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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Tuesday, June 1, 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

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

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

3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.

4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.

5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.

6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.

9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.

10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce. Mrs.

11 Evans.

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

14 MS. KRAKE: THIRD ORDER. CONSULTING  
15 ENGINEER'S FINAL REPORT ON SEWER SERVICE  
16 RATES APPROVED AT THE APRIL 27, 2010 BOARD  
17 MEETING OF THE SCRANTON SEWER AUTHORITY.

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

20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. MINUTES OF THE  
21 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA HEALTH & WELFARE  
22 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON APRIL 15, 2010.

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

25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

1 FIREMEN'S PENSION COMMISSION MEETING HELD  
2 ON APRIL 28, 2010.

3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
4 If not, received and filed.

5 MS. KRAKE: 3-D. AGENDA FOR THE  
6 NON-UNIFORM MUNICIPAL PENSION MEETING HELD  
7 ON MAY 26, 2010.

8 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
9 If not, received and filed.

10 MS. KRAKE: 3-E. AGENDA FOR THE  
11 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS TO BE HELD ON  
12 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2010.

13 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?  
14 If not, received and filed.

15 MS. KRAKE: We have clerk's notes.

16 MS. EVANS: Yes, please.

17 MS. KRAKE: First I'd like to say  
18 that our office did look for an ordinance, a  
19 city ordinance, in respect to PODS, which  
20 was Mr. Bolus' request and we cannot find  
21 any.

22 MS. EVANS: And pardon me?

23 MS. KRAKE: We did not find any  
24 ordinance that would pertain to PODS. That  
25 was Mr. Bolus' question.

1 MS. EVANS: Okay. Thank you.

2 MS. KRAKE: We did not receive a  
3 response from either DPW director,  
4 Mr. Brazil; business administrator, Mr.  
5 Renda, or Chief Elliott from the Scranton  
6 Police Department, and that was in respect  
7 to our letter that was sent out concerning  
8 the signalized intersections in downtown  
9 Scranton and it was our second request.

10 MS. EVANS: Then I think maybe we  
11 are going to have to do is perhaps set a  
12 meeting with representatives of PennDOT and  
13 we'll contact the appropriate department  
14 heads to see if they wish to attend the  
15 meeting and this way we can gain the  
16 necessary information and find out exactly  
17 what needs to be done.

18 MS. KRAKE: Okay. Thank you. We  
19 did receive a response, even though it is  
20 relatively late, from Steve Garbarino,  
21 concerning the Albright Avenue Flood  
22 Project. Mr. Garbarino, we sent this letter  
23 out January 13th of 2010. I'd like to read  
24 it, it would explain it.

25 "We would have responded sooner, but

1           our letter was mistakenly sent to our  
2           Regulatory Office and Operations Division  
3           and in only found it's way to my desk today.  
4           Nonetheless, I did answer your question at  
5           the public caucus held in Scranton later in  
6           the month. Construction operations were  
7           shut down for the winter months and would  
8           resume in the spring when the weather  
9           permitted. Construction has resumed and we  
10          expect to complete the levy project by the  
11          end of the summer ahead of the schedule."

12                   MS. EVANS: Very good.

13                   MS. KRAKE: We also received a  
14           response from Stu Renda, business  
15           administrator, regarding the amount of money  
16           the city has paid for paving from 2001  
17           through 2010.

18                   We also received a response from  
19           Linda Aebli, director of OECD, regarding  
20           adding more police officers to the  
21           neighborhood police patrol. She tells us,  
22           "OECD is only the funding source for the  
23           neighborhood police patrol and reimburses  
24           the city for these costs. Providing  
25           additional neighborhood police would fall

1           under the police department. In our 2010  
2           action plan to HUD, OECD proposed \$300,000  
3           for the neighborhood police patrol. This  
4           funding has just become available and a  
5           contract is currently being prepared for  
6           signatures. The neighborhood police patrol  
7           is a public service. The Community  
8           Development Block Grant regulations limit  
9           the amount of funding that can be used for  
10          all public service activities. This limit  
11          is based on obligations for public services  
12          and cannot exceed 15 percent of the program  
13          years entitlement grant.

14                       For example, 3.7 million annual CDBG  
15          allocations multiplied by 15 percent equals  
16          \$555,000. That would be a public service  
17          cap. Currently, there are 13 activities  
18          that share in this funding including the  
19          neighborhood police patrol. The  
20          neighborhood police patrol officer's  
21          presence in neighborhoods plays an important  
22          part to the safety of our residents and  
23          neighborhoods. I hope this answers your  
24          questions that you may have regarding OECD's  
25          part."

1 MS. EVANS: Yes. Thank you. I'll  
2 address that more later.

3 (During Mrs. Krake's comments Mr.  
4 Joyce takes the dais and joins the meeting.)

5 MS. KRAKE: We also received a  
6 response from Mark Dougher, Director of  
7 Parks. He tells us that their department  
8 has taken proper action to prevent owners  
9 from parking in the grassy areas of Nay Aug  
10 Park. And at Connell Park for the dog park  
11 the waste disposal bag dispense was fixed.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. KRAKE: We received a response  
14 from Officer Hurchick through Dave Elliott,  
15 Chief Elliott. 628 Fig Street, Housing  
16 Inspector Gillette responded and a police  
17 officer was sent out -- excuse me, and sent  
18 out a letter to the owner to address the  
19 property, and he has in quotations garage  
20 concerns.

21 At 1102 Moltke Avenue the complaint  
22 regarding the condition of the home was  
23 addressed by Officer Hurchick and Tom  
24 Oleski, contacting the mortgage company who  
25 owns the residence and requests to follow-up

1 on the maintenance.

2 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

3 MS. KRAKE: That's all.

4 MS. EVANS: Do any council members  
5 have announcements at this time? The weekly  
6 schedule for street cleaning is as follow:  
7 May 31 to June 4, Spring Street to Oak  
8 Street and June 7 to 11, the Plot Section,  
9 Deacon Street to Fin Street.

10 A benefit yard sale will be held  
11 this Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, rain  
12 or shine, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1558  
13 Capouse Avenue in Scranton to raise funds  
14 for Heather Guisewhite-May, a 33-old mother,  
15 who is battling breast cancer. Donations  
16 are sorely needed and if anyone wishes to  
17 donate to the sale please contact Cheryl  
18 LaCoe at 814-1305.

19 A benefit for Patsy McHugh-Gilbride,  
20 a ten-year Scranton School District employee  
21 and wife of Blacky Gilbride, will be held at  
22 Holy Rosary Center West Market Street in  
23 Scranton on Saturday, June 12, from 6 to 10  
24 p.m. Entertainment, food and drinks will be  
25 provided. Tickets are \$10 and are available

1 at the door or by calling Judy Watkins  
2 343-2317 or Kay Garvey at 561-8601 or  
3 346-9754.

4 On Saturday, June 5, the Crohn's and  
5 Collatis walk will be held at Nay Aug Park  
6 in the area across from the Everhart Museum  
7 and CMC beginning at 4 p.m. For more  
8 information contact the Scranton Chapter at  
9 457-6651.

10 Finally, city council wishes to  
11 congratulate the Reverend Reginald Denny  
12 McLane who was recently honored by the  
13 congregation of Shilo Baptist Church on  
14 pastor appreciation day. In his 14 years of  
15 service to the Scranton community, he  
16 rebuilt the Shilo congregation and raised  
17 funds to relocate his church to Williams  
18 Street and Main Avenue in North Scranton.

19 Further, on May 29, 2010, Reverend  
20 McLane, together with Mary Agnus Brown, Jack  
21 Henzes and Mori and Sandra Myers, was  
22 presented with the Governor Robert P. Casey  
23 medal for a lifetime of service to our  
24 community. We recognize all award  
25 recipients for their tremendous

1           accomplishments and contributions, and  
2           that's it.

3                   MR. MCGOFF: Mrs. Evans, I did  
4           forget one.

5                   MS. EVANS: Certainly.

6                   MR. MCGOFF: If you don't mind.  
7           Over a year ago I mentioned or asked for  
8           people to denote to a cause for the Ryan  
9           Mason-Mehalchick playground. If you  
10          remember Ryan was the grandson of Dolly  
11          Mehalchick who worked with the Drug and  
12          Alcohol Council. What they did, the funds  
13          were used to redo the playground at St.  
14          Anthony's in Dunmore, and the dedication of  
15          that or the opening of that new play area is  
16          going to be June 6 at 1:00 at the play area.  
17          It's the Ryan Mason play area at St.  
18          Anthony's playground.

19                   MS. EVANS: That's wonderful.

20                   MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'  
21          PARTICIPATION.

22                   MS. EVANS: Our first speaker this  
23          evening is Dave Dobrzyn.

24                   MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.  
25          Dave Dobrzyn.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: First, on 5-E, F and G  
3 I see we have some new people being  
4 appointed to the zoning board, is it?

5 MS. EVANS: Yes.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: And you people are  
7 reviewing them and have you gotten a resume  
8 and so forth?

9 MS. EVANS: Council did receive  
10 letters of interest and I believe one  
11 resume.

12 MR. DOBRZYN: Oh, that's great.  
13 Great. More than the consideration that  
14 some people have afforded you and hopefully  
15 things will fall in line.

16 Okay, I have spoken about this many  
17 times, the trash. Once again, that gate is  
18 open on River Street granting access to the  
19 entire gas pipeline which runs all of the  
20 way up to Dunmore straight out along East  
21 Mountain on the opposite side of 81, so  
22 there was quite a bit of trash contributed  
23 there and dumped there, probably like six to  
24 ten dump trucks, small dump trucks full,  
25 like what are they, 3 1/2 ton like the city

1 uses, the little ones, so I seen that open  
2 on at least four different occasions, so I  
3 don't think it's being locked up, so those  
4 people should be gotten in touch with and  
5 told that if you are not helping solve the  
6 problem you are part of it.

7 And I may have to miss a few  
8 meetings here, so Mulberry Street hopefully  
9 that won't get too narrow, I think I will be  
10 back before that is -- you know, I felt a  
11 bridge across there for some of those  
12 college students might be a wonderful idea  
13 especially from that big apartment house  
14 it's up for approval, so why we still have  
15 the leverage to do it and something to say  
16 about it, you know. I'm glad the University  
17 is going with the big science building, I  
18 mean, we need technicians and engineers so  
19 badly. In the future and we all can't  
20 recant Shakespeare at each other when we  
21 have an environmental problem or something  
22 to deal with, you know, and on that code  
23 enforcement that we spoke to a few weeks ago  
24 we spoke about trying to be as easy going as  
25 we can without letting people get away with

1 too much, it's like I said, to have the  
2 property cleaned up, but if it's going to  
3 result in say an empty house next to mine  
4 for the next ten years I'd just as soon let  
5 the person live there and try to pick up a  
6 little bit or something instead of having an  
7 abandoned or condemned house next to me.  
8 That doesn't help anything, and we have 400  
9 of them, so somebody went hog wild in the  
10 past, you know, I ready an article.

11 And, finally, I seen an article in  
12 the Times the other day and I really think  
13 that it's too early to ever criticize  
14 anybody on council or whatever, you know,  
15 let you people -- in two years if I'm  
16 disappointed then may be it would time to  
17 come up and rattle rouse because nothing  
18 ever gets done overnight, but there is  
19 article in about the library that I didn't  
20 particularly like what I read so in the  
21 later part of the summer we may have to  
22 start passing petitions or whatever and stay  
23 organized because there is no way that I  
24 want to see that handed out to people from  
25 outside of the city. It's time me start

1           keeping the city for us and if somebody  
2           wants to come in to profit from it then let  
3           them pay for it for a charge. Thank you and  
4           have a good night.

5                     MS. EVANS: Thank you.

6                     MR. LOSCOMBE: Thanks.

7                     MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
8           cares to address council?

9                     MR. UNGVARSKY: Good evening, City  
10          Council. I'm Tom Ungvarsky. I see again  
11          tonight we have a rather light agenda. I  
12          thought perhaps with the election being over  
13          that we would get back to business and  
14          perhaps the mayor would start delivering on  
15          some of his promises such as making Scranton  
16          a 24-hour city, having this declared Wall  
17          Street West, and many other projects that he  
18          has promised such as building 500 new  
19          apartments and people from New York coming  
20          here to fill them. It seems as though since  
21          the first of the year the city hall has been  
22          closed down with very, very little  
23          ordinances being passed. I wonder if  
24          perhaps the mayor is making -- going around  
25          city council and is doing things on his own

1 and will be to go that while the city  
2 council is on recess?

3 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm going to  
4 address some of these issues under motions  
5 tonight, specifically ordinances, for  
6 example, that council is pursuing and  
7 typically at least during my time on council  
8 over the August recess no legislation is  
9 sent down to city council. I know there was  
10 one summer, I believe it was the Summer of  
11 2005, in which council actually did remain  
12 in session throughout August and for that  
13 entire amount of time no legislation was  
14 given to city council.

15 MR. UNGVARSKY: Yes, but this seems  
16 to have been going on since the start of the  
17 election season.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, I feel that you  
19 are right and probably the most important  
20 legislation that has come before council has  
21 been the legislation that council itself  
22 produced.

23 MR. UNGVARSKY: And I wish the mayor  
24 would start answering your requests. Thank  
25 you.

1 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Anyone else  
2 who would like to address council?

3 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.

4 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

5 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

6 MR. MORGAN: Lee Morgan. I just had  
7 one question in regard to the agenda  
8 tonight, I know that Mr. Dobrzyn asked this  
9 question, but I didn't exactly hear, did the  
10 mayor send up these appointments for the  
11 zoning board or was this the council put  
12 these names forward?

13 MS. EVANS: The mayor did not send  
14 the names to council, these were council  
15 generated, and I will address all of that  
16 under the voting portion of tonight's  
17 meeting.

18 MR. MORGAN: The other question is  
19 that is based possibly in these is did Andy  
20 Sbaraglia or Giovanni Piccolino ever take  
21 their seats that they were appointed to?

22 MS. EVANS: No, they did not. They  
23 attended the meetings and they were rebuffed  
24 by both authorities and the solicitors of  
25 the authorities. They indicated that they

1           were going to follow the wishes of the mayor  
2           and neither was allowed to be seated and  
3           Mr. Piccolino further indicated to me that  
4           the Parking Authority had cancelled all of  
5           it's May meetings I would say as a result of  
6           his appointments, and that, consequently, I  
7           believe the Parking Authority was  
8           considering holding two meetings in June at  
9           which time the resignation from that  
10          authority which had occurred would then be  
11          up for official appointment by the mayor.

12                   MR. MORGAN: Does this council  
13           intend to actually seat these individuals  
14           or -- I mean, my question is Mr. Sbaraglia  
15           and Mr. Piccolino were appointed, but they  
16           were never seated and my question for this  
17           council has nothing to do with the Home Rule  
18           Charter, the Administrative Code, just a  
19           courtesy that -- and I'm not going to  
20           discuss whether council can do this or not,  
21           but my question is with putting these three  
22           names on the agenda, okay, to vote and  
23           having already voted these other two  
24           individuals, Andy and Mr. Piccolino, having  
25           been allegedly voted by council to be

1           seated, does this council intend to pursue  
2           and through whatever means necessary be it  
3           legally or whatever to actually seat these  
4           individuals or are we going to see a replay  
5           of what happened to Mr. Sbaraglia and  
6           Mr. Piccolino?

7                         And I'd like to say that I firmly  
8           believe that Mr. Sbaraglia and Mr.  
9           Piccolino, but to separate them all from  
10          Andy Sbaraglia I think that Andy Sbaraglia  
11          would be an excellent choice for any  
12          authority in this city irregardless of every  
13          other issue, and that's why my question is  
14          will this council irregardless, like I say,  
15          of what the Home Rule Charter and  
16          Administrative Code said will this council  
17          pursue an avenue to make sure that these  
18          appointments are seated or is it just an  
19          appointment to appoint?

20                         MS. EVANS: It was never an  
21          appointment to appoint, and we took those  
22          actions on the advice of our council, and  
23          any further questions that you would have I  
24          would say we would need to direct to  
25          Attorney Hughes.

1 MR. MORGAN: Well, at this time I  
2 don't have. The other thing that council  
3 has stated that they are going to be working  
4 on ordinances and my question, as you just  
5 said, President Evans, is there a dangerous  
6 dog ordinance in the works by this council  
7 at this time?

8 MS. EVANS: No, there is not.

9 MR. MORGAN: Do you think that's an  
10 issue that should be addressed in?

11 MS. EVANS: We can certainly took a  
12 look at it, but right now we have four  
13 pieces of legislation that we are urgently  
14 trying to obtain from the administration.

15 MR. MORGAN: Well, the reason for  
16 that question is I don't know if --  
17 Mrs. Evans, you were on council at the time  
18 that I brought pictures in --

19 MS. EVANS: Yes.

20 MR. MORGAN: -- where a dog was  
21 killed by two other dogs in his own yard,  
22 and then Mr. Spindler had a situation with a  
23 dangerous dog, and I just think that if  
24 council is going to begin addressing  
25 ordinances I think that that should be given

1 priority only from a public safety point of  
2 view, considering that those animals could  
3 have been children, and that's all I have.  
4 Thank you.

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

8 MS. SCHUMACHER: Hi. Marie  
9 Schumacher. I was going to sit back  
10 tonight, but a couple of things that I heard  
11 caused me to come up and one thing on the  
12 way down starting with the trip down  
13 Mulberry Street. It appears, well, actually  
14 I pulled around the corner and went back and  
15 measured and someone -- whoever is doing the  
16 project, I assume that's the University of  
17 Scranton's contractor, has moved the curbing  
18 has set brand new granite or marble curbing  
19 that's five feet into the road from what the  
20 existing had been and I just -- and they  
21 have already set the bases for the new  
22 lighting that's within that area between the  
23 old and the new and I just -can't see how  
24 that's going to work. That is -- the  
25 esthetics and how that's going to look for

1 the University and visitors to me should  
2 take a back seat to the safety, our  
3 emergency vehicles going -- saving lives and  
4 protecting the property with our fire trucks  
5 and I just can't see how -- where cars are  
6 going to go especially during rush hours if  
7 we've got cars coming down Mulberry Street  
8 and there is going to be no place to go, and  
9 I have a real concern with that and I really  
10 think that whoever made that decision that  
11 it should be reversed. I think it's going  
12 to be extremely dangerous.

13 And I would also add, I guess,  
14 instinct tells me that's the first step in  
15 the University taking that street over as it  
16 did Linden Street, but that's not really  
17 relevant, what's relevant is the protection  
18 of life and property.

19 The other thing I question and I do  
20 have on 5-D tonight, renaming a block, I  
21 trust this is something ceremonial and  
22 confess to the fact that I have not see  
23 researched how many people live in the 2,100  
24 block of Jackson, but I hope everybody is  
25 not going to have to change their --

1 MS. EVANS: No.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: -- their checks and  
3 all their addresses. Okay. And then I  
4 heard something tonight about the August  
5 recess. I was rather hoping you wouldn't  
6 recess this year. Have you already made  
7 plans to shut down for the month of August?

8 MS. EVANS: I believe we will be,  
9 yes.

10 MS. SCHUMACHER: And then the other  
11 thing Dave was talking about the abandoned  
12 homes, do we have any idea, obviously you  
13 can't do it to perfection, but one of our  
14 problems in this city, as we have discussed  
15 before, is we are over housed. We went from  
16 population of 140,000 people down to a  
17 population of 70,000. Do we have any idea  
18 the quantity of exces homes we have for our  
19 population?

20 MS. EVANS: No, I don't. I don't  
21 have that information. Perhaps we can find  
22 that.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: That would  
24 certainly be of interest so we know how  
25 large the problem is because the problem is

1 going to continue as long as we don't fill  
2 them, and I would hope that something could  
3 be done to reduce -- in this next budget to  
4 reduce onerous business taxes so that they  
5 maybe we can get some jobs into the area and  
6 the workers could fill some of the homes  
7 that are now wanting for occupants, that  
8 would be certainly a better way to address  
9 the over housing problem. And that's it for  
10 tonight. Thank you.

11 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

12 MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Schumacher, I  
13 just wanted you're mentioning Mulberry  
14 Street. I, too, am concerned about the  
15 narrowing of that street. Actually, they  
16 are narrowing it from 40 feet to 36 feet. I  
17 found that out at the zoning hearing that I  
18 appeared at and the engineer stressed that.  
19 It's going from Jefferson to Taylor. Now,  
20 that was approved prior to us being -- it  
21 was the former council approved that, it's  
22 not something we can turn back, but I'm --  
23 I'm just surprised that even PennDOT had  
24 approved something like that being a main  
25 corridor, but I can assure you as long as

1 I'm here that street is going to belong to  
2 the city, too.

3 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I am, too,  
4 and --

5 MR. MCGOFF: If I may, it's being  
6 narrowed, but also parking is being taken  
7 away, the parking lane is going to be  
8 removed, so the actual driving lanes are  
9 probably going to be wider when it's  
10 finished.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: I would question  
12 that at the intersection and that whole  
13 intersection should -- I believe should have  
14 been revamped long ago.

15 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't believe there  
16 was any parking from Jefferson or Madison.

17 MR. MCGOFF: Sure there is.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: There were just a  
19 couple up on the -- they are not right at  
20 the -- when it went to the right turn lane  
21 it -- that's how they created the right turn  
22 lane was by taking a couple of those parking  
23 spaces.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: I would have pushed  
25 for it to go the other way.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: Me, too. I  
2 definitely would have and especially maybe  
3 coming up I have already been there at rush  
4 hour, Scranton's interpretation of a  
5 definition of a rush hour, certainly not  
6 Washington DC C rush hour, but I see the  
7 semis coming up Mulberry Street trying to  
8 make that turn and then Jefferson Avenue is  
9 blocked from Mulberry Street back to Linden  
10 and beyond and it gets very difficult.  
11 Everybody has to back up so that these semis  
12 can make that corner. Something really,  
13 really needs to be done with that.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: A semi gets struck  
15 turning there and an ambulance is on it's  
16 way to the hospital.

17 MS. SCHUMACHER: And the same going  
18 up or down, so I --

19 MR. LOSCOMBE: I don't think a lot  
20 of thought was put into that.

21 MS. SCHUMACHER: There was a poor  
22 decision. I thought we should appeal to  
23 Penn DOT. Thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

25 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

1 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else who  
2 would like to address council?

3 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,  
4 Council. Nelson Ancherani, First Amendment  
5 Rights.

6 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

7 MR. ANCHERANI: First off, on the  
8 transparency issue with PEL, last meeting I  
9 was at I said, "Of course Mr. McGoff voted  
10 yes and no for public meetings."

11 I was wrong. No voting took place  
12 on the issue of the public meetings of PEL.  
13 I'm sorry.

14 We, the people, Scranton taxpayers,  
15 are coming to council to ask you to do the  
16 right thing, to make an ethical and moral  
17 decision. An article in the May 16 slimes  
18 titled "Scranton officials uncertain on  
19 second tax office investigation."

20 This is my opinion, how can there be  
21 uncertainty over a decision to find in what  
22 black hole the 1.6 million disappeared into?  
23 Was it lost? 1.6 million lost, that's -- I  
24 don't know. I'm not out to persecute anyone  
25 I just want to know where the money went.

1 Remove the cloud of uncertainty and doubt  
2 over this issue. Don't leave the door open  
3 for future abuse potential by letting anyone  
4 think they can lose money from the City of  
5 Scranton and get away with it.

6 Another quote from the article, "In  
7 a final report in December, independent  
8 investigators from Nihill & Ridley, a  
9 Philadelphia forensic accounting firm, said  
10 they believed that tax office account was  
11 short about 1.6 million and that the missing  
12 money was likely owed to the City of  
13 Scranton."

14 First, we have 12.3 million found in  
15 a -- and it's my opinion again -- secret  
16 account to keep the distressed status on the  
17 city which, by the way, is in it's 19th  
18 year. I'm taxpayer as all of the other  
19 hardworking taxpayers are. We deserve an  
20 answer or should I say we, the people,  
21 demand an answer. Where did 16 point -- I'm  
22 sorry, yes, 16 --1.6 million go?

23 "Investigators have repeatedly  
24 recommended," this is another quote,  
25 "against the probe into what happened to the

1 missing money. The money could have gone  
2 missing due to either taxes misspent, taxes  
3 sent to incorrect taxing bodies and/or taxes  
4 never collected. Investigators have said or  
5 it could be error in the tax office  
6 accounting system."

7 Let's find out what happened.  
8 Nihill and Ridley, the independent  
9 investigators, can easily say they recommend  
10 against the probe. The 1.6 million isn't  
11 their money. What do they care? The 1.6  
12 million belongs to the taxpayers. It is  
13 "we" the people's money.

14 The taxpayers of the City of  
15 Scranton received a 25 percent tax increase  
16 in 2007 while 12.3 million sat in that  
17 secret account. That increase probably  
18 would not have been needed.

19 Another quote: "Since then, city  
20 officials said the biggest obstacle to  
21 starting another investigation into the  
22 missing 1.6 million became whether accurate  
23 records existed from a decade ago."

24 Come on, I was born the night, but  
25 it wasn't last night. They are able to

1 calculate how much the delinquent taxes are  
2 owed on a property the city gets title to  
3 delinquent taxes for more than ten years  
4 prior and they can't figure from ten years  
5 ago?

6 Another quote: "If you don't have  
7 accurate records you can't hire somebody,  
8 Mr. Ridley said, and we definitely can't  
9 spend money if we can't recoup it through  
10 the investigation."

11 No, but money can be wasted by  
12 paying 267,000 to repair the Casey Parkway  
13 and then tear it down. What about violating  
14 the agreement with American Anglican and  
15 then paying 5.5 million because of the  
16 violation of that contract? What about  
17 300,000 for Christmas lights? Have  
18 donations thus far recouped 300,000? I'm  
19 sure if they looked hard enough to find a  
20 lot more wasted money, like 50,000 a year  
21 for the zoo only to force them out and fund  
22 Hanlon's Grove. How about forcing out 100  
23 city employees with full benefits only to be  
24 replaced with 100 new city employees with  
25 full benefits. And don't forget by the end

1 of this year the city will have taken into  
2 the city over \$750,000 million, that's  
3 three-quarters of a billion dollars. The  
4 city can well-afford to find out what  
5 happened to \$1.6 million. That 1.6 million  
6 is just a drop in the bucket according to  
7 our -- if you look at that 300 million that  
8 we owe. 300 plus million in long-term debt.  
9 If the taxpayers and council doesn't demand  
10 a forensic investigation, shame on all of  
11 us. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. JOYCE: Thank you.

14 MS. EVANS: Does anyone else care to  
15 address council?

16 MS. KRAKE: 5-A. MOTIONS.

17 MS. EVANS: Mr. McGoff, do you have  
18 any motions or comments?

19 MR. MCGOFF: Just a couple of things  
20 quickly just from comments that were made.  
21 I know Mr. Morgan asked about the  
22 appointments that are being made to the  
23 zoning board. I was going to point out that  
24 council has always made those appointments.  
25 I think it's stated in either the Home Rule

1 Charter or somewhere that council does have  
2 that authority, so there is no question  
3 about those appointments.

4 And, again, the Mulberry Street, I  
5 know in the past it's been brought up, but  
6 the state when PennDOT did a review of that  
7 for the University Scranton the one thing  
8 that they had talked about was removing the  
9 parking and PennDOT did require the turning  
10 lanes be made. That was part the agreement,  
11 part of the study, and that I know I was  
12 told that over a year ago when it was first  
13 presented that the actual driving lanes  
14 would not be narrowed, but because of the  
15 space taken away from the parking the  
16 driving lanes would actually be wider and  
17 that there, you know, would be no  
18 interruption to any traffic flow because of  
19 narrower lanes.

20 I don't know if we were going to  
21 talk about the Comcast agreement this  
22 evening, but just one brief comment that I  
23 had, I would before we make any final  
24 determination on that or get into it I would  
25 like to hear from that Cohen law group again



1 channel provider, and so until these issues  
2 can be asked and answered council will not  
3 place that contract on it's agenda.

4 We had been told that a 15-year  
5 contract would provide to the city some  
6 benefits. Certainly we are -- we are  
7 limited by a 5 percent franchise fee  
8 according to FCC, but we were lead to  
9 believe by the Cohen group -- or I should  
10 say Attorney Cohen that there would be some  
11 type of benefits to the city for selecting a  
12 15-year contract over a ten -ear contract  
13 and I don't see that we have realized too  
14 many benefits. So until, as I said, such  
15 time as all of this is cleared up the  
16 contract will remain off the agenda.

17 MR. MCGOFF: And lastly, somebody  
18 brought up the Single Tax Office, my  
19 daughter was moving this past week and she  
20 had hired movers to, you know, move from her  
21 apartment to her new house and from her new  
22 house when they were finished with her the  
23 movers were going to the Single Tax Office  
24 to move a rather large safe from the Single  
25 Tax Office to their new home, so I did ask

1           them if they found 1.6 million anywhere that  
2           could possibly -- but I haven't heard back  
3           from them, so I can't verify whether they  
4           found anything. Thank you.

5                   MS. EVANS: Thank you for that  
6           valiant effort. Mr. Rogan, do you have any  
7           comments or motions?

8                   MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. I know  
9           this has been an issue before I have been on  
10          council and it's the Crisp Avenue bridge in  
11          West Scranton, and on a weekly basis I  
12          probably get four or five calls from  
13          different residents asking when is the  
14          bridge going to be put out to bid, and I  
15          know Kevin Murphy's office and Tom Tell did  
16          a great job moving it along through the DEP  
17          to get us that permit and now it seems that  
18          stalls out in the city once again.

19                   And I put in a call to Brian Swanson  
20          about two weeks ago asking how long it would  
21          be, you know, to try to hurry up because the  
22          residents really need this because currently  
23          there is one only one way to get into some  
24          of those homes now that the bridge is down  
25          and if there is a fire up there or an

1 accident, an ambulance has to get there,  
2 something is blocking that road those people  
3 don't have access to their homes and the  
4 emergency services won't have access up  
5 there. And also it's federal money, the  
6 residents are worried we're going to lose  
7 it.

8 MS. EVANS: In fact, if I could  
9 inject, I did speak with Mr. Tell this  
10 afternoon on a number of issues, one of  
11 which was Crisp Avenue, and he did tell me  
12 exactly what you have told the public  
13 tonight, their great concern now is that the  
14 government funding will either be revoked or  
15 the city will be forced to use that funding  
16 for a different project, and that's  
17 certainly something that we do not want to  
18 see happen, I know Representative Murphy's  
19 Office did not want to see happen because  
20 they have worked diligently to obtain that  
21 permit and to get this project moving.

22 They got a permit in a six-week time  
23 that normally takes one year to obtain and  
24 it appears the city on it's application had  
25 according to Mr. Tell dropped the ball. It

1 indicated a completion date of I believe  
2 November 2009 and did not submit it's  
3 application to the state until after  
4 November 2009.

5           Meanwhile, as you all know, that  
6 project has gone no where. It should have  
7 been sent, that application should have been  
8 sent in 2008, not in 2009, and so at this  
9 point I think it behooves the city to get  
10 moving on this immediately so that that  
11 situation is taken care of and that money  
12 isn't going somewhere else in the city or  
13 worse yet leaving the city.

14           MR. ROGAN: And that's the big  
15 concern with a lot of the residents I was  
16 speaking to is that either (a) they will  
17 lose the money altogether or (b) it will be  
18 used for a project that may not be as  
19 important as a bridge in a main area. There  
20 are a lot of people that live on West  
21 Mountain, it's a developing area, and as  
22 somebody that lives in West Side it seems  
23 like he we all get the short end of the  
24 stick over there.

25           MS. EVANS: And they've been waiting

1 for years.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yeah, they're been  
3 waiting for over four years, and I hope  
4 politics aren't being played with them. I  
5 hope it's moving along and the residents are  
6 -- we really need this, we really do, and  
7 hopefully it's not issue I'll be talking  
8 about for long because hopefully we will see  
9 construction very soon.

10 And I have a few citizens' requests:  
11 The 100 block of North Merrifield there is a  
12 city-owned block where the grass is nearly  
13 four-feet high. Can we send a letter to  
14 Mr. Brazil regarding that matter?

15 And, Mrs. Krake, have we ever  
16 received a response about the concerts at  
17 the park?

18 MS. KRAKE: No.

19 MR. ROGAN: Can we send another  
20 request for that and if we do get a list of  
21 the concerts can we please send those to  
22 ECTV so they can be put up.

23 And this would also be to  
24 Mr. Dougher as well, I received an e-mail  
25 from a resident wondering when the Fourth of

1 July fireworks at Nay Aug would be. I know  
2 the Fourth of July falls on a Sunday this  
3 year so there -- sometimes they are a day  
4 before or, you know, usually on a Saturday;  
5 is that right?

6 MR. MCGOFF: There were bids for  
7 certain dates?

8 MS. EVANS: I believe there were  
9 dates for June.

10 MR. ROGAN: I don't think it was  
11 July 4.

12 MS. EVANS: I think it was June  
13 through September.

14 MR. MCGOFF: One was for Labor Day,  
15 but there was one for the end of the June so  
16 that may be the July 4.

17 MR. ROGAN: Well, could we ask for  
18 those dates from Mr. Dougher as well? And  
19 that is all.

20 Actually, one more thing. The  
21 zoning appointments, I will speak on each  
22 one of those when they come up, but as a  
23 group I think there is two great points  
24 about this group of people. Number one is  
25 they all come from a different section of

1 the city. Mr. Williams is from North  
2 Scranton, Mr. Stange is from East Mountain  
3 and I think Mr. Bartnicki is from the Hill  
4 Section and although they represent the  
5 whole city you know your neighborhood best.  
6 You know the problems for the neighborhood  
7 and the zoning issues that they've had to  
8 face on a day-to-day basis. So I think  
9 that's a very good thing.

10 And also Mr. Williams and Mr. Stange  
11 are Republicans, Mr. Bartnicki is a  
12 Democrat, and although we are all Democrats  
13 up here we must -- we have a two-party  
14 system in Scranton, you know, things  
15 shouldn't be handed out to one party and by  
16 reviewing their resumes and their letters I  
17 think all of three of them are extremely  
18 qualified for the positions, and I'll  
19 comment on each one of them when the vote  
20 comes up.

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

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes. Thank you, Mrs.  
25 Evans. Mr. McGoff, did they ever deliver

1 the safe or did they keep on going with it?

2 MR. MCGOFF: I haven't heard back.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: I'm going to rub some  
4 salt in the wound here, too, because I'm  
5 going to speak about the Crisp Avenue  
6 bridge. As a West Mountain resident, I miss  
7 the bridge, also, but I know that the people  
8 in that neighborhood they depend on that for  
9 safety reasons. But, you know, this has  
10 been going on a long time and it doesn't  
11 seem like we are getting the right answers  
12 and I don't know who to blame for it, but I  
13 have an e-mail sent to me here from  
14 Representative Murphy's Office who if it  
15 wasn't for their office I don't think it  
16 would be as far as long as it is,  
17 unfortunately. Fortunately for us, but  
18 someone hasn't been doing their part.

19 But this e-mail was sent to me on  
20 April 27, "Hey, Jack, my last conversation  
21 with the city engineer, Brian Swanson, I was  
22 informed that the project has been put out  
23 for bid. I will do my part to see that it  
24 is done on the timely manner. Let me know  
25 if you need anything in the future."

1                   And I have spoken to Representative  
2                   Murphy's Office, Tom Tell, since that time  
3                   and believe me they are frustrated, but this  
4                   was April 27, the city engineer said it was  
5                   put out to bid.

6                   I have a letter here from May 17  
7                   that was sent to us from the OECD. "Dear  
8                   Mrs. Krake, this office is in receipt of  
9                   your letter dated May 12 concerning the  
10                  status of the Crisp Avenue bridge. Crisp  
11                  Avenue bridge is partly funded by Community  
12                  Development Block Grant Recovery in the  
13                  amount of \$150,000. Since there is no CDBG  
14                  funding involved, this office would be  
15                  required when all paperwork and plans are  
16                  approved and in place to prepare the spec  
17                  book to include CDBG-R requirements and  
18                  place a legal ad in the Scranton Times to  
19                  bid this project."

20                  Now, what's going on here?

21                  "Until that time the Department of  
22                  Public Works and Mr. Brian Swanson, city  
23                  engineer, has been overseeing this project.  
24                  As I stated in my monthly reports submitted  
25                  to Councilman Patrick Rogan on May 10, the

1 permit was approved by the Department of  
2 Environmental Protection in April 2001 and  
3 submitted to the city. OECD placed signage  
4 at the site stating this project is partly  
5 funded by the American Recovery and  
6 Reinvestment Act of 2009."

7 Wow, that helps.

8 "If you have any questions, please  
9 fell free to contact me."

10 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. Loscombe,  
11 again, as I indicated a few moments ago when  
12 I spoke with Mr. Tell today, he said that  
13 Mr. Swanson, the city engineer, actually is  
14 not the problem. He has done a fine job.  
15 He, too, wants to see this project moving  
16 along. He is very frustrated as well, so it  
17 seems to be an issue of the city, not the  
18 engineer, not the state, we have to get  
19 moving on this or we are going to be losing  
20 this, and I don't understand the hold up.

21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure. I'm glad you  
22 corrected that. I didn't mean to imply it  
23 was Mr. Swanson, i just used his response  
24 that it was up for bid, which they may have  
25 told him it was, but somebody has to take

1 the ball and get running with this here  
2 before we lose the funding.

3 And, let's see, just one other quick  
4 thing. Mr. Rogan and myself were invited to  
5 a forum given by the New America Foundation.  
6 It was a round-table discussion last  
7 Wednesday about the health and future of  
8 Scranton Information Community, and what it  
9 is, it's an organization that's trying to  
10 open up the community, communication wise  
11 through news media, newspapers, different  
12 types of the public TV and stuff like that  
13 just so there is more exposure, two-year  
14 government to know what's going on, a lot  
15 more transparency. That's what I got out of  
16 it, a lot more transparency so a lot of  
17 things that have happened in the past and  
18 what's going on now with some of these cases  
19 and Luzerne County and Lackawanna County,  
20 aren't done behind closed doors, and people  
21 are aware of it.

22 I know there has been an effort here  
23 through different blogs and stuff like that  
24 to expose a lot of this stuff, but I think,  
25 you know, just getting the communication

1 process. It's not only that aspect it's  
2 also developing municipal websites to keep  
3 people up-to-date on all meetings, any  
4 organization in this city, they are trying  
5 to base it on a model used in Seattle which  
6 is -- it's phenomenal. I mean, you can go  
7 on there and find out any function that's  
8 going on in the city right at your  
9 fingertips in real time and people have  
10 their own blogs they could add to it and  
11 stuff like that, so being an oldster I think  
12 it's great, you know. The younger people  
13 are more used to it, but I think it's a  
14 fantastic idea. I still use my phone to  
15 call and answer. I don't take pictures or  
16 texts.

17 MS. EVANS: I don't either.

18 MR. LOSCOMBE: But that's the wave  
19 of the future so I'll go along.

20 MR. ROGAN: If I could just add, you  
21 mentioned when we were first sworn into  
22 council keeping the meetings on air on  
23 Electric City TV or whoever the peg station  
24 may be, it's very important because the  
25 people watch, they could see what their

1 government was doing, they could track every  
2 vote by every council member and instead of  
3 just reading a small clip in the newspaper  
4 you can see your government at work, and  
5 also before Mr. Loscombe was on actually  
6 when we appointed him we conducted the  
7 interviews publically for the position  
8 because it was a very important position and  
9 we believe the public should have been  
10 entitled to see it.

11 And like Mr. Loscombe mentioned  
12 Seattle, they have -- it's amazing their  
13 city's website. Each council member has  
14 their own blog where you they can blog on  
15 what they will doing and if a citizen has a  
16 question they could just blog it right  
17 on-line and then, you know, the person can  
18 respond whenever, obviously, the phone is  
19 great but --

20 MS. EVANS: Are you going to teach  
21 us to blog?

22 MR. ROGAN: Sure thing.

23 MR. LOSCOMBE: Definitely.

24 MS. EVANS: Mr. Loscombe, anything  
25 else?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: I just wanted to add,  
2 Josh, I see the Times has taken one of the  
3 ideas that I saw in one of the earlier  
4 meetings with this organization with the  
5 neighborhood complaints, I just happened to  
6 see that, that's a pretty good -- on the  
7 Internet site. Any complaints can be  
8 e-mailed into the Times now and you can  
9 review that, so that's a lot of what we get  
10 also, but that's what it's all about.  
11 Communication. Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Loscombe.  
13 Mr. Joyce, any comments or motions?

14 MR. JOYCE: Yes. Just a few quick  
15 comments. First, I'd like to thank  
16 Mr. Dougher from the Parks and Recreation  
17 Department. Last week I did make a request  
18 that the bag dispensers at the dog park were  
19 busted up and I'm very glad to see that  
20 those have been taken care of in such a  
21 prompt manner.

22 Also, tonight I have a couple of  
23 citizens' requests. Number one, a resident  
24 of Dorothy Street reports there are various  
25 cuts and disturbances in the road about the

1           Tripp Park Missy League Fields causing a  
2           bumpy time for drivers. This is  
3           approximately in the 1800 block.  
4           Mrs. Krake, can you please send a letter  
5           over to Mr. Brazil asking them to address  
6           this situation; and also, another Tripp Park  
7           had reported to me that there are various  
8           disturbances in the 900 block of Hawthorne  
9           Street making difficult travel in and around  
10          that area if you could also add that to that  
11          letter.

12                   Also, to add onto something that Pat  
13          mentioned before about ECTV, I know that  
14          there was a copy of that e-mail in all the  
15          council members mail boxes and along with  
16          Nay Aug Park events I think it would be  
17          useful for ECTV to list all of the events  
18          going on at the various city parks because I  
19          know that there are things going on at all  
20          of the parks from time to time, though most  
21          of the activities seems to be at Nay Aug.

22                   And also, just for residents who may  
23          be listening tonight, many of the events at  
24          Nay Aug are listed on the city's website at  
25          www.Scrantonpa.gov if you would like to know

1           some of the upcoming events that are going  
2           on up at the park you can look there and  
3           hopefully these events will be on ECTV  
4           shortly as well, and that's all I have for  
5           tonight.

6                       MR. MCGOFF: Can I just to piggyback  
7           something, Mr. Loscombe, Mr. Joyce and I  
8           attended the memorial day service yesterday  
9           and I just wanted to say that it was a very  
10          nice ceremony, very moving, and that I think  
11          congratulations to the parks and rec people  
12          for coordinating that, especially Stanley  
13          Opichinski, who did a nice job in putting a  
14          lot of that together, and that was all.  
15          Thanks.

16                      MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17                      MR. LOSCOMBE: Mrs. Evans, one quick  
18          thing. Just a shout out I forgot here  
19          speaking of blogs, too. We received this,  
20          this was a letter we received. "It is with  
21          most sincere gratitude and appreciation I  
22          write to you this letter with the attached  
23          blog post. It concerns the outstanding  
24          performance of three officers from the  
25          Scranton Police Department, Officer Uher,

1           Sergeant Perry and Officer Kocius and how  
2           they responded when my mentally sister  
3           disappeared. I have also sent the blog post  
4           to the Chief of Police and Lieutenant Carl  
5           Graziano. I thought you might like to know  
6           their outstanding performance. Thank you.  
7           Warmest regards. Harold Cameron."

8                         And the blog quickly says: "On  
9           Thursday, May 6, my sister, who is mental  
10          ill, disappeared and I could not locate her.  
11          Because of the nature of her disease and the  
12          fact that she was gone for so long, I got  
13          worried and called 911 which in turn  
14          dispatched members of the Scranton Police  
15          Department. The response time for police  
16          officers was amazing. They were very  
17          prompt, they took my concerns to heart and  
18          very seriously told me what I needed to do  
19          to help them so that they could look for her  
20          and take her to the hospital for an  
21          evaluation, if needed.

22                         In the State of Pennsylvania, in  
23          order to get help for someone whose mental  
24          ill and will not voluntarily go to a  
25          hospital and be evaluated you need to get

1           what is called an involuntary emergency  
2           examination and treatment warrant. For more  
3           information about the warrant order click on  
4           the link.

5                         In order to get such an order or  
6           warrant the person has to be considered  
7           dangerous either to themselves, such as they  
8           are trying to harm them or kill themselves  
9           or dangerous to someone else, threatening  
10          another person with bodily harm or death.  
11          It is no small or easy thing to do to have  
12          someone you dearly love committed to a  
13          behavioral health center for a mental  
14          evaluation and treatment, but when it is  
15          necessary you have to do it no matter how  
16          much it hurts.

17                        There were three officers that I  
18          knew of who were involved in helping me find  
19          my sister and get her to the hospital.  
20          Their names are Sergeant Mike Perry, Officer  
21          Uher, and Officer Kocius. To the officers  
22          for their prompt, professional and courteous  
23          care about and for my sister, my sister even  
24          commented about how good and kind the  
25          officers were to her when they found her."

1 Thank you. That's is all.

2 MS. EVANS: Well, thank you,  
3 Mr. Loscombe. Good evening. City council  
4 will conduct an informal caucus with State  
5 Representative Murphy and Smith in council  
6 chambers this Thursday, June 3, at 6:00 p.m.  
7 to discuss possible state legislation for  
8 blight issues facing the neighborhoods of  
9 Scranton. The meeting is open to the public  
10 and will be televised.

11 Council continues to press the  
12 administration for four pieces of  
13 legislation that will help the people of  
14 Scranton, including professional services  
15 bids, a rental registration coordinator,  
16 donations of equipment, etcetera, to the  
17 city, and the failure of the Library  
18 Authority to disband. I spoke to Solicitor  
19 Patterson this afternoon regarding these  
20 four issues in a spirit of cooperation and  
21 communication and in the hope of preventing  
22 any contention over these vital matters.  
23 She indicated that she will be in contact  
24 with Solicitor Hughes and council will  
25 receive a draft of professional services

1           legislation in two weeks.

2                   Attorney Patterson will also contact  
3           Mr. Renda, business administrator, to  
4           discuss rental registration coordinator  
5           legislation. Regarding legislation for the  
6           donation of equipment to the city, she  
7           questioned any responsibility she has to  
8           draft the legislation and stated that it  
9           should be drafted by the council's  
10          solicitor. I responded that since the  
11          donations are made to the administration  
12          and/or it's departments and not to city  
13          council, it seems that the administration  
14          should draft such legislation in order for  
15          council to provide final approval of  
16          donations.

17                   Mrs. Krake, if you could please  
18          search our files for previous donations made  
19          to the city and any accompanying legislation  
20          and then forward this information to  
21          Attorney Patterson.

22                   With regard to the Library  
23          Authority's blatant decision to ignore the  
24          law, Attorney Patterson felt it is not the  
25          job of the administration to enforce

1           legislation passed by council. I reminded  
2           her that council is a legislative body that  
3           makes the laws and places them within the  
4           Administrative Code. It is the  
5           responsibility of the executive branch and  
6           it's administration to enforce the laws  
7           passed by city council, however, Attorney  
8           Patterson stated that the mayor has given  
9           her no direction on any of these four issues  
10          and that she works for the mayor, not city  
11          council.

12                         Finally, she will try to discuss  
13           these matters with the mayor. Council hopes  
14           that it will receive the mayor's cooperation  
15           and direction to department heads to keep  
16           his pledge to bid professional services, to  
17           bring new revenue into the city through  
18           rental registration, to recognize the  
19           authority of city council and to enforce the  
20           laws passed by council.

21                         Council will also pursue the hiring  
22           of COM-D officers or beat patrols since  
23           Mrs. Aebli, OECD director, states that  
24           \$300,000 is now available from HUD and a  
25           contract is currently being prepared for

1           signatures. The city has the money for beat  
2           officers. Now it is up to the  
3           administration to take immediate action to  
4           get more police on neighborhood streets. No  
5           excuses, no delays, put the process in  
6           motion.

7                         Council has been actively doing it's  
8           jobs, it's research, it's legislation, and  
9           at the same time has been solving residents  
10          problems, answering their questions and  
11          listening to the concerns in a respectful  
12          manner. Council is not holding up progress  
13          on any of the aforementioned issues, rather,  
14          council has been waiting for the mayor's  
15          cooperation, the type he spoke of in the  
16          newspaper. As I said last week, words are  
17          idle. Council took action. The ball is now  
18          in the mayor's court.

19                        Next, Scranton pools will open on  
20          June 12, I believe. In the 2010 budget, the  
21          funding for other salary miscellaneous in  
22          the Department of Parks and Recreation was  
23          cut by \$130,722 or 31 percent, a cut of 31  
24          percent by the mayor. Additionally, this  
25          money was used for lifeguards and other

1 seasonal employees.

2 Mrs. Krake, council wishes to send a  
3 letter to Mr. Dougher, Parks director, and  
4 Mr. Renda, business administrator,  
5 requesting a list of the jobs and services  
6 that are cut for 2010 due to reduction in  
7 this budget line item. Council wishes to  
8 know if all city pools will be fully staffed  
9 this summer or if staffing cuts will cause  
10 the closing of any pools and we would like a  
11 written report on or before June 11, 2010.

12 Finally, I have citizens' requests  
13 for the week: The requests forwarded to  
14 council on May 19 and 25 regarding the  
15 city-owned field overgrown with weeds  
16 located in-between the Speed Wash and 620  
17 Pittston Avenue and the condemned property  
18 at overgrown properties on Prospect Avenue  
19 were reported to the blight officer last  
20 week.

21 Also, the trailer was removed from  
22 the gas station property located at the  
23 corner of Meadow Avenue and River Street  
24 last week and I thank Mr. McGoff for his  
25 assistance.

1                   Install a stop sign at the corner of  
2                   the 200 block of South Decker Court and the  
3                   1100 block of Washburn Street. This stop  
4                   sign has been requested numerous times  
5                   dating back to 2003. Please attach all  
6                   prior requests and forward everything to  
7                   Mr. McMullen.

8                   Citizens report that grass needs to  
9                   be cut again at the Washburn Street  
10                  Cemetery. Please send a reminder that the  
11                  owner must cut grass on a regular basis.

12                  A second request to 895 Providence  
13                  Road, the old Atlas Glass, please contact  
14                  Century 21 to request that the owner cleans  
15                  up his property throughout the summer  
16                  months. This has become an issue every  
17                  summer and the owner cannot continue to  
18                  ignore his responsibilities.

19                  And a second request for 1101 Cedar  
20                  Avenue and 521 Maple Street. The neighbors  
21                  report that nothing has been done to address  
22                  the problems that council previously  
23                  reported, and that's it.

24                  MS. KRAKE: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25                  A RESOLUTION - ADOPTING THE BI-COUNTY

1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE COUNTIES OF  
2 LACKAWANNA AND LUZERNE, PENNSYLVANIA AS THE  
3 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF  
4 SCRANTON.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

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

12 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

15 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

18 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
19 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND  
20 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE  
21 AND  
22 ENTER INTO SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT  
23 AGREEMENT NO. 040809-G WITH THE COMMONWEALTH  
24 OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF  
25 TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE LACKAWANNA

1 AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
2 INCREASING THE CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITY  
3 ACTIVITIES ON THE PROJECT FOR PAYMENT OF  
4 FINAL INVOICES.

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

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. JOYCE: Second.

10 MS. EVANS: On the question? I just  
11 wanted to let the public know that the  
12 beginnings of this project date back to at  
13 least 1999. The cost then, of course, were  
14 far less than the \$9.3 million total in  
15 2010. The federal government pays 80  
16 percent of the cost of this project, the  
17 state 15 percent and the city 5 percent.  
18 Our office verified the costs of each level  
19 of government, particularly that of the  
20 City, with Charles Ruther of PennDOT. The  
21 supplemental costs included in tonight's  
22 legislation for utilities and construction  
23 reflect the amounts required to pay the  
24 final invoices for this project. The city's  
25 portion of the final invoice is \$42,750.

1           The city's total contribution for the  
2           Lackawanna Avenue Bridge Project is  
3           \$465,900, and I believe it is important for  
4           the city to pay our final bill at this time  
5           for a very essential project.

6                   MS. KRAKE: 5-D.

7                   MS. EVANS: Wait, we haven't voted  
8           yet. All those in favor of introduction  
9           signify by saying aye.

10                   MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

11                   MR. ROGAN: Aye.

12                   MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

13                   MR. JOYCE: Aye.

14                   MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes  
15           have it and so moved.

16                   MS. KRAKE: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
17           A RESOLUTION - DEDICATING THE 2100 BLOCK OF  
18           JACKSON STREET AS "MARGIE STREET".

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

22                   MR. LOSCOMBE: So moved.

23                   MR. JOYCE: Second.

24                   MS. EVANS: On the question?

25                   MR. MCGOFF: Were you going to

1           reaffirm the idea that the name of the  
2           street is not changing that it's merely  
3           being dedicated, I believe what they have  
4           done in the past is they have a separate  
5           sign, two signs that are saying that it's  
6           been dedicated as "Margie Way" or whatever  
7           the case may be.

8                       MS. EVANS: And this certainly  
9           doesn't set a precedent, that was already  
10          set I know years ago. Previous councils had  
11          dedicated I think it was Roseanne Avenue or  
12          Roseanne Avenue near McMullen's as Brian  
13          Kelly Way. I know there was a dedication of  
14          another street near the South Side bowling  
15          lanes for Mrs. Tom Decker.

16                      The Women's Resource Center on  
17          behalf of the O'Malley family, has requested  
18          this street dedication in West Scranton in  
19          observance, I believe, of the 30th  
20          anniversary of the untimely death of their  
21          daughter and sister, Margie, and at the  
22          hands of an abusive husband. This  
23          dedication will serve as a constant reminder  
24          of the need to shelter and protect battered  
25          woman as well as their children through our

1 Scranton community. All those in favor  
2 signify by saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTING LANCE J. STANGE,  
11 JR., 117 ARNOLD AVENUE, SCRANTON,  
12 PENNSYLVANIA, 18505, AS A MEMBER OF THE  
13 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF  
14 SCRANTON. MR. STANGE WILL REPLACE ROBERT  
15 SHUMAKER, WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON JULY 1,  
16 2010. MR. STANGE'S TERM WILL COMMENCE ON  
17 JULY 2, 2010 AND EXPIRE ON JULY 1, 2013.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I read over  
25 Mr. Stange's resume and cover letter and I

1 had a phone conversation with him earlier  
2 and I really think he would be a great fit  
3 on the zoning board. He has been active in  
4 the local community when he lived in the  
5 Plot Section, he was the vice-president of  
6 the Neighborhood Association helping out  
7 when there was flooding, helping seniors  
8 evacuate and helping the people and he  
9 really has a feel for the neighborhoods, and  
10 he currently lives on East Mountain, I  
11 believe, and I think he would be a great  
12 appointment.

13 MR. MCGOFF: Could I ask who  
14 suggested this appointment?

15 MS. EVANS: Mr. Stange?

16 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

17 MS. EVANS: Yes. I did.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Okay. I only ask that,  
19 in the past as we had talked last week these  
20 have been -- the appointments had kind been  
21 on a rotation basis with each member of  
22 council in turn suggesting an appointment  
23 and I was just wondering who had made this  
24 one.

25 And the second thing, I know in the

1 past you had indicated that you would like  
2 any appointments to -- any people being  
3 appointed to appear at the caucus or at a  
4 meeting, will this occur with these  
5 appointments?

6 MS. EVANS: Actually, we had first  
7 requested that but since none of the mayor's  
8 appointments complied we changed the  
9 requirements of council to the letter of  
10 interest and a resume.

11 MR. MCGOFF: Okay.

12 MS. EVANS: As Mr. McGoff said, this  
13 is a long-time -- the process of appointment  
14 to the zoning board is a long-time precedent  
15 in that each council member receives one  
16 selection on a rotating basis. Council was  
17 informed last week by the solicitor of the  
18 zoning board that zoning terms were expiring  
19 very shortly. Consequently, the  
20 appointments had to occur quickly and these  
21 are not paid positions, neither are they  
22 elected positions.

23 I would like to first, however,  
24 recognize all zoning board members who are  
25 leaving their positions. Ms. Andres, Mr.

1 Shumaker and, of course, Mrs. Cook served  
2 our city well during their ten years and  
3 council thanks them for their dedication and  
4 professionalism.

5 Mr. Stange, as has already been  
6 mentioned, is a South Scranton resident who  
7 has been active in his neighborhood  
8 community for over a decade. In 2010 he was  
9 named one of the Wilkes-Barre Time Leaders  
10 40 under 40 influential people of our area.  
11 I have known him for many years, but most  
12 importantly, I trust him to do what's right,  
13 to do what's right for our neighborhoods,  
14 for our businesses and for the people of  
15 Scranton. Is there anyone else on the  
16 question? All those in favor of  
17 introduction signify by saying aye.

18 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

19 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

20 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

21 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

24 MS. KRAKE: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
25 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTING JAMES WILLIAMS,

1           601 LOOP AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
2           18508, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING  
3           APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON. MR.  
4           WILLIAMS WILL REPLACE HELEN COOK, WHOSE TERM  
5           EXPIRES ON JULY 1, 2010. MR. WILLIAMS'  
6           TERM WILL COMMENCE ON JULY 2, 2010 AND  
7           EXPIRE ON JULY 1, 2013.

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

11                   MR. ROGAN: So moved.

12                   MR. JOYCE: Second.

13                   MS. EVANS: On the question?

14                   MR. ROGAN: Yes. Again,  
15          Mr. Williams I have known him for a few  
16          years and I know him to be a very  
17          hardworking civic-minded individual who has  
18          been always interested in local government  
19          and helping people, and again, I feel he is  
20          going to be a great asset to the zoning  
21          board.

22                   MR. MCGOFF: And was he your  
23          appointment?

24                   MR. ROGAN: Yes.

25                   MS. EVANS: Anyone else on the

1 question? All those in favor of  
2 introduction signify by saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -  
10 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTING STEVEN BARTNICKI,  
11 425 PRESCOTT AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,  
12 18510, AS ALTERNATE NO. 2 ON THE BOARD OF  
13 ZONING APPEALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON.  
14 MR. BARTNICKI WILL REPLACE SUZANNE ANDRES,  
15 WHOSE TERM EXPIRES ON JUNE 1, 2010.  
16 MR. BARTNICKI'S TERM WILL COMMENCE ON JUNE  
17 2, 2010 AND EXPIRE ON JUNE 1, 2013.

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

21 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

22 MR. JOYCE: Second.

23 MS. EVANS: On the question?

24 MR. JOYCE: Yes. And, Mr. McGoff,  
25 this was my appointment --

1 MR. MCGOFF: Thank you.

2 MR. JOYCE: -- before you ask.

3 Mr. Bartnicki, I just want to tell everybody  
4 a little bit about him, he is a homeowner  
5 and taxpayer in the Hill Section of  
6 Scranton. He is a very hardworking  
7 individual, he is someone who I feel will  
8 stand up for the residents of the Hill  
9 Section and address their concerns and also  
10 keep a watchful eye on the developments at  
11 the University of Scranton where he  
12 currently attends graduate school part-time.

13 MR. ROGAN: I would like to add that  
14 I know Mr. Bartnicki from my days at West  
15 Scranton High School. I believe he was  
16 substitute, and my brother, who is a junior  
17 at West Scranton now, every student that has  
18 him says he is such a great teacher and he  
19 really cares about his children in his class  
20 and I agree with Mr. Joyce he will make a  
21 great fit.

22 MR. MCGOFF: I would just like to  
23 say I think it's nice that you recognize  
24 teachers as being hardworking.

25 MS. EVANS: Yes.

1 MR. JOYCE: I do.

2 MS. EVANS: And I agree, and I,  
3 myself, had the pleasure of teaching with  
4 Mr. Bartnicki at Scranton High School and I,  
5 too, know him to be an excellent teacher who  
6 established a reciprocity of concern and  
7 educational discipline within his classroom.

8 I think it's important to note  
9 though. As I said earlier, zoning  
10 appointments are not paid positions and  
11 neither are they elected positions. They  
12 are rather positions of trust and in my  
13 lifetime, particularly during my years as a  
14 councilwoman, and now even in these few  
15 months as president, I have learned that it  
16 is very difficult to find people you can  
17 trust. Some people say they are with you,  
18 they support you and that falls by the  
19 wayside very easily.

20 So this position of trust is very  
21 important to me and I trust all three  
22 gentlemen to keep a watchful eye on our  
23 neighborhoods and our businesses. I trust  
24 them to protect those entities and to apply  
25 the law uniformly. Anyone else? All those

1 in favor of introduction signify by saying  
2 aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

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

9 MS. KRAKE: SIXTH ORDER. NO  
10 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME. SEVENTH ORDER. NO  
11 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

12 MS. EVANS: I will entertain a  
13 motion to adjourn.

14 MR. MCGOFF: So moved.

15 MS. EVANS: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER