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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

LOCATION:

Council Chambers

Scranton City Hall

340 North Washington Avenue

Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

PAT ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

FRANK JOYCE

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

CATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3

4 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

6 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

8 MR. ROGAN: Here.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

12 MR. JOYCE: Here.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

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

16 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. TAX COMPARISON
17 REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE SINGLE TAX OFFICE
18 MARCH 2, 2010.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: Clerk's note's. First
22 are responses to requests. We did receive a
23 response from Paul Kelly, the solicitor for
24 the Scranton Rec Authority. He did provide
25 us with the answer to our Right-to-Know. We

1 have all the backup in our office if anyone
2 would like to look at it. We have it
3 available for review and we'll be giving to
4 our solicitor for him to go over, also.

5 MS. EVANS: Very good.

6 MS. KRAKE: This letter is from
7 Solicitor Patterson. She enclosed the
8 following documents pursuant to our
9 Right-to-Know. These would be a partial
10 list of the lawsuits that we requested from
11 2002, and this came in box, so they are
12 truly going forward on it. She says that we
13 have the PMA worker's comp claims, the
14 Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas
15 dockets 2002 to the present in the civil
16 division; Lackawanna County Court of Common
17 Pleas dockets criminal division summary
18 appeals 2002 to the present; Excalibur
19 claims 2004 to present; civil and worker's
20 compensation; PMA civil cases 1 of '02 to
21 2010, and they say the law department is
22 continuing to compile records and will
23 forward these to your office.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MS. KRAKE: We also got a response

1 from Mike Lynady. Our original request was
2 sent to Mike Lynady, the fleet manager,
3 however, we did also CC the Department of
4 Public Works, the Law Department, the
5 Business Administration and the Controller's
6 Office and ourselves, obviously, but the
7 reason I'm saying that is because he is the
8 only one that answered us so far.

9 Mr. Lynady says he does not have the current
10 status of the leased city owned vehicles
11 whereas the business administrator's office
12 pays for these payments on the DPW garbage
13 trucks directly and the police chief's
14 office pays the lease payments on the leased
15 vehicles and hopes this information will be
16 helpful to us. He also did call our office
17 to let us know. So far he is the only one
18 that has responded.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MS. KRAKE: We have a response from
21 Bill Courtright, tax collector, in response
22 to our letter regarding the contract with
23 ACC he submits the following answers: The
24 Single Tax Office does have a contract with
25 ACC to collect delinquent taxes. The

1 contract will expire on April 12th of 2010.
2 We are not renewing their contract at this
3 time.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

5 MS. KRAKE: This was also a letter
6 that we sent to two different entities and
7 we did receive a response from Comcast.

8 Under the terms of the franchise
9 agreement, Comcast provides the use of the
10 two Channels 19 and 21 for governmental and
11 educational programming. While we provide
12 use of the channels, the content,
13 scheduling, administration and all other
14 programming aspects of the channels are
15 controlled by the city, provides designated
16 access channel manager. Comcast does not
17 have any authority or control over when or
18 on which channel city council meetings are
19 any other programs are broadcast.

20 They continue to say if the resident
21 has a problem receiving one or both channels
22 that would be something that Comcast would
23 need to address.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MS. KRAKE: And we have now several

1 responses from Chief Elliott. He says, this
2 is regarding the permit parking enforcement,
3 "I have made the patrol shifts aware of the
4 complaint and we are going to look into the
5 situation and enforce the violations they
6 observe. After reviewing the tickets issued
7 for the past couple of months, the officers
8 have been writing tickets for these
9 violations."

10 Also, from Chief Elliott regarding
11 the illegal parking front of 501 Lackawanna
12 Avenue, Buona Pizza, the complaint has been
13 sent to the shift supervisors to have their
14 officers monitor the problem. It also been
15 sent to the Scranton Parking Authority who
16 can also enforce the illegal parking in the
17 area.

18 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

19 MS. KRAKE: Also, from Chief
20 Elliott, this is regarding to the beat
21 officer in the Pinebrook section of the
22 city: "Currently is there is no officer
23 assigned to this area. Our department
24 currently has over 17 officers off on
25 long-term injury or illness and vehicle

1 patrols must be filled first. The positions
2 will be filled as officers return to work."

3 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

4 MS. KRAKE: And, Council and
5 Mrs. Evans, we have many nonresponses that
6 were due by this date. I can just basically
7 rather than read each one or if you would
8 like me to read each one I would, I can just
9 summarize them and say who we asked.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

11 MS. KRAKE: The first one is we were
12 asking Mr. Timlin for a resume, and he has
13 not responded.

14 The next is from Daron Northeast,
15 the status of their business location, they
16 have not responded.

17 Mark Migliore, executive director of
18 ECTV, they have not responded. This is the
19 one that Comcast responded to about the
20 volume and the broadcasting of the meetings.
21 Also, he has not responded with a list of
22 programs to be aired on 19 and 21.

23 This was to the mayor concerning the
24 playground and the Lackawanna Little League
25 located at Dooney Avenue and Jackson Street,

1 he has not responded. We have also not had a
2 response from Mark Dougher concerning the
3 same area.

4 We have not had a response from Stu
5 Renda, business administrator, concerning
6 copies of any and all vouchers and
7 documentation of payments for equipment
8 purchases in the Department of Refuse,
9 Recycling and Traffic Maintenance.

10 We have not had a response from
11 Chief Elliott concerning the potholes for
12 Parker Street to the Throop border and also
13 the speed limit.

14 We have not had a response from
15 Chief Davis concerning illegally parked cast
16 in the Keyser Avenue Shopping Center and
17 what would happen to them if they were
18 blocking an emergency.

19 We had a phone call from Ryan
20 McGowan, city treasurer, that he just told
21 us he was working on our question regarding
22 the owners of Washburn Street Cemetery and
23 if they owed any taxes. He told us that
24 NCC, he put a search into them, they had not
25 responded and would not be able to for a few

1 weeks.

2 We did not receive a response from
3 the IT manager, Frank Sweitnicki, concerning
4 the city's cell phone contract.

5 These are all non responses from
6 Mark Seitzinger, Director of License and
7 Inspections. This is concerning the
8 construction of the dwelling at 1129
9 Albright Avenue. The next was the status of
10 a structure on North Main and Court Street.
11 The next was for permits and zoning
12 approvals for a new building at Albright
13 Avenue and Grove, Ritter's Bar. All of the
14 issues that we brought up concerning the
15 Washburn Street Cemetery for his department
16 also remain unanswered. We did not get an
17 answer concerning the sidewalks for the
18 house on the corner of Mulberry and Harrison
19 Avenue.

20 This is a concerning the door of our
21 handicap access, we went into extensive
22 detail. It was researched by our assistant
23 city clerk, he has not answered that either.
24 He also hasn't answered the letter on the
25 status of the rental registration fee. And

1 he has not answered if the truck terminal at
2 2627 Pittston Avenue meets all zoning and
3 city regulations.

4 The next group of letters that are
5 unanswered are from Jeff Brazil, the DPW
6 director. The first one is about a property
7 at 622 Pittston Avenue. The next is the
8 status of the anti-skid material. The next
9 request was concerning the paving of the 300
10 block of Hamm Court. Next was a stop sign
11 at Quincy and Pine Street near the Moses
12 Taylor Hospital.

13 Also, Mr. Brazil did not answer the
14 hazardous situation of the handicapped ramp
15 at Spruce and Wyoming. Corner of Glinko and
16 Ann, has this been put on the paving list
17 remains unanswered. Did not answer our
18 request about the potholes that appeared at
19 Boulevard Avenue from Parker to the Throop
20 border. We had a second request on the
21 inventory for the refuse, recycling and
22 maintenance departments, and our request
23 about the 500 block of Rebecca Avenue also
24 remain unanswered. That's all I have.

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

1 I'd ask that we submit a second request to
2 Daron Northeast and to Mark Migliori of ECTV
3 and I would ask that we indicate in the
4 correspondence to Mr. Migliore that
5 certainly council anticipates a review of
6 the renewal contract for Comcast which, of
7 course, will include peg channels shortly
8 and so we would appreciate his response and
9 the manner in which he intends to address
10 these issues since Comcast is not
11 responsible, and we would ask for that are
12 information let's say by next Tuesday.

13 In terms of Mr. Renda and the
14 requests for information that we had
15 submitted about equipment purchases,
16 etcetera, I would like to now submit a
17 Right-to-Know request to Mr. Renda in place
18 of that original letter.

19 And I heard something today that I
20 found very disappointing and I was hoping
21 that it was perhaps just let's say a
22 weightless rumor or a weightless threat, but
23 I did hear, as I said, this afternoon from a
24 department head that the heads of
25 departments will no longer cooperate with

1 city council in any of it's requests and
2 that if council wishes to pursue requests
3 for information or council wishes to pursue
4 requests for the people of the city to solve
5 their problems, it must first go through the
6 mayor so he will now decide what information
7 council would receive and he would decide
8 what citizens will receive help. And so
9 rather than -- you know, I have to say I
10 think this is -- this is very unfortunate,
11 but Mrs. Krake's report tonight certainly
12 lends great credence to what I heard this
13 afternoon. And, as I said, I believe this
14 is most unfortunate that the mayor has
15 chosen this course of action and so I would
16 advise beginning tonight that all residents
17 who have problems take them directly to the
18 mayor at this point. And the mayor's phone
19 number is 348--4101. 348-4101. I believe
20 you will have to speak with the mayor and he
21 will decide then if he is going to help you
22 with your problems.

23 Now, do any council members have
24 announcements at this time?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I have one. Grace

1 King, a 49-year-old devoted single mother to
2 a daughter, Tamika King, who is graduating
3 from college in May and twin sons, Brandon
4 and Brian, who graduated from high school in
5 June was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in
6 January. Grace who is a friend to many, a
7 stranger to some, and a friendly to all has
8 dedicated her life to helping others while
9 facing many struggles along the way. We now
10 want to help her meet the many challenges
11 she is going to face and we are asking you
12 to help us by supporting this worthy cause.
13 They will be having a fundraiser on Sunday,
14 March 21, from 1:00 to 7:00 at the Banshee
15 located at 320 Penn Avenue in Scranton,
16 Pennsylvania. Tickets will be on sale
17 starting March 1 for a donation of \$10 and
18 will also be available at the door. Your
19 donation will include food and live
20 entertainment. Our local bands will include
21 Double Cross, The Wanabees, Cameron Ave.
22 Band, Indigo Six, and Maybe Sunday. There
23 will be basket raffles, a 5/50 drawing, a
24 bake sale and a T-shirt sale. And also if
25 anyone would like to make a donation they

1 can make the donation to: Saving Grace.
2 Care of Old Forge Bank, 540 Main Street,
3 Peckville, PA, 18452.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Are there
5 any other council members?

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you, Mrs.
7 Evans. First, I can confirm what you just
8 stated because I did call one of the
9 department heads today to make an
10 appointment to go over some issues and I was
11 told I had to go to the mayor, and I will be
12 mentioning that later in my comments.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: But to go back to my
15 announcements here: The Dante Club in South
16 Side has a clam chowder sale every Friday
17 until Easter. I believe the time is 11
18 until 2. It's 11 a.m. to 1 or 11 a.m. until
19 2, and it's very good because I was there
20 myself.

21 Also, St. Lucy's Church in West
22 Scranton continues their annual Lenten food
23 sale. That's also on Fridays from 3 p.m. to
24 6:30 p.m. featuring clam chowder, pizza and
25 weekly specials such as past fagioli,

1 broccoli and shells, pasta marinara and
2 polenta. Walk-ins are welcome, but you
3 could also call in an order at 342-5981.

4 And another repeat announcement just
5 to remind you that the Fraternal Order of
6 Eagles is hosting their ham and cabbage
7 dinner on March 13 from 3:30 until 7:30.
8 The doors will open at 1:00 on the cost will
9 be \$8.00. Tickets can be purchased at the
10 door. There will be shirts available for
11 purchase, a DJ and just remember everybody
12 is Irish on parade day in Scranton, PA,
13 where the party never stops. That's all I
14 have. Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
16 Is there anything else?

17 MR. ROGAN: Just one additional
18 thing, Mrs. Krake, can we ask ECTV to scroll
19 this announcement on the TV?

20 MS. EVANS: Yes.

21 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I just wanted to
22 inform everyone that the zoning board
23 meeting will be held in council chambers
24 tomorrow at 6:00 p.m., for anyone that is
25 interested.

1 MS. EVANS: Celebrate spring by
2 dining at Friendly's Restaurant in Dunmore
3 tomorrow evening, March 10, from 5 to 8 p.m.
4 Proceeds will benefit St. Francis of Assisi
5 Food Kitchen. The Mountain View Care Center
6 Auxiliary will conduct it's annual pasta and
7 meatball dinner on Saturday, March 20 from 4
8 to 7 p.m. at Divine Mercy Parish Hall,
9 formerly St. Joseph's Hall, at 312 Davis
10 street in Scranton. Tickets are \$7 for
11 adults, \$4 for children and are available at
12 the door and at the front desk of Mountain
13 View Care Center. Having attended this
14 dinner for many years, I can tell you
15 firsthand that the food is wonderful and the
16 service is excellent. Also, take a chance
17 on the raffle for cash prizes. It's a great
18 way to spend a Saturday evening.

19 Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic
20 Church, 1309 West Locust Street in Scranton
21 will hold a pierogi, clam chowder, halushki
22 bake sale and basket raffle the weekend of
23 Palm Sunday, Saturday, March 27, before and
24 after the 4 p.m. mass, and Sunday, March 28,
25 before and after the 11 a.m. mass. To

1 order, please call Sandy at 342-1719.

2 Again, that's 342--1719.

3 Council would like to congratulate
4 the Scranton High School varsity boys
5 basketball team who won the District II Quad
6 A basketball championship. The first state
7 playoff game against Warwick High School of
8 Lancaster will be held this Saturday, March
9 13, at Marywood University. We wish the
10 Scranton Knights the very best in their
11 quest for a state championship. You are a
12 great source of the pride to your families,
13 your school and the City of Scranton. And
14 that's all. And Holy Cross is a wonderful
15 source of pride, too, to their family, their
16 city and their wonderful school which also
17 happens to be my alma mater.

18 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
19 PARTICIPATION.

20 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
21 Andy Sbaraglia.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
23 citizen of Scranton, Fellow Scrantonians. A
24 few words on 5-C thanking council for
25 submitting my name for that position on the

1 Board of the Scranton Redevelopment
2 Authority. It was nice of you to do it and
3 I hope we get some good out of it.

4 Now, as a member of the Taxpayers'
5 Association, Nay Aug Pool, as you know, we
6 always run as many times as we can for free
7 swimming up there, but I was surprised when
8 you read off that little notification on
9 that bond issue that Scranton runs all of
10 the garages in Scranton, the parking
11 garages, we lease them. What's the
12 possibility of us leasing back our pool from
13 the Recreation Authority? I wish you would
14 look into it for a lease to get our pool
15 back because they really care little of
16 nothing for the kids on that pool or we
17 wouldn't have to go out there and raise
18 money for kids to swim there. If we get it
19 back, all of the kids, especially the kids
20 that live in this section of the city, will
21 finally get their pool back that was denied
22 them. I don't know why it was denied them,
23 but that's the way things go in this city.
24 I thank you.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you,

1 Mr. Sbaraglia. Bill Jackowitz:

2 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I
3 could just for clarification on that, I
4 believe it's incorrect the statement that
5 the City of Scranton leases back the garages
6 from Scranton Parking Authority. I think
7 that was in that ad for the municipal bonds
8 that were available for that firm in Miami,
9 that is not correct to my knowledge. The
10 Scranton Parking Authority operates and
11 maintains the garages. The function of the
12 city is that if there is a -- if there are
13 insufficient revenues to pay the bond
14 holders the city must provide that money to
15 the Parking Authority so the bonds would not
16 be in default, so I know that that's not
17 accurate. The city does not lease back the
18 garages.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
21 South Scranton resident, member of the
22 Taxpayers' Association, master sergeant
23 United States Air Force retired. I received
24 this letter in the mail on Thursday, you all
25 have a copy of it. "Mr. Jackowitz, I feel

1 the time has come to write this letter.
2 Your talks are starting to get a little old.
3 We all know what title the mayor has. Give
4 it up. You act like a kid who doesn't get
5 his way. Mr. Doherty is right. There are
6 no poor kids anymore. Open your eyes and
7 take a long look around yourself. I wish I
8 could afford an I-phone and a cell phone.
9 The facts are facts, you are watching too
10 much of Haiti. More than half the city
11 rent, live in projects not because they are
12 poor but because they are lowlives. If you
13 go to the welfare office you see them all.
14 They are not poor, far from it. If you know
15 any that know how to beat the system let me
16 know. I'm a senior citizen and I pay high
17 taxes. So, please, give me a break and get
18 on with something useful that comes out of
19 your mouth."

20 And it's signed Alice McCormick, no
21 return address. Alice, does the mayor know
22 his title? In November he was elected to
23 his third term as mayor. December he
24 announced that he was running for governor.
25 January his wife asked for support for her

1 husband for lieutenant governor. February
2 Mayor Doherty announced that he is running
3 for state senate. I am well aware of his
4 title of mayor. Doherty, he seems to be the
5 one with the problem, not me.

6 Now, ex-governor, ex-lieutenant
7 governor, wannabe senator Mayor Doherty
8 wants to sue the citizens of Scranton over
9 minor budget cuts, appointments to
10 authorities and the Library Authority. Who
11 is acting like a spoiled child? How would
12 the lame duck mayor handle the Republicans
13 in Harrisburg, sue them I guess? By the way
14 the senate is controlled by Republicans in
15 Harrisburg? Sue them, I guess? By the way,
16 the senate is controlled by Republicans in
17 Harrisburg.

18 Mr. Dougher was appointed to serve
19 all of the citizens of the Scranton, rich,
20 middle class, if there is one, and the poor.
21 That is the difference between the Legion of
22 Doom and the Doherty real people. Doomers
23 understand that.

24 As far as Haiti, are you saying that
25 there was no earthquake and devastation in

1 Haiti? I guess it never happened in Chili
2 either or New Orleans. Alice, you were
3 complaining about high taxes. Talk to
4 Mr. McGoff, Mrs. Gatelli, Ms. Fanucci, Mayor
5 Doherty and the Scranton School Board.
6 Sending me a letter will not help you. I
7 have never raised anybody's taxes, the above
8 mentioned have.

9 63 percent of the residents in
10 Scranton are renters. I have spoken on this
11 subject many times and have been ignored by
12 the Doherty three. Why so many renters,
13 because there are no job, but more
14 importantly no good paying jobs in Scranton.

15 Although, wannabe Senator, Mayor
16 Doherty created 9,000 new jobs, his words
17 not mine, Mayor Doherty took credit for the
18 medical school for at least two years until
19 last week when he gave the credit to a small
20 group of medical doctors in the area.

21 As far as the people who live in the
22 projects, some have found ways to beat the
23 system, but not all. To make a blanket
24 statement there are no poor children in
25 Scranton is wrong. Alice, have you ever

1 heard of the working poor? I invite you to
2 drive down South Webster Avenue between 6
3 and 8 a.m. or any bus route. You will see
4 people waiting for buses. They are either
5 students or working poor going to work. Why
6 are they waiting for a bus? Because they
7 cannot afford to purchase a car.

8 Alice, take a drive down Wyoming
9 Avenue, check out Labor Ready around 5 or 6
10 a.m. The people you will see standing in the
11 line are the working poor looking for work.
12 For one day they go day by day, paid daily,
13 taxes taken out and the spot.

14 Alice, I am also a senior citizen.
15 When you send me another letter please
16 include your return your address so I can
17 become a pen pal of yours. You are already
18 have my home address. Maybe we can meet,
19 have a cup of coffee and discuss our
20 differences. Alice, name calling will get
21 you no where, you lose credibility.

22 When I refer to the Doherty real
23 people, these are the mayor's words not
24 mine. When I refer to the Fanucci my
25 people, these are Ms. Fanucci's words, not

1 mine. When I address Mr. Dougher's words
2 there are no poor children in Scranton, they
3 all have cell phones and I-Pods, these are
4 Mr. Dougher's words, not mine.

5 When the Parks and Recreation states
6 publically that the reason for the \$3 charge
7 at the Nay Aug Park for the pools, slides is
8 to keep the riff-raff out, those words again
9 are Recreation Authority words, no mine.

10 Alice, when you refer to the people
11 residing in the projects as lowlifes, those
12 are your words, not mine. Again, I hope you
13 understand the difference.

14 Alice, have you ever heard of the
15 Stockholm syndrome? That is when you are
16 taken hostage and you start siding with the
17 abductor. That is what happened in Scranton
18 with Mayor Doherty and the Times-Tribune.
19 The Doherty people were confused and afraid
20 of the mayor and the newspaper. That has
21 all changed and will continue to change
22 slowly as the power is returned back to the
23 people where it should be.

24 I apologize for calling you by your
25 first name, I was not sure if you are a Miss

1 or a Mrs. If you write back, please inform
2 me. Thank you. No supposition here, just
3 facts. The only supposition is going to be
4 right now, I think that was written by a
5 Doherty real person. Maybe Mr. McGoff might
6 even know who it is. He might even know
7 Alice. Maybe he does, maybe he doesn't.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
9 Mr. Jackowitz. Joe Talimini.

10 MR. TALIMINI: Joe Talimini, City of
11 Scranton. I'd like to remind the council,
12 especially the mayor, and the citizens of
13 this community that the United States
14 predicated on a government of the people, by
15 the people, and for the people. Now, we
16 have an executive branch, we have a
17 legislative branch, and we have a judicial
18 branch. We also have a fourth group which
19 is called the people and they are the most
20 important branch of government.

21 Now, a lot of people can't come here
22 to these meetings, there is lot of people
23 who wish they could. The 20 or 30 people
24 who are here every week are here because
25 they really are concerned. I don't know of

1 anybody who comes here to pat themselves on
2 the back. If they do, I feel sorry for
3 them. But the point of the matter is this
4 is Scranton 2010, not Munich 1933, and I
5 hope our mayor understands that point
6 because he was elected mayor, not furor and
7 if he is going to try to be furor I
8 guarantee you we are going to bring him down
9 without question.

10 Now, we know that the last election
11 the mayor won, okay? Give him credit, he
12 won by a small majority, but so what. You
13 three were elected last year by a vast
14 majority. Obviously, the people of this
15 city were fed up to the status quo, with the
16 mayor and his cohorts. That has changed.
17 Thankfully it's changed very much so.

18 Mr. Loscombe, you were appointed to
19 fill the seat of Mr. Doherty -- excuse me,
20 Mr. Courtright. Mr. Courtright won by a
21 vast margin. We hope you will also win by a
22 vast margin next time. The reason I mention
23 this is for the simple reason is there are a
24 lot of people out there who watch these
25 proceedings on television. There are a lot

1 of people who contact us. Consequently, we
2 have formed a volunteer group of civic
3 activists. We are going to call ourselves
4 "The Scranton Watchdog and Advisory board."

5 Now, what we are going to do is we
6 are going to try get to these people who
7 can't come to these meeting. There are a
8 myriad of problems in this city. Senior
9 citizens have them, youth have them, varied
10 and subject groups, ethnic groups, racial
11 groups, etcetera. You people can't get out
12 to them. We are going to try to get to
13 them. We are going to try to address their
14 problems, bring them back to you and present
15 them in a more concise form so you don't
16 have to go through this routine every week.

17 We are doing this on a volunteer
18 basis, we are not asking for any authority,
19 we are not asking for any additional
20 sanction. We will represent these people.
21 Mr. Patilla, Mr. Jackowitz, and Charlie
22 Matyjeski will be joining me. We have a
23 couple of other people in mind. We are
24 going to try and reach out to these people.
25 I have already made arrangements to speak to

1 several of the Afro-Americans and make
2 arrangements to speak with some of the Latin
3 groups. Senior citizens, as you know, Mrs.
4 Evans, we had a problem a couple of years
5 ago when I invited you and Mr. Courtright to
6 address some of these problems you were
7 going to go to see the senior citizens we
8 were turned down. Not by the housing
9 authority, we were turned down by a manager.

10 I met with Mr. Peliccaci on Friday
11 and that matter has been cleared up, so you
12 will have access to some of these people or
13 we will have access to them, hopefully you
14 will, too, but we are offering you our help,
15 we are hoping you will back us up on this.
16 We would like to contact these people and
17 get these people together, this is a good
18 town. It always has been a good town. It's
19 the politicians who ruined it and now we are
20 going to take it back from the politicians.

21 You were elected, not appointed.
22 Nobody here was anointed, including our
23 illustrious mayor and I'm very, very
24 disturbed with what you just mentioned. I
25 mean, if this guy thinks he is going to

1 control this city as a one-man operation he
2 is in for a very, very big surprise because
3 you people are be bound by your jobs. We
4 are not. We are the citizens. We are the
5 people who pay the taxes. We are the people
6 who pay for Mark Seitzinger. We are the
7 people who pay for Elliott. We are the
8 people who pay for the mayor and, damn it,
9 we want results and we want results that are
10 in favor the people not an elected group.
11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Jerry
13 Chazin.

14 MR. CHAZIN: As a newbie I made a lot
15 of mistakes, one of them was not getting to
16 the very pithy stuff that I wanted to say to
17 you guys, so I'm going to do it right now so
18 I get that over with. You governing, there
19 are either the problems or the solutions.
20 If you are part of the problems, stand aside
21 before you get trampled and that apparently
22 today when you mentioned the mayor that's
23 the first thing that came to my mind. The
24 FBI is coming in here, if they are not
25 already, and hopefully they will be able to

1 clean up a lot of the mess like they did in
2 Luzerne County.

3 Let the people like yourselves that
4 are constructive, resourceful and vigorous
5 in their quest for solutions step forward as
6 you have and others as the gentleman before
7 me so illustriously said. The lines have
8 been drawn, the battle for the heart and the
9 soul and the future of Scranton has been
10 engaged on high and you may be very, very
11 proud to be an American. This council is
12 carrying the banner of justice and
13 responsibility. Let us all join in prayer
14 that you have deep, personal courage and the
15 keen ears to listen to the beats of your
16 hearts. Let justice and common sense
17 prevail and may God bless you and keep you,
18 and that's what I wanted to say the first
19 two times.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. CHAZIN: I believe Scranton
22 should have referendums, referendums as
23 other states have and other municipalities
24 have. Let the people of Scranton decide
25 what the most pressing issues are and this

1 can be done in a couple of way: One, is we
2 can actually get the Times involved and make
3 a list of what the top ten or 15 pressing
4 problems are and actually let people tell us
5 or the council can print something up and
6 have people actually come to the city hall
7 and actually fill these ballots out.

8 However, in order to vote you would have to
9 be a resident for two years. We don't want
10 newbies and we don't want their special
11 interests. Let's respond to the two or
12 three most important pressing issues and
13 then each year continue with this referendum
14 to see how effective we are in curing the
15 problems and also catching the new ones
16 quickly. Obviously, gangs were one of them
17 and we let that go and there are many other
18 things.

19 I think we need to look into whether
20 you have the power to change the law in
21 terms of how do we vote for a mayor, and you
22 may have that ballot. I suggest that we
23 have a 65 percent majority for mayor and we
24 keep working at that number until it's
25 given. If, in fact, it's good enough to

1 choose a pope, I think it should be good
2 enough to choose a mayor for Scranton. You
3 just keep on voting until you get the 65
4 percent and that's done in different places.

5 I think we need to ask help from the
6 universities that take so much from us in
7 lieu of the taxes they do not give. I think
8 we have a right, you guys have a right to
9 ask for top notch students and top notch
10 professors to help, number one, frame the
11 correct questions and then look for the
12 correct answers with their help. We need to
13 work hand-in-hand not look at them as not
14 paying taxes, but there may be other things
15 they can do.

16 I definitely think you need to look
17 into the American Management Association for
18 binding arbitration which I have mentioned
19 two weeks ago and someone had said, well, it
20 won't work. It will work and it does work.
21 If a mayor decides he wants to fight it then
22 it's got to come to a head, however, you
23 guys have the power to demand binding
24 arbitration which means it doesn't go on a
25 second or third time and there is no extra

1 costs. It's a one-time deal, you put your
2 best foot forward and you live with it.

3 I would like the police chief to be
4 appointed by council, not the mayor. Now if
5 this means you guys have to formulate some
6 different laws then so be it. We should
7 keep politics away from this crucial job.
8 The police chief should be at public forums
9 twice a month. I believe you guys can
10 mandate this and you should look into it.

11 Find out if we are computerized as
12 to police records so that we can then
13 utilize the policemen where they are needed.
14 New York City did this and other cities have
15 done this and find out where the problems
16 were the night before, two nights before,
17 and you just utilize more manpower in those
18 areas. If we do not have this the schools
19 can help us. There are several schools that
20 offer criminology. I am sure they will help
21 us put this together.

22 MS. EVANS: Mr. Chazin, could you
23 finish up next week, please? Thank you very
24 much for all of your suggestions. Doug
25 Miller.

1 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
2 Doug Miller, Scranton.

3 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

4 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to start
5 off, I'd like to congratulate the West
6 Scranton High School girls and boys team for
7 their success this year. It seems that we
8 have always taken a back seat to the school
9 of champions or whatever they call
10 themselves down there, so I would like to
11 congratulate them on their success. They
12 have certainly represented the city with
13 pride.

14 You know, listening to a few
15 speakers here tonight it just seems like we
16 have gotten away from the purpose of what
17 these meetings are for and that's to conduct
18 city business, you know, not conduct school
19 yard name calling and bullying, I think it's
20 absurd.

21 A few weeks back I had offered my
22 cooperation with this council by
23 recommending a revenue task force, but it
24 seems I may have jumped the gun on my
25 evaluation with this council. Since then I

1 have listened to many residents as I have
2 knocked on doors in the city campaigning for
3 other candidates conducting statewide races,
4 and residents who supported this council
5 expressed their disappointment with the way
6 we are conducting business here whether it's
7 the budget or just the overall approach has
8 council taken.

9 Now, I have stated before I support
10 opening the budget, however, with further
11 research that I have done and by talking to
12 people taking the action now will only cost
13 the city thousands of dollars in litigation,
14 and we know it's going to happen, we know
15 it's coming, and now today in the paper we
16 read that council will appoint it's own
17 members to the Redevelopment Authority as
18 well as the Parking Authority. And nothing
19 personal with Mr. Sbaraglia, Mr. Piccolino,
20 I have respect for them, but this is a
21 violation of the Home Rule Charter which
22 only gives the mayor the authority to
23 appoint people to the set authorities. So
24 once again, we will face another legal
25 challenge and if you read the paper today

1 the statements made by the attorney,
2 Mr. Hickey did state that it is coming, so
3 once again, you know, we see other cities
4 have challenged this, but they haven't
5 gotten too far with it and don't expect that
6 to happen here in Scranton.

7 This council is playing a game and
8 it's a game between the mayor for control of
9 this city and if people up here want to be
10 the mayor then you should have ran for the
11 seat when given the opportunity. You know,
12 you may have the people out here fooled, the
13 same cheerleaders that come here each week,
14 but you don't have me fooled and you don't
15 have a lot of the people fooled that I have
16 talked to because they see this council what
17 it really is. You know, we could have the
18 motto of putting people first, but the way I
19 look at it, it's putting ourselves first and
20 it's typical Scranton politics as usual.
21 You know, we hear the philosophy that that
22 was all going to change, it was going to be
23 open transparency, a new way of government,
24 but it's more of the same and it's got to
25 stop and until it does, until it stops it's

1 going to be the same continuous politics in
2 Scranton and we are not going to get
3 anywhere. Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Miller.
5 Giovanni Piccolino.

6 MR. PICCOLINO: Good evening, city
7 council, and fellow Scrantonians. My name
8 is Giovanni Piccolino.

9 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

10 MR. PICCOLINO: One of the owners of
11 Buona Pizza. I would like to come up here
12 and personally thank you guys and the
13 Scranton Police Department for actually
14 enforcing the parking in front of the pizza
15 shop, but there is one entity I did leave
16 out there and I find it very bizarre, it's
17 still the Scranton Parking Authority is not
18 the people issuing parking tickets, it's our
19 policemen. They shouldn't have to be, I'm
20 not going to say wasting their time, but I
21 think our police officers have more better
22 things to do than, you know, give out
23 parking tickets. So I'm not quite sure, I
24 called the Authority today because there was
25 another vehicle parked out in front for at

1 least four hours and today the excuse was
2 someone was at a funeral. The prior time I
3 called someone was sick. It's always some
4 excuse and I was just wondering if you guys
5 would know are they that understaffed where
6 one person missing from work that day would
7 dictate an entire few blocks? I'm not --
8 you know, I don't know are they that
9 understaffed?

10 MS. EVANS: I really can't answer
11 that question definitively. I know only
12 that in past years I believe there were six
13 citation issuers employed and as of January
14 2010 there are now four citation issuers
15 employed. However, the number of the
16 individuals overall employed by the parking
17 authority has increased sizably over the
18 last few years. I'm not quite certain what
19 the duties and responsibilities of all of
20 these individuals would be, but I would
21 agree with you that the Parking Authority
22 should be addressing the parking issues this
23 downtown Scranton for longstanding and new
24 businesses within our city.

25 MR. PICCOLINO: Any business. It's

1 not just us. Believe me, I talk to
2 businesses all of the time and other
3 business owners, it's a very, very difficult
4 and extremely, I don't even know just bad
5 situation with the parking. It's constantly
6 complaining and I don't even know why is our
7 side of Lackawanna Avenue, the construction
8 has been complete for quite awhile now there
9 is no parking meters there whatsoever, so
10 the few construction workers that are left
11 over that are working there they get to park
12 for free all day and the other citizens
13 wherever we go we got to pay to park? You,
14 know, I'm not quite sure. That's a loss of
15 revenue and, you know, if you get one ticket
16 in the 15-minute parking I believe it's
17 around 25 or 30 dollars, I mean, that's, I'd
18 imagine that, you know, you could handle a
19 few of the parking authority, the meter
20 maids or whatever, that would handle their
21 salary. I think we should have more meter
22 maids on, if that's what they're called, I'm
23 not sure, but than whatever the parking
24 authority is doing.

25 It's a pretty bad situation and we

1 are people that depend on it. We extremely,
2 extremely depend on it a lot and there is
3 really no parking down town at all, so
4 that's just my thought.

5 And on 5-E, you know, I appreciate
6 you guys, you know, vote of confidence with
7 me and hopefully I can do the best I can to
8 bring what's going in Scranton to the
9 forefront. Thank you very much.

10 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Les
11 Spindler.

12 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
13 Council. Les Spindler, city resident,
14 taxpayer and homeowner. Over the years
15 there have been streets named after certain
16 people such as Mike Munchak Way and
17 different buildings or rooms and building
18 such as the Mellow Center, I would like to
19 suggest that the next time a street is named
20 or something is named after a person if
21 council could do something maybe to honor
22 Corporal Larry Johnson, if we could use his
23 name on something. You know, he paid the
24 ultimate sacrifice for his country and I
25 think that would be a great idea. Okay.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

2 MR. SPINDLER: You are welcome.

3 Moving on, I don't know if this is something
4 I have to take to the mayor, but on the
5 corner of 13th Avenue and Luzerne Street
6 there is a stop sign there, but it is faded
7 so bad that if you really don't look for it
8 you can't see it. Now, there was one placed
9 on the left-hand side, but I think by law a
10 stop sign has to be on right and a few weeks
11 ago there was an accident on that
12 building -- on that street involving a West
13 Scranton student. Whether that stop sign
14 not being noticeable had something to do
15 with it, I don't know, but it's a dangerous
16 situation. I pick my daughter up there all
17 the time, I know there is a stop sign there,
18 but if you don't know it's there it's so
19 faded you cannot really see it.

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MR. SPINDLER: Lately there has been
22 a lot of talk about nonprofits and I have
23 been doing a lot of thinking. I don't know
24 how colleges and hospitals are considered
25 nonprofits. Just to go to the University of

1 Scranton, for instance, is tremendously
2 expensive. All of the money they make I
3 don't know how they are considered a
4 nonprofit, and as far as the hospitals, I
5 know someone had surgery about a year ago
6 and when the IV was taken out of them and
7 put the Band-Aid on them we are charged \$100
8 for a Band-Aid. How is a hospital
9 considered a nonprofit if they -- I could
10 buy a lifetime of Band-Aids for \$100 and
11 they are charging \$100 for one, so how they
12 can be considered a nonprofit is beyond me.

13 Moving on, Mr. Loscombe, did you get
14 a chance to speak to Chief Elliott or --

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'll be addressing
16 that in my comments.

17 MR. SPINDLER: On what I asked a few
18 weeks ago. Thank you. I see in a news last
19 night that the former Molly Brannigan's is
20 opening up just for St. Patrick's Day.
21 That's just what we need another bar opening
22 up so we have more drunks running around,
23 urinating on the sidewalks, throwing up, and
24 it's bad enough on that day, we don't need
25 another bar opening up just for that day,

1 and from what I hear the mayor is behind
2 this, he wants them to open and it's just
3 for the day, and I don't even know if they
4 have a liquor license, so maybe it's
5 something the LCB could be contacted about.

6 I'll probably be bashed about this
7 on the Times website tomorrow as I am and as
8 council is many times. There is a person
9 who called new and improved Doomer
10 hypocrites that bashes me, he said would be
11 here tonight for a shoe to stick in my
12 mouth, well, here I am. I'm here all the
13 time. But I guess as usual he will be a
14 coward and not show up. He hides behind his
15 computer.

16 I want to talk about these
17 appointments council wants to make, one to
18 the Redevelopment Authority, one to the
19 Parking Authority, the mayor is threatening
20 to take council to Court over that. Well,
21 if that happens I think council should just
22 vote against the mayor's nominations and
23 maybe if you do that there will be nobody
24 left on these authorities and we could just
25 do away with the authorities because if

1 council votes against them then, you know,
2 you can override his vetoes and that's that.
3 He can't take you to court over that, so
4 hopefully council will do that, and that's
5 all I have. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

7 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

8 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

9 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

10 MR. MORGAN: I have a copy of here
11 of the Home Rule Charter, okay, but the
12 first thing I'm going to ask is you know
13 something, I'm going to ask two members of
14 this council to sustain the mayor's veto on
15 7-A so that this city doesn't find itself in
16 litigation because I think that if this city
17 finds itself in litigation over this budget,
18 there aren't going to be any winners here.

19 The first thing I'd like to say is
20 this, okay, you know, there is a lot of
21 rivers of illusion, all right, and I think
22 that's what's happening here, and what it
23 leads to is an ocean of apathy. That's why
24 people don't want to vote. There is just --
25 it's just terrible, okay? The first thing I

1 have here, because I wrote them down, okay,
2 you go to 202, division of powers, it's
3 general. Read it tonight. Take a good luck
4 at what you are trying propose here, okay?
5 It's separates the powers of city government
6 and tells what any department can do
7 especially when you go to 203, allocation of
8 certain powers. I mean, I'm sure that
9 everybody her on council wants change, there
10 is no doubt in that, but I think you have to
11 do it in a prudent way and if you start a
12 fight and you can't win you are going to
13 lose your credibility, and I see trying to
14 push these appointments to these authorities
15 as being a losing situation for this city
16 because it's not going to happen, okay, and
17 I'll jump a little bit back to the
18 administrative code, okay? It's right here.

19 And I don't know who is doing the
20 research for this council, I really don't,
21 Article IV, authorities, boards and
22 commissions. And it says, "Appointments of
23 members to authorities, boards and
24 commissions. Where the appointment of
25 members to authorities, boards or

1 commissions is vested in the city by statute
2 and ordinance such members shall be
3 appointed by the mayor."

4 And that's what he has done. He has
5 sent up to you that the people he wants
6 appointed. Now, your job is to advise and
7 consent. Now, if this thing gets bogged
8 down he will just go around and go right to
9 Court and the Court will appoint who he
10 wants on these boards if that's what it
11 comes to. You should talk to your solicitor
12 because consolidation of power is a very
13 difficult thing to do and I don't think that
14 this council can consolidate power in this
15 city.

16 You know, I'm not going to, you
17 know, people are talking about who came to
18 the podium about Hitler the furor in 1933,
19 well, this is America, okay, and this is
20 what has standing in this room, okay, and
21 now we are going to go off and we are going
22 to play games with the budget, we are going
23 to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars
24 maybe in Court, it's going to take years.
25 Instead of spending the time necessary to

1 break the budget down like I recommended
2 line item by line item, you know, Mrs.
3 Evans, can you tell me, did this council
4 break the budget up in sections and appoint
5 various members to different parts of the
6 budget?

7 MS. EVANS: For which budget?

8 MR. MORGAN: To prepare for the next
9 year's budget, the mayor's budget, to put an
10 alternate budget in place so that when the
11 mayor's come up you can reject it and push
12 your own budget through?

13 MS. EVANS: I'm sure we will be
14 doing that.

15 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Now, if you want
16 to find out what's going on in the city
17 government you just go to Section 312,
18 you've got the powers to do subpoenas.
19 What's going on here in my opinion is plain
20 silliness, okay, and I have been through the
21 neighborhoods with my own petitions, and I'm
22 going to tell you that, you know, I don't
23 see anything good coming from this and I do
24 have to say that some people are really
25 disgusted. I'm a Democrat who told me he

1 couldn't even Democrats to sign his
2 petitions, and I'm going to be a Republican.

3 And I just have to say this, that
4 the people in this country are tired of
5 political gridlock not just on this level,
6 but every level of government. And I agree
7 with what Mr. Jackowitz said about jobs and
8 employment. I mean, this council should be
9 reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce and
10 trying to create employment opportunities
11 here, all right, and wait for the next
12 budget to come up and then cut it by 10
13 percent because these little proxy wars,
14 this city doesn't have the money to fight
15 them. You have to fight the battles you can
16 win and there is no battle when you amend
17 the mayor's budget next time. There is
18 nothing you can do. What's the point? Are
19 we going to keep playing politics? Is that
20 all we know here? That's how the city got
21 to where it is, you may not appreciate what
22 I'm saying, but I sat in these council
23 chambers for over 15 years and I have seen
24 it all and I've heard it all and everybody
25 had a new vision for this city, and the only

1 thing that's happened to this city is that
2 it's continued to deteriorate over a very
3 long period of time. And I know for an
4 absolute fact that Mrs. Evans, Mr. Rogan and
5 Mr. Joyce you walked this city, you didn't
6 see the blight? Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Marie
8 Schumacher.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
10 Council.

11 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

12 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

13 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'd like to start
14 with two seasonal things. I, too, have been
15 out either collecting nomination petitions
16 signatures or driving someone around so they
17 could collect them, and I noticed two
18 things: One, snow and fire hydrants. Up in
19 the Summit everybody -- well, not everybody,
20 but many of the people actually plowed out
21 the fire hydrants. Here there was snow
22 piled all around the fire hydrants and I
23 think in some cases they would have had to
24 be shoveled out if they are really needed,
25 so I would like to suggest, as I have in the

1 past, that in the upcoming budget we at
2 least put some money in for those I don't
3 know what you call them, but they attach to
4 the fire hydrant and come up and have a
5 little flag so you at least know there is a
6 fire hydrant there. Every second counts
7 when you are dealing with fire.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: And the other thing
10 is numbers on homes. It's really pathetic
11 in Scranton. I know we have an ordinance
12 that requires that and I would hope you can
13 find a way to enforce that not just because
14 it's an ordinance, but if an ambulance has
15 to come to a home it would really be nice if
16 they could find the number.

17 And then again anew subject, but an
18 old subject, drugs. You can't open the
19 newspaper without seeing articles about drug
20 busts and I think there was one today again
21 about a car down in Pittston or Cedar
22 Avenue. I know that for the police to make
23 an arrest, and they have to make arrests,
24 that they must do surveillance for a period
25 of time before that happens, so they know

1 who the buyers are, and I think it's time we
2 start exposing some of these buyers. You
3 don't have a market unless they are both
4 buyers and sellers. We obviously have a lot
5 of sellers in this area so we obviously have
6 a lot of buyers, and I think it's time to
7 start exposing them. If he could meet with
8 the police department and get names, publish
9 them in the newspapers or bring them up here
10 if the newspaper won't publish them, but
11 it's time we know who are really using the
12 drugs because otherwise all of these people
13 would not be here.

14 With respect to the Ice Box, I will
15 talk again, Mr. Hughes, later because I did
16 go back and pull the ordinances and the
17 original one that I have was only for the
18 first one hundred years and it has
19 stipulations for when that \$600,000 payment
20 was to be made, but one thing I noticed when
21 I was going over it in every instance the
22 whole creation of that, the lease, was
23 for -- lists the term lease. The lessee
24 shall use the leased land in conjunction
25 with the operation of a skating/rental

1 complex and, not or, and any other such
2 commercial purposes the lessee determines or
3 deems necessary unless terminated at an
4 earlier date for any reason set forth in
5 this lease.

6 So since it is my understanding that
7 the skating rental complex is no longer
8 functioning, I wonder if this lease is now
9 null and void. Many, many references to
10 that skating facility being a part of it and
11 I will talk to Mr. Hughes about the --

12 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Schumacher, could
13 we also make a copy of what you have tonight
14 before we all depart for our homes?

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Sure. Absolutely.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: Next, I noticed
18 that ECTV or I don't know if it's ECTV, but
19 there is now streaming video and a city
20 website and I thought, oh, good, you know,
21 we can see some of these meetings that are
22 taped, that ECTV tapes, but none of the
23 meetings are on there. They are mostly like
24 little commercials, mini commercials. I
25 don't know if anybody has had an

1 opportunity, but if you haven't I would
2 suggest you look at them and I would also
3 then like to suggest that since the city now
4 has that capability that the city council
5 meetings be added because a lot of people
6 who no longer have Comcast because of the
7 costs and have converted to dishes would
8 still be interested in watching council
9 meetings.

10 And then I never did get an answer
11 on the what happens with the fact that we
12 had so many expenditures over revenues at
13 the end of last year. Does that deficit
14 carry into this year or how does it get
15 handled? I mean, we just can't --

16 MS. EVANS: I had those same
17 questions and they remain unanswered.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Has anyone asked
19 PEL what happens maybe?

20 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: I have more next
22 week. Thank you.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Schumacher, I
24 just wanted to touch on a couple of things,
25 if I can. The fire hydrants, years ago the

1 fire department used to maintain the
2 hydrants, they had their own hydrant
3 inspector. That position was done away with
4 and the city turned the hydrants over to the
5 water company, but the flags are a good
6 idea. The guys used to go out and clean the
7 hydrants when we maintained them and stuff
8 so I don't know if it's a legal issue now or
9 what the story is, but you are totally
10 correct on that. Most of them I saw were
11 clear, but there are a few that were plowed
12 in.

13 As far as the addresses, there is an
14 ordinance for the addresses, and I was going
15 to pass some information on, Mr. McGoff and
16 Mr. Rogan are working on the rental
17 ordinances and so they can make sure that's
18 enforced in that also.

19 And one last thing is you had asked
20 about the NIXLE program, you can go on the
21 city website and register in that. If you
22 see me after the meeting I will give you
23 this here paperwork.

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: I tried, but when I
25 put my zip code in it says there is no

1 database for that zip code.

2 MR. LOSCOMBE: Okay, I'll check it
3 out again for you, but I'll give you this.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

5 MR. JOYCE: Also, Mrs. Schumacher, I
6 will be in contact with PEL for next week
7 and I will find out the answers to your
8 questions.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Thank you.

10 MR. JOYCE: You're welcome.

11 MS. EVANS: Jean Suetta.

12 MS. SUETTA: Good evening. Jean
13 Suetta, Scranton resident.

14 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

15 MS. SUETTA: Could anybody please
16 tell me the status of North Scranton Junior
17 High School? This year they didn't even
18 light the star. The clock is being ruined
19 up there, I don't know what the Goodwill
20 Industry is doing, it seems to be nothing.
21 That's school is good.

22 Well, you are in trouble tonight, I
23 have glasses. I want to congratulate you
24 on fixing that hole on Albright Avenue. It
25 only took a month because I go that way

1 every day to go to Weston Field. It took
2 one month to fill one hole. Now, there is
3 something wrong someplace and it was done
4 this Monday.

5 About Molly Brannigan's on parade
6 day. Are they going to be using their
7 liquor license or are they going to be using
8 the new Mexican restaurant? Because if they
9 are using Molly Brannigan's I think the
10 proceeds should go right to the city because
11 they owe \$650,000.

12 MS. EVANS: I can't answer that
13 question because, frankly, I wasn't even
14 aware that the restaurant was going to be in
15 use for one day.

16 MS. SUETTA: Just one day and one
17 day only.

18 MS. EVANS: Parade day. This is all
19 news to me.

20 MS. SUETTA: Yeah, you can go down
21 and buy a \$5 pass, a \$5 ticket, it's going
22 to be \$5 a beer.

23 MS. EVANS: And this is being --

24 MS. SUETTA: Sold over at Molly
25 Brannigan's.

1 MS. EVANS: Yes, but is there a new
2 owner who is - - -

3 MS. SUETTA: The Mexican restaurant
4 is going to open in May, from what I
5 understand, so I don't know if it's his
6 liquor license or Molly Brannigan's, but if
7 it's Molly Brannigan's I think the proceeds
8 should about right towards their outstanding
9 loan that they owe the city.

10 MR. ROGAN: I agree. I will look
11 into that. I would assume it would be the
12 new owner just opening.

13 MS. SUETTA: Well, how do they get a
14 liquor license if they are not going to open
15 until May.

16 MR. ROGAN: Well, I would assume he
17 would transfer the license, but I know in
18 the past a lot of this has happened, they
19 were saying they were doing renovations.

20 MS. SUETTA: But if it's still under
21 Molly Brannigan's I think we should get the
22 proceeds.

23 MR. ROGAN: I'll check into that.

24 MS. SUETTA: All right, thank you
25 very much. The mayor, he is a clamony

1 (phonetic). He don't know what color he
2 wants, if he wants to be governor,
3 lieutenant governor, senator, and he is
4 going to make decisions for us? He can't
5 make his own decisions. How is he going to
6 make a decision for us? I got to call him
7 and tell him about a pothole. You know what
8 my chances are other than slim to none? I'm
9 correcting myself, you know.

10 And another announcement I have, for
11 the Irishmen, Shamrock Card Association. We
12 are making corsages and boutonnières for the
13 hospital and all of the homes and the
14 nursing home facilities, we need to make
15 4,2000 of them and we are making them on
16 March 14, 15, and 16 down at the PNC Field
17 in the locker room. Anybody that wants to
18 volunteer could call Donna at 342-4944, and
19 it's a good time. We have a lot of fun
20 making the corsages, it's for the elderly
21 and the sickly. If anybody wants to come we
22 would appreciate it.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MS. SUETTA: You are welcome.

25 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

1 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

2 MS. SUETTA: You'll find out about
3 Molly Brannigans?

4 MR. ROGAN: Yep.

5 MS. SUETTA: Hi, Bob. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Sam Patilla.

7 MR. PATILLA: Good evening, people's
8 council. Sam Patilla, South Side resident
9 and member of Scranton, citizen, Taxpayers'
10 Association.

11 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

12 MR. PATILLA: Madam President, first
13 I'd like to commend you and your council on
14 your selection of Items 5-C and 5-D, all
15 right. Now, right to the heart of the
16 matter. Your mayor has never represented me
17 and mine and he never will, okay? I have
18 been here almost four years and I have yet
19 to see that man appear in this council once.
20 From what I've gathered throughout the years
21 he spends more time on the road than he does
22 in that office, so if I have any questions I
23 will continue to bring them to council as I
24 have for the last three and a half years and
25 I suggest everybody else do the same, but

1 out of respect for you, Madam President, I
2 will pass the number along and hope they
3 blow his phone out.

4 Now, also during the past three plus
5 years other speakers along with myself have
6 stated on numerous occasions how this mayor
7 has violated the Home Rule Charter and the
8 Recovery Act and I find it ludicrous that he
9 and his supporters now come before this
10 council complaining about violations of the
11 Home Rule Charter, all right? It doesn't
12 make any sense for the kettle calling the
13 pot black. You know, honestly, I would
14 prefer that those who actually spoke some
15 actually paid taxes in this city before they
16 start delving into what we can and cannot do
17 as far as this budget is concerned.

18 Madam President and People's
19 Council, continue down the path that you are
20 going down, all right? There was a time
21 when your mayor had taken his ball and go
22 home. Well, the taxpayers made their choice
23 in the past election. Even though there
24 might be a few who aren't happy anymore or
25 don't things are going along the line that

1 they think they should be going or
2 progressing as fast as they think or too
3 fast, all right, they made their decisions,
4 all right? We are behind the People's
5 Council, all right? I don't know who is
6 going to pay these alleged legal bills when
7 the bills have to come before council, and
8 I'm quite sure the council can set some type
9 of limit on what they will and will not pay
10 as they have been in the past in regard to
11 taking care of the best interests of the
12 taxpayers, so all of the bull hookie about
13 the mayor and end ess court, the years in
14 court is a bunch of crap bookies.

15 Now, I respect and love Lee Morgan,
16 always have and we don't agree about
17 anything, but it's kind of ridiculous for
18 him to come before council and make these
19 allegations about council stopping the
20 process that they've begun in order to
21 appease somebody who has never been in it
22 for taxpayers as far as I'm concerned. You
23 know, if they want to support him fine and
24 dandy, but like I said earlier, we are
25 taking our ball back and our ball happens to

1 be the City of Scranton. We pay the bills,
2 we make the decisions. Not Doherty, not his
3 supporters, all right? There was a time a
4 few months back they did, now they don't.
5 Get over it. Council, I respect your
6 decisions, I will support you 125 percent.
7 Continue down the path. Don't let anybody
8 sway you.

9 You know, we have one of the most
10 intelligence attorneys in the city on our
11 side, and I'm not a big fan of attorneys so
12 that goes a lot for me to have to say that,
13 but I have a lot of respect for you,
14 counsel, you know? But, Madam President,
15 back on point. Continue down the path, just
16 don't forget where you came from, who you
17 are representing and everything will work
18 out just fine. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Dave Dobrzyn.

20 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening. Dave
21 Dobrzyn, member of the Taxpayers', resident
22 of Scranton. I'd also like to comment on
23 that we were told comment, well, the one
24 thing I'm not pulled about is another young
25 guy that runs around with a self-righteous

1 attitude in a suit and thinks that I don't
2 recognize it's just another dog without a
3 bone.

4 And then I'd like to speak out on
5 about nonprofits here once again. I don't
6 like to say nasty things about them, I have
7 always said that because it's part of a
8 state constitution that we respect their tax
9 exempt status, that we start to turn back to
10 toward the states for an answer to the
11 problem, and maybe somebody up valley or
12 down valley won't like that and they like to
13 site the fact that they pay a 1 percent
14 income tax or something, municipal income
15 tax, but it's not right and that's what is
16 not right, not the nonprofit existing. They
17 do a lot of things and by and large they
18 have -- their actually taxes will be higher
19 if they charged for the services the way
20 they could in all cases, but I'd just like
21 people to know that, you know, you people
22 can go in whatever direction you want to go
23 in and for right now I just want to sit back
24 and observe and see how you do.

25 And telling every department head

1 not to cooperate with council is -- that's
2 just ridiculous any mistakes you people have
3 made to date. Thank you and have a good
4 night.

5 MR. ROGAN: Thank you. Is there
6 anyone else that would like to address
7 council?

8 MR. STUCKER: How are you doing,
9 McGoff? We had a nice day today. Nice
10 yesterday, too, it was nice out. So we had
11 lot of problems now in the city and a
12 problem picking up our garage it's pretty
13 bad. None of them get back. Lot of garbage
14 is outside. They are not picking it up the
15 people putting garbage out, couches, chairs,
16 refrigerators, all kinds of junk all over on
17 Ash Street, all over. They shouldn't put
18 garbage back out. They shouldn't be putting
19 it out and throw it in bags, that's how are
20 supposed to. What they are doing is putting
21 garbage out, couches and chairs and beds and
22 all of that and they should have a private
23 loader for that, they don't, so.

24 MR. ROGAN: Well, we'll do what we
25 can.

1 MR. STUCKER: And what about those
2 houses? What about those houses on
3 Greenridge still up yet?

4 MR. ROGAN: The house on the corner
5 of Greenridge Street? I think when the
6 weather gets better?

7 MR. STUCKER: Last week I talked
8 about it, talked to him, supposed to see
9 about taking it down, and there is one
10 across the street from -- two of them across
11 the street from Mercy. I think it's Ash
12 Street, the top of the hill there, there is
13 two of them there. I talked last month
14 about that.

15 MR. ROGAN: We'll look into that for
16 you.

17 MR. STUCKER: Okay. We need some
18 more -- we need something for skateboards.
19 They are really getting bad again. Now,
20 it's getting warm out now, the weather is
21 getting out there is going to be a lot of
22 problems with skateboards on the curbs and
23 sidewalks, all over the courthouse.
24 Everywhere you go you see a skateboard. We
25 have to have some place for them, maybe Nay

1 Aug Park or something up there and build it
2 up there for them. That's what we need for
3 skateboards. Too many out there. Too many
4 of them riding on the roads.

5 MR. ROGAN: Well, thank you.

6 MR. STUCKER: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. JOYCE: Thank you, Jim.

8 MR. ROGAN: Is there anyone else?

9 MS. STULGIS: My name is Ann Marie
10 Stulgis and I live in the city.

11 Unfortunately, people are still chattering
12 about the amendments to the budget,
13 unfortunately, it's only been words with
14 very little fact. As far as council is
15 concerned, Mr. McGoff appears to be the only
16 person who objects to this and is quoted as
17 saying that he believes it's politically
18 motivated.

19 Unfortunately, I have to disagree
20 with you. You made the same kind of --
21 agreed to the same kind of cuts when the
22 mayor made them only they weren't political
23 appointee cuts, they were cuts of union
24 people and you never once voted against it
25 nor could I find anywhere in past minutes

1 where you objected to the elimination of
2 those jobs. As a matter of fact, you
3 supported that.

4 You also expressed your dismay about
5 the elimination of a person who writes
6 grants for recycling, yet when the mayor
7 proposed the elimination of the person who
8 writes grants for the police department you
9 didn't object. It didn't seem to be very
10 important to you because you never uttered a
11 word against it. I don't understand your
12 sudden concern about a grant writer when in
13 the past you weren't concerned at all. That
14 is what appears to be politics.

15 Also, you appear to be rubber
16 stamping, as did some of your previous
17 council members, anything that the mayor
18 tells you to, and I have to say that doesn't
19 give anybody a very warm feeling. You made
20 the statement that the Right-to-Know would
21 be hampered and yet you didn't state why and
22 it really doesn't appear we need a full-time
23 person for an entire year to handle the
24 Right-to-Know. You need one person with
25 common sense who can make copies and make

1 change when people pay for the copies.

2 You also pointed out that it's going
3 to cost the city a lot of money because the
4 amendments will eliminate jobs, but you
5 didn't worry about that when previous
6 budgets that you supported were eliminating
7 jobs. You were concerned about the cost of
8 unemployment from the elimination of jobs
9 yet in previous budgets when jobs were
10 eliminated you weren't worried at all about
11 unemployment, you never even brought it up.

12 You stated you are concerned about
13 the cost of health care because of these
14 jobs being eliminated. Once people leave
15 the employ of the city they no longer have
16 health care, so costs will go down for
17 health care. You mentioned the cost of the
18 Cobra. Cobra isn't a permanent thing and
19 while I agree some of these people will be
20 eligible for Cobra so were the people that
21 you agreed to eliminate and you weren't
22 worried about them getting Cobra. Of
23 course, they weren't political appointees,
24 they were union people.

25 It seems to me that that again reeks

1 of politics. I certainly don't think you
2 would believe that the people who are
3 appointed are anymore worth caring about
4 than the union positions that you agreed to
5 eliminate.

6 I just find it amazing that you have
7 suddenly became aware of costs of
8 unemployment and costs of Cobra when in the
9 past your support was always for the
10 elimination of jobs. You also weren't happy
11 with the \$200,000 cut in citation issuers,
12 and may I just say that citations and
13 tickets are two different things, but we
14 have been giving an awful lot of money over
15 there. As a matter of fact, just a few
16 years ago I brought it up here because we
17 gave \$750,000 for citation issuers which I
18 assume would be the people who issue
19 tickets. We had ten. They don't make
20 \$75,000 a year, so why are we dumping money
21 over there? Where it was really going? It
22 wasn't going to them. That was just a fake
23 figure thrown in another fake budget just as
24 a lot of fake figures are put into budgets.

25 You believe this budget is balanced,

1 but have you gone back and compared past
2 budgets where revenue numbers were inflated
3 consistently year after year after year by
4 comparing them to what the actual figures
5 were at the end of the year, and it's the
6 same expenditures if you go back and look,
7 and just one example would be police
8 overtime. Continuously they have been very
9 low figures when, in fact, the reality is
10 they were every year much, much higher and
11 no adjustment was made. The city continued
12 to plug in low figures to give a fake
13 balanced budget. Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
15 anyone else that cares to address council?

16 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
17 Council. Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment
18 Rights.

19 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

20 MR. ANCHERANI: First off, I support
21 council's overriding the administration's
22 veto on the amending of the budget. You as
23 a council can amend the budget. Connors'
24 2002 budget was amended by the new
25 administration when it took office in 2002.

1 Favorites got raises because of the amended
2 budgets and new hires and new positions were
3 created at higher wages and the positions
4 that were eliminated. I believe 19 clerical
5 positions were eliminated in 2003. Overall,
6 53 positions were eliminated since 2001 and
7 none of them were by council except by their
8 votes accepting the administration's
9 budgets.

10 Mrs. Evans, I don't recall you
11 voting in favor of any of the budgets that--

12 MS. EVANS: That's correct.

13 MR. ANCHERANI: -- eliminated
14 positions. I do recall you attempting to
15 save the taxpayers money by amending the
16 budgets, but never getting enough support to
17 do that. Where I must ask was the outrage
18 by the administration when positions were
19 eliminated? That's right. There wasn't any
20 outrage because it was the administration
21 that eliminated the positions. I don't
22 recall any threats of lawsuits when those
23 positions were eliminated over the years.
24 Do any of you?

25 Even though 53 positions were

1 eliminated, the budgets have increased by
2 over 100 million dollars cumulatively over
3 the years since 2001. Council, you can and
4 should cut the fat. Our grandkids will
5 thank you.

6 The mayor is threatening a lawsuit
7 if you override his veto. He says pools
8 won't open if you override. If he sues the
9 sad part is it won't be settled this year,
10 so if the pools don't open it won't be
11 because of this council. Critics say
12 taxpayers' money will be wasted by council
13 and the mayor fighting each other. I say
14 and said it before, the \$90,000 that was
15 left in the law department professional
16 services account should be cut by \$89,000
17 more. Stop paying \$600 an hour to outside
18 attorneys and let our legal department
19 handle the legal cases. Let's stop paying
20 outsiders millions to fight all of these
21 cases. Why do we have a legal department if
22 they are not doing the legal work?

23 There is something else bothering me
24 too that I'm trying to figure out. The DPW
25 building originally cost three million to

1 build, but that was underestimated and over
2 one million was added to the cost. That
3 would make it over four million.

4 Since the 2005 budget account line
5 item 01.401.15311.4299, operation TSF to
6 debt service, sale leaseback of DPW was
7 initiated. Since then for every year
8 thereafter and including 2010, this account
9 has remained in money expended toward the
10 debt service. In 2007, another account was
11 initiated 01.401.15312.4299 with the same
12 title as the first account.

13 The first account had series 2004
14 added to it and the second account had
15 Series 2005 added to it. Since then,
16 \$8,745,000 has been budgeted and expended to
17 that account. That's twice what we paid to
18 build the building. Are we leasing the DPW
19 building? How long will we be leasing it
20 for? Why are we leasing it? How much more
21 are we going to spend on it?

22 On page 20 of the budget,
23 intergovernmental reimbursement, and thi is
24 quote: "The city still receives Act 1010
25 Recycling Grant. Since the grant has

1 certain restrictions, the city segregates
2 funds out of the operating account and into
3 a special city's account. What is the
4 special city's account and how much is it in
5 is?

6 And recently, the mayor gave his
7 annual state of the city address and he
8 said, "The people strive to give back to
9 their community."

10 Truer words weren't spoken. With
11 our approximately \$400,000,000 long-term
12 debt our grandkids will be striving and
13 struggling to give back to their community.
14 Paying off the \$400,000,000 long-term debt
15 because of this and administration's out of
16 control borrowing and spending. It's up to
17 you guys. You guys can stop it. Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Are there any other
19 speakers?

20 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie
21 Ellman again.

22 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

23 MR. ELLMAN: Well, last week.

24 MS. EVANS: Your name, please and
25 residence.

1 MR. ELLMAN: Ronnie Ellman.

2 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry, I didn't hear
3 if you said it or not for Ms. Carrera.

4 MR. ELLMAN: Did you get it?

5 MS. CARRERA: Yes.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

7 MR. ELLMAN: Last week I went to an
8 auction to buy a little pedal car, an
9 antique pedal car and there was very
10 attractive young lady walking around and I
11 talked to her three or four times being the
12 rascal I am, and I was at the back of the
13 room waiting for my little pedal car to come
14 up and she was walking straight towards me
15 and I'm watching and we are looking at each
16 other, walked right up to me and she said
17 real sort of confidentially, "Could you
18 please tell me where the restroom is?"

19 See, that's what happens in old age.
20 Anyway, this morning Ms. Rosie had a heart
21 attack and to see somebody in agony and you
22 can't help them, you know, of course I
23 phoned 911, that's why I'm saying this, and
24 this woman I spoke to was so professional
25 and so good and calmed me down and told me

1 what to, you know, try to do and say and so
2 forth and then the ambulance got there, and
3 I don't know, just a couple of minutes they
4 real quick response and I'd like to thank
5 everybody concerned in this and we are very
6 fortunate to have this medical team in this
7 city because I have used them before when I
8 used to have asthma attacks and very, very
9 good and very professional in everything
10 they do.

11 And now I'd like to talk about
12 something I don't think is very professional
13 and that's the medical school article
14 pinpointing the problems with the city here.
15 To me, they are the problem. They want to
16 take 20 acres when they don't need to be and
17 they want to displace 750 people from the
18 project. They don't need to do that and
19 they've taken the playground, the only one
20 in the area that didn't need to be. Let's
21 just take five, ten years when they graduate
22 a class, how many do you think will stay in
23 this town? There's probably not a one.
24 It's just like the University of Scranton,
25 in 15 years I don't know how many people

1 they've graduated, but I bet you couldn't
2 find a handful that bought a house or opened
3 a business or stayed here that lived in the
4 dormitory for four years and took all of the
5 services that we had to give them.

6 Now, we've got a growing problem
7 with the medical school and Lackawanna C
8 College and Mrs. Swift has made it emphatic
9 how much money they have cost the taxpayers
10 of this city, now they've got two
11 institutions starting over plus one that's
12 going to keep going.

13 And it's, like I said, when I talked
14 to my first cousin last month or two months
15 ago he said in his whole life, and he is a
16 professional business, he is an attorney, he
17 has never heard of a city like this that the
18 nonprofits have taken over. It's terrible
19 and I really do with my time is talk to
20 people, and I have never heard so much, just
21 people are just so heart broken. They are
22 losing their houses in the paper today or
23 yesterday it was talking about foreclosures.
24 I just find this so sad. So sad when you
25 talk to someone that's lost a house. I have

1 talked to some, you know, everybody should
2 have a home of some sort, and these people I
3 heard that some people are sort of cold
4 about the project being taken over. That's
5 still their homes, you know, I don't care
6 what their circumstances are financially, we
7 are talking about people's homes, you know,
8 and it means so much to them. Even those
9 little apartments mean so much. I used to
10 talk to Mr. Davis, I think he lived on the
11 Olive Street apartments then if I'm not
12 mistaken and, you know, he was talking about
13 having some flowers outside and this and
14 that, and it's just terrible. And the
15 people of this city are just relying on you
16 to try to help stop this drain on our taxes
17 and the drain on the city. They are not
18 a -- this isn't a good thing, you know, and
19 to put it in writing, put it in black and
20 white what they are intentions are has just
21 made, you know, ten times as worse.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

23 MR. ELLMAN: See, I can't blame
24 Mr. Hughes anymore. You are going to be the
25 new enemy for everybody. Thank you,

1 Council.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hello, Janet.

4 MS. EVANS: Hey, Chris.

5 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Hey, Jack, what's
6 up, buddy.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: How are ya, Chris?

8 MR. SLEDENZSKI: Janet, can I ask
9 Mr. Rogan a question? Pat at the parade
10 Saturday, right, it's the parade Saturday at
11 11:30, I want cops everywhere. I went them
12 all over the mall, outside, near the bridge,
13 Anywhere. Put them somewhere, all right?
14 Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Chris. Are
16 there any other speakers?

17 MR. JONES: Hi, Council. Bob Jones,
18 Scranton resident, member of the Lackawanna
19 Taxpayers' Association, and I figured I
20 would try my public speaking, a little
21 practice. I was reading the Times on-line
22 and I have just been thinking back to the
23 mayor's chaninigans the past nine years and
24 I feel he pretty much deserves nothing but a
25 vote of no confidence, and I'm thinking how

1 can we get him out of office. So I'm
2 looking through the Home Rule Charter and
3 all I could see was a clause involving
4 mental incapacity. Well, there is obviously
5 a case of schizophrenia here because he
6 thinks he is a governor, he thinks he is a
7 lieutenant governor, and he thinks he is a
8 senator and probably when he goes home at
9 night he's probably got a Napoleon suit on
10 top of it, so there is a clear case of
11 mental incapacity right there.

12 And also, just to sum up what
13 Mr. Miller said, he seems to be blaming this
14 council for costing the city money, but just
15 remember who is the one who opens these
16 court cases? This is the mayor's fault not
17 you guys, so bring on the judges and stay
18 the course. Thanks.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
20 anyone else who cares to address council?
21 Then, Mr. McGoff, any comments or motions?

22 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Thank you. As
23 was mentioned, this Saturday is the St.
24 Patrick's Day parade. The parade
25 association has worked very hard and

1 diligently to put together what should be a
2 great event. I would hope that families
3 from all of around the community come and
4 enjoy the parade on Saturday. Hopefully the
5 weather will cooperate for some of it, and
6 please come and celebrate, but celebrate
7 wisely and responsibly and for those who
8 have no intention of doing that, I would ask
9 you to please stay home. The parade is a
10 great event and it's reputation is I don't
11 want to say ruined, but certainly it's
12 reputation is marred by the people who come
13 to the city to do other things than to enjoy
14 the parade. So please come and enjoy.

15 Second thing, in the Home Rule
16 Charter, Section 306, it says, "Council
17 shall deal with all administrative agencies
18 and employees only as a body through the
19 mayor."

20 And I'm sure that this is what the
21 mayor is using as justification for asking
22 department heads not to respond to council.
23 In my three years here I don't think that
24 that has ever been -- I don't want to say
25 enforced, but I don't think it's ever been

1 used as a practical measure and I don't
2 believe it should be as this time either. I
3 think that's a mistake on the mayor's part
4 and if, in fact, he has ordered department
5 heads not to -- to only respond through his
6 office I will at the next opportunity go to
7 the mayor and ask him to rescind that order.
8 I don't think it's proper. I think that
9 council should have access to all
10 departments and the departments should have
11 access to council without that intermediary.

12 And one thing for clarification
13 purposes, Scranton Parking Authority has
14 four enforcement officers, I believe those
15 are the people that issue the citations; two
16 enforcement specialists, if I'm not mistaken
17 those are the people that actually collect
18 the fines in the office, at one time I was
19 told I think that was the difference, and
20 they have one collector, the person that
21 actually goes and collects the money from
22 the meters, and also three management
23 positions. So that is the -- and whether
24 they are overworked when one is missing I
25 don't know. That is the staff of the

1 Parking Authority at this time of the
2 citation officers or whatever they are
3 called, and that's all.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
5 Mr. Rogan, do you have any comments or
6 motions?

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes, I have a few
8 citizens' requests, but before I get into
9 those, I hope that it is not true that the
10 department heads will not be answering our
11 requests from now on. You know, I have only
12 been on council a few months, but the
13 majority of my requests on behalf of the
14 citizens have been answered, not all of
15 them, but I hope they will continue to do
16 their jobs and to help us do our jobs to
17 relay information because by them not
18 communicating with us it doesn't hurt us, it
19 hurts the citizens because the work we do on
20 a daily basis is the citizens' work and I
21 hope these requests get answered.

22 But the first one is actually from
23 Mr. Spindler tonight. Mrs. Krake, would you
24 please send a letter to the DPW asking them
25 to check up on the stop sign on the corner

1 of 13th Avenue and Luzerne Street since it's
2 been reported that it's faded.

3 I received an e-mail from a resident
4 who hit a pothole on Nay Aug Avenue just
5 last week and previous to hitting the
6 pothole -- or after hitting the pothole he
7 called the DPW and the dispatch said it
8 would fixed and it's still not and his car
9 was damaged, he actually has to make an
10 appointment with a mechanic to get it fixed
11 and he sent me some pictures so I will
12 forward those to you and hopefully we can
13 forward them and the DPW and can make quick
14 work of that.

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Rogan, I think also
16 the individual if they have car damage they
17 can also report this to the legal
18 department. I do think, however, they would
19 have had to have filed a police report, at
20 least in years past when some citizens have
21 contacted me about damages to vehicles that
22 had hit potholes in the city streets, they
23 had called the police, they had a copy of
24 the police report, they went and obtained an
25 estimate for the damages and then all of

1 that information was presented in the law
2 office and I believe then the city or the
3 city's insurance is going to cover that. So
4 if you should receive any other calls of
5 that nature please direct individuals to
6 that course of action.

7 MR. ROGAN: Well, thank you for that
8 information, I'll pass that along. I
9 received another e-mail from a resident from
10 lower west side. They live right across the
11 river from the South Side Shopping Center
12 and they have on Tuesdays, Fridays and
13 occasionally on Saturdays the garbage is
14 picked up around 3:30 in the morning, the
15 dumpsters behind the South Side Shopping
16 Center and the dumpsters hitting the ground
17 are waking up everyone in the neighborhood
18 and they said this must started happening so
19 they must have hired a new company. I don't
20 know if there is anything we can do about
21 it, I told them I would mention it to
22 council. But, Mrs. Krake, could we send a
23 letter to Mr. Seitzinger to see if there is
24 anything we can do about this situation? I
25 don't know if there is, but I would still

1 like to try and help this person.

2 And I received one more request,
3 which was more of question actually. Last
4 year the city pool on Greenridge was closed
5 to have a new liner put in. Could we send a
6 letter to Mr. Dougher asking if liners were
7 put in in any of the other city pools and if
8 there is any plans to.

9 And one final note, somebody
10 mentioned earlier about, I think it was
11 Mr. Schumacher, about the fire hydrants
12 throughout the city and a lot of them being
13 snowed in, and I think it's just good to
14 mention here because we are on TV that I
15 would encourage all of the neighbors in
16 their neighborhood to clean out the area
17 around there because it may be your house
18 where you have an emergency or one of your
19 neighbors, so hopefully neighbors could help
20 neighbors and I think that's what Scranton
21 is all about. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
23 Mr. Loscombe, any motions or comments?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes, I have a few
25 comments. Thank you, Mrs. Evans. I had

1 several issues presented to me regarding the
2 flood program over the past several weeks
3 and did meet last Wednesday with Mr. Paul
4 O'Hora from the city, one of the flood
5 coordinators, who was determined at that
6 meeting of Mr. Brazil, the director of
7 public works, should also meet with us.
8 However, due to Mr. Brazil being out of his
9 office last week a meeting has yet to be set
10 up. I did speak with Mr. Brazil earlier
11 today and he assured me over the phone that
12 he would be more than willing to meet to
13 discuss our various citizens concerns.
14 However, he did state that approval would
15 have to come through the mayor's office.
16 That's where I received that indication.

17 So, Mrs. Krake, can you please send
18 a letter to the mayor's office requesting
19 permission of the public safety chairman for
20 a meeting with Mr. Brazil and Mr. O'Hora to
21 discuss the various citizens' and personal
22 concerns regarding the flood protections,
23 flood warning and flood coordination efforts
24 in the city? Thank you.

25 And this is for Les. Les must have

1 left, but I do have a number of issues to go
2 over with the police chief, but due to my
3 schedule this past week I have been unable
4 to coordinate a convenient time to actually
5 sit down with the chief to discuss these
6 issues. I will be out of town for the next
7 week so I'll try to arrange a meeting after
8 our next council meeting.

9 Chief Elliott has been responding by
10 e-mail to most of our concerns that have
11 been forwarded to him and for that I thank
12 him. I will update you as to our eventual
13 meeting. Mrs. Krake, can you please send a
14 letter to the mayor requesting permission as
15 the public safety chairman for a meeting
16 with Chief Elliott regarding several safety
17 issues. Thank you.

18 I have to put my glasses on for
19 this. I found this buried in the tenth page
20 ever the newspaper today: "Mayors seeking
21 more taxing power. Mayors of small and
22 medium-sized Pennsylvania cities said the
23 legislature must allow them to raise new tax
24 revenue to prevent move of them falling into
25 financial crises. More than two dozen

1 mayors appeared Monday at the capital to
2 push lawmakers to take action on bills that
3 would help the cities get new revenue from
4 sales taxes and reimbursements for tax
5 exempt properties. The mayors said they
6 aren't looking for a bailout, but need the
7 tools to help themselves. The cities got a
8 large portion of their income from property
9 taxes."

10 This is something that we have been
11 discussing for several weeks now how
12 different cities in this state are jumping
13 on a bandwagon. We are not the only one in
14 this trouble, but the more that become
15 involved the better it is for all of us.
16 I'm just curious as to whether our mayor has
17 attended any of these meetings or has shown
18 any interest.

19 And finally, this is my statement
20 regarding the budget. I'm voting in favor
21 of overriding the mayor's veto of city
22 council budget amendments. I have stated my
23 reasons for supporting our budget amendments
24 over the past six several weeks, not the
25 least of which is the ability to cut nearly

1 \$700,000 worth of expenses.

2 I have also heard the arguments that
3 the mayor is willing to sue city council
4 other over the enactment of our amended
5 budget. That would be a waste of the
6 taxpayers' money and eradicate any potential
7 savings that would be realized and that we
8 should wait until November when we likely
9 have more opportunity and influence over the
10 2011 budget.

11 I have taken all of these objections
12 under consideration and given the mayor's
13 proclivity to sue or appeal nearly every
14 situation or decision handed to him that is
15 not within his favor, who is to say that he
16 will not sue us over the 2011 budget? The
17 bleeding has to stop today. I do not want
18 the taxpayers of this city to be punished
19 any more than they have been for the past
20 nine years by the unchecked borrowing and
21 spending.

22 We are not here to continue the
23 business as usual attitude that has
24 prevailed. I believe that I was appointed
25 and my colleagues were elected to protect

1 the taxpayers by providing to fiscal
2 responsibility and the accountability. The
3 line has been drawn in the sand and if the
4 mayor wants to represent all of the
5 taxpayers he will subscribe to that same
6 code of fiscal responsibility and
7 accountability that we have pledged to
8 provide to all Scrantonians.

9 If Mr. Doherty truly wants to be a
10 strong mayor, he is more and welcome to
11 appear here as the sixth councilman and
12 explain to all of us why saving taxpayer
13 money is a bad thing and worthy of a
14 lawsuit. Mr. Mayor, stop hiding behind your
15 lawyers and biased newspaper and debate with
16 us in public as to your objections to
17 reducing budget expenditures and taking
18 another step closer to financial solvency
19 and the removal of the distressed city's
20 tag. That's all I have. Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
22 Mr. Joyce, any comments or motions?

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes. In 3-A as you
24 know, the tax comparison reports were
25 received from the Single Tax Office and I

1 just wanted to report on that. Just to
2 educate the public, the tax office collects
3 the business privilege, earned income,
4 mercantile, LST and the real estate tax. So
5 far in comparison to 2009 the tax office is
6 doing very well and they are bringing more
7 money into the city than they did last year.

8 To start, in 2009 up until February
9 23 the tax office had brought in \$1.33
10 million collected in real estate tax. Up to
11 the same point in 2010 the tax office has
12 brought in \$2.2 million.

13 As far as the wage tax is concerned,
14 February 23, 2009, up to that point the tax
15 office brought in \$3.48 million. In 2010,
16 during the same time period for collection
17 of the wage tax, the tax office has brought
18 in \$4.93 million.

19 As far as the LST is concerned, the
20 local services tax, up to February 23, 2009,
21 the tax office brought in \$374,000. To this
22 point in 2010, the tax office has brought in
23 \$357,000, and that could be expected due to
24 unemployment rates being higher, that small
25 decrease.

1 Also, the business privilege
2 mercantile taxes, up to February 23, 2009,
3 the office brought in \$347,000. Up to this
4 point in 2010, the office has brought in
5 \$62,500.

6 Overall, up to February 23 of 2009
7 the tax office brought in \$5.2 million and
8 during the same period of time in 2010 the
9 tax office has brought in \$7.55 million for
10 an overall increase of \$2.34 million
11 dollars, so at this time I would just like
12 to thank Mr. Courtright and all of the staff
13 over at tax office for a great job they are
14 doing and I hope they can keep it up.

15 Also, as far as what I have heard
16 tonight about the mayor requesting that the
17 department heads -- that we receive
18 permission from him before we go to
19 department heads, that hasn't been confirmed
20 to me yet so I do have a few citizens'
21 requests and I am going to be asking
22 Mrs. Krake to send a few letters to
23 department heads. If you could also copy
24 the mayor's office on those requests that I
25 will read for you in a second that would be

1 greatly appreciated, so at least if that is
2 going to be the new rule that is set he
3 could have a head's up as to what these
4 complaints are.

5 To begin, I received a call from a
6 resident explaining that there were multiple
7 pieces of land, the road torn up on the 900
8 block of Meadow Avenue making it difficult
9 for those driving on the stretch of road to
10 maneuver. Upon visiting the street, I do
11 share those same concerns with the resident.
12 The road is in very rough shape. So, Mrs.
13 Krake, would you please send a letter to
14 Mr. Brazil asking him to have this
15 burdensome stretch of road repaired. Along
16 with this, instruct him in the letter to
17 provide an expected date of completion.

18 Also, I received a call from a
19 resident on the 600 block of Willow Street
20 in Scranton South Side regarding a large
21 pothole in the middle of the road. Upon
22 viewing the site, I saw that the pothole is
23 located in the later portion of the road in
24 the area between I'd say 639 and 641 Willow,
25 in that general vicinity. Mrs. Krake, can

1 you please also add this address to the
2 letter to Mr. Brazil.

3 In addition, I have been contacted
4 by a resident on West Lackawanna Avenue, and
5 just to give you some background, this is a
6 lifelong Scranton resident who been living
7 at this location for 50 years regarding a
8 property at 914 West Lackawanna and parking
9 issues. As the resident informed, in 2005
10 there were four apartments at this location,
11 however, the building was sold to an
12 out-of-town resident who converted the
13 structure into seven apartments. In the
14 back of this building there is a small lot
15 where cars can be parked. The resident
16 making the complaint explained that
17 originally the owner of 914 West Lackawanna
18 had stated that there were room for 12 cars
19 to park in the lot when one includes the
20 garage which adjacent to the lot. This is
21 now a laundry room for the residents the
22 resident informed and upon viewing the lot
23 it can be seen that there is really not
24 enough space for parking at this facility.
25 The area that landlord claims is the parking

1 lot is roughly 80 feet, 30 of which is
2 unusable due to a -- due to various trees
3 and brushes growing on it by 44 feet, which
4 20 of it is relative unusable due to it
5 being on a large steep hill.

6 A standard parking space is roughly
7 9 feet by 20 feet, just to inform the
8 public. So, you know, if you do the math
9 with this being said I would say that there
10 is room for maybe five point some, round it
11 down to five cars at a maximum, so with this
12 being said many of the residents of 914
13 Lackawanna are parking on the resident's
14 sidewalk and this resident happens to live
15 in a "No Parking" zone.

16 In addition to this, the resident
17 also informed me that some of the tenants at
18 this facility are also blocking the driveway
19 that the resident has, which obviously
20 that's a problem since the resident can't
21 get in and out of their own driveway, but
22 anyhow, the resident informed that he
23 notified the owner of the property and
24 really nothing has happened and, you know,
25 it's become more of a moot point, but with

1 this in mind can you please send a letter to
2 Chief Elliott and inform him of this
3 situation and instruct him to inform the
4 officers on patrol in that area of the
5 situation.

6 In addition, could you please a send
7 a letter to Mr. Brazil and ask him to have a
8 "No Parking" driveway sign installed by the
9 resident's driveway to prevent drivers from
10 actually blocking that area. Also, on this
11 letter please ask him to provide an expected
12 date of completion.

13 Finally, one last request, I have
14 been informed by a resident that the
15 streetlight on the right-hand side of
16 Luzerne Street next to the Family Dollar is
17 currently out. This is making a hindrance
18 for some at night to enter and exit the
19 parking lot. Mrs. Krake, if you could
20 please send a letter to Mr. Kerns, from
21 Municipal Energy Managers asking them to
22 have this light taken care of. The number
23 on the light is IOK6K56789N45823, and that
24 is all I have for this tonight.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Can I just add
2 something?

3 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Krake, maybe you
5 might want to forward something to the
6 zoning officer because the parking has been
7 reduced from it's original inception. Thank
8 you.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.
10 Good evening. Following last week's council
11 meeting, Solicitor Hughes brought to council
12 attention legal issues that affect the
13 appointments to boards and authorities that
14 the mayor presented to council recently. As
15 a result, council will introduce legislation
16 drafted by Solicitor Hughes to appoint two
17 individuals tonight, Mr. Andy Sbaraglia to
18 the Scranton Redevelopment Authority and
19 Mr. Giovanni Piccolino to the Scranton
20 Parking Authority in order to fill the
21 unexpired term of Miss Kathleen Dunn.
22 During the voting portion of our meeting, I
23 will ask Solicitor Hughes for his opinions.

24 Next, Mrs. Krake, council wishes to
25 send a Right-to-Know request to the Scranton

1 Redevelopment Authority to include the
2 following: Bidding specifications and legal
3 advertisements for the construction of the
4 two parking garages constructed by the
5 Scranton Redevelopment Authority and
6 transferred to the Scranton Parking
7 Authority. Copies of all bids, review and
8 analysis of bids, and awarding of the bids
9 to successful bidders. Please prepare this
10 document and send it by certified mail
11 return receipt and by standard mail as well
12 before close of business tomorrow.

13 As you are all aware, the mayor
14 vetoed council's legislation to amend the
15 2010 operating budget. In accordance with
16 Article V, Section 504, of the Home Rule
17 Charter, council has placed the ordinance on
18 it's agenda for consideration at it's next
19 regularly scheduled meeting.

20 Now, council's budget amendments
21 consequently appear in Seventh Order in
22 tonight's agenda. Council hopes that the
23 mayor will forego litigation in the best
24 interest of the taxpayers and join us in
25 cutting the cost of city government.

1 I do have some citizens' requests
2 for the week, Mrs. Krake, and as was
3 indicated previously we can copy this to the
4 mayor. A resident of East Mountain reports
5 that drivers are speeding through the stop
6 sign at the intersection of Snook Street and
7 Seymour Avenue. On a daily basis he
8 witnesses vehicles driving at excessive
9 speeds for one-quarter mile on Seymour
10 Street and ignoring the stop sign at the
11 aforementioned intersection. Please address
12 this safety issue whenever possible.

13 A letter to Brian Swanson, city
14 engineer: Council requests an update on the
15 progress of the Crisp Avenue Bridge on or
16 before March 30, 2010. According to the
17 schedule that Mr. Swanson had provided to
18 council, the project should be at midpoint.

19 A letter to Goodwill Industries:
20 Please provide council with an update on the
21 North Scranton Junior High School project.
22 Now, in that specific instance, Mrs. Krake,
23 I'm sure we don't have to copy the mayor in
24 that Goodwill Industries is a separate
25 entity and I would think Mr. Swanson as the

1 city engineer also should be able to provide
2 responses without the permission of the
3 mayor.

4 I just wanted to add one thing that
5 came to my mind tonight as this matter was
6 being discussed, and I do agree with what
7 Mr. McGoff had to say about the mayor's
8 decision to let's say suddenly apply this
9 portion of the Home Rule Charter. In past
10 years, however, I have run up against the
11 same situation. I recall, for example,
12 visiting the Office of Economic and
13 Community Development and requesting
14 information and at the time the current
15 director of OECD was not in that position,
16 it was rather her predecessor, who told me
17 that she could not give me any information
18 without the mayor's permission. And I
19 recall saying to her that the mayor had
20 recently been to city council and I think it
21 may have been the issue of the 44 million
22 that the mayor wanted to borrow and maybe
23 some citizens will recall this instance, and
24 the Pennsylvania Economy League was claiming
25 if 44 million were not borrowed at that

1 was in vein and that was just one example of
2 some of the instances that let's say have
3 peppered my six years on council, and that's
4 it.

5 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER.

6 MR. ROGAN: I would like to make a
7 motion to take 5-B from the table.

8 MS. EVANS: Do we have a second.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question?

11 MR. MCGOFF: May I ask why?

12 MS. EVANS: We are placing the
13 legislation for the appointment of
14 Mr. Timlin back onto the agenda this evening
15 after tabling it last week.

16 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

17 MS. EVANS: All those in favor
18 signify by saying aye.

19 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

20 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

22 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -

1 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT TIMLIN,
2 325 WARREN STREET, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
3 18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE SCRANTON
4 REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL
5 FIVE (5) YEAR TERM. MR. TIMLIN'S CURRENT
6 TERM EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2010 AND HIS NEW
7 TERM WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 5, 2015.

8 MS. EVANS: At this time I will
9 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
10 introduced into it's this proper committee.

11 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MS. EVANS: On the question?

14 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to
15 say that Mr. Timlin has been a member of the
16 Redevelopment Authority, and I do hate to
17 say this about a basketball official, but he
18 is an honest and respectable man who has
19 served the community well and deserving of,
20 I believe deserving of reappointment.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, I think setting
22 aside that commentary on the poor basketball
23 officials, I would ask Solicitor Hughes at
24 this time to give his opinion on this
25 particular appointment to the Scranton

1 Redevelopment Authority.

2 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, it is
3 my opinion that this appointment does not
4 conform with Resolution 24 of 2000. It was
5 submitted late by the mayor not in
6 accordance with the ordinance which amended
7 the administrative code, and as such council
8 has the authority to appoint a replacement
9 member to the Redevelopment Authority.

10 This has -- there is a lot of
11 history in this, I don't want to get too
12 involved in it. There is basically three
13 amendments to the administrative code, there
14 are three different lawsuits that all
15 resulted in this. Mayor Doherty was on
16 council at the time when the administrative
17 code Section 401 was amended three times,
18 resulted in a stipulation which ended up
19 with File of Council No. 24 of 2000 being
20 the law right now as to appointments of
21 members to authorities, board and
22 commissions of the City of Scranton.

23 This all started back in 1998 when
24 Mayor Connors was the mayor. There were
25 actually seven people appointed to fill

1 three seats on the Scranton Sewer Authority.
2 There were seven nominations made, there
3 were actually six different people. This
4 resulted in the litigation 98 Equity of --
5 actually it's 6,000, 60041 in 98 Equity of
6 60053. Judge Nealon wrote an opinion,
7 stated that as a result the Scranton Sewer
8 Authority did not have the right to appoint
9 Mr. Lewis. The appointment of Mr. Lewis by
10 Mayor Connors was invalid to replace Kevin
11 O'Shea. That decision stated that whenever
12 there is a vacancy created by a resignation
13 that the only -- that the body that
14 reappoints whenever there is a resignation
15 on an authority board is the council, not
16 the mayor.

17 Mr. Morgan cited Section 704 of the
18 Home -- of the actual administrative code in
19 his comments before, however, he read what
20 was originally proposed, it was originally
21 adopted 34 years ago, and does not have the
22 amendments. After Judge Nealon, in fact,
23 Judge Nealon's decision cited the Hazelton
24 Council vs. The Hazelton Mayor case in which
25 the Hazelton Council amended their

1 administrative code to virtually identical
2 word for word of the City of Scranton and
3 actually vested the power for the
4 appointment of all members of authorities,
5 boards and commissions in the council. That
6 case there was an appeal taken to the Court
7 of Common Pleas of Luzerne County. Luzerne
8 County said that that was null and void. An
9 appeal was taken to the Commonwealth Court
10 and the Commonwealth Court said it was a
11 valid action by the council and that all
12 members of authorities, boards and
13 commissions could be appointed solely by
14 council.

15 Judge Nealon cites that case. He
16 stated that the only valid appointment that
17 was made was Frank Naughton to replace Kevin
18 O'Shea. Council made this appointment to
19 fill the term of the resignation of Kevin
20 O'Shea. As a result of that, on July 31 of
21 2000 and -- actually of 1998, council passed
22 Resolution 83 of -- excuse me, Ordinance 93
23 -- 83, I'm sorry. Let me start over.
24 Council passed File of Council No. 83, an
25 ordinance of 1998. That ordinance provided

1 that council would have the authority to
2 appoint all board members to authorities.
3 It was passed by a vote of four to one,
4 Mayor Connors vetoed it, his veto was
5 overridden by council, so at that point,
6 council had the right to appoint all
7 authorities members.

8 That was subsequently, and that was
9 only authority members under the Municipal
10 Authorities Act. Council then passed
11 Resolution No. 13 of 1999 in which council
12 expanded it's power to appoint members to
13 all authorities and, however, gave the mayor
14 in Subsection D the right to appoint any
15 members to boards or commissions that was
16 authorized by statute.

17 As a result of that, litigation
18 instituted by Mayor Connors against the
19 council. That was instituted to No. 99 --
20 or Year '99 Equity 17. As a result of that
21 litigation, the stipulation was entered into
22 before Judge Corbett. That stipulation
23 tried to address many of the issues where
24 appointments were not made by the mayor to
25 authorities, boards and commissions. Also,

1 tried to address the fact that the council
2 back in 1998 did not introduce the two
3 people that had been reappointed to new
4 terms on the Sewer Authority, let them sit
5 for almost six or seven months and Mayor
6 Connors then had to reappoint them again.

7 As a result of that, the stipulation
8 that was entered into resulted in Ordinance,
9 File of Council No. 24 of 2000 which we are
10 here on tonight which is the current law of
11 the administrative code amended, the
12 administrative code section 401, and what it
13 states is that the mayor would appoint
14 members to authorities, boards and
15 commissions, that would be appointed by
16 resolution by the mayor. He would submit 48
17 hour hours prior to the next council meeting
18 and council has 30 days to introduce that
19 resolution of appointment and after it's
20 introduced has 35 days to act on it.

21 However, to either accept or approve
22 the resolution if council fails to act on it
23 the resolution is automatically adopted.
24 What's critical in the appointment that's
25 being discussed now to the Redevelopment

1 Authority is that the ordinance states that,
2 "The mayor shall submit the appointment
3 resolution to council within 30 days of the
4 expiration of the individual's term. If the
5 mayor fails to submit the resolution within
6 that time period, the council shall fill the
7 vacancy by resolution."

8 As a result of that, the term that
9 was proposed for Mr. Timlin expired on
10 February 3. According to the resolution --
11 or according to the ordinance amending 401
12 of the administrative code that this should
13 have been submitted within the 30-day time
14 period prior to February 3. It was not
15 submitted until February 23 until after the
16 term of office had expired and as a result
17 that council now has the authority pursuant
18 to Ordinance 24 of 2000 to appoint a member
19 to the Redevelopment Authority.

20 Any vacancy such as Mr. O'Shea that
21 is by a resignation is solely within council
22 to appoint and not the mayor pursuant to
23 Judge Nealon's ruling in that case and as a
24 result there is a resignation on the Parking
25 Authority, that can only be filled by

1 council according to Judge Nealon's
2 decision. Judge Nealon in his decision
3 stated that the council has the right to
4 amend the Home Rule Charter so that it could
5 take away from the mayor the right to
6 appoint members to authorities, boards and
7 commissions.

8 Council has done that by three times
9 in this legislation all within a period of
10 three years in 1998, '99, and in 2000.

11 Therefore, in accordance with File of
12 Council No. 24 of 2000, which amended
13 Section 401 of the Administrative code that
14 the mayor's appointment was not timely made
15 of Mr. Timlin. This is what this ordinance
16 tried -- this is what this ordinance the
17 purpose of was to correct that so that it
18 would be done before the term expired.

19 Because was it was to the timely submitted
20 council how has the right in accordance with
21 File of Council 24, 2000, to vote this down,
22 to reject it and to submit it's own
23 nomination in accordance with the
24 Administrative Code.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Solicitor

1 Hughes. Anyone else on the question?

2 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. It was my
3 understanding that the mayor had 30 days
4 from the time that the term expired in order
5 to submit an appointment, and that would
6 give I am up until sometime in March in
7 order to do that which would have been
8 within the time frame allotted. Am I
9 incorrect?

10 MR. HUGHES: It's my opinion that is
11 not correct. Looking at the case law, the
12 decision of Judge Nealon's decision, the
13 real problem is that if a person is not
14 appointed at the time to take the office
15 that the person who is there sits until his
16 replacement is appointed and qualified. The
17 ordinance, as it states, it would be within
18 30 days of the termination date which would
19 have to be before and not after.

20 MS. EVANS: Now, because so much
21 time has elapsed here in our very worthy
22 counselor's presentation, I just want to
23 remind members of the council that this
24 legislation 5-B is to appoint Mr. Timlin to
25 the Redevelopment Authority. All those in

1 favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

2 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

4 MR. ROGAN: No.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

6 MR. JOYCE: No.

7 MS. EVANS: No. The noes have it and
8 the legislation dies.

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
10 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF ANDY
11 SBARAGLIA, 2410 NORTH MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON,
12 PENNSYLVANIA, 18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE
13 SCRANTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR A FIVE
14 (5) YEAR TERM TO REPLACE MR. ROBERT TIMLIN
15 WHOSE TERM EXPIRED ON FEBRUARY 4, 2010 AND
16 MR. SBARAGLIA'S TERM WILL EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY
17 3, 2015.

18 MS. EVANS: At this time I will
19 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced
20 into it's proper committee.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

22 MR. ROGAN: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Yes. As I stated
25 before, in the three years that I have been

1 here for all appointments we have always --
2 it has always been an understanding -- the
3 understanding was that the mayor had the
4 ability to appoint, to send something to
5 council any time after the -- or 30 days
6 after the expiration of the person's term.
7 That what we have all acted -- or what I
8 have acted upon in the past. I see this as
9 just a justification for trying to take away
10 again the powers that are duly granted to
11 the mayor.

12 We are providing justification for
13 something that really is outside of our
14 venue. The mayor, in everything that is
15 written the mayor has the power to appoint
16 with the advice and consent of council, and
17 all we are doing is taking that power away.
18 I see that as, despite what Attorney Hughes
19 says, I still see this as the usurpation of
20 the mayor's powers and an unauthorized act
21 on our part.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, I would agree to a
23 point with Councilman McGoff. I'll extend
24 it further, however, in my six years seated
25 on council I was never made aware of this

1 particular circumstance by any previous
2 solicitor. The solicitors basically went
3 along with the mayor's agenda, so nothing of
4 this nature was ever brought to light before
5 and I have to say that I am very pleased
6 that we now have a solicitor that is
7 functioning in the role that he has been
8 appointed to not only on behalf of Scranton
9 City Council, but also on behalf of the
10 people of this city.

11 And I do find it a bit curious that
12 the mayor, for example, didn't sue
13 Mr. McDowell when 12.5 million was
14 discovered in undistributed tax money. Did
15 he sue Mr. McDowell, the former tax
16 collector, when he failed to present
17 financial reports to the city in violation
18 of the state law? No. Did he sue the
19 Controller's Office for violating state law
20 by it's failure to conduct an annual audit
21 of the Scranton Tax Office? No. Did he sue
22 the business administrator for plugging
23 false numbers into the 2009 budget? No. Is
24 he suing the Tax Office right now for the
25 missing \$1.6 million? No. Yet in every

1 instance in which the current, and only the
2 current city council, has drafted it's own
3 legislation he can't get to Court quickly
4 enough, and I believe Mr. Doherty's lawsuits
5 against city council are purely personal and
6 political. When council passes his
7 legislation there are no problems. It seems
8 the mayor believes the only role, the sole
9 role of city council is to approve his
10 legislation and make it law.

11 Now, I think the great irony though
12 of this situation, specifically the mayor
13 choosing to sue city council, is that he
14 doesn't even want to be our mayor. He has
15 demonstrated this by running for governor,
16 then trying become a candidate for
17 lieutenant governor, and now he is seeking
18 the office of state senator. I have to
19 question his true concern for his
20 constituents for the people of this city.
21 The people who elected him and the people
22 who did not elect him.

23 Now, can council sue the mayor for
24 his violations of the Home Rule Charter and,
25 yes, there have been, and undoubtedly, yes,

1 we can. However, council chooses to work
2 instead within it's scope of authority for
3 the taxpayers rather than suing the mayor
4 because we take our financial
5 responsibilities very, very seriously and we
6 won't play political games on the backs of
7 the taxpayers with the a mayor who appears
8 desperate to leave his office.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Might I ask why -- why
10 we feel the need to appoint someone
11 different than who the mayor had suggested?

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. Council received
13 the resume of Mr. Sbaraglia. I do believe
14 Mr. Timlin though contacted by phone and by
15 mail never submitted his information.
16 Sbaraglia why is a long time community
17 activists, a financial watchdog on behalf of
18 Scranton taxpayers. I think he has
19 established a firm record of attendance not
20 only at city council meetings, but at
21 municipal authority meetings as well, and I
22 believe that with all we have witnessed this
23 evening and for those of you who have been
24 let us say kept abreast of happenings in
25 city government over the last eight years

1 and those of you who elected this council
2 for change are aware, the authorities have
3 been far less than cooperative, and I think
4 it is time to put when council has the legal
5 opportunity to do so, it is time to put the
6 average person onto these authorities. It's
7 time to get information from these
8 authorities because these are the people
9 paying the bills of the authorities, and
10 their belief that they have absolutely no
11 responsibility to the taxpayers or to a
12 government body is unacceptable, and I think
13 now we to have the an opportunity to turn
14 things around and to begin to open the
15 windows, let the sunshine in and let these
16 citizens get the information from these
17 authorities that for one reason or another
18 they have been hiding for many years.

19 And probably the last thing I want
20 to say on this, because I have gone far
21 overboard on this, I'm sure, is that the
22 municipal authorities, Mr. McGoff, I think
23 have been abused in the last eight years in
24 that they have been used to circumvent the
25 law. Whatever the mayor cannot accomplish

1 directly, he would accomplish indirectly
2 through municipal authorities and that is
3 not their role, and you will find that
4 nowhere in the Municipal Authorities Act I'm
5 sure that they are to be a party to the
6 circumvention of law, so anyway, at this
7 point --

8 MR. MCGOFF: Are you intimating then
9 that the person who was --

10 MS. EVANS: I have not said the
11 individual's name, Mr. McGoff, so please
12 don't make those accusations.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Well, by implication
14 you are saying that the members of the
15 authorities have been involved in some
16 attempt to hide things from the public, that
17 would include the people who are being --
18 the person is being reappointed. I think
19 it's by implications you are impugning that
20 person's character.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, that would be your
22 opinion. I have never met Mr. Timlin. I
23 wouldn't know him if he walked in tonight,
24 so I have nothing personal against this
25 individual, but I do have a very strong

1 sense of transparency in government and
2 accountability to the people who pay the
3 bills and accountability to the people who
4 elect us, and I believe sometimes in
5 appointed positions people feel they have
6 much more power than they actually do
7 possess. That's a dangerous thing. So what
8 is being done tonight I believe is not -- is
9 not unusual. It's not a usurpation of
10 anyone's powers. It's very simply this, we
11 are simplifying, we are doing the right
12 thing by law and within our scope of the
13 authority, and we are doing the right thing
14 and the best that we can for the people out
15 there in West Scranton, South Scranton,
16 North Scranton, the Plot, East Mountain,
17 everywhere throughout the city.

18 MR. ROGAN: I would just like to add
19 that that last week council voted
20 unanimously to table Mr. Timlin's
21 appointment because he didn't submit a
22 resume, and he still hasn't, so I wouldn't
23 feel comfortable voting for somebody who
24 hasn't and, obviously, he isn't that
25 concerned about being appointed to this

1 board because he would have come to us with
2 the resume. That's all I have to say.

3 MS. EVANS: And then again, I think
4 I'll piggyback on Mr. Rogan's comments
5 because you just jogged my memory, that I
6 had reached out to an appointment to the
7 Recreation Authority within the last month
8 or two and what was said to me is entirely
9 different from what actually happened at a
10 Recreation Authority meeting and I believe
11 that is what caused this council then to
12 request information, specifically resumes
13 and cover letters, from all potential
14 appointees and I can say that that
15 information has been received in council's
16 office from Mr. Sbaraglia and from
17 Mr. Piccolino.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, if I
19 could comment, also, I would like to explain
20 my vote. Based on our solicitor's opinion I
21 would have to say that I am in favor of
22 introducing the two new candidate's names
23 for consideration to these authority
24 appointments. I do not know Mr. Timlin,
25 never met him, but I do personally know Mr.

1 Matyjevich and his family and consider him
2 to be a fine young man from a great family.
3 However, this is not to be viewed as a
4 personal issue, but an issue of
5 accountability and the city council has an
6 opportunity to nominate two candidates who
7 we believe will be accountable and
8 answerable to everyone, not just the mayor,
9 something that I believe neither of these
10 authorities have injected in the last few
11 year. I still do believe that we have
12 received the requested information from
13 either of the mayor's appointees, as was
14 mentioned, and that would help us make a
15 final decision. I have reviewed the resumes
16 of both of council's candidates and do
17 approve.

18 Perhaps, if the mayor took some time
19 out from campaigning for the office of the
20 week these appointees would have been
21 presented to us in a more timely manner.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. MCGOFF: Just one last thing, I
24 am going to abstain on this. I believe that
25 this is an unauthorized resolution and I do

1 not want to be party to something that is I
2 believe illegal.

3 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, can I ask
4 you one question though, when you say it's
5 an unauthorized item --

6 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

7 MS. EVANS: -- what do you mean by
8 that?

9 MR. MCGOFF: I mean that I feel that
10 the justification provided by Attorney
11 Hughes is in conflict with what I have seen
12 and I don't think that we have the power to
13 did this. Therefore, I believe it's
14 unauthorized by law.

15 MS. EVANS: Oh, I see the law does
16 not provide --

17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

18 MS. EVANS: -- for this, even though
19 the solicitor has cited all of the
20 ordinances and the legal cases and the
21 decisions of Judge Nealon. Okay. I think
22 now we will call for a vote. Anyone else on
23 the question? All those in favor of
24 introduction signify by saying aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
4 have it and so moved.

5 (Mr. McGoff abstained from voting.)

6 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
7 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH
8 MATYJEVICH, JR., 1318 FARR STREET, SCRANTON,
9 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, AS A MEMBER OF THE
10 SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY. MR. MATYJEVICH
11 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MRS.
12 KATHLEEN MCDONNELL WHO RESIGNED FEBRUARY 17,
13 2010. MR. MATYJEVICH'S TERM WILL BE
14 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 18, 2010 THROUGH JUNE 1,
15 2010.

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

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

21 MS. EVANS: On the question?
22 Attorney Hughes, would you like to clarify
23 once more just this specific situation and
24 this particular appointment to the Parking
25 Authority, please?

1 MR. HUGHES: Yes, Madam President.
2 As I had previously stated in the decision
3 in 98 Equity 41 which was the Scranton Sewer
4 Authority vs. The city of Scranton and the
5 Council and also the 98 Equity 53 which was
6 Mayor Connors vs. The City Council, there is
7 a distinction between the appointment of a
8 term that has expired or will expire and
9 submitting that appointment and one where
10 there is vacancy created by resignation or
11 death. Judge Nealon in the consolidated
12 cases back in '98 made that distinction,
13 went into a lengthy decision, it runs around
14 five to six pages on Mr. O'Shea and how
15 council, not the mayor, has the right to
16 appoint a person to fill the vacancy for the
17 unexpired term. Went into a very detailed
18 analysis that went, as I said, about six
19 pages as to why the appointing power -- or
20 why the appointing power for a resignation
21 is in council and not the mayor. The person
22 that the mayor appointed was in effectuated
23 with the Court for that decision. Council's
24 appointment of Mr. Frank Naughton to fill
25 the unexpired testimony of Mr. O'Shea was

1 proper, so that in this case that since
2 there is a resignation using the decision in
3 both of those cases, Judge Nealon's
4 decision, that the power to appoint to fill
5 the vacancy on any municipal authority vests
6 in the council and not the mayor.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Attorney
8 Hughes. Anyone else on the question? Once
9 again, this legislation is to appoint
10 Mr. Matyjevich to the Scranton Parking
11 Authority. All those in favor of
12 introduction signify by saying aye.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

14 MS. EVANS: Opposed?

15 MR. ROGAN: No.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: No.

17 MR. JOYCE: No.

18 MS. EVANS: No. The noes have it
19 and it is dead.

20 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
21 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF GIOVANNI
22 PICCOLINO, 2639 BIRNEY AVENUE, SCRANTON,
23 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE
24 SCRANTON PARKING AUTHORITY. MR. PICCOLINO
25 WILL FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF MRS.

1 KATHLEEN MCDONNELL WHO RESIGNED FEBRUARY 17,
2 2010. MR. PICCOLINO'S TERM WILL BE
3 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 18, 2010 THROUGH JUNE 1,
4 2010.

5 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
6 entertain a motion that item 5-E be
7 introduced into it's proper committee.

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Again, my opposition is
12 that I do not believe we have this power and
13 I will abstain.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
15 All those in favor of introduction signify
16 by saying aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

19 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

20 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
21 have it and so moved.

22 (Mr. McGoff abstained from voting.)

23 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -
24 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 13, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE-
25 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

1 CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE BJA
2 FY 09 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE
3 ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM LOCAL
4 SOLICITATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,618.00 AND
5 DISBURSE SAID FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
6 GRANT APPLICATION.

7 MS. EVANS: You have heard reading
8 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

9 MR. JOYCE: Mrs. Chairman, I move
10 that Item 6-A pass reading by title.

11 MR. ROGAN: Second.

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

14 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

15 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

16 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

17 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE-
21 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 14, 2010 - AN ORDINANCE-
22 AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY
23 OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, SECTION
24 6-14-CONTRACTS, SUBSECTION (A) TO REDUCE THE
25 AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH COMPETITIVE BIDDING IS

1 REQUIRED FROM \$20,000.00 TO \$10,000.00, AND
2 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT ABOVE WHICH QUOTES MUST
3 BE OBTAINED FROM \$5,000.00 TO \$4,000.00.

4 MS. EVANS: You have heard reading
5 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

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

8 MR. JOYCE: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question?

10 MR. MCGOFF: Yes, on the question, I
11 know I came in at the end of the discussion
12 last week on this. While I have no
13 objection to the resolution or the
14 ordinance, I do believe that we should
15 closely monitor the effect that it has to
16 see if, in fact, the cost of advertising is
17 offset by the amount saved and by the
18 increased number of people that bid. I know
19 I have been told that cost for advertising
20 can, you know, average cost for a bid is
21 somewhere over \$1,000 and if we are not
22 realizing any appreciable savings in the
23 bids I believe that, you know, maybe this is
24 something that we can, you know, go back to
25 and see if he can't do something to realize

1 those savings.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff.
3 Is there anyone else on? All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

11 MS. KRAKE: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A.
12 FOR CONSIDERATION - BY THE COMMITTEE ON
13 FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF COUNCIL
14 NO. 12, 2010 (AS AMENDED) AMENDING FILE OF
15 THE COUNCIL NO. 97, 2009 AN ORDINANCE (AS
16 AMENDED) ENTITLED "APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
17 THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE
18 PERIOD COMMENCING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
19 JANUARY, 2010 TO AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 31,
20 2010 BY THE ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL CITY
21 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2010". BY
22 MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE NAMED ACCOUNTS AND
23 LINE ITEMS AS SET FORTH ON THE "AMENDED
24 GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE YEAR
25 2010", WHICH IS ATTACHMENT 1 HERETO, AS

1 FOLLOWS: INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
2 DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES AS SET FORTH ON
3 PAGE ONE (1) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED
4 2010 BUDGET, DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
5 DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES AS SET FORTH ON
6 PAGE TWO (2) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED
7 2010 BUDGET, DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
8 NON DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES AS PER PAGE
9 THREE (3) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED 2010
10 BUDGET, REINSTATING CERTAIN POSITIONS,
11 CREATING CERTAIN POSITIONS AND INCREASING
12 SALARIES OF CERTAIN POSITIONS OF THE CITY OF
13 SCRANTON AS SET FORTH ON PAGE FOUR (4) OF
14 ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED 2010 BUDGET,
15 ELIMINATING CERTAIN POSITIONS AND DECREASING
16 SALARIES OF CERTAIN POSITIONS AS SET FORTH
17 ON PAGE FIVE (5) OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE
18 AMENDED 2010 BUDGET, REDUCING VARIOUS
19 REVENUE ITEMS AS SET FORTH ON PAGE SIX (6)
20 OF ATTACHMENT 1, THE AMENDED 2010 BUDGET
21 THAT WILL REDUCE ESTIMATED REVENUES BY
22 \$694,986 TO \$77,170,760 AND REDUCE ESTIMATED
23 EXPENDITURES BY A NET \$694,986 TO
24 \$77,170,760 IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED
25 BUDGET.

1 MS. EVANS: What is the
2 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
3 Committee on Finance?

4 MR. JOYCE: As Chairperson for the
5 Committee on Finance, I recommend that city
6 council overrides the mayor's veto of Item
7 7-A.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MS. EVANS: On the question.

10 MR. MCGOFF: Once again I'll voice
11 my opposition based on the fact that these
12 amendments do nothing to save the taxpayers
13 money and also are outside of the authority
14 of the council to do it at this time.

15 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else on
16 the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I strongly
18 disagree, Mr. McGoff, I believe that cutting
19 money out of a budget is a savings to the
20 taxpayers and the financial situation we are
21 in now is like a house of cards built over a
22 tank of gasoline. Eventually, you know,
23 something has to be done and this is a good
24 first step towards fiscal responsibility for
25 the city of Scranton, therefore, I will be

1 voting "yes".

2 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please?

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. McGoff.

4 MR. MCGOFF: No.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

6 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Loscombe.

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.

9 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Joyce.

10 MR. JOYCE: Yes.

11 MS. CARRERA: Mrs. Evans.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
13 the mayor's veto of Item 7-A, File of
14 Council No. 12, 2010, legally and lawfully
15 overridden. I thank you all for your
16 participation at tonight's meeting, and I'll
17 entertain a motion to adjourn.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Motion to adjourn.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Second.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER