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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, March 23, 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

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. KRAKE: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. KRAKE: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. KRAKE: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. KRAKE: Mr. Joyce.

11 MR. JOYCE: Here.

12 MS. KRAKE: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Here. Mrs. Krake,
14 please proceed with the reading of the
15 minutes.

16 MS. KRAKE: Yes. 3-A. AGENDA FOR
17 THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING TO BE
18 HELD MARCH 24, 2010, AT 5:30 P.M.

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

21 MS. KRAKE: I do have some clerk's
22 notes tonight, Mrs. Evans.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. KRAKE: First of all responses,
25 we have a response from Chief Elliott about

1 a request concerning illegal parking at 914
2 West Lackawanna Avenue. He tells us that he
3 will have patrol officers pay special
4 attention to this illegal parking.

5 The next is also from Chief Elliott
6 concerning Highlander Laundry Service.
7 Council, this has been an ongoing problem
8 for years. Our officers monitor the
9 location and issue tickets when necessary.
10 He says he will send another reminder for
11 them to look at the area again and enforce
12 for violations if noted.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MS. KRAKE: We received a response
15 from our Right-to-Know request concerning
16 the documentation and vouchers of payments
17 for all equipment and purchases made by the
18 Department of Refuse, Recycling and Traffic
19 Maintenance. However, the only part of this
20 that was answered was what the fleet manager
21 had, which was Mr. Lynady, and he answered
22 in full as far as his department was
23 concerned, so I notified the controller's
24 office and the business administration that
25 we wanted much more than just what pertained

1 to the fleet manager, so they agreed they
2 will continue to delve into this and get us
3 the rest of the information.

4 MS. EVANS: Very good.

5 MS. KRAKE: We also have an answer
6 from Municipal Energy Managers. This is
7 concerning the light that was out. They
8 tell us that the first step was to determine
9 if the outage was reported, and it was not,
10 so they went to the website and using the
11 number that we gave them they report that
12 they will be repairing it and using the
13 automated process. Hopefully, it can be --
14 was completed by the weekend since we did
15 receive this the day after our meeting last
16 week, and they said if they received it
17 earlier in the day it would have definitely
18 been done.

19 The same system, if anyone would
20 like to use it, is on the website and that
21 address is www.slout.com, and that's from
22 Mr. Kearns, President of Municipal Energy
23 Managers.

24 We also have several letters that
25 have in not been answered. The first is

1 from Mr. Brazil concerning 920 West
2 Lackawanna Avenue where we are requested a
3 "No Parking" driveway sign. We have not
4 received a response.

5 Also, a request to Mr. Brazil to
6 replace the stop sign at Luzerne and 13th
7 Avenue. There has been no response.

8 Also, again, Mr. Brazil, our request
9 concerning repairing the road in the 900
10 block of Meadow Avenue. We have made
11 requests to Mr. Dougher per Councilman Rogan
12 about any city pools that will be closed
13 this year for repairs or any pools that had
14 new liners installed. This has also gone
15 unanswered.

16 We had made a request to Goodwill
17 Industries concerning the update on North
18 Scranton Junior High School, this has gone
19 unanswered.

20 And the next two are letters that
21 went to Mr. Seitzinger. The first was Third
22 Avenue complaining that the dumpsters in
23 South Side Shopping Center are being emptied
24 at 3:00 in the morning and the noise was
25 awakening them from their sleep and we have

1 received no answer. And also they request
2 to have an inspector check the property at
3 the corner of Luzerne and 14th Avenue that
4 garbage is left out at all times. This is
5 also gone unanswered.

6 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Krake, were any of
7 those letters of request sent to the mayor
8 as well?

9 MS. KRAKE: Yes.

10 MS. EVANS: Then let's send one more
11 memo and let's make that deadline for
12 Monday.

13 MS. KRAKE: Thank you. That's all
14 we have.

15 MS. EVANS: Oh, also with regard to
16 North Scranton Intermediate, I know that in
17 the past they have been very open, very
18 willing to respond to requests, particularly
19 Mr. Langan, I believe, so let's send a
20 reminder that, you know, council would like
21 this information so that it can present it
22 to the public who is questioning the project
23 or the process of that -- progress of that
24 project. Thank you. Do any council members
25 have announcements?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I have a couple of
2 announcements, some of them are repeats, but
3 Lent is still ongoing, so I just wanted you
4 to remember that Dante Club has their
5 chowder sale every Friday through Lent at
6 1916 Prospect Avenue, their clubhouse from
7 11 until 2.

8 St. Lucy's at 949 Scranton Street in
9 West Scranton is continuing with their
10 annual Lenten food sale on Fridays from 3:00
11 to 6:30.

12 And also there is upcoming benefit
13 dinner for pancreatic cancer. In loving
14 memory of Angela Price held by Angie's
15 Angels. It will be held on Saturday, April
16 17, from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Fraternal Order
17 of Eagle's Hall at 493 Meridian Avenue in
18 Scranton. Dinner will be from 5 to 7,
19 entertainment by DJ Daddy. Tickets are \$10
20 and can be purchased at the door. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else?

23 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to
24 offer congratulations to the Scranton High
25 School boys' basketball team and also the

1 Holy Cross boys' basketball team for
2 reaching the quarter finals of the state
3 playoffs. I was able to attend the last two
4 games of both teams, since they played
5 double headers together, and both schools
6 were the representatives of the community
7 and the players and coaches worthy
8 representatives not only the school, but
9 also the community in which they live. So
10 again, congratulations to them.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. McGoff,
12 and I think all of council echoes your
13 sentiments and your pride in both schools.
14 Is there anyone else?

15 MR. JOYCE: Yes. I was approached
16 by some members of the Tripp Park
17 Neighborhood Association and they wanted me
18 to pass along that on Saturday, March 27, a
19 large concrete mat will be poured at the
20 school construction site on Dorothy Street.
21 The pour will begin at 5 a.m. and will take
22 at least 14 hours to complete. Twenty-eight
23 cement trucks will be used. The trucks will
24 enter Tripp Park via Doherty Street and exit
25 Tripp Park via Farr Street. This means a

1 steady flow of truck traffic for the
2 duration of the pour.

3 During this period parking will only
4 be permitted on one side of Dorothy and
5 Farr, which that will be marked off and
6 signs will be posted. A street sweeper and
7 water truck will be in use to keep the
8 streets cleaned, and I just ask on behalf of
9 the Tripp Park Neighborhood association that
10 all residents and all others that are
11 traveling to these areas on March 27 please
12 adhere to the traffic rules that will be
13 enforced that day, and that's all.

14 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Joyce.
15 Also, Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic
16 Church, 109 West Locust Street in Scranton
17 will hold a pierogi, clam chowder, halushki,
18 bake sale and basket raffle this weekend,
19 Palm Sunday, that would be Saturday, March
20 27, before and after the 4 p.m. mass, and
21 Sunday, March 28, before and after the 11
22 a.m. mass. To order please call Sandy at
23 342-1719. 342-1719.

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

1 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker is
2 Andy Sbaraglia.

3 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
4 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonians. I
5 come to speak as a member of the Taxpayers'
6 Association and member of the Free Swim
7 Group. I have brought this up maybe last
8 week or the maybe before, that you consider
9 trying to lease back Nay Aug Pool from the
10 Scranton Recreation Authority since they
11 seem to be willing to lease a lot of things.
12 You know, I think CMC leases a portion of
13 Nay Aug where they have their helipad and
14 the parking back in there, and now we found
15 out Lackawanna College leased I guess the
16 old zoo out and some parking lots.

17 I consider now is a good time to
18 maybe lease back our pool and open it up to
19 that whole section of Scranton that's been
20 denied and the kids have been denied that
21 pool. They have to go all the way down and
22 the closest pool they would go to if they
23 don't -- if thy want to swim for free would
24 probably be down there, I think down there
25 in Capouse, the Capouse Pool, and that's

1 where they would have to go and that's
2 unfair. I mean, we may get a hot summer
3 this year.

4 I know that Scranton Recreation
5 Authority has no intention of ever offering
6 free swim even on certain days or certain
7 temperatures to the kids of Scranton. They
8 just don't. For some reason or other they
9 deny that as public service. They shouldn't
10 really deny them kids on very hot days and
11 should open the pool up for free swim, but
12 they are not inclined to do so.

13 You know, we do pay a lot of the
14 things that go on at that pool, namely, the
15 insurance just recently, the 24, 25,000 we
16 did. I mean, if we are putting out money
17 for that pool in any way, any form, then all
18 of the kids in the city or especially the
19 kids at that live in that section of the
20 city should have access to that pool. As
21 you know, we will run the free swim no
22 matter what happens, but I ask that you
23 consider asking the mayor to lease back our
24 pool so that children of the city could use
25 that pool and especially I guess that

1 neighborhood is called upper Greenridge or
2 whatever you want to call that section, but
3 it's a big section and a lot of kids used to
4 use that pool and I don't see any reason why
5 they should have been denied it. Thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Sbaraglia. Bill Jackowitz.

8 MR. JACKOWITZ: Bill Jackowitz,
9 South Scranton resident, member of the
10 Taxpayers' Association, master sergeant
11 United States Air Force retired. I would
12 like council to make -- pass an amendment
13 tonight or something to ban the scrappy kid
14 from Scranton, Joe Biden, from Scranton
15 after that remark that he made tonight to
16 the President of the United States for the
17 whole world to hear when he used the "F"
18 word, the complete "F" word while speaking
19 to the President of the United States for
20 the whole world to hear. I think he is an
21 embarrassment to the City of Scranton and he
22 should be banned and I would like to see
23 legislation passed to do such a thing
24 because he is nothing but an embarrassment.
25 To use such a word in front of children, in

1 front of children when the health care law
2 was being passed, he is going to use the "F"
3 word, the complete "F" word while speaking
4 to the president. Shameful at the very
5 least, and you can go ahead and smile if you
6 want up there.

7 Chris Tigue, Dunmore, stay out of
8 Scranton business. Dunmore has their own
9 problems. Thanks for keeping the Legion of
10 Doom in the news. Mary Lou Valenti, were
11 you at the hearing? I was there and I
12 understand wannabe Doherty is asking for the
13 Republican write-in vote. This guy will
14 stop at nothing. Sign of no confidence if
15 you ask me, now he is going to try to be a
16 write-in for Senate on the Republican side.

17 I would like to set the record
18 straight. Molly Brannigan's has been out of
19 business for several months. They owe the
20 Parking Authority hundreds of thousands of
21 dollars in rent and utility bills which, by
22 the way, are taxpayers' dollars. Any profit
23 that was made by Molly Brannigan's from the
24 St. Patrick's Day parade should be returned
25 to the taxpayers.

1 As far as the 9,000 jobs that
2 wannabe Senator Doherty states that he
3 created, you cannot include the construction
4 jobs, they are temporary jobs. Once they
5 are completed most construction workers
6 collect unemployment during the off time.

7 Furthermore, most of the jobs are
8 being performed by nonunion workers who, by
9 the way, reside outside of the City of
10 Scranton, pay no Scranton wage taxes or
11 property taxes.

12 We hear on a daily basis how great
13 of a city we have and that it is a great
14 place to raise children. Then I must ask
15 why the educated and intelligent leave the
16 city when they get a chance. I did. I left
17 when I was 18. Had a very successful
18 career, came back 30 years later and now
19 have a very successful second career. By
20 the way, outside of the City of Scranton,
21 could not or would not work for \$7 or \$8 an
22 hour.

23 Mercy-Tyler Hospital Tunkhannock
24 laying off 18 employees. Maybe these 18
25 unemployed people can contact wannabe

1 Senator Doherty and ask him for one of the
2 9,000 jobs that he created in Scranton over
3 the last eight years.

4 As far as me being angry, you bet.
5 This city, county and state has been the
6 most corrupt that I have ever lived in. I
7 have lived in foreign countries that had
8 more honest government and officials than
9 Scranton, Lackawanna County and Pennsylvania
10 have. Scranton, pay to play. Lackawanna
11 County pay to play. Pennsylvania pay to
12 play. Plus legislators don't pay their
13 taxes, collect per diem for not even being
14 in Harrisburg, pay staff members for doing
15 campaign work out of their state offices,
16 use their per diem money to buy houses and
17 rent the houses out for profit.

18 Oh, and by the way, if you do not
19 have a connection forget about getting a
20 job. That is why I can say that no one has
21 ever given me a job or I have never paid to
22 get a job. If you cannot get it on your
23 merit you do not deserve the job.

24 Mr. McGoff, you are a still in favor
25 of the 16 million dollar library in South

1 Scranton, Cedar Avenue. Read the police
2 reports: Armed robberies, strong-armed
3 robberies, Magistrate Russell's building
4 infested with cockroaches, attempted
5 kidnappings, attempted molestations,
6 prostitutes walking the avenue. A great
7 avenue to build a 16 million dollar plus
8 glass library.

9 City council, you are doing exactly
10 what you were elected to do, stand up for
11 the citizens of Scranton. The fact that
12 wannabe Senator Doherty has his legal team
13 negotiating is a good sign for the citizens
14 of Scranton. Do not give in, but be fair
15 with the wannabe lame duck mayor.

16 Also, Stu Renda and Linda Aebli
17 testified the first day and after they got
18 done testifying we went into negotiations.

19 Anyone who tells you that corruption
20 in Lackawanna and Scranton government began
21 with Bob Cordaro and AJ Munchak is
22 delusional or running for state senate or
23 both. Must give Chris Kelly credit for that
24 statement.

25 Also, Bobby Lynett's top head column

1 on Sunday was nothing more than visions and
2 broken promises. Bobby, take a walk
3 downtown Scranton, count the empty store
4 fronts and potholes. Look at the vacant
5 buildings that once were occupied by
6 business owners, including your own Times
7 building. Why did you move to Waverly? I
8 understand that you are the mouthpiece for
9 the lame duck Mayor Doherty, but I feel the
10 newspaper should print the truth not
11 visions. The people are tired of the
12 misinformation. That is why your
13 circulation rate is dropping. Tell both
14 sides not just the wannabe senator's side.
15 He has been a failure for eight years as
16 executive officer of the City of Scranton
17 Mr. Austin Burke has done nothing for
18 Scranton for 28 years except increase
19 unemployment.

20 Just imagine if Mayor Doherty would
21 have met with council on a regular basis,
22 especially with the minority members. Just
23 possibly some of the problems could have
24 been solved. Instead, they have escalated
25 and now wannabe wants to talk about them.

1 Too late. The City of Scranton should file
2 bankruptcy and be done with it, start all
3 over again. Mayor Doherty, start coming to
4 the meetings, start negotiating, start
5 talking with the people, send your heads of
6 departments here and let us hear the facts
7 not just visions and illusions because so
8 far they have all been failures.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you,
10 Mr. Jackowitz. Les Spindler.

11 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,
12 Council. Les Spindler, city resident and
13 homeowner and taxpayer. First of all, I
14 want to talk about the parking garages down
15 here at the corner of Washington and Linden.
16 They are putting a new surface on the
17 outside. Has anybody taking a look at that
18 garage lately? If you haven't, it would pay
19 to go take a look at that garage because
20 whatever the city is paying to have that job
21 done is too much. We should ask for our
22 money back. It's the most unprofessional
23 job I have ever seen. They are putting
24 brick on the outside, if you look at it, it
25 looks like there is about three different

1 shades of brick and the concrete that's
2 in-between the brick there is like three
3 different shades of concrete. There is like
4 a white, there's a gray and then there is a
5 darker gray. It looks a mess. It's a
6 disgrace that this building probably cost
7 hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix up,
8 and it looks like it was done 20 years ago.
9 I mean, the place is a mess and I think
10 there should be an investigation into this.

11 MR. ROGAN: We actually when we were
12 in Court last week when we are standing
13 outside we are discussing that, you know,
14 from a far it does look like they used a few
15 different kinds of bricks and few different
16 kinds of mortar. It doesn't blend.

17 MR. SPINDLER: Totally
18 unprofessional. It looks ridiculous. I
19 just think it's a waste of taxpayer dollars
20 and something should be done. We should be
21 getting our money back. They talk about the
22 commissioners taking kickbacks, I think
23 somebody is taking a kickback on that job,
24 and it should be investigated.

25 Saturday's paper there was a story

1 about a House committee approving a bill
2 that would give stays bigger say on smoking
3 bans, I would hope if that bill does get
4 passed that the City of Scranton would make
5 the smoking ban stiffer in this city because
6 there is establishments in this city that
7 are breaking the rules. The one that I
8 spoke about before is on Franklin Avenue,
9 and you can laugh all of you want,
10 Mr. McGoff, but you have to have --

11 MR. MCGOFF: No, I'm not laughing at
12 that, Mr. Spindler. I agree with you.

13 MR. SPINDLER: You have to have 20
14 percent of your food sales or more to be
15 able to smoke and this place I'm talking
16 about sells way more than 20 percent of the
17 food sales and even Mrs. Fanucci agreed with
18 me on that one. And I even said to a
19 complaint to Harrisburg on that and I never
20 heard about it. And this is the same place
21 that had DPW workers cleaning outside of it
22 the day after the parade and it wasn't even
23 on the parade route. I think that's wrong.
24 That's another waste of taxpayers' dollars.

25 Moving on I was approached by a

1 neighbor of mine yesterday and asked if I
2 could say something that the Dorothy Street
3 playground, said there is graffiti all over
4 and some of it looks like gangland graffiti
5 he said and if I could get some of this
6 stuff from DPW to go clean it I would be
7 more than happy to go clean it myself. I
8 don't see that happening. I mean, that
9 playground was built not that long ago and
10 it's a beautiful playground, and as a member
11 of the Tripp Park Crime Watch we do patrol
12 but we can't be there 24/7. So I hope
13 something can be done about that.

14 Oh another thing, Mrs. Evans, there
15 are cameras, there is two cameras right
16 outside of that playground. Can we find out
17 if they are working, please?

18 MS. EVANS: Yes.

19 MR. SPINDLER: It's been brought up
20 in our neighborhood meetings and nobody
21 seems to think they are working.

22 MS. EVANS: The cameras that --

23 MR. SPINDLER: They are on poles.
24 One is outside of the basketball courts and
25 there is one I think outside of the

1 playground.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MR. SPINDLER: You are welcome.

4 Lastly, I spoke about this with the last
5 council when it was about banning cell phone
6 use in our city while driving and I stated
7 Carbondale has already done that, and the
8 answer I got from last council was, well,
9 the state has a ban so let's go with the
10 state. And my answer was can't we be
11 proactive instead of reactive? And I see
12 where Wilkes-Barre is planning to do the
13 same thing and I think it's very dangerous
14 because you see it all of the time. I mean,
15 not just kids but grownups, too, talking on
16 phones, texting, and I think Scranton should
17 look into banning this, also.

18 That's all I have tonight except for
19 one more thing. This person wasn't a city
20 resident, but Sunday tragically a
21 16-year-old girl was killed in a car
22 accident in Forest City, Tisha Harhut was
23 her name. My daughter knew her and I would
24 hope everybody's thoughts and prayers will
25 go out to that family. It was a terrible,

1 terrible tragedy for a 16-year-old to lose
2 her life. As a matter of fact, my daughter
3 has a screen saver, one of the screen savers
4 has this girl's picture on it. It's very
5 sad, so my thoughts and prayers are with
6 that family. Thank you.

7 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Spindler.
8 Bob Neveroski.

9 MR. NEVEROSKI: Robert Neverosky,
10 304 Prescott Avenue. Overburdened taxpayer,
11 every time I reach in my wallet I have to
12 push other hands away. There are too many
13 people in there. What brings me down here
14 today is the Scranton Housing Authority owns
15 two houses at 326 and 328 Prescott Avenue.
16 The landfill is cleaner. They put their
17 garbage out in front, the back is worse than
18 the front, the people have been calling the
19 Housing Authority they blow them off so they
20 are knocking on my door. I.

21 Stopped at the Housing Authority
22 today. I went in and said, "Is
23 Mr. Pelicacci in?"

24 "No."

25 I said, "Is there anybody of -- in

1 like a position of -- "

2 MS. EVANS: Authority.

3 MR. NEVEROSKI: "-- authority here?"

4 "No."

5 I said, "You mean in this whole
6 building there is nobody with any authority
7 here?"

8 "No."

9 I said, "Okay, why I'm here," I
10 said, "I'm president of the Hill
11 Neighborhood Association. People are
12 knocking on my door, two house at 326 and
13 328 Prescott are garbage strewn," I said,
14 "It's really a disgrace on the block."

15 The girl said, "What do you want
16 from me?"

17 I said, "Well, I came here to try to
18 work something out to clean the place up so
19 I don't have to go to council and complain
20 to the city."

21 She said, "Council has no authority
22 over the Scranton Housing Authority."

23 I said, "You are in the city,
24 aren't you?" I said, "I'm going to have to
25 go to council and complain that you running

1 two crummy houses on the block, it's tearing
2 this whole down because of the slobiness of
3 this block."

4 She said, "Hey, Pal, do what you got
5 to do."

6 So I got blown off. I have been
7 blown off before, but that was a top shelf
8 blow off. Hit the bricks. So, you know,
9 and another thing when I was here before
10 when Mr. Loscombe got sworn in I had the
11 pleasure to address council about the 1003
12 Bunker Hill Street. Now, nothing has been
13 done. I was brought up, my father always
14 told me to do a day's work for a day's pay.

15 MS. EVANS: Right.

16 MR. NEVEROSKI: Now, on the fourth
17 floor up there it seems like people are
18 coming to get paid backwards because they
19 are certainly not doing their job. Now, if
20 the guy can't do his job up there, he should
21 move on. People in this city and a lot of
22 the workers for this city are under the
23 impression that you don't have to do a day's
24 work for a day's pay. Well, as taxpayers
25 all you got to do a day's work for a day's

1 pay because none of you would have a job
2 anymore. You would be gone. But on the
3 fourth floor it seems like not too many
4 people are putting a day's work for a day's
5 pay, and as a taxpayer I demand that that
6 house at 1003 Bunker Hill Street, it's a
7 dump, the roof is burned out, every window
8 of the house is broke, that's the last
9 house -- there is another house in Scranton
10 then Dunmore begins, that's a blight on the
11 city. I mean, it looks terrible. People
12 are asking to do something and you say, oh,
13 the Hill don't do nothing. You can't do
14 nothing because nobody in that
15 administration wants to go out in work.
16 They are all getting paid backhanded. You
17 have to do a day's work for a day's pay.

18 You guys are the legislative body of
19 the government. If they don't want to do
20 the work on the third floor make them, and
21 you can do it. You pass the laws, they
22 brought them down here, you guys pass them,
23 make them work. If you don't want to work,
24 don't pay, and let's see how they work then
25 when you don't get a day's pay. But your

1 job, ladies and gentlemen, as the
2 legislative body make them work. Thank you
3 very much.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.
5 Neveroski.

6 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Neveroski, the
7 Housing Authority may not think we have
8 authority, but there are ordinances in this
9 city that they have to abide by, so we are
10 going to check on that.

11 MR. NEVEROSKI: Mr. Loscombe,
12 council and the city has authority over
13 everybody and you are 100 percent right, but
14 this house up here at 326-328 Prescott, send
15 the housing inspector up, arrest them. You
16 know, Darryl Yarborough, a good friend of
17 mine, he was remodeling a house up in the
18 900 block of Prescott Avenue. The fourth
19 floor went after him with a vengeance. They
20 got the district attorney on him, they took
21 him to Court, they fined him \$11,000. He
22 was remodeling the house. That place didn't
23 look a tenth as bad as 326-238 Prescott.

24 Now, did they go after him because
25 Mr. Yarborough is a man of color. I

1 wouldn't want to say that, but they don't go
2 after anybody else, but they went after
3 Darryl with a vengeance, so something is
4 wrong here. Darryl is not connected, maybe
5 other people are, but something is wrong
6 that they went after Darryl Yarborough and
7 fined him and got the district attorney
8 involved and took him to Court and fined him
9 \$11,000, but who else did you ever hear of
10 that got taken to Court and got fined
11 \$11,0000 except me for building a deck.
12 Right? But I won. Thank you.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MR. HUGHES: Bob?

15 MR. NEVEROSKI: Yes.

16 MR. HUGHES: If I could, I think
17 that what you should do instead of -- I
18 mean, council, of course, is interested in
19 what you are saying, but I think the Hill
20 neighbors is what you should document all of
21 this, send it to Mr. Seitzinger and
22 constantly, you know, in writing as to what
23 these issues are and have direct
24 communication with him instead of council
25 writing a letter then when he responds to

1 us, you know, but to you as the Hill
2 neighbors I think if you do that directly
3 and keep documenting it and if you don't get
4 a response then just send him another letter
5 and keep covering your toosh with paper, you
6 know what I mean?

7 MR. NEVEROSKI: You are 100 percent
8 right, Mr. Hughes.

9 MR. HUGHES: Okay? Do that because
10 instead of us coming here and writing, you
11 know, it's a circuititous route. I think if
12 you do it directly and then you could come
13 back to council and say, "In the last month
14 we have written three letters, haven't had a
15 response," then we can see what we can do.
16 I mean, I could tell council, not that I can
17 do it, I'm not elected, but anyway --

18 MR. NEVEROSKI: You are 100 percent,
19 I'll take your advice any day, but as I said
20 before, Ozzie Quinn and I met with Ray
21 Hayes, Seitzinger and that Oleski down in
22 Ray Hayes' office about eight months ago,
23 and we were promised that that 1003 would be
24 addressed. Now, that's eight months ago, so
25 I think we got blown off down there, too,

1 you know? Not only did I get blown off at
2 the Housing Authority, but I got blown off
3 down Ray Hayes' office, too. Nothing
4 against Ray. I love the guy. He's a great
5 guy, but it wasn't Ray, it was the guy on
6 the fourth floor, that Oleski who was
7 supposed to be doing the job but are coming
8 in backhanded to get their pay because they
9 are not doing their job. And like I said,
10 you guys are the legislative body of this
11 city, make them do it. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you. Doug
13 Miller.

14 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
15 Dough Miller, Scranton.

16 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

17 MR. MILLER: I'd just like to again
18 address the issues of the budget as I stated
19 a few weeks back, and will reiterate what I
20 said, my opinions haven't changed. I
21 believe council is playing a game here to
22 control the city. I just feel you are
23 trying to run this city from these chambers
24 and I just see this as somewhat as just not
25 going to get too far.

1 just look foolish and that's the bottom line
2 here. And people may not agree with me here
3 and that's fine, I really don't care because
4 to be quite honest I don't expect to.

5 You know, council is trying to make
6 us feel sorry for this whole issue and I
7 believe it was Mr. Loscombe who read a
8 statement last week that council wasn't
9 responsible for this issue, but if you
10 didn't take the action you took we wouldn't
11 have to be worried about this to begin with
12 and that's the problem. And as this battle
13 continues to drag out, it continues it cost
14 the taxpayers thousands of dollars for
15 something we had no business getting
16 involved in because you should have known
17 that and you should have just waited for the
18 2010 budget and then did what you needed to
19 do.

20 As I have stated before, I support
21 opening the budget, but doing it the right
22 way, and again, do it in the 2011 budget
23 instead of causing a lot of problems. You
24 know, and now just basically leads into the
25 appointments and I know last week it went

1 through seventh order on the authorities and
2 I'm sure council can expect another
3 challenge in the near future. Again, an
4 action you shouldn't have taken. It's
5 clearly a violation of the Administrative
6 Code and a few weeks ago a speaker had a
7 copy of the code and pointed it out to you,
8 and I'm hopeful that between then you had a
9 chance to look at it and see that for
10 yourself.

11 You know, it's just time to cut the
12 nonsense here and stop playing politics
13 because it's quite clear that this council
14 has no clue what's it's doing and it's time
15 to put politics aside and let's move this
16 city forward. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Mr. Miller, just one
18 thing, the current court case isn't costing
19 thousands of dollars. The city is -- or I
20 should say the mayor is were represented by
21 the entire law department of Scranton and
22 City Council is represented by it's
23 solicitor.

24 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

25 MR. HUGHES: Madam President, if I

1 could just comment on one thing, at the last
2 meeting what was commented on was about the
3 Administrative Code was the original
4 Administrative Code is adopted in 1974,
5 became effective on January 5 of 1976.
6 There has been very various amendments to
7 that so the quote that was stated was
8 correct in 1976, but not correct in 2010.

9 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Lee Morgan.

10 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

11 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I have a
12 request, I would like council to furnish I
13 guess the residents of the city with a copy
14 of the transcripts of this hearing that's
15 taking place before the Court in regard to
16 the actions of the council. That way we can
17 really have a good idea what's taken place
18 and what accusations and what testimonies
19 were given and, you know, I guess I could
20 spend a couple of hours down the law library
21 and do some more research in regards to
22 that, but the only one that can interpret
23 law is a judge, okay? I do respect
24 Mr. Hughes' positions here, but he is not a
25 judge, and I went through that with Mr.

1 Minora in regards to the smoking ban and I
2 told him he was wrong and I turned out to be
3 correct, and I have been correct before and
4 I just hope that this time I am wrong, but I
5 really hope the council goes in a different
6 direction.

7 I do have to say that in my opinion
8 I do hold this council responsible for
9 what's taking place here. I think it is
10 counterproductive over -- under \$700,000 to
11 take the actions you have taken and I think
12 our time would have been much better spent
13 if, as I have asked you before, Mrs. Evans,
14 if council itself in general has broken the
15 budget itself up in sections and gave every
16 council member a section to begin to work
17 through.

18 You know, I don't like to go off on
19 things that the Times Leader has said or the
20 Scranton Times because to be honest with
21 you, you know, you could be missing an awful
22 lot and I don't want to mislead anybody, but
23 I just think that with all of the problems
24 the city has I think we could be spending
25 our time in a more productive manner that

1 would be more -- more directed at the
2 problems this city faces.

3 I mean, Mr. Jackowitz talked about
4 Cedar Avenue, that's not a new problem. The
5 blight in the Hill is not a new problem.
6 It's poverty here, okay? People have taken
7 a lot of shots at the Chamber of Commerce.
8 The Chamber of Commerce does not represent
9 people, it represents business. You
10 represent people. Now, I can't possibly
11 understand why this council wouldn't say to
12 Mr. Austin Burke, "Let's come in here and
13 have a discussion. Let's create a
14 partnership and try to create jobs. How do
15 you think we can accomplish this, Mr. Burke?
16 I mean, with your vast knowledge that you
17 have how can we create jobs here?"

18 It could happen. It takes teamwork.
19 I mean, I could see by the agenda tonight, I
20 can't second guess why nothing came up on
21 the agenda, but you know what, two sections
22 of government fighting with themselves is
23 counterproductive because now we have no
24 dialogue, nothing is moving forward. This
25 isn't about you and it's not about the

1 mayor, it's about us. I think the city is
2 blighted enough. I think we have enough
3 problems. I think it's time for really the
4 council to start looking for solutions and I
5 think it should start today.

6 I don't necessarily agree with
7 people who attack Mr. Rogan and Mr. Joyce
8 for being misinformed and incapable of doing
9 their job. I think that you are going to
10 grow into this job, but I think you are
11 going to do that by learning the mechanics
12 of government and trying to represent us
13 because that's what we are relying on. We
14 are relying on that happening. The whole
15 city is relying on that. We all know what
16 position we are in. We all know the blight
17 that we have and the debt and now we are
18 beginning to see a lot of towns across the
19 country are filing bankruptcy. They are
20 losing their whole police force.

21 I just think that maybe we should
22 collapse this thing and start over. There
23 is nothing wrong with walking away from a
24 fight. There is nothing wrong with
25 beginning the process of breaking the next

1 year's budget up and trying to find seven
2 million dollars there, but I think that in
3 the long -- I think and what I'd immediately
4 try to do is since we are going to make
5 another contract with Comcast I think what
6 we should try to do is move that money out
7 of the budget, all right, and split it
8 between senior citizens centers in the city
9 or remedial education programs geared at the
10 youth of this city to fight influences of
11 gangs and vandalism and a lot of other
12 things that young people do, a year-round
13 program, and I think that the other third we
14 should use to fund Channel 19.

15 I think we should start doing things
16 that are positive for this city. Everybody
17 is entitled to make a mistake, even this
18 council, even the mayor, but you know what
19 it comes time to put it all behind you and
20 decide what you really do and that's to help
21 the people here, and we all need help, so
22 what I'm saying is maybe we should be
23 refocus and try to move forward together.
24 Thank you.

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

1 And just one point I would like to clarify,
2 this is my seventh year on city council, but
3 it is not the first time that council has
4 convened without an agenda, so the --

5 MR. MORGAN: I'm aware of that.

6 MS. EVANS: Without legislation on
7 the agenda and so --

8 MR. MORGAN: But it rarely happens.

9 MS. EVANS: Well, it's not --
10 correct. It's not a weekly occurrence, but
11 it has happened on more than one occasion
12 and it certainly is not a reflection of
13 anything that is occurring outside these
14 council chambers.

15 MR. MORGAN: I can't say that
16 because I'm not in control of the agenda,
17 the mayor is, but I find it troubling that
18 with all of the problems we have in the city
19 that we can't put something on the agenda to
20 move this city forward, and that's all I'm
21 saying.

22 MS. EVANS: Well, there were items
23 sent down already for next week.

24 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

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

1 MR. JOYCE: Also, in regard to Mr.
2 Burke I know that we did have a public
3 caucus setup with him and it did get
4 cancelled. Mrs. Krake, has there been a
5 reschedule date?

6 MS. KRAKE: It was cancelled because
7 that was the evening he we had invited the
8 mayor to speak or address council concerning
9 the budget, so we asked Mr. Burke if he
10 could kindly reschedule and short term his
11 calendar didn't have any openings, but we
12 can readdress that the upcoming month in
13 April.

14 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

15 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Ron Ellman.

16 MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. Ronnie
17 Ellman, member of the taxpayers. I was glad
18 to see Mr. Miller here whether I agree with
19 him on all things are not. I wish some of
20 the boys that were with him, you know, would
21 come back. It's good. When I go to that
22 big council meeting in the sky I'm going to
23 give him my five minutes if it's all right.

24 I was at the Dollar Store. I go in
25 there to buy some milk duds to hide in my

1 car so Rosie doesn't know about them and a
2 lady came over to me and she said how
3 pleased she was with the new council, but
4 she said she didn't like me and my mouth and
5 my criticism and so forth, but, you know,
6 what are you going to do, you can't win them
7 all.

8 I guess council is doing a good job
9 when you start getting hate mail in the
10 letters to the editor there. I think there
11 was one today and one last week from someone
12 in Clarks Summit that's so worried about
13 Scranton.

14 Last week, the Community
15 Intervention Center of Lackawanna County,
16 which I don't know what they do, bought a
17 house on I think the thousand hundred block
18 on Capouse. That house was appraised at
19 \$16,000 which means it's about \$3,000 a
20 year, \$2,800 a year in taxes. You know,
21 they are gone. This is what you got to stop
22 somehow. I don't want a bunch of drunks and
23 druggies sitting there watching television
24 on all day on my tax dollar, you know? It's
25 not right. All of these bleeding heart

1 agencies they just -- let them pay taxes and
2 buy what they want.

3 Right there the new medical school
4 is going to get \$500 million the next five
5 years so you can see they are going to start
6 getting their 20 acres of land as fast as
7 they can and throw out the 750 people
8 probably, you know, Mr. Doherty won't help
9 them. He never done nothing across the
10 street about helping people. How can we
11 afford 20 acres of houses for them? They
12 get -- they got \$500 million to build with,
13 let them start, you know, let them start
14 paying taxes on it. Buy whatever they want.
15 Let them pay taxes like I do and these
16 people back here do. It's impossible to go
17 on. You know, enough is enough. It's just
18 -- they have no business putting that
19 medical school there. They didn't have to.

20 It's just like the federal building
21 downtown taking that beautiful motel, there
22 wasn't a reason in the world the federal
23 building had to be next to the post office.
24 You know, I don't know what kind of money a
25 motel paid, but I bet it was a big loss, you

1 know, to the taxpayers.

2 And last -- two months ago this
3 article about the education, the eight
4 colleges having a meeting, the last
5 paragraph here it says, "If this group stays
6 together I think we can do anything."

7 I guess that means tax wise they can
8 do anything. That was by I think his name
9 Boheman from Keystone College, but I don't
10 know. You know, I talk to all of these
11 people and everybody is just -- just at a
12 financial loss. House insurance, everything
13 is going up so much. I just don't know how
14 some people are going to make it anymore. I
15 give up.

16 I wish Stu Renda would show up and
17 tell me why I can't have a building permit
18 for my garage like one one-hundred
19 thousandths of the money that Austin Burke
20 is charging across the street for his
21 medical building over there. I don't know
22 what they are building, some kind of office
23 building or something, but if they don't
24 have to pay for a building permit I don't
25 think I should have to pay for one or

1 anybody else. You know, what's right for
2 them it should be right for me.

3 I got a question, does a condemned
4 piece of property get a tax sheet, you know,
5 are they taxed?

6 MS. EVANS: I would believe. Even
7 though the property is condemned, it's still
8 owned by an individual.

9 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I know people
10 walk away from them, but --

11 MS. EVANS: Well, it's a difficult
12 task I have been told to locate many of the
13 owners who are not city residents and who do
14 not respond to registered certified mail,
15 etcetera. They are leaving their problems
16 behind them, simply put, for the city to
17 handle.

18 MR. ELLMAN: Well, I'm about ready
19 to do that myself. You know, when we were
20 coming in talking, have you tried to get a
21 little geisha girl to walk on your back or
22 in your case you need a geisha boy or a set
23 of wrestlers or something? They have to be
24 something to help you like that.

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

1 MR. ELLMAN: It's just a suggestion.

2 MS. EVANS: Okay.

3 MR. ELLMAN: Thank you.

4 MS. EVANS: Dave Dobrzyn.

5 MR. DOBRZYN: I moved this up to the
6 front. On your dealings with the mayor, I
7 don't care what you do just as long as be
8 flexible if you have to be and just conduct
9 your business in the best way you can.

10 Now, I'd like to get onto last week
11 I mentioned about some dumps and so forth
12 getting started behind the Salvation Army.
13 Well, part of the reason that they got back
14 there was because Salvation Army was leaving
15 their gates open, which they are not doing
16 anymore because of the dumping, and I did
17 check and they closed their gates at night
18 now, but that pipeline that went in that
19 runs from Empire Landfill and it connects up
20 with the DeNaples' landfill's pipeline and
21 they are generating the natural gas and
22 burning it out at a power plant up in
23 Archbald, that's created a big access route
24 for illegal dumpers.

25 So what I would like to suggest is

1 that they put gates across or be required to
2 contact to put gates across some of these so
3 that, you know, if somebody wants to go back
4 there with an ATV and ride around that's no
5 big deal, but if they are going back with a
6 full-size dump truck I would say that I
7 underestimated that pile behind Salvation
8 Army. It's probably 12 to 16 small dump
9 trucks like our DPW uses, and because it's
10 mostly building material I'm wondering if
11 with home building permits if we ever check
12 to see if they have a legitimate bill for
13 waste disposal after the building permit
14 because that would, also if they had to show
15 up and show a waste disposal bill to get
16 that building permit closed out then if they
17 paid the money, you know, we won't have to
18 put up with our landscape being dumped all
19 over and because it goes on in both
20 directions there. I do a lot of walking
21 through South Side, the old Erie line and it
22 goes on all of the way up to Dunmore and it
23 goes on all of the way down to -- almost
24 down to Moosic you can walk down there along
25 that line and there is constantly people

1 dumping illegal stuff going on there.

2 And, also, I would like to
3 recommended possible looking into a light
4 goods disposal through the DPW even if
5 customer pay it required like with our old
6 computer televisions, old stoves,
7 refrigerators and so forth that way they
8 won't wind up on our landscape where it will
9 cost hundreds of times more to pick them up
10 than it would have to dispose of them
11 originally.

12 And on the pool, I have often said
13 this before and I'm going to repeat it, if
14 we could possibly find some way for the kids
15 from the Hill section to get a reduced rate
16 or whatever that might be a big help. Have
17 a certain territory that somebody that lives
18 in the Hill section wouldn't have to pay the
19 full fee as if they came down from Archbald
20 to use the sliding boards.

21 And with these microphones if you
22 keep them about six inches from you and try
23 to talk clearly, I noticed people go up
24 like, see what I mean? You're getting a lot
25 of distortion and that's probably why ECTV

1 is constantly playing with the dials in
2 there to reduce the volume if you are
3 starting to sound, you know? Okay. So,
4 thank you, and have a good night.

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

7 MR. TALIMINI: Good evening,
8 Council. Joe Talimini. I'm sorry I'm not
9 as astute as some of the people who come up
10 here and know all about the legal aspects of
11 everything that's going on. They also seem
12 to have information that nobody else has,
13 but I would just like to ask council, did
14 you sue the mayor?

15 MS. EVANS: Pardon me?

16 MR. TALIMINI: Did you sue the mayor
17 or did the mayor sue you?

18 MS. EVANS: The mayor is suing us.

19 MR. TALIMINI: Oh, okay. I just
20 wanted to get that straight. I didn't know
21 if that was a fact or not because I know you
22 are getting blamed for this lawsuit.

23 But there is a couple of other items
24 that have come up, but you are familiar with
25 the SWAB organization which we have formed

1 and I had a chance to meet with some people
2 from the Afro-American community and also
3 some of the lower income community, and I am
4 not familiar with the fact that Scranton at
5 one time had a drum and bugle corp and
6 apparently was very good drum and bugle
7 corp, but one of the suggestions that was
8 made was that if we can get a drum and bugle
9 corp in this town again a lot of kids would
10 be off the streets.

11 So I don't know anything about it.
12 I'm asking anybody who is out there who has
13 information about it to contact me, and if
14 there is anybody who would be interested in
15 helping us put together a drum and bugle
16 corp I would be glad to go along with that.
17 It's not a problem. We will bring it to
18 council and just mention this information,
19 and if there are any music teachers out
20 there, anybody who has any band equipment,
21 anybody who has any ideas we would be open
22 to them.

23 And we haven't had a meeting, we had
24 postpone a meeting last week because of a
25 death of one of our members, but we will

1 have a meeting, we will be discussing it and
2 I'd like as much information as I can.
3 Anybody who was a member at one time or who
4 thinks it would be a good idea or any member
5 of the black community or the low income
6 community, we are open for it. So, you
7 know, anything that we can do to help the
8 city we'll be glad to do it. Thank you very
9 much.

10 MR. ROGAN: Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

12 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher,
13 city resident and member of the Taxpayers'
14 Association. I'm sure you are all
15 interested, I just came from the Sewer
16 Authority meeting and they have put off
17 making the final decision until next month
18 because they didn't get the -- the board
19 members didn't get the full copy of the
20 Ganet-Flemming report until last Thursday
21 and they hadn't had a chance to read it. I
22 was also told they will be putting copies of
23 that report for citizens if they want to go.
24 There's going to be one at the Albright
25 library and I'm not sure where else, but

1 that will be available and, of course, at
2 the Sewer Authority itself, at the
3 headquarters on Adams Avenue, anybody who
4 wants to review it.

5 A presentation was made and what was
6 recommended was a combined -- a fixed charge
7 with a consumption base rate which is
8 similar to precedents in other combined
9 sewer systems and matches the Scranton Sewer
10 Authority cost of service studies, so that
11 decision should be made at the April
12 meeting.

13 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: Now, back to my
15 favorite long-term project, the Ice Box. I
16 did, as I mentioned I believe last week, get
17 the actual agreement that was filed with the
18 Recorder of Deeds, and then I went back even
19 though I couldn't find things on the agenda,
20 I did find that in the minutes that back in
21 2006 the other copy of the ordinance I have
22 which would have -- they have the council
23 agreed to the \$600,000 payment in I can't
24 remember now if it was \$30,000 over 20 years
25 or \$20,000 over 30 years, but I think it was

1 30 over 20, but that actual ordinance was
2 tabled on April 27th of '06 and then it was
3 brought back on the 6th of July of '06 and
4 it was unanimously voted down and then the
5 following month the agreement was filed with
6 the Recorder of Deeds and I have sent a
7 Right-to-Know to the city asking for the
8 signed copy of the ordinance that approved
9 the lease agreement that was filed with the
10 Recorder of the Deeds because, as I have
11 said before, it doesn't match the one that
12 was approved and that was attached to the
13 ordinance that was approved in 2002, so I
14 will report back when I hear something more.

15 And then I would like also to know
16 because there was an article again in
17 today's paper about the mayor of Dunmore
18 saying they've got problems that needs to be
19 fixed immediately and referred again to the
20 mutual aid agreement with Scranton for fire
21 protection, and I want to know if we been
22 impacted at all by anything that's going on
23 in Dunmore either shifting manpower or --

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: You want me to answer
25 now?

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: If you would,
2 please.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I still have to get
4 together with them, I did stop up there. We
5 haven't been impacted at this point. They
6 have just started their cutbacks now. We
7 have always provided mutual aid for them
8 from Engine 15. Fortunately, there haven't
9 been many major incidents lately up that
10 way. I'm sure until we get this resolved or
11 they get it resolved we may get called out a
12 little more often, but we are still in the
13 process of --

14 MS. SCHUMACHER: If may and if you
15 know the answer, what is the protocol if 15
16 is on service in Dunmore and something in
17 their own area, there is an incident in
18 their own area of coverage?

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Then the next company
20 would respond being Rescue 1 or Engine 4,
21 Engine 10 from the East Mountain.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Well, I
23 certainly hope that we keep an eye on that
24 because.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. I noticed the

1 article again and I have had a couple of
2 meetings this week, I have one Thursday and
3 I'll discuss that.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: During motions?

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: I've been staying
6 busy.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: I guess I will make
8 one more request and that is if you can find
9 out how many drug buyers have been
10 prosecuted in the last three years, if any.
11 I know that quite a few sellers, but there
12 are no sellers without buyers and I would
13 like to know how many of the buyers we are
14 also prosecuting. That's it for tonight.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

19 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.
20 Bob Bolus, Scranton.

21 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

22 MR. BOLUS: You know, I was at home
23 tonight, I haven't been here in awhile, and
24 I was watching this meeting. You know, I'm
25 appalled at people, the ones that are

1 criticizing a council that the first time I
2 can remember has taken the mayor on. You're
3 to be applauded not criticized. And why are
4 we in Court? Well, the mayor didn't like
5 somebody jumping in the sandbox. No matter
6 what the end result is the people should
7 support a council that's interested in not
8 politics, but turning a distressed literally
9 bankrupt city with a moral that's so deep in
10 the hole to try and turn it around.

11 And I came here tonight to tell you
12 this and to tell people out there, support a
13 council or support anybody, whether it's a
14 mayor or any other elected official that
15 wants to make to a difference. We have been
16 so stagnant in the leadership in this city
17 for years and politics as usual is why we
18 are where we are today, and if you save us
19 \$1 your efforts are to be applauded because
20 you are moving in a direction Scranton needs
21 to go. We have been the laughing stock for
22 many, many years.

23 I have criticized councils, some
24 members on this council. I leave my
25 personal feelings outside when I come in

1 here. We lost \$3 million that the council
2 has gave the mayor. I'm still ticked off
3 about it, but I know in the hearts of people
4 at this council if there is any way to put
5 that money back into the hands of the people
6 for future generations where it was
7 earmarked for I believe sincerely you will
8 do that.

9 What I want to see now, and I know
10 Boyd is up against a stacked deck, but I
11 think he can handle it. I have known Boyd
12 for many, many years and I think he likes a
13 good fight and he goes prepared. I believe
14 stay the course. Don't be intimidated.
15 Forget about those on the other side that
16 are criticizing you. Remember you are here
17 for the people, and this is the first time I
18 can honestly say I have seen a council for
19 the people. Did I think you were going to
20 do it in the beginning? No. I wanted you
21 to show me what you could and you have done
22 it. Yeah, the budget is sued up. Was it
23 the appropriate time? Maybe, maybe not, but
24 at the time you came into office to do what
25 you had to do and you are doing that. Don't

1 be swayed by the Scranton Times or news
2 medias or personal attacks, stand up for the
3 reason why you are council people today and
4 that's for the people.

5 I have issues on East Mountain and
6 we are fighting the city. The city gave a
7 building permit for somebody to build on a
8 piece of property because of politics that
9 the city owns and knew about it that they
10 allowed them to go there and said, "Well,
11 since we gave them a permit it's okay now."

12 Well, it's not okay because when you
13 use a city asset and you give it away and,
14 Boyd, you correct me, you need to come to
15 this council, especially if it's a deeded
16 piece of property to get permission, am I
17 correct in that, Boyd?

18 MR. HUGHES: I didn't hear the full
19 question, Bob.

20 MR. BOLUS: I said if you allow
21 someone to build upon a city piece of
22 property that's deeded to the city without
23 being compensated in any way, shape or form
24 don't they have to come to the council first
25 to get approval to give away an asset?

1 MR. HUGHES: The Home Rule Charter
2 says that before any city property can be
3 leased or sold it must be approved by
4 council. If there is a piece of city
5 property that's being built on I don't see
6 how anybody could get a building permit
7 unless it's been approved by council and
8 signed by the mayor. There has to be
9 legislation.

10 MR. BOLUS: That's never been done
11 and that's the issue I'm dealing with on
12 East Mountain.

13 MR. HUGHES: That would apply for
14 easements, also. I mean, if there is an
15 easement across a city property somebody
16 can't just, you know, put a sewer line in or
17 anything like that because that's taking
18 away part of the fee. That would have to
19 come here. It should be drafted by
20 legislation in the solicitor's office to
21 come before the city.

22 MR. BOLUS: Correct. That's what we
23 are in court over. There is no easement,
24 there is no right, it's a city-owned
25 property. We raised the issue with the law

1 department and their issue was they didn't
2 own it, the city didn't own. Well, now they
3 know they owned it and they gave a permit in
4 a subdivision knowing full-well what they
5 were doing was wrong, but it was Scranton
6 politics and that's going to change and
7 that's why I'm fighting the fight on East
8 Mountain because it infringed on my rights.
9 Where other people think politics are the
10 reason you can do something wrong and they
11 get the city to fight your battle and that's
12 what's going on in the city and it's been
13 going on for years. You have made that
14 change.

15 You have taken a mayor, first he
16 wanted to be a governor, a senator and God
17 knows what else, but don't you think he
18 should have worried about clearing up the
19 city first then move forward and left the
20 city in the black, police that are proud to
21 say "We are Scranton policemen." Fire
22 department that are proud to say, "We are
23 Scranton firemen." Not be criticized and
24 not given a raise and give people money that
25 have left the city now that were getting

1 pensions like Ray Hayes and all. What have
2 they contributed to this city other than to
3 drive us deeper in debt?

4 You are making that change and your
5 voices are being heard. Don't give up the
6 fight. Don't compromise your integrity
7 because of political pressure. You will see
8 the people here and the people out there
9 support you because you are about the
10 people. Don't change that and you will be
11 successful, and I'll be glad to come here
12 before you again and defend you. If you
13 don't do things for the people, I'll be the
14 first one to criticize you, but keep up the
15 fight and I'll support you. I'm sure
16 everybody else will. Thank you.

17 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

18 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,
19 Council. Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment
20 Rights.

21 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

22 MR. ANCHERANI: Tonight I have some
23 questions, comments and trivia. Comment:
24 Council is now in a court battle with the
25 mayor over the amended budget. From what I

1 read in the slimes, our law department is
2 earning their salaries. The whole law
3 department is in the court battle against
4 Council's Solicitor Hughes. How does it
5 feel to be surrounded, Counselor?

6 Trivia: In 2000 our mayor was a
7 councilman who served as Finance Chair. On
8 December 22, 2000, the city council amended
9 File of Council No. 77 2000, the City of
10 Scranton 2001 operating budget, which had
11 been legally and lawfully adopted by the
12 then city council members. Finance Chair,
13 Chris Doherty, and council members Pocius,
14 Hazzouri, Reap and Murphy.

15 It's amendment to that budget was
16 File of Council No. 97 2000, which was
17 legally and lawfully adopted and signed by
18 then Finance Chairman Chris Doherty and the
19 four others that I mentioned.

20 Question: How can the mayor sue
21 council over amending a budget when he was
22 Finance Chair and amended Mayor Connors'
23 2001 budget? Can you call that a horse of a
24 different color? He did back then what he
25 is suing council for now. I guess what he

1 is thinking now is what's good for the goose
2 is not good for the gander.

3 Comment: From what I have here,
4 it's a list of employees of the City of
5 Scranton from 2001 through 2010. This list
6 is taken from the budget and lists the
7 positions, not the names of any individuals.
8 In 2001, the last year of the Connors'
9 administration, there were 584 employees on
10 those budgets. In 2010, there are 531
11 employees. A net loss of 53 employees. I
12 have to question where was the outcry and
13 the lawsuits and the claims of irreparable
14 harm and safety of the citizens? There was
15 none because they were the mayor's and his
16 administration's cuts.

17 More trivia: In 2001, Doherty was
18 elected mayor and took office in January of
19 2002. In 2003, 27 positions were
20 eliminated. I'm sorry, 2002 27 positions
21 were eliminated. Approximately 19 of them
22 were clerical. Eight federally funded
23 police officers were also eliminated. It
24 was also the year when approximately 100
25 city employees were forced out of their jobs

1 with the city because of the threat of
2 losing their health insurance if they didn't
3 leave by January 1, 2003. 100 left with
4 full benefits and 100 were hired to replace
5 them with full benefits.

6 Question: Did the mayor meet with
7 the clerical union or department heads to
8 discuss the elimination of those jobs over
9 those ten years, nine, ten years. Mrs.
10 Krake, and I believe there was Ms. Garvey
11 and they were union officials at the time
12 and the clerical union got hit the hardest
13 with the eliminated positions. Did the
14 mayor meet with union officials to discuss
15 the elimination of 19 jobs and the impact
16 the eliminations would have?

17 If I remember correctly, he didn't
18 meet with anyone and what is remembered is
19 something like the city was distressed and
20 they were going to have to do more with
21 less. If eliminating position means that
22 irreparable harm and the safety of the
23 citizens is at risk as the mayor alleges in
24 his lawsuit suing council, then the last
25 nine budgets of this mayor has done what he

1 has claiming council is doing. Irreparable
2 harm in putting citizens at risk since he
3 eliminated positions in his last nine
4 budgets. That's his doing.

5 Question: Did you or any council
6 persons meet or attempt to meet with anyone
7 whose jobs are going to be eliminated in
8 your amendment? Another question before,
9 did you or anyone else meet or attempt to
10 meet with PEL over your amendments? And if
11 yes, the results if you could let us know
12 later.

13 From what I was observing, the mayor
14 doesn't like that someone is playing the
15 game the way he plays and he wants to change
16 the rules because he doesn't like the
17 outcome. This hang tough, stay the course,
18 this is not counterproductive and we the
19 people. We thank you for helping us. Thank
20 you.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Is there
22 anyone else who wishes to address council?

23 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

24 MOTIONS.

25 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff?

1 MR. MCGOFF: Please. Thank you.

2 Two things that I'd like to ask of council:
3 One, and I know we have done this ad Nasse,
4 I would like to ask council if we would once
5 again contact PennDOT over the installation
6 of a traffic light at the corner of Meadow
7 Avenue and River Street?

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. MCGOFF: This has been an
10 ongoing problem. It's an intersection which
11 is extremely dangerous and the last when we
12 asked to have a light placed there they
13 placed it a block further --

14 MS. EVANS: That's right.

15 MR. MCGOFF: -- from where it should
16 have been done, but I would like to
17 reinstitute this and pursue it until
18 something is done to adequately take care of
19 the problem at this intersection.

20 MS. EVANS: I think we are all in
21 agreement with that.

22 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Absolutely.

23 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

24 MR. MCGOFF: I guess if we can to
25 that in some form of a letter to PennDOT or

1 some type of contact with PennDOT.

2 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

3 MR. MCGOFF: The second thing that I
4 would like to speak on is the rental
5 registration ordinance. We have talked
6 about that and I believe it's time that we
7 kind of stop talking and get to
8 implementation.

9 I gave to each member of council two
10 sheets, one with a proposed motion to advise
11 for the position of the rental registration
12 coordinator. On that one I would ask that
13 members of the council take a look at it,
14 perhaps anything that they would like to
15 input into a motion and then what happens at
16 some point in time we can turn that to -- we
17 should probably also contact Mark Seitzinger
18 at LIPS and have input from there and then
19 at some point in time in the very near put a
20 notice to advertise for that position. I
21 think it's something that we need to do and
22 without a coordinator it's something that
23 will not begin to be implemented.

24 I also put some things that I think
25 should be contained in that notice, the

1 duties, some qualifications. One thing that
2 I did leave out and that we probably should
3 discuss is the length of the contract for
4 that service. It's certainly something that
5 will take a bit of time to coordinate
6 especially the compilation of a rental
7 property database that can be used in the
8 near future.

9 In talking with Mrs. Krake prior to
10 the meeting we were just discussing how this
11 could come about and the possibility that
12 when this -- when the professional services
13 contract does run out that it's probably
14 something that could be turned over to the
15 city and to the -- you know, as union
16 positions to be implemented, but it
17 certainly needs a lot of work to get
18 started, so that was the first thing.

19 The second sheet was some ideas for
20 amendments to the actual rental registration
21 and ordinance. As it's now constituted,
22 there are some things that need to be
23 changed. It probably needs to have some
24 teeth put into it, so that the collection of
25 those fees and permit fees can be more

1 readily obtained, so I put in some ideas and
2 again I'd ask council that we kind of take a
3 look over that if there is anything that
4 council would like to see changed and also
5 I'd ask Attorney Hughes if, you know, if you
6 would peruse it and see if there is anything
7 that I may have overstepped bounds anywhere
8 in either wording or, you know, things that
9 aren't proper so that we can amend that
10 ordinance and make it something that will
11 produce the intended goals, so please take a
12 look at those.

13 And I'd also ask that next week
14 perhaps, I don't know what's scheduled as
15 far as caucus is concerned if there is
16 anyone, but perhaps we could meet that we
17 can schedule a caucus for just council to
18 discuss this and perhaps if not next week
19 have motions on the table for the following
20 week --

21 MS. EVANS: Certainly.

22 MR. MCGOFF: -- so we can begin this
23 process and that is all I have. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Mr. Rogan?

25 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. Since

1 we have been sworn into council one of the
2 biggest issues has been the authorities and
3 particularly the Sewer Authority, and if it
4 would agreeable to the other members I would
5 like to send a letter to the Sewer Authority
6 asking them to review a usage base rate or
7 combined rate. I think that a flat fee
8 would be unfair to senior citizens and it
9 had be unfair to those who actively conserve
10 to try to contain their costs and I would
11 make that in the form of the motion.

12 MS. EVANS: Before I think someone
13 seconds it, the issue at stake though,
14 Mr. Rogan, is according to council rules we
15 have to have a motion in written form.

16 MR. ROGAN: I apologize.

17 MS. EVANS: So we can actually --

18 MR. ROGAN: We'll just send a letter
19 then.

20 MS. EVANS: Yes. Absolutely.

21 MR. ROGAN: If that's agreeable to
22 everyone else.

23 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I would agree.

24 MS. EVANS: Yes.

25 MR. ROGAN: Secondly, I have

1 received a lot of calls over the last week.
2 Last few weeks, and I have noticed this in
3 my own neighborhood about the street
4 sweeper, that it seems they are more focused
5 on the downtown, they haven't been in a lot
6 of the neighborhoods. I live in West Side,
7 I have received a lot of phone calls from
8 residents in South Scranton who have had a
9 problem that and instead of just sending a
10 letter to Mr. Brazil, Mrs. Krake, I would
11 like setup a meeting with him. I don't know
12 with if we need the mayor's permission for
13 that. I know Mr. Loscombe needed the
14 mayor's permission to meet with --

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mr. Rogan, I did meet
16 with Mr. Brazil today and I will follow up
17 with the report if that's okay.

18 MR. ROGAN: Okay.

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: Then if you would
20 want to pursue it after that.

21 MR. ROGAN: Okay, great. And
22 thirdly, could we please send a letter to
23 Mr. Renda asking how much money the city has
24 spent on paving each year over the last ten
25 years not including federal and state

1 dollars. The city roads everybody knows how
2 poor condition they are in, and I think
3 would be interested to see how much of our
4 own money we are spending and I think for
5 next year's budget that's something we could
6 look to spend a little more money on, and
7 that's is all I have.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Rogan.
9 Mr. Loscombe, any comments at this time?

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.
11 Evans. First, Chris, how come you didn't
12 speak tonight?

13 MR. SLEDZENSKI: I don't know?

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Come here. I have
15 something for you.

16 (Mr. Sledzenski approaches the
17 dais.)

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: A little leprechaun
19 gave me that.

20 MR. SLEDZENSKI: Thanks, Jack.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: I was waiting for you
22 to come and speak and I would have given it
23 to you. I do have a couple of citizens'
24 concerns which I'll pass onto Mrs. Krake.
25 I'm going to mention one of them now. Now

1 find out about those cameras, also. There
2 is whole list of items.

3 Secondly, I did have a meeting with
4 Jeff Brazil today. It was scheduled last
5 Friday, but I had to postpone it and he was
6 kind enough to see me today. At the meeting
7 it was also Paul O'Hora on the flood
8 control. My main focus of the meeting was
9 on the flood control programs to educate the
10 people in the flood zone.

11 Also, in attendance was Mr. McGoff
12 as Chairman of the Committee on Public works
13 and I had numerous questions that I
14 presented regarding the flood mitigation
15 programs, which are too lengthy right here
16 to go over in detail. I mean, this is just
17 some of the questions, but I will touch on
18 some of them.

19 We had a lot of people complaining
20 about the sirens going off inadvertently at
21 different times. Apparently, those sirens
22 are older sirens. They were there before
23 they even started the flood mitigation
24 program which I didn't realize, but the
25 problem is the batteries in them. They are

1 in process of having someone change the
2 batteries now, they are shorting out at
3 different times because those sirens are
4 actually activated from the 911 center. I
5 did want to know when the project completion
6 date was expected, and I believe the
7 contract runs until January of 2011.
8 Mr. O'Hora said they are pretty far ahead of
9 schedule, so by the end of the year it
10 should be accomplished.

11 Another thing we are working on is
12 coordinating with the various public safety
13 departments from 91 through the fire and the
14 police, EMS, DPW. Right now there really is
15 no coordination so this is going to be an
16 ongoing process.

17 Also, I had some ideas for siren
18 testing and stuff so people know when it's
19 being tested. Some municipalities do it on
20 a monthly basis, and I have given them some,
21 you know, some evidence of that and they are
22 looking at possibly doing that on a monthly
23 basis, a certain day of the week the same
24 time, and it would also -- I asked for it to
25 be put on the main Scranton's website on the

1 main page so you could go on there and see
2 what the date is. They assure me that we
3 won't even need those sirens after this
4 project is complete because we will be
5 completed to a 100-year flood plan which is
6 a very rare occurrence, however, you know
7 they still have to be tested, we still have
8 to know. This is the information that I had
9 received.

10 Pump, I was asked by a gentleman
11 that lives in the flood area about pumps
12 from the Sewer Authority. Sometimes it's
13 just backups of sewers and stuff from the
14 rain runoff, the storm sewers, and the
15 Scranton Sewer Authority has some heavy duty
16 pumps that they can make available on a
17 moment's notice if need be, but I was also
18 told by Mr. Brazil that they had a grant and
19 they were in the process of purchasing a
20 pump, a heavy duty pump right now, so that
21 will definitely be a help and it will be
22 right there with the DPW.

23 And it was also agreed to plan a
24 community meeting for those in the flood
25 plain for some time near the project

1 completion to inform the public of the
2 process and the coordination when a flood
3 threat occurs so everybody is on the same
4 page, and I will help coordinate that and I
5 don't know if Mr. McGoff wanted to add
6 anything on that meeting. Well, there is a
7 couple of other things I did touch on, so if
8 I could finish.

9 MR. MCGOFF: That's fine.

10 MR. LOSCOMBE: Beyond the flood
11 questions I did have some questions on DPW
12 in general, one of them being the downtown
13 clean up. The photo on the page showed them
14 in front of Whistle's and that and
15 Mr. Brazil assured me that it wasn't -- and
16 even though it was on the parade route they
17 said they took care of the whole downtown
18 not just the parade route. The reason for
19 it was if they didn't do the sidewalks, they
20 did the streets, the wind would blow the
21 debris in the streets and then the next day
22 citizens would be complaining that there is
23 debris on the streets and it wasn't cleaned.
24 So they said they did the general cleanup of
25 the whole downtown corridor, street to

1 street, sidewalk to street so there wouldn't
2 be any of those problems.

3 Let's see here. The other question
4 I had was on the rocks that are used in
5 the -- yeah, for the roads, I'm sorry. The
6 larger rocks that were used on the streets
7 during the snow storm I'm told were specked
8 by PennDOT and that they are actually better
9 for the spreading equipment in that they
10 don't get clogged up in the machinery as the
11 stuff with the dust does. When it gets wet
12 is starts clogging it up, that was their
13 answer for that and also my concern about it
14 washing into the sewers and blocking the
15 sewers, they said it's actually heavier and
16 doesn't run in the sewers like the finer
17 material and that they are in the process
18 now of doing neighborhood to neighborhood
19 street cleaning process to clean up that
20 gravel.

21 I mean, it made sense to me after
22 they described that to me. I told them I
23 get hit in the windshield twice, I thought
24 somebody shot at me, but I guess we will
25 have to put up with that.

1 And finally, the budget negotiations
2 have been ongoing since last week and I
3 would like to commend our solicitor, Boyd
4 Hughes, for his perseverance during these
5 lengthy negotiations, and also city
6 solicitor Mary Theresa Paterson and her
7 staff for their professional dedication
8 throughout the negotiations with us. I do
9 believe that we can arrive at an amicable
10 agreement that should benefit all of the
11 taxpayers.

12 I do have some comments to the
13 statements that were before. I mean, if you
14 don't realize what's coming down the pike
15 we are in for some major arbitration
16 awards that have been appealed through the
17 courts continuously and now it's coming time
18 to pay the piper. We have to have our
19 budget in place and we have to be able to
20 come up with that when it comes down to it
21 because I don't know if we are going to be
22 able to borrow any more money for this city.

23 And you can see throughout the state
24 with the different things. Bond ratings are
25 going down throughout the state because of

1 the economy so we may be in a no borrow
2 situation.

3 But I have to say there was a
4 comment said that we are trying to take
5 control of this building, of this city, all
6 I have to say is someone has to take
7 control. We are riding on a runaway freight
8 train and we have to stop it, and that's all
9 I have to say. Thank you.

10 MR. ROGAN: Mr. Loscombe, thank you
11 for that information, but with the request
12 I've been getting or mostly from the
13 neighborhoods and it's good to hear that
14 they are going to be moving into the
15 neighborhoods as well, but I did some
16 research on some other cities what they do
17 if they have -- they have a plan where the
18 residents know when the street sweeper is
19 coming because, for instance, say the
20 streets sweeper is going to come down your
21 block, but half the cars are still there, so
22 they would just be weaving in and out.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Exactly.

24 MR. ROGAN: And I was hoping to meet
25 with Mr. Brazil to talk about that and,

1 Mr. McGoff, since it's your committee if you
2 would like to come as well.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. Just one more
4 thing, Mr. Rogan. I did mention that about
5 -- and he said, you know, today with the
6 way, you know, everyone has two vehicles in
7 the house it's hard to even for the old snow
8 emergency situation maybe 40 years ago that
9 worked, but the problem is if they post the
10 street that they are going to be sweeping
11 today and for some reason they don't get to
12 that block and then the people park there
13 the next day so it's created a little bit of
14 a mess, but I do think there could be some
15 system like that, but that was the response
16 that I did that if they post it like they
17 have done several times when they are paving
18 and didn't show up for a week or so and the
19 citizens were annoyed and rightfully so, but
20 sometimes it's a scheduling glitch, but that
21 was the explanation.

22 MS. EVANS: In fact, I know there
23 are other municipalities in Pennsylvania,
24 some who are, in fact, relative close
25 neighbors of Scranton that conduct almost a

1 did it 15 years ago and did exactly what you
2 are saying. You know what, it worked, but
3 to do it today takes a little brain work.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr.
5 Neveroski. So obviously something like that
6 has been attempted before and from what we
7 are hearing it was successful. I don't know
8 why that was abandoned, but it's certainly
9 something we can look into.

10 MR. ROGAN: I believe Wilkes-Barre
11 is one that does it that way. They have the
12 odds and the evens system. And even if, you
13 know, we did one section a month, you know,
14 going through by the time they got to the
15 next section it would need to be cleaned
16 again, and I think it's just a basic thing
17 that people would like to see done.

18 MS. EVANS: I agree.

19 MR. ROGAN: And I would like to
20 discuss that with Mr. Brazil and I guess
21 Mr. McGoff if you would like to as well.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anything
23 else, Mr. Loscombe?

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: That's all I have.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you very much.
2 Particularly for that report of the meeting
3 you had with Mr. Brazil and Mr. O'Hora.

4 Mr. Joyce, any comments or motions?

5 MR. JOYCE: Yes, I have a few. I
6 would just like to report to everyone that
7 Mr. Courtright, our tax collector, did
8 submit to council today the 2009 and 2010
9 distribution comparisons and just to give
10 everyone a little bit of an overview as far
11 as real estate tax collections as of this
12 point last year we collected 3.9 million in
13 comparison to 6.2 million this year.

14 The wage tax last year at this time
15 we would have collected \$4 million, this
16 year we have collected about \$8 million.

17 The EMS tax, last year at this time
18 we collected \$375,000, this year we have
19 collected \$380,000.

20 And the business privilege and
21 mercantile taxes at this point last year we
22 collected \$34,000 and at this point this
23 year we've collected \$218,000.

24 So overall at this point last year
25 we collected \$8.3 million in comparison to

1 this year where we have collected \$11.9
2 million for an increase of \$3.6 million more
3 collected this year up to this point, so I
4 would like to thank the staff at the tax
5 office as well as the residents of Scranton
6 for submitting their taxes in such a timely
7 manner.

8 Secondly, in response to the
9 Scranton Times' article regarding my
10 testimony about the budget amendments, I
11 would just like to state that the article
12 does not exactly tell the whole story.

13 During my testimony I was asked a
14 question during cross-examination as to
15 whether or not I spoke with the mayor or any
16 department heads during a certain time frame
17 regarding the budget. The question that was
18 asked was not whether or not I spoke to or
19 attempted to speak to any department heads
20 before these amendments were passed. In
21 fact, before the budget was passed into law
22 both myself and Mrs. Evans met with business
23 administrator to discuss some of the
24 amendments, and in addition to that I did
25 try to reach out and contact several

1 department heads. And actually the only
2 department head that returned any of my
3 multiple calls was Mr. Renda whom both
4 myself and Mrs. Evans spoke to.

5 Also, for those that may be
6 concerned about taxpayer money being spent
7 on the Court case, I would just like to
8 reaffirm what Mrs. Evans stated before that
9 the attorneys involved in this case are
10 already employed with the city as well as
11 our council solicitor. Therefore, no
12 outside resources are being used and there
13 is no waste of taxpayer dollars on outside
14 attorneys or any type of fees regarding that
15 matter.

16 And with that being said, since this
17 matter is in litigation and negotiations are
18 underway I will refrain from saying anything
19 more about the budget amendments at this
20 time.

21 Also, Mrs. Krake, in regard to what
22 Mr. McGoff said, do we have any
23 caucuses set for next week at this time? .

24 MS. KRAKE: No, we did not.

25 MR. JOYCE: If everyone else in

1 agreement I, too, would like to all gather
2 during caucus to speak about the rental
3 registration program that I think it's
4 a very great program that could bring in a
5 good deal of revenue to the city and the
6 sooner that we act to get the ball rolling
7 the better off we will be, and that's all.

8 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
9 evening. Currently, the Office of Scranton
10 City Council is understaffed. Mrs. Krake,
11 our city clerk, is single handedly
12 addressing the daily operations of our very
13 busy office. This is only temporary,
14 however, and council's office will be fully
15 staffed by early April. In the interim,
16 however, we ask for your understanding and
17 cooperation. Requests for information and
18 assistance with citizens problems will
19 resume a more timely pace next month.

20 Also, the proclamations I requested
21 for four West Scranton High School students,
22 Corey Hendri, Sean Jakes and Elliott
23 Jackowski, in recognition of this
24 outstanding wrestling careers, and Jackie
25 Wood in recognition of having been named to

1 All-State piccolo should be prepared and
2 presented in April.

3 Since December 2009, I have been
4 asking the business administrator to pursue
5 the possibility of changing electricity
6 providers in order to cut city costs.
7 Recently I learned that the Borough of
8 Dunmore had done so to decrease expenditures
9 and I believe that Mr. Renda stated that he,
10 too, would make a decision in March.

11 Consequently, Mrs. Krake, council
12 wishes to send a memo to Mr. Renda with a
13 copy to the mayor requesting an update on
14 the electricity provider and the dollar
15 amount the city estimates will be saved by
16 it's choice of provider.

17 Also, council would like a letter
18 sent to the mayor requesting his permission
19 for Mr. Seitzinger to attend a public caucus
20 to discuss procedures followed by the
21 Department of Licenses, Inspections and
22 Permits, and citizens' requests that have
23 been forwarded to him in 2010. And, in
24 fact, I think this very nicely coordinates
25 with the information and assistance we are

1 looking for from the LIPS Department in
2 terms of the legislation that council is
3 going to be considering for rental
4 registration. If Mr. Seitzinger is not
5 permitted to attend a caucus provide for the
6 reason for such action and please send a
7 copy of the correspondence to
8 Mr. Seitzinger.

9 And, Mrs. Krake, I also ask you to
10 locate the ordinance which sets the fees for
11 police reports. Several council members
12 have expressed their concern for charging
13 crime victims for police reports and their
14 agreement for amending this ordinance if we
15 do have one. So if you are able to locate
16 that, please provide Attorney Hughes and
17 each member of the council with a copy of
18 the ordinance for next week's council
19 meeting so that we may begin discussing
20 possible alterations.

21 I just wanted to also respond to a
22 question I believe Mr. Ancherani posed
23 regarding council meeting with department
24 heads or employees. Yes, there have been
25 many meetings involving the budget. I think

1 Mr. Joyce mentioned some. In addition to
2 that, I know that Mr. Loscombe and Mr. Rogan
3 met with representatives of PEL. Mr. Rogan
4 met with the OECD director as well as
5 contacting her by e-mail. I believe
6 Mr. Loscombe also met with Mark Dougher,
7 Director of Parks and Recreation,
8 Mrs. Opsins, who I believe is the recreation
9 specialist. He did talk with Mr. Brazil.
10 He met with quite a number of DPW employees.
11 One that comes to mind immediately I know
12 because you had told me I think you may have
13 gone on the road with him, Mr. Reed,
14 Mr. Gene Reed.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Highway safety.

16 MS. EVANS: Highway safety and those
17 are just a sampling of the meetings that
18 were held between council members and
19 members of the administration prior to the
20 final passage of the budget amendments and
21 certainly one in advance of the override
22 vote of the mayor's veto.

23 And finally, I have a few citizens'
24 requests. Forward questions from a city
25 resident regarding wage taxes to

1 Mr. Courtright, Scranton tax collector,
2 requesting a written response on or about
3 before April 9.

4 A letter to Mr. Seitzinger: Please
5 contact the owner of the property located at
6 the intersection of Meadow Avenue and River
7 Street which borders the entrance and exit
8 to 81 North and South. The property has
9 been filled with weeds, tall grass and
10 litter for the past two summers. In
11 addition, Mr. Brazil stated that the DPW
12 cannot perform the clean up since the
13 property is privately owned. Provide
14 council with a written update on or about
15 April 16, 2010. Send a copy to the mayor
16 requesting his authorization for
17 Mr. Seitzinger to perform the duties and
18 responsibilities of his position.

19 A letter to Mr. Brazil, DPW
20 director: The homeowner at 109 Peguest
21 Drive reports that her driveway and four
22 feet of curb were destroyed by a snow plow
23 during the last snow storm. Please
24 investigate the damage and repair it as soon
25 as possible.

1 Next, city residents report that
2 traffic lanes were never painted on Linden
3 Street between Jefferson and Madison Avenue
4 creating a potential for accidents
5 particularly when entering a University of
6 Scranton parking lot near O'Hara Hall.

7 Also, there are no traffic lanes
8 painted at the intersection of Vine and Penn
9 Avenue to indicate a right line from which
10 right turns are made. When will the traffic
11 lanes be painted, perhaps the same
12 individuals who painted the green lines on
13 the downtown streets in preparation for the
14 St. Patrick's Day parade can now address the
15 safety issues.

16 A letter to the parks and
17 recreation: Please clean the graffiti at
18 Tripp Park playground on Dorothy Street.

19 And finally, council would like a
20 progress update on 1003 Bunker Hill Street.
21 Mr. Oleski promised to address this blighted
22 property eight months ago and I know that
23 council has requested demolition previously.

24 And I will provide all of this to
25 you, Mrs. Krake, after the meeting, but with

1 the understanding that these letters are not
2 going to proceed until the calvary arrives
3 in our office. Mrs. Krake is doing an
4 excellent job and I commend you for all of
5 your tireless work and your wonderful
6 efforts and we certainly do hope that we are
7 going to have a full staff of three as soon
8 as possible, and that's it.

9 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-B. NO
10 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

11 SIXTH ORDER. 6-A. NO BUSINESS AT
12 THIS TIME.

13 SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. NO BUSINESS AT
14 THIS TIME.

15 MS. EVANS: At this time I will
16 entertain a motion for adjournment.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Motion to adjourn.

18 MR. JOYCE: Second.

19 MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

20 Thank you all for coming this evening.
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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