC, the area
24 across the street needs to be examined.

25 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please

1 contact Standard Parking to request meter
2 installation on the blocks surrounding
3 Audubon School.

4 Next, I would like to address the
5 issue of continuous truck traffic on Lake
6 Scranton Road and offer solutions to remedy
7 this problem. In 2012, city council legally
8 and lawfully adopted File of Council No. 70,
9 and ordinance drafted by the City Law
10 Department to prohibit truck traffic with
11 certain exemptions off Lake Scranton Road
12 from Route 307 northeasterly to Elmhurst
13 Boulevard in the City of Scranton.

14 Thereafter, the City of Scranton was
15 threatened with a lawsuit if it enforces
16 it's ordinance and posts signage.

17 Mr. Burke, who spoke earlier this evening
18 and is a residents of Lake Scranton Road,
19 feels that public safety is jeopardized by a
20 Dunmore businesses need to get trucks to and
21 from their destination as quickly as
22 possible. In 2010, land was purchased to
23 create an access road to a dumping site and
24 D's U-Pull It. Prior to 2010, no major
25 truck traffic existed on Lake Scranton Road,

1 which is a peaceful two-block residential
2 area comprised of I believe 20 homes. It's
3 a narrow street with no sidewalks that has
4 not been paved in approximately 20 years
5 according to homeowners. The continuous
6 truck traffic to and from Dunmore has
7 further deteriorated the condition of this
8 Scranton road.

9 It seems there are a few available
10 options to solve this issue. Apparently for
11 48 years prior to the development of an
12 access road in 2010 commerce occurred
13 successfully and without creating problems
14 for Scranton homeowners and taxpayers. It
15 seems there is another route available to
16 truck traffic on Elmhurst Boulevard off of
17 Blue Shutters Road. When traveling south on
18 Pennsylvania 307 turn right onto Blue
19 Shutters Road State Route 2010, follow Blue
20 Shutters Road for 3.1 miles and turn left
21 onto Elmhurst Boulevard. Elmhurst Boulevard
22 runs parallel to Interstate 380 and leads
23 directly to the access road created for the
24 dump site. Thus, it appears that the City
25 of Scranton is not responsible for land

1 locking a Dunmore business.

2 Another possible option may be the
3 use of smaller trucks to transport dirt as
4 has been documented by Mr. Burke as well as
5 flattened cars, bail mount and recyclables,
6 and that is according to Attorney Belardi's
7 letter. An agreement to repair and maintain
8 Lake Scranton Road for as long as trucks
9 continue to travel on it.

10 Certainly no business would wish to
11 jeopardize the daily safety and quality of
12 life of Scranton homeowners and no
13 homeowners wish to stymie commerce. There
14 are options available outside of litigation
15 against the City of Scranton, a financially
16 distressed and struggling municipality that
17 suffers from no assistance from large
18 nonprofits, tax exempts, commuters and the
19 state. It seems there can be no financial
20 gain from litigation for either side.

21 Rather, the goal should be to settle
22 this issue in a manner that is satisfactory
23 to all and that upholds very important the
24 safety, welfare and quality of life of
25 Scranton residents.

1 Further, although, similar signage
2 has been posted in Scranton without
3 commissioning an engineering study, the
4 issue has been raised by the attorney for
5 DeNaples Auto Parts.

6 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please send a
7 letter to city engineer John Pocius and
8 Mayor Doherty requesting an engineering
9 study of Lake Scranton Road and the related
10 affects of tractor trailer truck traffic.

11 Also, Mrs. Krake, please contact
12 Pennsylvania DEP concerning the dirt that is
13 being transported. Perhaps it could perform
14 soil test testing on the dirt that is being
15 transported from I'm not sure where, perhaps
16 the Poconos, and if they can also perform
17 testing on the area in which it is being
18 dumped.

19 Next, a draft of the audit report
20 was submitted to the Office of City Council
21 by Robert Rossi and Sons on December 27,
22 2013. Following the exit conference between
23 the auditor and city officials and the
24 delivery of the final 2011 audit to
25 council's office, council Finance Chair will

1 announce the long-term debt of the city as
2 well as other financial information.

3 More importantly, however, at the
4 conclusion of this process I ask that the
5 auditors, the business administrator, all
6 business administration department
7 employees, the city clerk and our finance
8 chair would meet to map out a more efficient
9 and effective procedure to complete the 2012
10 audit in a timely manner.

11 Throughout my terms on Scranton City
12 Council the annual audit has never been
13 submitted to city council by the May 31
14 deadline included in the Home Rule Charter
15 and perhaps that date may have become
16 inappropriate or overly ambitious due to the
17 downsizing of the Department of Business
18 Administrator which occurred beginning in
19 2002 through 2011.

20 However, the problem of past due
21 audits has significantly increased in the
22 last few years. While the audit process
23 began in February, as is customary, the
24 finalized audits were not completed until
25 nearly a year later. That is seven to eight

1 months past the charter deadline. In an
2 effort to remedy this problem, two positions
3 were added in the 2013 budget, one by
4 clerical contract and the other by a grant
5 and it is essential that these positions be
6 filled as soon as possible.

7 It's also imperative to train new
8 and current employees in their daily duties
9 related to the annual audit and develop
10 individual responsibilities for all
11 information requested and required by the
12 auditors.

13 In addition, city authorities must
14 be put on notice that their audits or
15 financial statements are due on or before
16 the end of the second financial quarter.
17 Therefore, a draft -- or excuse me,
18 thereafter, a draft of the audit report
19 should be submitted to city council in July
20 2013 with the exit conference following no
21 later than in August of 2013 in order that
22 the final audit is available in September as
23 the annual budgetary process begins.

24 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please send
25 letters to the mayor, the appropriate

1 municipal authorities, the BA and Robert
2 Rossi & Sons requesting an initial meeting
3 during the first week of the February.

4 And finally, I just have two
5 citizens' requests: Scranton residents
6 report that there are huge potholes on the
7 corner of Curtis Lane and Bedford Street as
8 well as in front 1000 Curtis Lane. In order
9 to avoid these cavernous holes drivers
10 swerve dangerously close to parked cars.

11 Although, residents have called the
12 DPW nothing was done. Please send a request
13 to the DPW to fill these holes as soon as
14 weather permits. This is a second request,
15 the first having been made in October of
16 2012.

17 Residents report that lack of the
18 snow removal by city businesses, and I will
19 forward the specific lists to you,
20 Mrs. Krake, to report to the department
21 head, and that's it.

22 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. ACCEPTING A ONE
23 HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLAR DONATION FROM NEI
24 AMBULATORY SURGERY, INC. PRESENTED TO THE
25 CITY OF SCRANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.

1 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
3 introduced into its proper committee.

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

9 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

10 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. APPOINTMENT OF
14 JOSEPH DEANTONA, 1331 CORNELL STREET,
15 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18504 AS A MEMBER OF
16 THE SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
17 AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR
18 TERM. MR. DEANTONA'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON
19 DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL
20 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

21 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
22 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
23 introduced into its proper committee.

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

8 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. APPOINTMENT OF JOHN
9 GRANAHAN, 1504 PRICE STREET, SCRANTON,
10 PENNSYLVANIA 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE
11 SCRANTON LACKAWANNA HEALTH AND WELFARE
12 AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR
13 TERM. MR. GRANAHAN'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON
14 DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL
15 EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

16 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
17 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
18 introduced into its proper committee.

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

24 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

3 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. APPOINTMENT OF
4 JACK DELEO, 125 WHITETAIL DRIVE, SCRANTON,
5 PENNSYLVANIA 18504 AS A MEMBER OF THE
6 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY FOR
7 AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR.
8 DELEO'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31,
9 2012 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON
10 DECEMBER 31, 2017.

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

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. JOYCE: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question? I know
17 Mr. Deleo, he is a very fine individual,
18 hardworking, family man, man of faith, very
19 professional. However, I do not approve of
20 many of the actions of the Scranton
21 Recreation Authority and I have said so
22 consistently for the past several years I do
23 not feel that they should continue to be in
24 existence. I further do not feel that the
25 authority ever should have been created and

1 so this is nothing personal against
2 Mr. Deleo or Mrs. Gleason, whose appointment
3 will be voted upon next, but I will be
4 voting "no" to both pieces of legislation.

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

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

9 MS. EVANS: Opposed? No. The ayes
10 have it and so moved.

11 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. APPOINTMENT OF
12 COLLEEN GLEASON, 2104 CAPOUSE AVENUE,
13 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18509 AS A MEMBER OF
14 THE SCRANTON MUNICIPAL RECREATION AUTHORITY
15 FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MRS.
16 GLEASON'S CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER
17 31, 2012 AND HER NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON
18 DECEMBER 31, 2017.

19 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
20 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be
21 introduced into its 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. JOYCE: Aye.

4 MS. EVANS: Opposed? No. The ayes
5 have it and so moved.

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-G. APPOINTMENT OF
7 STUART RENDA, 1112 WOODLAWN STREET,
8 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18509 AS A MEMBER OF
9 THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY BOARD FOR AN
10 ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR. RENDA'S
11 CURRENT TERM EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2012
12 AND HIS NEW TERM WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31,
13 2017.

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

17 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
20 those in favor of introduction signify by
21 saying aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

23 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

24 MR. ROGAN: No.

25 MS. EVANS: The ayes have it and so

1 moved.

2 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO

3 BUSINESS AS THIS TIME.

4 SEVENTH ORDER. NO BUSINESS AT THIS

5 TIME.

6

7 MS. EVANS: If there is no further

8 business, I'll entertain a motion to

9 adjourn.

10 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

11 MS. EVANS: This meeting is

12 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