

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, June 13, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers  
Scranton City Hall  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT  
(Not present)

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN  
(Not present)

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. Mr.

7 Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.  
10 Evans.

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

13 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.  
14 AGENDA FOR THE ZONING HEARING BOARD MEETING  
15 TO BE HELD JUNE 12, 2013.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S  
19 REPORT FOR THE HEARING DATES HELD JUNE 12TH  
20 AND JUNE 26TH 2013.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: Do we have any clerk's  
24 notes tonight, Mrs. Krake?

25 No, Mrs. Evans.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any  
2 council members have announcements at this  
3 time?

4 MR. MCGOFF: I have nothing.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

6 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan is unable to  
7 attend tonight's city council meeting.  
8 Mr. Joyce is also unable to attend due to  
9 illness.

10 The 2014 CDBG HOME and ESG  
11 applications are now available on-line at  
12 [www.Scrantonpa.gov](http://www.Scrantonpa.gov) under OECD. All  
13 applications are due on or before August 9,  
14 2013. OECD is seeking shovel ready  
15 projects. Please be sure to complete all  
16 portions of the application.

17 Scranton Tomorrow's drive-in  
18 downtown movie nights hosted by filmmaker  
19 and ECDC film reviewer Jeff Bowman will be  
20 held in Scranton on courthouse square  
21 beginning at dusk. The schedule of future  
22 movies includes Hairspray on June 27,  
23 Ghostbusters on July 11, Lorax on July 18  
24 and Rocky on July 25. Everyone is invited.

25 And due to a number of requests that

1           were made today at our office, last night's  
2           zoning meeting will be replayed on ECTV  
3           Channel 19 Friday, that's tomorrow, at  
4           12:30, Saturday and Sunday after the  
5           commissioner's meeting, and once more on  
6           Tuesday at 8 a.m.

7                         And finally, I'd like to wish all of  
8           the fathers, grandfathers and great  
9           grandfathers in our community a very happy  
10          Father's Day. I'd also like to wish my  
11          husband Dave, father of our four children  
12          and grandfather of our six grandchildren,  
13          and my son Chris, father of two darling  
14          daughters a wonderful Father's Day. And  
15          that's it.

16                        MR. MCGOFF: Just an addendum,  
17          tonight's movie, the first movie downtown  
18          was supposed to be this evening.

19                        MS. EVANS: Yes.

20                        MR. MCGOFF: It's been postponed  
21          until Thursday, July 18.

22                        MS. EVANS: Correct. Unfortunately.

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

25                        MS. EVANS: Our first speaker



1 just backwards in Harrisburg. This is  
2 terrible. They are not thinking of people.  
3 College isn't a necessity. Eating is a  
4 necessity. Clothing, paying your house  
5 notes, having heat in the winter, those are  
6 necessities. People making 80 to \$110,000,  
7 they can afford to sacrifice something.

8           Anybody that supports a bill like  
9 that is an enemy of the people of this  
10 state. Half of the people in this state  
11 probably don't have children in any kind of  
12 school, that's what I've been told over and  
13 over again. You get out here and talk to  
14 people in West Side and South Side,  
15 everybody I talk to, all of the children  
16 come from the projects and from some younger  
17 people and Section 8 houses. The adults  
18 that are paying for everything just -- they  
19 haven't got the -- you know, like I always  
20 say, what are we getting from our dollar?

21           Today when I walk my dog I got a  
22 flood in front of the house. 20 years I  
23 don't have any sewers in the corner. That  
24 depreciates my house, then I don't have a  
25 sidewalk to walk up the street because there

1 is cars parked on the sidewalk. I'm not  
2 getting nothing for my dollar. Now I'm  
3 supposed to pay for people's children that  
4 make 80 to \$110,000 a year, you know?

5 Why doesn't0? Why don't they sell a  
6 Mercedes or a house at the lake or  
7 something. You can't keep falling back,  
8 like I say, on the people of this city. The  
9 universities which are sponsoring this, they  
10 have destroyed the city. They have stolen  
11 our tax base away from us, now they want,  
12 you know, like asking for blood after  
13 everything else.

14 You know, I forgot when it was, a  
15 couple of years ago, I told you about the  
16 little girl told me that the rich white boys  
17 have taken our playground away where the  
18 Lackawanna -- the medical school. Why  
19 haven't they given 50 or 100 dollars for a  
20 swing set or something. See, they don't  
21 care. That's just the opinion -- that's my  
22 opinion, but these people the association  
23 here, it says the association of independent  
24 colleges and universities of Pennsylvania.  
25 They don't care one iota about the people of



1           this state and this is shameful. The  
2           universities bragged a few short months ago  
3           they generate \$400 million in this city.  
4           Why don't they give scholarships instead of  
5           asking the taxpayers? Like I said, these  
6           people are an enemies to the taxpayers of  
7           this city. You just can't support -- we  
8           can't support a bill like this. Why doesn't  
9           the governor, why isn't he interested in  
10          people? He took away the funding for these,  
11          you know, the poor to go to college because  
12          I have talked to him. They can't go to  
13          trade schools or nothing, now he wants this.  
14          Thank you.

15                        MS. EVANS: Thank you. Carl  
16                        Kupchunas.

17                        MR. KUPCHUNAS: Good evening. My  
18                        name is Carl Kupchunas. I'm a life-long  
19                        resident of lower Greenridge. I'm actually  
20                        here this evening with an invitation to  
21                        everyone here and everyone watching, and  
22                        also I have a question at the end. We would  
23                        like to invite everyone here to the Mary  
24                        Mother of God block party or annual block  
25                        party. Everybody is in the mood for summer.

1           It's our block party this next weekend,  
2           Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and this year  
3           we have quite a bit of entertainment that  
4           everybody will like.

5                        On Thursday night is family night,  
6           we are starting off with Damian the  
7           Magician, who will be there between 6 and 8  
8           p.m. He will be doing close up magic in  
9           addition to a stage show. After Damian the  
10          magician is done we have the Cameron Avenue  
11          band between 8 and 11 p.m. and in the bar we  
12          have Rich Jenkins, a guitarist, so we have  
13          quite a bit of entertainment on Thursday  
14          night for families.

15                      On Friday night the entertainment is  
16          for everyone. We have the world renowned  
17          fantastic band called Picture Perfect. They  
18          play every year Friday night. They are  
19          excellent.

20                      Now, this year on Saturday we are  
21          trying something a little bit different. We  
22          are starting off with a jolly speaker Jim  
23          Cerminaro between 5 and 6:30, and then we  
24          have a national recording act called the  
25          Tommy Guns band between 7 and 11. They are

1 country and western. Unfortunately, I don't  
2 follow country and western. They tell me  
3 they are a national recording act and so it  
4 should be quite good.

5 In addition to the usual food and  
6 merriment that we have at our block party,  
7 our friends and neighbors and the Shiloh  
8 Baptist Church they have been there for the  
9 last three years and they have fantastic  
10 chicken and ribs, and let me tell you  
11 something, I had it last year and it is  
12 delicious. But, of course, you know, we  
13 also have the typical pizza, potato pancakes  
14 and our potato pancakes are one of the best  
15 in the city I'll tell you that right now,  
16 and all the other traditional food.

17 And we have games for children. We  
18 also have games for adults where the adults  
19 will have a big six wheel, a money wheel,  
20 and Irish poker, that's actually my stand  
21 and some of you actually had come up to our  
22 block party and, you know, played a game of  
23 Irish poker with me in the back, and we just  
24 hope everybody could come up there and like  
25 with the rainy days now, and a lot of

1 churches are closing and a lot of fire  
2 companies aren't having their block parties  
3 anymore, and in my opinion our block party  
4 is one of the best in the city and we hope  
5 everybody can make it.

6 Now, the question I have is with the  
7 new signals in downtown Scranton throughout  
8 the city the timing on those are terrible.  
9 I work down the South Side Bowling Lanes in  
10 South Scranton, I had an appointment at  
11 quarter to five over at Scranton Dodge, it  
12 took me 20 minutes to go two miles from  
13 South Side Bowling Lanes to Scranton Dodge.  
14 Going through downtown Scranton that light  
15 on Adams Avenue, sometimes the traffic there  
16 is stopped for four minutes. I mean, today  
17 going over there at the corner of North  
18 Washington and Lackawanna I was stopped for  
19 three minutes. Is there anybody I could  
20 call that you know of? Should I call  
21 PennDOT, is it a DPW issue? Where could we  
22 go from there? I mean, you would think it  
23 would be progressive.

24 When they used to have the other  
25 traffic lights what they call the ferris

1           loop or a loop detector, there was actually  
2           a loop that was into the concrete they were  
3           a lot more accurate. I don't know with  
4           these cameras they have now it seems like  
5           they are not picking up the traffic or they  
6           are not calibrated correctly, is there  
7           anybody I could call or where can we go with  
8           this?

9                        MS. EVANS: Well, I do know that  
10           there have been many, many, many complaints  
11           about the traffic signals downtown and that  
12           the project has not finished and they are  
13           still working on calibrating the lights  
14           properly, but I don't think it would hurt if  
15           you and everyone else who is having, you  
16           know -- or experiencing dissatisfaction  
17           sitting at lights for three or four  
18           minutes --

19                       MR. KUPCHUNAS: I mean, 20 minutes  
20           to go two miles is terrible.

21                       MS. EVANS: Which is absolutely  
22           ludicrous. I don't think it hurts to call  
23           PennDOT.

24                       MR. KUPCHUNAS: Oh, it would be  
25           PennDOT? Okay.

1 MS. EVANS: And just tell them about  
2 your experience and where you experience the  
3 problems --

4 MR. KUPCHUNAS: Oh, Adams Avenue is  
5 terrible.

6 MS. EVANS: And I think if enough  
7 people do that, you know, perhaps PennDOT  
8 will hasten the process a bit because I know  
9 it's been -- it's been very trying,  
10 unacceptable what's going on with the  
11 traffic downtown.

12 MR. KUPCHUNAS: One other thing I  
13 failed to mention, we are also having our  
14 usually book nook and dining around, but one  
15 other thing we are having brand new this  
16 year is a silent auction where we are going  
17 to have better quality merchandise and all  
18 you do is write down your bid on a slip of  
19 paper, when the auction is over whoever has  
20 the highest bid will win. Like I said, I  
21 hope to see everybody up there at the corner  
22 of West Market and Wayne Avenue. Mary  
23 Mother of God block party. Thank you very  
24 much and everybody have a great summer.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave

1 Dobrzyn.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave  
3 Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

5 MR. DOBRZYN: A few weeks ago  
6 something was made, an announcement was made  
7 about animal control that I missed. We  
8 don't have an animal control officer due to  
9 illness or something?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: He has had surgery  
11 and I don't believe he is back yet.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: So, in other words, if  
13 you can that EPAA number if you have it try  
14 to announce it during the motions so people  
15 keep up with that. I just bought a cat from  
16 a live trap and I have to deal with  
17 something, big momma she is sweet, but she  
18 just keeps having kittens.

19 And, okay, on taxes and I'm going to  
20 talk a little bit about council it's kind  
21 after loose thing. Now, a lot of heated  
22 remarks have been made during elections and  
23 so forth and by comments by candidates  
24 running and, you know, when you are being  
25 questioned the shoe is on the other foot.

1           It's okay to question Mayor Doherty. For  
2           instance, he opened up the door to job  
3           creation. I don't see it as a mayor really  
4           being all that able to create jobs in the  
5           bad economy and with all of the outsourcing,  
6           but when he said he created 6,000 jobs or  
7           his administration did then you open up the  
8           door for criticism, and that when you are  
9           saying is a fact or whatever not necessarily  
10          a lie, but maybe you created 6,000 jobs and  
11          you lost ten, 10,000, you know? It's just a  
12          fact.

13                         But it's just a shame that certain  
14          comments were made during the elections that  
15          this council -- about this council because  
16          basically the job isn't complete and there  
17          has been people lined up against any ideas  
18          that came out of this council, all the way  
19          like the commuter tax and various ways of  
20          bringing in more money and now that's  
21          self-evident to come up here and blame this  
22          council because that didn't come together.  
23          It's just silly. It's not true and you  
24          tried and it's not -- it hasn't helped  
25          because the county is against us, the courts



1 are against us and they don't want to see  
2 their constituents having to pay despite the  
3 fact that the city needs more money and will  
4 basically probably only one-third of the  
5 people employed within the city borders are  
6 from Scranton. There is another 22,000 or  
7 something like that that are commuters.

8 And so that being said, you know, we  
9 are talking about sales taxes, well, if  
10 there was an article about two years ago  
11 where the small guy pays as much as a 11  
12 percent of his income in Pennsylvania taxes  
13 and the big guy pays five. It's just  
14 ludicrous to -- all of those taxes are  
15 regressive is what I'm saying and if it gets  
16 handed over to the county per se then we'll  
17 get our 40 percent or something like that  
18 and on a dollar per dollar basis we are just  
19 paying our own way anyway.

20 So I would urge any candidates for  
21 this next up and coming council to avoid any  
22 promises of lower taxes and such because  
23 then the shoe is going to be on the other  
24 foot and it's not always pleasant. It's not  
25 always pleasant because then you will be

1           questioned why you said, oh, we are going to  
2           lower your taxes and suddenly taxes have to  
3           go up anyway.

4                       And on those lamps I had to ride on  
5           the bus today, I didn't feel like taking my  
6           have car to town, and the bus driver had to  
7           slam on the brakes because of a yellow and  
8           that's one of my concerns is that yellow  
9           lamp, the caution signal, is very, very  
10          short. I would say less than two seconds,  
11          so as soon as you see it you slam on the  
12          brakes time are you going through the  
13          intersection.

14                      And a few weeks ago I mentioned  
15          about Syria and last week I mentioned that a  
16          senator was talking to a person in the news  
17          that was identified s a kidnaper and  
18          terrorist and hostage taker, well, tonight I  
19          just heard on the news once again that we're  
20          shipping more arms to Syria and some of  
21          those so-called insurgents are basically  
22          Islamist, which is anti-American basically  
23          to impose your religion on somebody else,  
24          and you also might note that in Turkey there  
25          is demonstrations about Islamic control of

1 the government, so if you do have some spare  
2 time please get out there and get to your  
3 senators and congressmen and tell them, no  
4 thanks, we got enough of a knife in our back  
5 over Afghanistan. Thank you and have a good  
6 night.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

8 MR. DOBRZYN: And don't forget to  
9 bawk, bawk, bawk.

10 MS. EVANS: Next speaker is Doug  
11 Miller.

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

14 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

15 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to start  
16 off by echoing a comment Mr. Dobrzyn made.  
17 You know, standing back there I absolutely  
18 agree. It's something I've said numerous  
19 times from this podium when we talk about  
20 all of the promises, the empty promises that  
21 these council candidates made this last  
22 election. I kind of find it amusing and  
23 quite comical. He talked about how they all  
24 preached how we can avoid all of our  
25 problems by not having the lower taxes and

1            simply by making cuts and, quite frankly,  
2            next year at this time I'm certainly curious  
3            to see how this next council plans on doing  
4            that, lowering taxes and all of these  
5            delusional promises they made. You know,  
6            it's funny, last year at this time is when  
7            we started to realize that we were going to  
8            be in for a rough summer and that, you know,  
9            we didn't have bright days ahead of us and  
10           yet all of these council candidates and this  
11           soon to be new council members I don't  
12           recall any of them running down to this  
13           podium offering their services to the city  
14           and they all seem to care so much during the  
15           election, yet we never see them there and  
16           that's one thing that's always baffled me  
17           for all of the years I've attended these  
18           meetings.

19                            You know, they all come around  
20                            election time and make every promise in the  
21                            world and promise they are going to turn  
22                            this city around and yet weekly we never see  
23                            any of them here so I find it hard to  
24                            believe that they have a clue as to what's  
25                            going on and, quite frankly, I don't feel

1           they do. I think we have going to have a  
2           new council majority that is going to take  
3           us back where we were and I think that we  
4           have a bleak future with this next council  
5           coming in because it's my absolute belief  
6           that none of them have a clue and we are  
7           going to back in time and it's unfortunate  
8           because they don't have an understanding of  
9           where this city truly stands financially  
10          because, number one, they haven't been here.  
11          You know, when you are running around town  
12          making these promises I just find it hard to  
13          believe that you can actually serve on  
14          council. But moving on -- that's something  
15          we'll be doing with next year.

16                   I'd like to talk about the Capouse  
17          Avenue pool. Unfortunately, I didn't get  
18          the opportunity to attend the neighborhood  
19          group meeting the other night, but I know  
20          that the Capouse Avenue pool was of  
21          discussion at that meeting and I understand,  
22          Councilman Loscombe, I believe you did  
23          attend that meeting.

24                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I was unable this  
25          week due to my work schedule.

1                   MR. MILLER: I was misinformed then.  
2                   You know, I have been coming here year after  
3                   year, as have other speakers, and we have  
4                   been fighting to have neighborhood pools  
5                   open and thankfully this summer that's going  
6                   to come into fruition, but unfortunately  
7                   Capouse Avenue won't be open and it truly  
8                   frustrates me because I just -- it really  
9                   bothers me that we can't fulfill a simple  
10                  thing, and I know for some people it may not  
11                  seem simple, but it's a simple necessity of  
12                  operating a swimming pool that a city just  
13                  cannot do and I think that's quite an  
14                  embarrassing thing. I'm quite disturbed by  
15                  that. I think it's, quite frankly,  
16                  disgraceful.

17                  I think we have spent too much time  
18                  and this administration has spent too much  
19                  time for the last 12 years putting all its  
20                  time and effort and energy into Nay Aug  
21                  Park, and I think we have forgotten that we  
22                  have other pools in this city and we have  
23                  residents that have every right to utilize  
24                  these swimming pools. I mean, Capouse  
25                  Avenue I understand is the newest

1 neighborhood pool and it's not going to be  
2 open for I believe this will be four summers  
3 in a row now. I just don't understand where  
4 our mindset is here. I don't understand  
5 where we are here and I think that moving  
6 forward we have need to find a solution.

7 A suggestion I had talked about with  
8 one of the residents before the meeting  
9 tonight was, you know, I know we have  
10 programs such as adopt a park, you know,  
11 adopt a highway, I mean, perhaps they can  
12 consider some sort of agreement with the  
13 city where they could adopt that pool for  
14 the summer with stipulations that the city  
15 still has to maintain the insurance and  
16 provide the lifeguards and all of the tools  
17 necessary to upkeep that pool, but that the  
18 residents in that neighborhood would donate  
19 their services to maintain that pool so that  
20 it can be opened each summer.

21 I think maybe now is the time, maybe  
22 we have to be a little creative because  
23 obviously what we are doing now isn't  
24 working. And once again, I still commend  
25 council's effort, particularly Councilman

1           Joyce, for working cooperatively with the  
2           mayor and getting that money from Wells  
3           Fargo who was gracious enough to come  
4           forward and help us get the other pools  
5           open, but the fact of the matter is the  
6           children in the Pinebrook neighborhood are  
7           going to suffer another summer and I don't  
8           think it's fair, so I think moving forward  
9           we need a realistic plan to ensure that  
10          those children have a place to recreate.

11                         Onto the University of Scranton,  
12          last night the zoning board denied their  
13          variance, and I want to commend them for  
14          that. My hope is that council will follow  
15          their lead and also deny approval of their  
16          expansion on the hill. As we have been  
17          talking about for a few weeks now, the  
18          University is looking to tear down a piece  
19          of the city's history and YWCA building.  
20          It's my understanding when that building  
21          years ago when it was turned over to the  
22          University that they were going to make  
23          repairs to that building and ensure that it  
24          stood there for years to come and they were  
25          going to protect that piece of history





1           once and for all, they need to be held  
2           accountable. As somebody cited earlier  
3           tonight it's a business that generates over  
4           \$400 million a year and they give the City  
5           of Scranton \$175,000. How could you  
6           possibly stand in support of that. I think  
7           that -- you know, I just don't see how that  
8           possible, how you can support an institution  
9           that does that. They need to be held  
10          accountable and we need to continue to  
11          pursue payments in lieu of taxes from them  
12          and I'd ask council tonight to deny what  
13          they are trying to do.

14                        As Mrs. Evans stated last week, what  
15          are we going to end up 20 years from now  
16          make this -- are we going to turn Scranton  
17          and call it the University of Scranton? The  
18          City of the University of Scranton because  
19          that's where we are headed if we don't do  
20          something now. Thank you.

21                        MS. EVANS: That concludes our  
22          sign-in sheet, is there anyone who cares to  
23          address council?

24                        MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,  
25          citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,

1           your 6-A, does this has to do with A & A  
2           Auto building being revamped into some kind  
3           of a mercantile establishment?

4                     MR. LOSCOMBE: This just deals with  
5           the parking facility.

6                     MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that, but  
7           there is a reason for it, is in conjunction  
8           with the development of A & A Auto?

9                     MR. LOSCOMBE: We have no --

10                    MR. SBARAGLIA: Obviously they need  
11           parking if they build up the A & A Auto.  
12           That would be --

13                    MR. LOSCOMBE: That was asked last  
14           week I believe.

15                    MR. SBARAGLIA: What they should  
16           have done was say we're going to convert it  
17           to loft apartments and we would have built  
18           them a garage. It's as simple as that.  
19           Okay, on your "B" that has do with the  
20           handicapped signs, you mentioned, it was a  
21           little foggy on it, did you say there would  
22           be a fee entitlement with these signs?

23                    MS. EVANS: Yes, is there a renewal  
24           fee each year.

25                    MR. SBARAGLIA: Do you realize that

1           anybody can park at a handicapped sign that  
2           has a handicap plate or placard? Why would  
3           you ask somebody to pay \$10 when somebody up  
4           the street could park there with a handicap  
5           sign, I mean, on his car and he legally  
6           entitled to park there.

7                        MS. EVANS: Well, actually the  
8           program was designed by the police chief and  
9           it's being enacted so that we can get a  
10          turnover for the handicap parking signs  
11          because there are so many in so many blocks  
12          where they are no longer needed because the  
13          individual has either moved or is deceased  
14          now, and yet the signs remain, so we are  
15          trying to get a handle on that so that we  
16          will have ample signs in order to provide  
17          them for those who legitimately need them  
18          now and we at this point have no signs to  
19          address those needs.

20                      MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize, but you  
21          haven't addressed the problem if anybody  
22          with a handicap sign can park there. We are  
23          paying enough to the police department, in  
24          fact, we are paying exceedingly well to the  
25          police department for them to do that. I

1 don't know why you think they are  
2 incompetent to do that when you pass  
3 legislation for it.

4 MS. EVANS: Well, by having a  
5 renewal fee it entails filling out an  
6 application annually that will verify  
7 whether that sign is still legitimate or  
8 not. The system that we have right now  
9 simply doesn't work.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize there is a  
11 lot of inconsistency with it, but you still  
12 haven't addressed the problem. Anybody --  
13 you are going to pay \$10 to have that sign  
14 in front of my house, somebody up the street  
15 with a handicap sign could park in that  
16 spot. You want me to pay for someone else  
17 to park and that's not quite right.

18 MS. EVANS: No, I agree, but mostly  
19 likely if there is a handicapped person up  
20 the street, as you say, very likely they  
21 have their own handicapped parking sign.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, but you got to  
23 realize anybody with a sign, if I'm visiting  
24 somebody, I have a handicapped sign in my  
25 car, if I'm visiting somebody I could park

1           there legally. You can't change that. Why  
2           would you ask someone to pay for a sign that  
3           should be supplied with the taxes that they  
4           are paying for services.

5                   MR. MCGOFF: May I respond?

6                   MS. EVANS: Sure.

7                   MR. MCGOFF: Most of the signs that  
8           are placed are at the request of an  
9           individual and my belief is that upon making  
10          that request you should -- that this \$10 fee  
11          is incumbent upon you more making that  
12          request. Yes, somebody else may park there,  
13          but you are the one that has requested that  
14          the sign be placed there, thus, a fee.

15                  MR. SBARAGLIA: So it's better just  
16          to wait for somebody to put the sign up in  
17          front of their house and you park there  
18          anyway. But, I mean, we are paying for  
19          services. I realize the complexity of it,  
20          but you got to realize a doctor has to  
21          certify that. You just don't get a handicap  
22          sign.

23                  MS. EVANS: Right.

24                  MR. SBARAGLIA: You got to have a  
25          doctor certify it as such and that was the

1 service we supplied to the residents of  
2 Scranton. We are paying a tremendous amount  
3 of taxes and you keep on finding new ways to  
4 nickle and dime us, and that's not right.

5 MS. EVANS: Well, I --

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: I don't need that.  
7 I have my own parking. I have my own drive,  
8 so it really don't effect me that much, but  
9 you realize that that's what would happen,  
10 and if I'm familiar with that one street you  
11 mentioned up the -- where was it, up on Hyde  
12 Park Avenue where everybody had a  
13 handicapped sign, it's going to be murder up  
14 there.

15 MS. EVANS: Well, you know, I'll  
16 just say I speak from a little bit of  
17 personal experience, when my parents were  
18 alive my dad had a handicapped parking spot  
19 toward -- very close to the end of his life  
20 and they had to, of course, you know, as you  
21 said, receive the certification of his  
22 physicians, but they didn't pay for that  
23 spot, this was in Dunmore, and I can tell  
24 you no one ever parked in that spot except  
25 for my parents. There was never a problem

1 with it, with -- you know, anyone whether  
2 they lived in the neighborhood or they  
3 didn't they saw the handicapped parking sign  
4 and, you know, never once did we have to ask  
5 someone to move.

6 MR. SBARAGLIA: I realize that. I  
7 try to avoid it myself even though I have it  
8 on my car, but --

9 MS. EVANS: No, I think that's what  
10 most people do.

11 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- you can do it.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes, you can do it, but  
13 I think most people --

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: And it's legal to do  
15 it and how would you address someone? Are  
16 you going to call the police up and say,  
17 "Tow this car out, he is parking in my  
18 handicapped sign?"

19 Because that's what's going to  
20 happen.

21 MS. EVANS: In that situation, but,  
22 you know, as I said, I think that most  
23 individuals who are handicapped and have  
24 such signs respect the situation and needs  
25 of others as well.



1                   MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, I won't get  
2                   into it. I tell you what's going to happen  
3                   and I know it's going to happen because I  
4                   have lived in the city long enough to know  
5                   it's going to happen because I heard this  
6                   many, many times from other people who said,  
7                   "Somebody is parking in my handicapped,"  
8                   even if they had a handicap, and that's the  
9                   way it's going to be, but the thing is I  
10                  have enough nothing against that, I just  
11                  don't like the fee. I really don't think  
12                  you should be charging for that. That  
13                  should be part of the city services like  
14                  anything else. I mean, surely we can come  
15                  up with a -- how much is it going to -- how  
16                  much do you -- oh, you are going to say how  
17                  many signs are out and get every one of them  
18                  to give \$10? No, that's not the way to run  
19                  a city.

20                  This city is going backwards fast.  
21                  I don't know what's going to happen when you  
22                  come up with that \$60 -- \$60,000 man to run  
23                  the parking meters to run -- to supervise  
24                  four to six people, and what you are going  
25                  to do, I read the other piece of

1           legislation, that was a piece of garbage  
2           they come up with and it's going to come on  
3           the agenda again as another piece of garbage  
4           where you are parking six days a week in  
5           Scranton, going to almost 8:00 at night, I  
6           mean, that's ridiculous. You find more ways  
7           to oppress people than to help people. I  
8           told you before, if you really want to make  
9           extra money the city generates electricity,  
10          they buy it. Why don't we buy it for most  
11          of the people of the city that wants to buy  
12          it, and that's money coming in that you  
13          would have without oppression. Everything  
14          you do is oppressive. Thank you.

15                   MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there  
16                   anyone else?

17                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,  
18                   Council. Marie Schumacher.

19                   MS. EVANS: Good evening.

20                   MS. SCHUMACHER: I have quite a bit  
21                   to say about the YWCA if that's going to be  
22                   brought off the table tonight. Was that the  
23                   intent to bring that legislation off the  
24                   table tonight?

25                   MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm sorry, what? I

1                   didn't hear.

2                   MS. SCHUMACHER: The University of  
3 the Scranton and the former YWCA building --

4                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

5                   MS. SCHUMACHER: That's going to be  
6 taken off the table tonight and discussed?

7                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I will be making  
8 a motion for that.

9                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I would like  
10 for you to name one thing in this city that  
11 honors or causes to bring to memory the  
12 contribution of women to this city?

13                   MR. LOSCOMBE: The contribution of?

14                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Women? Nothing,  
15 right?

16                   MS. EVANS: Is there something? The  
17 only thing that comes to mind is the  
18 Greenridge branch library which was renamed  
19 the Nancy Kay Holmes library.

20                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, for a fee of  
21 10 or 15 thousand dollars.

22                   MS. EVANS: Yes, the estate left  
23 that amount of money to the library.

24                   MS. SCHUMACHER: Yes, and that's  
25 not -- that's honoring women, but it's not

1           the contribution of women to the development  
2           of this city as the WYCA did. I do not  
3           personally think that HARB did an adequate  
4           job. I don't know what the courtesy -- what  
5           the definition of the courtesy review refers  
6           to. I would think since it is a historical  
7           building it should have been a full review  
8           and there are people in this city that have  
9           spent a good deal of time researching. The  
10          University itself has given grants to at  
11          least one of their professors to study the  
12          impact of that particular structure on the  
13          contribution of women in this city. I think  
14          it's time we start looking at things like  
15          that.

16                         I will ask you now, I agree with  
17          Mary Ann Wardell, she said, "Why there?"

18                         I have a concern about while this  
19          demolition or building is going up what  
20          happens to the transit of our emergency  
21          vehicles? That's widely used at that  
22          corner. It's going to be totally dwarf, and  
23          even perhaps the courthouse and certainly  
24          Elm Park Church it doesn't -- what the  
25          picture in the paper today, that rendering

1 does not -- just doesn't fit in that corner  
2 even if it was within their institutional  
3 zone. They just built a brand new science  
4 building, what are they doing with the old  
5 building? Why can't they do it there?

6 Science, PT, OT, you know, it all  
7 fits together I'm sure that the students who  
8 will be using whatever facility is  
9 ultimately built for OT and PT they will be  
10 taking a lost of science classes. Why not  
11 put it at the old science building and it's  
12 very close. Why not do it there? They can  
13 go up eight stories there and it will fit in  
14 with their structure. It's urban, it's not  
15 going to overgrow everything here. I would  
16 request that you -- I thought you were going  
17 to have a full hearing on this, that was my  
18 understanding that there was going to be a  
19 hearing on this legislation I believe?

20 MS. EVANS: No, not to my knowledge.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, that  
22 was my understanding, but I would urge a  
23 "no" vote on this or continue keeping it on  
24 the table until you can do a little bit more  
25 research and see what the real impact of

1           that building and its utilization was for  
2           women in the development of this city. We  
3           deserve more than we have gotten and I think  
4           another couple of weeks and a little more  
5           research would be go a long way. And again,  
6           I would suggest a counter proposal that the  
7           science building, the old science building  
8           be looked at for this building and that  
9           would solve the problem, at least for now,  
10          so I do request to keep that on the table.

11                         Again, another piece of legislation  
12          I would urge a "no" vote on 6-A, that's the  
13          gift that stops the giving. You know, we  
14          have talked about nonprofits and we have too  
15          much nontaxable land and now we want to take  
16          a gift, which we'll probably have to  
17          maintain. I did drive by it, it is a paved  
18          lot, not in the world's best shape, but will  
19          we have to fix that? We will have the  
20          liability? It's off the tax rolls. If a  
21          business is going to in I think the business  
22          should buy it, otherwise, I think it's a bad  
23          deal for the taxpayers of this city.

24                         I'll return with the rest next week,  
25          and again, I urge you to vote against that

1 University of Scranton.

2 MS. EVANS: I do have some  
3 information for you, they are responses to  
4 requests that you have made and then letters  
5 showing that we sent for other responses.

6 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Thank you,  
7 and I do want to note tonight to thank you,  
8 the minutes are up to date and I appreciate  
9 that, and also appreciate the work that Jim  
10 and Boris did on the study on the PEL status  
11 report. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

13 MS. CHILIPKO: Good evening,  
14 Council.

15 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

17 MS. CHILIPKO: Mary Chilipko,  
18 resident City of Scranton. I debated about  
19 coming here tonight. I do want to -- we are  
20 in response to Doug are going to try to get  
21 a group together to have a meeting still to  
22 try to see what we can do to save the pool  
23 and not lose the city asset. How far we can  
24 go, what we with do, what approval we need  
25 from the mayor, the union, but that is a

1 work in progress.

2 The issue I debated about, and I  
3 hope I get this correct, if anybody else can  
4 correct me with this, I talk about the  
5 little people and Doug mentioned bullies  
6 tonight, I have seen the neighborhood groups  
7 step up, some of the food truck people step  
8 up and, you know, when they made a remark  
9 that struck me about the city maybe helping  
10 some of the establishments downtown, I don't  
11 know, I think everybody that watches the  
12 city council meetings should watch the city  
13 zoning board meetings as well. I think we  
14 witnesses, and I think they should watch,  
15 the replay of especially this week's, even  
16 though it was a very long meeting, a  
17 five-hour meeting, because I think we saw a  
18 true meltdown in city hall last night and  
19 I'm surprised that there weren't  
20 resignations on the table this morning and  
21 it's a case of a little guy basically  
22 standing up against the big guys.

23 If I get this right, the one case  
24 that I'm talking about involved permits  
25 issued by Mike Wallace to a large developer



1 not following the city ordinance regarding  
2 the procedure of purchasing condemned  
3 properties. I commend, I believe his name  
4 was Donald Romano, the landlord who filed  
5 this appeal, for taking on these guys. It  
6 took guts. It was very tense here, they  
7 were very intimidating, they tried to be.  
8 What he was asking for was an even playing  
9 field. Basically the theory was if we have  
10 to, there were other landlords here, if we  
11 have to follow city ordinances and  
12 procedures why doesn't everyone else.

13 When asked why he issued the permits  
14 Mike Wallace replied he was told to do so.  
15 He was told to violate a city ordinance by  
16 the law department and he specifically  
17 mentioned Cara Seitzinger and Attorney Paul  
18 Kelly. The developers and their lawyers and  
19 everyone else they stood up, numerous  
20 lawyers and at times very angry developers  
21 they blamed money, jealousy and later the  
22 five morons on the zoning board as the  
23 problem.

24 My impression in the room, I don't  
25 know about anybody else watching, I was

1           astonished to hear that from the city zoning  
2           officer and I think no matter how the big  
3           guys tried to twist that we got the true  
4           understanding of Mike Wallace's statements.  
5           If I were Mike Wallace I probably would have  
6           pled insanity before I started naming names.  
7           I think by admitting to and directed by the  
8           law department, Cara Seitzinger and Attorney  
9           Paul Kelly, I would expect their  
10          resignations.

11                        I think the little people are still  
12           on move, I think that was a very exciting  
13           night for the City of Scranton and I do hope  
14           there are resignations on the table. Maybe  
15           now the playing field will start to become a  
16           little more even in the City of Scranton.  
17           Thank you.

18                        MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19                        MR. LOSCOMBE: Mary, I'm sorry, I'm  
20           sorry we are playing phone tag.

21                        MS. CHILIPKO: That's okay.

22                        MR. LOSCOMBE: I do want to get  
23           together with you if you are available  
24           tomorrow I will give you a call in the  
25           morning.

1 MS. CHILIPKO: Okay. Sounds good.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Is that okay?

3 MS. CHILIPKO: Okay.

4 MS. EVANS: And, Mrs. Chilipko, what  
5 I am going to suggest to you, I am going to  
6 talk about the pools under my motions this  
7 evening, however, I believe what is going to  
8 work best to the neighborhood's advantage  
9 would be to schedule a meeting with the  
10 mayor of all the volunteers, including  
11 council members who wish to work on  
12 repairing and opening that pool this summer.

13 And, as I said, the mayor noted  
14 there are issues involving union contracts,  
15 insurance, bidding, etcetera, but I do  
16 believe that bringing a group of community  
17 volunteers together to make this request and  
18 present him with a plan of how you intend to  
19 make this work I think that can go a long  
20 way.

21 MS. CHILIPKO: If I may just reply?  
22 We did discuss this at our neighborhood  
23 meeting on Tuesday and there are also other  
24 neighborhood groups that have said they have  
25 been in similar situations and gave us the

1 details on how they handled it in different  
2 parks in the city so they as well would be  
3 interested in attending some type of meeting  
4 like that as well I'm sure.

5 MS. EVANS: I would say the more  
6 sincerely interested individuals who are  
7 willing to roll up their sleeves, you know,  
8 and get involved and do the work the better  
9 -- the better the outcome is going to be for  
10 you.

11 MS. CHILIPKO: And I think there are  
12 more than the mayor would think. Thank you.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: And I would like to  
14 add that Pinebrook Neighborhood Association  
15 has rolled up their sleeves and done a lot  
16 of hard work over the last few years so  
17 their experience is telling.

18 MS. EVANS: Oh, I know.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Definitely that would  
20 be it.

21 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree, but I'm  
22 saying that I think, in other words, I very  
23 much want to see this pool open and I have  
24 for years and from the very beginning the  
25 first summer that the pool closed I railed

1           against that, and fought for that and  
2           nothing ever happened and though I'm still  
3           discussing it with the mayor I believe that,  
4           you know, my urging, my suggestions aren't  
5           enough and so what I'm suggesting, you know,  
6           to you tonight is what I think is going to  
7           be a much more effective, a much more  
8           powerful method of reaching your goal and  
9           convincing the mayor that this is the right  
10          thing to do when you do have so many people  
11          who are so interested and are willing to  
12          take this upon themselves because the city  
13          doesn't have the money to do it.

14                   MS. CHILIPKO: So I should arrange a  
15          meeting with the mayor, try?

16                   MS. EVANS: Um-hum. Schedule -- but  
17          before you schedule it make sure that  
18          everyone is able to attend with you. I'm  
19          not suggesting a one-on-one meeting.

20                   MS. CHILIPKO: Oh, no, never.  
21          Never.

22                   MS. EVANS: I'm suggesting the  
23          entire group and come with your plans of  
24          what you would like to do this summer right  
25          now starting in June and I think you could

1 be successful.

2 MS. CHILIPKO: I will do that and I  
3 will get the group together, we need to kind  
4 of reorganize, and it's people all over this  
5 city, it isn't only Pinebrook.

6 MS. EVANS: Right.

7 MS. CHILIPKO: And we've got the  
8 cooperation from the Scranton Police  
9 Department, the chief. I tend to bring up  
10 the bad but there is a lot of good, and it's  
11 not just Pinebrook it's all over the people.  
12 The little people they have had enough.  
13 Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?  
17 Mrs. Krake?

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Chrissy, you took  
20 three weeks off in a row. Come on, your  
21 vacation is over.

22 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do  
23 you have any comments or motions?

24 MR. MCGOFF: Very briefly, and a few  
25 during the legislation. Just one comment on

1 rental registration, the Rental Registration  
2 Office for want of a better term, has been  
3 aggressively pursuing the implementation of  
4 the ordinance in the past week. What they  
5 have done is identified ten landlords who  
6 were the most egregious in not paying the  
7 rental registration fee. They identified  
8 those ten, and I believe I'll use the word  
9 threatened those landlords with the closure  
10 of their properties should they not register  
11 and pay the fees, and I was told that seven  
12 have already responded by, you know, paying  
13 the rental registration fee and hopefully  
14 others will.

15 And the next step I'm told is that  
16 they are now going to -- they have  
17 identified those properties with delinquent  
18 refuse bills and that they are again  
19 pursuing the landlords with the threat of  
20 closure should those delinquencies not be  
21 paid and so I think that what we are seeing  
22 is the implementation of the ordinance in  
23 the way it was thought it would be  
24 implemented or used. It's not only  
25 increasing revenue, but it's also taking

1           some control over the landlords and forcing  
2           them to comply with all city ordinances and  
3           hopefully improve the situation for tenants  
4           and for the city by doing this and  
5           hopefully-- and I think, also, that the by  
6           putting another person in that position, the  
7           rental registration assistant or whatever  
8           title we gave to it, I believe that the two  
9           people that are operating or implementing  
10          this are doing a great job and I think  
11          that's what was needed was somebody to take  
12          control of it, and to and to work with the  
13          ordinance to bring about the desired results  
14          and I would like to commend the people that  
15          are working through rental registration and  
16          I think in the future this bodes well that  
17          we will continue to see progress with this  
18          program.

19                           And that's all I have for now. Like  
20                           I said, some comments for the legislation.

21                           MS. EVANS: Thank you. And the only  
22                           thing I would like to add to that I do -- I  
23                           was aware of Councilman McGoff's  
24                           announcement, the mayor had discussed that  
25                           with me, and said that when all is resolved





1           thing that this is now working well and I  
2           believe it's going to continue to do so in  
3           the future. This is what it was meant to  
4           do, it was designed in this manner, but for  
5           some reason it was either allowed to  
6           deteriorate or it was purposely allowed to  
7           deteriorate and that was wrong and it would  
8           still be the case today if it weren't for  
9           the constant chipping and nagging and  
10          working and efforts of this council and that  
11          attorney and these women who work in our  
12          office that's where the changes are coming  
13          from, ladies and gentlemen.

14                    Councilman Loscombe?

15                    MR. MCGOFF: Could I just, I'm  
16                    sorry, add to that, I guess. I forgot, we  
17                    also have a letter sent from Attorney Paul  
18                    Kelly, city solicitor, to the Single Tax  
19                    Office --

20                    MS. EVANS: Yes.

21                    MR. MCGOFF: -- requesting that a  
22                    meeting between the rental registration  
23                    coordinators, director of LIPS, the Single  
24                    Tax Office, that they meet and setup some  
25                    procedure for the collection of the

1 mercantile taxes that would apply to  
2 landlords I believe that we discussed either  
3 last week or the week before, and also I did  
4 neglect that --

5 MS. EVANS: Or the businesses that  
6 come into town for construction purposes  
7 using out-of-state labor or --

8 MR. MCGOFF: That was just a --

9 MS. EVANS: -- who are escaping  
10 payment of those taxes.

11 MR. MCGOFF: I was just doing the  
12 rental registration part. And also, I think  
13 as you mentioned in a previous meeting,  
14 rental registration and all of this are  
15 working hand-in-hand with NRS who has been  
16 extremely helpful in pursuing this and I  
17 think they should -- they, too, should be  
18 commended for the help that they have given  
19 in implementing this program. And that is  
20 all.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman  
22 Loscombe?

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, thank you.  
24 First thing I would like to do is to make a  
25 motion for Resolution No. 22 of 2013 to be

1 taken from the table and put into Seventh  
2 Order.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

6 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Next, as Ms. Chilipko  
11 mentioned and Mrs. Evans, the Capouse Avenue  
12 pool, I do have an interest in seeing that  
13 pool open, that way they are all open for  
14 the children this summer and that one has  
15 been closed the longest and I believe that  
16 they have a large group of children that are  
17 more than eligible in that area. I'm  
18 offering my help, my services, and I will be  
19 getting ahold of Mary tomorrow to see what  
20 we can do on that, so I hope that comes into  
21 fruition. We have a lot of heavy work to do  
22 in a short amount of time, but I commit  
23 myself to Mary and the Pinebrook  
24 Neighborhood Association on that.

25 And secondly, the same person that

1 mentioned the zoning board meeting last  
2 night, I have satellite TV so I really  
3 haven't see any of our municipal meetings or  
4 anything like that since 2007. On occasion  
5 I will stop at my mother's home and she will  
6 be watching it and I will sit down with her.  
7 Well, it so happened last evening I ran to  
8 the store and I stopped at her home later in  
9 the evening, I believe it was probably well  
10 after 8:00, and she happened to have the  
11 meeting on and it was just starting to the  
12 point about what Mrs. Chilipko was  
13 expressing about the group of the developers  
14 that have taken over some properties and the  
15 zoning board was looking to repeal their  
16 permits.

17 I'll tell you what, I haven't seen  
18 any of their meetings, as I stated, and I  
19 have to say I was impressed. To me, that  
20 meeting seemed like good government in  
21 action. There were a lot of hard questions  
22 asked, a lot of eye opening things happened  
23 at that meeting. I was glued to the edge of  
24 my seat. I felt myself there in Mr. Kochis'  
25 position when he was relating his

1 frustration on his question as to why there  
2 is a zoning board when people downstairs and  
3 upstairs override him and do things without  
4 their knowledge.

5 You know, many of you have seen me  
6 here with my frustrations saying the same  
7 thing, what are we doing here when we do  
8 things that are totally ignored. Finally  
9 some of this is coming to light and I think  
10 it was an eye opener what happened last  
11 night.

12 Now, I don't know the parties on  
13 either side of this situation last night, I  
14 personally don't, and I don't know what the  
15 results are, but it did open up my eyes,  
16 well, I have seen a lot so my eyes have been  
17 opened, but I think it opened up a lot of  
18 the public's eyes and hopefully you will  
19 tell your friends, relatives, any taxpayer  
20 in this city to watch the replays of that  
21 zoning board meeting and you will see what  
22 we have been fighting against in our term  
23 here.

24 Has this been going on for the last  
25 12 years? I can't say. It appears to be,

1 but I can't say. It appears, and again, I  
2 believe it was maybe three or four weeks ago  
3 right here in this seat I expressed my  
4 frustration, I said the haves and the have  
5 nots. Basically what I mean are the  
6 connected and the non-connected. I  
7 expressed my frustration that day because I  
8 had heard from individuals that were trying  
9 to fix up properties and buy properties that  
10 do excellent work, I have seen their work, I  
11 have seen their products that were done  
12 nothing but harassed by the zoning, by LIPS  
13 and every other entity in this city because  
14 they were not connected and that's --

15 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, but you just  
16 triggered something and, you know, I would  
17 just add to that and I'm not -- I'm not  
18 complaining, I'm not just stating a fact,  
19 that when there are problems, for example,  
20 brought to LIPS the director of LIPS is  
21 well-known now for telling individuals, "Oh,  
22 city council did that," when city council  
23 had nothing to do with that, wasn't even  
24 aware of that, and that type of issue would  
25 never even come before city council because

1           it's not anything that falls under our  
2           jurisdiction, and that went on with the  
3           previous DPW director as well. Any issue  
4           over anything, "Oh, city council did that.  
5           Don't blame me, they did that."

6                         But none of these people take their  
7           orders from us, they all take their orders  
8           from the mayor and there is a hierarchy, but  
9           we have nothing to do with that. So, you  
10          know, I think that needed to be said at long  
11          last because, you know, this council is  
12          frankly the one that because there was power  
13          in numbers was able to expose the finances  
14          and then the house came tumbling down the  
15          way the finances were managed and then the  
16          banks knew what was going on all along with  
17          the administration and the Pennsylvania  
18          Economy League and one thing lead to  
19          another.

20                        So there has been much accomplished,  
21          great accomplishments, but it's nice to see,  
22          as Mr. Loscombe said, that all the pieces of  
23          the puzzle are coming together now and that,  
24          you know, despite what is written in the  
25          newspaper and what fails to be written in



1 the newspaper I think the people now after  
2 all of these years are seeing the light and  
3 maybe recognizing how hard this fight has  
4 been on your behalf.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you. Just to  
6 continue, I do commend Mr. Kochis. I mean,  
7 I don't know him personally, I have never  
8 met him, that was he first I have ever seen  
9 him when I watched the TV last night to be  
10 honest with you, but he asked some good,  
11 hard questions and I could see his  
12 frustration building up and building up and  
13 I said, "Boy, that's me."

14 But he did ask the right questions  
15 and he asked for the same thing that the  
16 people -- the attorney at this table was  
17 asking for a level playing field for  
18 everybody. It shouldn't be the way it's  
19 been, that's why we are in the position we  
20 are in. A level playing field for everyone  
21 and I would hold our next mayor to those  
22 same rules. The minute they start to sway  
23 as long as I'm here I'm going to fight  
24 against it. Everybody should have an equal  
25 opportunity here and that's something that

1 has been neglected for a long time. I know  
2 there has been a dirty little secret here.

3 Now, to preface that, I'm not  
4 accusing the gentleman that were here for  
5 their permits of any of that, but it did  
6 seem that they had the accessibility that  
7 the average person does not have and it did  
8 seem that, and Mr. Wallace admitted it, he  
9 was forced basically to sign that document,  
10 and this is something that I don't believe a  
11 lot of people even know exists. A  
12 certificate of noncompliance or  
13 nonconformance, I'm not sure which one it  
14 was, but they were able to take a condemned  
15 property off the rolls that if you or I were  
16 to purchase would have to go through a --  
17 and they were given a list, that's the first  
18 thing that they were given, and they have to  
19 go through a whole list posting bonds,  
20 bringing everything up to code, going to  
21 zoning, if a property is vacant for "X"  
22 amount of time and it's a four-unit dwelling  
23 and it was originally a single unit, it's a  
24 single unit they just can't go back and put  
25 four in it they have to go to zoning for

1           that approval or for parking or anything,  
2           but by going with that certificate of  
3           noncompliance it appears that they thought  
4           they could just end around the whole circle,  
5           go to the top, and Mr. Wallace mentioned  
6           that he was told to sign that letter by the  
7           paralegal in the office, Ms. Mariotti -- or  
8           Mrs. Seitzinger, I'm sorry, and I'm not  
9           saying anything that wasn't stated at the  
10          meeting last night.

11                         Apparently Mr. Kelly and  
12          Mr. Seitzinger met with these developers and  
13          gave them their approval over Mr. Wallace's  
14          -- you know, over his head, and so the  
15          attorney asked who was running the zoning  
16          office, the legal department or the zoning  
17          officer.

18                         It was very, very eye opening. I  
19          mean, again, working here we have seen it  
20          behind the scenes and we have been batting  
21          our heads against that stone wall unable to  
22          accomplish anything, but now I think it  
23          started to become exposed piece by piece on  
24          what's been going on and, you know, I'm very  
25          disappointed that it even had to go to that,

1 but I'm glad it came to that, I'm glad the  
2 exposure is there and it's not business as  
3 usual anymore. Everybody has to have a fair  
4 shot at anything.

5 And I heard them say that, you know,  
6 it's very frustrating for developers to come  
7 into this town with all of the rules and  
8 regulations and all of that. Well, all I  
9 can say is how do you think those people  
10 feel that do go by the rules and regulations  
11 and the others go around? You know, follow  
12 the rules, follow regulations you will have  
13 no problem. Ironically, a gentleman came in  
14 right afterwards to develop a home winery,  
15 he had all of the facts laid out, he had all  
16 the pictures, he presented a nice thing and  
17 he was approved. I mean, it's as simple as  
18 that. He showed the parking, that's all the  
19 zoning board is asking.

20 But, you know, there are certain  
21 things that have been done certain ways for  
22 so long that I think people expect them to  
23 continue that way and it's not going to be  
24 that way. And I really appreciate the  
25 zoning board take a hard look at that last

1 night and they have opened a lot of eyes and  
2 what really got me going I had a call today  
3 on someone who was trying to purchase a city  
4 property for three years now. He could have  
5 had his new house on there and taxes paid  
6 for the city for the third year now and he  
7 is still getting no where with the same  
8 person that rushed to get that document  
9 signed by Mr. Wallace so there is something  
10 wrong up there.

11 If you don't belong, if you are not  
12 in a click you are not going anywhere, and  
13 I'm not afraid to say that because that's  
14 exactly the way it is. I'm not in a click.  
15 Never was, never want to be, never will be.  
16 But everybody should have a fair shot. It  
17 shouldn't be once against the other,  
18 connected or the nonconnected and that's why  
19 I get frustrated here and I did experience  
20 that frustration with Mr. Kochis last night,  
21 who I have never met in my life, but he felt  
22 the same way about upstairs and downstairs  
23 overriding everything that is done by people  
24 that are elected and appointed to do their  
25 jobs. That's the frustration and hopefully

1 something will come out of it.

2 And again, that person, like I said,  
3 we could have properties on the tax rolls,  
4 but they are worried about this stuff we are  
5 losing money because it's taking care of  
6 certain individuals. And again, I hope  
7 that's not the case in this matter, but I  
8 have seen it, I have heard it, I have  
9 witnessed, I have experienced it. And, you  
10 know, and I can't be retaliated on any more  
11 than I have been already so I have nothing  
12 to lose by coming out. I just hope enough  
13 people are strong enough to come out.

14 My e-mail is right on the city  
15 council -- on the city's website, go to city  
16 council, anyone who has run into these  
17 problems with these departments that I have  
18 spoken about or anything similar to that  
19 please e-mail me because I'm putting  
20 together a file on the information and the  
21 details of what your situation was.

22 And with that, I mean, I don't know  
23 if this is an order or what, but would it be  
24 appropriate to launch some type of an  
25 investigation on the law department running

1 the zoning? Not giving the zoning officer  
2 the opportunity to do what he has to do, but  
3 telling him what he has to do? I don't  
4 know. Is there a department we can have  
5 investigate this because I think this is  
6 only the tip of the iceberg, and I don't  
7 think this should be continued and from  
8 seeing what I have seen I think it's been  
9 going on a long time far too long and that's  
10 my opinion, but I think the time is now to  
11 start looking at some of this stuff and find  
12 out way things have been done the way they  
13 have been doing and stop them from  
14 continuing right now, but if someone did  
15 something illegally or something wrong, if  
16 there was coercion done there that's  
17 illegal. Is it racketeering don't know, but  
18 I do think somebody should investigate this.  
19 I'm not a legal mind, so I can't say who or  
20 who could authorize it or what, can I ask  
21 our solicitor if there is any advice on  
22 that? Is there any agency or government  
23 agency that would look into something like  
24 this?

25 MR. HUGHES: Not that I'm aware of.

1 I didn't see the zoning meeting last night.  
2 It's my understanding that there is previous  
3 litigation over this. There was a court  
4 opinion that said that there was a prior  
5 nonconforming use. I think that we'll just  
6 have to see how this plays out with an  
7 appeal process and it will be up to the  
8 Courts, you know, to decide that and that  
9 could be an issue before the Court.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Excuse me,  
11 Mr. Hughes, I'm not talking about the  
12 conforming use, I'm talking about the use of  
13 our law department basically telling the  
14 zoning officer what to do. That's on the  
15 record.

16 MR. HUGHES: I have no idea. I have  
17 no idea what was said of --

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: The zoning officer  
19 against his advice signed that paper, that's  
20 on the record.

21 MR. HUGHES: Well, I know what I  
22 read in the paper, I know some people have  
23 said, but until there is a transcript and we  
24 can review a transcript, you know, I'm not  
25 going to give any advice on that issue



1           because without knowing the full  
2           circumstances of what happened, I mean,  
3           obviously the zoning board they denied the  
4           permit -- or I think they sustained the  
5           appeal --

6                         MR. LOSCOMBE: Correct.

7                         MR. HUGHES: -- that was taken by  
8           the neighbors, but until you see the  
9           transcript and what was said and what the  
10          issues are, I can't give any advice on that  
11          right now.

12                        MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, and I  
13          believe that's all I have. Thank you.

14                        MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good  
15          evening, I have only a few brief items to  
16          address. First, Scranton City Council  
17          thanks the Scranton Housing Authority for  
18          it's 2013 payment in lieu of taxes in the  
19          amount of \$30,163.46. We encourage all  
20          nonprofits located within city limits to  
21          donate a fair share contribution to help our  
22          distressed municipality, continue to provide  
23          the public services that are received by  
24          all.

25                        Second, I wish to provide updates

1            regarding the pool openings. According to  
2            Mark Dougher, DPW Director, there are 27  
3            applicants for lifeguard positions.

4            Orientation was conducted on June 13 and a  
5            free certification program will be offered  
6            which will ultimately determine hiring and  
7            dates of pool openings.

8                            On the other hand, I spoke with the  
9            mayor who stated that the Nay Aug pools  
10           would open this weekend followed by the  
11           opening of two neighborhood pools on June  
12           29. The opening of any remaining pools is  
13           contingent upon the hiring of a necessary  
14           number of lifeguards. In past years, for  
15           example, the city hired 140 lifeguards to  
16           open all city pools according to the mayor.  
17           He remains optimistic that applicants will  
18           continue to become available, and keeping  
19           that in mind, once again, I suggest that the  
20           volunteer materials and council members  
21           interested in repairing Capouse Avenue pool  
22           schedule that meeting as soon as possible  
23           and go into with your plan.

24                            Third, a resident of Lake Scranton  
25           Road contacted our council office on June 12

1 to report that the truck traffic along Lake  
2 Scranton Road has resumed. There were very  
3 few trucks traveling that road while the  
4 traffic study was being conducted. Now that  
5 the study has concluded, the trucks are back  
6 in full force.

7 Mrs. Krake, if you could please  
8 notify Civil Crossroads of this change in  
9 traffic patterns immediately. And, you  
10 know, this is just another example of where  
11 city council fights for city residents and  
12 their quality of life and we have taken on  
13 big guys, mountains to help people and, you  
14 know, it's not just this case where the  
15 powerful ignore the law, it's been happening  
16 over and in Bellevue for the last 15 years.  
17 Everybody just ignores the laws passed by  
18 city council, past and present, and I often  
19 get very downtrodden about circumstances  
20 like this because I have spent 15 years  
21 fighting against them and fighting for  
22 little people against these rich and  
23 powerful. And, Mrs. Krake, I have to thank  
24 for reminding me that in most cases people  
25 wouldn't even try, they would just give up

1                   and say, "That's the way it is."

2                   But we never did that, I never did  
3                   that. And then another wise man, who sits  
4                   somewhere over to my right, told me  
5                   something that I'm never going to forget  
6                   when I discussed these situations with him,  
7                   he tells me, "Never forget the Golden Rule."

8                   And, of course, you and I know the  
9                   Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would  
10                  have them do unto to you."

11                  So I really don't understand what he  
12                  was saying when he said, "You know, the  
13                  Golden Rule, the guy with the gold rules."

14                  And that's true, but you still have  
15                  to try. You still have to keep fighting and  
16                  eventually, you know, David took down  
17                  Goliath, so it might take years, it might  
18                  take ten years, 12 years, people who started  
19                  it and sticking with it over a decade, but  
20                  it's coming, it's been happening.

21                  And someone has reminded me that  
22                  Flag Day is tomorrow, June 14, so I hope we  
23                  are all proudly flying our flags and  
24                  honoring this country and those who serve it  
25                  and sacrifice for all of us.

1                   Next, we did receive responses to  
2                   citizens' requests from Mr. Dougher, DPW  
3                   Director, and Mr. Pocius, city engineer, in  
4                   regard to the installation of "No parking"  
5                   signs at the corner of Penn Avenue and  
6                   Linden Street where parking meters were  
7                   removed. Mr. Dougher states that he is  
8                   working with PennDOT on these signs.

9                   Regarding the placement or  
10                  repainting of "No Parking" signs in front of  
11                  927 and 945 South Main avenue, Mr. Dougher  
12                  responds that he will install new signs.

13                 And in response to a request for a  
14                 status ever update of the Rockwell Avenue  
15                 bridge, Mr. Pocius, vice president of CECO  
16                 Associates, Incorporated states, and he is  
17                 also the city engineer, "This project is  
18                 currently under review by PennDOT. Buckhart  
19                 Horn is addressing their comments. The  
20                 project is scheduled for a let date of  
21                 September 11, 2013, with anticipated notice  
22                 to proceed for construction in October 2013.

23                 And finally, I have citizens'  
24                 requests for the week: According to  
25                 residents of Pond Avenue, the 2300 block of

1 Pond Avenue is separated by a hill and the  
2 2300 North Main. Grass is very high and  
3 garbage has accumulated on this hill,  
4 including the mattress that has remained for  
5 several years and is located near to North  
6 Main Avenue. The view of drivers on Pond  
7 and Dean Streets as well as on North Main  
8 Avenue is obstructed by this grass and  
9 garbage. Please clear this area ASAP as it  
10 is a pressing safety hazard.

11 City council reviewed a list of  
12 complaints from city residents concerning  
13 Meadow Avenue and East Mountain area and  
14 I'll provide this list to our office  
15 following tonight's meeting for the request  
16 to be forwarded to the appropriate city  
17 departments.

18 And, Ms. Schumacher, I would ask you  
19 if you could please, since you were the one  
20 who brought the issue of the "No Parking"  
21 signs at Linden and Penn, if you can keep  
22 your eye on that and update us because this  
23 has to be addressed. It can't just sit and  
24 sit and sit until a new administration comes  
25 in.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Same on the  
2 Mulberry Street where it hasn't been taken  
3 off there.

4 MS. EVANS: Exactly. We have got to  
5 just keep at it and keep at it until they do  
6 it, so I appreciate your help. And that's  
7 it.

8 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans, if I may, I  
9 know Mr. Joyce was going to mention the  
10 property that Mr. Loscombe mentioned, he had  
11 it there, since he is absent this evening  
12 due to illness, would it be appropriate for  
13 a council person to request a letter be sent  
14 to the law department if someone wants to  
15 make that request?

16 MS. EVAN: I'll make the request.

17 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: On behalf of council  
19 please send that letter to the law  
20 department.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I apologize, I should  
22 have requested it. I got carried away as  
23 usual.

24 MS. KRAKE: Thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mrs. Krake.

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AUTHORIZING THE  
2 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS  
3 TO GRANT A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO  
4 MULLIGAN'S SPORTS & SPIRITS TO OPERATE AN  
5 OUTDOOR RESTAURANT AT 519 LINDEN STREET  
6 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. FILE  
19 OF COUNCIL NO. 29, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE -  
20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE  
21 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT, RECEIVE AND RECORD  
22 A GIFT OF REAL ESTATE FROM FMP REALTY, LLC  
23 CONSISTING OF A PARCEL AT THE INTERSECTION  
24 OF CAPOUSE AVENUE AND MARION STREET, ON THE  
25 NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID INTERSECTION TO



1 PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL PARKING IN THE  
2 NEIGHBORHOOD.

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

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I move that Item 6-B  
6 pass reading by title.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

8 MS. EVANS: On the question?

9 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. I know we had  
10 some questions about this last week and I  
11 also see in the notes that somebody is going  
12 to make a motion to table it. Have we  
13 received anymore information about this  
14 project?

15 MS. EVANS: No, other than we did  
16 receive two responses from the individuals  
17 that we requested to attend. I know that  
18 Mr. Paulzette is anxious to attend and  
19 Attorney Penetar of the zoning board has  
20 indicated that he will attend, but I am  
21 waiting to hear from Mr. Wallace, from the  
22 owners of Nada, from OECD, I think we might  
23 want to have someone from OECD here who can  
24 speak to the grant that has been applied  
25 for, so as soon as we can get all of those

1 people together that will public caucus will  
2 happen and we can return it to the table.

3 MR. MCGOFF: I did hear that it  
4 was -- that this was part of a larger  
5 project and somebody asked if it was, you  
6 know, the development of that area and I was  
7 told that, yes, it was.

8 MS. EVANS: That's what it appears  
9 to be.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you for finding  
11 that --

12 MS. EVANS: There might be some type  
13 of a -- I don't want to say a mall, but --

14 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

15 MS. EVANS: A shopping district.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Right. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Okay.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: And that's another  
19 reason we would be tabling it to --

20 MR. MCGOFF: -- wait for information.

21 MS. EVANS: Right, but back on the  
22 Sixth Order approval, all those in favor  
23 signify by saying aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: At this time I would  
4 like to make a motion to table Item 6-A.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

6 MS. EVANS: There is a motion on the  
7 floor to table Item 6-A and a second, on the  
8 question? All those in favor signify by  
9 saying aye.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -  
15 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 30, 2013 -AN ORDINANCE -  
16 AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NUMBER 54, 1986  
17 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR  
18 HANDICAPPED PARKING AREAS WHERE OFFICIAL  
19 SIGNS INDICATE; DEFINING AND PRESCRIBING  
20 PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT  
21 THEREOF", BY ADDING A SECTION PROVIDING FOR  
22 A PROGRAM FOR THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
23 TO MONITOR A RENEWAL PROCESS ON ITS  
24 APPLICATION FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGNS.

25 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by

1 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I move that Item 6-B  
3 pass reading by title.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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

7 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Seven?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes.

13 MR. LOSCOMBE: I did this in Fifth,  
14 but I guess I would like to make a motion to  
15 take Resolution No. 20, 2013, from the  
16 table, or parentheses 7-A from the table.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION  
25 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR

1 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 20, 2013  
2 (PREVIOUSLY TABLED)- AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR  
3 AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO  
4 EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT  
5 WITH HORSEPOWER HARLEY DAVIDSON, INC. TO  
6 LEASE FIVE (5) POLICE PACKAGE MOTORCYCLES.

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

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: As Chairperson for  
11 the Committee on Public Safety, I recommend  
12 final passage of Item 7-A.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

16 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

20 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

23 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans, we are going  
24 to need a temporary chair since 7-B is  
25 community development.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would like to  
2 nominate Mr. McGoff.

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

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 7-B has already been  
10 taken from the table during motions by  
11 Councilman Loscombe.

12 MR. MCGOFF: Do we have a copy of  
13 it?

14 MS. KRAKE: Yes. 7-B. FOR  
15 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY  
16 DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION -- RESOLUTION  
17 NUMBER 22, 2013, PREVIOUSLY TABLED,  
18 ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE  
19 HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
20 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF  
21 APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF  
22 SCRANTON, 800 LINDEN STREET, SCRANTON,  
23 PENNSYLVANIA, FOR DEMOLITION OF LEAHY HALL;  
24 TO INCLUDE COURTESY REVIEW BY THE HARB FOR  
25 PUBLIC INCORPORATION OF THE LINDEN STREET

1 PORTICO; PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE 1907  
2 BUILDING VIA EXHIBIT PHOTO AND TEXT,  
3 INCLUDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE YWCA  
4 BUILDING AND ITS ROLE IN THE CITY; AT 630  
5 LINDEN STREET AND 235 JEFFERSON AVENUE,  
6 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

10 MR. MCGOFF: As acting Chair, I  
11 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. MCGOFF: It was my understanding  
15 in speaking with someone from HARB, it was  
16 my understanding that they were submitting  
17 some recommendations for changes that they  
18 -- there was an understanding that they --  
19 that there was an understanding they could  
20 not rescind the vote accepting the  
21 demolition, but that they were to include  
22 some recommendations for mitigation that  
23 were not included and that's why I asked if  
24 there was a copy. I didn't see --

25 MS. EVANS: Well, I know what you

1 are speaking of and that's correct, that did  
2 occur, and at a meeting was held, a vote was  
3 taken to submit the revisions to city  
4 council which was then sent to Ms. Lori  
5 Reed, the secretary/treasurer who didn't  
6 attend the meeting and hasn't responded to  
7 the request of the five members, but I  
8 think, you know, I sat that aside tonight  
9 based on the fact that the zoning board has  
10 denied the University of Scranton's  
11 exception and I'm going to stand by and  
12 support the decision of the zoning board.

13 MR. MCGOFF: But these are two --  
14 they are two different things. We are not  
15 voting on a variance, this is only the  
16 acceptance of a certificate of the  
17 appropriateness for the demolition of Leahy  
18 Hall. It has nothing to do with the  
19 variance that was denied by the zoning  
20 board. They are two separate issues.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, yes, but I don't  
22 think we should be approving or accepting  
23 anything regarding this project when the  
24 zoning board itself has not approved the  
25 project. So, as I said, I'm just going to



1           respect and abide by the decision of the  
2           zoning board and follow suit.

3                       MR. LOSCOMBE: And I just feel, as I  
4           stated previously that, you know, wait for  
5           the zoning board to make their decision, of  
6           course, they are two different things.  
7           However, by us approving this here it gives  
8           them the right to tear down the building so,  
9           therefore, there could be an empty lot  
10          sitting there and maybe never approval for  
11          any improvement at this point, so I just  
12          don't see the wisdom in that at this point  
13          either. I mean, if they get approval from  
14          the zoning board we could always redo this.

15                      MR. HUGHES: Madam President, I was  
16          just going to comment on what Mr. Loscombe  
17          said, the fact that the zoning board has  
18          denied the variance for the development of  
19          the project based on the site requirements  
20          of the city zoning ordinance that if this  
21          were approved tonight that it would give the  
22          University the go ahead to demolish these  
23          buildings, and if you remember last week's  
24          meeting, I forget who the gentlemen was --

25                      MS. EVANS: Mr. Devers.

1                   MR. HUGHES: Mr. Devers requested  
2                   that in anticipation -- well, that was his  
3                   request and, of course, you know, council  
4                   said, "Let's wait and see what the zoning  
5                   board does."

6                   If you would have approved that last  
7                   week they could go ahead with having these  
8                   buildings demolished. I thought there were  
9                   two separate buildings there, there is  
10                  really one building, looks like they were  
11                  built at two different times, and I don't  
12                  know what Leahy Hall is, if that's the YWCA  
13                  and then the adjoining building, which I  
14                  think were apartments, were built later, but  
15                  when you look at the building it looks like  
16                  the "Y" was -- there's a building there in  
17                  the front that faces -- that faces Linden  
18                  Street that has one architectural style and  
19                  then as you go down Jefferson Avenue there  
20                  is an entirely different architectural style  
21                  that's attached it. I thought what he was  
22                  requesting last week was to demolish the  
23                  other -- you know, that is the residence.

24                  But, you know, Mr. Loscombe is  
25                  accurate that if this were done, HARB has

1 approved the demolition and what would you  
2 do with the portico? I still don't  
3 understand where the portico was going to  
4 go, but where would, you know, where would  
5 you put a building that might not be built.

6 So that I remember that we did this  
7 it wasn't with the National Association of  
8 Historic Trust for the Casey Parkway when  
9 that was authorized to be demolished for the  
10 hotel. You know, actually it wasn't to be  
11 demolished it was just to make an opening  
12 from the hotel into the garage so that you  
13 would not have to drive back out onto Adams  
14 Avenue and then go into the old Casey  
15 garage. It took us ten months to get that  
16 approved out of the National Preservation  
17 Historic Trust in Washington, DC, and we had  
18 to create a museum in there or at least some  
19 areas and save some of the leaded glass in  
20 that it was in the old waiting room. I  
21 don't know whatever happened to that after  
22 the Casey garage was demolished but,  
23 obviously, you know, that wasn't done. I  
24 mean, we were just at that time the plan was  
25 just to knock a hole in the wall so that the

1 cars could go directly into the garage  
2 through the old waiting room and all those  
3 doors and everything had to be saved and put  
4 up, I think they are probably up in some  
5 demolition landfill now, but Mr. Loscombe is  
6 100 percent correct on that. So if that  
7 were approved tonight the University of  
8 Scranton would have the go ahead to have  
9 that building demolished.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

11 MR. HUGHES: At least in my opinion.

12 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Well, I just did have  
14 another comment, just to finish. Number  
15 one, the idea that they would demolish the  
16 building and not put anything there I  
17 believe borders on ludicrous that when they  
18 have the need for a building and something  
19 would be built and I think that by, you  
20 know, any attempt to deny this is at a great  
21 cost to the city in terms of permits and  
22 fees, and while we may laugh at something  
23 like \$5 million and think it's a joke in the  
24 fees and permits that they pay for over the  
25 years I still think that that's a

1           consideration, plus the jobs that would be  
2           created and the demolition and the  
3           construction of the new building would be  
4           very beneficial to the City of Scranton and  
5           I think that we are just putting stumbling  
6           blocks in the way of progress and  
7           redevelopment.

8                       MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't know if we  
9           can consider that if they tore it down they  
10          wouldn't just leave an empty lot there. I  
11          mentioned several times they purchased a  
12          \$27,000 house for \$550,000s and tore it down  
13          and there sits an empty lot there.  
14          Apparently money is no object, but that's  
15          not my point and, you know, I'm all for  
16          jobs, but again, as I mentioned earlier  
17          about the zoning and stuff like that there  
18          is rules to follow, there is organizations  
19          they have to go through, architectural  
20          trusts and stuff like that and, you know,  
21          everybody no matter who they are should  
22          follow the same rules.

23                      MR. MCGOFF: And they are.

24                      MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

25                      MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: No. I hereby declare  
5 Item 7-B defeated. If there is no further  
6 business, I'll entertain a motion to  
7 adjourn.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Motion to adjourn.

9 MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
10 adjourned.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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