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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, May 16, 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

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE
(Not present)

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

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

6 MR. ROGAN: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe. Mr.
8 Joyce.

9 MR. JOYCE: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

11 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
12 reading of the minutes, please.

13 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. AUDIT
14 STATUS FROM ROBERT ROSSI & CO. RECEIVED
15 MAY 6, 2013.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE
19 REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
20 SCRANTON HOUSING AUTHORITY HELD APRIL 1,
21 2013.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. APPLICATIONS ALONG
25 WITH DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING

1 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY MAY 8, 2013.

2 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?

3 If not, received and filed.

4 Do we have any Clerk's notes
5 tonight, Mrs. Krake?

6 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: Prior to announcements
11 I'd like to make a motion to table Items 7-C
12 D, and E.

13 MS. EVANS: We have a motion on the
14 floor, is there a second?

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. MCGOFF: On the question, these
18 are the three pieces of legislation dealing
19 with the food vendors and the restaurants,
20 after a series of meetings held this week
21 and last, we were presented with a number
22 recommendations -- agreed upon
23 recommendations from those meetings and we
24 are tabling these so that we can take a week
25 to review the recommendations from the group

1 that meant and implement them into the
2 legislation.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

10 Is there anyone else with
11 announcements?

12 Please remember to turn off all cell
13 phones and refrain from speaking during the
14 council meeting.

15 The annual Armed Forces Day parade
16 will be held this Saturday, May 18, 2013, in
17 downtown Scranton beginning at 11 a.m.
18 Several municipal groups, the Pennsylvania
19 National Guards Scranton based 55th brigade
20 and other of dozens of other military and
21 veterans units will participate. Bring your
22 families and friends out to honor our great,
23 selfless servicemen and women and their
24 families who have sacrificed for our
25 freedom.

1 A new edition to parade day is the
2 Gino J. Merli Veteran's Center and Matthew's
3 Mission 5K run and walk. The run will start
4 at 9 a.m. on Franklin Avenue and benefits
5 the Veteran's Center. Registration is \$20
6 on the day of the race.

7 Finally, this Tuesday, May 21, is
8 primary election day and you are not, are
9 not required to show ID to vote. Make every
10 effort to exercise your voting privileges in
11 this important city and county election.
12 Good luck to all the candidates and to the
13 people of Scranton. That's it.

14 MR. MCGOFF: Could I add something
15 to that, Mrs Evans?

16 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Just a note for the
18 primary election, because of the ballot
19 questions that there were on there this is
20 not a closed primary. If you are not a
21 registered Republican or Democrat normally
22 you could not vote in the primary election,
23 but for this election because of the ballot
24 questions anybody who is a registered voter
25 may vote on those ballot questions so,

1 please, please go out and cast your ballot
2 even if you are not registered for the
3 Democrat or Republican party.

4 MR. ROGAN: And both sides of the
5 ballot, also.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, it's rather
7 lengthy and a two-sided ballot, so, please.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS
10 PARTICIPATION.

11 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker
12 tonight is Bernie McGurl.

13 MR. MCGURL: Good evening, Council.
14 I'm this evening to invite you and the
15 community to join us along the Lackawanna
16 River for Riverfest on Saturday, June 1, and
17 I have invitation flyers for you. Boyd,
18 I'll have to get you one.

19 MR. HUGHES: Okay. Thanks.

20 MR. MCGURL: And I just want to
21 spend a moment to talk about Riverfest.
22 It's our annual celebration of the
23 Lackawanna River and we are going to be
24 holding it down at the Scranton Riverfront
25 along Olive Street by the heritage trail by

1 the Ice Box complex near Memorial Stadium.

2 It's a day long event. It starts in
3 the morning with a canoe and kayak run from
4 two launch points, one in Archbald and one
5 in Blakely and it originally started out as
6 the Lackawanna River Canoe-a-Thon in 1973 so
7 this is actually the 40th running of the
8 Lackawanna River Canoe-a-Thon and the race
9 concludes by the Olive Street finish line
10 sometime between 12 and 1 o'clock as the
11 stragglers come in.

12 Later in the afternoon, all
13 afternoon actually at the finish line we
14 have the show mobile, the city show mobile
15 is set up and we have a variety of musical
16 entertainment for young and old and at 3:00
17 we are inviting everyone to get creative,
18 come on down, get a boat, get something that
19 floats, we are going to be launching the
20 regatta from Sweeney's Beach, a little beach
21 up in the Pinebrook neighborhood and you
22 will float down with your costumes and silly
23 hats and whatever and we have whole variety
24 of prizes for the regatta. The regatta is
25 absolutely free. The only thing you need is

1 a sense of humor and imagination, so we went
2 to encourage everyone. You can come out and
3 visit the LRCA website at www.lrca.org and
4 click on Riverfest and you'll get
5 information on the regatta or give us a call
6 at the LRCA Office at 347-6311 and we'll
7 fill you in on any questions and details
8 that you'd like to get.

9 A little bit later in the afternoon
10 to wrap up the days festivities we have the
11 famous Lackawanna River Duck-a-Thon. It's a
12 real duck race, not with little rubber
13 ducks, actually we have ten specially
14 trained Lackawanna River racing ducks. They
15 are painted up rather colorfully by students
16 in local schools and actually they're decoy
17 ducks if you want to get down to it, but
18 they are trained to race and they do move
19 down river with the current and if you
20 happen to get a ticket with the winning duck
21 that could win you \$500.

22 So we would like to invite everyone
23 to come out and spend the day on the
24 Lackawanna River with the LRCA and celebrate
25 the river on Saturday, June 1. Thank you

1 all.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.
3 Our next speaker is Labray, and I'm unable
4 to ready the last name.

5 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: You can
6 cross that out.

7 MS. EVANS: Okay. Bill Jackowitz.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening,
9 Scranton City Council. Bill Jackowitz.
10 I've been spending a lot of time lately
11 walking, and I'm not even running for
12 office, but I've been going around and
13 talking to people within the City of
14 Scranton, and quiet honestly, we have a lot
15 of upset people within the City of Scranton.
16 Basically, you know, because they are not
17 happy with what's been happening with the
18 city.

19 Actually, this city needs to start
20 behaving as if it already is bankrupt
21 because people realize that we just don't
22 have the money. The money is just not there
23 and there is really no way way of generating
24 the machine to pay what's going to be coming
25 our way in the next few years. We need to

1 start working on that now, not when the new
2 mayor and the new council takes over, we
3 need to start working on these areas right
4 now.

5 Now, like the comments have been
6 made that things don't happen overnight, but
7 I would just like to remind people that for
8 7,797 days and 255 months this is how long
9 the taxpayers of Scranton have been waiting
10 for the elected officials of Scranton to do
11 something positive about the financial
12 situation in City of Scranton. That's a
13 along time. Nothing has been done to solve
14 the problem.

15 As time goes on the situation
16 worsens. Unemployment rate, highest in the
17 state. 36 consecutive months. The 500
18 block of Lackawanna Avenue still vacant.
19 Potholes. Scranton streets, bridges and
20 sidewalks are unsafe. I personally have
21 lived in three third world countries that
22 look better than Scranton Central City and
23 neighborhoods.

24 Vacant store fronts. Vacant space
25 Steamtown Mall. Housing projects dirty

1 garbage everywhere in the housing projects.
2 Overgrown properties in every neighborhood.
3 Soon we are going to look like Detroit,
4 Michigan, if we continue on the road we are
5 on now.

6 I do not want to hear anymore about
7 cooperation, a budget that is not balanced,
8 a recovery plan that would not work, is not
9 cooperation it is wasted time at taxpayers'
10 expense. Sideshows and false numbers and
11 hope will not resolve the financial mess I
12 call Scranton's same government.

13 When four witnesses testify for the
14 city and give contradicting testimony,
15 something is wrong. Scranton's recovery
16 plan was all about borrowing \$14 million,
17 creating a deeper hole for the taxpayers to
18 crawl out of it. Scranton's credit rating
19 below junk bond rating, loans made defaulted
20 on, why? Interest rates high, why? Because
21 the credit rating of Scranton is nothing but
22 junk.

23 Again, let's get real. Stop playing
24 politics. The only elected who is up front
25 is Pat Rogan and the voters of Scranton

1 realized that. Gatelli and McGoff's
2 councils set the city back 50 years,
3 virtually bankrupting this city. Evans
4 council continued with the borrowing, raised
5 taxes enabling the administration to
6 continue down the path of financial
7 destruction, resolved with higher taxes and
8 larger debt for the taxpayers.

9 Why would anybody trust a mayor and
10 business administrator or for that matter
11 any member of the Doherty administration?
12 They have been proven to be wrong on just
13 about every issue, that is why Scranton
14 remains bankrupt for 21 years and counting.

15 No one expected change overnight.
16 On the other hand, it's been 7,798 nights
17 that we've been waiting for change. That
18 should be long enough to wait for real
19 cooperation from our elected Scranton
20 officials.

21 I'm disgusted with Scranton
22 politics, actually, I'm disgusted with
23 politics in general because look at what's
24 going in Washington DC and Harrisburg and
25 everywhere else, and politicians who have

1 speaker is Les Spindler.

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

5 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

6 MR. SPINDLER: I don't know what the
7 recommendations are with the food trucks
8 that you tabled tonight, but I just want to
9 add that I hope that one of those
10 recommendations is keeping the distance from
11 restaurants at 100 feet. If it's not, I
12 think you should amend the ordinances to say
13 that because 250 feet is just too much and
14 it's going to put these people out of
15 business and that's just going to hurt the
16 city.

17 Moving on, quite a few weeks ago I
18 was here asking about a stop sign near the
19 Issac Tripp school, I was wondering if any
20 action has been taken on that yet? I know
21 there is still no stop sign there. Has
22 anybody gotten back to council on that?

23 MS. EVANS: I don't believe so, MR.
24 Spindler.

25 MR. SPINDLER: Well, it figures. I

1 just hope, you know, the next mayor, whoever
2 it is, appoints people that know what they
3 are doing and will cooperate with council
4 other than what these department heads are
5 doing now. I guess the only one that does
6 cooperate is acting Chief Graziano, but I
7 hope in the future they will cooperate with
8 city council.

9 Lastly, I read the Doherty
10 newsletter yesterday about the debate the
11 other night, the mayoral debate, which I was
12 unable to watch and, you know, I'm tired of
13 some of these candidates slinging mud. Why
14 don't they just run on their qualifications
15 and stop slinging mud. Oh, I know why they
16 are slinging mud because they don't have any
17 qualifications because the tax collector
18 they're talking against is the only one that
19 is qualified and he comes out on the
20 commercial saying what his qualifications
21 are.

