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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL  
SINE DIE MEETING

HELD:

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

TIME:

10 A.M.

LOCATION:

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

AMELIA NICOL, RPR  
COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PATRICK ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

(Pledge of Allegiance)

MS. EVANS: Please remain standing for a moment reflection for our servicemen and women throughout the world and for all those who died in the last several weeks, particularly my good friend, Betty Fenton, loving wife; mother of my dear friend, Wayne, and his 23 year companion, Danny; grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, dear friend to Kathleen and retired business owner. Francis P. Karam, devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother of my former principal and friend, Al, uncle, Army veteran and 44 year member of the Scranton Police Department who rose through the ranks of patrolman to Superintendent of Police and was the first college educated Scranton policeman; Francis K. Nooney, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and former member of Scranton Sewer Authority, Housing Authority, Health and Welfare

1 Authority and Zoning Board and their  
2 dear families and many friends who  
3 suffer their loss.

4 (Moment of Reflection.)

5 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

7 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

9 MR. ROGAN: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

11 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

12 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.

13 MR. JOYCE: Here.

14 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.

15 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with  
16 the reading of the minutes, please.

17 MS. CARRERA: 3RD ORDER, NO  
18 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. 4TH ORDER,  
19 CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.

20 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker  
21 today is Ozzie Quinn.

22 MR. QUINN: Thank you. Good  
23 morn ing.

24 MS. EVANS: Good morn ing.

25 MR. QUINN: Members of council,

1 Father Sica. As president of the  
2 Taxpayer's Association and on behalf  
3 the members of the Taxpayer's  
4 Association, I'm sorry to see Frank go  
5 and we'll sorry to see Mrs. Evans,  
6 Janet, go and we want to give Mrs.  
7 Evans for her tenure on the City  
8 Council, ten years for her good work  
9 and empathy for the people of the  
10 Scranton, we wanted to convey this,  
11 okay, a momentum on behalf of  
12 Taxpayer's Association. Best of luck  
13 to you and your family. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is  
15 Doug Miller.

16 MR. MILLER: Good morning,  
17 Council. Doug Miller of Scranton.  
18 You know, before I get to my comments  
19 this morning, I'd like to start off as  
20 a sign of appreciation for your  
21 service to the city, Mrs. Evans,  
22 there's obviously so many thank you's  
23 that we can possibly give and  
24 certainly that's probably not enough  
25 but just a small token of my

1 appreciation to your service, I'd like  
2 to present you with these flowers if I  
3 can.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MR. MILLER: Now, today is a very  
6 special day where we can finally come  
7 together and take the time for a few  
8 moments to put politics aside and put  
9 our differences aside and honor and  
10 reflect on those that served our city  
11 well. Today we honor three key  
12 individuals that played a very  
13 important role in our city government.  
14 We start with Mayor Doherty who leaves  
15 office after 12 years and, you know, I  
16 want to thank him for his service to  
17 the city. We may not have always  
18 agreed on policies but, you know, as I  
19 said today, put that aside, and you  
20 appreciate 12 years of service.  
21 That's a long time. Twelve years is a  
22 long time. As I recall, you know,  
23 incoming in office I was a lot younger  
24 and I've seen a lot take place over  
25 the last 12 years and it's hard to

1 believe that all that time has gone  
2 by. It seems, you know, it was just  
3 yesterday that Mayor Doherty came into  
4 office and I thank him for his  
5 service. He came, he had a vision.  
6 You know, he did what he believed was  
7 best and I wish him well, his family  
8 well and we move forward.

9 Next, I'd like offer my sincere  
10 appreciation to Councilman Joyce. As  
11 someone who is a newcomer so to speak  
12 to politics and the city government, I  
13 think you should walk out of this room  
14 for the last time with your head held  
15 high. You had an awful lot to be  
16 proud of. You know, when I think back  
17 to all the hard work and the tireless  
18 hard work effort that you put into  
19 your job, particularly as the finance  
20 chair, you put your heart and soul in  
21 everything you did. And when you  
22 leave here today, I hope the residents  
23 of the city realize that, you know,  
24 when it was time to roll up your  
25 sleeves and get down to work, you did

1 just that. And if people need proof  
2 of that, they can go back to the  
3 summer of 2012 and take a look of how  
4 hard we worked on putting that  
5 recovery plan together when the city  
6 was on the brink of bankruptcy. As we  
7 all can recall, we were on national TV  
8 and employees making minimum wage. We  
9 were in essence the laughing stock of  
10 the nation and you stood up as a  
11 leader of this city and you made the  
12 tough decisions and you worked with  
13 the admission and you put it to work  
14 and I commend you for that. You're a  
15 strong leader. Your political future  
16 is just beginning. This isn't the end  
17 of a career. This is only the  
18 beginning and on behalf everyone I  
19 thank you for everything you did. I'm  
20 very proud of you. You're a good  
21 friend and I wish you the best of luck  
22 because as I've said I don't believe  
23 we heard the last of Frank Joyce in  
24 the city.

25 To Mrs. Evans, I don't know where



1 to begin. We've been through an awful  
2 lot together. Ten years is a long  
3 time. I can remember you sitting here  
4 where Mr. McGoff is currently seated,  
5 pretty much as the long soul voice of  
6 the people sitting there for years  
7 fighting on behalf of the taxpayers of  
8 this city. Oftentimes ignored,  
9 oftentimes, you know, facing many  
10 obstacles and hurdles, but you never  
11 let that stand in your way. You  
12 always fought for what you believed  
13 in, you always let the public know  
14 what you stood on the issue and you  
15 always did whatever you could possibly  
16 do to better not only the city but  
17 most of all the taxpayers. You've  
18 championed many great causes and I  
19 think we saw that when you made  
20 history by coming in as council  
21 president bringing in your super  
22 majority. Over the last four years I  
23 think are the major highlight of your  
24 tenure on council as you stepped into  
25 the role that allowed you to make the

1 decisions that, you know, truly, you  
2 know, showed your leadership ability  
3 and your ability to make strong  
4 decisions that are going to have a  
5 lasting impact on the future of this  
6 city. You know, again, I'm going to  
7 go back to the summer of 2012 because  
8 as I've said many times I think that  
9 when we look back at the history it's  
10 going show that this council is going  
11 to be remembered for those moments.  
12 And when it was time to put politics  
13 aside and work and reach out with the  
14 administration what many thought we  
15 couldn't do that or you couldn't do  
16 that. You understood what was at  
17 stake and you knew it was time to step  
18 up in your role and work with the  
19 administration and make tough  
20 decisions and, you know, people only  
21 realize, you know, what went on and  
22 what you did and how you also put your  
23 heart and soul into everything you  
24 did. I don't think we can thank you  
25 enough. You know, when I started

1 attending these meetings ten years  
2 ago, you know, I remember addressing  
3 you and, you know, I want to thank you  
4 for ten years of using you as a mentor  
5 and someone to look up to because I  
6 can honestly say over ten years of  
7 coming here and learning and growing  
8 myself, I've learned an awful lot from  
9 you and I'll never forget the things I  
10 learned from you, built a friendship  
11 with you and, you know, I'll never  
12 forget those things. And you, too,  
13 when you walk out of here today, you  
14 walk with class, your head held high  
15 and you've made an impact on the city  
16 over the last, you know, forever, a  
17 very, very long time. We won't forget  
18 the impact you made and you certainly  
19 left your blueprint here and hopefully  
20 future generations will follow your  
21 lead and you've certainly left a  
22 legacy that, you know, certainly  
23 something to be proud of. I know I'm  
24 proud of it. And those that you've  
25 represented for ten years are thankful

1 and they're also proud because they  
2 know that Scranton's better days are  
3 ahead and the reason for that is your  
4 service and the actions and decisions  
5 and the things you did over the last  
6 decade that made that happen.

7 And finally to Mrs. Krake, I know  
8 she's not here this morning. I want  
9 to thank her for her services as City  
10 Clerk. She was obviously an asset to  
11 that office. She played a very key  
12 role. When you think of individuals  
13 throughout City Hall, Mrs. Krake  
14 always comes to mind because I think  
15 you can almost refer to her as an  
16 encyclopedia of City Hall. The  
17 knowledge that she has I don't think  
18 you can ever replace. And so I want  
19 to thank her for her service. She,  
20 too, should be very proud of her hard  
21 work and effort and we know that that  
22 will never be forgotten.

23 Attorney, Hughes, I want to thank  
24 him for his service as Council  
25 Solicitor always going above and

1           beyond. I can't recall from myself  
2           coming here for ten years ever seeing  
3           a Council Solicitor step up to the  
4           plate in the role that sometimes, you  
5           know, obligated and have to go above  
6           and beyond and take on extra work that  
7           Attorney Hughes had to do so I thank  
8           you for that. I'm sure, you know,  
9           it's an eventful experience for you  
10          and I thank you for everything you  
11          did. And with that said, I wish  
12          everyone a Happy New Year. Today is a  
13          very special day. You can sit back  
14          and reflect on the service of many  
15          individuals who have an lasting impact  
16          on the city and we only hope that  
17          moving forward we can continue to take  
18          on the challenges and that, you know,  
19          the next generation is bright for the  
20          future. Thank you.

21                 MS. EVANS: Fay Franus. Oh, I'm  
22                 sorry.

23                 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good morning.  
24                 My friend and I are here and he is  
25                 part of what motivates me to come to

1           these meetings. I think it's a  
2           travesty that we are pouring onto our  
3           next future citizens at the local and  
4           the state and federal level. And for  
5           the morning I don't like to be bias a  
6           whole lot but I did want to say I  
7           think as Christians we all want to --  
8           those of us who are want to emulate  
9           our Savior and become more Christlike  
10          and it was Paul himself who told us  
11          that we were to lay aside every income  
12          breaks and let us run the race that is  
13          set before us. And, Mrs. Evans, I  
14          know you've poured yourself into this  
15          job and you've done that and I just  
16          want to thank you on behalf of the  
17          taxpayers who are here today and just  
18          wish you well in the future and thank  
19          you for running the race and giving it  
20          your all. Thank you so much.

21                   MS. EVANS: Thank you so much.

22                   MS. FRANUS: Fay Franus,  
23           Scranton. Good morning. It's a very,  
24           very sweet day today in here and your  
25           honesty brought to the people.

1                   Hopefully we'll continue in some form  
2                   but I can't imagine any of the council  
3                   doing the work that you have done, Mr.  
4                   Joyce, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Loscombe. You  
5                   are truly going to be missed because  
6                   you let the people know exactly what  
7                   was going on in the city. And, Frank,  
8                   you brought all the figures that  
9                   needed to be brought. Nobody else has  
10                  ever done that. You straightened  
11                  things out. You did the work of the  
12                  administration and making sure what  
13                  you're doing, you did it. You handled  
14                  the way of far and beyond and I hope  
15                  you run for office in a higher office  
16                  in City Council because I think you  
17                  can become anything you want to be.  
18                  You have the knowledge.

19                         MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

20                         MR. FRANUS: And, Mr. Hughes,  
21                         there's never been a solicitor in the  
22                         City of Scranton like you. You put  
23                         hours in and there were not even  
24                         enough hours in the day that you put  
25                         in and I just hope that people

1 appreciate all the work that you've  
2 done because you also like Frank Joyce  
3 let the people know what was happening  
4 in the city. We never would have  
5 known if you didn't tell us and did  
6 all the work that you did and it's  
7 very appreciated.

8 And, Frank, I hope I know you  
9 know how much the people appreciate  
10 all your work. There aren't words.

11 And Nancy Krake, she was a  
12 wonderful clerk. Personally I don't  
13 think it's right that she's not coming  
14 back. This is my opinion. I think  
15 she should be here to fulfill that  
16 seat but that's how it goes. But she  
17 served you well and you were part of a  
18 good team. You worked well together  
19 and, like I said, I think the city  
20 will ever see another council like  
21 this. We had a dream with you and you  
22 fulfilled everything we ever wanted.

23 I have this plaque, Janet, I'd  
24 like to read and I mean every word of  
25 it and I speak for all the people in



1 the City of Scranton that voted for  
2 you.

3 "Janet Evans was the third woman  
4 in the history of the City of Scranton  
5 who served on Scranton City Council,  
6 the first woman ever to be reelected  
7 to City Council was cumulated in three  
8 consecutive terms and ten years of  
9 dedicated service to the people of  
10 Scranton, the first woman to serve two  
11 terms as City Council President and  
12 each of Janet Evans council election  
13 she was the top vote getter in the  
14 City of Scranton, also she was the  
15 only individual whose team of freshman  
16 candidates were elected when they ran  
17 for Scranton City Council with her in  
18 2009. Janet Evans fought fearlessly  
19 and incessantly against all odds for  
20 the people of Scranton. As City  
21 Council President, Janet Evans  
22 established order and decorum in City  
23 Council Chambers, restored  
24 accountability and transparency to  
25 Scranton City Council, brought down a

1 corrupt mismanaged Municipal  
2 Authority, seized the administration's  
3 checkbook by ending frivolous  
4 spending, halted the loss of  
5 Scrantonian's homes to sheriff's  
6 sales, prevented municipal bankruptcy  
7 and solved the individual problems of  
8 the people regardless how large or  
9 small. Janet Evans embodied her  
10 campaign slogan of being the right  
11 woman, the right time, the right  
12 reason and kept her vow of putting  
13 people first. This plaque is being  
14 presented in recognition of and with  
15 gratitude for unparalleled public  
16 service."

17 And as a friend, Janet, I can  
18 only tell you, you're my person, and  
19 we appreciate every minute you've  
20 spent on here. Your ten years was  
21 just beautiful and we'll never forget  
22 it and thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else  
24 who cares to address City Council?  
25 Yes. We welcome our former mayor,

1 Jimmy Connors.

2 MR. CONNORS: Thank you, Council  
3 President. Jim Connors, Minooka  
4 section of the city. I want to thank  
5 President Janet Evans and council  
6 member, Frank Joyce, for all the years  
7 of dedication and love that you have  
8 given to the people of the City of  
9 Scranton. And the one advisor that  
10 you both had and really and truly the  
11 only advisor you had was the people of  
12 the City of Scranton. You listened to  
13 the people and you responded when you  
14 could to agree with them. And so I  
15 just want to wish you good health and  
16 good luck. And I want to say good  
17 luck to Bob McGoff, a basketball mate,  
18 and Jack Loscombe who I worked with in  
19 the Fire Department when I was a  
20 dispatcher; and my new friend, Pat  
21 Rogan, good luck to you. And I also  
22 want to say thank you, Boyd Hughes,  
23 for being an incredible solicitor for  
24 the people of this City of Scranton  
25 and good health. And good luck to

1 Nancy Krake, too, for all she did for  
2 the people. Good luck.

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mayor. Is  
4 there anyone else who cares to address  
5 council?

6 (No response.)

7 MS. CARRERA: 5TH ORDER, 5A,  
8 MOTIONS.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you  
10 have any comments at this time?

11 MR. MCGOFF: Just very quickly.  
12 When I came on council seven years ago  
13 it was under some contentious  
14 circumstances and I talked to Mrs.  
15 Evans at that time and I said I knew  
16 that we would disagree on many things  
17 and she said to me at that time that  
18 we will probably agree on more than we  
19 will disagree. And over the course of  
20 the seven years I have found that to  
21 be true and I have treasured and  
22 valued the experience that I've had on  
23 council with Mrs. Evans as I have had  
24 for the past four years with Mr.  
25 Joyce. And I wish them well in the

1 future. Thank you.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.

3 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Councilman Rogan, do  
5 you have any comments today?

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes, thank you. I  
7 would like to echo some of Councilman  
8 McGoff and some of the speakers. I  
9 would also like to wish Mrs. Evans and  
10 Mr. Joyce well. It's been a pleasure  
11 serving with you on council. We  
12 haven't always agreed, we haven't  
13 always disagreed but we've always --  
14 all three of us have done our job with  
15 passion and done what we thought was  
16 right for the people of Scranton. So  
17 I wish both of you luck in your future  
18 endeavors.

19 Attorney Hughes, I'd like to wish  
20 you the best as well in your future  
21 endeavors and I don't think there's  
22 two people in the room that agree more  
23 in political ideology than the two of  
24 us. But it was certainly a pleasure  
25 working with you and the amount of

1 knowledge that you brought into this  
2 body was immense.

3 Mrs. Krake, I know she's not here  
4 but I wanted to thank her as well.  
5 She's really the one person who taught  
6 me the inner workings of City Hall and  
7 how it works. She knows the city  
8 better than almost anyone and,  
9 everyone, this was a great four years.  
10 We've had ups and downs but at the end  
11 of the day we're all Scrantonians.  
12 And it is a good day for all of us.  
13 So, again, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Joyce,  
14 thank you very much for your service.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

16 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Councilman Loscombe,  
18 do you have any comments?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't know if I  
20 have enough time. Again, I'd like to  
21 echo the comments of my colleagues,  
22 Mr. McGoff and Mr. Rogan. Four years  
23 ago my fellow colleagues here had to  
24 fill a vacancy when Mr. Courtright was  
25 elected to his position and as one of

1 the candidates I was in contention  
2 with 24 others I believe it was and I  
3 really want to thank my colleagues for  
4 their unanimous decision to appoint me  
5 at that time and I have since  
6 successfully run for election at that  
7 point. Having never had any political  
8 endeavors previously or, you know,  
9 really any political background, it's  
10 been a real awakening for me and I  
11 really, really want to thank Mrs.  
12 Evans and to give my colleagues on  
13 council but under her leadership as  
14 president for her guidance through the  
15 four years I've learned quite a bit.  
16 And on the workings of, you know, the  
17 government and the city here and, you  
18 know, everyone here has been an  
19 invaluable asset and I continue to  
20 learn everyday and I don't know how to  
21 thank you for your mentorship over the  
22 last four years. You know, it's meant  
23 a whole lot to me and I believe that  
24 the citizens have seen the service  
25 that you have dedicated over the years

1 to them here for those years with me  
2 as part of your team here. And,  
3 again, there was sometimes that we  
4 don't agree or whatever but I've  
5 always used the scenario that, you  
6 know, my wife and I have been married  
7 for 35 years. I don't know if we  
8 agree on half of the things and we'll  
9 still together. So it shows that you  
10 can disagree, still work together. We  
11 all have the thoughts in our hearts  
12 with the people that we serve and I  
13 can see that dearly and I would hope,  
14 you know, you would continue in some  
15 way to serve the public or, you know,  
16 run for election again. I can go on  
17 and on but I do want to thank you for  
18 everything.

19 And my right hand man here, Mr.  
20 Joyce, sitting at my whole tenure here  
21 and also a friend. I worked with  
22 Frank's dad. We go back quite a ways,  
23 too, and I know he's very proud  
24 looking down on him at what Frank has  
25 done through these years and I think



1 Frank has a long way to go. He's a  
2 young man, he's got a bright future  
3 ahead of him. Again, sitting next to  
4 him here, I can see the whiz he is  
5 with numbers because he's always  
6 jotting down as people are speaking  
7 different things with the budgets and  
8 he's ready with the answers for the  
9 numbers. So I do applaud Frank for  
10 that part of his service also.

11 We're losing a great solicitor,  
12 Mr. Hughes. You know, our next  
13 solicitor has some big shoes to follow  
14 along with our new City Clerk. I've  
15 only had the opportunity to work with  
16 them. I know some of my colleagues  
17 have worked with different clerks and  
18 different solicitors but they also  
19 have been part of this whole process,  
20 this whole organization of keeping the  
21 city afloat, keeping us apprised of  
22 what is going on. The clear ways that  
23 Attorney Hughes was able to explain  
24 things to the public, I think that was  
25 a big factor, and I just hope going

1 forward that those who are filling  
2 their shoes will, you know, use them  
3 as an example and continue with what's  
4 going on here. But, again, I've been  
5 proud to serve with everyone on this  
6 council. I'm looking forward to  
7 serving the new council and working  
8 to, you know, bring the city back on  
9 track and, you know, without going any  
10 further, I thank you all, especially  
11 Mrs. Evans, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Hughes,  
12 Mrs. Krake from the bottom of my  
13 heart. Thank you for everything.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.  
15 Loscombe. Councilman Joyce, do you  
16 have any comments today?

17 MR. JOYCE: I do. Good morning,  
18 Scrantonians. Today I will address  
19 you one final time as a member of this  
20 City Council. Over the past four  
21 years it has both been an honor and a  
22 privilege to serve you. To begin  
23 today I'm going to take this time to  
24 recognize and publicly thank some of  
25 the individuals who made it possible

1           for me to take on this position four  
2           years ago. First, I want to thank my  
3           Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
4           Without him, my tenure on Scranton  
5           City Council would never have been  
6           possible. I want to thank him for  
7           blessing me with the opportunity to  
8           serve you. I want to thank my father,  
9           Frank Joyce. Though he passed away in  
10          1996 a week before my senior year in  
11          high school over at Prep, he taught me  
12          many lessons that were of paramount  
13          value in both running for office and  
14          serving as a public official. He  
15          taught me how to be selfless, how to  
16          give the shirt off of your back when  
17          others need it. He taught me to be  
18          humble and never let success get to my  
19          head. He taught me that no matter  
20          where I go in life to never forget  
21          where I came from, yes, Bangor Heights  
22          in North Scranton. He taught me to be  
23          courageous and to never give up no  
24          matter what. And last but not least  
25          he taught me to fight and stand up for

1                    what I believe in. I've learned very  
2                    valuable lessons from him during the  
3                    first 17 years of my life. I would  
4                    like to thank my mother, Marie Terrel.  
5                    Like my father, she also taught me  
6                    very valuable lessons from an early  
7                    age. She taught me what it means to  
8                    care, she taught me the value of hard  
9                    work and how it pays off and last but  
10                   not least yet she still managed to  
11                   earn her college degree having me at  
12                   the age of 19-years-old and managed to  
13                   continue onto to graduate school as  
14                   well. I'm blessed to have such a  
15                   strong woman as my mother, especially  
16                   since she put up with me for four  
17                   years as an earpiece to vent my  
18                   frustrations about the city and  
19                   various issues that were faced in some  
20                   cases and still faces to this day in  
21                   some instances. I'd like to thank my  
22                   aunt, Kathy Cavanaugh. Throughout the  
23                   course of her life she served as the  
24                   Deputy Director of Communications for  
25                   former Treasurer Catherine Baker Knoll

1 as well as Barbara Hafer and also she  
2 served as representative for the  
3 Pennsylvania's Tap 529 Program. She  
4 taught me a great deal about politics  
5 and about sticking to your beliefs.  
6 I'd like to thank my late  
7 grandparents, my grandfather, Frank  
8 Joyce who taught me about math and how  
9 to critically think from the age of  
10 six. My grandfather, Michael Chutna,  
11 Sr., who taught me about hard work; my  
12 grandmother, Anna Joyce, who taught me  
13 about empathy, care and compassion;  
14 and my grandmother, Pat Lesinsky, who  
15 taught me about money and would always  
16 get on my case for not going to  
17 various senior centers in Scranton  
18 enough, all of them which she loved.  
19 I would also like to thank other  
20 members of my immediate family who  
21 have been there for me every step of  
22 the way. I'd like to thank my other  
23 aunts, Anna Joyce and Kim Marsellos as  
24 well as my uncle, Mike Chutna. In  
25 addition, I'd like to thank my

1 brother, Justin, as well as my  
2 extended family which consists of many  
3 cousins and other family members who  
4 are too numerous to mention here. I  
5 would also like to thank my many  
6 friends who had my back when I first  
7 decided to run for office. Along with  
8 my family and friends, I would like to  
9 thank some other individuals that I  
10 had the opportunity to work with  
11 during my tenure on council as well as  
12 during my run for office. First, I'd  
13 like to thank our outgoing mayor,  
14 Chris Doherty. I would like to thank  
15 Mayor Doherty for his services to the  
16 city. We didn't agree on everything,  
17 however, he was open in working with  
18 me and I was open in working with him  
19 and we did just that. I worked with  
20 the mayor in negotiating concessions  
21 on the Supreme Court award which  
22 resulted in the city saving nearly 17  
23 million dollars and I've worked with  
24 the mayor on a recovery plan and also  
25 I worked with the mayor in his

1           administration on various lending  
2           agreements and budgets.

3           Second, I would like to thank the  
4           current council members that will be  
5           staying as members of the future  
6           council mainly Bob McGoff, Pat Rogan  
7           and Jack Loscombe. I'd like to thank  
8           them for working with me and sharing  
9           their ideas.

10          Third, I would like to thank our  
11          office staff, Jamie Marciano, Kathy  
12          Carrera and Nancy Krake who will be  
13          leaving with the city as well. All  
14          members of our office staff did  
15          everything they could to get the  
16          answer to any question that I had and  
17          did everything that they could to make  
18          sure that any request that I had from  
19          the resident was answered. Believe  
20          me, I put our staff to work over the  
21          course of my tenure.

22          Fourth, I would like to thank our  
23          solicitor, Boyd Hughes, for educating  
24          me on municipal legal matters.

25          Finally, I'd like to thank Janet

1 Evans. I'd like to thank Janet Evans  
2 for asking Pat Rogan and I to team  
3 with her and to run for office as a  
4 team in 2009. She believed in me when  
5 many others thought that I didn't have  
6 a chance to run since I was  
7 essentially a political unknown at  
8 that time. She also believed that I  
9 was an individual that would serve the  
10 residents of Scranton with honor,  
11 dignity and respect. As a colleague  
12 she's taught me a great deal about  
13 government through her actions. Like  
14 me, she's always tried her very best  
15 to make the tough decisions that had  
16 to be made in order to keep the city  
17 afloat over the past four years even  
18 in the instances where we may not have  
19 agreed totally. She's always put  
20 people first and out of everyone I  
21 have seen in politics I would have to  
22 say that she cares for about the  
23 residents of this city than anyone I  
24 have ever seen.

25 As well as the individuals that I



1           thanked, I would also like to thank  
2           the residents of Scranton who voted  
3           for me to serve in this office. I'd  
4           like to thank the residents who have  
5           come to council chambers to voice  
6           their opinion regarding various  
7           issues. Even if I do not agree with  
8           you, believe me, I listened to you and  
9           I took everything you said into  
10          consideration when making the  
11          decisions that I have made during my  
12          tenure. I would also like to thank  
13          the residents of the city who have not  
14          come to council chambers to voice  
15          their opinion but spoke to me outside  
16          of council chambers. I have listened  
17          to you as well and I took everything  
18          that you have said to me into  
19          consideration when making decisions.  
20          I would also like to thank those who  
21          have criticized me over the past four  
22          years. You've made me much stronger  
23          than I was four years ago. As you can  
24          see, I'm very thankful as well as  
25          honored and privileged for having the

1 opportunity to serve you as a member  
2 of City Council over the past four  
3 years. Over the past four years this  
4 council as a whole has made various  
5 accomplishments, many of them I was a  
6 part of. Some of the accomplishments  
7 that were made over the past four  
8 years include but are not limited to,  
9 one, restoring a greater level of  
10 decorum in council chambers that was  
11 present in the past, lowering the  
12 bidding thresholds to \$10,000 to give  
13 more vendors a chance to engage and  
14 providing city services, requiring  
15 appointments to boards and commissions  
16 to submit a letter of interest or a  
17 resume rather than simply voting to  
18 appoint them, working with Mayor  
19 Doherty to create a recovery plan that  
20 was not previously done since 2002,  
21 participating in negotiations in  
22 regard to the Supreme Court awarding  
23 in favor of police and fire union  
24 which led to the city saving 17  
25 million dollars, pushing for revenue

1           enhancements to lesson the burden of  
2           increasing tax rates on homeowners in  
3           the city and have come to fruition  
4           such as parking tax required to be  
5           held for garages, amusement tax,  
6           market base revenue opportunities and  
7           an enhanced parking meter system,  
8           ushering in a new agency to collect  
9           delinquent real estate taxes and  
10          refuse bills which has resulted in  
11          millions of dollars realized for the  
12          city, renewing rental registration  
13          requirements in an effort to reduce  
14          blight and researching into every  
15          piece of legislation to insure that  
16          residents of Scranton were being well  
17          served and researching into contracts  
18          to insure that the lowest responsible  
19          bidders were chosen. Yes, I am proud  
20          of the accomplishments that were made  
21          during my tenure as a member of  
22          council and I am thankful that I have  
23          the opportunity to work with the  
24          individuals that helped make them  
25          possible but in no way do I sit here

1 as being complaisant. Continuous  
2 improvement should be the norm, not  
3 unreachable. Over the years to come  
4 there are decisions of great magnitude  
5 that must be made in the city of  
6 Scranton. In the future union  
7 contracts will have to be negotiated  
8 in three years, legacy cost for  
9 retirees will be rising, The MMO  
10 requirement for the city's pension  
11 plans will be rising, salaries  
12 governed by contracts will be rising,  
13 health care costs for employees will  
14 be rising. Last but not least the  
15 Supreme Court award will need to be  
16 paid. I wish our future council  
17 members nothing but the best in  
18 dealing with the situations that I  
19 have just mentioned. I also wish our  
20 Mayor Elect Bill Courtright nothing  
21 but the best in dealing with these  
22 situations.

23 As for me and my future, I'm not  
24 going away. In addition to my day job  
25 as a technical writer and

1            instructional designer, I am now Vice  
2            President of Greater Scranton Junior  
3            Chamber of Commerce or Greater  
4            Scranton Jaycees as of this year. In  
5            the upcoming year and in the future  
6            I'll be looking to grow this  
7            organization and its environment with  
8            the community by promoting benefits  
9            that will be beneficial to the general  
10          public by serving our senior citizens,  
11          children and others. I'll be looking  
12          to enhance the organization in its  
13          affiliation with the Chamber of  
14          Commerce to promote business  
15          opportunities as well. I love this  
16          city and I love this area. I will  
17          still be working hard to make this  
18          area a better place. As far as public  
19          service aspirations, I will be running  
20          for public office again. Future state  
21          of affairs and government will decide  
22          what office I run for. A subpar  
23          leadership will promote leads of a  
24          changing agent to better serve the  
25          people and make this community a

1 better place. When I do come back, I  
2 can guarantee that I will be stronger  
3 than ever. My experiences have taught  
4 me a great deal and I expect that my  
5 future experiences will teach me even  
6 more.

7 So this morning I'll close by  
8 saying so long. I will see you soon.  
9 I hesitate to say goodbye because  
10 goodbyes are forever. Scranton, thank  
11 you for the opportunity that you've  
12 given me and I love you with all my  
13 heart. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Good morning, Ladies  
15 and gentlemen, and Happy New Year. On  
16 this momentous day I wish to thank all  
17 those who shared in the decade of my  
18 public service as a Scranton City  
19 Councilwoman. Because I have two  
20 often placed them in secondary  
21 position to my council duties and  
22 responsibilities, I'd like to begin  
23 with my family. During these past ten  
24 years I suffered the loss of my  
25 devoted father and my rock, Carl

1 Tomko, and my loving mother and  
2 inspiration, Marion Tomko, both of  
3 whom were by best friends. I am  
4 forever grateful for their love and  
5 guidance and I hope I have made them  
6 proud. During those same years I also  
7 enjoyed the births of my six beautiful  
8 grandchildren with whom I now hope to  
9 spend some well deserved family time.  
10 I'm deeply grateful to my family for  
11 their sacrifices and support of my  
12 council service. My sister, Ellen,  
13 and her husband, Bill, for their  
14 advice and 13 hour shifts at hotly  
15 contested voting polls. My three  
16 daughters; Erin, Kelly and Kate, my  
17 cheerleaders who so often traveled  
18 home to campaign for me despite rarely  
19 seeing their mother. My son, Chris,  
20 the general who managed all of my  
21 campaigns meticulously and with  
22 resounding success stepped into his  
23 grandfather Carl's shoes and  
24 immediately became my rock, my advisor  
25 and my heart. My husband, Dave, who

1 encouraged me to seek public office  
2 steadfastly supported me with the ups  
3 and downs of political life and became  
4 a self described piece of furniture  
5 while I attended to the daily needs  
6 and the problems of the city and its  
7 people. Thanks for putting up with  
8 phone calls, meetings and countless  
9 e-mails and most of all me, my love.

10 Next I'd like to recognize my  
11 fellow elected officials. I thank  
12 Mayor Doherty for his 12 years of  
13 service to our city. In 2012 a  
14 financial crisis made us partners,  
15 necessity made our allies and we  
16 worked well together to save Scranton  
17 from bankruptcy and maintain public  
18 safety and services for all residents.  
19 In addition, I wish our new Mayor  
20 Elect Bill Courtright and our new  
21 council members, Mr. Weschler and Mr.  
22 Gaughan as they take the reigns of our  
23 city. My honorable colleagues must be  
24 thanked as well. Mr. McGoff has been  
25 both a formidable opponent and ally.



1 He is a gentleman who owns a unique  
2 sense of humor and an optimistic  
3 outlook and I wish him great success  
4 and good health as our next City  
5 Council President. Mr. Rogan was  
6 elected as a member of our council  
7 team to 2009 and he, too, has governed  
8 as an opponent and ally. Discussion  
9 and disagreement among council members  
10 are necessary for such can give birth  
11 to fresh ideas. Mr. Rogan's  
12 governmental and political skills has  
13 grown during his first term and I know  
14 they will continue to serve him well  
15 as our City Council Vice President.  
16 Mr. Loscombe accepted an appointment  
17 to this council on January, 2010, and  
18 he did so at great personal sacrifice.  
19 When he joined our council team he  
20 confirmed a City Council super  
21 majority. He has been our resident  
22 public safety expert and was  
23 instrumental in negotiations with  
24 municipal unions to cut the landmarks  
25 Supreme Court award in half. Jack

1           Loscombe is a man of family and faith  
2           who will continue to fight for the  
3           little guy, the poor, the elderly and  
4           working families across our city. Our  
5           outstanding finance chair and fiscal  
6           liaison, Councilman Joyce, leaves a  
7           legacy of diligent work,  
8           accountability and integrity. His  
9           professionalism, experience and  
10          credentials leave big shoes to fill.  
11          Mr. Joyce was the third member of our  
12          council team in 2009 together with Mr.  
13          Rogan and me. He has proven a staunch  
14          ally as we work to uncover the true  
15          financial state of Scranton and to  
16          address its fiscal problems. A soft  
17          spoken thoughtful gentleman, Mr. Joyce  
18          is a man of the people and the type of  
19          leader we need in government. I thank  
20          all of these councilmen. I had the  
21          good fortune to assemble the best  
22          qualified, most experienced and  
23          hardest working professionals to join  
24          us in our fight for the people.

25                           Attorney Boyd Hughes' Legal

1 representation and work on behalf of  
2 this council and the taxpayers of the  
3 City of Scranton stands as  
4 unprecedented and unparalleled driven  
5 by wisdom, strength and expertise in  
6 municipal law Solicitor Hughes  
7 fearlessly ended financial  
8 mismanagement and amicably built  
9 bridges among officials, bankers,  
10 insurers and others and tenaciously  
11 labored to obtain financing for a  
12 struggling city. His legal knowledge  
13 insured that each action taken and  
14 every piece of legislation adopted by  
15 City Council adhered to the letter of  
16 the law. He leaves a void that is  
17 impossible to fill. Our city clerk,  
18 Mrs. Nancy Krake possessed a  
19 superlative work ethic. Her daily  
20 research, knowledge of governmental  
21 policy and operations,  
22 professionalism, attention to detail  
23 and representation of City Council at  
24 PEL meetings can only be equaled by  
25 her dedication to helping every

1 resident who contacted our office.

2 Our Assistant City Clerk, Miss  
3 Kathy Carrera, who fortunately will  
4 remain in her position is a dogged  
5 researcher, investigator, multitasker  
6 and problem solver who advocates for  
7 the people through her duties and  
8 responsibility; Miss Jamie Marciano,  
9 our Council Clerk who will also  
10 continue her duties of agenda and  
11 legislation preparation, research,  
12 assisting residents and serving as  
13 resident authority on all matters  
14 related to animal control completed  
15 our work force. And, of course,  
16 Cathene Nardozzi, our ever patient  
17 stenographer whose smile was the first  
18 I saw each time I entered these  
19 chambers. I was honored and proud to  
20 work beside each of these talented  
21 dedicated women and men. Together we  
22 faced multiple challenges, overcame  
23 tremendous obstacles and accomplished  
24 numerous goals which include exposing  
25 the true financial state of Scranton,

1 preventing municipal bankruptcy,  
2 dismantling the notably mismanaged  
3 Scranton Parking Authority, cutting  
4 government costs, halting frivolous  
5 spending particularly in regard to  
6 UDAG funds, withholding state and  
7 federal grants from developers who  
8 owed delinquent taxes unless debts  
9 were satisfied, improving delinquent  
10 tax collection through negotiations  
11 and cooperation with Northeast Revenue  
12 Service, stopping the loss of citizens  
13 homes to sheriff's sales, establishing  
14 a strong improved parking meter  
15 program, resurrecting the rental  
16 registration program for the safety of  
17 residents and elimination of blight,  
18 allocating increased funding for  
19 street paving and blight removal,  
20 achieving labor peace, cutting the  
21 Supreme Court award to police and fire  
22 by half, generating new revenue  
23 through a parking and amusement tax  
24 and restoring decorum and respect to  
25 Scranton City Council meetings, among

1 others. It is my hope that the new  
2 council will preserve and build upon  
3 these achievements throughout the next  
4 four years for the betterment of our  
5 beloved city and its people. As I  
6 leave office today, I am most grateful  
7 to my loyal friends and supporters  
8 citywide, especially Danny, Wayne,  
9 Catherine, Fay, Steve, Frank. Ozzie,  
10 Doug and to you, the voters of  
11 Scranton who placed your confidence in  
12 me and agreed that City Council is a  
13 separate but equal branch of  
14 government which serves not as a  
15 rubber stamp to any mayor but as a  
16 check and balance to serve and protect  
17 the people. Thank you to the citizen  
18 speakers who participated in their  
19 government and kept City Council on  
20 task each week and to the Scranton  
21 Lackawanna County Taxpayers  
22 Association that serves our community  
23 by informing us of vital issues,  
24 current legislation and candidates for  
25 elected office.

1                   My friends and fellow  
2                   Scrantonians, I was honored and  
3                   privilege to serve and represent you  
4                   in these noble chambers. Thank you  
5                   for making me the third councilwoman  
6                   in Scranton's history and the first  
7                   and only woman to have been reelected.  
8                   Know that your priorities were always  
9                   my priorities and your problems were  
10                  my problems to solve. As I faced each  
11                  issue and challenge, I remembered the  
12                  senior citizens on fixed incomes, the  
13                  poor affected by unemployment and  
14                  malady and the working families who  
15                  toil each day to stretch a dollar and  
16                  make ends meet. As I opened each  
17                  council meeting, I asked God to give  
18                  me the strength, courage and wisdom to  
19                  always do the right thing and to  
20                  follow his will. Thank you for having  
21                  given me the opportunity to work for  
22                  you and to help solve your problems.  
23                  Thank you for ten tremendous and  
24                  memorable years of public service.  
25                  May God bless our city and may God

1                   bless each one of you. Thank you.

2                   Before we proceed I'd like to ask  
3 if our esteemed solicitor, Attorney  
4 Boyd Hughes has any comments on this  
5 occasion.

6                   MR. HUGHES: It's been an honor  
7 and a privilege to serve this council  
8 for the last four years. I really  
9 enjoyed working with council, with the  
10 public, and I did my best to try to  
11 answer all the issues that came before  
12 council. I know there's been some  
13 times that we had some disagreements  
14 as to what I saw what the law was but  
15 I'm really proud to have served with  
16 this council. I'd also like to thank  
17 everybody in the audience that gave me  
18 warm accolades as to my service here  
19 for the last four years. I gained a  
20 lot of my knowledge, especially as to  
21 the functioning of the authorities and  
22 in relationship with the city during  
23 my tenure of 12 years with Mayor  
24 Connors. I want to thank Jim for  
25 having had me on his staff as



1           solicitor for the Redevelopment  
2           Authority and certainly many of the  
3           things that have happened with the  
4           city started there with the  
5           development of the mall, and I know  
6           that even though we've lost the  
7           Bonton, the mall is a tremendous asset  
8           to this city and I have faith in Mr.  
9           Bosco that he will have a tenant  
10          there that will really revitalize the  
11          mall. And I want to thank council for  
12          hiring me when they came in and I  
13          really enjoyed my four years here.  
14          I've been -- I started with municipal  
15          law back in 1971 as an assistant city  
16          solicitor so I think it's my time to  
17          say goodbye at least, you know, at  
18          this time with council, it's truly  
19          been a pleasure. I've been involved  
20          with the city for over four years and  
21          I thank this council for hiring me to  
22          give four more years to the city and  
23          thank you for everything that you've  
24          done. Thank you.

25                   MS. EVANS: And thank you,

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Attorney Hughes.

MS. CARRERA: 5TH ORDER, NO  
BUSINESS AT HIS TIME. 6TH ORDER, NO  
BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. 7TH ORDER, NO  
BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

MS. EVANS: If there are no  
further comments and no further  
business, I'll entertain a motion to  
adjourn.

MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.

MS. EVANS: This meeting is  
adjourned. Thank you all for your  
attendance today.

(Proceedings concluded at 10:48  
a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

---

Amelia Nicol, RPR  
Court Reporter