22 Liz Randol can't even make a
23 commercial on her on, she has an 81-year-old
24 woman talking saying, "Oh, she's educated
25 and I like her."

1 Those are great qualifications to be
2 mayor. Then we have another person coming
3 out saying, "I've been coming to council for
4 25 years."

5 Again, are those qualifications to
6 be mayor? I don't think so. This is the
7 most important election I think in this
8 city's history and if we don't elect the
9 right person we are going to be in
10 bankruptcy and you can write that down
11 today's date, May 16, 2013, that we will be
12 in bankruptcy if we don't elected the right
13 person and there is only one person for the
14 job and I think all know who I mean.

15 And at that debate I hear that Liz
16 Randol brought up Attorney Walsh's name,
17 which is a darn shame.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, this isn't
19 appropriate for the podium.

20 MS. EVANS: I agree that I'm not in
21 favor of campaign speeches at the podium,
22 however, every individual has first
23 amendment rights to speak and unless an
24 individual is effecting the safety of others
25 or is using obscene language, they have the

1 right to speak.

2 MR. SPINDLER: Thank you,
3 Mrs. Evans. Mark Walsh, as everyone has
4 heard from me in the past is a along time
5 friend of mine, and to bring his name up
6 when he can't defend himself was terrible.

7 MR. MCGOFF: You're incorrect.

8 MR. SPINDLER: This is my time.

9 MR. MCGOFF: If you're going to
10 say--

11 MR. SPINDLER: She didn't name him
12 by name, but she brought up the solicitor of
13 the tax office.

14 MR. MCGOFF: She did not make --

15 MR. SPINDLER: Mrs. Evans, can you
16 ask him to stop?

17 MR. MCGOFF: -- any comments --

18 MR. SPINDLER: That's the most
19 unclassy move I have ever heard of. Mark
20 Walsh had more class in his little finger
21 than Liz Randol has in her own body and she
22 is not qualifications. When it was brought
23 up about her gun she went, "Uh, uh --" and
24 she couldn't even answer a question. It was
25 asked if she was out drinking that night and

1 she refused to answer the questions, which I
2 think in itself answered the question and
3 she is not a person that is qualified to by
4 our mayor. And that's all I have. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Next speaker
7 is Ron Ellman.

8 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, council.

9 MS. EVANS: Hello.

10 MR. JOYCE: Hello.

11 MR. ELLMAN: A few short weeks ago
12 this pathetic excuse for a newspaper printed
13 a lengthy article crucifying young Miller
14 over a past traffic offense. A traffic
15 offense, for crying out loud, and it hadn't
16 happened recently, it was in the past. I
17 feel that this feeble attempt by them was
18 just an offense to just take away any future
19 political interest that young Miller has and
20 I think the city needs Mr. Miller more than
21 he needs the City of Scranton. We need all
22 these young people.

23 In the same hand, it is hard to say
24 they were working to bring forth this
25 article, at the other end of the spectrum

1 they are working as hard as they can to keep
2 quiet and sweep under the rug the error in
3 judgment that Ms. Randol made. This isn't
4 right. This is a deliberate action by this
5 paper.

6 You know, people say put things
7 aside, but they don't forget. Both of these
8 things are an error in judgment to me. You
9 know, if I had known a few short weeks ago
10 that you can run for mayor and be devoid of
11 any experience, any character, trust,
12 values, integrity and so on I would have
13 run, believe me, and probably would have been
14 endorsed by the Democratic party around
15 here.

16 If this gun scenario had happened to
17 me or Mr. Miller or to most of the people in
18 the city there would be no end to it. It
19 would be investigated, it would be carried on
20 and on and on in the newspaper for weeks and
21 weeks, but I guess we are all responsible
22 for our own actions, except Ms. Randol.

23 Again, I cannot in god conscious why
24 any of these people are even running for the
25 office. It's such a thankless job. It's an

1 impossible job to be successful at in my
2 opinion. You know, all council's additional
3 revenue plans have failed for one reason or
4 another, and I'm not putting the blame on
5 council, I just said that they have failed
6 on everything -- and everything have come up
7 with has just been put a side. This new
8 taxes going up 78 percent is not going to
9 achieve a good end, it's just going to cost
10 us more and more empty houses and
11 foreclosures. You can ask the banks, it's
12 just not going to work, something else has
13 to be done.

14 You know, I read a couple of weeks
15 ago King Henry VIII taxed the people of
16 England so bad he owned a third of the
17 country. It's the same thing with our city,
18 we have lost a third of the city to these
19 tax exempt businesses. It's impossibility to
20 carry on. He failed and we can't carry on
21 with a third of our taxable properties gone.

22 You know, we've had ten years of
23 total mismanagement. Ten years of a mayor
24 completely devoid of any financial ability.
25 That's 3,650 Jackowitz days. Ten years.

1 The last thing we need is someone that's
2 going to support his policies and his
3 programs and want them to continue. There
4 is just going to be brutal consequences for
5 all of us if we choose the wrong person, but
6 I've heard a dozen people saying they are
7 not going to vote. They don't like this guy
8 and that guy, that's not going to solve
9 anything. You people out there have got to
10 vote for some good government. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Gerard Hetman.

12 MR. HETMAN: Good evening, Council.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

14 MR. HETMAN: Gerard Hetman, Lack
15 wanna County's Community Relations
16 Department. Good to see you, as always. To
17 begin this evening, we would like to
18 announce that the Lackawanna County
19 Department of Community Relations is
20 currently working to organize the first
21 annual Lackawanna County job fair. The job
22 fair will take place Thursday, June 13, from
23 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at PNC Field in Moosic.
24 The event will be held on the street level
25 concourse, so you walk up to the stadium,

1 take the first glass door on the right under
2 the ticket office and the exhibitors will be
3 on the street level concourse area. The job
4 fair is free and open to the community.
5 Candidates of all ages, backgrounds and
6 experience levels are encouraged to attend.

7 There will be companies offering
8 full-time, part-time, seasonal and
9 internship positions, so this is an event
10 that is acceptable for all working ages,
11 skilled abilities and sectors. Something
12 for people who looking for family sustaining
13 full-time employment, possibly a additional
14 part-time, and again, seasonal internship
15 jobs so possibly college students, high
16 school students are welcome to attend.

17 We're working to get every major
18 private sector employer in and around
19 Lackawanna County to be an exhibitor at the
20 job fair. If you know of anybody, council
21 members, who may be hiring an employee --
22 excuse me, an employer that's looking to
23 hire, odds are we may have spoken to them
24 already, but if not feel free to contact me
25 or stop me after the meeting, I'd be happy

1 to get in touch with them. This is
2 something that the commissioners are
3 committed to working at so that the
4 employment rate that some of the speakers
5 have referenced, kinds of hangs over our
6 heads in this area, and all us, I know, in a
7 mini-capacity are trying to chip away at
8 that and we see this as the initiative that
9 hopefully will hope to combat the persistent
10 high employment rate.

11 So, please, tell your friends,
12 neighbors, anyone who is searching for any
13 type of employment. This will hopefully be
14 a good opportunity for them to match up with
15 that. Again, it's Thursday, June 13, 1 p.m.
16 to 6 p.m. at PNC Field. Again, completely
17 free, no parking charge, and also for
18 exhibitors there is no vendor fee so anyone
19 who comes to offer employment looking for
20 employees we are not charging for that. So
21 it's particularly attractive for everyone
22 looking to get involved.

23 Secondly, actually, Mrs. Evans,
24 thank you for mentioning the parade and also
25 the 5-K run/walk. Our office is working

1 with Matthew's Mission really organizing the
2 Gino Merli 5K and they are very excited
3 about that. They have a pretty good turnout
4 already with some race day registrations,
5 but we invite to come down to the parade.
6 The parade steps off at 11 a.m. and I saw
7 most of the council members there last year
8 so we would hope for everyone to come out
9 and salute our veterans and our military
10 personnel.

11 And then lastly, just one other
12 event that we like to mark especially in the
13 city is the upcoming "Arts on Fire" festival
14 and fire furnace fundraiser, and that's June
15 7, 8 and 9 downtown at the historic iron
16 furnaces and that event kicks off Friday
17 night during First Friday with the "Arts on
18 Fire" fundraiser which is a \$15 admission or
19 \$20 right at the event at the iron furnaces.
20 It raises funds for the Anthracite Museum up
21 in McDade Park, which administers the iron
22 furnaces. That's an event where you pay at
23 the door. There will be a live iron pour
24 and food and drink are free with that event
25 with admission. There will also be basket

1 raffles and things of that nature.

2 And Saturday and Sunday of that
3 weekend, June 8 and 9 is the actual "Art on
4 Fire" festival. No charge to attend that.
5 It starts at 11 a.m. both days, wraps up 7
6 p.m. on Saturday, and then 4 p.m. on Sunday.
7 All three nights there will be musical
8 entertainment, performers and then Saturday
9 and Sunday there is food vendors and also
10 exhibitors such as sculptors, artists who
11 are looking to sell in a market-place type
12 setting.

13 This is the fourth year that this
14 has taken place and it's grown every year.
15 Again, it brings in a lot of folks, bring
16 out a lot of people in the city and in the
17 surrounding community and also brings in
18 visitors both to attend the festival and to
19 vend the business here really from all over
20 the country, so we are looking forward to
21 hopefully a good turnout and invite to come
22 out to that event.

23 So that's all we have for this
24 evening. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Greg Evans.

1 MR. EVANS: Good evening, Council.
2 Greg Evans.

3 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

4 MR. EVANS: Resident, homeowner and
5 small business owner. Two things I wanted
6 to discuss or just talk about, the first
7 thing is, again, this is probably not a
8 council issue it's probably an
9 administration issue and it's unfortunate
10 that no one is here to answer this, but
11 regarding the recent paving project on
12 Jackson Street, do any of you know where it
13 came from? Is that DCED money or OECD
14 money?

15 MR. ROGAN: It was OECD money. I
16 actually have some notes. I'll be speaking
17 about this issue during motions. I assume
18 you are referring to the blocks that were
19 paved and now they are going to be torn up
20 again.

21 MR. EVANS: Yes.

22 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, I wasn't happy
23 either when I learned that, you know, our
24 road that was just paved using federal
25 dollars, two blocks, three blocks from my

1 house in West Side was paved and know it's
2 going to be cut up. You know, obviously the
3 utility will repair it when they are done,
4 but the issue to me is could have used that
5 money to pave another road.

6 MR. EVANS: Absolutely, and that's
7 my same concern and so are some other
8 people. Thank you. And I want to talk
9 about the food trucks. I know it's tabled
10 and thank you for doing that. I want to
11 speak about the economic impact just one
12 more time. I want to bring us back to
13 months ago when we were fighting about the
14 -- not fighting, just the packing meter
15 agreement came up with the increases of the
16 days, times and costs, and I brought up here
17 nearly 1,000 signatures in protest of that
18 agreement and that was from businesses, not
19 just the businesses, but also employees and
20 visitors, and it's a bigger picture than
21 just one special interest over another
22 special interest, it wasn't that this is
23 simply just light changes that came from
24 more than just the businesses, but it was
25 the negative economic impact of those

1 proposed changes, so thank you for tabling
2 Item 7-C, D and E and giving serious
3 consideration to what Scranton Tomorrow has
4 offered you with the negotiations and I just
5 want to implore that when you make your
6 decision ask yourselves two questions: One,
7 what is the economic impact of the new
8 legislation; and two, will it affect
9 Scranton positively in long-term, not just
10 the short-term. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And our next
12 speaker is Danae L. Gozell. Dasie Iella.
13 Mary Ann Pachesko.

14 MS. PACHESKO: Hello.

15 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

16 MS. PACHESKO: Nice to see you
17 again. I have a food truck called the
18 "Picnic Stand" and I'm brand new, I've only
19 been doing it a couple of months. I didn't
20 realize, I signed the paper, I didn't
21 realize I was going to be speaking, but
22 that's okay.

23 What I would like to say is I am
24 new. The Health Department, Mary Foley and
25 Mark have been excellent. The people at the

1 meters have been great because I had them
2 check my truck out and advise me and
3 everything and they have been wonderful, so
4 if you want to make a note of that they are
5 great.

6 As far as I go, I went to two of the
7 meetings and I totally agree with the
8 restaurants, a food truck does not belong in
9 front of a restaurant ever. I considered
10 opening up a restaurant, I didn't for
11 financial reasons so my husband and I
12 discussed and we opened up a food truck and
13 I love doing it, I really do.

14 So I agree no food truck should be
15 allowed in front of a business and serving
16 food, but I don't agree with the limitation.
17 I believe it should be 100 feet because it's
18 reasonable, it's fair. When I was speaking
19 at one of the meetings I did tell them, you
20 know, we do live in America. It is a land
21 of opportunity. I don't believe in
22 restriction of fair trade. And I think 100
23 feet, and we did agree on 100 feet at the
24 last meeting, which was great, I was happy.
25 Let's see, the 100 feet was a big deal for

1 me.

2 I agreed that the feet should be 250
3 because the restaurants are paying that.
4 Should it be 500? I don't think we should
5 be penalized, it's not fair, but the 250 was
6 agreed upon which was also a good positive.

7 I do think the food trucks are a
8 positive influence, it caters to a totally
9 different clientele. If I'm with friends
10 going out for lunch, I want to be in a
11 restaurant I want to sit down and I want to
12 have a leisurely lunch and talk. But at
13 lunch time in Scranton you have a lot of
14 people who are limited with a half hour.
15 What I do is I give my phone to them and
16 they can call me and I'll have the food
17 ready for them and they get their food and
18 they are back in their office. There is a
19 lot of positive things to be said for that.
20 It is a different clientele. So as far as
21 the restaurants not wanting us, totally
22 different setup.

23 They were talking about find and,
24 you know, if a truck is going to do
25 something that is not right with the Health

1 Department they should be, you know, have a
2 fine, it's only right. That's why I've had
3 Mary Foley and them coming in my truck and
4 make sure it's all right.

5 I'm trying to think about what else
6 they were talking about. I'm a little
7 nervous, but basically it's just nobody
8 should park in front of a restaurant. I
9 wouldn't want to hurt anyone. In fact, as
10 far as I'm concerned today and, yes, this
11 was the first I was at courthouse square and
12 I was far, far away from everyone and I made
13 sure of that. I've been staying down at the
14 state building. Unfortunately, there is no
15 foot traffic so one day I sold like five
16 sandwiches. Yesterday and today it's good
17 for business. I did much better, but I am
18 staying far away from everyone, but if you
19 would increase it more than 100 feet there
20 really is place to go because you are going
21 to find Subway or a mini-mart or somebody is
22 going to be selling food and I think it's
23 too limiting, but 100 feet is totally
24 reasonable because then you're not near that
25 restaurant and 100 feet is a good distance,

1 you know, because I'm making sure that I'm
2 beyond that.

3 So I hope and pray that you will
4 keep it at the 100 feet and if you want to
5 raise our permit price to 250, like, I'm
6 speaking for me, that's fine, too. I don't
7 know if you have any questions for me, I
8 don't know how this works.

9 MS. EVANS: No, I have no questions.
10 Is there anyone?

11 MS. PACHESKO: Like I said, I'm
12 brand new at this. I just wanted to do
13 everything right to the law, make sure I'm
14 doing everything right and I appreciate you
15 listening to me.

16 MS. EVANS: Absolutely. Just so you
17 understand, this legislation was not
18 initiated by city council. It was sent down
19 to us by the mayor and his administration so
20 these were their proposals and because
21 council members had many concerns about the
22 legislation that was submitted to us and
23 because so many members of the public and
24 owners of the food trucks came before
25 council to discuss that potential

1 legislation, I asked for these meetings
2 between --

3 MS. PACHESKO: Oh, that was
4 wonderful.

5 MS. EVANS: -- the brick-and-mortar
6 establishments and the food vendors because
7 none of us own restaurants or food trucks
8 and we are certainly not experts in that
9 area and we wanted exactly has happened,
10 that both sides would discuss all of these
11 issues and come to a consensus that was
12 satisfactory to everyone so that all
13 businesses are welcome in the city and
14 basically operate on a level playing field
15 so we very much appreciate having these
16 recommendations and, unfortunately, we only
17 received them about 3:00 this afternoon, so
18 we weren't able to draft an amendment to the
19 legislation that will make the corrections
20 to it.

21 However we are hoping that we can
22 get the work done for next Thursday's
23 meeting and put the three pieces of
24 legislation back on the table for a final
25 vote.

1 MS. PACHESKO: And the mediator, she
2 was wonderful and she listened to both sides
3 and it was really nice and Greg was copying
4 everything down and it went really well, so
5 that was a good idea. But anyway, thank you
6 very much for listening to me. I appreciate
7 it.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. The next
9 speaker is Reginald Clark.

10 MR. CLARK: Good evening, council.

11 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

12 MR. CLARK: I'd like to first say I
13 would like to thank everyone in advance for
14 all your time and consideration in regards
15 to the food truck issue, I'm a food truck
16 owner, putting the meetings together for
17 both sides it was a good idea, you know,
18 good communication came out of that on both
19 ways, also a lot of information and
20 knowledge that people didn't know including,
21 you know, elected officials and the ones
22 that's supposed to enforce this ordinance.

23 Wording is always, you know, one
24 word can change a whole sentence, a whole
25 paragraph and I think that's what's really

1 going on within the existing ordinance, not
2 that we hear a whole lot about the ordinance
3 because it's kind of contradictory, you
4 know, from something that was from 1910, you
5 know, not too many people out there sharpening
6 knives, you know, and like somebody said
7 before, you know, free trade is different
8 things come about, you know, and it is good
9 economic development for the city as a
10 whole. You know, it does bring in revenue.

11 One of the thing that was part of
12 the proposals that we talked about on both
13 sides was in regards to the mercantile tax.
14 You know, I've been a mercantile taxpayer
15 for five years, but that doesn't, you know,
16 make me the same ass brick and mortar
17 because I'm entitled a peddler or a vendor,
18 so those are very good issues that we talked
19 about in regards to paying a tax that's due
20 so I put that in councils hands that
21 everything will come out good for this
22 ordinance, it can be changed one way or the
23 other that can benefit both sides and I'll
24 leave that at that.

25 But there is another issue that I

1 would like to address council about, and if
2 I'm out of order please stop me. I just --
3 I'm at a brick wall and I don't know which
4 way to go because I heard you say now
5 something was passed down from the mayor's
6 administration. There was something that I
7 brought to the administration last year in
8 regards to the whole Gerard School on West
9 Parker Street in North Scranton. I brought
10 it to the administration in regards to the
11 administration it was a blighted area. As
12 you know the Gerard School burned down 50
13 years ago, that lot there was very blighted.
14 We took volunteers and cleaned it up and
15 then I went to the mayor's office and asked
16 the may or could the city donate that land
17 to make a community park out of it. At
18 first it was in regards to a grandson that
19 had died up on Beecher Road, the mayor
20 agreed to do it, but then he said that I had
21 to had talk to Paul Walker, Mr. Walker, the
22 city attorney, but I haven't been able to
23 meet with him in a year now. I don't know
24 if Mr. Hughes works with them or if he is a
25 city attorney because I'm asking because I

1 don't know if you all can get help me in
2 regard to this project because it is a
3 blighted area.

4 MS. EVANS: Do you mean Paul Kelly?

5 MR. CLARK: Yes.

6 MS. EVANS: The city solicitor?

7 MR. CLARK: Yes.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, you can give all
9 of your information to our assistant city
10 clerk, Ms. Carrera, you name, phone number,
11 can send a message to Attorney Kelly that
12 you are very anxious to meet with him and,
13 you know, you can give --

14 MR. CLARK: I'm just saying because
15 I know it was taxpayer's money that cleaned
16 the property up. The City of Scranton
17 maintenance department came out with dozers
18 and knocked down the trees and everything
19 and I understand that money needs to be used
20 in and fiscal year, that money was used for
21 that purpose but now it's beginning to be
22 blighted again. I have volunteers and stuff
23 that want to clean it up, but I mean I asked
24 them, it's a city property so I don't want
25 to engage on something that -- I don't want

1 to break the law.

2 MS. EVANS: Right. Well, we can
3 certainly give a summary of the situation
4 that you've enumerated for us and send that
5 to the city solicitor asking him to contact
6 you and schedule a meeting with you.

7 MR. CLARK: That would be wonderful.
8 Thank you so much.

9 MS. EVANS: Certainly. You're
10 welcome.

11 MR. CLARK: And that's all I have.

12 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Joan
13 Marie Yamin.

14 MS. YAMIN: Hello, Council. Thank
15 you for giving me a chance to speak. My
16 name is Joan Marie Yamin, I'm the owner of
17 "Eats" food truck. I have a couple of
18 concerns that I would like to bring up on
19 the ordinance. First, thank you for tabling
20 it and, you know, not just rationally making
21 a decision before having a chance to look at
22 it and come up with a conclusion.

23 My food truck is a little different
24 than day business because I work in the
25 nights. I cater to the bar crowd. I

1 started my business six years ago and have
2 built it into something I'm very proud of.
3 When I started there was no other vendors on
4 the street. I offered a service that was --
5 I offered a service that was not offered
6 during that time span and, as I said, I have
7 been there for six years and I have never
8 encountered any problems. I know and love
9 my customers, I know their orders before
10 they stepped up. I hug crying girls, called
11 taxis and tucked drunk kids and sent them
12 safely home. I add to the excitement of the
13 evening and enhance the businesses of the
14 bars across the street.

15 Countless people tell me they come
16 to the bars to come to the truck after they
17 get out. It's part of their evening. They
18 bring family, friends and I've been
19 introduced to parents who thank me for
20 looking out for their kids. People whom
21 come from out of the area have commented and
22 are impressed with the friendly, vibrant
23 urban atmosphere in Scranton that my
24 business implies.

25 I would like to bring up these needs

1 to your attention in hopes you take them
2 into consideration when you vote on the
3 ordinance. In addition to the 100 feet
4 ruling we need to have -- operating hours
5 need to be extended to 24 hours a day and
6 for the evening if a business is closed
7 there should be no footage limitation, like,
8 you know somehow from a time span from a
9 certain time span that when there aren't any
10 businesses open that the food vendors should
11 have the rights to be able to sell their
12 wares, you know.

13 Again, I love this city, I love
14 working in the downtown Scranton. I've had
15 two brick-and-mortar businesses in the city
16 before and I worked hard to build my
17 business. I buy supplies locally. My truck
18 is even a National Bakery truck. It was
19 built by Joe Azati, Bobby in North Scranton,
20 Scranton Restaurant Supplies, so like people
21 who are saying that theses businesses are
22 fruitful for the city they are fruitful
23 because not only are people coming in and
24 enjoying themselves and adding to the beauty
25 of this city, you know, we are also

1 extending our paychecks to other business
2 and it just -- I just really believe that
3 the food trucks add a tone to the city and
4 I'm just asking you guys to help me
5 safeguard my livelihood and to keep the food
6 trucks so that we can have a chance to --

7 MS. EVANS: May I ask you one quick
8 question?

9 MS. YAMIN: Yes.

10 MS. EVANS: You say you operate only
11 during the evening hours, is that only in
12 the downtown area or are you traveling
13 throughout the --

14 MS. YAMIN: Just downtown.

15 MS. EVANS: Just downtown.

16 MS. YAMIN: And actually I didn't
17 know it when I first got any license, I
18 don't even remember who was the person who
19 was in office at that point, but they told
20 us you just had to say 100 feet from a
21 business. I was surprised when I found out
22 about the 24-hour ruling after the last
23 meeting I was like, oh, my God, and they
24 said it was an ordinance. So, I mean, that
25 was a surprise, like, it wasn't brought to

1 our attention, you know, but that's been my
2 business for six years has been on that
3 street in that spot, like, I've not moved
4 so--

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6 MS. YAMIN: Thank you, guys.

7 MS. HUGHES: Madam Chairman, if I
8 could comment on that, please?

9 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

10 MR. HUGHES: The ordinance since it
11 was adopted in Scranton really only applied
12 to vendors that would come out during parade
13 time, when there were parades. That was the
14 ordinance that was on the books. When you
15 got your license there was nothing that
16 covered food carts or food wagons or food
17 trucks. So that what the original ordinance
18 as it would apply to people that came
19 downtown during the parade time they had to
20 be 100 feet from an existing business and
21 that's why it says any mercantile business,
22 anybody that pays a mercantile tax.

23 That's when the hours were
24 established because there weren't any
25 parades at night. Now, now maybe during the

1 Italian festival they wouldn't be out
2 because the courthouse square that would be
3 at night, but these are -- that's what the
4 ordinance was originally intended for.

5 When the ordinance came down from
6 the solicitor's office I reviewed it, it
7 didn't have the specific section to the
8 ordinance. I looked up the ordinance and it
9 said that the amendments that were to be
10 made should be made to those specific
11 sections and I raised the issue where they
12 said for the food trucks to be within no
13 more than 500 feet of any mercantile -- any
14 business that pays a mercantile tax in the
15 city. What that would have done, there
16 wouldn't have been any food trucks in
17 downtown Scranton because it wasn't just
18 wasn't restaurants. It stated that any
19 business that pay a mercantile tax.

20 That was one of my comments that it
21 should be limited just to any restaurant.
22 The 500 feet was excessive because that
23 would have in effect outlawed or prohibit,
24 not outlaw, but would outlaw, any food
25 trucks within downtown Scranton, and I gave

1 this memo to council to review when I sent
2 it up to Mr. Kelly.

3 So that they just put in the same
4 hours, you know, one half hour before
5 sunset, sunset in the morning, because that
6 would be a typical, most of your parades so
7 we could still leave, I say "we", I could
8 recommend that that could still be there for
9 those type of vendors, but when it comes to
10 the food trucks, food carts, that should be
11 a separate area. It has nothing to do with
12 those type of vendors that only come during
13 the time when there is parades.

14 So I just wanted to comment on that
15 because, as you said, you got your permit
16 six years ago, there really was no ordinance
17 covering that, you know, covering the food
18 trucks. This is just a recent development
19 and I think council should be aware of that,
20 also. I do have that in my memo, that's
21 where the one hour or the half hour before
22 sunset, you know, sunset in the morning
23 until half hour before sunset that's where
24 that came in, okay?

25 MS. EVANS: Okay, thank you.

1 MS. YAMIN: Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: You're welcome. Our
3 next speaker is David Dobrzyn.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
5 Dobrzyn.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: I had a question on
8 7-C, D and E would that potentially come
9 with an ex post facto where somebody decides
10 whether it's logical to foreign business and
11 they put time and effort into it and then
12 somehow something comes along that changes
13 that and makes it unprofitable. I also
14 expressed with evening festivals and so
15 forth I had concerns about that or having
16 purchased food off the trucks. I could have
17 walked two or three blocks to a restaurant
18 but the truck was right there and what they
19 did have was pretty decent and a attractive.

20 And I have a little complaint about
21 the current campaign, signs were taken off
22 my curb of two people sitting on that panel
23 right there their signs are missing, at
24 least one of them, and it disgusts me and if
25 I ever catch somebody, well, they might want

1 to know karate. It won't do them any good
2 with me. Thank you. It's really disgusting
3 and it throws suspicion on people that are
4 probably innocent, also.

5 And I'd like to note on 6-A if that
6 Duffy monument is affected, Sergeant Duffy
7 at Duffy Park, if that involves Duffy Park
8 we should get compensation to move that
9 monument because \$20,000 doesn't sound like
10 much if we have to move that monument out of
11 there, find another home for it or
12 something, so that the guy, the Word War I
13 doughboy throwing the hand grenade. My dog
14 always used to growl at that. He thought
15 somebody was throwing a rock at him or
16 something. It was hilarious.

17 And I also like to note my fourth
18 comment is the Parking authority. Now, a
19 lot of this has blamed our bond rating has
20 gone with you people. You know, now here we
21 were borrowing without authority, we had an
22 attorney here advising the Parking Authority
23 principal not to answer your questions like
24 it was some kind of court of law and I think
25 it's time that some people lighten up on you

1 people. Yeah, we have a lot of crises but I
2 know where they came from and I have a good
3 memory and I'm patient and maybe that's --

4 And also on No. 5 on potholes, now,
5 just a few months ago this block was not
6 paved here on Mulberry Street. I don't know
7 what number is, but they were holding up for
8 utility work. Well, it seemed like it
9 wasn't a month and I went by the fire
10 situation, there is a big divot in the
11 street and whatever slop they threw in the
12 hole was supposed to do, but none of our
13 potholes are suitable, and I don't even care
14 if they waste money paving the street if
15 they are just going to come and tear it up
16 again. We have to start getting after all
17 of the utilities to make them repair
18 correctly and seal afterwards because if
19 they leave the cut and the water gets down
20 in there it's a waste of money, waste of
21 money, and I'm tired of seeing it. It's
22 just totally disgusting.

23 A couple of weeks there must be a
24 half a dozen places where Mulberry Street
25 was repaired, and they are very poor

1 repairs, and it's right up and down the
2 street all the way up the street towards CMC
3 so check it out for yourself some time.

4 Now, we have a situation and it's
5 part national and part local, 501-C-4's,
6 exempt on public welfare, so if I want to
7 set up a library or I want to set up a
8 homeless shelter or a shelter for battered
9 women I'm supposed to be tax exempt. Well,
10 now these political organizations moved in
11 because in 1959 they changed it to primarily
12 instead of exclusively public welfare, and I
13 have this to give you and they get the bawk,
14 bawk, bawk, this week because personally I
15 don't think that they should have any tax
16 exemptions for any political activity.
17 Thank you. I have to give 20 percent of the
18 money before I come to your rally to the
19 government.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

22 MR. DOBRZYN: I hope I didn't spill
23 nothing on you there, Frank. Thank you and
24 have a good night.

25 MR. SCRANTON: You, also. John

1 Robinson.

2 MR. ROBINSON: Good evening,
3 everyone.

4 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

5 MR. ROBINSON: Glad to meet you all
6 in person, I'm always watching you guys on
7 TV, I appreciate you all's hard work. My
8 name is John Robinson, I'm a property owner
9 and I'm food vendor for over eight and I pay
10 mercantile tax as well.

11 Today is May 16, 2013, the City of
12 Scranton had a very good opportunity to step
13 outside the box, to be open minded to some
14 changes. The diversity of the residents in
15 the city as well as the added food vendors
16 in the city is an example of the changes
17 that are needed and wanted and will benefit
18 all of Scranton.

19 Food vendors, like restaurants, buys
20 goods and supplies from other businesses in
21 the city, and sometimes we even need to hire
22 help. Restaurants on some blocks are right
23 next to each other. One business do not
24 effect the other. Vendors are not in front
25 of restaurants and so being even 25 feet

1 away would not effect any restaurants.
2 People need to have choices and the people
3 will choose to go where they want to go
4 regardless of what you guys decide to do.

5 We need to give people more choices
6 to eat. That's one of the -- brings in
7 business for the city. The more businesses,
8 whether it be a food truck, restaurant or
9 what have you will increase business and
10 less choices there will be less business.

11 You mentioned early about leveling
12 the playing field and I agree with that. It
13 is time to level the playing field. Some
14 restaurants get city funding to open their
15 businesses, so I understand the city may
16 have a vested interest in the restaurants.
17 I didn't receive any funding, I didn't
18 receive any loan, I didn't borrow no money
19 from my parents, I was just vigilant in what
20 I wanted to do and I worked very hard to do
21 it.

22 A little over eight years ago I had
23 a vision to start my business, and I did,
24 and I also had a vision to do it at night
25 when the clubs closed. There were no

1 restaurants open at that time, there was no
2 other vendors at that time. Eight years
3 later there are many vendors and there are
4 lots of people who appreciate us being out
5 there. Lots of people. And it's at the
6 courthouse so, I mean, it's in a safe
7 environment and people do appreciate us.

8 Like I said, there were no
9 restaurants open after 10 p.m., now
10 restaurants want to have a part of that
11 business and that's their choice, but I have
12 a problem with them having that choice and
13 us not having the choice to stay. When is
14 enough going to be enough? I believe that
15 city down need to really take a look at
16 looking out for us little guys, the people
17 who are not part of the establishment,
18 people who work hard, obey the law and
19 basically just want a fair share. We just
20 want a fair share of the American dream and
21 the possibility of even opening up a
22 restaurant.

23 In closing, there are a lot of
24 special events at the courthouse. I don't
25 know really the ins and outs of how they get

1 their passes or vendor license or whatever,
2 but the courthouse it is county property as
3 I understand, right? It's county property
4 and so I think to say that the courthouse
5 should be off limit for city vendors would
6 be a discredit to the vendors and the city.
7 The courthouse should be open to the vendors
8 because it's been done for years. It's
9 always done for special events and if it can
10 be done for them, it should be done for us.

11 So basically that's all I have, you
12 know, and I appreciate your time.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.
14 That concludes our sign-in sheet, is there
15 anyone else would like to address council?

16 MR. O'MAST: Josh O'Mast, local
17 business owner. Thank you for tabling the
18 food truck tonight. I am reading this
19 actually on behalf of Scranton Tomorrow and
20 what was sent over. So on behalf of
21 Scranton Tomorrow I thank you for the
22 opportunity to speak to you this evening.
23 Over the past month Scranton Tomorrow
24 Scranton Tomorrow has met and facilitated
25 numerous meetings with the members of the

1 restaurant and food vendor. Scranton
2 Tomorrow began by reviewing and educating
3 the group and the current ordinance with the
4 assistance of Mr. Mark Seitzinger, Director
5 or Licensing, Inspection and Permits.

6 We then reviewed and openly
7 discussed the recent proposed ordinance.
8 The meetings were a great example of the
9 power of open dialogue. We found that both
10 groups had valid issues, concerns and
11 suggestions. Scranton Tomorrow documented
12 the issues raised by both groups and
13 systematically facilitated a respectful and
14 in-depth conversation.

15 Yesterday, Scranton Tomorrow
16 facilitated the final meeting of both
17 groups. Approximately 20 individuals were
18 in attendance. The meeting focused on
19 finalizing a piece of proposal for the
20 review and approval of Scranton's mayor and
21 city council. This meeting was viewed as a
22 successful outcome by those present. The
23 process is to have both the brick-and-mortar
24 businesses and the food vendor operators to
25 work collectively. This newly formed

1 respect has already developed into a
2 meaningful and economically positive
3 partnerships.

4 The following items are proposed and
5 we respectfully ask that you approve on
6 behalf of the restaurant owners and food
7 vendor operators:

8 Distance. Vendors must be at least
9 100 feet from the restaurant service area
10 and public ingress and egress. The service
11 area shall extend outdoors, as permitted,
12 through the encroachment ordinance which
13 would have been passed by council. This
14 rule will apply 24 hours a day, seven days
15 week. For the description and
16 clarifications needed, should rule apply to
17 the facilities with health licenses.
18 Currently Rite Aid applies because they sell
19 food and beverage, but not prepared food.
20 This is a question.

21 Penalties for not abiding by the
22 ordinance. Health violation. A food truck
23 should incur the same fine structures as
24 restaurants. Both operates with retail food
25 facilities licenses.

1 Distance violation. First time
2 should be a warning, written and documented;
3 second time a 500 feet will be imposed o
4 those who are cited for noncompliance of
5 this ordinance.

6 Private property. If a food truck
7 vendor is operating on a privately owned
8 parking lot the 100 foot rule will not
9 apply. The property owner or vendor must
10 notify the Department of LIPS in writing
11 approving the operation of the vendor and
12 the property owner to avoid compliance
13 issues.

14 License and fee. All food vendors
15 will pay \$250 annually. If parking at
16 public meters, they must abide by the
17 Scranton Parking Authority meter rules and
18 regulations.

19 Hours of operation. We would like
20 to rewrite the entire section, remove the
21 half hour after sundown to 8 a.m. clause and
22 replace with the following:

23 Vendors may operate 24 hours a day,
24 seven days a week. The vendor must vacate
25 the space upon conclusion of the business

1 day or evening. Therefore, they may not
2 vehicles, carts, etcetera on the streets
3 overnight. Define conclusion of business in
4 the space.

5 Additional items not within the
6 scope of this ordinance were discussed and
7 brought to the attention of the city
8 solicitor for future discussion and
9 clarification.

10 On behalf of Scranton Tomorrow and
11 the businesses that participated in this
12 process, I thank for your attention to this
13 matter. Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you. Is there
15 anyone else who cares to address council.

16 MR. MCGOFF: I just want to add one
17 thing, where they had under hours of
18 operation, may it be better, the concern for
19 the 24/7 or a concern for the 8 a.m. or
20 whatever clause was overnight parking, and I
21 think one way that we can avoid that is just
22 put in a clause that says that the truck can
23 only be there -- can only be in metered
24 space at the meters during their hours of
25 operation.

1 So as soon as -- as long as you are
2 open and serving food you can be at a meter.
3 Once you stop serving food, it has to be
4 removed. I think that would be easier to
5 understand than putting in certain hours,
6 but it's something that we will consider.
7 Thank you. That was all.

8 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
9 Is there anyone else who cares to address
10 council?

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
12 citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians.

13 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: Last week I
15 mentioned this parking meter contract and
16 they mentioned 60,000, but no one up there
17 said that 60,000 is only for one year.
18 Otherwise, they are not planning to pay for
19 the meters. I teach in -- in other words,
20 remember that piece of legislation that came
21 down where we pay for cars, the people doing
22 the -- writing the citations and the meters
23 and this and that and whatever, this is
24 coming again. This contract is useless and
25 there is no reason why we couldn't do this

1 in-house, no way in heck we couldn't do it
2 in-house. Surely there must be someone in
3 the administration that has enough brains to
4 handle 50 -- what was it, 11 or 12 citations
5 issuers, something like that. It ain't that
6 many -- or eight, something in that
7 neighborhood. And there is a guy who runs
8 the whole police department, there is a guy
9 who runs the whole fire department, but we
10 don't have a person qualified to oversee
11 eight meter maids or whoever the citation
12 issuers are, male or female. His thing is--
13 you know what it's going to be. It's going
14 to cost us thousands and thousands of
15 dollars more than we have to pay. There is
16 nothing wrong with a dollar a meter. That
17 to me is already high enough and a lot of
18 you, you talk about people being pushed away
19 from meters, when the lady was here she said
20 she fed the meters at the stores. Many of
21 them meters that is being utilized are being
22 utilized by employees of different stores,
23 not by the public. And the reason why, you
24 know why, the Parking Authority is too darn
25 high.

1 But I don't see why we should be get
2 into another contract. We don't need
3 contracts, we need people with brains.
4 That's what we need. We need an open,
5 honest and efficient government, and these
6 things are lacking to say that we were going
7 to vote on that RFP for \$60,000 for one man
8 or one nothing, you don't even know what you
9 are going to be cover because the meter that
10 is not there, remember the lady that said,
11 "Where's the meat?"

12 Well, where's the meat in this
13 legislation that's going to come down here?
14 You should get on the ball, get a look and
15 find out what all the little things are.
16 Ask up there, order up there, request up
17 there or like their -- some of the people
18 would say subpoena them. But you got to get
19 answers before it comes before you because
20 they are always coming in with these stupid
21 emergency certificates. We are in dire
22 trouble with money so we are going to pass
23 this thing and lose hundreds and hundreds
24 and thousands of dollars that we don't need
25 to lose. The Parking Authorities is a lost

1 cause. As soon as it gets through your mind
2 it's a lost cause we can move on. We are
3 stuck with it. I would ask the people to
4 resign long ago but you sat up there and
5 said they're fellow Democrats, why should we
6 ask them to resign? Rogan was the only one
7 that made sense to ask our business manager
8 to resign. He should have because he didn't
9 present a good case. True he is not a
10 lawyer, but he has all these lawyers behind.

11 But look at what's happening \$60,000
12 to run these parking meters when you know
13 there is a lot of additional costs that's
14 going to be borne by the taxpayers of
15 Scranton. It doesn't make sense. Look
16 around, find somebody that can do it -- we
17 used to do it. We did to for many, may
18 years, but for some reason or other the
19 Parking Authority got into trouble and you
20 know why and that's why went through all
21 this other garbage.

22 Look around amongst the people that
23 you have in-house, surely there must be a
24 person there that can do it. It's not too
25 complicated to oversee eight people or ten

1 people. I remember some of my friends used
2 to go out and collect the money, you see
3 them collecting the money with the little
4 cart where you'd dump it in, like, something
5 like a transit company where you couldn't
6 open, nobody could steal it, but that was
7 done years and years ago. Why we got away
8 from it probably for the Parking Authority
9 they needed money and they needed another
10 source of money and we gave them that
11 source. Why do you want to back to that
12 deal?

13 The parking meters are ours, they
14 are independent of the parking garages for
15 anybody that tries to combine them is the
16 wrong way to go. All it is a giveaway.
17 Okay, I won't talk no more on it. Thank ou.

18 MR. EVANS: Thank you.

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
20 council. Marie Schumacher. Resident and
21 taxpayer.

22 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: I was late coming
25 tonight but I understand that you have

1 tabled 7-C through E.

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: And I wonder if
4 that is the proper procedure prior to Fifth
5 Order to table a motion?

6 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff made the
7 request of me to make the motion early on in
8 the meeting in order that the public would
9 be aware because we had so many food vendors
10 that were present this evening and to
11 alleviate their fears I agreed with him that
12 it would be done at the beginning of the
13 meeting. I don't think it's going to make
14 any type of difference in the action.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: It is precedent
16 setting however. Now, I'll move onto
17 several weeks ago legislation passed to
18 remove parking meters from the corner of
19 Penn and Vine -- or Linden, and I came by
20 there the other day and all of those parking
21 spaces were occupied by cars except the only
22 difference is now they are parking without
23 paying a parking fee. I think that part of
24 our problem is we are pennywise and pound
25 foolish. In the old days, I remember the

1 "No Parking" curbs, when we still had curbs,
2 used to be painted another color so it was
3 clear there was no parking and I must admit
4 if I hadn't been at the meeting here and I
5 saw a pole without a head it was a parking
6 space to me, I would park there as well. So
7 I think when we totally decide that it is
8 "No Parking" that some means has to be done
9 to mark those as "No Parking" and then we
10 have to start enforcing some of our rules.

11 I used to laugh, when I lived in
12 Virginia and I came home and would stop at
13 this one stop sign it would say "STOP" and
14 then underneath somebody had written, "And
15 Pray" and I thought it was sort of funny.
16 The parking is so bad people park sometimes
17 out into the street and that's exactly what
18 you have to do. If you don't -- your field
19 of view is totally obliterated and you sort
20 of just have to inch out and if you get
21 creamed I guess you get creamed.

22 Several months ago now I brought an
23 idea to council and I don't think anything
24 has been done with it. I think it was the
25 mayor of Carbondale, but I'm not sure,

1 deputized some people to -- they were at --
2 in this instance they were firefighters who
3 were not working to go out and do traffic
4 citations of the police nature, parking in
5 front of fire hydrants and all of the
6 things. We are missing not only -- not only
7 are we doing a disservice to our people by
8 making them when they are in this town think
9 that that's normal for any other city and
10 then they go out of town and they get
11 clobbered with a traffic violation because
12 Scranton is unique and I think it's time we
13 start ticketing people, and I don't think it
14 would take too long for people to get smart
15 and stop doing some of these things that are
16 really terrible, and I think that needs to
17 be investigated further.

18 The next item I have is sort of what
19 the same thing Mr. Dobrzyn spoke of which is
20 the statute on the property I believe you
21 are selling to PennDOT. I know the price is
22 higher than the CRL times the assessment of
23 that property, but I wonder since the old
24 bridge is going to be maintained until the
25 new one is up and then I assume that road,

1 urge you to table that until we find out
2 what becomes of that monument so that it
3 can, and maybe the money has to go towards
4 that and it's a big heavy thing and I think
5 the first priority should be to find a place
6 to store it until the project is completed
7 and bring it back or if there is a place to
8 store it to where PennDOT is not going to
9 use it on the other side of Harrison Avenue
10 to move it now. But I don't think that's
11 going to be cheap, and I think that should
12 be the first priority.

13 And now moving onto another sort of
14 miss, I don't know if it's -- well, I guess
15 it's wasted manpower. I heard one, and I
16 would give attribution if I remembered which
17 one it was, but I've been to too many
18 debates now, if I may complete this thought
19 I'll bring the rest back next week, and that
20 is 10 percent of the people who are eligible
21 or should pay the trash fee do not pay so we
22 are only collecting 90 percent and this -- a
23 woman when I was done at Boscov's trying to
24 help the economy and the city along stopped
25 me and talked and she spoke again, I don't

1 recall the city or the Borough, but they
2 actually have placards that you get and you
3 put a new, like, your license so you get a
4 new one for every year that you put over and
5 it shows that your tax is paid, and I don't
6 think we should be collecting trash from
7 people who aren't paying their trash fee.
8 It's that simple. And they could get done a
9 lot faster and maybe the collections would
10 go up a lot more if we didn't service people
11 without them paying so I'll be back next
12 week with the rest of them. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: And please remind
16 people to vote next Tuesday. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Ms. Carrera, if we can
18 send a letter regarding I believe it's Penn
19 and Linden where the parking meters were
20 removed for the installation of the
21 privately owned parking lot that "No
22 Parking" signs need to be erected in that
23 area.

24 And, also, if we can please send a
25 letter to the mayor the DPW head regarding

1 the Duffy monument, what the plans are for
2 the monument, if it can be stored if so
3 where and we would like a response to that
4 prior to next week's meeting, please.

5 Is there anyone else?

6 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
7 Doug Miller, Scranton. I'd just like to
8 begin this evening by going back and
9 discussing the pools. I'm pleased to learn
10 last week we were all informed by Councilman
11 Joyce that, in fact, this summer we can look
12 forward to Novembrino Pool being opened over
13 in West Side as well as Connell Park, Weston
14 Park, Weston Field and Nay Aug Park.
15 Obviously it's been a long time coming and
16 obviously we're hopeful that some of the
17 funding still goes through, but as
18 Councilman Joyce alluded to last week it
19 does look like that will come into fruition
20 and thankfully the children won't suffer
21 another summer. I don't think anybody has
22 been as passionate as I have from this
23 podium about that year after year, so I give
24 a lot of credit to Councilman Joyce for
25 spearheading those efforts and reaching out

1 to the mayor and finally getting that done,
2 so I do want to commend the councilman.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 MR. MILLER: I'd like to just
5 briefly discuss, I normally don't get into
6 things I see in the paper, and I have a lot
7 of respect for this individual, a letter to
8 the editor that I did come across yesterday
9 from Mr. Jackowitz, and I do have a lot of
10 respect for Mr. Jackowitz, he has been
11 coming here for many years as myself and he
12 has expressed his opinions on a wide variety
13 of issues, but, you know, I just have to
14 take issue with his editorial because I find
15 a lot of it to be very misleading and
16 unfactual.

17 I don't think it's fair to make a
18 statement that, you know, the residents, and
19 particularly the candidates who are running
20 for office in the city don't realize how bad
21 the mayor and the council are going to leave
22 the city financially. I think those are
23 very misleading statements to make and,
24 quite frankly, unfair statement to make.

25 I think anyone who was paid

1 attention, close attention to what's been
2 going on in the city recently would know
3 quite well that this council didn't cause
4 the problem, anybody that's been coming here
5 for years, as I have, anybody that's been
6 paying attention and listening would know
7 that for the last year you have been
8 fighting vigorously to prevent a lot of
9 these massive tax increases and the massive
10 layoffs from possibly coming into play and,
11 you know, when we take a trip back to the
12 summer, because that's pretty much where we
13 always go back to and fall back to last
14 August, throughout that whole recovery plan
15 process if we paid attention we would know
16 that this council's opinion has been ignored
17 on several occasions by the Pennsylvania
18 Economy League and this administration, and
19 you were pretty much held hostage in certain
20 instances in terms of we all remember when
21 PEL offered us that grant and that loan and
22 basically it was if you put our recovery
23 plan and pass it we will give you what you
24 want, and you weren't going to fall for
25 that, you weren't going to be bullied

1 because that was the step, that was the
2 action and the philosophy you took when you
3 came into office. You weren't going to be
4 bullied and you weren't going to allow PEL
5 and the administration to push you around.
6 You very easily could have given in.

7 I'm sure the last council majority
8 would have given in because they are the
9 council that has caused the mess we are in,
10 and I think when we talk about whether or
11 not the candidates not understanding where
12 we are if they are going to realize that
13 council left us in a bad spot, my fear is
14 that it's the complete opposite. My
15 question is do some of these candidates that
16 are seeking office, no particular
17 candidates, but do some of the candidates
18 even have an idea of where we stand because
19 we hear an awful lot about cooperation and a
20 lot of other things that they seem to just
21 battle about, but do they really have an
22 understanding of what's going on because you
23 never see any of them down here so it's hard
24 for me to imagine that they have a clear
25 understanding of where the city truly stands

1 at this point in time.

2 And when we want to talk about
3 criticizing the council, as I said, we can
4 easily give in and pass PEL's plan, the
5 mayor's plan, raise taxes 80, 90, 100
6 percent and really and really stuff it to
7 the taxpayers, so when we come up to this
8 podium and we make those comments I think we
9 need to really sit back and think how lucky
10 we are to have this council because you were
11 the only ones that stood in-between a
12 massive tax increase and massive layoffs and
13 we could snicker and talk in the audience
14 all we want, but I think we'll all be
15 laughing next year at this time when we have
16 a new council majority who, unfortunately, I
17 don't feel, you know, I truly believe that
18 we are going to be really sorry next year at
19 this time because I think we might have
20 taken for granted what we have here. This
21 is history here and we are not going to see
22 this again because for the last year and
23 half we have had three people working
24 tirelessly on behalf of the residents of
25 this city, and yeah, ou took criticism.

1 You know, one thing I know from
2 coming here is you're never going to please
3 everyone, no matter what decision is it you
4 make, you are never going to please anyone,
5 and that's when it comes the time -- when
6 it's time for people to step up, but we want
7 to be critical, we want to say no to
8 everything and you don't have any plans
9 ourselves and we think everything is so easy.

10 And that's what really gets me, too,
11 is throughout this whole process for the
12 last year and a half particularly everything
13 is so easy. There is so many people. And I
14 really wish it was. We all think we can
15 just snap our finger and we're going to turn
16 everything around. We think, oh, we need to
17 make cuts, we need to do this, we need to
18 cut salaries. It's so easy, isn't it? If
19 it was that easy then I think we would have
20 done that.

21 But as we said, there is only so
22 much we can cut. We did everything we could
23 to avoid bankruptcy and I want to make it
24 quite clear, and another misleading comment,
25 yeah, you will lose your services if a

1 receiver comes in. You will have massive
2 tax increases, you will have less police and
3 firemen on the street and your garbage will
4 not be collected and I think the residents
5 need to realize that, so when we take a look
6 back in time you made tough decision,
7 difficult decisions, but we are better off
8 than we were four years ago and I think it's
9 something I think we are all going to be
10 sorry because I do have a scary feeling that
11 we are, unfortunately going to go back in
12 time with the old politics and I just hope
13 the voters in this town come out Tuesday and
14 make some hard choices because we can't
15 afford to go back in time, we need to move
16 forward and there is only more difficult
17 decisions to make down the road, so thank
18 you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MS. CHILIPKO: Good evening,
21 Council. Mary Chilipko, resident of the
22 City of Scranton and it's a shame that it's
23 all come to this. I know you tried to
24 intervene, Mr. McGoff, thank you, as far as
25 political rhetoric.

1 I just want to come here on behalf
2 of the Pinebrook Neighborhood Association
3 because I don't see any mention of the
4 Capouse Avenue or Pennridge Complex in the
5 plans for opening the pools this summer. I
6 don't know if this mayor forgot about them
7 or abandoned it.

8 MR. JOYCE: No, it hasn't been
9 forgotten about or abandoned, I did ask the
10 mayor about opening all pools in the city
11 and, unfortunately, this a pool that needs
12 serious repairs.

13 MS. CHILIPKO: And?

14 MR. JOYCE: Pardon.

15 MS. CHILIPKO: And?

16 MR. JOYCE: And, unfortunately, we
17 don't have the funds right now to use out of
18 the RE-RE account to repair the pool and
19 open it is what I was told.

20 MS. CHILIPKO: Okay, well, since you
21 speak to the mayor now frequently if you
22 could please just go back to him and just
23 let him know that the residents of the area
24 will work hard to get that pool reopened. I
25 think that at this point there probably

1 repairs that need to be made at the
2 Novembrino Pool and I'd just hate to see our
3 neighborhood -- I'm glad for any
4 neighborhood or any pool that is being
5 opened this summer. I would hate to see our
6 Capouse Avenue pool be left out and we will
7 work hard.

8 I hear people talking about the
9 little guy tonight. I know legislation has
10 been tabled, but I actually stopped down and
11 I did see, I believe her name is Joan her
12 ran food truck, Mr. Hughes -- Attorney
13 Hughes explained the part about the sunset
14 rule and she was just setting up around 8:00
15 and she was setting up in front of
16 Mulligan's and the Back Yard Ale House so I
17 don't -- I did not see any kind of problem.
18 I wish I could work that hard, I really do.

19 The little guy has a history of
20 getting knocked around in Scranton and it's
21 nice to see that they are starting to stand
22 up for themselves, become educated. I heard
23 a gentleman mentioned something to him that
24 some of the restaurants may have city money,
25 as we call it, involved with them. I'm glad

1 residents and small business people are
2 becoming educated. It's time for the little
3 guy to rise.

4 I do only have one more question
5 tonight, is Mr. Miller a counsel for school
6 director or city council?

7 MS. EVANS: He is here, you can ask
8 him after you're seated.

9 MS. CHILIPKO: Okay. Thank you,
10 Council.

11 MS. EVANS: You're welcome.

12 MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus, Scranton.

13 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

14 MS. FRANUS: Good evening. About
15 two weeks ago I attended a Court hearing
16 that Joe Pilchesky filed a lawsuit against
17 Bill Courtright, the tax collector. It was
18 in front of Judge Mazzone at the courthouse.
19 I was really stunned at this hearing, I was
20 rather shocked. Billy Courtright, the tax
21 collector, he ran for office 3 1/2 years
22 ago. He ran on the platform, one of this
23 biggest claims to get elected, was he would
24 stop commingling the monies. It's 3 1/2
25 years and he is still commingling funds. He

1 said he doesn't have enough time, it takes a
2 lot of time. I think 3 1/3 years is
3 sufficient. We liked the voters back then.

4 Now, he had all these employees
5 intact from January 2010 through January 30,
6 2012, the only reason he lost the employees
7 halfway thru 2012 was the state law changed
8 and he was no longer allowed to collect the
9 wage tax. Those employees were in charge of
10 wage tax collection. What I can't
11 understand it's a state law and Judge
12 Mazzoni was asking him, "Is this something
13 that always took place?"

14 And they said, "Yes, it always has."

15 But that doesn't make it right.
16 Just because the District Attorney and
17 Lackawanna County and law enforcement people
18 or judges didn't enforce this law doesn't
19 mean it's not a law and it wasn't enforced
20 probably because of politics and it may not
21 be again.

22 So it's a two-year prison sentence
23 and a \$5,000 fine and/or a \$5,000 fine and
24 he is just not even considering it. Joe
25 Pilchesky offered him the chance right there

1 and then in front of Judge Mazzone if he
2 would say that day at the hearing if he
3 would stop commingling the funds from that
4 day forward, if he would start to do it the
5 right way and also to use the city lawyer
6 like he is supposed to instead of hiring his
7 own lawyer he would just drop this lawsuit
8 and it would all go away and through his
9 lawyer, Attorney Abrahamsen, he said no, he
10 would not do that. He said no, he would not
11 stop commingling funds and he would not use
12 the city lawyer.

13 He had a chance to say, yes, I will
14 do that much. He said it would take too
15 long. Well, I think 3 1/2 years is long
16 enough. I find it amazing that he complies
17 with the state law regarding notifying Ms.
18 Randol about starting negative campaigns
19 against her, but yet he won't comply with
20 the state law saying he can't commingle
21 funds? I think it's outrageous. This is
22 the man someone wants to vote for mayor, I
23 don't think so nor do some of the people
24 because I looked at some of my tapes of the
25 previous council meetings and just some of

1 the votes that he -- just a couple of the
2 votes that he voted for --

3 MR. MCGOFF: Ms. Evans, I'm going to
4 reiterate that I think this is inappropriate
5 from the podium because I know you said you
6 wouldn't allow it and I just wanted to state
7 that.

8 MS. EVANS: And I thank you. But
9 again, everyone has a First Amendment Right
10 to free speech.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Understood.

12 MS. EVANS: And whether we agree
13 with them, whether we like what they are
14 saying or not they have that right and I
15 granted that right to many other speakers
16 tonight and every other night and so I can't
17 selectively enforce.

18 MS. FRANUS: Bill Courtright voted
19 yes to the mayor's borrowing and budget in
20 2005. He voted yes to the Parking Authority
21 borrowing, \$35 million. He voted to bail
22 out the Hilton Hotel and lost \$3 million for
23 the city on the deal. He sat there on the
24 fence and waffled on every issue except the
25 ones for change in the police unions, which

1 is another thing he is doing now, he is
2 still not publically endorsing the police or
3 firemen because he knows the people in
4 Scranton, most of the people in the city are
5 not union people. They don't like the pays
6 that the unions get, so he would lose votes
7 if he pubically supported them or said he
8 was for them, but make no mistakes, he is
9 behind them all the way.

10 So that's about it. I just wanted
11 to say about the food trucks. I think they
12 are wonderful. I think they give a lot to
13 the people that don't have time to go to
14 restaurants or don't want to get dressed up
15 or just going by. I think 400 feet is
16 sufficient. I don't think it should be any
17 further away. That would hurt them and it's
18 not right and competition is great and their
19 food is wonderful and I think you should
20 really consider this for the betterment of
21 the people in this city. The more
22 businesses the better for everybody. Thank
23 you very much.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
25 anyone else? Mrs. Krake?

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

2 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
3 you have any comments or motions tonight?

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, I do. I failed to
5 mention one announcement early. This
6 weekend will be the second annual Scranton
7 Celtic Festival to be held at Montage
8 Mountain Saturday and Sunday.
9 Entertainment, food, vendors and all things
10 Celtic. Last year was the first year, it
11 was a great success. Hopefully more people
12 will attend this year. It can be a great
13 event.

14 On Monday, I contacted Mark Dougher
15 and asked him about the situation at Pike
16 Street that Mr. Galdieri had spoke about
17 last week. He did say that he feels that
18 this is a legitimate concern. The reason it
19 has not been paid is a matter, and I'll give
20 you his answer, I'm not asking that anybody
21 necessarily like it, that it was a matter of
22 priority and money for not paving it, but
23 that he said that he would go out to Pike
24 Street, take a look at it again and see if
25 there is anything that can be done to help

1 alleviate the problem. Hopefully he will
2 do, hopefully something can be done in the
3 near future.

4 As far as the food truck and
5 restaurant meetings, I think that it is a
6 great example of what open, honest dialogue
7 can done to resolve a situation. I would
8 extend my thanks to Leslie Collins and
9 Scranton Tomorrow for facilitating the
10 meetings that were held and preparing the
11 recommendations that where presented to us
12 for our perusal.

13 I think that is the way in which you
14 go about resolving problems. Get the
15 parties together, sit down and have an open
16 dialogue about it and I'm glad that this
17 worked out and I think we have a number of
18 things to look at and good suggestions that
19 are workable and hopefully we can implement
20 into the situation so we can move forward
21 with that.

22 Rental registration, that was not
23 asked tonight and I actually had some
24 answers. To date there have been 1,220
25 rental registrations. There are less than

1 responsibility and if he feels that is their
2 responsibility.

3 I'm also going to hopefully contact
4 the Single Tax Office after next week's
5 election when perhaps things will be settled
6 down a little bit more to determine, you
7 know, what needs to be done as far as that
8 is concerned.

9 And one last thing, if we have any
10 lists of paving requests for the night I
11 would just like to, if you would, put one
12 request on for me, Mrs. Krake, the 9 and ten
13 hundred blocks of Clay Avenue. I was asked
14 if I would mention that.

15 And again, as was said before,
16 hopefully people will -- this is an
17 important election. Even though it is a
18 primary election there are a number of
19 issues that are very significant to the City
20 of Scranton and to Lackawanna County and I
21 would encourage everyone, all registered
22 voters to go out and to make your opinions
23 known through the electoral process so that
24 we can have a reasonable idea of what the
25 people of Lackawanna County and the people

1 of Scranton truly want. And that's all.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
3 And, Councilman Rogan, do you have any
4 comments or motions?

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes, very briefly. Just
6 one matter of business first, I see Mr.
7 Loscombe is not here tonight and Item 7-F is
8 under the Public Safety and so I would like
9 to make a motion to appoint Mr. Joyce as the
10 temporary Chair for the Committee on Public
11 Safety.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

15 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

18 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
19 have it and so moved.

20 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Just one
21 item to speak on tonight and a few requests,
22 and this is an idea that one of the speakers
23 brought up tonight, it was brought to my
24 attention that Jackson Street in West
25 Scranton has been recently paved using the

1 funding that council allocated from the CDBG
2 funding from paving. The road was paved,
3 nice and smooth, it looks great. About a
4 week later it was marked up. There was
5 spray paint on the roads, looked like
6 somebody was about to do road work and then
7 we see the article in the paper I believe
8 two days ago about the water company
9 replacing hundred year old lines; and
10 certainly we like to see the lines replaced,
11 but I don't know who dropped the ball on the
12 communication between the water company and
13 the city or if this is something that PPL
14 decided to do after the road was paved
15 which, I don't think this is the case, these
16 things seem to be planned out years ahead of
17 time.

18 You know, with resources so scarce
19 the way they are today and so many roads in
20 the city that need to be paved it is
21 frustrating that we paved the road that is
22 going to be torn up in a few months.

23 Mrs. Krake, could we please send a
24 letter to few department head actually, to
25 the mayor, Mr. Dougher, asking who is in

1 charge of checking with utilities to see if
2 they are going to do the road before a
3 street is placed on the city paving list and
4 this is something that is upsetting this
5 time, but it can't happen again. With the
6 very small amount of money we have for
7 paving we need to make sure we are paving
8 the roads that aren't going to be touched by
9 utilities.

10 For instance, on Bromley Avenue,
11 there are three or four blocks on Bromley
12 that new gas lines were installed a few
13 years ago and the road was so torn up
14 afterwards the utility agreed to repave the
15 road, which is great. We don't want to pave
16 that road with city -- actually federal
17 dollars appropriated to the city and then
18 having a utility repave it when we could be
19 paving other roads.

20 Just a few citizens' requests. I
21 ran into a resident from Cherry Street over
22 the weekend who mentioned to me that there
23 is a lot, it's located either at 533 or 535
24 Cherry Street that is overgrown with weeds,
25 bushes, things of that nature. We contacted

1 the city to see who's responsible for
2 cleaning it up and he was told that it was
3 actually a county-owned property.

4 So, Mrs. Krake, can we please notify
5 the county commissioners of this issue and
6 hopefully they can address for the residents
7 in that area.

8 Finally, two more issues. We
9 received a very long list of potholes to be
10 sent to Mr. Dougher. The majority of these
11 are in South Scranton and East Mountain, I
12 won't read them all off, but there are a
13 half a dozen or a dozen here.

14 And also two requests from two
15 separate residents that had issues, they are
16 working on with Licensing and Inspections
17 and they haven't been able to get ahold of
18 somebody by phone. Now, I have been told by
19 from people in the department that there has
20 been a problem with the phones in Licensing
21 and Inspections so could we please send the
22 two requests here to Mr. Dougher -- or, I'm
23 sorry, to Mr. Seitzinger and also ask if
24 phones in LIPS are working correctly for
25 outside calls so residents can get in touch

1 with city inspectors and the directors as
2 well.

3 And finally, I would just like to
4 encourage everyone to come out and vote on
5 Tuesday, May 21. The polls are open from 7
6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and please be sure to vote
7 both sides of the ballot. The front side
8 will be candidates for county -- actually
9 state, county and city office. The back
10 side will be the referendum questions
11 regarding the proposed change in county
12 government. And that's all for tonight.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
15 Councilman Joyce, do you have any comments
16 or motions tonight?

17 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Very briefly
18 tonight, last week I mentioned that I was
19 speaking with Mayor Doherty regarding pools
20 and using some of the UDAG repayment money
21 or RE-RE money to open additional pools this
22 summer and we received a letter back from
23 Paul Kelly, the city solicitor, and he is
24 stating that we need some more information
25 before he drafts the legislation that I

1 requested. And, one, he asked how much
2 money is required by Parks and Rec to open
3 these pools and after speaking to Mayor
4 Doherty about this issue he indicated at
5 \$15,500 would be needed to open each pool
6 for the upcoming summer swimming season in
7 order to cover costs for lifeguards, pool
8 chemicals, etcetera.

9 And the second question that
10 Mr. Kelly asked if there were enough RE-RE
11 funds to meet that figure and does OECD need
12 to remove funds from one account to another
13 and just to give everyone an update Ms.
14 Aebli kindly responded to many -- or to
15 basically all of the questions that
16 Mr. Kelly had and she stated there is
17 approximately \$66,000 left in the RE-RE
18 account and they are also -- and OECD is
19 also anticipating payment of \$63,360.89, and
20 that's anticipated money from PA Emergency
21 Management Agency for reimbursement of the
22 Crisp Avenue Bridge project.

23 Also, one has to consider that we
24 are also taking \$20,000 out of the RE-RE
25 account or ECTV and \$10,000 for Elmurst

1 Boulevard, but when all is said and done
2 there will be enough money in the RE-RE
3 account to open up additional pools this
4 summer.

5 And Mr. Kelly also asked whether or
6 not this was legal to use OECD funds, being
7 the RE-RE funds for the swimming complexes
8 and Ms. Aebli did reply back that the Urban
9 Development Action Grant expired
10 approximately 30 years ago and there are no
11 federal regulations attached to them and,
12 therefore, the funds are eligible to be used
13 for swimming pool purposes and Mayor Doherty
14 is in full agreement that funds should be
15 used to open up two additional swimming
16 pools this summer in addition to the grant
17 money they he anticipates we will receive
18 for Weston Park and Weston Field, so that's
19 just a quick update on that.

20 Also, in other matters, we received
21 a letter from Rossi & Rossi, our independent
22 auditor, stating that there are a number of
23 issues that need to be settled before the
24 audit can be completed.

25 Mrs. Krake, if we can please contact

1 Ryan McGowan and ask him for and updated
2 status report just so we know where we are
3 at on all issues.

4 And that's all for tonight.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
6 evening. I wish to begin by offering my
7 deepest gratitude to the Scranton Police
8 Officers, Firefighters and EMTs who
9 responded to the motor vehicle accident in
10 which my husband and daughter were involved
11 last weekend. Their quick response,
12 professionalism and compassion were
13 superlative and my family has nothing but
14 the upmost admiration and appreciation for
15 these very special men and the difficult
16 work they perform.

17 Special thanks go out to our dear
18 friends Dave, Fay, Danny and Wayne without
19 whose constant help we couldn't have managed
20 through that day.

21 And now we turn to council business.
22 I have only a few brief comments to address.
23 Scranton City Council received a written
24 response yesterday from Attorney Dan
25 Penetar, Scranton Zoning Board solicitor,

1 regarding the properties located in the 400
2 block of Clay Avenue and reported to city
3 council by a Hill section homeowner. I'd
4 like to read Attorney Penetar's response at
5 this time.

6 "Per your letter of May 10, 2013, it
7 appears from what you have provided to me
8 that 1021 Mulberry, LLC, represent by Joseph
9 Ferdinand, Esquire, has filed and appeal of
10 the zoning officer's decision to issue
11 permits regarding the above properties. I
12 believe the case will be on the Zoning
13 Board's agenda for June 2013. Therefore, it
14 would be premature for me to comment on a
15 case pending before our board as no evidence
16 has yet to be presented and no decision has
17 yet to be made."

18 I thank Attorney Penetar,
19 Mrs. Carrie Newcomb and Mr. Steve Bartnicki,
20 zoning board members, for their prompt
21 attention and recommend that all interested
22 neighbors of the 667 Clay Avenue properties
23 and those surrounding it should attend the
24 June 12, 2013, zoning board meeting.

25 Also, requests for qualifications

1 for the west Lackawanna bridge project were
2 opened yesterday and the bidders included
3 Riley Associates, CHA or Clow-Harbor
4 Association, Shaner Environmental and CECO
5 Associates, Incorporated.

6 Since CECO is under contract with
7 the City of Scranton and serves as the city
8 engineer it would appear to have a conflict
9 of interest in bidding on this project. For
10 example, CECO, as the city engineer, would
11 have to inspect and sign off on various
12 aspects of this project. If awarded the
13 contract for the bridge repair project, CECO
14 would then, in fact, be inspecting and sign
15 off on its own work, thus eliminating the
16 objectivity required for such inspection and
17 approval.

18 I would prefer to see the
19 administration select one of the remaining
20 three bidders, and with my colleagues'
21 agreement I ask Mrs. Krake to send a letter
22 on behalf of city council to the mayor,
23 business administrator and city solicitor
24 notifying them of our concern and
25 recommendation.

1 those pieces of legislation, Item 7-C, 7-D
2 and 7-E were tabled earlier during this
3 meeting. And that's it.

4 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. NO
5 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

6 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. READING BY TITLE
7 - FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 27, 2013 - AN
8 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE
9 RIGHT OF
10 WAY ACQUISITION OF A PORTION OF CITY -OWNED
11 PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE 100 BLOCK OF
12 HARRISON AVENUE (8,711 SQUARE FEET) IN THE
13 CITY OF SCRANTON TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
14 PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
15 ("PENNDOT") AS PER PENNDOT'S OFFER TO
16 PURCHASE AND SUMMARY OF JUST COMPENSATION
17 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND OTHER
18 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO AN
19 AGREEMENT OF SALE TO PURCHASE SAID PROPERTY
20 FOR THE SUM OF TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR
21 HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$21,400.00) FOR THE PURPOSE
22 OF REMOVING THE HARRISON AVENUE BRIDGE AND
23 REPLACING THE HARRISON AVENUE BRIDGE.

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

1 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
2 pass reading by title.

3 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
12 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 28, 2013 - AN
13 ORDINANCE - TRANSFERRING A TEMPORARY
14 CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT OF CITY OWNED
15 PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE 100 BLOCK OF
16 HARRISON AVENUE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF
17 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
18 ("PENNDOT") FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
19 REMOVAL OF THE HARRISON AVENUE BRIDGE AND
20 INSTALLATION OF A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HARRISON
21 AVENUE BRIDGE FOR THE SUM OF SEVEN THOUSAND
22 DOLLARS (\$7,000.00).

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

25 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B

1 pass reading by title.

2 MR. JOYCE: Second.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed?

9 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
10 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON
11 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL NO.
12 21, 2013 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
13 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A
14 SUB-GRANTEE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH
15 THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR KEYSTONE
16 RECREATION, PARK AND CONSERVATION FUND GRANT
17 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00 FOR REPAIRS TO
18 THE HISTORIC ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

19 MS. EVANS: What is the
20 recommendation of the Chair for the
21 Committee on Finance?

22 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
23 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
24 passage of Item 7-A.

25 MR. ROGAN: Second.

1 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
2 call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

8 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

12 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
13 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
14 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 22, 2013 - CREATING
15 AND ESTABLISHING SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO.
16 02.229605 ENTITLED "KEYSTONE RECREATION,
17 PARK AND CONSERVATION FUND GRANT" FOR THE
18 RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FROM THE
19 KEYSTONE RECREATION, PARK AND CONSERVATION
20 GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00 FOR
21 REPAIRS TO THE HISTORIC ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL
22 LIBRARY.

23 MS. EVANS: What is the
24 recommendation of the Chair for the
25 Committee on Finance?

1 MR. JOYCE: As Chair for the
2 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
3 passage of Item 7-B.

4 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

8 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

10 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 7-C, D and E have been
17 tabled so we are moving 7-F.

18 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE
19 ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF
20 COUNCIL NO. 26, 2013 - AMENDING FILE OF
21 COUNCIL NO. 22, 2006, ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING
22 AND APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF PARKING
23 SPACES FOR CERTAIN CITY OF SCRANTON
24 PERSONNEL IN AND ALONG DIX COURT, THE
25 PARKING AREA IN THE REAR OF THE CITY OF

1 SCRANTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING, AND A PARKING
2 LOT ALONG MULBERRY STREET ADJACENT TO THE
3 SCRANTON FIRE HEADQUARTERS, AND AUTHORIZING
4 THE CITY OF SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
5 TO ENFORCE THE PARKING DESIGNATION AS
6 REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED SCHEMATIC”.

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

10 MR. JOYCE: As the acting Chair for
11 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
12 final passage of Item 7-F.

13 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

22 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

25 If there is no further business,

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I'll entertain a motion adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

This meeting is adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER